



# *416th Bomb Group Newsletter 2017*



**Veterans and spouses of deceased veterans attending the 416th Bomb Group reunion in Rosslyn, Virginia, September 13-17, 2017**

Left to right: Bobbie Kinney, Dave Andrews, Bob Kehres, Josie Sittarich, Roland Dullnig, Joe Meagher, Wayne Downing, Hilaria Huff

KEY BRIDGE MARRIOTT  
1401 LEE HIGHWAY, ROSSLYN, VA



*416th Bomb Group Reunion  
13 - 17 September, 2017*



Hosted by Margaret McEvoy (niece of Jimmy Kenny), her husband Simon Young and their daughters Mia and Zoe with the help of friends

## *Happy New Year to all!*



*Ross Stewart*

### **Dear 416th Family and Friends,**

The 2017 reunion of the 416th Bomb Group was hosted by Margaret McEvoy and family in the Washington DC metropolitan area during the second week of September. At a time when WWII veteran reunions are becoming rare, and even the mammoth 9th Air Force Association has been disbanded, the 416th family is holding its own and even finding new interest among the younger generation family and friends of those who served. That point was driven home in a delightful Hospitality Room display of artwork by local students of Ms. Linden's kindergarten class.

A small working group met during the week to discuss the possibility of creating a Heritage Association to survive the organization of

Veterans that has served to honor and memorialize this WWII combat unit. A summary of the discussion and general enquiry of attendee interests was shared at the annual business meeting by Chris Adams and met with overwhelming support. Tentative plans were made to move forward with a formal structure. The perennial question of whether a reunion would be held next year was resolved when Dr. Vernon Williams volunteered to host the 2018 reunion in Abilene, Texas. Dr. Williams is Professor of History at Abilene Christian University and Director of the East Anglia Air War Project. Details of the time and place, as well as registration forms, will be shared via the Archive newsletter and Facebook page in the late Spring and early Summer.

In addition to several great tours, the banquet was highlighted with a special guest speaker this year from Wethersfield, England—where the 416th served during most of 1944—Ross Stewart, Curator and Director of the RAF Wethersfield Museum, and head of the Project 9699 search for 416th pilot William Edward Cramsie. Ross has been the driving force in preserving a 416th presence there amidst local redevelopment projects. New construction is likely to change the face of this piece of land forever. Ross and his wife Sally, who accompanied him on this trip, have been gracious hosts to several 416th families who have visited the base in England. The colors were presented by a local troop of Girl Scouts, with the traditional “Missing Man” tribute by Doris Sayles, taps by David Andrews and the invocation by Sharon Lavelle — all very touching and memorable.

Rick Prucha, our tireless 416th.com webmaster and fellow Archive board member, has prepared a more detailed summary of these events online—which we will reproduce here for the benefit of those who do not have internet capability or may not have had an occasion to see it online. If you haven't visited the web site recently, it's worth exploring. The amount of information now available at <http://www.416th.com> is astounding. The Archive continues to participate in research projects and improve the accuracy and breadth of personnel and aircraft databases. This effort is helped tremendously by contributions of information and photos, as well as financial donations which allow the purchase of 416th related objects appearing for sale from time to time on the internet. It seems like there should be a lot of time to enjoy the company of our dear friends in a Wednesday through Saturday event, but every year it seems like that time just evaporates and we fail to see and talk with everyone we had hoped to. That just makes us look forward to next year all the more. We'd love to hear from you in the meantime. Thanks to all who responded to our request for Newsletter comments and to those who have shared their reunion photo collections with us.

With warmest regards,

*Wayne and Doris Sayles*

# Reunion Summary

## *by Rick Prucha*

WOW! Maggie sure knows how to put together a WONDERFUL and MEMORABLE Reunion - THANKS.

The 2017 416th Bomb Group Reunion, held at the Key Bridge Marriott hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia near Washington, D.C., was hosted by Margaret (“Maggie”) McEvoy, with significant help from her husband Simon Young, daughters Zoe and Mia, along with many others. More than fifty 416th Bomb Group “Family” members attended over the four days.

