



Veterans attending the 416th Bomb Group reunion in Gainesville, Missouri,
 October 5-8, 2016
 (seated before the 416th Archive Wall of Honor)

Left to right: Roland Dullnig, Dave Andrews, Bob Kehres, Wayne Downing, Joe Meagher



416th Bomb Group Newsletter 2016

Happy New Year to all!

Dear 416th Family and Friends,

The 2016 reunion of the 416th Bomb Group was hosted by the 416th Bomb Group Archive in the first week of October. It's truly amazing that people from literally every corner of this huge country can converge on the tiny hamlet of Gainesville, in the obscure reaches of the Missouri Ozarks, and work together like an Olympic team to make their short time together special. Few families in America today are closer in spirit and companionship than this group—forged not by lineage but through a common admiration and respect for the service of others. The deeds of those young men who served together from 1943 to 1945, and those lost in the effort to preserve our way of life, inspire us to meet the challenges of our own time with the resolve that they showed back then. As always, the rock-solid cadre of 416th family rolled up their sleeves to make this reunion an enjoyable experience for all.



Bledsoe Award Presentation

The reunion was honored with the presence of several new faces and that is especially important as the number of veterans inevitably grows smaller every year. We were saddened to say farewell to those of the 416th family who passed away in 2016, but were encouraged by optimistic discussions about the future of this remarkable group. The torch is being passed, there can be little doubt about that, but the flame is still burning brightly. At the 2010 reunion in Branson, the idea of creating an Archive for the preservation of 416th records and memories was informally discussed and that eventually led to what we today are proud to recognize as an enduring tribute to the Group. Informal discussions at this year's reunion highlighted the need for a successor organization to what has unofficially been recognized as the 416th Bomb Group Association. Hopefully the heirs to this legacy, the subsequent generations of sons, daughters, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, etc. will pick up that torch. An important step in that direction was taken when Margaret McEvoy volunteered to host the 2017 reunion in Washington, DC. Margaret is the niece of 668th pilot Jimmy Kenny (KIA).

This past year was another year of accomplishment for the 416th Archive. All who have shared their time, memories, historical documents and financial support have made it a premier resource and international research facility. It is recognized and consulted frequently by thousands who have an interest in the mission of Attack Bombers in World War II. Attendees at the reunion were able to see remarkable progress on the Archive's 416th.com website through a user seminar presented by our site Webmaster and Archive board member, Rick Prucha. Rick is the son of Lou Prucha who was a pilot in the 668th. Other members of the board, who contribute to the Archive's success in many important ways, are Jean Sittarich, daughter of 668th gunner Jack Sittarich (POW); Tom Rickels, nephew of 671st pilot Bill Cramsie (KIA), Doris Sayles, Archive Registrar and myself. At the reunion banquet on Saturday night, October 8th, our Guest Speaker was Professor Vernon Williams of Abilene Christian University. Dr. Williams is Director of the East Anglia Air War Project and last summer led a team of students from Abilene to Wethersfield for a multi-faceted research experience with a focus on 416th tenure at the air base there during WWII. As a part of this project, he produced a very professional documentary video about the history of the 416th and donated the resale rights to the Archive along with digital copies of the work that his team did in England. He also surprised the Archive with East Anglia Project's prestigious George Bledsoe Award for 2016. Details of the reunion activities are covered on the following pages, along with the traditional contact info and comments from respondents to our request.

Wayne and Doris Sayles

Reunion Summary

by Rick Prucha and Tom Rickels

*Do Doris and Wayne Sayles know how to throw a Great Reunion or what!!!
The 37 attendees at the 2016 416th Bomb Group Reunion at Gainesville, MO say
YES, they certainly do!*

Five 416th Bomb Group Veterans (Dave Andrews, Wayne Downing, Roland Dullnig, Bob Kehres and Joe Meagher) and three Wives of passed Veterans (Hilaria Huff, Josie Sittarich and Mickie Weinert) were in attendance and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time at the well provisioned Theodosia Marina-Resort (TMR) Hospitality Room, 416th BG Archive Headquarters and special outings.

