



Front row: Bob Kehres, Wayne Downing, Ralph Conte, Dave Andrews

Back row: Joseph Meagher, Bob Basnett, Roland Dullnig

# **416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Reunion Newsletter 2014**

Hello Everyone:  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you so much for your Newsletter responses.

We regret we were unable to attend this year's reunion at Indianapolis. We heard it was a great success and many thanks are due to the Adams for hosting the reunion.

Ms. Kathe Resner and her brother Rick Greer volunteered to host the 2015 reunion in Albuquerque, NM. They are the niece and nephew of Francis De Mand. We hope to be in Albuquerque and hope to see all of you there.

Those of you with Internet access, check out the great work being done by Wayne and Doris Sayles at the 416th Bomb Group Archives, in Gainesville, MO. The Archive website is accessible on-line at [www.416th.com](http://www.416th.com), maintained by Wayne Sayles, Rick Prucha, Chris Adams and Carl Sgamboti; and the Archive facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/416th>, moderated by Wayne.

We also want to thank Jeanne Sittarich for the photos that we've put into the Newsletter this year.

We would like to thank those of you who sent extra funds in the reply. It made it possible to add extra color photos. Thanks again.

We also thank those of you who requested the Newsletter to be sent by e-mail, it does cut down on the cost of producing and mailing it.

Best Regards,  
Jane & Doug

**Chris & Mary Adams**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup> (James D. Adams)  
Birth date/ March 7, 1918

James D. Adams was Chris’s dad and flew with the 671<sup>st</sup>. (The Adams had this past reunion. I have put a synopsis of the reunion that was sent to me by Mary on the last page of the Newsletter. I enjoyed reading it and hope you all do also.

**Bob & Puz Basnett**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup>  
Birth date/ 10/18/1922

Thanks for doing a great job, we always look forward to the Newsletter. RB  
Sorry you couldn’t make the reunion in Indianapolis, Chris & Mary did a fantastic job and Indianapolis was so hospitable. We’re looking forward to the next one in Albuquerque, NM.  
Puz

**Sue Berg**

Daughter of Jack Sittarich  
Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 10/06

Thank you to Chris and Mary for hosting a wonderful reunion in Indianapolis. It’s always so nice to see our 416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group come together for history, hugs and the best friendships ever! Hope to see everyone at the next years reunion.

**Charles & Sylvia Bradford, Jr.**

Squadron 670<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 10/30/1921

Hi Guys and Gals: We are about the same health wise. It was so good to have our daughter home from California to help celebrate my 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. I’m looking forward to the Newsletter. Charlie B.

**Mrs. Marsha Brewer**

Squadron/670<sup>th</sup> & 671<sup>st</sup> (Billy)

Best Wishes to the 416<sup>th</sup> family from Marsha Brewer. She has such fond memories of her times spent catching up with all her friends and is sad to have missed the last two reunions. She misses her Billy, but knows that the love and fellowship he received from being part of the 416<sup>th</sup> will carry on forever!

**Jonathan Bower**

Squadron 670<sup>th</sup>

Son of Reverend Robert S. & Marilyn Bower, Lt. and Pilot with 670<sup>th</sup> Sq. Flew A-26’s and B-25’s. Nickname “Goldy”, because of 1 gold tooth upper front.

**Jim & Jan Church**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 1/28/1918

My father was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles Church. I really enjoyed seeing everyone again.

**Ralph & Margy Conte**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup> & 670<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 5/8/1917

Enjoyed Indianapolis. Look forward to that place in New Mexico and applaud the gal who volunteered for the show. Now we have to spell it. Margy loves the attendees at these reunions. So do I!

**David & Sue Corbit**

Sue is the daughter of Raymond Rohrdanz, pilot of the Reida Rae. This is the plane (Reida Rae) that is on display at the NEAM (New England Air Museum) in CT.

**Wayne E. Downing**

Squadron 668<sup>th</sup> & 670<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 11/11/1919

We send thanks to all the hard working people who made the 2014<sup>th</sup> 416<sup>th</sup> Reunion an enjoyable success.

**Roland & Evelyn Dullnig**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 12/3/1921

My wife Evelyn wasn't able to attend the reunion this year, but my daughter & Son-in-law joined me. We all enjoyed visiting with the "guys" and seeing the families. The tribute to the missing veterans was very uplifting. Many thanks to Chris & Mary Adams for handling all the arrangements. Looking forward to next year in Albuquerque. Roland Dullnig

**Dan M. Eastman**

Squadron 671<sup>st</sup>  
Birth date/ Dec. 25, 1919

Dear all, I'm sorry I wasn't able to make the last reunion. My eyesight has deteriorated to the point that I am legally blind, which makes traveling very difficult. Even though I can't travel much, I have warm feeling for all the squadron members and their spouses, and wish you all the best.

