



THE PYRAMIDIERS

The Newsletter of the 98th Bomb Group/Wing Veterans Association

March 2020

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HERB HARPER
Historian Emeritus
In Memoriam

Message from the President

Greetings from Fairborn, Ohio! While our latest, and first joint, reunion is still fresh in my 70-year-old mind, I would like to share my reflections on that wonderful event. When we, the 98th Bomb Group, decided to join up with other bomb groups for a joint reunion, I had mixed feelings. Past reunions with just “us” were SO much fun, and all of us got to know each other so well; each reunion became a ‘gotta do’ event. However, for many reasons, at the Harrisburg reunion in 2018, with barely enough attendees to be able to charter a bus for tours, it became obvious that we had to change our current ‘reunion model’ if we wished to keep meeting annually. The 98th was not unique in this situation, and other bomb groups had combined their reunions; and during the Harrisburg reunion, we voted to do the same.



Bill West

So, on September 19th, we all descended upon the Wyndham Garden Dallas North Hotel for our 54th reunion—and first *joint* reunion with members of the 99th, 376th, 451st, 455th, 460th, 461st 464th, 465th, 483rd, 484th and 485th Bomb Groups—in other words, we took over the place! There were about three dozen, large (approx. 4'x4') photos of WWII action throughout the lobby and down the hallway to our very large Welcome Room. The staff at the Wyndham Garden couldn't have been nicer or more helpful. We were even greeted by the mayor of Farmer's Branch (the small city within Dallas) at our welcome banquet. The next day a huge contingent of our reunion groups boarded three busses for a visit at AT&T/Cowboys Stadium. We were met by an excellent staff of tour guides, and our first stop was the 50 yard line,

continued inside, page 2

Message from the President *continued from page 1*

where we all lined up for a group photo (which all of us received as a souvenir of our visit). We toured the Cowboy's dressing room (did you know that the offensive team dresses on one side of the room, and the defense on the other?). We then toured the press box, one of the luxury suites, and then the locker room of The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders—we were briefed on the history and organization of the cheerleaders (did you know there are 40 of them, and over 5,000 young ladies try out for the team each year?). During the time for questions, one member of the reunion group, a 95-year-old WWII vet, raised his hand and asked for the phone numbers of the cheerleaders! We then enjoyed a gourmet lunch in the fabulous Stadium Club. Just a truly wonderful tour!

That night was “our” banquet. We decided to join it up with the 376th's, due to our friendship with their Kim Hobbs. We shared some of the history of our two groups, and some of the traditions we do (POW/MIA ceremony) and what they do (present long-stem roses to members who had lost a spouse since the last reunion). It was a great time to get to know each other much better.

On Saturday we heard some amazing stories shared by five WW II vets. Once again, The Wyndham outdid

themselves by providing a large room to hold all of us. That evening was our ‘all-groups’ banquet with entertainment by Ladies Liberty, an Andrews Sisters-type group who were excellent! During a performance of a slow song, one of the singers announced, “I’m looking for someone to dance with” and selected a gentleman who turned out to be 104 years old! He danced well, but the best dancers, by far, were our own Barbra and Alex Tejada. Linda and I had to drive back to Ohio the next day, so we missed the events on Sunday, but sure did have a great time.

Sadly, the joy of the reunion was soon tempered by a phone call from Marion Ladislaw, informing me that her Bob had passed. Bob held leadership positions within our association, the latest one being in charge of our memorabilia, and was so much fun to be with at reunions. He processed a very impressive collection of Air Force patches, coins, and photos at his home. He will be missed greatly.

Best wishes,

Bill West



98th Bomb Group/Wing Veterans Association Force for Freedom Scholarship In Memory of Sgt. William H. Simons

Once again it is time to start thinking about the 98th Bomb Group/Wing Veterans Association's \$2,000 Scholarship Award for 2020. It is awarded annually to a young person who wants to continue their education at a university, community college, technical or trade school. To qualify they should:

- Have at least a 2.5 grade point average in high school

- Be a patriotic person who believes in the American ideals
- Be recommended by a member of the 98th Bomb Group/Wing Association

Applicants should have a fairly clear idea of what they want their continuing education to do for them and the career they are hoping to follow.

Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

I hope you all had wonderful holidays and, like me, are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous 2020! And SPRING!!

