



39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

*MUSTERED BY FATE, FROM COOKS TO COMMANDERS, BOUND
TOGETHER BY LOVE OF COUNTRY AND EACH OTHER*

Including 40th and 41st Squadrons of the 35th Fighter Group and Successors



Volume 30, Issue 2

THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

2013 Reunion Information and Registration Form Inside on Pages 3 and 4 San Antonio, TX

Greetings to the fine members of the 39th Fighter Squadron Association!



Pres. Maj Brian Savage

It's been another busy summer here in the 39th FTS flying our collective butts off in the Texas heat to produce the world's best instructor pilots and fighter pilot candidates! But the apex of the summer means fall's right around the corner, so once again it's time to look ahead to our upcoming reunion in October. Your Vice President, Brian "Bluto" Haines and MSgt Lisa Cockrum have taken the lead on planning for this year's reunion in San Antonio, and here's a glimpse of what they've got in the works...

We've got a primo hotel location in the heart of the Riverwalk, at the Drury Inn...and believe me when I say the folks at the Drury are top notch in the customer service department. As an example, there's a complimentary hot breakfast every morning, and complimentary snacks and drinks every evening. For Thursday we're going to head up to San Marcos to check out Ms. Connie, our local restored P-39, and the museum she resides in at the San Marcos Airport. After that we'll head over to Gruene for a late lunch/early dinner at the fabulous Gristmill restaurant overlooking the Guadalupe River. For Friday you can expect a tour of all the flying squadrons on base, as well as simulator time in

each aircraft the 39th FTS flies, for those of you willing to try your hand at flying our aircraft! Later that evening we're hoping to get set up with a Riverwalk dinner cruise...still in the works. Saturday we'll have our annual meeting in the morning, free time on the Riverwalk during the day, and our banquet in the evening, catered by Texas Land and Cattle Steak House.

So as you can see, another good time on the horizon - can't wait to see you all there!

Maj Brian Savage
39th FTS President

2012/13 39th Fighter Squadron Association Officers

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Maj. Brian Savage President 3809 South Congress Ave, #358 Austin, TX 78704 physer9804@att.net | L/Col. Brian Haines Vice-President 3904 Arroyo Sierra Schertz, TX 78154 bluto117@hotmail.com | Linne Haddock Secretary 446 Douglas Fir Drive Woodland Park, CO 80863 lhaddock@mac.com | Linne Haddock Treasurer 446 Douglas Fir Drive Woodland Park, CO 80863 lhaddock@mac.com |
|---|--|--|--|

60th Korean War Anniversary Commemoration

In September of 2012 I was contacted by the Department of Defense Korean War Commemoration Committee inquiring if any one in the 39th had served during the Korean War. I replied back "most certainly" and from there was able to arrange for 49 of our members, plus an Army friend, to receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" signed by Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defense. The certificate reads:

"In recognition of honorable service during the Korean War in defense of Democracy and Freedom. Through your selfless sacrifice, the tide of communism on the Korean Peninsula was halted and liberty triumphed over tyranny. The Department of Defense and the people of America and Korea are forever grateful."

The following individuals received a certificate:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| L/Col Richard Clothier | A1C Clarence Dellinger | 1st Lt Ernest Wakehouse | M/Sgt Richard Davis |
| M/Sgt Bernard Lanzrath | A1C Roger Rehn | Col William Johnson | M/Sgt Vernon Cox |
| L/Col Dean Abbott | L/Col Wade Kilbride | Capt James Sutton | L/Col Robert Eichenberg |
| Col Robert Jones | L/Col Abraham Nooger | L/Col Gene Rogge | S/Sgt John Kanuk |
| Col Thomas Smith | CM/Sgt Robert Johnson | L/Col Tandy Wright | CM/Sgt Merwin Butler |
| L/Col Fred Fonck | A1C Clyde Seeley | S/Sgt Joseph Pecoraro | A1C James Walton |
| Col James Thompson | A1C Haywood Mills | L/Col David Andersen | S/Sgt Richard Krisel |
| A1C Howard Andersen | T/Sgt George Haage | S/Sgt Victor Mihuta | Col Ronald Byrne, Jr |
| M/Sgt James Cobban | 1st Lt David Clark | S/Sgt Bernard Lewis | A1C Stanley Garvin |
| Maj Jerry Isbell | L/Col James Mac Alpine | 1st Lt Harold Chitwood | S/Sgt William Otis |
| Col George Ruddell | S/Sgt Lawrence Holliday | S/Sgt Edward Kiczyinski | Maj Oakley Allen |
| L/Col Raymond Frese | 1st Lt Bud Burrows | CM/Sgt Herbert Hancock | Maj Robert Groszer |
| | S/Sgt W. Major Holifield | PFC Albert Nigg | |