The “Greatest Generation” attendees included 416th Bomb Group Veterans Dave Andrews, Wayne Downing, Roland Dullnig, Bob Kehres and Joe Meagher, along with Wives of passed Veterans Hilaria Huff, Bobbie Kinney and Josie Sittarich. Some folks were able to get to the Washington, D.C. area early for some sightseeing ahead of the official reunion start, or to give Maggie a helping hand. So by Wednesday, visiting was already going full-blast. Maggie put together welcome packets for everyone with the events schedule along with very helpful local and tour information.

The Washington Room on the 3rd floor of our hotel provided an ideal venue as Hospitality Room and was well attended throughout the reunion. Maggie and the gang kept it continually stocked with refreshments, snacks and candy which was very much appreciated by everyone, evidenced by the refills necessary multiple times each day. The staff at the hotel were also very helpful, keeping the room tidy and supplied with water and glasses. Maggie and her family generously brought in pizzas for those who did not want to “miss any action” by leaving the Hospitality Room for dinner.

Thursday morning started at 8 AM back at the Hospitality Room with Starbucks coffee, donuts and delicious home-baked muffins by Mia’s Girl Scout Troop, brought in by Maggie and her family. As part of her Reunion plans, Maggie graciously arranged for a Dillon’s Bus Service tour bus to take all those interested to the awe inspiring Washington National Cathedral where she also arranged for a guided group tour. The Cathedral is dedicated to serve as a house of prayer for all people and a spiritual home for the nation.

Mr. G., our bus driver, a truly entertaining host, posted “416th Honor Flight” on the Bus Marque in honor of our Veterans, and was extremely helpful to everyone, but especially for our “Greatest Generation”. Before our return to the hotel, we also visited the National World War II Memorial, allowing everyone time for some personal reflection as we walked through the Memorial. The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home.

We all sincerely appreciated Maggie’s thoughtfulness by having sandwiches and all the fixin’s ready and waiting at the Hospitality Room upon our return, because everyone was ready to eat. Having everything right there allowed for a much more relaxing lunch than scrambling to a restaurant.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening was enjoyed at the Hospitality Room by many, some rested up, others got back out to see more sights or visit friends/family in the area. A few folks got together for a couple hours Thursday afternoon in the Adams Room across the hall from the Hospitality Room to discuss ideas around forming a new organization to keep our 416th Bomb Group “Family” together for the future. The results of this “Planning Group” were presented by Chris Adams and discussed by all attendees at the Business Meeting Saturday afternoon.

*Continued on following page....*

8 AM again Friday saw more coffee, donuts and the now famous Girl Scout home-baked muffins for those getting an early start. The annual Archive Board of Directors meeting was held over breakfast Friday morning.

In a memorable and touching moment, our thoughtful and respectful hotel staff gave our veterans a clapping, standing ovation as they boarded the tour bus on Friday. This bus trip organized by Maggie headed this day to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (companion facility to the Museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.) where we broke into 3 groups for personalized guided tours to see as much of the museum as possible. After our tours, we enjoyed a pleasant lunch with on-going visiting at the museum McDonalds restaurant.

On our return, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to stop at the United States Air Force Memorial near the Pentagon. This Memorial honors the service and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States Air Force and its predecessor organizations, including the Aeronautical Division, U.S. Signal Corps; the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps; the Division of Military Aeronautics, Secretary of War; the Army Air Service; the U.S. Army Air Corps; and the U.S. Army Air Forces. More than 54,000 Airmen have died in combat while serving in the Air Force and these historical service arms of the military.

The Hospitality Room stayed busy again for the remainder of Friday afternoon and evening.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear, but for some inexplicable reason, folks did not start gathering until a little later than 8 AM. Thankfully, the all-important pastries and coffee brought in again by Maggie provided that needed boost to get folks awake and active, and the Hospitality Room was soon buzzing as usual.

WWII-era music played in the Hospitality Room was a thoughtful donation from the only French school in the DC area; Lycée Rochambeau. The school's band leader, Mr. Carey came up with the idea when Maggie asked him about possible music for the reunion. High school students Alexandre Fauqueux and Thomas LaTendresse volunteered their time to put together the WWII music play list and set up a sound system in the Hospitality Room which was a real "hit" for our "Greatest Generation" folks. Roland Dullnig took advantage of the chance to have a dance with Stephanie Andrews.

