



392ND LOSES COL GILBERT, BIRDIE

by Jim Goar

Col Lawrence G. Gilbert, our last Group commander and CEO of the Memorial Association, passed away March 19 at Winter Park, FL. Birdie Larrick, American Red Cross and Director of the Aero Club at Wendling, died April 29 at Columbus, OH.

The Colonel's firm hand but relaxed personality and Birdie's bright persona were central at our reunions. His sense of humor and Birdie's gift of comradery will always be remembered by Crusaders.

Col Gilbert

Col Gilbert was a native of Angola, IN. He studied aeronautical engineering, 1938-1940, at Tri-State College in Angola where he learned to fly. He entered Air Corps cadet training in February 1941 at San Antonio, TX, and on graduation was assigned to a B-18 Bomb Group in Orlando, FL. Pearl Harbor put the Group on anti-sub operations, patrolling from North Carolina to Key West.

In early 1942 he was transferred to the 34th Bomb Group at Pendleton, OR, instructing B-17 crews. Maj Curtis LeMay (the eventual commander of the 20th AF in the Pacific) was Group Operations Officer and 1/Lt Irvine Rendle was his squadron commander. In February 1943, Gilbert became Rendle's Operations Officer when they formed the 392nd at Tucson.

After training with the Group at El Paso and Alamogordo, he flew to England in July 1943 with an advance party for indoctrination and to prepare the base at Wendling for the arrival of the Group. In the Group's operations over Europe, he served as Operations Officer, Deputy Group Commander,

and Group Commander. He flew 26 missions, including two with B-17 units prior to the arrival of the 392nd. He returned with the Group to the US on the Queen Mary in June 1945.

From 1945 until retirement in 1961 he served in

various command and staff assignments in the Military Air Transport Service, including six months with the Berlin Air Lift and a two year tour in the Philippines.

He became CEO of the Memorial Association upon its formation. He was preparing to be at Cincinnati to lead the Association's reunion activities there.

Col Gilbert married Marjorie E. Hardy of Hudson, IN, in 1945, routing an entrenched suitor by a lightning-like enveloping maneuver. Marjie survives, with daughter Anne Brooks, son Larry, Jr., and four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Birdie Larrick

Birdie Larrick, maiden name Schmidt, graduated from Ohio State University in 1941, the daughter of a prominent member of the faculty there.

The summer of 1943 found her a member of the American Red Cross, stationed at Wendling and Director of the Aero Club. She managed the club with such success as to earn the praise of the Group commander, Col Lorin Johnson. Probably of more importance was her immense popularity with the troops: officer and enlisted, ground and air. One 576th crew named their B-24 after her, the Birdie Schmidt, ARC (#42-50387).

After the invasion and hearing the boom of the guns on the Continent, she decided that she would like to see the war

See BIRDIE on page 3



As Larry Gilbert changed from a young Captain with the 392nd BG at Alamogordo to CEO of the 392nd BGMA, his square jaw and warm smile were a constant.

2009 REUNION INFORMATION

This issue contains all the registration forms and information for both 2009 reunions.

The official 392nd BG reunion will be with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in Cincinnati, OH, from August 18-23. More information is on pages 5 - 8.

Crusaders are also invited to attend the 2nd Air Division Association's reunion in Rosemont, IL (near Chicago) from September 3-7. Details are on pages 9 - 11.

Regardless of which reunion you attend, please put "392nd BG" on the registration form where it asks for "WWII Group." This will ensure there's a place for you at the 392nd's reunion dinner and that you'll be seated with fellow Crusaders at the banquets.



392nd BGMA Officers

President

Jim Goar

1555 N. Main St., #106
Frankfort, IN 46061
goar@accs.net
(765) 652-0941



Vice-President, Memorial

Carroll W. Cheek



Secretary

Annette Tison



Treasurer

Bill McCutcheon
20620 Milton Ct.
Brookfield, WI 53045



Editors

Annette Tison
9107 Wood Pointe Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
dtison5401@aol.com
(703) 690-8540

Jim Goar

FROM THE EDITOR

The Colonel and Birdie. Col Gilbert's impact is clearly seen throughout the history of the 392nd BG. Birdie Schmidt Larrick's effect is also obvious. While the Colonel concentrated on maintaining an outstanding fighting force, Birdie worked tirelessly to keep morale high via the snacks and programs at the Red Cross Aero Club and the refreshments provided to returning crews. Both seamlessly transitioned to the 392nd BGMA and continued their selfless service. To learn more, visit www.b24.net—Col Gilbert's name is seen in countless mission pages while Birdie's memoir, *The Way It Was*, appears in the WWII Stories section. We'll miss them both.

Memorabilia Transfer. Jim Goar recently turned over his extensive 392nd BG files and memorabilia to me. They are a priceless treasure that I look forward to exploring fully. I am sure that many stories and photos from Jim's files will appear in future issues of the News or on www.b24.net. Many, many thanks to Jim and other veterans who share their memorabilia with the second-generation research team, thus helping us to better preserve your legacy.