In 2019 we saw our first **joint** reunion, which went very well; and will hopefully allow us to continue on into the future. You will find information included in this newsletter for this year's **Albuquerque Reunion** to be held September 10-13, so you can be sure to save the date. More details will follow.

2019 was a memorable year for two of our members who celebrated their 100th Birthdays!



Pictured above: A note announcing a celebration in honor of Herman 'Herk' Streitburger's 100th birthday.

The Association intends this scholarship to go to an individual that otherwise might not have an opportunity to further their education, and not to someone who already has several awarded scholarships. The \$2000 Award will be paid directly to the school chosen by the young person for their tuition.

A complete Application for the Scholarship consists of:

- The Applicant Form – completed by the person applying for the Scholarship.
- The Member Form – completed by the sponsoring Association member.
- An Official Transcript of the applicant's high school grades upon completion of three quarters of their senior year.



Art Palmer (seen above on the right) stands with two other veterans this past Veteran's Day.

Please be sure we have any changes in your information, and send in any stories, pictures etc. that you would like to share in future newsletters. Watch for future news regarding our planned, new website!! See you in Albuquerque!

Susie

Completed packages should be mailed to the Scholarship Chairman at the address listed below no later than 30 June 2020.

Suzanne Mioduszewski
1137 Joyce Lane
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

The Scholarship Committee will review all applications and select the applicant to receive the Scholarship. Selection will be made based on need, realistic goals for the education sought, Patriotism, and how well the person is thought of by the sponsoring member. The decision will be forwarded to the President who will contact the recipient and sponsoring member.

For the Record . . . For the Record . . .

Deceased

L Name	F Name	MI	City	State	Zip	Pos	AC	SQD	DOD
Whitt	Henry	A.	New Port Richey	FL	34655	LM	B-47	A & E	08/23/2019
Ladislaw	Robert (SMSgt)	P.	Enon	OH	45323	LM	B-47	OMS	10/05/2019

New Address

L Name	F Name	MI	Street Address	City	State	Zip
Beathe	Harold	F.	7560 N Thornwood Rd	Tucson	AZ	85741
Dever	Charles	A.	190 Viajero Dr, #212	Goleta	CA	93117
McHugh	Richard	M.	8 Delaware Rd	Morristown	NJ	07960
Rifkin	Joseph (Capt)	B.	5500 NW 69th Ave, Apt 482	Lauderdale	FL	33319
Bentley	Jim (CMSgt)		11549 SW Lake Park Dr	Port St Lucie	FL	34987
Godwin	Tim	J.	956 Ryecroft Rd	Pelham	AL	35124
Strauss	Suzanne	R.	3916 N Potsdam Ave	Sioux Falls	SD	57104
Chrispin	Grant	W.	5363 Wakefield St	Hilliard	OH	43026

In Memory of SMSgt Robert Ladislaw

SMSgt Robert Ladislaw, USAF (Ret) passed peacefully at the Dayton VA Hospice October 5th, 2019. He was married to his loving wife Marian for 61 years. His Parents, Siblings, and his daughter Therese Ladislaw preceded him in death. Bob will be watching over his wife Marian, daughter Ann (Gary) Detro, grandchildren Marie Keaton, Lisa (Kyle) Marcum, Bob Ladislaw, and Chris Cusick; great grandchildren Elizabeth, Ava, and Scarlett, as well as numerous nieces and nephews, and many lifelong friends.

Bob's Honorable Service to the United States Air Force spanned 40 years. He volunteered at the National Museum of the United States Air Force for 22 years and received the Director's Award for Volunteer of the Year. He was a member of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, B-47 Stratojet Association, B-52 Stratofortress Association, Air Force Association Iron Gate Chapter,

Knights of Columbus, Disabled American Veterans, VFW Post 3283, and American Legion Post 526.

As a loyal, long time member of the 98th Bomb Group Veterans Association, many will remember Bob from the days when he served as Memorabilia Chairman for the Group; taking pride in the special pins he procured each year for the Reunions. He was also the proud owner of an extensive and very enviable patch collection, which he would from time to time bring to reunions to 'show and tell' with fellow



SMSgt Robert Ladislaw, USAF (Ret)

Recording from WWII shows soldier's love for family...

McKenna Ross / *Ann Arbor News*

Oscar Spaly's voice crackled on the recording—but his family didn't mind. The message to his wife, Lois, has been played countless times in the decades since it originally was recorded at a basic training camp in Mississippi during World War II.