**Don Ebenstien**

Squadron 668<sup>th</sup>

Don is the son of Gus & Marie Ebenstein who was with the 668<sup>th</sup>.

**Doug & Jane Enman**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ Doug's 10/02/1938  
Jane's 4/13/1942

Doug's brother was Lt. Roland Enman. Roland was killed on Bloody Sunday over Worms, Germany, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945. We were sorry to have missed the last 2 reunions. We had family obligations and I had surgery with a long recovery. We do hope to make the next reunion in Albuquerque, NM.

**Vincent F. Fair**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 1/24/1925

I was with the 669<sup>th</sup> Squadron. I will be 90 years old on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Rollene W. Forma**

My husband Warren passed away March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Warren was very proud of his service and the men he flew with. God bless!  
Rollene Saal Forma

**Mary K. Freese**

Squadron/ Ord. Co  
Birth date/ 10/31/1922

John passed away on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He was a resident at nursing home for the last 2½ yrs. Mary has moved off the farm and now lives in an apartment in Monticello. Hope you all have an enjoyable reunion. Mary Freese

**Carolyn & Sonny Haisler**

Squadron/668<sup>th</sup>

It was a well-planned reunion! Dad (Roland Dullnig) really enjoyed the outing to the Indianapolis Speedway, museum, and having his picture taken in the Indy Car! Thanks to Chris and Mary and to all who helped with the reunion details.  
Carolyn & Sonny

**Hilaria E. Huff**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>

I'm getting ready to spend a week with my sister Donna in Iowa. Roy and Arlene are taking me up there and I will fly home. Roy and Arlene will pick me up when I come back home the 24<sup>th</sup>. I sure did miss them when they were gone this summer. I felt like they were gone forever. I'm a little spoiled.

**Jill Johns**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup> (Jack Buskirk)

Family of "Jack" John A. & Edna Buskirk. Pilot that flew with the 671<sup>st</sup> Squadron.

**Bob Kehres**

Squadron/ 670<sup>th</sup> (Eng. Officer)  
Birth date/ 12/19/1915

Great 416<sup>th</sup> reunion hosted by a beautiful family. Now on-ward to Albuquerque, NM.

**Eileen Kerns (James)**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup>  
Birth date/ 7/4/1920

I don't think that I'll be attending any more reunions, however, I think often of the wonderful friends we have had and the good times we shared. Best wishes always.

**Bobbie O. Kinney**

Squadron/ Material Officer

I am the wife of Col. William Kinney, deceased. Sorry I couldn't make the reunion this year. I hope I can make next year.

**John & Wendy Kopley**

I am the daughter of Francis S. Brewster. My dad was with the 416<sup>th</sup>, squadron 668<sup>th</sup> & 670<sup>th</sup>. He was a pilot. Thank you all for what you do.  
Wendy Kopley

**Sharon Lavelle**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup>

I'm the daughter of James D. Adams.

**Ms. Janice Legere (wife of Joseph)**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup> (Operations Clerk, 416<sup>th</sup>)  
Birth date/( Joseph) 10/24/1923

Still hanging in there. Enjoy reading Newsletters. Some of the names I remember when Joe talked about his experiences and some I remember for the very first reunion in Rome, NY. Still have a few pictures from back then. All on Polaroid's. Best wishes to all.

**Joseph Meagher**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 12/25/1920

Thanks for the annual trip down memory lane. It was just like yesterday. AWESOME!!

**Jennifer A. McCluskey**  
Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 12/25/1923

My dad was John(Jack) W. McCluskey and was with the 669<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

**Margaret McEvoy**

My Uncle was Lt. James P. Kenny, he was a pilot and flew in the 668<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Sorry we missed you in Indianapolis, but hopefully we will be at the next one.  
Best Margaret

**Tom & Vicki Meredith**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup> (Robert Meredith)  
Birth date/ 4/6/1920 (Robert Meredith)

We retired from the U.S. Dept. of State (Foreign Service) the end of July 2013 and are now living in Livingston, MT. Tom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in November 2011. He is mostly confined to a wheelchair and doubts he will be able to attend any more 416<sup>th</sup> Reunions.