2009 Reunions. Much of this issue is taken up with registration forms and information about the 2009 reunions. Both offer opportunities to enjoy the comradery of old friendships and the fun of making new acquaintances. Please join us if you can.

Thanks! In the March 2009 issue, I asked our veterans to tell my son Dan "what it was like." 579th Sqdn navigator Manny Abrams accepted the invitation. Drawing on his experiences flying 30 missions, he spoke with Dan for almost an hour. Dan says the conversation was very informative and helped him more fully appreciate the sacrifices made by all those who served in the 392nd BG. Several of our airmen also told me about their ditching experiences; I'll include their accounts in an upcoming article.

Website Update. According to webmaster Bob Books, photos of over 1,975 airmen are now posted on www.b24.net. Don't be left out—if your crew's photo isn't posted on our site, please send it to me along with a roster of who's who. I'll scan the photo and return it promptly. Don't forget that a pdf version of Bill McGuire's book about his father and the Friedrichshafen mission, *After the Liberators*, is available for just \$10.

Website Fundraiser. Treasurer Bill McCutcheon says \$12,985 from 148 donors has now been received. Most recent contributors, Bill Jurczyn and Richard Giesing.

Follow-Ups to the March 2009 issue. In regard to the cover story on the Feran and Dalton crews, Howard E. Bjork wrote, "Just a little note pertaining to Lt John Feran—I joined his crew as Bombardier in July of '42. I flew with him until March 2, 1944, when I took a chunk of flak, returning from Frankfurt. Johnny [Feran] and "Red" Cummings (navigator) came and paid me a visit at the hospital. Then a few days later Barney Houser (top turret/engineer) and Stan Prazak (tail gunner) came and told me the crew had gone down. T/Sgt Barney Houser survived the war and paid me a visit with his wife Billie when I was at Valley Forge General Hospital." Bjork is now 88. He joined the USAF in May 1946 as a T/Sgt and retired in 1978 as a WO1. He served on the flight line as a crew chief and flight chief of B-29s, B-36s, and B-52s. Bjork spent over a year in the hospital recovering from the flak injury that ultimately saved his life.

Yard Work. How's this for a little extra incentive to keep the grass neatly trimmed at Station 118... From the Daily Bulletin for 23 May 1944: "Action will be taken by all organizations and sections of this station to cut long grass and clear areas containing underbrush in order to facilitate search for enemy anti-personnel bombs in the event of enemy air attack. Scythes are available at Station Utilities."

A Wedding Story. Since June is frequently the start of the wedding season, I am reminded of a story I found in Jim Goar's files. He wrote, "One of the experiences overseas that I remember most fondly concerns the wedding of 578th Sqdn Executive Officer Maj Robert E. Lane and Army flight nurse 1/Lt Marilyn Haglund on 11 May 1945. The wedding was over, and some sixteen or twenty of the squadron officers were lined up outside the church, forming a guard of honor for the couple to pass through. We were rigidly at attention, spit-and-polish, white-gloved hands holding our rifles at Present Arms when out of the sky came a tremendous roar and the area was showered with rice. Marilyn's CO had obtained an A-20 attack bomber, which was designed for low-level attacks and which makes one hell of a racket, and had perfectly timed and executed his run on the target, the little old village church at Beeston. I can hear it now."

President's Message

At Wendling, it was the Luftwaffe, flak, and weather that caused our losses and our grief. Now, it's nothing more or less than the mortality tables.

Those of us who were in our middle twenties or later are now in their late 80's or 90's. This includes all our senior officers and non-coms. This also includes many of the original cadre and the early joiners at Tucson. The air crews that joined us after D-Day in 1944 are generally in a younger slot.

So as each day goes by the mortality tables take their toll, and those of us still standing mourn their passing.

☆

Even the most experienced of newsmen sometimes commits an error. My boss when I was in the newspaper business was a grizzled veteran of the newsroom, and he had an expression for it. "Doctors bury their mistakes, and the lawyer's mistake is tomorrow's business. But when a reporter makes a mistake, it's there in cold print for all to see and comment upon."

Yes, I did it. I prematurely announced the passing of John Rumancik, tail gunner on the MacFarlane crew in the 576th, in the last issue of the NEWS. My apologies to the former postmaster of Crucible, PA.

☆

Those who attend the 8AFHS reunion at Cincinnati next Aug. 18-23 and make the trip to the AF Museum at Wright Field should also take the time to visit our memorial tree there. It was dedicated on Sept. 14, 1985, the result of meticulous execution by Bob Lane, 578th Executive Officer.

☆

Blanche Keilman, the widow of Col Myron Keilman, the legendary commander of the 579th, called me the other day. Only 93, her voice resonated with the same vital timbre as always. She's comfortable in a retirement home in California, address and phone number upon request.

☆

I spoke to Neely Young back in March. 578th pilot, ship was the Pallas Athene, the GI Jane. Neely's crew was one of our first replacements, arriving in November of 1943.