Our Business meeting started at 1 PM across the hall in the Madison Room which had been kindly setup with chairs by the wonderfully helpful hotel staff. Wayne Sayles spoke of the work done at the Archive over the past year, Rick Prucha described 416th.com website additions and Chris Adams discussed the ideas from Thursday's "Planning Group" around forming a new "416th Bomb Group Heritage Association" organization for the future. After Chris' talk, there was a fair bit of discussion among the audience and when a vote was taken whether to form the new organization, the response was unanimously YES. Kathe Rensner volunteered to look into creating a Non-Profit "416th Bomb Group Heritage Association" organization to begin moving forward.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Vernon Williams, Department of History and Global Studies Professor at Abilene Christian University volunteered to host next year's 2018 Reunion in Abilene, Texas. Everyone also voted YES to accept his generous offer. Just before we broke up, David Andrews, III, who kept his cameras busy throughout the Reunion, graciously offered to copy his photos and videos onto thumb drives for anyone wishing to have digital copies. A few hours of R&R were allotted before the evening festivities, some folks rested in their rooms and others returned to the Hospitality Room for more visiting (and snacking).

5 PM sharp (17:00 hours for the Veterans) saw everyone dressed in their finest, gathering outside Salon A for the Pre-Banquet photo opportunities.

*Continued on following page...*

After everyone was seated for the Banquet, Maggie got the evening started, followed by the local Girl Scouts Troops 6534 and 4370 Color Guard presentation of the American Flag, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. In honor and memory of those who are no longer with us, Doris Sayles explained the significance of the Missing Man Table and each item, followed by TAPS bugled by David Andrews, III, both emotionally moving. The Invocation was led by Sharon Lavelle, followed by a delectable dinner.

Following dinner, Wayne Sayles introduced our special guest, friend and speaker, Ross Stewart, curator of the RAF Wethersfield Airfield Museum, Wethersfield, England, the site of the first overseas 416th Bomb Group base. Upon the conclusion of Ross's very informative and entertaining speech, Terri Velasco led everyone in singing God Bless America. Dr. Vernon L. Williams, Director of the East Anglia Air War Project, wrapped things up with the presentation of George Bledsoe Preservation Awards and Medals individually to both Doris and Wayne Sayles to recognize their "significant contributions to the preservation of WWII military aviation history" for their tireless 416th Bomb Group Archive efforts.

Last minute visiting was carried on back in the Hospitality Room till Midnight (or so), while David Andrews was kept busy making the thumb drive copies of his digital photos and videos (Thanks David!).

Sunday came too soon, but fortunately many folks were able to gather over breakfast for the final Good-Bye's and See you next Year!



**Martha Tate, Emily Erickson, Larry Schmitt, Jennifer Schmitt — Family of Joseph Schouten (KIA)**



**Rick Greer and Kathe Rensner**



**Pat and Judi Freeman**



**Stephanie, David and Dave Andrews**



**Joe Meagher**



**Larry Schmitt, Martha Tate, Sally Stewart, Ross Stewart, Dave Andrews, Doris Sayles, Wayne Sayles, Wayne Downing (front)**

# *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, those historic 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 here—not just for the rest of us, but also for those who will come after us.

## **Chris and Mary Adams**

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

We had the best time at the reunion thanks to Maggie and her family in Washington, DC! Many thanks to her for agreeing to host the reunion and provide a memorable venue for making new memories. As always it was great to see the veterans and everyone else who made the trip, including Ross and Sally Stewart from Wethersfield, England. We wish a Merry Christmas to you all and a happy, healthy New Year! See y'all in Texas next year!

## **1Lt Dave Andrews, son David**

Pilot - 671st Bomb Squadron

Dave enjoyed the reunion very much and was very engaged in discussion with USMA cadet Taylor Brooks who sat next to him during the banquet. David was tireless, as usual, in making sure everything was recorded on video and still photos for posterity. They were joined by David's daughter Stephanie who barely escaped the hurricane that threatened travellers from the Southeast.

## **Bob and Puz Basnett**

1Lt Robert J. Basnett  
B/N - 671st Bomb Squadron  
Comment submitted by Jan Recob, daughter, and contact via Michael Basnett, son, of Bob and Puz.