Documented on a 7-inch vinyl disc that arrived in a cardboard envelope with Pepsi-Cola branding, his words of affirmation flowed from the speakers. "Hello, sweetheart. I'm always thinking of you."

The recording was one of many sent from servicemen and women to their families at the height of the war. The soda brand set up free recoding booths in major cities and took travel equipment to canteens across the country for soldiers to send one-minute messages home. Many were sent before soldiers were deployed overseas.

Decades later, one of the Spaly's sons, Doug, found it and played it over and over throughout his childhood. Speaking on this year's Veterans Day, Oscar Spaly's eldest son, Ann Arbor resident Robert Spaly, said his brother digitized the warped record in 2014. It can be heard at bit.ly/a2record.

"It's the kind of thing you wish you'd known about earlier," Robert Spaly said. "I'm sure she heard it over and over again when my younger brother played it over and over again as a kid. I'm sure she got a kick out of it. She was the kind that just adored her husband."

Robert Spaly believes his mother was living in their hometown of Flint when the recording was made at

Camp Shelby in Mississippi. By then, his father was an officer, training at that location before being deployed to Europe.

Oscar Spaly led a platoon in the Battle of the Bulge, his son said. He and his soldiers were missing in action for several weeks. Robert's mother received a telegram announcing they were found three weeks after the first notification they were missing. He would return home safe.

The WWII veteran avoided talking about the war until the last few years of his life, Robert Spaly said. When he opened up, he talked about how bad it was to live in tents over a grueling winter during the Battle of the Bulge.

The family moved to Ann Arbor in the 1950s so Oscar Spaly could study economics at the University of Michigan. He retired from the Army Reserve as a major and eventually established the real estate company known as Spaly Group, which is still family owned.

Lois Spaly died in 1997 at 75. Eleven years later, Oscar Spaly died at 88. But the message to his wife remains in the family's memories, and on recordings. The sentiment of a personally crafted message in an unconventional medium closes out the recording.

"By the way, how do you like this record? Beats letter-writing any day. So, for the moment, your loving husband says, 'Bless you, love.'"

SMSgt Robert Ladislaw, continued

members. Always generous with his time, if ever a member made the trip to the National Museum you could count on a personally guided tour from Bob with all the enthusiasm of a first time experience.

Bob loved his family and friends, and his country. He was buried with military honors at Dayton National Cemetery, Monday, November 4, 2019. "Bob with the one O" will be dearly missed.

JOIN US FOR THE 2020 REUNION

Please see the opposite page for details available at this time regarding our September Reunion in Albuquerque. We hope you'll join us! We thank those listed below who joined us and helped make our 2019 Reunion in Dallas a memorable gathering!

2019 DALLAS ATTENDEES

L Name	F Name	Address	City	State
Carver	Carol	PO Box 329	Bloomington	TX
Carver	Norman	PO Box 329	Bloomington	TX
Carver	Roger	3636 Raintree	Flower Mound	TX
Conley	Patricia	304 NW Shoreview Dr	Port St Lucie	FL
Gerfen	John	304 NW Shoreview Dr	Port St Lucie	FL
Hayes	Bill	15275 Payne Road	Marysville	OH
Hayes	Lura	15275 Payne Road	Marysville	OH
Hegedus	Arlene	953 Colony Lane	Lincoln	NE
Hegedus	Jack	953 Colony Lane	Lincoln	NE
Hensel	Bonnie	357 Bristol Drive	York	PA
Hensel	Joan	1920 Leonard Street	York	PA
Mioduszewski	Suzanne	1137 Joyce Lane	Ann Arbor	MI
Myers	Charlie	10366 Trailcliff Dr	Dallas	TX
Newton	Glenn	308 Ohleyer Rd	Yuba City	CA
Newton	Millie	308 Ohleyer Rd	Yuba City	CA
Rivas	Frank	2303 Beaver Lake Blvd	Plattsmouth	NE
Rivas	Sharon	2303 Beaver Lake Blvd	Plattsmouth	NE
Schinsing	Bob	102 Lucia St	Newark	NY
Schinsing	Gary	14713 Doll Court	Suprise	AZ
Schinsing	Simone	2263 Wilmar Ave	Oceano	CA
Sells	Rosie	500 Coit Rd, Apt 248	Plano	TX
Sells	Thelmon	500 Coit Rd, Apt 248	Plano	TX
Tejeda	Alexandro	2500 6th Ave, Unit 701	San Diego	CA
Tejeda	Barbara	2500 6th Ave, Unit 701	San Diego	CA
West	Linda	621 Autumn Creek Dr	Fairborn	OH
West	William	621 Autumn Creek Dr	Fairborn	OH