Wayne and Doris, along with daughter Stephanie and son Scott, put forth a tremendous effort getting everything ready for the enjoyment of those attending this year's Reunion which was greatly appreciated by all. Folks began to arrive as early as Tuesday, October 4th, including the Board of Directors. The second annual Board of Directors meeting was held Wednesday morning (October 5th) at the Archive satellite office (Wayne and Doris' home) over a delicious home-cooked country breakfast. After the Board meeting, Archive HQ in downtown Gainesville was open for business through the afternoon; then it was off to the TMR Hospitality Room for the evening.

Thursday's (October 6th) scheduled event found the veterans and attendees testing their sea legs with a leisurely voyage on two pontoon boats on the placid waters of Bull Shoals Lake. All were able to take in the marvelous natural sights of the Ozarks while the trip took them down to the Missouri/Arkansas border and then back to the Theodosia Marina-Resort dock from which they departed. A few did not participate in the boating and gathered at the Hospitality Room to continue catching up instead. That afternoon, a review and demonstration of the 416th.com website was given by Rick Prucha followed by some free time to explore the Archive or visit Doris Sayles' beautiful shops, including "Christmas Corner" and "Critters Corner" of her "House of Angels". At 5 PM the Pizza Party got started at the Archive. After everyone got their fill of pizza, we headed back west to the TMR Hospitality Room for more visiting time.

A day trip on Friday October 7th, found about half of the attendees making the short trip from Gainesville to Mansfield, MO to see the Laura Ingalls Wilder Rocky Ridge Farm House and Museum. A short video on the life of Laura Ingalls and Amanzo Wilder was presented before taking in the many artifacts of the museum. Next, we enjoyed a self-conducted tour of the original Wilder Rocky Ridge Farm House—where the couple lived beginning in 1896. The Wilders also lived briefly, from 1928 to 1936, in a modern residence on the property built for them by their daughter Rose, a successful author in her own right. It was here that Laura Ingalls Wilder would begin writing her famous "Little House" books at the age of 65. This outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, while some chose to spend time relaxing at the Hospitality Room.

Throughout the Reunion, "Cookies - A Place to Eat" at Theodosia Marina-Resort was The spot for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Continued on following page....

Saturday, October 8th was a day of non-stop action. The “Big Creek Bluegrass Band” started the day off spectacularly, playing for about an hour and a half on the Archive HQ veranda. Their joyful music got some of the Veterans up on their feet dancing, putting all the youngsters to shame. Lunch was held at the Archive, followed by the Bomb Group Business Meeting at 1 PM.

Wayne Sayles called the Business Meeting to order as delegate for Bob Basnett who was unable to attend this year. Wayne presented the Archive “Year in Review”, highlighting the considerable expansion of Archive resources from numerous newly donated collections. Wayne has been instrumental in collaborating with many serious researchers utilizing these extensive Archive resources, resulting in several domestic and international journal, book and video publications. The 416th Archive Wall of Honor has grown from 98 names to 120 names over the past year. Wayne and Doris also support and have considerable interaction with the local Ozark County area communities, as demonstrated by their second annual Gainesville Elementary School 5th and 6th grade Art Class on-site visit to the Archive and their sponsorship of West Point Cadet Taylor Brooks.

Mickie Weinert gave a moving talk on her 2016 D-Day anniversary Chorus group concerts and trip to Normandy, France. She and her Chorus group sang at two cemeteries, stayed in the Normandy area for 5 days, then returned to Paris for a final concert before returning home. Doris Sayles followed with a brief review of how she accessions and preserves artifacts acquired by or donated to the 416th Archive and surprised Chris and Mary Adams and Rick Prucha with stunning, unexpected, and very much appreciated 416th Bomb Group engraved crystal paperweights in recognition of their assistance on the 416th.com website. The meeting was brought to a successful conclusion after Margaret McEvoy graciously volunteered to host next year’s Reunion in the Washington, D.C. area.

A couple hours of “free time” allowed folks to visit Doris’s shops, return to Theodosia Marina-Resort and rest a bit. At 5 PM, all gathered outside the TMR Hospitality Room for the group Photo session and Social. After attendees were seated in the banquet hall, Wayne welcomed everyone and provided wonderful memorial video slide shows of Evelyn Dullnig, Carl Sgamboti and Ralph Conte; Doris presented the Missing Man Table; and David Andrews, III played TAPS on his bugle, reminding everyone of the sacrifices and memories of those before us. Chris Adams led the Invocation and then our home-cooked delicious dinner was served. The lovely memorial cake frosted with 9th Air Force and all four 416th BG Squadron logos was reluctantly carved for dessert, but tasted as great as it looked.

