

99TH BOMB GROUP

Volume 25 Issue 1

SPECIAL 2005 REUNION ISSUE

July 2005

EDITOR'S NOTE II: Attention Associate Members – Help Wanted!

My apologies, as once again we are unable to get this Newsletter out to the Membership to meet our quarterly schedule. Unfortunately the increasing demands of my full time job and other personal responsibilities and commitments continue to result in significant reductions of time for this volunteer work, and my ability to plan in advance how much and when I can schedule this free time. Jerry Buckingham and I work very closely together with the help of a few other members to pull together information and write articles that we hope our Membership will find interesting and informative. We have had an excellent response from our members who continue to share with us their stories, and other memorabilia from their times with the 99th BG and we continue to work on articles for upcoming Newsletters. We have also tried to create regular columns to be included in each Newsletter such as “On The Home Front” and “In Search Of”. We have been successful and this has resulted in additional 99th BGHS work such as: maintaining and updating the Membership List; answering correspondence from Members and from others who have questions about the 99th BG, their members, missions, aircraft, history, etc.; working to help secure information and materials to help preserve and spread the history of the 99th BG; and identifying new opportunities to provide 99th BGHS members additional services or items they request such as the B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendar and the 99th BGHS hats. We also have a number of other projects underway that will provide additional items or services to our members such as Squadron patches, and discount prices for copies of the “The Diamondbacks – the History of the 99th Bomb Group (H)” published by Turner Publishing in 1998. Our success with the “Diamondbacks” has resulted in Turner changing their minds and publishing an additional 100 copies.

Our success has led to more work than we have time for so we are asking once again for a few more of our Associate Members to volunteer to join our small working group. We especially could use a few Associates who are computer friendly and willing to help with the Newsletter each quarter by writing one of the regular columns such as “In Search of”. We do have a volunteer identified who is willing to devote the time to maintain a 99th BGHS Website. We are waiting to hear back from Ford Lauer III who created a 99th BG webpage, but moved to Oklahoma City, OK and due to his frequent travel for work cannot maintain the site. He is willing to work with the volunteer to get the website back up and running as he saved the entire webpage to CD ROM so it can be reposted if we rent a website and have an individual to post, maintain and modify the website as necessary. There are other projects such as the Squadron patches and book purchases that do not require special computer skills, and we will do our best to work with you to put your time and skills to good use to help serve our members. This is an excellent opportunity for any Associate who would like to give something back to the 99th BG members who have done so much for us.

Please contact me by mail, e-mail or by phone and join us in this very rewarding personal experience and help give something back to our members.

Gary T. Staffo,
99th BGHS Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road, Springfield, VA 22152-1504
E-mail: GStaffo@gis.net Daytime: 202-586-9577

Evenings: 703-866-2023

99th Bomb Group 2005 Annual Reunion Schedule
October 17th to 20th, 2005 in Tunica, MS

This is a reminder to complete and mail in your Registration for our 2005 99th Bomb Group Annual Reunion to be held in Tunica, MS October 17th – 20th, 2005. David Hill and Walt Montgomery have done a great job of putting together a fantastic program that everyone will enjoy. The Registration Form and information on the **Hollywood Casino Hotel** where it will be held are also in this Newsletter. This year the Reunion Committee and the President of the 99th BGHS have agreed to help subsidize the cost of those members attending the Reunion and thus the cost for each event per person is only \$15.00, for a total of \$75.00 to attend all of the scheduled events. Continental breakfast will be available in the Hospitality Room from 8am to 9am Tuesday, Wednesday, and 7:30 – 8:30 am on Thursday. Details for each day are provided below.

MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL (MEM) AIRPORT UNIQUE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION (E-mail: uniquetravel@bellsouth.net)

There is no free hotel shuttle. Transportation is available with the **UNIQUE TRAVEL (1-901-848-0486)** and the rate one way is \$20 for each person (\$40.00 minimum) and \$60 maximum for up to 5 people. Payment is by cash or check. Advance Reservations *are* required and you should call ahead or e-mail for an advance reservation. *Look for the Unique Shuttle Agent with a sign in the baggage claim area at the bottom of the escalator.* Just let them know you are with the 99th Bomb Group and wish to go to the **Hollywood Casino Hotel, Tunica, MS.** Rental cars are available at the MEM airport and there are no restrictions for travel.