I have just returned from seeing Dad in Missouri and he is declining. In late October, he had a fall at the assisted living facility which was later determined to be a blood infection. He spent 9 days in the hospital receiving antibiotic therapy and then was moved to a skilled nursing facility in Fulton where he could continue IV antibiotics for the 4 week period. He has completed that but will be unable to move back to the assisted living facility because he is weakened and cannot function well in that environment. HOWEVER, he has adjusted very well to the skilled nursing facility. It is close to Mike and Teri and they stop in everyday to check up on him. He has a Vietnam veteran for a roommate who also has dementia and they spend time recreating their war years. The nurses at his new place love him and spoil him, several people that he knows/knew are residents

*(Continued on page 9)*

*Continued from page 8*

there and he tells me “they treat me awfully well here.” He continues to lose ground mentally but has not lost his wicked sense of humor. We continually laugh at some of the things that he says. He seems happy and has acclimated to his new residence. Mom continues at Valley Park which is close to Mike and Teri also. They check on her every day. She has given up driving so is limited on her mobility in the community but has family and friends who provide transportation for her when needed. She is also having some memory issues but is still pretty self sufficient and seems to enjoy her situation as long as she can watch Cardinal baseball and Missouri Tiger sports. They would both send their regards to the 416th group. You were a big part of their lives for many years. The get togethers were always the first things on their calendars every time they were held. Thank you for your kindnesses to them in these later years. I hope your Christmas is a merry one,

**Sue and Curt Berg**

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

I had a wonderful time in Washington DC re-uniting with great friends, while missing others who couldn't be there. I feel so blessed knowing that these wonderful people fill my heart with love, and will always fill my heart with love for our country. Maggie and her family were over the top for hosting such a wonderful event, love them all!!! I sure hope more can make it to our next reunion, stories and hugs really help heal the pain of losing some of our loved ones who will never be forgotten. May God Bless all of you with a Happy, Healthy 2018. Love from Sue Berg, daughter of Jack Sittarich.

**Charlie and Sylvia Bradford**

SSgt Charles K. Bradford  
Armorer - 670th Bomb Squadron

Charlie and Sylvia Bradford were unable to attend the 2017 reunion, but send their regards to the 416th Family.

**Stephen and Janet Bradford**

Nephew of 1Lt Blair Bradford (KIA 20May44)  
Pilot - 668th and 669th Bomb Squadron

Enclosed is my check for the 416th Bomb Group in honor of Lt. Blair Bradford. I thoroughly enjoyed reading my first copy of your publication.

**Taylor C. Brooks**  
Cadet, USMA West Point

The 2017 416th Reunion was the first time I went to a formal event in uniform, and, for me, it was a particularly unique situation to be with veterans from the past two generations who were also in uniform; different faces, different ages, different uniforms from a span of over seventy years, yet we all seemed to fit together perfectly.

**James Church**  
Son of Lt. Charles Church (POW 6 Jun 44)  
Pilot 669th Bomb Squadron



I had a wonderful time at the reunion, Margaret McEvoy and the people that supported her did a great job. Looking forward the Texas in 2018!

**Margy Harrison Conte**  
Wife of Cpt Ralph F. Conte,  
B/N 669th and 670th Bomb Squadron

I was driving to the V.A. Hospital on October 4 when I was hit head-on by a college age driver. Besides a concussion, I had a fractured vertebrae and I still can't walk right. He was charged with speeding and reckless driving. My son Dan helps with correspondence and business affairs. I miss my "Rafe" so much. Some of my fondest memories are being at the reunions. I have a new phone number.

**Wayne, Nancy, and Sara Downing**  
1Lt Wayne E. Downing  
Pilot - 668th and 670th Bomb Squadron

Nancy has retired from her nursing work and spends part of the year with her daughter and father in California, and part of the year at her home in Illinois. Sara graduated from the University of California in Ventura County and is working in Newbury, California in the office of the company that sells medical prescriptions and distributes them to the drug stores in all of Ventura County. Wayne is in good shape on the inside but not so good on the outside—skin problems. He is busy with house chores, yard work and paperwork. Sara's dog named Fern is in good shape and very active. We will look forward to seeing you all at the next 416th Bomb Group Reunion. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

**Roland and Ron Dullnig**

Tsgt Roland Dullnig - Crew Chief  
668th Bomb Squadron  
Comment submitted by Carolyn Haisler,  
daughter of Roland Dullnig.