Following dinner, Dr. Vernon L. Williams, Director of the East Anglia Air War Project, gave a presentation of the work accomplished by him and his students over the summer at Wethersfield base in England, documenting the U.S. Air War against Germany from England. He played a video from the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, followed by a short break and then his newly produced “Under Fire: The 416th Bomb Group in World War II, 1943-1945” video. Vernon concluded his presentation by honoring Wayne and Doris Sayles with their justly deserved George Bledsoe Preservation Award, recognizing “significant contributions to the preservation of WWII military aviation history.” Congratulations Doris and Wayne!

See also online: Tom Rickels wonderful collection of Photos and Memories (Thanks Tom!). These are available as PDF or Microsoft PowerPoint files. Ozark County Times Newspaper article (PDF). Business Meeting Review (PDF), 416th.com Website Overview (PDF).

Thank You Wayne, Doris, Stephanie, Scott and everyone who attended for a wonderful and memorable Reunion. (See <http://www.416th.com/Reunions/2016Reunion.html> for hyperlinks)



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EAST ANGLIA AIR WAR PROJECT

October 8, 2016

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne and Doris Sayles
416th Bomb Group Archives
P.O. Box 911, Gainesville, MO 65655

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sayles:

I am pleased to notify you formally that both of you have been selected to be a 2016 recipient for the George Bledsoe Preservation Award. The Bledsoe Award is presented to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of WWII military aviation history. This award is named in honor of George Bledsoe who devoted his lifetime to service to mankind, first as a B-24 Liberator pilot flying dangerous low level night missions with the Carpetbagger operations in England and Scotland during World War II. Later as a teacher to thousands of students, Bledsoe became a role model for living life with integrity, with a commitment to excellence. His legacy and his memory continues to live on in the lives of his students where Bledsoe made a lasting impact.

Your selection for this prestigious award is based on your noteworthy work in creating a significant historical collection of WWII materials related to the 416th Bomb Group and the establishment of a working research archives for the 416th Bomb Group (L). Your preservation efforts to save the history of the 416th and its role in securing the victory in Europe is greatly appreciated by the American people. Using the resources available to you during these years, the two of you have single-handedly created a valuable historical resource that will contribute to our understanding of the air war in England and the impact those WWII events had on the men of the Ninth Air Force.

Let me be the first to congratulate you on your most extraordinary achievement. Those of us here at the East Anglia Air War Project are pleased that your names will be forever linked with those who have made significant efforts in preserving the history of the Ninth Air Force in World War II. Your work will continue on forever.

With best wishes,

Dr. Vernon L. Williams
Director



Veterans and Spouses of Deceased Veterans

**Front row: l-r, Joe Meagher, Bob Kehres, Wayne Downing, Dave Andrews, Roland Dullnig
Back row: l-r, Mickie Weinert, Josie Sittarich, Hilaria Huff**

Photo by David Andrews

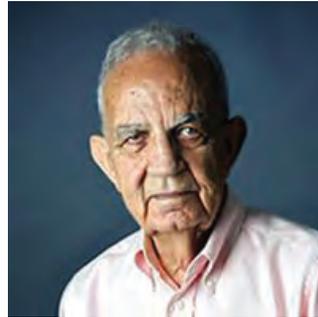
In Memoriam 2016



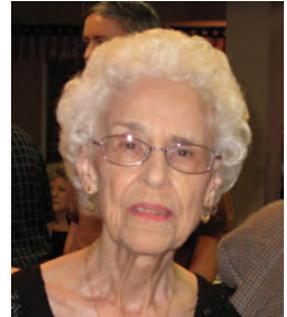
1Lt Bill Balch, 670th



Marsha Brewer



Cpt Ralph Conte, 669th/670th



Evelyn Dullnig



Cpl Wesley "Bud" Hinck, 669th



Carl Sgamboti - Honorary Veteran



Cpl "Hank" Wojton, 670th

Keeping in Touch

This section has been the primary purpose of the annual “Newsletter” since its inception more than 70 years ago. Throughout the history of 416th squadron and group reunions, there has been a concerted effort to provide contact information to those who wish to stay in touch with their extended family. Today, the newsletters serve another important role as windows into the past for those, like most of us, who are later generations. Reading those newsletters from years gone by offers us insight that no other source can provide. So, thank you to those who have shared their thoughts, feelings and good wishes in 2016 for those who will come after us.