MONDAY 10/17/05 12:00 Noon Reunion Registration from Noon to 10pm.

1:00 PM Hospitality Room opens at 1pm.

3:00 PM Hotel Room Registration and check in.

6:00 PM Ad Hoc Dinner at the hotel

7:30 PM WWII Video Presentations in one of the Hospitality Rooms

TUESDAY 10/18/05 9:00 AM Graceland Tour by bus to Elvis Presley estate in Memphis, TN.

12:30 PM Lunch will be on your own in the classic historical Rendezvous Hotel and will be followed by a brief walking tour of downtown Memphis if weather permits. This is one of the highlights of the Reunion.

3:00 PM Bus Returns to Hotel *We will try to have a few wheelchairs and walkers available for use by our members during the Reunion. Please make a note in the Comments section on your Registration form for a walker or wheelchair to help us know how many are needed.*

WEDNESDAY 10/19/05 9:00 AM - 11:00AM 99th BGHS Board of Directors meeting.

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM 99th BGHS Business Luncheon We hope that all will attend to hear from our President and the Board discuss our future plans for the 99th BGHS. We will also have a WWII Glider Pilot speak to us about his experiences.

1:30 PM until 3:00 PM New Board convenes to attend to 99th BGHS business.

3:30 PM WWII Video Presentation will be shown in one of the Hospitality Rooms.

5:00 PM Dinner on your own as members will have the opportunity to try some of the nearby restaurants and enjoy the Casino entertainment.

THURSDAY 10/20/05 8:30 AM FEDEX Bus Tour Departs for the Federal Express hub at Memphis Airport to see their flight operations, pilot training simulators, and the computerized automated package sorting and tracking system. You do not want to miss this! Lunch at your expense at the FEDEX Cafeteria.

3:00 PM Board Bus for the return trip to the Hotel.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Cocktail Hour

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM 99th BGHS Banquet An evening filled with music, good friends, and a fine meal.

Please contact David Hill by e-mail ww2wings@att.net or at 901-680-0002 if you have any questions.

Membership directory has been removed for privacy.

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Membership Directory and Records Being Updated – PLEASE HELP!

We continue to update the Membership Directory and the 99th BGHS Records computer database so that we might better serve and respond to our membership needs and inquiries we receive about 99th BG personnel. **Correct E-mail addresses and phone numbers are very important!** With an updated computer database we will be able to efficiently and promptly keep our Newsletter mailing list current, ensure annual dues are properly recorded, and respond to your letters and those written by others seeking long lost 99th BG crew members and friends. **PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL CHANGES TO:**

Jerry Buckingham, 99th BGHS Treasurer,
20 Flathead Drive,
Cherokee Village, AR 72529-1805 e-mail: JABuck@centurytel.net

99th Bomb Group Historical Society
Membership Application/Address Change

Name: _____ Squadron: **346 347 348 416 (circle)**

Address: _____ Dates in 99th: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Crew Position: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Prisoner of War: No Yes
When: _____ Where: Stalag Luft _____

Membership Class – Check one of the following:

_____ Member (A veteran or member of the Armed Forces)

_____ Associate (Related to Member (circle one): Spouse, Brother, Widow, Other)

Member name: _____

Check one of the following:

_____ Address Change

_____ Membership Application Date Completed: _____

REMINDER: Annual dues \$15 per calendar year payable January 1st each year

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:

Jerry Buckingham
99th BGHS Treasurer
20 Flathead Drive
Cherokee Village, AR 72529-1805
JABuck@centurytel.net

99th BGHS NOTICES - 2005 B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendars Now On Sale!

We still have for sale to members the 2005 B-17 Flying Fortress Historical Calendar. This Calendar has color photos on the front and rear covers and opens up to be 18 inches tall by 12 inches wide. The 9" x 12" top of each page features a full size black and white photo of a B-17. The bottom 9" x 12" half has two small pictures and the calendar for the month which is annotated with key facts about the B-17 history and WWII. This calendar includes photos provided by members of the 99th BGHS for May, June and October 2005. It was a smashing success at the 99th BGHS 2004 Reunion in Timonium, MD where we quickly ran out of our first supply. To order your calendar(s) make your check payable to the "99th BGHS" and include \$8.00 for each calendar (this includes shipping by USPS First Class Mail in the US). A perfect gift for family and friends. The calendar can be purchased from other sources at a higher cost and usually does not include shipping. Make checks payable to the "99th BGHS" and mail to:

Gary T. Staffo
99th BGHS Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road
Springfield, VA 22152-1504

For any questions please contact Gary at the above address or by e-mail at GStaffo@gis.net or daytime phone 202-586-9577. Gary is still looking for more 99th BGHS WWII photos for our historical collection and for possible use in the 2006 Calendar.



