



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 32, Issue 1

THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

2015 Reunion Information and Registration Form Inside on Pages 3 and 4. Tucson, AZ

39th Prez Says...



Hello my Cobra brethren! I hope you all are having a good year so far. It is time to start getting excited about our next get together this fall in sunny Tucson, AZ! Not only will it be a little earlier this year, but the weather will be fantastic! Why do you think so many retirees live there?!?! I'm sure right now the Haddocks are fighting over the only seat in their wheeled aluminum tube of regret out in some random campground, but no doubt keeping up with all of the details about our reunion in September. They traveled to Tucson earlier this year to lay the groundwork for what is sure to be another fantastic time. The hotel looks amazing and is essentially an oasis in the desert! I hope you are all ready to see the largest collection of parked airplanes in the world! The boneyard is an experience you will never forget! I even have a picture of my

last airplane, the F-117, parked there!

We are also going to have a get together with the Reserve A-10 squadron where we can swap stories and hear some of their tales of recent operations in Afghanistan and the great work they have done there in the last couple years. A former Cobra is in that squadron now! There will of course be plenty of opportunity to imbibe in adult beverages and enjoy some good camaraderie in the hospitality suite. We have some serious business to address as far as our next leadership as well! Did you notice I keep using exclamation points!?! It's like your reading an email from Bill Adair!! HA! *continued*



2014/15 39th Fighter Squadron Association Officers

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39th Prez Sez continued

There should be a good showing by current Cobras this year since I have scoured the couch cushions and ratholed money all year to pay for their attendance. I look forward to seeing all of you and hope you can all make it out. Please start making your reservations and travel arrangements now!

Cobras Rule!

Bluto – El Presidente'

2016 Marks 30 Years for the 39th FSA

It began with backyard gatherings of a few. This was followed by formal organization with the active and successful search for 39th Squadron personnel who served in WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

Then came the connection with the active 39th squadrons including the current 39th Flying Training Squadron (FTS). Quite a journey! The 39th FTS is looking forward to hosting the 2016 30th Anniversary Reunion of the 39th FSA in San Antonio.

We ask all members to share their memories of the 39th FSA over the past thirty years and also their thoughts of what the future should be for the 39th FSA.

Brian, Lisa & Linne - Your 39th FSA Officers

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Thorpe Update

On Friday, June 12, 2015 a committal service was held at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery in honor of 2nd Lt. Robert E. Thorpe.

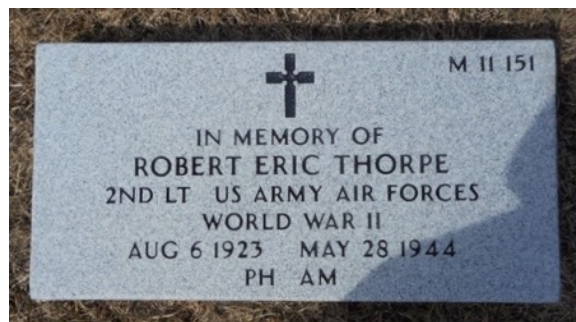
As a result of the prior involvement of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the House Veterans Advisory Council in the Thorpe case, there was a crew from Capitol TV assigned to the event.

Representative Sam Azzinaro of Westerly, the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs was present, as was Representative Thomas Winfield.

The following link will take you to a 17 minute video that was created about the event: <http://tinyurl.com/pgo5my4>.

The video shows a sense of closure 71 years after the ultimate sacrifice that was made by Robert Thorpe.

Lt. Thorpe's brother, Gill, former Rep. Peter Martin, Sgt. Major Ed Kane, Rep. Marvin Abbey and CPO Jonathan Roscoe made arrangements for the memorial ceremony.



2015 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday, 23 September to Sunday, 27 September, 2015
Lodge on the Desert, Tucson, AZ

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

Important!

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

Hotel Reservation Process:

1. Follow this booking link: [39th Fighter Squadron Reunion](#)
2. Visit the website www.LodgeOnTheDesert.com and input the booking code "39SQUAD"
3. Call the reservation department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [1-877-498-6776](tel:1-877-498-6776) and give the group booking code "39SQUAD" or the group name "39th Fighter Squadron Reunion"

If you call, be sure to tell them you are with the 39th Fighter Squadron Association Reunion to get the special room rate of \$108.69, including taxes and fees. This includes breakfast. This rate is guaranteed until 5 September 2015 and good for two days before and after.

2015 Reunion Fees

Registration and banquet	_____	persons @ \$39.00 each	_____
Select one per person:	Roasted Sirloin of Beef _____	Grilled Salmon _____	_____
		Mushroom Ravioli _____	_____
Thu: Pima Air & Space Museum*	_____	persons @ \$26.00 each	_____
This includes museum, Boneyard visit & tram tour fees			
Fri: 47th Fighter Squadron*	_____	persons @ no charge	0
Dues for 2015, if not previously paid		\$20.00	_____
* See details on back of registration form.		Total	_____

If you register, you will be notified of changes in event lineup and costs, if they occur.