Chris and Mary Adams

Son of 1Lt James D. Adams (deceased 2005)
Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron

Once again Wayne and Doris provided a wonderful reunion to the family and friends of the 416th Bomb Group in the Gainesville/Theodosia, MO area. Mary and I really enjoy reconnecting with the veterans and veterans wives who continue to amaze us on how young they are! We also enjoy visiting with old friends and meeting new people. Especially impressive this year were the positive changes made at the Archive since we were last there in 2013. From greatly expanding the Honor Wall to the displays in the Archive, it's very obvious Wayne and Doris have put in countless hours to ensure the archive is the absolute best they can make it. We look forward to the next reunion in Washington, DC that Maggie McEvoy so graciously agreed to host and are very curious to see what she has in store for us next year!

1Lt Dave Andrews and son David Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron

Stephanie came up from Tampa for a week and took Dad to several Veterans Day parades complete with his uniform. Saturday night 12/3 he rode in a convertible Mustang (with the top up due to rain) in the Senoia, Georgia Christmas parade for the third time. He built a large plastics plant there 40 years ago and the parkway to the plant is ANDREWS PARKWAY. He starts therapy on Tuesday for balance loss and weakness. Stephanie is a PA, NP and recommended this after her visit. He is using a rollator everywhere now. We have been so busy that I still haven't seen, let alone copied, the video from the reunion.

George and Rosalyn Barber

Relative of Lt. Col. Walter W. Farmer (KIA)
Group Operations Officer.

Several younger family members are just becoming aware of Lieutenant Colonel Farmer and his service to the United States. Your memorial to the officer is much appreciated. (LtC Farmer was a graduate of West Point, Class of 1939)

Bob and Puz Basnett

1Lt Robert J. Basnett
B/N - 671st Bomb Squadron

Submitted by Jan Recob, daughter of Bob and Puz.

The update on Dad is that they have moved to Valley Park North Assisted Living in Fulton. My dad can't hear over the cell phone and can only really hear if 2 land lines are involved and then barely. He has short term memory loss type of dementia and doesn't really know very many people but will visit up a storm and you would never know. The staff loves him and spoils him which makes his life there enjoyable. His physical health is great. His doctor says that he doesn't know why Dad goes to see him. Mike (my brother) stops in every day after work and my sister-in-law also checks in with him everyday and spoils him. His one complaint is that he can't drive, but he got lost so many times we had to eliminate that option. My mom is very happy there and we are relieved that she doesn't have to have the burden of keeping up the house, laundry and meals. It was just very wearing on her and her health suffered. She still is able to drive in and around town so gets out to church, play bridge and have her hair done, etc. Her life is active, she just lives in a place where the chores are taken care of for her. We know that they are well cared for and are expecting them to have a great holiday and new year. They remember the 416th fondly and would want me to wish all of you the happiest of holidays. Jeff and I send our greetings, too.

Sue and Curt Berg

Daughter of SSgt Jack Sittarich (POW)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron (deceased 2013)

I continue to count my blessings every time I get to see some of our wonderful Veterans, family and friends. We had another wonderful reunion, a big shout out to Wayne and Doris for all their planning, they always are so very caring! I hope and pray that next year will bring us all together again, along with additional Veterans, family and friends! Miss you all and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2017.

Col. Gerald Knox Bishop

Son of 1Lt Edward G. "Jerry" Bishop, 670th Bomb Sq., pilot of A-26B "Miss Mildred" (F6-O)

Charlie and Sylvia Bradford

SSgt Charles K. Bradford
Armorer - 670th Bomb Squadron

Hi all — We are slowing up but thankful. Look forward to the Newsletter. Love, Charlie and Sylvia

James Church

I had a wonderful time at this year's reunion and look forward to the next one near Washington, DC.
(Jim is the son of 2Lt Charles Church (POW)
Pilot - 669th (deceased 2001)

Margy Harrison Conte

Margy lives at home and is in good health. She hopes to attend a future reunion.