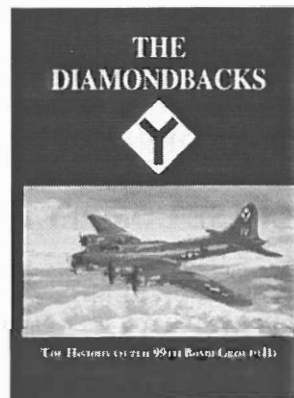
"The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H)" Now On Sale!

This is the book that every member should have. It is a hardcover 9" x 12" with 112 pages filled with facts, pictures and stories about the 99th BG aircraft, missions and the men who flew them. There are about 100 copies newly printed at \$35.00 each, postage paid in the lower 48 as a one-time special offer sale. Current price was \$52.50 from Turner Publishing for the few they have left. If you already have one, they are a perfect gift for family, friend or your local Library or Veterans Post as part of the Veterans Legacy Campaign. Let us know in your order and we will include a special bookplate inside the front cover page that will honor your contribution when you personally present the book.

THIS HISTORIC PUBLICATION
DONATED BY:

Make checks payable to the "99th BGHS" and mail to:

Gary T. Staffo
99th BGHS Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road
Springfield, VA 22152-1504



99th Bomb Group 2005 Annual Reunion REGISTRATION

October 17th to 20th, 2005 in Tunica, MS

Hollywood Casino Hotel
1150 Casino Strip Resorts Boulevard
Tunica, MS 38664

800-871-0711, www.hollywoodcasinotunica.com, FAX 662-357-7895

There are 50 rooms held for the 99th Bomb Group at a rate of \$59.00 per night plus 10% tax. This is about 30 miles from Memphis, TN and the airport is Memphis International (MEM). Continental breakfast will be served each morning Tuesday through Thursday in the Hospitality Room from 8 to 9 am, except Thursday will be 7:30 – 8:30am. **Call the Hollywood Casino Hotel 800-871-0711 directly to make your room reservations using the CODE BG11005.** Reservations must be received by **October 1, 2005** in order to ensure a room at the group rate. All rooms have refrigerators, coffee makers, hair dryers, safes, and irons & boards. There is an indoor swimming pool, gaming areas, and a full service Restaurant serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, and room service. Convenient to many restaurants and other casinos. Additional detailed information for the Reunion schedule is in this newsletter. **For Reunion Questions, contact David Hill by e-mail: ww2wings@att.net or by phone at 901-680-0002.**

99th BGHS 2005 Annual Reunion Registration Form

Please complete and mail this **99th BGHS 2005 Reunion Registration Form** with your check payable to our Treasurer, **Jerry Buckingham 99th BGHS** at the address provided below.

	Per Person	Number of people	Total
Registration (Noon – 10pm Monday 10/17/05)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Graceland Tour (9am – 4pm Tuesday 10/18/05)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Luncheon (11:30am -1pm Wednesday 10/19/05)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
FEDEX Tour (8:30am – 4pm Thursday 10/20/05)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Banquet (6:00 – 10pm Thursday 10/20/05)	\$15.00	_____	\$ _____
Total			\$ _____

Send check to: **Jerry Buckingham**
20 Flathead Drive
Cherokee Village, AR 72529

Your name: _____ Spouse or Friend: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State Zip: _____ Squadron: 346 347 348 416

Questions or Comments: _____

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE NOTE: _____ **Wheelchair** _____ **Walker**

We will try to provide the above so please let us know in advance what you might need.

Editors Note: Our special "thank you" to David Hill and Walt Montgomery for being such gracious hosts.

The 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society
Gary T. Staffo, Newsletter Editor
6226 Garden Road
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EDITORS NOTE

SPECIAL EDITION - Membership DIRECTORY ENCLOSED!

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