Wow! What a wonderful reunion in Washington D.C. Thanks to Maggie and all of her supporters. We especially enjoyed the bus tours, the special attention given to the veterans and the visits with the 416th family. All the activities made it a truly memorable weekend. Roland had a great time and especially enjoyed the opportunity to dance with Stephanie Andrews, granddaughter of 416th Veteran Dave Andrews. We were honored this year to have Ross and Sally Stewart from Wethersfield as special guests. We're all looking forward to the 2018 reunion in the great state of Texas!

**Alan and Vickie Eastman**

Son of 1Lt Dan Eastman  
Pilot 671st Bomb Squadron

Vickie and I had a nice talk today with Dad at the VA nursing home here in Salt Lake. He moved in there in January 2017 after living independently became too difficult for him to manage comfortably. The timing was good, because he had a fall shortly after moving, and now spends most of his time in bed. He is still able to walk on his own, though he uses a walker most of the time because he runs out of energy very easily. I suppose that's not surprising, since he will turn 98 on Christmas Day!

He asked us to pass along that he is, "anxious for Christmas to get here, so I can put away another year and see what happens." He also asked that we pass along his best wishes to all the 416th group. He mentioned that the group is getting older, and mentioned that there were only about five original vets at the last reunion he attended; since WW II ended about 70 years ago, he thought that was pretty natural.



One thing that we might mention is that, in 2014 Dad participated in an Honor Flight, a trip to the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C., sponsored by KSL radio and TV. I was privileged to be his escort. We flew to Washington, saw all the war memorials and the Arlington National Cemetery. Dad was honored by being chosen as the person who laid the memorial wreath at the Air Force portion of the WW II Memorial. It was an unforgettable experience.

I've attached a picture we took this afternoon. Dad's in very good spirits, though increasingly frail.

**Doug and Jane Enman**

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

Hi folks, we are doing well, not traveling too far away from home anymore. We miss seeing you all but I guess that happens when you get older. We wish all our love and best wishes for the new year to come.

PS: If anyone remembers our little dog Taffy, she passed away this year. She was paralyzed the last 6 years of her life, but that only slowed her down a little. We do miss her a lot. We wish all " Happy New Year ".

**Hilaria Huff; Roy and Arlene Hohn**

Hilaria is the wife of Cpt Meredith Joy Huff,  
Pilot, 669th Bomb Squadron (deceased 2006).  
Arlene is their daughter

We had a wonderful time at the 416th reunion. Mom sees it as a highlight of the year. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

**Bob Kehres**

Cpt Robert J. Kehres, Engineering Officer,  
670th Bomb Squadron

I was lucky that this year's reunion was in Washington. My brother Walter's family lives in Maryland. I was able to visit with my nephew Jim and many of his seven children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I also was treated to a tour of Air Force One and visited the WWII Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery with family members. It was great to see my colleagues from the 416th Bomb Group. I also enjoyed visiting with the younger people who have befriended me over the years. I was lucky enough at the banquet to sit with a young man who visited from West Point! The hotel accommodations were fine. All in all it was a great trip from the time I left Magnolia until I got back. I will be 102 years old on Dec. 19. Born in 1915 in Perry, OK. By the way, I was also able to travel to Perry at the end of October. The local newspaper interviewed me and printed an article. A copy of the newspaper will be sent in a separate envelope. Thank you again for all you do.

**Bobbie Odom Kinney**

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

It was such a pleasure to be with everyone in D.C. Good to see everyone, especially the vets and families. Enjoyed the couple from England who told us about the war and cemetery there. Am looking forward to the next reunion if health permits. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**Jennifer McCluskey**

Daughter of Jack McCluskey, 669th Bomb Squadron

I really enjoy getting the 416th Annual Newsletter. I was wondering if a 2016 hard copy Newsletter was available for purchase?