Wayne, Nancy, and Sara Downing

1Lt Wayne E. Downing
Pilot - 668th and 670th Bomb Squadron

Wayne and Nancy attended the 2016 reunion and participated in virtually all of the events. Wayne enjoyed the visit to Laura Ingalls Wilder home and was idolized there by a young boy who wanted his picture taken with a real WWII combat pilot. Wayne seemed to enjoy the experience as much as the young fellow did.

Roland and Ron Dullnig

TSgt Roland Dullnig
Crew Chief - 668th Bomb Squadron

A very enjoyable weekend in Theodosia and the Archives in Gainesville. My son Ron and I live together now. My daughter Carolyn and her husband Sonny bring us a meal at times. Hope to be with all of you in DC next year.

Doug and Jane Enman

Doug is brother of 2Lt Roland Enman
B/N - 669th Bomb Squadron (KIA 1945)

Hope all is well with you folks. Glad the reunion went well, it was nice seeing the picture of the Vets, they look pretty good for old folks! Our daughter Lynne has been through 4 sets of PET scans and brain scans and so far, so good, no cancer. We are so grateful for that news. They will have to watch her for 5 years they say, so the road is long, but we're hopeful. We send our love and our wishes.

Nancy G. Goldin

I would like to continue receiving my newsletter via email. My father, Wesley D. Chitty, Jr. was a proud member of the 670th Bomb Squadron.
Thank you for all your hard work.

Rick Greer

I choose email for the newsletter.
(Rick is a nephew of Francis De Mand, pilot 671st, KIA)

Bobbie and Hank Hankins

Bobbie is the daughter of Billy and Marsha Brewer and twin sister of Betty Watson. The entire Brewer family have long been strong supporters of the 416th Veterans Association.

George "Sonny" and Carolyn Haisler

Carolyn is daughter of TSgt Roland Dulling

What a great 416th Reunion! We really enjoyed seeing everyone. We appreciate the memorial tribute to mom (Evelyn) at the banquet Saturday evening. We're so glad that all of us could attend this year. Looking forward to Washington D.C. in 2017!

Roy and Arlene Hohn

Arlene is the daughter of Hilaria and Cpt Meredith Joy Huff, pilot, 669th Bomb Squadron

Hilaria is now living with us, her daughter and son-in-law. She is keeping busy with: quilting once a week, putting puzzles together, reading, word searches, and playing Gin Rummy on Arlene's iPad. If you need or want some puzzles, just let us know. Free shipping!

Hilaria Huff

Wife of Cpt. Meredith Joy Huff

It is always great being together and seeing those who come to the reunions, I know Joy would love them all. May God Bless you and keep you well.

Jim Keefe and Mary Ellen Graziano

Crew Chief - 669th Bomb Squadron

Thank you, I look forward to receiving correspondence and hope to make it to the reunion with my father in the fall.

Bob Kehres

Cpt Robert J. Kehres
Engineering Officer - 670 Bomb Squadron

The reunion this year was one of the best, hope to make the reunion in Washington next year.

Eileen Kerns

Wife of 1Lt James E. Kerns (deceased 2008)
B/N - 671st Bomb Squadron

Though I can't travel to reunions any longer, I think often of my friends in the Bomb Group and would like to stay in touch. I do keep up with Dan Eastman and he would enjoy hearing from folks also.

Bobbie Odom Kinney

Wife of Cpt William L. Kinney (deceased 2006)
Materiel Officer - Group Headquarters

I regret that I could not attend the 2016 reunion in Gainesville and hope to be able to join my 416th friends in Washington DC next year. Other than some problems with vision, I'm still in good health and look forward to seeing everyone again.

John and Wendy Kopley

Thank you for all you do and have done to honor the service and memory of our families and keep the history alive for the future. (Wendy is the daughter of Lt. Francis "Sandy" Brewster, pilot 670th, (deceased 2010)

Margaret McEvoy

What a wonderful reunion! The Blue Grass band, the setting - it was all LOVELY! Once we find ourselves in the 416th family it is a hard thing to explain to the outside world. But it is such a wonderful group to meet with every year.

Cpt Joseph F. Meagher

I'm proud to be a member of the 416th Bombardment Group. The 416th Archives are impressive.

Ron Papajcik

Fran and his wife have moved to an assisted care facility near Cleveland. (Ron is the son-in-law of Cpt Francis J. Cachat - Photo Officer, Group Headquarters)

Rick and Chris Prucha

Rick is the son of 1Lt. Lou Prucha, pilot of "Sugar Baby", 668th Bomb Sq.