I've been fortunate to get to know Neely pretty well. He's, well, a complex character. First and above all, he's a trademark Virginia Gentleman with the requisite soft slow drawl and the perfect manners to match.

Neely marched to a drummer that sometimes only he could hear, and the drumbeat wasn't always U. S. Army Air Corps. This sometimes led to certain strained relations with Major Polking, his squadron commander.

He once detailed to me an incident that occurred during his cadet days. The pilot trainees were in some kind of a ground school studying the aircraft engine. His instructor, noting his inattention, called him on it. He said, "Do you suppose that while we are in flight the engine gives trouble, I'm going to crawl out on the wing and work on it?" They gave him his wings, notwithstanding.

Crew members still alive are Ray Teater, assistant engineer, John Rickey, tail gunner, and John Goodwin, co-pilot.

Blue Skies,
Jim Goar

BIRDIE, continued from page 1

up close and personal. She wangled a job as a Red Cross GI entertainment crew, two Red Cross women with a GI six-by-six equipped with a portable stage and a donut facility. I taught her how to drive a 6x6 and she was good at it.

Post-war, she was both an actress and a teacher. She was on the New York stage in 1946 and 1947, and she taught English and reading in Florida for 11 years. She was married to George A. Larrick, whom she lost after 35 years of marriage.

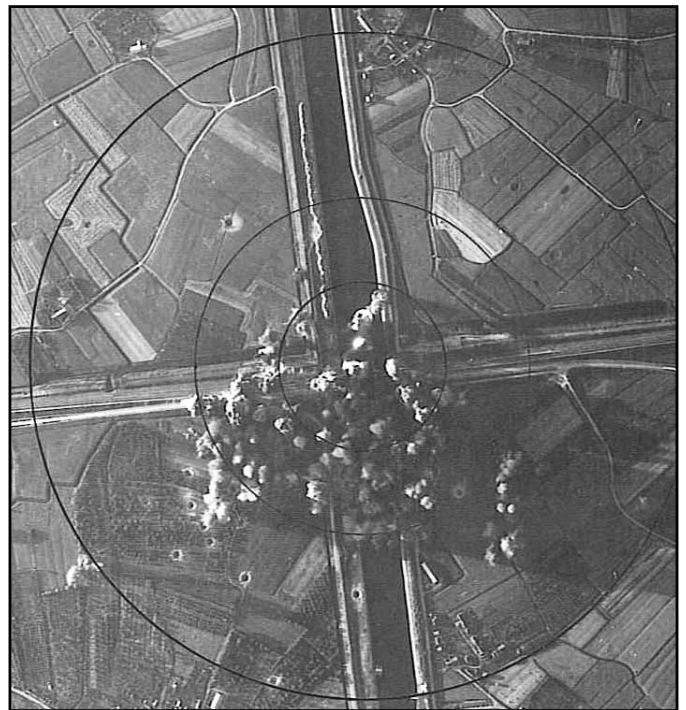
It was shortly after she was widowed in Florida that we found her, and not long after that we formed the Memorial Association and she became a vital part of it.

Always willing to face a challenge and never afraid to venture into strange territory, she went to China in 1986-88 where she taught English as a second language.

Back in hometown Columbus, OH, she became a member of a group of seasoned actresses and actors, the Grandparents Living Theater. They performed mostly in central Ohio, but they also had a European tour.

Foremost among the company's repertoire was "Once I Was Young, But Now I'm Wonderful," depicting oldsters experiencing the aging process. Birdie took the troupe to the reunion at Colorado Springs in 2003, playing the title role with brother John in the supporting cast. The audience resonated with Birdie's deft performance and the applause was deafening.

Birdie is survived by sons Don and Jay, brother John and sister Joy.



Sighted bridge, destroyed same. On 3 Aug 1944, two squadrons bombed this target of opportunity—a bridge across the channel waterway near Goes, Holland. A total of 264 500-pound general purpose bombs completely destroyed the bridge. The circles in the strike photo indicate 500, 1000, and 2000 feet from the Mean Point of Impact.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE IN ENGLAND

Residents of the Margate community in Kent, England, gathered on 27 Apr 2009 to remember the crews of two B-24s that had crashed nearby 65 years earlier. One was 2/Lt Jacob Weinheimer's from the 578th; the other was from the 446th BG.

27 Apr 1944 was the first time the 392nd flew two missions in one day. That morning, 18 crews bombed targets near Abbeville, France. Three hours after they landed, 26 a/c, including Weinheimer's, took off for Chalon-Sur-Marne, France.

His plane was hit by flak on the return trip and severely damaged; 17 other a/c also suffered flak damage.

Thinking the crew was going to abandon ship, radio operator T/Sgt Parke Kent bailed out; he was captured near St. Omer.