Dallas 2019 Bomb Group Reunion Registration Totals, All Groups Combined

Bomb Group	Attendees	Bomb Group	Attendees	Bomb Group	Attendees
98th	26	460th	3	484th	33
99th	1	461st	24	485th	13
376th	59	464th	26	Total	295
451st	20	465th	45		
455th	4	483rd	41		

2020 FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE BOMB GROUPS REUNION

SEPTEMBER 10—13, 2020

The Sheraton Uptown Hotel

2600 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110—(505) 881-0000



- Room rates are \$118 per night plus tax. Room includes a full, hot breakfast buffet for 2 per room.
- Eleven ADA accessible rooms are available including three with roll in showers. **To reserve these rooms call the sales office directly at 505-881-0000**
- The hotel is located in the fashionable Uptown area of Albuquerque and features over 50 restaurants, 100 shops and several local attractions including an IMAX Theater, sporting facilities and fitness trails all within walking distance of the hotel. Free shuttle service is available within the Uptown area.
- Room rates are good from September 8, 2020—September 16th, 2020. There is much to see and do in Albuquerque. You might want to consider extending your stay to explore.
- Free parking
- Rooms are large at 400 SF. Many updates have been recently completed.
- Each room has a mini refrigerator.
- This hotel is ranked #8 of ALL Sheratons nationwide for customer service.

Airport to hotel shuttle is available by contacting Roadrunner Shuttle & Charter Co. 24 HR Dispatch: 505-424-3367 to make arrangements and give them your flight information.

To receive discounted reunion pricing, mention Bomb Groups.

NEW MEMORIES MADE

"You all" . . . this Reunion did not fail to impress on so many levels, including the care and thought that went into its planning, while at the same time keeping in mind the age ranges and mobility of the attendee group. Everything was 'spot on.'

The Hotel and its staff were extremely hospitable, and did so while taking excellent care of the Group, often beyond their own working hours. In addition to this year's special rate, there were complimentary breakfasts and shuttles to both local airports!

Thursday, 9/19 — Arrival/Check-in Day

The Reunion Registration Desk opened mid-morning where we were welcomed with a huge red, white, and blue balloon arch put up by the hotel. The Hospitality Room was also open and had complimentary deli sandwiches, various snacks and drinks furnished by the Group throughout the day, and any other time it was open. This room was very festive with all kinds of decorations and a lot of memorabilia brought in by various groups or members to share.

That evening there was an informal dinner followed by a short welcome and information meeting, with the Mayor of Farmers Branch with an official welcome to our Group.



Bonnie Hensel, Susie Mioduszewski



Glen and Millie Newton



Alex Tejada talks with Jack and Arlene Hegedus

2019 BOMB GROUPS REUNION

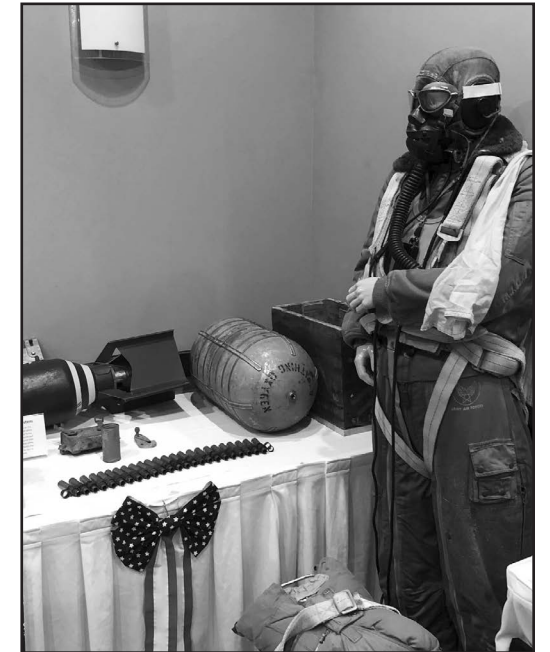
September 2019 — Dallas, Texas



Memorabilia display courtesy of David Webster



Jacket worn by Kim Hobbs' father



Memorabilia display courtesy of David Webster



Hospitality Room (note pictures/memorabilia displays around the room)