**Linda & Dennis Mullen**

Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>

My Dad is Vincent F. Fair, he was with the 669<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

**Margaret Nanney**

My husband Laurence died May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Thank you for keeping us informed about the reunions. When we could travel we enjoyed the Reunions so much. It has been an adjustment for me. Thanks again. Margaret Nanney

**Rick & Chris Prucha**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 7/5/1957(Rick)

My father was Lou Prucha, an A-26 pilot in the 668<sup>th</sup> BS, serving from Sept 1944 -- Sept 1945. I sincerely appreciate the sacrifices of our military veterans and their families. Also my thanks go to all those who work so hard to keep the memories alive.

**Kathe Rensner**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup>

I did volunteer to host the 2015 reunion! I'm already checking out hotels. Albuquerque is so pretty in September (dates TBD), and the weather is quite nice, too. My brother, Rick Greer and I are working together on this. Hope to see all of you folks there. NOTE: My uncle, Francis De Mand was killed 9/29/1944

**Dale & Gail Robbins**

Squadron/ 670<sup>th</sup>

We are friends and next door neighbors of Bob Kehres.

**Jackie & Bruce Rosenow**

My dad passed away July of 2012. He died as a complication after hip surgery. One thing dad really treasured were his trips to the 416<sup>th</sup> Group Reunions. He looked forward to each and every one he was able to attend. Even though he was a very quiet man, he listened to each and everything being said. His children that attended the different reunions also enjoyed visiting with his "old friends and comrades". Please remember him as a cherished member of Your "Group". Jackie Rosenow, daughter of Lester Alesben.

**Wayne & Doris Sayles**

Squadron/ Honorary Veteran  
Birth date/ 3/8/1943

Doris and I enjoyed the 2014 Reunion at Indianapolis hosted by Chris Adams family. It was great seeing so many dear friends and meeting several new ones. Sad to see some empty chairs. We're already looking forward to Albuquerque.

**Carl & Maria Sgamboti**

Squadron/ Honorary Member  
(Director of Restoration of Reida Rae Plane  
On display at New England Air Museum in CT.)

We had a great time in Indianapolis. It was truly a "family Reunion." A big "Thank You" goes out to the Adams family for coordinating such a great time. Many thanks also go to those who helped in the Hospitality Room. We are looking forward to a new venue in New Mexico next year. Everyone stay healthy until then.

Carl & Maria Sgamboti

**Art Siegel (Film Producer) Friend of 416<sup>th</sup>**

While I am unable to attend anymore reunions of the 416<sup>th</sup> BG, you'll occupy a warm place in my heart for the remainder of my life. Cheers, Art Siegel

**Jeanne Sittarich (daughter of Jack Sittarich)**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ mine is 2/20 Dad's was 9/20/1924

Need to send a special shout out to Chris and Mary Adams and family for the outstanding hospitality in Indy!!! I absolutely love my 416<sup>th</sup> family!!! Thank you to all the Veterans for serving our country....what a great group of gentlemen!! Hugs....

**Josie Sittarich**

Squadron/ 668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 9/20/1924

I'm the wife of Jack Sittarich. I enjoyed being with the 416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. I missed the Enmans and Brewers. Hope to see you next year.

**Debby & Jeff Smith**  
Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 7/29/1919

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Andre J. Vleghels was my mother's first husband. He was my sister Sharon's father. In 2001, we set out on a pilgrimage to visit the families in the Netherlands, who helped to give Andre' a proper burial. It was an amazing journey and we maintain close ties with our Dutch family to this day. Debby Smith

**Philip L. Stanley**  
Squadron/668<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ (dad Carl) 4/19/1918

Mom (Barbara) passed away in June. Dad (Carl) died in 2005. Now it's just my sister and I left. My sister Patty & I both have interest in the 416<sup>th</sup>, and we intend to continue with some donations in that direction. I appreciate all the work that you folks do to keep the memory of the 416<sup>th</sup> alive. Wish Hollywood would do a movie someday!  
Best Regards, Phil Stanley

**Joseph & Geraldine Swafford**  
Squadron/ 670<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/6/15/1925

I was with the 670<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron.

**Joanne W. Tripp**  
Squadron/ 669<sup>th</sup>  
Birth date/ 5/9/1923

Sorry to have missed the last reunion. Not traveling so much anymore by myself, but in good health and able to with a little coaxing! Daughter Judy is moving to the Cape. Happy to have her here, with me right now. Son Steve is coming from Thailand , high school reunion and son Bill visited me from AZ. Son Bob is nearby and will be a grand-father, so getting ready for baby shower. All my best to all my friends in the 416<sup>th</sup>. Joanne Tripp

**Betty & Charles Watson**

W.E. Brewer Family. Billy was with the 670<sup>th</sup> & 671<sup>st</sup> Squadron and was a B/N.