The pilots kept the plane in the air until it finally crashed on the shore near Westgate-on-Sea. Among the first on the scene was Mr. Smythe. At the ceremony, he related how the rescuers had worked feverishly to get everyone out of the wreckage. His voice cracking with emotion, Smythe told the audience of over 100 people that the pilot then said to him, "Thank you for saving my boys."



This photo of #41-29509, Knuckle Head, was shown at the Margate ceremony. Rescuer Mr. Smythe says it was taken at low tide; he actually had to wade through water to reach the aircraft. (Barfield photo)

Five of the crewmen were dead, victims of the flak or crash. None of the survivors ever flew again with the 392nd.

Copilot 2/Lt George C. Marshall was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts to save the ship and crew.

The Margate town council hopes to make the remembrance service an annual event. It is particularly mindful of the need to educate local school children about this part of their heritage.

To help make next year's ceremony even more special, anyone with information about the crew or their crash is urged to contact one of the editors.

FROM THE HISTORIES

465th Sub Depot, May 1944. The Sheet Metal Dept. has been busy making covers to patch up the hole made by the removal of the Ball Turrets. The Paint Shop has done a commendable job in changing the Group Designation on the outboard rudders of each aircraft from the "Circle D" to the horizontal stripe.

576th Sqdn, July 1944. The worst part of PFF bombing is that the crews don't know how they did, and not knowing contributes greatly to after-the-mission fatigue.

208th Finance Det., July 1944. Total number of troops paid: 3,688. Total due to soldiers in all forms: \$512,004.61.

1825th Ordnance Co., July 1944. During this period 1,367 tons of bombs were unloaded from convoys. During the same period 840 tons were put out for bombing missions. The unloading process involves uncrating, knocking off bands, and stacking; putting out a mission involves assisting the squadrons in loading their trailers and very often re-stacking the bombs when a mission is scrubbed. Add to this inspection of fuses, linking and inspection of .50 caliber ammunition, storage and issue of pyrotechnics, maintaining a stock of practice bombs, and it is evident that the 19 men who comprise the Ammunition Section are doing a big job.

10th Station Complement Sqdn, July 1944. In order to become "the most military unit on the base," personnel in the 10th practiced close order drill at least six hours a week. During these drill periods, the favorite saying of the men is that "we are training to go overseas and march down Fifth Avenue in New York."

653rd Air Materiel Sqdn, May 1945: On the 31st, we were paid in good old American greenbacks. All British currency was converted to U.S. currency. We were all happy.

Please look on the mailing label right after your name. *If the number is 08, you need to renew NOW!!* Just \$20 will ensure that you don't miss an issue and that you stay connected to fellow Crusaders.

If you feel that you are in a position to help the 392nd BGMA treasury with a donation, there is a provision for it below.

The Board of Directors has ruled that no Crusader will be denied membership because of financial difficulty, so if you're in straitened circumstances check the Hardship Waiver box.

Send this form and your check (payable to 392nd BGMA) to Bill McCutcheon, 20620 Milton Ct., Brookfield, WI 53045

Name _____ Ground ☐ Air ☐ Unit or Sqdn _____

Assoc ☐ If you're joining or renewing because a relative or friend served in the 392nd, please give us his name and unit: _____

Your mailing address _____

Email address _____

Do you prefer to get the News by email ☐ or by postal mail ☐? (Please check one.)

Hardship Waiver ☐ DONATION \$ _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Age 61-65 \$120 ☐

Age 66-70 \$ 96 ☐

Age 71 up \$ 78 ☐

8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION

AUGUST 18 - 23, 2009

THE MILLENNIUM HOTEL - CINCINNATI, OHIO

Registration Instructions. Make your reservations early, as rooms may be limited as well as space on some of the tours. Complete the Registration Form on page 8, noting your event choices and personal information. **For "WWII Group," please put "392nd BG."** This information will be used for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give that information too. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by JULY 16, 2009. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs. A \$6 convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after July 16 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by July 16, 2009.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) Cancellation Policy. For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, AFR shall process a full refund less a \$5 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

Tuesday, August 18

2:00pm - 6:00pm Early Bird Registration open

Wednesday, August 19

8:00am - 10:00am Reunion Registration open

9:00am Memorabilia/Gathering Room & PX opens

10:45am - 2:30pm LUNCH CRUISE

1:00pm 8AFHS Board Meeting

2:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open

Thursday, August 20

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 10:00am Reunion Registration open

9:00am - 10:30am Unit Advisory and Chapter & Unit Development Meeting

12:30pm - 10:30pm U.S. AIR FORCE MUSEUM & DINNER

3:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration open

Friday, August 21

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 9:30am Reunion Registration open

8:00am - 9:30am Individual Group Meetings

9:45am - 3:45pm WRIGHT PATTERSON / U.S. AIR FORCE MUSEUM

10:15am - 3:15pm MUSEUM CENTER / NEWPORT ON THE LEVEE

1:00pm - 3:30pm WWII POW Roundtable

3:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration open

4:00pm - 5:30pm Next Generation Meeting

6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception

7:00pm - Rendezvous Dinners and 'Hangar Flying'

