

INVADER Magazine



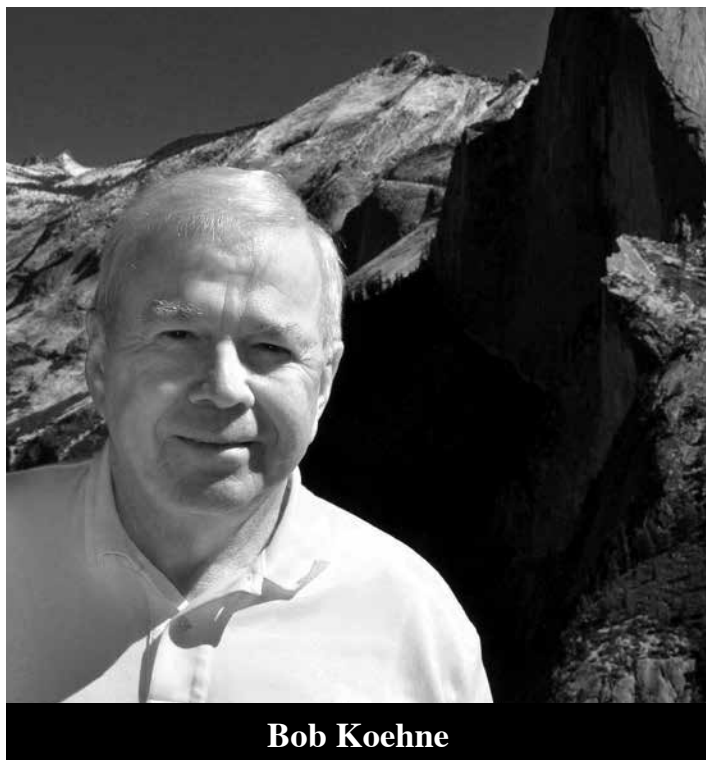
Official Publication of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association



The logo is a vertical rectangular emblem. At the top, it features a red background with the year '2019' in yellow. Below this is a blue shield-shaped area containing a white skeleton riding a bomb, with the text '13th Bomb Squadron Association' in a curved banner above and 'STATE OF IDAHO' in a curved banner below. The bottom section of the emblem has a dark blue background with the text '2019 Reunion Wrap-Up!' in white.



Reunion Issue

**Bob Koehne**

President's Corner

The winter issue of the Invader is traditionally the reunion issue with details on the annual Fall reunion, and I will get to that shortly. But, first, it is my sad duty to inform the membership of the passing of three past and present executive board members, or in aviator's parlance, they earned their second set of wings, and have flown west. Dave Clark, our Vietnam era rep passed in September, only a couple days after the Boise reunion ended. Dave was a B-57G model back seater, a very humorous guy. He and Nancy were consistent reunion attendees. In November, Ed Connor passed away. Ed was our WWII rep, and was a radio operator/gunner in that war, and gave the WWII presentation at our 100th anniversary reunion banquet at Whiteman AFB in June 2017. Don Henderson is honoring Ed with much more information in this issue. Just two days before I sat down to write these comments a few days before Christmas, we learned that Bud Compton had flown west. Bud made every effort to come to the reunions, and he and his daughter Myra made their way to Boise. Bud was a B-17 navigator in WWII, had to bail out of a disabled aircraft and became a POW, coincidentally in the same stalag as Carole's uncle, a B-24 co-pilot. Later Bud flew fifty night intruder missions over North Korea in the 13th. Bud has

served on the board as the WWII rep in the past, and agreed to step in for Ed at the Boise reunion. Bud is probably best known as the editor of the INVADER for a number of years. Our hearts go out to families and friends of these fine men.

The reunion in Boise was again another great one, with a coordinated effort between Bob and Myrtle Parks, and Roger and Pam Bauman. We all owe them a great deal of thanks. Roger and Pam generously donated custom 13th BS coffee mugs and shopping bags to all attendees. Everyone seemed quite impressed with Boise, friendly folks, and just a nice clean mid-sized city. Our reunion hotel, the Hampton Inn was very nice, as were the entire staff. Comprehensive tours included the nearby Warhawk museum, which not only featured spotlessly restored aircraft of past wars, but a number of personal stories accompanied by the individual's memorabilia. Lunch at the state capital was followed by a tour to see the beautiful marble interior and visit the legislative areas. The day was followed by red shirt night at the Stonehouse, a casual dining venue. The next morning we enjoyed a motor coach tour of the city which ended at the Basque village in Boise for lunch at one of the Basque restaurants and a tour of the Basque museum and cultural center. Our attendance was nicely augmented by no less than eleven active members of the squadron at Whiteman, and three recently retired B-2 folks. Eight members came via four T-38's. We were so glad for them to be able to attend the banquet, and for the current squadron commander to attend the general membership meeting. We started the evening program with the immediate past squadron commander, Lt. Col. Geoffrey "Fletch" Steeves, telling us about his assignment as the senior Air Force fellow at the Los Alamos national laboratory in Alamos, New Mexico. Of course, there was only so much that Fletch could share about that place. He did mention that he had recently been to sea in one of the navy's ballistic missile submarines, submerged down to 1000 feet. Next, Lt. Col. Mike "Ox" Polidor, the current 13th commander shared information about the squadron and an update on the state of affairs of USAF's entire bomber fleet, all quite interesting. Our featured speaker, Dr. Steven R. Swanson, a retired NASA astronaut and currently a distinguished educator in residence at Boise State University did a great presentation of his ventures into space, both