My second Reunion was even better than the first, if that's possible. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to and from beautiful southern Missouri with Jim Roeder, and I believe my "Sugar Baby" artwork seemed to have been quite a hit. It was another wonderful time getting to know my extended 416th family even better. Enough thanks cannot be given to Doris, Wayne, Stephanie and Scott for all their hard work as hosts, and I also continue to thank the 416th BG Veterans, Spouses and Families for their selfless contributions and ongoing efforts to preserve their history.

Jeff and Jan Recob

See comments under Bob and Puz Basnett.

Jan is the daughter of 1Lt Robert J. Basnett B/N - 671st Bomb Squadron

Tom Rickels

Tom is a nephew of 1Lt William E. Cramsie Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron (KIA 1944)

It was wonderful seeing my 416th, family again! I was especially pleased to meet newest members Martha Tate and Tom Schmitt. Sara Downing, you were greatly missed! Many, many thanks to Wayne, Doris, Stephanie, and Scott for their hard work and dedication to the 416th veterans by hosting yet another memorable reunion. Also, to Margaret McEvoy for accepting the baton pass to host the next Reunion in Washington, DC. Never been there....looking forward to it more than you can imagine! Hoping all enjoy the holiday season and New Year!

Kathe and Gary Rensner

Kathe is a niece of 1Lt Francis De Mand (KIA). She and Gary hosted the 2015 reunion in Albuquerque.

Dale Robbins

Dale is a friend and neighbor of Cpt. Bob Kehres Engineering Officer - 670th Bomb Squadron. It is through the gracious assistance of Dale and his wife Gail that Bob, now 101 years old, has been able to attend reunions for the past several years. The entire 416th family owes them a debt of gratitude.

Jim Roeder

Thank you Doris and Wayne for an excellent job of hosting the reunion, as well as making me feel welcome. (Jim is author of the exceptional book on A-26 Invaders published by Osprey. He is currently working on a book about the 416th.)

Harriet Rosenstein

Wife of SSgt Morton Rosentein, gunner 669th

Widowed since 2008. Continuing to enjoy relatively good health but travel is limited. Grandchildren and children remain interested in news from the 416th Archive. Is there a picture of Morton's name on the Commemorative Wall? Good Wishes to all in the coming year. (To see the Wall photo find the tile at fourth row from the bottom, second tile from the left—online at <http://tiny.cc/e2a5hy>)

Steve Roy and Pat Wymond

We toured southern Italy this past Spring and saw some beautiful art and scenery. The food and wine was out of this world. With the passing of my mother, we will miss her love and devotion. (Steve is the son of Sgt Roger M. Roy, Aircraft Mechanic - 671st Bomb Squadron - deceased 2010)

Wayne & Doris Sayles

Friends & Honorary Member of 416th Bomb Gp

Wayne: The chance to renew close friendships is priceless and every year seems to improve in that respect, like a fine wine. Thanks to all for the kudos, it really is a team effort.

Doris: This was a great reunion, I had so much help and fun working with everyone. Looking forward to Washington, DC. Thank you one and all.

Stephanie Sayles

Coming to the 416th reunion is a way of stepping back in time to an era of which I was never a part. Through contact with these veterans and their families it comes alive, and surprisingly it stays with me. What was achieved during those years and the connections that remain come back to mind again and again throughout the year. The experience has become a base of reference that guides me in so many positive ways. I hope to have grandchildren one day, and already look forward to passing on the stories that I've learned of the 416th family.

Tom Schmitt

It was an awesome experience for my sister and I at the reunion! You were right Wayne, "it's like family"! God Bless and keep up the great work!

Nephew of Lt. Joseph T. Schouten,
Pilot, 671st (KIA)

Maria Sgamboti
Wife of Carl Sgamboti (deceased 2016)

I am so glad that the reunion was a wonderful get together. I hope to go next year to Washington DC.

Mary Jane (Josie) Sittarich

It was great seeing the 416th Bomb Group family again. It was a great get together, Wayne & Doris great job.