*N.B. Photocopies of past annual newsletters are available from the Archive for \$5 each. Copies of 2014, 2015 and 2016 newsletters are currently available for download at <http://www.416th.com/reunions.html> . As workload permits, all past newsletters will be scanned and posted on the web site for free download.*

**Dr. Patrick McCluskey**

Son of Jack McCluskey, 669th Bomb Squadron

My dad was with the 669th squadron stationed at Wethersfield, Laon and Pontoise from February 1944 to the end of the war. I'd be interested in any new photos or information about the 416th. Thanks for all you do.

*N.B. There are literally thousands of 416th photos on the 416th.com website. Some have identifications in the captions, many do not. Anyone reading this who is able to identify a person who has not previously been cited in accompanying text or caption is encouraged to contact us and share that information.*

**Margaret McEvoy and Simon Young**

Margaret is the niece of 1Lt James P. Kenny, Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron (KIA)

It has been a rough time at work following the Reunion and so cold that summer seems light years away—but I know it will be here in a blink and we will all be booking tickets to Abilene! I do look forward to that.

*N.B. Simon captured a stunning photo of Taylor Brooks and Wayne Downing in a pensive moment at the reunion (see page 17). He graciously donated a copy printed on canvas, along with one of the attending 416th veterans, now on display at the Archive.*

**Cpt Joseph F. Meagher**

Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron

Joe Meagher attended the reunion and actively participated in the field trips and group events along with family and friends.

**Linda Mullen**

Linda is the daughter of Sgt Vincent Fair, Gunner, 669th Bomb Squadron

Thank you for the Newsletter. My dad Vincent Fair is in assisted living. His eyesight is very poor, so he is unable to read the newsletters. They can be sent to me and I will read them over the phone to him. He is 92. He still goes out once a week with his buddies for breakfast. Hope you are all well. Thanks for all your work.

**Rick and Chris Prucha**

Son of 1Lt. Lou Prucha, (deceased 1981)  
Pilot, 668th Bomb Squadron

Thanks so much Maggie, the 2017 Reunion was GREAT. I'm proud to note that the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum near Omaha, Nebraska has an A-26 Invader on display and this year expanded their exhibit to include WWII photos of my father and "Sugar Baby", along with dad's winter dress coat and cap my family loaned to the Museum. I continue to give thanks to all the Veterans and their families for their sacrifices and ongoing preservation of this critical time in history.

**Norrie Rawdon**

Norrie is the niece of Wayne Downing  
Pilot, 668th and 670th Bomb Squadron

I was so delighted to join my uncle, Wayne Downing, this year. It's such a treat to do things with the 416th and visit with old friends.

**Tom Rickels**

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

It was a disappointment for me to miss the DC reunion, but a number of factors and obligations made it impossible. I look forward to the 2018 reunion in Abilene. Regards to all.

**Steve Roy and Pat Wymond**

Steve is the son of Sgt Roger Roy (deceased 2010)  
Aircraft Mechanic, 671st Bomb Squadron

It was great seeing our 416th veterans, family members and friends at this year's 416th Reunion. I once again enjoyed learning first hand from our veterans about their experiences during World War II. It augments what I learned from my father, Roger Roy 671st Sqd, and his World War II experiences at Lake Charles, LA; Laurel, MS; RAF Wethersfield; and their bases in France. Finally, the many conversations with family members and friends of the 416th rounded out the very rewarding reunion experience. Thank you to all that helped make this a successful reunion. \*Note change in address and email.

**Wayne & Doris Sayles**

Friends & Honorary Veteran of 416th Bomb Group

Doris: It was a hard year prior to coming to DC—loss of my best friend. Our 416th family gave me such love and understanding that it felt as if my world was renewed. Thank you everyone for the laughter, great conversation and just being together. It was so wonderful.

Wayne: It is becoming more obvious each year that the 416th family is being “reborn” with new faces turning into “regulars” at the annual reunions. This is the greatest tribute of all to those who served in WWII. Margaret and her family/friends did a superb job of feeding that fire.