Saturday, August 22

7:00am - 8:30am Full Breakfast Buffet

9:00am - 11:00am General Membership Meeting

11:15am - 12:00pm Medical Advisory Seminar: *Pearls*, by Dr. Walt Brown

1:00pm - 4:00pm CITY TOUR

1:00pm - 3:30pm Roger A. Freeman Symposium:

COURAGE OVER FORTRESS EUROPE

5:30pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration open

6:00pm - 7:00pm 8AFHS Cash Bar Reception

7:00pm - 8AFHS Gala Banquet

Sunday, August 23

7:00am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 8:45am Worship Services

9:00am - 8AFHS Annual Board Meeting

FOLDED WINGS REPORT

Please report the death of a member or spouse and provide a copy of the newspaper obituary if possible.

Name of deceased _____ Unit/Sqdn _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The 392nd BGMA is engaged in a fund-raising effort to financially support our website, www.b24.net. It contains the history of the 392nd Bomb Group. You could make no greater memorial to your loved one than a donation for this living and ongoing memorial to the 392nd. Please send this report, hopefully with your check payable to the 392nd BGMA-Website, but send it with or without it, to: Jim Goar, 1555 N. Main St. #106, Frankfort, IN 46041

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion Information, continued

The Millennium Hotel Cincinnati (800-876-2100 or 513-352-2100) is located at 150 West Fifth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. The Hotel is located in a prime downtown location, within walking distance to the Paul Brown Stadium, Great American Ball Park, and the US Bank Arena. The hotel is just 12 miles from the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati Airport. Contact the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The Millennium Hotel Cincinnati has 872 newly renovated guestrooms and suites. Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservations. Each room features a TV with cable channels, coffee maker, hair dryer, radio alarm clock, iron and ironing board. Guests may also enjoy access to the outdoor pool, sundeck (seasonal), and 24-hour fitness center. Parking at the hotel for registered guests will be \$10 per day. Check-in is at 4:00pm and check-out is at 12 noon.

The Bistro on Elm Restaurant and Bar serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Vivid color and contemporary furnishings create a relaxed atmosphere to savor the restaurant's American Cuisine. Room service is also available.

Transportation from the airport is provided by Executive Transportation. Current rates are as follows and are subject to change: One way is \$17 per person; round trip is \$28. Call (800) 990-8841 or (513) 352-2135 prior to your arrival or departure to reserve your transportation. Same-day reservations can also be accommodated.

The Millennium Hotel Cincinnati does not have parking for guests staying at the hotel with RVs. Should hookups be required, please call Hidden Valley RV Park at (513) 733-5330. The park is located at 9797 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45215, which is approximately 14 miles away from the hotel.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

-----CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY-HOTEL RESERVATIONS
REUNION: AUGUST 18-23, 2009**

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS NEEDED _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS

_____ SMOKING _____ NON-SMOKING _____ KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$109 + tax (currently 17%) Rate will be offered 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: 07/16/09. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 72 hours prior to your date of arrival.

GUARANTEE: All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: MILLENNIUM HOTEL, 150 WEST FIFTH ST., CINCINNATI, OH 45202 ATTN: RESERVATIONS

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

CHOICE #1, \$132. Includes 6 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Thursday. Tours are separate.

CHOICE #2, \$122. Package includes 5 hotel food functions starting with breakfast on Friday. Tours are separate.

Breakfast menus: The continental breakfasts on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday include juice, breakfast breads, cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee, and tea. The breakfast buffet on Saturday includes juice, assorted breakfast breads, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, French toast, coffee, and tea.

CHOICE #3, INDIVIDUAL EVENTS. Friday Rendezvous Dinner at \$39 and Saturday Banquet at \$46 can be purchased separately, but are included in both packages above.

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion Information, continued

Tour Options. Tours and trips are described below. Prices are also listed on the registration form (page 8). Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All tours must have a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

Lunch Cruise; Wednesday August 19. Break up the day and sail away. Climb aboard for a two-hour cruise featuring games, entertainment, and a delicious buffet. Enjoy all of the sights of the Ohio River while relaxing with friends. 10:45am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel. \$65/person includes bus, escort, and lunch cruise.

US Air Force Museum & Dinner; Thursday, August 20. What a day it's going to be! Our destination is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. We have special permission not only to tour the Presidential Hangar where former Presidential Aircraft reside, but also the rarely seen Restoration Center. The Memphis Belle and Swoose are currently here being restored, and we'll get a sneak peak. Then we'll head to the US Air Force Museum, "where the eagles rest." This museum is adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. First, we'll gather in the auditorium for a brief service. Exhibits, including approximately 200 aircraft and missiles, tell the story of aviation development from the days of the Wright brothers to the Space Age. This will be a special evening, as the museum will be closed to the public. Rails will be down on a P-51 and P-47; you'll have platform ramps going up to a B-17 and B-24. You'll get up close and personal with these familiar aircraft. A cash bar will be available before dinner. General Metcalf will speak and the Band of Flight will perform. After dinner, you may reboard a bus heading back to the hotel, or spend a few more minutes in the museum. Last bus reboards at 9pm. **Notes:** This is a long day with a lot of walking. Please be casual and comfortable. A photo ID is required for this tour, and non-US citizens must provide their passport number and birth date with event registration. Children must be at least 12 years old to take part in the restoration tour. The restoration and Presidential Hangar tour are limited to the first 300 people registered. 12:30pm board bus, 10:30pm back at hotel. \$75/person includes bus, escort, dinner, and facility charges.