on the space shuttle and the international space station. Steve, a very personable fellow with almost 200 days in space, including five space walks of some 28 hours accompanied his talk with many pictures of his adventures. Meeting Steve gave all us airplane guys a



2019 Reunion guest speaker Steve Swanson waving from space!

personal insight into the space program that I for one, had not experienced before. The banquet was concluded with drawings for prizes, including a very nice wooden truck model that Don Kasson hand made and donated.

Getting back to the state of the USAF bomber fleet, Air Force leaders are speaking more openly about the new B-21 bomber. Desired production numbers were originally bouncing between 80 and 100 airframes, but recently USAF is talking 150. Remember, the B-21 will replace 62 B-1's and 20 B-2's. Given the pre-mature cutoffs of B-2 and F-22 production, USAF may not get the higher numbers. The B-21's bomb load will be only half that of the B-2's, 30,000 lbs. vs 60,000 lbs., so more airframes seem reasonable. The B-21 is smaller than the B-2 and the tail configuration is what the B-2 was originally designed with, before it was redesigned to the so called "sawtooth" tail for more rigidity and ease of handling at low level penetration. The B-21 will be "extremely low" level observable, a notch up from "very low" on the F-22 and F-35. Engine choice is not confirmed, but analysts think it will be Pratt's 56,000 pounds of thrust F135 engine used on the F-35. The first B-21 squadron will be at Ellsworth AFB, followed by Whiteman and Dyess.

George Knight recently sent me a book he had read and thought I would enjoy a copy. He was right on. It was the book "Tap Code" by Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, (USAF ret.), an F-105, "THUD" driver who spent eight years as a POW in North Vietnam, and introduced the use of the tap code for prisoner communication. I think any of us who were deployed in the Korean and/or Vietnam wars could readily identify with Smitty and our wives with his

wife, Louise, even though we may not have endured his fate as a POW. B. Gen. Robbie Risner, Smitty's Lt. Col. squadron commander is prominently mentioned in the book. After WWII, Carole's uncle flew P-80's with Gen. Risner, and

they became good friends, as did their wives. Also, having visited the Hanoi Hilton three years ago, I could visualize those cells with their concrete "cots" and the rest of the prison Smitty writes about. I really recommend this book. I read it in 2 1/2 days, a record for me. I simply couldn't put it down. Thanks George!!!

On to the future. We are very encouraged by the interest shown in the association by the active duty and recently retired B-2 folks that attended the Boise reunion. San Antonio, Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2020 should appeal to a lot of association members and hopefully result in high attendance. After all, "Old San Antone" is sort of the birthplace of the Air Force, and most of us have memories of being stationed there or visits of one sort or another. The only "tailor made" garment I've ever had was my silver tan commissioning uniform from a shop in San Antonio. Remember those, one of the best looking Air Force uniforms ever. The first officer's club I ever set foot in was at Randolph AFB on a warm sunny February day, having just flown down in a C-119 from Scott AFB where a blizzard was ongoing. I was a college sophomore ROTC cadet and I thought this Air Force life is looking pretty good (except for that lumbering C-119). While at Randolph we had a flight line drive-by, and we saw these brand new, sort of strange looking, aircraft being guarded. We learned they were called "Canberras"... little did I know!!!