If I have missed anyone who served from 25 Jun 1950 to 31 Jan 1955, please let me know. I will make sure you also receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

REQUEST FOR PICTURES: I am doing a collage of recipients and their certificates. Please send me a picture - hardcopy or digital - of you holding your certificate so it can be displayed at the 2013 Reunion. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. For those who have already done so, thank you. Linne Haddock

Request for Korean War Era Pictures

The 39th FTS is working on a short program to honor the Korean War veterans and commemorate the 60th Anniversary as part of the banquet program. They are looking for pictures you might have and would be willing to share. If you only have "originals" hardcopies, VP Brian Haines **promises** he will take good care of them and return the pictures to you in the exact state you send them to him.

Please send any hardcopy pictures to the following address:

Lt. Col. Brian Haines
39 FTS/IFF FLT
430 J Street East
JBSA Randolph, TX 78150.

Please email any digital pictures to Brian's non-military email address: bluto117@hotmail.com.

2013 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday, 23 October to Sunday, 27 October, 2013
Drury Inn & Suites - River Walk, San Antonio, TX

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Important!

Please register as soon as possible so we can get an accurate headcount.

Room reservations can be made via the Internet or by calling 800.325.0720.

Special 39th Fighter Squadron Association Internet Link:

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2184129>

If you call, be sure to tell them you are with the 39th Fighter Squadron Association Reunion, Group #2184129, to get the special room rate of \$151.76, including taxes and fees. This includes breakfast.

This rate is guaranteed until 21 September 2013 and good for three days before and after.

The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service. There is shuttle service available in the baggage claim area at the "Go Airport Shuttle" kiosk. The cost is \$36.50 roundtrip.

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Registration and banquet | _____ | persons @ \$28.00 each | _____ |
| Select one per person: | 9oz Sirloin Steak _____ | 8oz Grilled Salmon Filet _____ | |
| | 8oz Southwest Pico Chicken _____ | 10oz Signature Smoked Sirloin _____ | |
| Thur: Commemorative Air Force Museum* | _____ | persons @ \$18.00 each | _____ |
| Fri: 39th Flying Training Squadron* | _____ | persons @ \$18.00 each | _____ |
| Dues for 2013, if not previously paid | | \$20 | _____ |
| * See details on back of registration form. | | Total | _____ |

2013 Reunion Fees

in event lineup and costs, if they occur.

If you have an email address for contact, please supply it here: _____

Cut here and mail to Linne Haddock

2013 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and make your payment to “39th FSA”:

Send the form and payment to:

Randy Royal, Assistant to Treasurer
5555 Old Farm Terrace
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Phone - (719) 550-1735
Email - rnroyal@msn.com

Since Linne Haddock will be traveling from end of August to first of October, her brother - Randy Royal, has graciously agreed to assist with the collection of Reunion fees. If you have any question about the Reunion, do not hesitate to contact him.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Drury Inn & Suites, River Walk: Step outside and into the unmatched beauty of the San Antonio River Walk. With countless restaurants and shops within scenic walking distance, there is little need for a rental car. All rooms have a micro-wave, refrigerator and coffee maker.

EVENT DETAILS (See actual schedule in newsletter.):

Thursday activities:

Commemorative Air Force Museum: We will travel to San Marcos to see one of our favorite P-39s, Miss Connie. Both the P-39 and their P-63 King Cobra will be flying. If this is not something you want to do, then there is an outlet mall nearby and we will arrange for a drop-off and pick-up before going to a late lunch or early dinner on the way back to San Antonio. The “on your own” lunch/dinner will be at the Gristmill Restaurant in Gruene.

Friday activities:

39th Flying Training Squadron Headquarters: We will travel to Randolph AFB and the 39th FTS Headquarters where many activities planned. There will be static displays on the flight line directly behind the squadron. Anyone interested in flying one or all of the three 39th FTS aircraft will get the opportunity at the simulator building. A tour of other flying squadrons, including the 435th which is the only true “Fighter” squadron on base, is also on the agenda. The 435th also has a rich history dating back to the P-38s and P-51s that the squadron flew during WW II. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday activities:

Annual Business Meeting and Memorial Service: Hospitality Room from 9:30am to 11:00am.

The rest of the day is open to allow you to just “veg out” or enjoy exploring the River Walk, just outside the hotel door. If you are looking for more to do, you can visit one of the historical sites in the area - The Alamo, Mission San Jose, San Fernando Cathedral are just some of the options.

Banquet: The Texas Land & Cattle (TXLC) Steak House is catering the banquet. The banquet will be held in The Milan Room (same location as the Hospitality Room). Happy hour is from 5:30 to 6:00pm with dinner and program from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The Hospitality Room will be open for the duration of the evening.

Reunion Activity Information

The 39th FTS is working very hard on the 2013 Reunion. A few things are still being finalized, but we wanted you to be aware of what is being planned and the tentative schedule.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Wed, 23 Oct | Arrivals throughout the day. No formal events planned. |
| | Dinner: Everyone is on their own. |
| | Evening: Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ?? |
| Thu, 24 Oct | Morning & Afternoon: Bus boarding at 9:00am and departure at 9:15am for the trip to the Commemorative Air Force Museum at San Marcos and late lunch (on your own) at the Gristmill Restaurant. If the museum is not of interest, then we will arrange for a drop-off and pick-up at an outlet mall nearby. |
| | Dinner: Everyone is on their own. |
| | Evening: Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ?? |
| Fri, 25 Oct | Morning & Afternoon: Bus boarding at 9:00am and departure at 9:15am for our visit to the 39th FTS Headquarters . The squadron has a day of activities planned. There will be 3 aircraft sims, static displays, and other events. Lunch provided. |
| | Dinner: Everyone is on their own. |
| | Evening: Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ?? |
| Sat, 26 Oct | Morning: Memorial Service and annual meeting, 9:30 - 11:00am. |
| | Lunch & Afternoon: Everyone is on their own. |
| | Dinner: Social hour, 5:30 - 6:00pm, Banquet and program, 6:00 - 8:00pm. |
| | Evening: Hospitality Room, 8:00pm until ?? |
| Sun, 27 Oct | Farewell: No formal events planned. |

Please use the Reunion Registration Form that is included in this newsletter to make your reservation for the 39th Fighter Squadron Association 2013 Reunion in San Antonio, TX. This is shaping up to be a grand event and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Since Linne Haddock will be traveling from the end of August to the beginning of October, her brother - Randy Royal, is your contact person for anything related to reunion registration and event scheduling. His contact information is included on the reunion registration form. Do not hesitate to contact him if you have any questions.

Election of Officers

As required by the Association By-Laws, 2013-2014 officers will be elected during the annual meeting.

We have a great need for people to step forward and become involved in the 39th FSA. This year, as always, we would like nominations for all of the officer positions.

President is open. However, Brian Haines has agreed to move up to President if nominated and elected.

Vice President is OPEN. Nominations will be accepted during the annual meeting.

Treasurer and Secretary are open. Again, Linne Haddock will serve as both if nominated and elected.

Please consider who might accept a nomination, consult with them, share your information with the current officers, and present your nominee(s) at the Annual Meeting.

Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe Honored

Sixty nine years ago, in 1944, Robert Thorpe of the 39th Pursuit Squadron died at the hands of the enemy in New Guinea. He was only twenty years old.

On May 14, 2013 the Rhode Island (RI) House of Representatives honored one of their own, 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe, with the passage of a House Resolution honoring the WW II pilot who died in the service of his country. This was followed by a ceremony held in the RI State House on May 17, 2013. A member of the 39th FSA, Capt (Ret) Lew Lockhart a flight commander and friend of Robert Thorpe, was present to pay his respects.

Joe Kernan is the Features Editor for the Cranston Herald, Cranston, RI. He is the author of the article about 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe, and this article provided information (with his permission) to summarize the short, but very significant life, of Robert Thorpe.

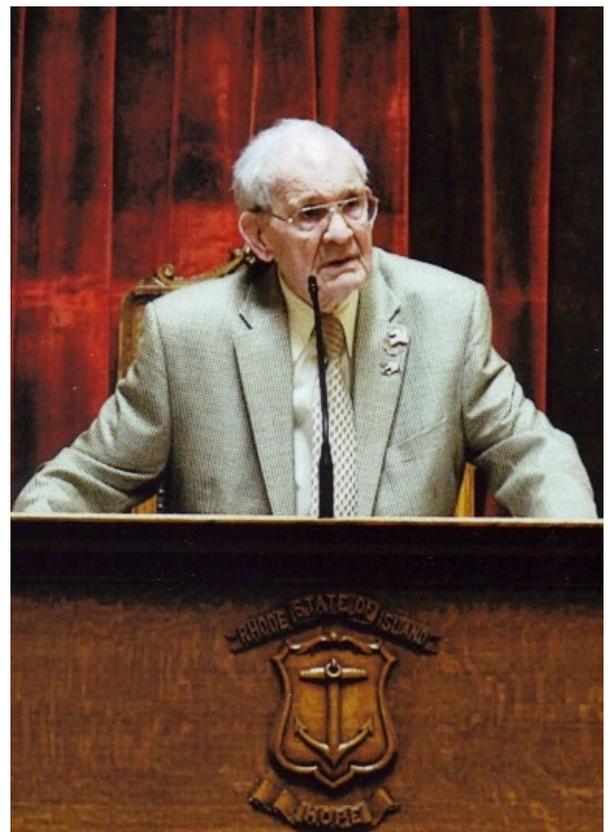
At age eighteen, Robert Thorpe “stuffed himself with food to make the minimum weight for the Army Air Corp pilot training program during WW II”. He was successful and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Air Corp on August 30, 1943. As a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot, he was sent to New Guinea where he joined the 39th Pursuit Squadron in early 1944. On May 27, 1944, while on a strafing run of a Japanese garrison, his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The last anyone saw of him was his plane ditching into the waters off Papua, New Guinea. The next day Fred Tobi, Robert’s tent mate, and Lew Lockhart, who flew many missions with Robert, launched a search mission to find Robert. According to Lew, “We went back to the site where he went down, but didn’t find anything at all”.

What happened to 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe was unknown until 1948 when the vivid details of his treatment after his capture were documented in the Yokohama War Crimes records. Although his plane sank, Robert made it to shore then his luck ran out as he was captured and taken to a Japanese naval base on Kairiru Island, New Guinea. The records show that during interrogation “Thorpe refused to supply any information other than name, rank and serial number”, he was tortured and then executed. According to Lew Lockhart, “That is what makes him a true hero. He didn’t give out any information. That’s why they tortured him.”

Capt. (Ret.) Lew Lockhart speaking at the memorial service for 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe held in the Rhode Island State House.



*2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe with his P-47.
(Picture provided by Ken Dooley.)*



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

Missing Financial Statement?

As a reminder to those who might be looking for the financial statement, it was decided at the 2012 39th FSA Business Meeting, that the financial statement would no longer be published in the Newsletter. Instead, an annual financial statement will be provided to those attending the Reunion Business Meeting. It will also be included in the post-Reunion mailing to current members, along with the Newsletter and updated roster. The treasurer will supply current financials to any Association member upon request.

Heritage Flight Museum "Thank You"

The 39th FSA members approved a donation of \$500 to the Heritage Flight Museum, our co-hosts of the 2011 Bellingham Reunion. Kate Simmons, Director of Programs, sent the 39th FSA a very nice "thank you" letter. The Museum greatly appreciates our support. The "thank you" letter will be available for review in San Antonio.

Framed & On Display

As reported in the 2012 post-reunion newsletter, the 39th FSA members approved the purchase of "Starting Gun: Race of Aces", a painting by Anthony Cundiff, nephew of Lee Cundiff. The painting represents the famous 5th Air Force battle over Buna, Papua, New Guinea on December 27, 1942. It features four P-38 Lockheed Lightnings flown by Capt. Tommy Lynch, 2/Lt. Dick Bong, 2/Lt. Ken Sparks, and 2/Lt. Johnny Mangas. The painting, and all the supporting research done by Gary Smith, was then presented to the 39th FTS to be displayed in their headquarters at Randolph AFB. The painting has now been framed and is on display, as promised. The 39th FSA also covered the cost of framing.

39th FSA Medallions - Interested in a 39th FSA medallion before the Reunion, please contact Linne Haddock directly. The cost is \$25.00 for a bronze medallion or \$50.00 for a silver, plus \$?? shipping. Medallions will be available at San Antonio Reunion.

Colorado Springs REUNION VIDEO

Bill Adair Jr has produced a video of Reunion 2012

Available in VHS or DVD (Also some prior years)

Order Now. \$25 per copy, postpaid.

Send check or money order to Bill at:

3601 Lakeshore Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014

wga37@yahoo.com

Maj Benjamin Price is our new contact for the continuing efforts of 39th FTS to acquire and maintain historical information about the 39th throughout its long period of activity. He is especially interested in old photographs and associated captions. The military history avenues are lacking when it comes to collecting this type of medium. He would like to receive scanned photo (300 dpi) with associated captions via email. Alternatively, you can send your photos and captions to him, via snail-mail, for scanning and he will return the originals to you. The 39th FTS is also eager to accept any artifacts donors feel would be suitable for display inside the Squadron's display cases. Please contact him with any question via email at benjamin.price.9@us.af.mil or his cell phone, 210.565.7125.

The ***A History of the 39th Pursuit Squadron, Volume One*** is available. It covers the 39th history from December 1939 to September 1945. The ***A History of the 39th Fighter Squadron, Volume Two*** is available. It covers the 39th history from August 1945 to July 1953. Please contact Linne Haddock if you are interested in purchasing a copy of either book for \$20, plus shipping. She will have some copies available in San Antonio.

Dues note from treasurer **Linne Haddock**: Linne asks that you please locate your last **dues payment** date shown on the address label of the newsletter. If it shows 09, that is 2009. The \$20 dues payment is annual. Some members are only sending payment if they attend the Reunion. Your dues are needed to cover the rising costs of printing and mailing the newsletter and roster, as noted in the financial statements. Please mail your annual dues payment made out to the **39th FSA**, to Linne Haddock, 39th FSA Treasurer, at 446 Douglas Fir Drive, Woodland Park, CO, 80863.

Vic Mihuta has a source for **35th Group Patches**, the ones with the hand holding the sword. Cost is \$15. Contact Vic if you are interested.

39th FSA "Final Flight" Information

If you are aware of any 39th Fighter Squadron Association member who has passed away, please let us know. Our members are our best resource.

We wish to show respect to all of our departed 39ers by publishing their names in our Memorial listing.

Lyn and Linne Haddock, Editors



39th Fighter Squadron "COBRAS"

39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON



Campaign Streamers:

World War II: Antisubmarine, American Theater; East Indies; Air Offensive, Japan; Papua; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Ryukus; China Offensive.

Korea: UN Defensive; UN Offensive; CCF Intervention; First UN Counteroffensive; CCF Spring Offensive; UN Summer-Fall Offensive; Second Korean Winter; Korea Summer-Fall, 1952; Third Korean Winter; Korea, Summer 1953.

Decorations.

Distinguished Unit Citations: **World War II:** Papua, 23 Jul 1942–23 Jan 1943; Bismarck Sea, 2–4 Mar 1943; **Korea,** [7 May]–8 Jul 1951; Korea, [1 Jun 1952]–30 Apr 1953.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Nov 1970–29 May 1971; 30 May 1971–28 May 1973; 1 Jul 1977–31 May 1979; 16 Mar 1989–15 Mar 1991.

Presidential Unit Citations: Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII) Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations: 7 Sep 1950–7 Feb 1951; 1 Jul 1951–31 Mar 1953.

In War And In Peace, The 39th Has Met Its Nation's Call With Honor And Success.

39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

The Newsletter

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