Wright Patterson AFB – US Air Force Museum; Friday, August 21. For those who couldn't make it yesterday—or for the history buffs that need more time, the buses are headed back up to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, for a 'no-frills' tour. You'll have free time to tour the U.S. Air Force Museum, "where the eagles rest." This museum is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. Once inside, exhibits, including approximately 200 aircraft and missiles, tell the story of aviation development from the days of the Wright brothers to the Space Age. There is a cafeteria for lunch on your own. 9:45am board bus, 3:45pm back at hotel. \$45/person includes bus and escort. Lunch and IMAX on your own. ****OR****

Museum Center / Newport on the Levee; Friday, August 21. Board bus for the Museum Center, located at Union Terminal, and tour the Cincinnati History Museum. It traces the growth of the Queen City and other cities in general since the late 18th century. The Omnimax Theater takes movies to new heights, depths, and widths. Through special technology, the Omnimax gives you the feeling of being in the picture, so you can experience every scene, every motion, with eye-opening clarity. Featured film: TBA. On your own, and for a nominal fee, you may also visit the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. After the museum, continue on for lunch on your own at Newport on the Levee. Choose between eateries and several full-service restaurants at this waterfront entertainment and dining complex. 10:15am board bus, 3:15pm back at hotel. \$46/person includes bus, guide, and admissions. Lunch on your own.

WWII P.O.W. Roundtable (a historical roundtable and discussion focusing on the Allied P.O.W. experience during WWII); Friday, August 21. This special roundtable discussion will highlight the experiences of Allied airmen that were held as Prisoners of War in Germany during World War II. Several notable P.O.W. historians, researchers and filmmakers will be part of the distinguished discussion panel. This is a once in a lifetime gathering not to be missed. 1:00pm – 3:30pm at the hotel. Admission is included in Reunion Registration Fee.

Rendezvous Dinners; Friday, August 21. Gather in your respective banquet rooms with your individual groups for dinner featuring Chicken Piccata. Units (BGs, FGs, etc.) with approximately 50 or more people in attendance will have a private room. Smaller groups will be combined with others. Think of this as your "reunion within the reunion." 6:00pm cash bar reception, 7:00pm dinner. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$39 separately.

City Tour; Saturday, August 22. Board bus for a guided tour of the "City of Seven Hills," and learn the history of this river city. Drive by the Taft Museum, Riverfront Stadium, and more. See the diverse downtown architecture of Fountain Square and the Procter & Gamble Headquarters. Continue through Eden Park and Mt. Adams, from which you are offered great views of the city's skyline. Drive by the Krohn Conservatory, one of the largest public greenhouses in the country. 1:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel. \$36/person includes bus and guide.

Roger A. Freeman Memorial Symposium: "Courage Over Fortress Europe" *Combat Flying in the "Mighty Eighth" during World War II*; Saturday, August 22. The 2009 Roger A. Freeman Memorial Symposium will be a historical examination of combat flying in the Eighth Air Force during World War II. Several "Mighty Eighth" veterans will take the stage and share their amazing wartime experiences with the audience. These annual Symposiums have become a traditional highlight of our Reunions and this year's subject shall be no different. It will be a memorable and emotional experience for one and all. 1:00pm – 3:30pm at the hotel. Admission is included in Reunion Registration Fee.

8th Air Force Historical Society Annual Banquet; Saturday, August 22. Assemble in the ballroom for the Posting of the Colors and Memorial Service. Dinner will be a choice of prime rib or salmon and the usual accompaniments. After dinner, we'll proceed with the awards ceremony and guest speaker. 6:00pm cash bar reception, 7:00pm banquet. Cost is included in both meal packages or \$46 separately.

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion, continued

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before July 16, 2009. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 7/16/09	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Includes meeting expenses, Eaker Award expenses, and other reunion expenses.	\$60		
Reg. Fee for children ages 10-17 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		
<u>DUES</u>			
The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here.	\$30		\$
<u>MEAL PACKAGES</u>			
<i>Choice #1 includes 6 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday.</i>			
<i>Choice #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday.</i>			
Choice #1	\$132		\$
Choice #2	\$122		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
Prime Rib of Beef		#	
Salmon		#	
<u>SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)</u>			
Friday: Rendezvous Dinner (chicken)	\$39		\$
Saturday: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
Prime Rib of Beef	\$46		\$
Salmon	\$46		\$
<u>TOURS</u>			
Wednesday: Lunch Cruise	\$65		\$
Thursday: US AF Museum & Dinner	\$75		\$
<i>Please choose one of the following two tours:</i>			
Friday: US AF Museum	\$45		\$
Friday: Museum Center / Newport on the Levee	\$46		\$
Saturday: City Tour	\$36		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____ ☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

8AFHS MEMBER # _____ WWII GROUP (for seating purposes) _____

You must be a member of 8AFHS in order to register. If not a member, please pay your dues above.

SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2009

THE WESTIN O'HARE - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Thursday, September 3

- 3:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 6:00pm - Hospitality Room Open for duration of Reunion
- 6:00pm - Sub-Group Hospitality Rooms open for duration of Reunion

Friday, September 4

- 11:30am - 12:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 12:45pm - 4:15pm CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL CRUISE
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration Open; additional hours will be posted at the reunion, if necessary
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party – Cash Bar
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner

Saturday, September 5

- 7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast
- 9:00am - 10:30am Business Meeting
- 10:45am - 11:45am Heritage League Meeting
- 12:15pm - 5:15pm MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party – Cash Bar
- 7:00pm - Dinner. A new Joe Dzenowagis film will be shown following dinner

Sunday, September 6

- 7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast
- 9:30am - 4:00pm CITY TOUR
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party – Cash Bar
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Banquet and Ceremony Honoring all Past Presidents

Monday, September 7

- 7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast; farewells and departures

Tour Descriptions

Chicago Architectural Cruise: Friday, September 4. Chicago has one of the most identifiable skylines in the world. Marvel at Chicago's soaring towers while enjoying a 90-minute, narrated river cruise. This tour spotlights more than 40 architecturally significant sites where you will discover a new perspective on the city including the Trump Tower, Merchandise Mart, 333 W. Wacker, the Wrigley Building, the Tribune Tower, the Sears Tower, River City, and Marina City. Witness the construction of the Chicago Spire, an ethereal 2,000-foot tower by renowned Spanish architect Santiago Caltrava. When it is completed in 2010, The Spire will be the tallest structure in North America and the loftiest residential building anywhere. Professional guides will recount the dramatic story of Chicago's rise from the Great Fire of 1871 to become the home of the skyscraper and the cradle of modern American architecture. Complimentary Starbucks Coffee, soft drinks and fresh-baked muffins or cookies are provided on board the boat. 12:45 pm board bus; 4:15 pm back at hotel. \$58/person includes bus, guide, and cruise.

Museum of Science & Industry: Saturday, September 5. Enjoy a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry. Arrive at the museum and begin your adventure in Chicago's world famous and original hands-on museum. Explore the depths aboard a real German sub captured during WWII, or take to the skies aboard an actual 747-passenger jet that was rebuilt inside the museum. Stroll down "Yesterday's Main Street" to learn how technology has changed our lives. Don't miss "Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle," now in its 60th year of sharing its collection of precious miniatures. There's something for everyone at the Museum—and that goes for appetites, too! The museum includes a food court and an old fashioned ice cream parlor. Following lunch, gather outside the theater entrance. If you wish to purchase tickets you may view the featured Omnimax presentation shown on the theater's five-story tall screen. The action is so real you will feel a part of it! 12:15 pm, board bus; 5:15 pm back at hotel. \$45/person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch and Omnimax on your own.

City Tour: Sunday, September 6. Begin your driving tour of Chicago with some of its most well-known landmarks. Take in Wrigley Field, Lincoln Park, Lake Shore Drive, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the famous "Loop," Chicago's Financial District. Enjoy lunch on your own at Navy Pier which offers a food court for a quick bite or restaurant dining. Restaurants include Joe's Be-Bop Café, Billy Goat Tavern, Capi's Italian Kitchen, and the famous Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. After lunch, enjoy the beautiful scenery and the boats as you browse in the many retail shops the Pier has to offer. Following lunch and shopping, continue the city tour. Learn the history of Sears Tower, one of the world's tallest buildings, and drive past the world's famous architecture including the Trump Tower. Hear about the Great Chicago Fire, how the Chicago River runs backward, and the City's 2016 Olympic Bid. 9:30 am board bus; 4:00 pm back at hotel. \$45/person includes bus and guide. Lunch is not included.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All tours require a minimum of thirty people.

Second Air Division Association Reunion, continued

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC (AFR). For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, AFR shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD: www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir

The Westin O'Hare--Rosemont, IL (888-627-8517). The Westin O'Hare is located at 6100 River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018. The hotel is just 3 miles away from the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The hotel is only five blocks from the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center (formerly Rosemont Convention Center), Allstate Arena, Rosemont Theatre, and the Blue Line "EL" train providing service to downtown Chicago. Contact the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The hotel has 525 accommodating guestrooms and suites. Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservations. Each room features complimentary High Speed Internet access, complimentary HBO, radio/alarm clock, hairdryer, and iron/ironing board. Guests may also enjoy access to the indoor heated pool, sundeck (seasonal), and the Westin WORKOUT® Gym. Parking at the hotel for registered guests will be \$15 per day. Check-in is at 3:00 pm and check-out is at 12 noon.