So, start making plans for the next reunion. We have a number of important issues to discuss about the future of the association and the reunions. I will have more to say about that in the next INVADER. Reaper Pride,

Officers of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association

President



Robert R. (Bob) Koehne
23332 SE 225th St.
Maple Valley, WA 98038

1st Vice President/



Ron Silvia
20 Green Lane
Assonet, MA 02702-1410

2nd Vice President



James R. (Bob) Parks
3219 Tavern Oaks St.
San Antonio, TX, 78247

Secretary



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6980 Olympic View Ct.
Silverdale, WA 98383

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Bill Hamann
2950 SE Ocean Blvd.
Apt 124-2
Stuart, FL 34996-3512

Locator Data Manager



Charlie Breitzke
8 Hobkirk Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715-3404

Member at Large Korea



Ron Jarrett
10349 416th Avenue
Britton, SD 57430-5005

Member at Large GWOT



Major Nicholas Anderson,
“Wolf”
13th Bomb Squadron,
Whiteman AFB, MO

Please note, due to the sad passing of Ed Connor and Dave Clark, we are without representation for both WWII and Vietnam War-era Veterans of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association. Since this is an appointed/volunteer position, if you are interested in representing the Association, please contact Bob Koehne at info@13thbombsquadron.net for consideration.

As always, we are looking for your stories and photos for future issues of the INVADER, please contact Don Henderson with your stories and photos so that we can continue to build the history of the 13th Bomb Squadron!



Charlie Breitzke, Locator

Locator's Radar

Are you on our Radar?



Please contact Charlie Breitzke at info@13thbombsquadron.net

We are looking for a few good men, hopefully younger ones from the 21st century 13th, to be a fail-safe for the association database in case I leave suddenly. It's in the cloud (OneDrive), but not many of us older guys are all that comfortable with it. Just want a couple of folks to whom I can give access to in case of emergency. You won't have to do my locator/database manager job (unless you want to – hint, hint, but just recover/preserve the data until someone else can pick it up). If you wouldn't mind being in that position, please contact me. Thanks.

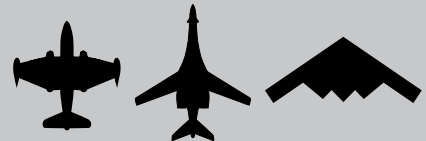
I'll be using the rest of my column for corrections (i.e., pen-and-ink changes) to the 2019 directory. So, without further ado, starting with new additions to the 13th Bomb Squadron Association:

- Polidor, Michal P. (Ox), Lt Col, Sq. Commander, 2019-**
1502 Nottingham Dr.
Warrensburg, Mo 64093
Wife – Nicola (Pilot In The 13th, 2014-2015)
- Avery, John (Fokker), Lt Col Ret**
4843 S. Chugwater Way
Boise, Id 83716
Wife – Jennifer (Former 393rd B-2 Pilot) 2005-09
- Bodine, Ron**
4612 Sage Creek Rd.
Boise, Id 83714
- Schneider, Edward L.**
13008 Taylor Frances
Haslet Tx 76052
Wife – Diana 1968-72
- Changes:**
- Dumont, Alexander**
2323 Lake Robbins Dr, Apt 814
The Woodlands, Tx 77380-1569
- Maxson, Nancy**
9632 Deer Run Dr
Ponte Vedra, Fl 32082-3501
- Johnson, Howard**
7950 E. Keats Ave, Unit 234
Mesa, Az 85209-5029
- Frise, James R.**
13650 Heathcote Blvd Apt 413
Gainesville, Fl 20155-3347



In Memoriam

As of Winter 2020



Lawrence H. Himel, Jr.
December 3, 2016
Pilot, 1952-53

Louis H. Pepper
December 23, 2016
Pilot, 1946

Richard N. Van Buren
September 16, 2019
Gunner, 1951-52

Richard W. McLaughlin
November 9, 2016
Navigator, 1954-55

Rest In Peace



Donald A. Nelson
August 21, 2019
Gunner, 1953

Peter R. Scribner
July 6, 2019
Group Intell

John Gardella
July 29, 2017
Gunner, 1952

David Clark
September 24, 2019
NAV/WSO, 1969-71

Edward D. Connor
November 12, 2019
Radio/Gunner, 1942-43

Roy L. (Bud) Compton
December 18, 2019
Navigator, 1952-53

Joseph S. Krasniewicz
December 4, 2019
Pilot, 1965-66

Ed Connor

September 4, 1922 - November 12, 2019

Edward D. Connor was born in Los Angeles, California on 4 September 1922.

UNITS: Enlisted: 1940-1942, 3rd Bomb Group; 1942-1943, 13th Bomb Squadron, Radio Gunner 1942-1945, New Guinea; Radio Mechanic 1946-1947, Maxwell AFB, AL; Officer Candidate 1947, Lackland AFB, TX

Officer: Communications Officer 1948-1950, Mather AFB, CA; Electronic Warfare Officer 1950-1952, Ramey AFB, PR; Electronic Warfare Officer 1952-1954, Forbes AFB, KS; Electronic Warfare Officer 1954, Biggs AFB, TX; Navigator 1954-1958, Mather AFB, CA; SAC, Staff Officer 1958-1963, Forbes AFB, KS; Combat Tour as Radio Gunner 1942-1943. Flew 67 combat missions against the Japanese from bases in New Guinea.

Combat Tours: Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO)

Korean War 1951-1952. Flew 16 missions against North Korea from Yokota AFB, Japan.

The Cold War 1953-54. Flew 14 missions against the Russians from Mildenhall AFB, England.

The Cold War 1958-1963. Staff Officer in Strategic Air Command, based at Forbes AFB, KS; Aircraft: B-47 Unit: 40th Bomb Wing (SAC).

Military Specialty:

Enlisted – Radio Gunner
Officer – EWO and Navigator
Highest Rank: Enlisted – Tech Sgt
Officer – Major/USAFR

Service-Related Injuries: Lost hearing in left ear. Injury occurred at Port Moresby, New Guinea on 12 April 1943. “Our aircraft, a B-25, was



loaded with six five hundred pound bombs. We were prepared to take off when the Japanese attacked. The crew evacuated the aircraft and were in a ditch around the revetment when the aircraft exploded. I lost the hearing in my left ear.”

Personal Medals: Silver Star; Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters; USAF Commendation Medal.

The following is from an interview for Historic Vienna, Inc.’s World War II History Project. Comments provided by Ed Connor about his service in WWII and beyond.

“In October 1951, I was stationed at Barksdale AFB, LA. I was able to talk with Bob Hope there and reminded him that I had seen him in 1943. I told him I enjoyed his show more this time since it was done without mosquitos.”

Aerial Incidents: “These are some events that took place while I served in the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) and the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) from 12 October 1940 to 31 October 1963.”

World War II: 10 May 1942 – “Major Evanoff was the aircraft commander of B-25C aircraft ‘Mortimer’. Our target this day was Lae, New Guinea. As we approached the target both engines quit. The pilots were able to restart the engines and decided to abort the mission. We were then confronted with the problem of getting over the Owen Stanley mountains. After discussing the problem, the crew decided not to bail out. The New Guinea jungle was so dense you wouldn’t get to the ground. If you did make it to the ground, this was cannibal country.”

Thus you could end up as someone's dinner. We were then directed to lighten the aircraft. We jettisoned guns, ammo, parachutes and bombs. The only turret we had left



was the lower turret. (We could not get to guns or ammo there). We were attacked when two zeros jumped us as we were trying to land at Schwinner Field (Port Moresby). I was able to shoot down one attacker and drive off the other. For this I was awarded the Silver Star.”

Korean War: 29 October 1951 - 4 May 1952 – “We were stationed at Yokota AFB, Japan and flying an RB-50 aircraft named ‘Ground Hog’. I was assigned to the crew as an Electronic Warfare Officer (EWO). We were flying a recon mission up and down the Yalu river, which divides North and South Korea, looking for night fighters. These were jet fighters and we were in a prop-driven aircraft which would be an easy target for a jet aircraft. We were flying at about 30,000 ft. when an anti-aircraft round knocked out part of the nose of our aircraft. The outside temperature was at minus 51 degrees. We wrapped up the pilot and co-pilot and took turns blocking the hole with our backs with a parachute. We had a 17-man crew and each man could only stay in the hole for about five minutes because of the cold. We could not descend because we would be an easy target for anti-aircraft fire. We were able to finish our mission, descend and return to Yokota.”

The Cold War: 17 August 1962 – “I was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) Staff Officer on temporary duty with the 40th Bomb Wing detachment at Greenham Common AFB, England. We were returning to Forbes AFB from TDY. We were scheduled to take off at 0600 on 17 August. The co-pilot was hung over from a night of partying. We got airborne and the co-pilot was trying to sober up. The pilot was Capt. Ed

Zirk. We had engine trouble and had to land in Newfoundland. As we descended, the pilot called for the ‘Approach Chute’, but the co-pilot gave him the ‘Brake Chute’ instead. The plane

was now going down like an elevator. We were not going forward and were now in the trees. The pilot salvo’ed the Brake Chute, put the throttles in full power and got airborne again. We made a long approach, landing at the end of the runway and were able to stop due to the fact that it was a long runway. The pilot got out of the plane and ordered the co-pilot to remain at the plane and get it refueled. Ed turned to me and said ‘Come with me. I’m going to Base Operations to call the 40th Bomb Wing Commander.’ At each step he yelled ‘That son of a bitch tried to kill me.’ He talked with the Wing Commander and told him that he refused to fly with that co-pilot. He requested he be sent a replacement co-pilot. The 40th commander was able to provide a replacement pilot within four hours. Capt. Zirk requested the co-pilot be brought up on charges and investigated. This took place and the co-pilot’s wings were taken from him; he was grounded.”

After a 22-year Air Force career, USAF Major Ed Conner joined the Central Intelligence Agency and flew missions in Laos with Air America.

Following his missions leading up to the end of the Vietnam War, he continued working for the CIA for a total of 12 years.

“I do not consider myself a hero. I am a survivor. The heroes are the ones who gave their lives for our country.”

Rest in Peace Ed and thank you for your many years of service!



Bud Compton

March 30, 1925 – December 18, 2019

Roy L. “Bud” Compton was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on 30 March 1925. At age 2, his family moved to Winona, Minnesota.

Bud enlisted in the Army Air Corps cadet program 3 March 1943, while at Winona Senior High School. After graduation on 2 June 1943, he was sent to Sheppard Field, Texas for basic training. On 16 July, he was transferred to the college training unit at Utah State University at Logan for a five month upgrade course. Tests

were conducted to determine training required. On 11 August, after passing all requirements, Bud was sent to Santa Anna Air Force Classification Center, where on 2 September, he was selected for pilot training.

After three months of pre-flight schooling, on 6 December he was transferred to Santa Maria for pilot training. After only a month, Bud was sent back at Santa Anna for reassignment, as an aerial gunner, then selected for navigation school at Hondo, Texas.

After completing the navigation course on 24 June 1944, Bud was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. After spending a few days at a Tampa, Florida replacement area, Bud was assigned to a B-17 crew for training at Gulfport, Mississippi. His B-17 training was completed in September 1944 and the crew was sent to Hunter Field in Savannah, Georgia, where a new “G” model B-17 was assigned to them. From there, the crew flew to Italy by way of Newfoundland, the Azores, Morocco, and Tunisia, arriving at the 2nd Bomb Group on 8 October, where they were assigned to the 96th Bomb Squadron.



On Bud’s 9th combat mission, 1 November 1944, over Hungary the aircraft developed mechanical problems, and the pilot ordered the crew to evacuate the aircraft. Five members bailed out. The aircraft was stabilized, and the remaining crew members were able to return to Italy.

After bailing out, Bud was captured near Marcella, Hungary and then taken to Budapest. From there, he was taken to Oberursel, Germany

for interrogation. After interrogation, he was sent to Wetzlar, Stalag Luft III, Sagan (Belaria compound). On 29 January 1945, the camp was evacuated and marched to Stalag 7A, Moosburg, where liberation occurred on 29 April 1945.

Returning to the US via Camp Lucky Strike, France, Bud arrived 12 June 1945 at Fort Dix and was taken by train to Fort Snelling, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On 8 July 1945, Bud married Margaret (Peg) Walker at Sandstone, Minnesota. After a sixty day leave they went to Miami Beach, Florida for reassignment. Many duties and assignments followed: September-November 1945, Miami Beach, Supply Officer; 1946-47 Lackland AFB, TX, Food Service; 1947-48 Eielson AFB, AK, Food Service; 1948-49 Elmendorf AFB, AK, Food Service; 1950 Elmendorf AFB, Navigator; 1950-52 Ellington AFB, TX Nav. Instructor; 1952 Great Falls, MT, Navigator.

In May of 1952, Bud was ordered to B-26 training at Langley Field, Virginia. Although greatly disturbed by the thought of another combat tour, he went, not knowing that former POWs were exempt from this type of action.

Assigned as a navigator to a crew, Bud finished training at Langley and survival school at Stead AFB at Reno, Nevada. Then he was sent by air to Korea, and assigned to the 13th Bomb Squadron of the 3rd Bomb Wing.

After 50 night intruder missions over North Korea were completed between September 1952 and March 17, 1953, and since the “duration plus 6 months” was what Bud’s obligation stated when he was commissioned, and his time was over in April of 1953, he had to either sign up “indefinitely” or be discharged. Having ten years in the military, the choice was made to remain in the USAF.

Decorations include: Air Metal EAME Campaign, WWII Victory, American Campaign, Korean Service, UN Service, Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Good Conduct Medal, AF Reserve Medal, National Defense Service, AFLSAI 3-OLC, Air Force Commendation Medal, and POW Medal w/3 OLC.

After leaving the Air Force, Bud moved to Whidbey Island where he delivered newspapers for 6 months before being employed as a Navigator by Alaska Airlines.

In January 1968, Bud obtained a job as map maker for the Island County Assessor, remapping the county. After 5 years, Bud was appointed the Assessor. He was elected to the office in 1973, 1974 and 1978. In 1978, he was President of the Washington State Assessors Association. In 1982, Bud took advantage of an accelerated retirement plan and retired.

After retirement, Bud pursued his interests in community affairs. In 1982, he became a United Way campaign chairman. He was also active in the Retired Officers Association and the American Ex-Prisoners of War, serving a term as commander of both the local and state organization. In 1978, he became active in Rotary,



and was elected President of the North Whidbey club for 1995-96. Bud was a member of the Masons, Scottish Rite, and the Shrine. When his wife Peg was Worthy Matron of the Tula Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, he served as the patron.

Bud and Peg had four children. Wanda has three children and lives in Pennsylvania; Douglas (Erlinda) have one child and live in Orange, California; Roy Jr. (Jackie) has two children, they live in Lynwood, Washington; and Myra (Stephen) have one child and live in Arlington, Washington. Between them, they had seven children and two grandchildren.

Bud’s interest in history and genealogy kept him busy with collecting family information and storing the information on a computer, along with old pictures being cataloged and copied.

For many years, Bud edited the WAX-POW, a newsletter of the former prisoners of war from Washington State, editing five 10 page issues a year for its 450 members.

After 58 years together, in 2004, Peg passed away.

Bud remained in their home of 40 years on Whidbey Island until 2006, when he married Mary Esther Kelly and moved into her home in Arlington, Washington.

In 2008, Bud restored a 1943 Ford Army Jeep with ex-POW and 13th Bomb Squadron markings.

In February of 2010, Mary Esther suffered a brain aneurysm and passed away the next day.

For many years, Bud was the editor of the INVADER after taking over for Charley Hinton. He attended many of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association’s reunions, attending his final reunion last year in Boise.

Rest in Peace Bud and thank you for your many years of service!



Steve Swanson

Guest Speaker at the 2019 Boise Reunion.

Steven Roy Swanson (born December 3, 1960 in Syracuse, New York) is an American Engineer and a retired NASA astronaut. He is married and has three children. He has received numerous awards and honors. These include the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and the JSC Certificate of Accommodation and many others. Prior to becoming a NASA astronaut, Swanson worked for GTE in Phoenix, Arizona, as a software engineer. Swanson has flown two shuttle flights, STS-117 and STS-119, and one Soyuz flight, TMA-12M. All of the flights were to the International Space Station. He has logged over 195 days in space and completed five spacewalks totaling 28 hours and 5 minutes. Swanson has also served in other roles at NASA, such as a CAPCOM for both International Space Station and Space Shuttle missions.

Swanson joined NASA in 1987 as a systems engineer and a flight engineer working on the Shuttle Training Aircraft. He was selected as an astronaut in May 1998. His first mission was STS-117, which launched June 2007. He was a mission specialist on this flight, also serving



as flight engineer. He also served as a mission specialist and lead spacewalker on STS-119. STS-119 launched March 15, 2009 and landed on March 28, 2009. He launched to the International Space Station as a member of Expedition 39/40 on March 25, 2014 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and returned to Earth on September 11, 2014. NASA announced Swanson's retirement in August 2015, and he currently works with Boise State University as a distinguished educator in residence assisting with programs such as the NASA SUITS Program.

Info courtesy of Wikipedia.org





13th Bomb Squadron Reunion, Boise, Idaho, September 18-22, 2019. Tours of the Warhawk Air Museum, Idaho State Capitol and Basque Village.



13th Bomb Squadron 2019 Reunion, I



ron Association Boise, Idaho



13th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION 2019



Pam & Roger Bauman



Brendan Biscan



Linda & Charles Brietzke



MaryAnn & Bob Butterfield



Myra & Bud Compton



Susan & Tighe Carvey

13th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION 2019



Lou & P.B. Dover



Grayson (Polter) Gist



Ellen & Bill Hamann



Thomas (Topper) Holland



Sheila & Howard Johnson



Norma & Ron Jarrett

13th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION 2019



Jackie & George Knight



Margaret (Maggie) Kinal, Marian & Lloyd Neutz



Don Kasson



Carole & Bob Koehne



Steven O'Briant



Jean & Norris Olson

13th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION 2019



Bob & Myrtle Parks



Michal (Ox) Polidor



Rosalie Pecina



Anthony Roop



Colby Reed

In attendance, but not pictured:

- John Avery,
- Bryan Hall,
- Bill May,
- Carl Renner,
- Ron & Diane Silvia,
- Sean Simpson,
- Geoffrey (Fletch) Steeves,
- Jordan (Swag) Tencati

13th Bomb Squadron Association Executive Board Meeting

Boise, Idaho, 21 September 2019

Members present: President Bob Koehne; Past President Bob Butterfield; Secretary Tighe Carvey; Treasurer Bill Hamann; 1st VP Ron Silvia, 2nd VP Bob Parks, Locator Charlie Breitzke, Korea Era Rep Ron Jarrett, Invited Past Board Members Roger Bauman and Bud Compton.

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

President Bob Koehne determined that a Quorum (4 Officers required) was present. He commented that he had invited several past board members to widen the discussion of the agenda item concerning future reunions.

1. Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the 2018 (Savannah, GA) board meeting were presented for comments and approval. There were no comments.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the INVADER.

M: Bill Hamann, S: Charlie Breitzke
Passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bill Hamann passed out a recap of the financial status of the organization. He noted that the reunion advances for last year stood \$15,000 while they are approximately half of that for this year. Contributions are up \$600. Bill noted that we received one contribution of \$1250, one of \$200, and 36 of \$100. Website costs have increased from \$562 last year to almost double for the current year. Bob Butterfield noted that the website administrator charges \$75/hr. for her work and the difference is due to more updates than normal. Our attempt to remove Charley Brown from our USAA checking account and replace him with current President Bob Koehne has hit a snag. Bill Hamann proposes that he be authorized to open a new account in a bank with branches nationwide. A motion was made to accept the

Treasurer's Report.

M: Tighe Carvey, S: Bob Parks
Passed unanimously.

3. Locator's Report:

Locator Charlie Breitzke reported that he has adjusted the Active Membership down to 385 last year to 370 this year. This accomplished by culling those whose membership cards or "INVADER" magazines are returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. The "Inactive" and "Unknown" lists have been combined and moved to the website. The cost of the directory is estimated at \$3000, although the bill has not been received. A discussion ensued concerning the cost of the directory. It was noted that the directory was formerly printed at least semi-annually. Due to declining membership and rising costs it was decided by acclamation that future printing of the directory be on an "as needed" basis.

A motion was made to accept the Locator's Report.

M: Bob Parks, S: Bill Hamann
Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Advisory Committee:

The advisory committee has no activity to report. President Koehne noted that he has had informal discussions with committee members through the year. Item closed.

Historian:

Don Henderson will not be attending this year's reunion due to a business conflict. The base paper at Whiteman AFB has ceased publication and Don said that he has had no contact with the 13th Squadron history representative. There were photographers at the recent change of command but no information or photographs were submitted to the historian for inclusion in the INVADER. Bob Koehne said that the squadron has appointed an active member to be the point of contact for

providing historical information to the association. He said that he would speak to the squadron commander at this reunion to solicit help in this area. Item Closed.

INVADER:

Don Henderson, the editor of the INVADER, will not be in attendance at this reunion due to a conflict with other business responsibilities.

Website:

As mentioned in the Historian subject area, the updates for the GWOT section have not been received in a timely manner. Bob Butterfield noted that he typically gets information from the historian and other sources three or four times a year, and he passes this information on to the website administrator who formats it properly for the website. Bob is looking for anyone willing to replace him and assume the website duties. He has spoken to several members who may possibly step up and volunteer but, as of yet, no one has committed. Bob Koehne observed that the “G Model” era members are some of the younger retired members and may be more willing to volunteer. Item closed.

New Directory:

Information regarding the publication of the new directory is contained in the “Locator” paragraph above. The new directory has been released with minor errors that have been noted. Item closed.

Merchandise:

Bob Koehne has only a few 13th BS Association challenge coins remaining. They are used as presentations to reunion guests and honorees, as well as to key staff at change of command ceremonies and other official events. Challenge coins are custom made and usually limited to orders of 100 or more. By consensus, the board agreed that the President should reorder 100 coins in the same appearance as the current one. Bob Parks will check on having the coins made by the same company that makes our reunion pins. Ron Jarrett offered a motion to table a discussion about red logo polo shirts until we had more information

on pricing, minimum order quantities, and setup fees.

M: Ron Jarrett, S: Tighe Carvey
Passed unanimously.

New Business:**Nomination of officers:**

2nd Vice President: Ron Silvia agreed to continue in this position if there are no other nominees, but indicated that he would not seek other board positions afterward.

Secretary: Tighe Carvey has expressed an interest in continuing as Secretary through the San Antonio reunion in 2020. Since no other members have expressed an interest in running for the position of Secretary, Tighe has agreed to having his name entered into nomination, with the observation that he may resign after the San Antonio Reunion.

The “Era” representatives are not formally nominated and elected, rather they are selected by their contemporaries to serve positions on the board. The WWII Rep, Ed Connor, is in declining health and unable to attend this reunion. Bob Koehne asked if Bud Compton, who served in WWII but not with the 13th BS, until the Korean war, would assist and represent the WWII era. Bob Butterfield had expected that Dave Clark the current Vietnam Era Rep will agree to continue in that position, but had been unable to contact Dave.

M: Tighe Carvey, S: Ron Jarrett
Passed unanimously.

Reunion: Bob Parks covered plans for the 2020 reunion which will be held in San Antonio, TX from Sept 30, 2020 through Oct 4, 2020. He has contracted for the Holiday Inn at a rate of \$109/night which includes free parking and free breakfast for two. The phone number for the hotel is 210-200-9005. All audio and meeting room facilities are included. The location is near the River Walk area and offers many things to see and do. He is planning an optional trip to Fredericksburg, TX to visit the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Bill Hamann said he has been asked to research options for holding the 2021 reunion in the Orlando, FL area. He and Ellen have investigated four possible options and have concluded that it would be prudent to stay away from properties on or adjacent to Disney/Universal developments.

Option one: Reunion at an area hotel with the schedule one day shorter than the current plan. Members could visit local attractions if they wish before or after the reunion.

Option two: Two nights in an Orlando hotel with a welcome reception the first night and a Red Shirt dinner on the second night. This would be followed by a three or four-day cruise from Port Canaveral.

Option three: One night in an Orlando hotel with a welcome reception and then continuing on to a three or four-day cruise with a Red Shirt dinner

aboard the cruise.

Option four: Cruise only. From Port Canaveral or possibly Fort Lauderdale or Miami for a four-day cruise.

Each of the options has advantages and disadvantages. Options one and two are the only one that would attract any active duty 13th BS members, and the cruise options could become more expensive for attendees bringing additional family members with them.

Due to a time conflict with another scheduled reunion event, Bob Koehne moved that we table the final agenda item concerning future reunion venues until the General Membership Meeting.

M: Bob Koehne, S: Tighe Carvey

Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05.

13th Bomb Squadron Association General Membership Meeting

Boise, Idaho, 21 September 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. President Bob Koehne determined that there are 18 members present and the requirements for a quorum (one half of attendees plus one, or thirteen, whichever is less) have been met.

He introduced Lt. Col. Michal Polidor, the current 13th Bomb Squadron Commander. Bob mentioned that in recent memory, this was the first time we have had the current commander in attendance at our General Membership meeting.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Tighe Carvey noted that the minutes of the 2018 General Membership meeting were published in the Winter edition of the INVADER. He called for any changes or amendments, and hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published.

M: Don Kasson, S: Bill Hamann

Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bill Hamann distributed copies of the association's balance sheet and observed that the financial condition of the Association continued to remain strong. We have \$21,500 in our checking account which includes \$7,575 in member payments for reunion activities. That amount is reported separately as it is essentially a pass through to the transportation, dining, and hotel activities at the reunion. The Savings account stands at \$28,500. Not reflected in the current balances is the expected bill of approximately \$3000 for the new directory which has just been published. Bill noted that over 50% of our members contribute more than the suggested \$35 annual membership contribution. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report.

M: Bob Parks, S: Bob Butterfield

Passed unanimously.

Locator's Report:

Locator Charley Breitzke noted that our active membership is down to 370 which represents about a 10% reduction from three years ago. The members discussed the various factors for the declining membership numbers and the general consensus was that we shouldn't expect an increase at least until B-2 squadron members begin to retire in significant numbers. A motion was made to accept the Locators report.

M: Bill Hamann, S: Tighe Carvey
Passed unanimously.

Old Business:**Historian:**

Don Henderson is not in attendance due to a conflict with his other business interests. Bob Koehne mentioned that the Whiteman AFB newspaper, "The Warrior" has ceased publication. In the past we have relied on "The Warrior" for photos and general interest information. Lt. Col. Polidor pointed out that much of that content can now be found on the web at www.whiteman.af.mil and also on Facebook. Item closed.

INVADER Schedule:

There has been a little variance in the publication schedule recently. The reasons are several and include timely submission of articles and other workload demands. We agree that the INVADER is a quality publication published on premium paper in color with 24 pages in each issue. No one else in the organization has the skill or capabilities that Don Henderson offers, so we agree that as long as we publish three times a year we should not be overly concerned about specific publication date. Item closed.

Website Report:

Bob Butterfield reported that the increased cost for the website is due to hourly charges from the website curator. Her rate has not increased but the amount of time spent updating our site was higher this year. The goal is to update the site at least quarterly. Bob said that he is looking to be replaced as website manager and is seeking

volunteers. Item closed.

New Directory:

Charlie Brietzke said that the new directory is in the mail. Some members have received them before leaving for the reunion. