

99TH BOMB GROUP

July 2017

2nd Vice Presidents Message

Thank you, for your continuing support and interest in the 99th BGHS. ***Our 2017 99th BGHS Dues of \$30 were due in January; please send in your check to help us continue to preserve and spread the history of the 99th BG Veterans.*** The 99th BGHS is a not-for-profit 501(c) (19) Veterans organization of about 400 members that is run 100% by unpaid volunteers. There are about four of us who do 99% of the work. We handle hundreds of requests each year from Veterans, families, friends, historical researchers, etc. and all of this is done at the sacrifice of our personal time. Since the 99th BGHS Board of Directors decided to stop printing the Newsletter, and focus on our Website and other electronic media, we have been working to add new materials to our 99th BGHS Website as this is the primary source along with contacts from the Army Air Forces website for most of our new 2nd or 3rd generation members. With the Website we will be able to post new items more frequently and we have a volunteer who is working on setting up a 99th BGHS Facebook site. We hope to have that up and running before the end of this year.

REQUEST FOR “EMERGENCY” POINT OF CONTACT FOR OUR 99TH BGHS VETERANS

Since we made the decision to stop printing the Newsletter we have been trying to reach out and contact each 99th BG Veteran by phone, or email, to ensure they will receive 99th BGHS News electronically directly, or through a family member by email. Unfortunately, many of our 99th BGHS Veterans disappear on us with no notice of moving, no address or contact information update, or in some cases flying away on their “final mission.” To help us keep in touch we are asking our 99th BGHS Veterans to provide us an emergency point of contact (POC) we can call by phone or email to check on your status. Please include with your Dues the name, and phone or email of your POC for our emergency contact records. Thank you, for your cooperation and prompt attention to this request.

Challenges

The 99th BGHS has taken the lead in trying to preserve, organize and share our 99th BG history with a wider and new audience. Working closely with and building upon the outstanding historical research done by Dick Drain for the 99th BG and the 5th Bomb Wing we are trying to fill in some of the gaps and we are pressing forward with great ideas as demonstrated by the 99th BGHS Historical Calendar and the recent additions to our Website. ***Do not wait until later, do it now, send in your material or contact Gary and he will work with you to preserve your materials and your history for posterity, and for the 99th BGHS.*** Allow us an opportunity to discuss with you all your options (e.g. pass on to family; donate to a local museum; donate to the Friends of the 99th; or work with you to make copies if you wish to sell it and give you an idea of the items value, etc.), and some of our members may be interested in directly purchasing some of your WWII memorabilia. During past reunions our members have brought in photos, scrapbooks, orders, patches, letters, and other memorabilia that we have preserved for our history. Some of this donated material has already been shared with you in our calendar, and much more is on the way. We take painstaking care of these original materials and where requested they are safely returned to the owner after duplication. We recently received from the son of one of 99th BG Veterans electronic copies of his Dad’s Flight log book presenting new detailed information on some of our early first 100 missions out of North Africa from over 70 years ago that provided new insight about the missions and the personnel who flew them. It also helped to reunite the sons of three 99BG veterans whose Dad’s flew together in combat in the same crew on the same aircraft. Your personal family history can open doors!

Best wishes to all of you 99ers. Gary T. Staffo email: gary.staffo@hq.doe.gov