The Benchmark Restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serves continental cuisine with mesquite flair. The Bakery Café, open for breakfast/brunch, serves your favorite Starbucks coffee and pastries. 24-hour room service is also available.

The Westin O'Hare provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. It leaves the hotel approximately every 20 minutes. After retrieving your luggage from baggage claim, proceed to the Bus/Shuttle Center—which is (1) floor beneath the baggage claim area. Follow the red arrows to the Bus/Shuttle Center and then proceed to Door #3. The hotel vans are green & white.

The hotel has parking for guests staying at the hotel with RVs. Should electrical hookups be required, please call Chicago Northwest KOA RV Park at (800) 562-2827 or (815) 923-4206. The park is located at 8404 S. Union Rd., Union, IL 60180, which is approximately 42 miles away from the hotel. Call the park for information, directions, and reservations.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

Vendors, schedules, and prices are subject to change.

-----CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL-----

**SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION - HOTEL RESERVATIONS
REUNION: SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2009**

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS NEEDED _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS
_____ SMOKING _____ NON-SMOKING _____ KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS
In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$99 + tax (currently 13%) Rate will be offered 3 days before and 1 day after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: 07/30/09. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to your date of arrival.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

**MAIL TO: THE WESTIN O'HARE, 6100 RIVER ROAD, ROSEMONT, IL 60018 OR FAX: 847-698-5483
ATTN: RESERVATIONS**

Second Air Division Association Reunion, continued

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order or register online at www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Checks returned for insufficient funds will be charged a \$20 fee. All registration forms and payments must be received on or before July 30, 2009. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. All new registrations accepted at the reunion will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 2nd AIR DIVISION

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 7/30/2009			
	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
<u>REGISTRATION PACKAGE</u>			
Includes Breakfast on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Dinner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Hospitality Room, entertainment, administrative and other reunion expenses.			
<i>Please select your entrée choice(s) for the banquet on Sunday:</i>			
PRIME RIB	\$ 276		\$
SALMON	\$ 276		\$
<u>TOURS</u>			
FRIDAY: CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL CRUISE	\$ 58		\$
SATURDAY: MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY	\$ 45		\$
SUNDAY: CITY TOUR	\$ 45		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ BOMB GROUP _____

SPOUSE AND GUEST NAMES _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, ST, ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ☐ NO ☐ ARE YOU FLYING? ☐ DRIVING? ☐ RV? ☐

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir



**THE 392ND MEMORIAL
AT WENDLING**

But we...shall be remember'd;



**We few, we happy few,
we band of brothers.**



**For he to-day that sheds
his blood with me
Shall be my brother...**

**William Shakespeare
Henry VI**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Tom Perry,
576th Sqdn Armorer

We are all saddened by the loss of our leader Col Gilbert, who was an inspiration to us over the years. While we were in training at Alamogordo, he set a good example of supporting and working within the chain of command and following established procedures; this developed a strong devotion to duty and high morale throughout the Group. When he was promoted to Group Commander, he made the transition flawlessly, both for himself and the Group. Col Lawrence Gilbert, we salute you. **WELL DONE SIR!**

His death reminds us of the frailty and brevity of life and what lies beyond the grave. This is a very sobering thought for each of us to consider. The gospel of John is a treasure trove of information and well worth reading, especially John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God loves each of us.

Almighty God, Who has blessed us with the will and courage to do our duty, we praise You for our comrades whose death kept freedom living. We praise You also for giving us the years we have lived since their departure. We pray that You will strengthen and sustain our devotion to truth and justice, so that we may be faithful beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Continue Your mercy to our comrades; keep them in Your care; and bring us all at last into Your presence there to rejoice Eternally. Amen. — Composed by 576th pilot the Very Reverend Robert C. Martin, retired Dean of the Cathedral at Erie, Pennsylvania.

∞FOLDED WINGS∞

Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, Group Commander, Mar. 19, 2009

Kenneth Q. Paddock, HQ, Apr. 1, 2009

Mary Peterson, Apr. 5, 2009

widow of Cliff Peterson, 578

Jack J. Bilz, 578, Apr. 3, 2009

Ted Garbeff, 577, Feb. 21, 2009

Jimmie V. Staffiera, 577, Jan. 31, 2008

George A. Phelps, 578, Apr. 13, 2009

Birdie Schmidt Larrick, ARC, Apr. 29, 2009

Charles E. Lowell, 576th Sqdn CO, Oct. 14, 2008

Everett F. Satterly Jr., 578, May 8, 2009

Bridget Paddock, Apr. 27, 2009

widow of Kenneth Paddock, HQ

392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association
9107 Wood Pointe Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Class Mail