**Maria Sgamboti**

Wife of Carl Sgamboti

Honorary Veteran of the 416th (deceased 2016)

Carl was dedicated to the A-26 and to the 416th. He loved all the history and stories. Without his unselfish dedication the hulk of the A-26 would be in the rubble pile. He was truly admired by all his family and friends and we miss him. His restoration crew considered him to be “the best”. I think of him every day and feel blessed to have had him in my life for more than 53 years. I am not involved with NEAM but stay in touch with his amazing crew. The A-26 is still on the museum floor and looking bright and shiny. It is a tribute to all the 416th . I am doing well and have my family and friends around me for support. Another blessing. I wish you all the happiest of holidays.

**Jean Sittarich**

Daughter of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)

Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

Coming together with my 416th family is always a highlight of my year! Our core values unite us in a bond like no other! The dedication, planning and organizing of the reunion in D.C. by the McEvoy-Young family was phenomenal! I enjoy every minute we have with our blessings of the Greatest Generation in our presence. What a gift we have in all of them!! Happy 2018 to all and looking forward to our reunion in the longhorn state!

**Mary Jane (Josie) Sittarich**

Wife of SSgt Jack Sittarich (deceased 2013)

Gunner - 668th Bomb Squadron

I was glad to go to D.C. to meet Margaret’s family. It was nice seeing them. I wish Jack could have met them. Nice seeing the five Vets there. Hope we make it to next meeting.

**Ross and Sally Stewart**

Friends of the 416th Bomb Group  
Director, Wethersfield Airfield Museum

We had the most wonderful time at the reunion in Washington DC, meeting everyone and gathering stories from the Veterans to preserve in the Museum at Wethersfield. There are lots of great photos to record that time and the memories we made. There will always be a special welcome for any 416th Family and Friends who are able to visit RAF Wethersfield. Just make contact at [Wethersfield.museum@gmail.com](mailto:Wethersfield.museum@gmail.com)

**Martha L. Tate**

Niece of Lt. Joseph T. Schouten,  
Pilot, 671st Bomb Squadron (KIA)

Martha attended the reunion with her daughter Emily Erickson, as well as her brother Larry Schmitt and his wife Jennifer. From discussions with 416th veterans and other family members they were able to learn more about the circumstances and details of the mission in which their uncle was killed.

**Betty and Charles Watson**

Daughter of 1Lt William E. "Billy" Brewer  
B/N, 671st Bomb Squadron

Christmas and Holiday Greetings to all.

**Charles and Mary Watts**

Daughter of Msgt Noel E. Clark (deceased 2008)  
670th Bomb Squadron

Mary is the daughter of the late Msgt Noel E. Clark, Jr., 670th Bomb Squadron Maintenance Flight Chief.

**Mickie Weinert**

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

It has been a busy year. My greatest regret is missing the reunion in Washington D.C. I was in NY City a few days and took the train overnight to Chicago. Sleeping in that roomette gives one the experience of living in one of the new tiny houses! I am finally getting back to normal. After a very fast storm moved through this area, a 50-60 ft tall old pine tree was up-rooted, fell just along side of the house. It was nothing like what Texas and Florida experienced. It made me appreciate what they went through even more. I missed seeing so many of you wonderful people and hope to see you next year.

**Carolyn and Tom Whitfield**

Daughter of 1Lt William E. (Billy) Brewer  
B/N, 671st Bomb Squadron

I really was disappointed to miss the reunion this year. It sounded awesome. The pictures I saw on FB brought tears to my eyes! I have such great memories of reunions past. The friends they have created are friendships I treasure deeply. The Whitfield's are doing great. Tom is still the grill master and taking good care of us all! Thomas is teaching, coaching and running a great little lawn service in the summer. Michael and Rachel were married on May 20, 2017. It was a beautiful wedding! Rachel is the digital specialist at her school and is very busy with many new responsibilities. Michael is now a partner with Sitterson and Whitfield as a CPA. He works with the son of the man that Daddy worked with for many years! It is a busy time for all but things are good and I feel very blessed to have them all close by right here in Pink Hill! It is my prayer as the holidays approach that the 416th family is happy and healthy. We talk about all of the special folks we have met over the years often. I hope that 2018 is an awesome year for one and all!