Wife of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

Jean Sittarich

The blessings I have received from my 416th family have been many!! Each and everyone has become as important as the next! This year's reunion was beyond amazing!! My ONLY complaint is that it goes by way to quick!! Like my dad would always say on the way home, "I wish we were just coming instead of leaving". Thank you, Wayne and Doris, for hosting once again and for your 'southern' hospitality....you are amazing!! Looking forward to having the reunion in DC, Maggie will be a fabulous hostess!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

Daughter of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)
Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

Ross Stewart
Friend of the 416th Bomb Group

Seasons Greeting to all the 416th. I am planning a 75th Anniversary D-Day event week 6th June 2019—where we will have a reunion of USAF vets from all eras at Wethersfield. I will give a talk about the 416th part in D-Day. They will not be forgotten.

Martha L. Tate

I want to again, thank you both for such an amazing experience last month at the reunion. I still feel a bit overwhelmed at the beautiful acceptance from total strangers....it truly is like "family". Thank you both, for helping my brother and I connect many unconnected dots in knowing our Uncle.

Niece of Lt. Joseph T. Schouten, pilot, 671st (KIA)

Joanne W. Tripp

I send my good wishes to all who remember me! I have fond memories of all our past reunions. Only wish Bill could be with me. I sure wish I were able to attend reunions but I won't go alone! My 3 sons attended the one in Carolina — Bill would have been so proud. I am in very good health and keep busy at yacht club activities and church doings. I still drive night & day with no problems, so I'm out enjoying something every day.

Wife of Maj William F. Tripp (deceased 2004)
Pilot - 669th Bomb Squadron

Betty and Charles Watson

Betty is the daughter of Billy and Marsha Brewer. Billy was a Bombardier/Navigator in the 671st Bomb Sq. Marsha passed away on December 11, 2016. The Brewer family has been a much beloved fixture at 416th reunions for many years.

Charles and Mary Watts

I would love to read the newsletters and other mailings. I appreciate if you can help. (Mary is the daughter of Noel E. Clark, 670th Bomb Group - deceased).

Mickie Weinert

Wife of 1Lt Carl Weinert (deceased 2013)
Pilot - 669th Bomb Squadron

A friend, Margaret Koenig, joined me in attending the 416th Bomb Group Reunion. It was a beautiful time of the year, Margaret had never been in that area, so I enjoyed it doubly (through her eyes and mine) There are no words to describe the joy we feel, as we greet our long time friends. There were many we missed. Wayne and Doris are such fantastic hosts; the country music group they arranged to play at lunch on the Archive patio had some up dancing (with Doris' help). Thank you to all who keep our group together.

Carolyn and Tom Whitfield

Daughter of 1Lt William E. (Billy) Brewer

So sorry we missed the Reunion. It has been a busy year for all! Mama passed away on December 11th. She had been doing pretty good, still in her own home with wonderful ladies taking care of her. She would have been 94 on the 29th of this month. Hope this finds you all doing good. Am hoping to make it to Washington DC, it has been too long. Love you guys!

Barbara Wiemann

I always enjoy reading your newsletters. Thank you for all your efforts. (Barbara is the daughter of Fred Stemler, 669th Bomb Squadron Crew Chief)

Dr. Vernon L. Williams
East Anglia Air War Project

Dr. Williams is Professor of History at Abilene Christian University and Director of the East Anglia Air War Project. He has contributed in many significant ways to the 416th Archive and honored the 416th Family as Guest Speaker at the 2016 reunion.

Internet addresses of interest to 416th family and friends:

<https://416tharchivestore.ecwid.com/> -- The 416th Archive Store

<http://www.416th.com/contents.html> -- 416th web site table of contents

<http://www.416th.com/links.html> -- List of online resources for WWII

<http://www.416th.com/missions>LoadingList.html> -- 416th Mission Loading List Search

http://www.416th.com/CachatPhotos/Cachat_416thBG_Photos.html -- 900+ 416th photos

<http://www.416th.com/Reunions/2016Reunion.html> -- 2016 reunion summary

<http://www.416th.com/neam.html> -- The 416th Memorial Exhibit at New England Air Museum

<https://www.facebook.com/416th> -- 416th Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1473744302842355/> -- David Andrews 416th Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/56981237530/> -- Ross Stewart's Wethersfield Page

<http://www.angliaairwar.org/> -- Dr. Vernon Williams' East Anglia Air War Project website

**Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.
We hope to see you all in the Fall at Washington DC.**

*For questions, comments or just the urge to reach out, contact Wayne or Doris
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