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

2015 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

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

Send the form and payment to:

Linne Haddock, Treasurer
446 Douglas Fir Drive
Woodland Park, CO 80863

Phone - (719) 687-6452
Email - lhaddock@mac.com

If you have any question about the Reunion so do not hesitate to call.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Lodge on the Desert (Quoted from the Hotel’s Web Site): An Arizona landmark and Tucson tradition, Lodge on the Desert is a 103-room boutique hotel appealing to leisure and business travelers alike. Situated on five acres in mid-town Tucson, AZ, against the majestic backdrop of the Santa Catalina Mountains, its charming hacienda-style accommodations and layout confirm that it is Tucson’s urban oasis. And an Old Pueblo masterpiece. Literally minutes from many of Tucson’s most distinctive major area attractions, cultural and performing arts, abundant shopping, dining and a host of recreational options including a number of Arizona’s most challenging golf courses and superb tennis facilities.

Airport shuttle service is not available through the hotel. Please contact Arizona Stagecoach directly at **520.889.1000** or you can go to their counter in the baggage claim area upon your arrival.

EVENT DETAILS (See actual schedule in newsletter.):

Thursday activities:

Pima Air & Space Museum: The Pima Air & Space Museum is a private non-profit museum. It is not part of the Davis-Monthan AFB and does not receive operational funding from any governmental agency. There are four different museum exhibits - Main Hanger, Space Gallery, Hanger 3, and Hanger 4. In addition, we will have a tram tour of the Outdoor Exhibits as well as a visit to the Boneyard at Davis-Monthan AFB with a docent from the museum.

Friday activities:

47th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB: The 47th Fighter Squadron (47 FS) is an Air Force Reserve Command unit under the 924th Fighter Group. Its mission is conducting advanced A-10 Thunderbolt II training. The 47 FS will host the 39th FSA at their headquarters and have a great visit planned.

Saturday activities:

Annual Business Meeting and Memorial Service: The Fireside Room, adjacent to the restaurant, from 9:30am to 11:00am.

The rest of the day is open to allow you to just “veg out” or enjoy some of the suggestions in the newsletter.

Banquet: The banquet will be held in The Catalina Room (just off the restaurant patio). 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

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 Sep	Arrivals throughout the day. No formal events planned.	
	Dinner:	Everyone is on their own.
	Evening:	Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ??
Thu, 24 Sep	Morning:	Car pooling. Gather at 8:45am and departure at 9:00am for our visit to the Pima Air & Space Museum, which includes the Boneyard. See writeup on Pages 4 and 6 for more details.
	Afternoon:	Lunch own your own. Afternoon free.
	Dinner:	Everyone is on their own.
	Evening:	Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ??
Fri, 25 Sep	Morning:	Morning free.
	Lunch:	Everyone is on their own.
	Afternoon:	Car pooling. Gather at 12:30pm and departure at 12:45pm for our visit to the 47 Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB. See writeup on Pages 4.
	Dinner:	Everyone is on their own.
	Evening:	Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ??
Sat, 26 Sep	Morning:	Memorial Service and annual meeting, 9:30 - 11:00am.
	Afternoon:	Lunch own your own. Afternoon free.
	Dinner:	Social hour, 5:30 - 6:00pm, Banquet and program, 6:00 - 8:00pm.
	Evening:	Hospitality Room, 7:00pm until ??
Sun, 27 Sep	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 2015 Reunion in Tucson, AZ. This is shaping up to be a grand event and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Other things to do. (1) Titan Missile Museum, (2) MissionSan Xavier del Bac, (3) Main Gate Square, (4) Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, and lots of golf courses. Finally, you can just “veg out” and rest up for the banquet.

Election of Officers

As required by the Association By-Laws, 2015-2016 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 from the floor for all of the officer positions.

President is open. Brian Haines has agreed to continue as President if nominated and elected.

Vice President is open. Lisa Cockrum has agreed to continue as Vice-President if nominated and elected.

Treasurer and Secretary are open. 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.

PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

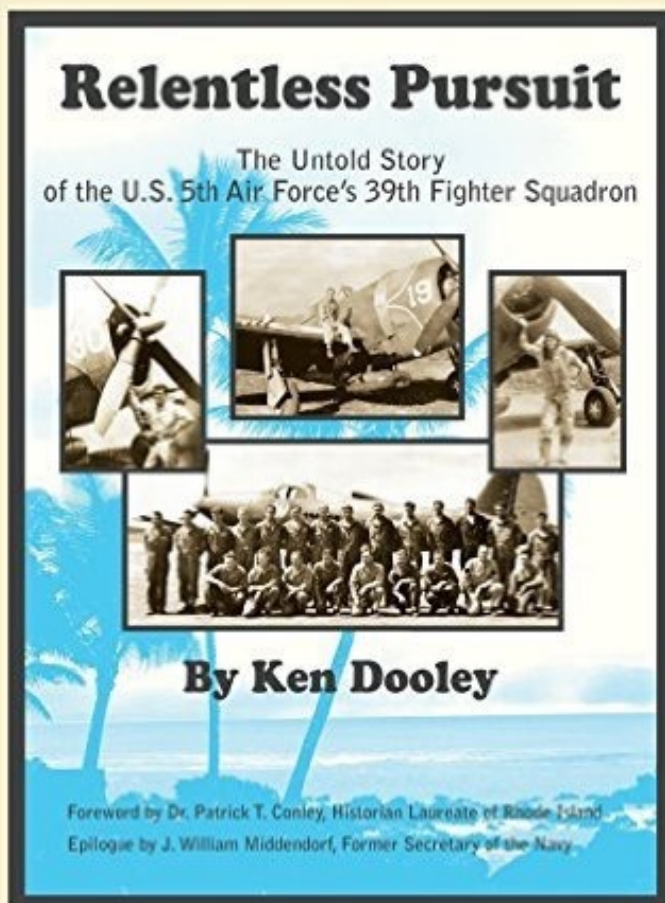
The Pima Air & Space Museum, located in Tucson, Arizona, is one of the world's largest non-government funded aerospace museums. The museum features a display of nearly 300 aircraft spread out over 80 acres (320,000 m²) on a campus occupying 127 acres (610,000 m²). It is also, since 1991, home to the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame.

Opened to the public in May 1976 with 48 aircraft then on display, the Museum's main hangar houses an SR-71A Blackbird, an A-10 Warthog, a United States Air Force Through the Years exhibit, and a mock-up of a control tower.

The museum is adjacent to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), affiliated with the base, also known as the "Graveyard of Planes" or "The Boneyard", is the largest aircraft storage and preservation facilities in the world. Bus tours of the boneyard leave from the museum several times a day from Monday to Friday, except Federal holidays.

The museum is overseen by the Arizona Aerospace Foundation and is governed by the Board of Trustees. They are non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that relies on visitors paying admissions, for trams and AMARG tours, as well as what they spend in the Museum stores. They also rely on memberships and contracted events to pay to restore and acquire exhibits.

Relentless Pursuit: The Untold Story of the US 5th Air Force's 39th Fighter Squadron



Ken Dooley, author, grew up in the same neighborhood as Bob Thorpe in Edgewood, RI. He and Bob's brother, Gill, became close friends as they shared stories about their brothers during World War II. Under the Freedom of Information Act, Dooley, an author and playwright, recovered records classified as secret for more than 60 years. Testimony, squadron reports, emails, telephone and in-person interviews led Dooley on an eight-year journey resulting in Relentless Pursuit. Piyush Patel, publisher, upon learning of the brutal death of Robert Thorpe and the heroism of the men of the 39th Fighter Squadron, put his resources behind the publication allowing the story of the 39th Fighter Squadron to be told.

There will be a book signing in Newport, RI on August 10, 2015 at 2:00pm at the Mainstay Inn, 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road. All are welcome. Ken will also be attending the 39th Fighter Squadron Association 2015 Reunion in Tucson, AZ and will have books available for purchase.

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

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

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.

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.

Notes from the Newsletter Editors...

An updated **Roster** was mailed to you along with this Newsletter. We will also continue to distribute the Newsletter by **eMail**, along with frequently updated Rosters and news items to all with eMail addresses. If you don't have eMail, but have a family member or friend who can receive this for you, please send their eMail address. Also, please keep your contact information current by advising Linne Haddock of changes.

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.

CobraInTheClouds.com Web Site

Sincere thanks to Chockie Simons for all her work supporting our website for the last several years. She asked to be relieved of that duty and we are now transitioning to another support person who has volunteered to help us out. More details to come. Thanks again Chockie, and enjoy some free time!

Maj Benjamin Price is our 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 also 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 Tucson, AZ Reunion.

39th FSA Medallions - Interested in a 39th FSA medallion, 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 Tucson, AZ Reunion.

Washington, D. C. REUNION VIDEO

Bill Adair Jr has produced a video of Reunion 2013

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



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.

Links to Some Interesting Internet Sites

1. The National Museum of World War II Aviation: <http://worldwariaviation.org>
2. Heritage Flight Museum: <http://www.heritageflight.org>
3. Korean War National Museum, Library & Cultural Center: <http://kwnm.org>
4. Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA): <http://www.afhra.af.mil/index.asp>

39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ASSN.

The Newsletter

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Postmaster: If undeliverable, please return to sender with forwarding address if known.