**Mickie Weinert**  
Squadron/669<sup>th</sup> (Carl)  
Birth date/ Mickie 9/21/1923

It was bitter sweet for me; but the reunion was wonderful. Indianapolis impressed me as a very good place to live. Chris and Mary did an excellent job. We all missed the absentees. Mickie

**Carolyn & Tom Whitfield**

Squadron/ 670<sup>th</sup> & 671<sup>st</sup>

Really missed seeing everyone again this year! Mama is doing good-memory not so good, but otherwise doing okay.

Best Wishes always!

Carolyn

**Joseph A. & Karen A. Wilds**

Squadron/ 671<sup>st</sup>

Birth date/ 12/14/58 (Joe) 12/27/59 (Karen)

My Grandfather was Harley J. Wilds; he was with the 671<sup>st</sup> Squadron.

**Henry & Helene Wojton**

Squadron/ 670<sup>th</sup>

Birth date / Hank (4/8/1922) Helene (12/5/1920)

Hi, doing well, limping along, Helene using walker. I'm driving only locally. Best regards to all. "Hank"

## 416<sup>th</sup> Vets that have passed on since our last Newsletter



Leo T. LaRoche  
William E. "Billy" Brewer  
Lawrence & Phyllis Dantzer  
John Freese  
Bart Singletary  
Laurence Nanney  
Warren Forma

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Chris & Mary Adams, hosted last reunion.



Missing Man Tribute at the reunion, Doris Sayles

Back Row: Joe Meagher, Mickie Weinert, Puz & Bob Basnett, and Roland Dullnig



Front Row: Josie Sittarich, Bob Kehres, Wayne Downing, Ralph & Margie Conte and Dave Andrews



The whole group at the reunion in Indianapolis.

Hello Jane and Doug,

Thought maybe you could benefit from an updated mailing list which I will send with this email. We had about 50 attendees at the reunion. It was so good to see everyone. But we missed people like you and the Brewers and Larry Smith (his health has gotten worse) and Eileen Kerns and others.

Joe Meagher had 10 others attend the reunion. So was like a small family reunion for them. He had his step daughter, Nancy, and her boyfriend and I believe all others were nephews and nieces.

So nice that Mickie could make the Indy reunion. She came with her sister, Dorothy. Mickie managed to get into a race car at the Indy museum for pictures. Pretty sporty of her.

Josie, Jean and Sue were there. Jean brought some of her beautiful albums. Everyone loves looking at them. Also, the Sittarichs refer to Maggy McEvoy as their sister; she also attended. She has been traveling and working on films.

Dave and David Andrews came. Dave did several interviews. David brought his computer full of pictures from previous reunions and their trip to France. Did you know that Dave (Senior) was on the Nightly News with Brian Williams around D-Day's anniversary. He was on two nights in a row from France. He looked pretty dapper in his uniform. He should have had a speaking part; he has a wonderful memory.

The Robbins travelled with Bob Kehres. Bob continues to amaze us.

The Sayles and Sgambodi's were a lot of help at the reunion. They especially helped with the hospitality room. Also good to visit with both couples.

Newcomers were Kathe Rensner and her brother Rick Greer. Kathe is holding the next reunion in Albuquerque NM. They were representing their uncle, Francis DeMand who was in the 671st and died in the war. Kathe and Rick interviewed Dave Andrews and Bob Basnett.

Bob and Puz and their daughter Jan and son in law were there. Ralph Conte and Margy and her son and his daughter Jan and husband were there.

Can't forget Wayne Downing. My son-in-law loved talking to him. His daughter, Nancy and granddaughter, Sara came. Sara had her new Boxer, named Fern. Fern was a hit in the hospitality room.

Our daughter, Amanda and son in law, Zach kept up with the drinks and snacks in the hospitality room. It was so nice that Chris and I didn't have to worry about getting more supplies, etc. We also had Chris' brother, Steve Adams and his sister Sharon and husband, Bob Lavelle at the reunion.

Jim Church helped financially support the reunion. He also attended and spent much time talking with the veterans.

Roland Dullnig was another veteran who was able to travel from Texas with his daughter, Carolyn and her husband Sonny.

I think that pretty much covers who was there.

Chris and I are looking forward to the reunion in Albuquerque. Hope it will be a good turnout and we hope you'll be able to be there too!

Mary Adams