Jack Hegedus, Glen and Millie Newton, Bill West



Hospitality Room display



B-24 painting overlooking the Hospitality Room



John Gerfen talks to a new friend



Dining time



Cowboy Stadium

Friday, 9/20

For those who were interested, there was a tour of AT&T Stadium, complete with a gourmet lunch and drinks in the fabulous Stadium Club. Completed in May of 2009, the stadium is a retractable roof facility, which is arguably the plushiest and most expansive sports arena in existence. It serves as the home of the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League and is also the home of the Cotton Bowl and the Big 12 Championship Game. Owned by the city of Arlington, it can also be used for a variety of other activities such as concerts, basketball games, college and high school football contests, rodeos and motocross races.

Friday evening featured the Individual Group Dinners, where the 376th Bomb Group was paired with the 98th for our Joint Banquet. This 'smaller' group setting gave all a better chance to meet and greet and learn more about each other. The dinner programs featured interesting lists of historical facts about each group, and at dinner there was an historical overview of the relationship between the two groups. There was a Memorial Roll Call of members lost since the last reunion and the groups singing of the *Army Air Corps Song* and *We'll Meet Again* prior to the Benediction.



Gary Schinsing with Bonnie Hensel and Simone Schinsing



View from one of the luxury boxes



Bill West 'on the field'



The tour group at the stadium



The Cowboy Cheerleaders locker room

More Banquet Photos



Carol Carver, Pat Conley, John Gerfen, Norman Carver



Gary Schinsing and Kim Hobbs set up the Missing Man Table



Front and center for the 'chow line!'



Bill and Lura Hayes, Susie Mioduszewski



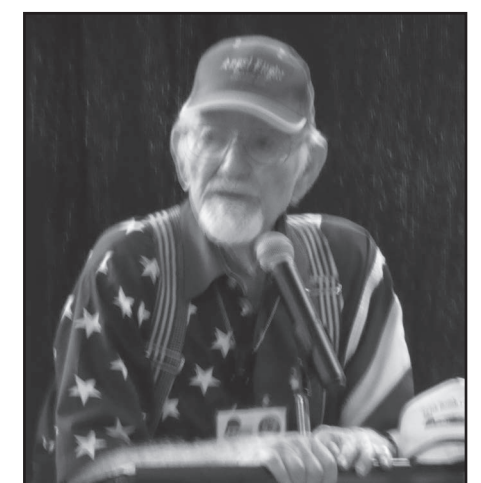
Lura Hayes and Kim Hobbs

Saturday, 9/21

Always a very special time, **Veterans Presentation Day** is when Fifteenth Army Air Force Veterans and Historians are invited to share their experiences and stories. Any veteran who is interested is invited to participate. As you can tell from the attached pictures there was quite an audience that listened with rapt attention.



Bob and Simone Schinsing listening to the veterans' talks



Veteran Presenters share their stories



Veterans Day garners quite an attendance

Evening brought the **All Groups Banquet**—when everyone got ‘all dressed up.’ Just before the banquet, the Veterans Group picture was taken.

Dinner was followed by musical entertainment provided by Ladies Liberty (an Andrews Sisters-type USO show), and dancing by some surprisingly young-at-heart and light-on-their-feet veterans.



Veterans mark their Reunion attendance with a group photo



Rosie and Roy Sells, Jack and Arlene Hegedus, Mille and Glen Newton



Linda and Bill West



Sharon Rivas



Alex Tejada with Bonnie and Joan Hensel



A table of 98th Banquet attendees (including the Shinsings and Barbara Tejada)



The Ladies Liberty in a patriotic salute



Barbara and Alex Tejada

Sunday, 9/22

First thing in the morning there was an optional church service, followed by a traditional Military Memorial Ceremony led by our reunion Chaplain, Captain/Chaplain Chris Cairns, who gave an inspirational talk followed by Taps.

Later in the afternoon we had the opportunity to tour the Frontiers of Flight Museum. This museum features an extensive collection of aviation history artifacts and vehicles, and focuses on the history of aviation and space exploration with an emphasis on the role of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Exhibits include the Apollo 7 Command Module, a World War I Sopwith Pup biplane replica, artifacts from the German airship Hindenburg, and over 200 World War II aircraft models.