**West Point cadet Taylor Brooks shares a serious moment with Wayne Downing**

**Dr. Vernon L. Williams**  
Director, East Anglia Air War Project

Hello and best holiday wishes from Abilene, deep in the heart of Texas. I have been busy working on your October reunion to be held here in Abilene, beginning Wednesday, October 3 with a departure on Sunday morning on October 7th. We are working on a packed schedule of fun for you that will include time for visiting in the hospitality room area, tours, workshops in the hotel, special meals and programs. Along the way, the 416th families will meet today's serving men and women who fly and maintain the B1-B Lancer bomber at Dyess AFB and have a chance to see the professional air force that the 416th BG helped develop just three quarters of a century ago. It should be a breathtaking reunion with many opportunities for making new memories and sharing old ones.

Abilene has all jet service from DFW airport by American Eagle so it is easy to reach Abilene from anywhere in the US. And American lines can provide wheelchairs on each leg of your journey. The MCM Elegante Suites Hotel has a free airport shuttle to the hotel that is just minutes away. Your hotel room rate is just \$99 (single/double) plus tax and you can add a third or fourth person to the room for a room rate of \$109 plus tax per night. The Elegante offers a free breakfast with eggs cooked to order. In the evenings, each guest can enjoy up to four free drinks during the daily happy hour. I have used the Elegante for many years as my hotel of choice for various reunions that I have directed. I think that you will enjoy your stay there.

I am currently working up our tour and activity schedule. During your time here, you will come up close and personal with the cowboy and rodeo tradition, Indian culture, Air Force history, and the World War II history that played out here so long ago. There will also be special photograph exhibits on the 416th BG during the war years, and some special video presentations prepared just for you at the reunion. A number of special meals will offer opportunities for special activities and presentations, too. During the spring, I will be updating our schedule and providing more information on the day-to-day schedule for the reunion. We all look forward to having you come to Abilene in October. Please save the date and begin making plans for your family to come to Abilene for a most special time. You will not regret it.

# ABILENE. TEXAS REUNION 416TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



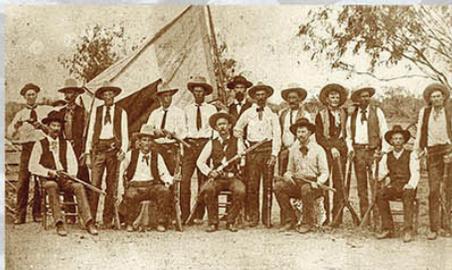
416TH  
AT  
WAR



## 416TH BG FAMILIES TO MEET B1-B 7TH BOMB WING IN TEXAS



B1-B Lancer - Dyess AFB



*Packed-filled schedule is planned for  
your Abilene visit*

- ▶ Free airport shuttle just minutes away
- ▶ All jet service to Abilene by American Eagle
- ▶ Every hotel room is a suite--\$99 night for 2
- ▶ Hospitality room
- ▶ Free breakfasts--eggs cooked to order
- ▶ Free drinks at happy hour
- ▶ Special presentations scheduled for the hotel, Dyess Air Force Base,
- ▶ Wethersfield Dinner on Friday night
- ▶ Banquet on Saturday night
- ▶ Special video presentations
- ▶ Historical Photograph Exhibits
- ▶ Workshop on how to preserve family papers, documents, and photographs
- ▶ Tours are being worked up that will be drawn from these interest areas: Texas ranching, rodeo and Indian history, Dyess AFB, World War II history
- ▶ More details coming this spring

### Reunion Chairman

Dr. Vernon L. Williams

1617 Morrow Lane

Abilene, TX 79601

Cell: 325-280-3399

Email: [vwilliams@acu.edu](mailto:vwilliams@acu.edu)

*Reunion Dates*

**OCTOBER 3-7, 2018**

## **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](http://www.416th.com/CachatPhotos/Cachat_416thBG_Photos.html) -- 900+ 416th photos

<http://www.416th.com/Reunions/2017Reunion.html> -- 2017 reunion summary and photos

<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 2018.  
We hope to see you all in the Fall at Abilene.**

*For questions, comments, donations or just the urge to reach out, contact Wayne or Doris by email at [Archive@416th.com](mailto:Archive@416th.com) or telephone 417-499-9831 for Wayne and 417-499-1708 for Doris. The 416th Bomb Group Archive is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.*