

Friends of the 416th Bomb Group (L)

"Keeping memories alive by perpetuating the accomplishments and Heritage of the 416th Bomb Group for present and future generations"



MAIL CALL

QTR 3, 2022

National POW/MIA Recognition Day September 16, 2022

Many of our military service members suffered as prisoners of war or were missing in action during the several wars that happened throughout our nation's history. National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as the memory of those who remain missing in service to the United States. Of the thousands of our men and women captured, some returned with awards and medals, while others did not return at all, and the note "Missing" is put in their personnel file. Each of those missing is worthy of honors and our respect and remembrance. Until 1979, there was no formal day set aside to honor these important men and women. The first observance of POW/MIA day included a remembrance ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. During that first ceremony, fighter aircraft from a nearby military base flew in the "missing man formation" to honor those who haven't made it home. Our beloved 416th BG can count itself among those units who suffered capture and loss during their WWII service. Some of these men did not survive the war or were never found.



The Missing Man Table

We honor the fallen, missing and imprisoned with a Missing Table ceremony at our Friends of the 416th Bomb Group Reunions with a very touching narrative centered around a small round table draped with a white cloth, a single place setting, an empty chair, an inverted glass, a lit candle, a red rose wrapped with a red ribbon, a Bible, and a plate with a slice of lemon with a few grains of salt. Doris Sayles, Registrar of the 416th Archive, presents the symbolism each of those items; the poignancy of an empty chair and inverted glass represents the missing or fallen that cannot partake, the red rose and ribbon represents the blood shed for our freedom, the bitter taste of the lemon symbolizes the bitter fate of the captured and missing in a foreign land and the grains of salt are the tears shed by waiting families. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith, to sustain us and those lost from our country. The lit candle reflects our hope for their return home. The program concludes with David Andrews playing Taps on the bugle. An honored tradition as we set aside time to remember the great sacrifices made by *all* military service personnel.



MAY WE TAKE A TIME-OUT THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE POWS/ MIAS AND THE FALLEN FOR OUR FREEDOM.

Kathe Rensner, Liaison, Friends of the 416th Bomb Group
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT 416TH BG POWs/MIAs

click on these links:

http://www.416th.com/Memorials/416th_Fatalities.html and http://www.416th.com/POW_EE/416th_POW_EE.html

What's New on the 416th.com Website?

[read all monthly updates here: https://416th.com/416th_website_update_summary.html]

Jul-Sep
2022

Added Q2 2022 Friends of the 416th Bomb Group "Mail Call" Quarterly Newsletter.

Wethersfield Airfield Museum News

Steve Roy and Ross Stewart, Curator of the Wethersfield Airfield Museum have provided a few updates. In July, Ross and other team members attended an Air Show at Duxford Airfield, England. Duxford has the Imperial War Museum with a large aviation collection housed in Five buildings. One of those buildings is the American Air Museum. Ross And the team were able to set up a "pop up museum" with gazebos that Told the story of the 416th Bomb Group, 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, and history of RAF Wethersfield. Here are the links for the Duxford Air Show, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford> and the YouTube link for the American Air Museum, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5qo7Tt088M>. Ross and Steve Bisel, who served at Wethersfield during the Cold War and is this year's Coordinator for our reunion in Tucson, are working with consultants to submit Protection Orders for the Bomb Dump and Victor Alert Areas. They are also intending to apply to have the Chapel listed and protected from demolition. The Wethersfield Chapel is the first American USAF Chapel in the UK. The Chapel features an unique American design and was made with timbers from the USA from 1952. The work continues in this Herculean task to save Wethersfield Airfield from demolition. Here are two links for you to check out:



<https://youtu.be/66BMpEtEmxs> A video of some of the memorials located around the Museum

<https://youtu.be/gVOYqUWEJW8> The history of RAF Wethersfield, including the 416th BG

Keeping in Touch!

As our lives move forward taking us in our various directions, we are still bound together by our 416th history and family connections. Do you have news or a story to share with your 416th family? Please let Kathe know at: friendsof416thbombgroup@swcp.com.

In Remembrance

Mickie Weinert, passed away July 10, 2022, at 98 years old. Mickie was such a mainstay in our 416th family and a wonderful partner in keeping the 416th accomplishments and memories alive and perpetuated for our future generations. Mickie was married to Carl Weinert, who passed away in 2013. Carl was a pilot with the 669th BS and also a staunch member and supporter of the 416th BG. You could count on him and Mickie as regulars at our reunions. They will be missed!

Dates to Remember

October 26-30, 2022 2022 Reunion in Tucson, AZ
November 11, 2022 Veteran's Day

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