Sunday evening we capped off the reunion with an informal “Farewell” dinner, adjourning to the hospitality room to say our final goodbyes to many old and new friends.

Pictured above: (left) Frontiers of Flight Museum and (right) Bugler who played Taps at Sunday Morning Service



Barbara and Alex Tejada take in the 'sites' of Fort Worth



Helicopter displayed outside the Museum



Displays at the Frontiers of Flight Museum



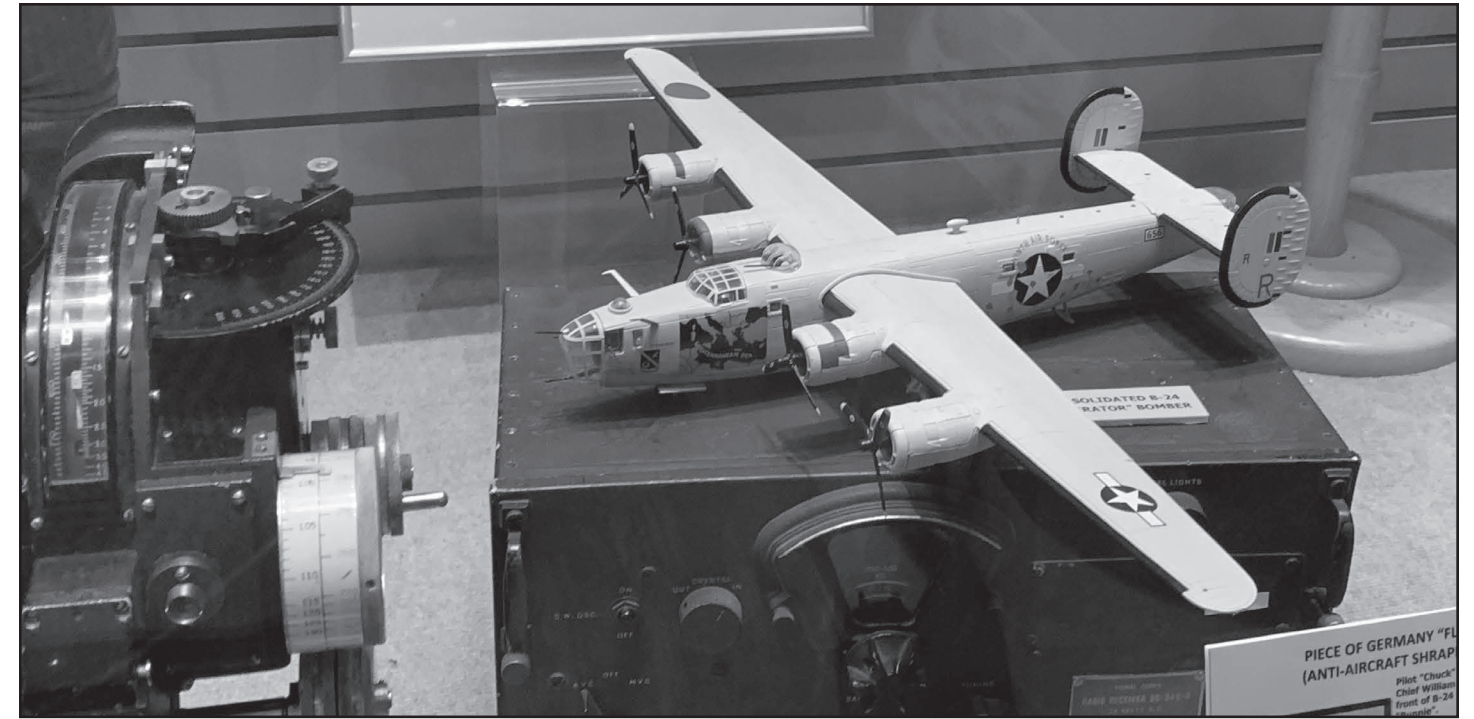
Displays at the Frontiers of Flight Museum



Wright Flyer



The Air Force was well represented



Desert Sand colored B-24



WWII Display featuring the Norden bombsight



2020 ANNUAL REUNION



Albuquerque, NM
September 10-13, 2020

Sheraton Uptown Hotel

2600 Louisiana Blvd. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM. 87110
505-881-0000

Many memorable events are being planned. Don't miss this opportunity to reunite with friends and loved ones. There are also many things to see and do in Albuquerque if you want to spend some extra time.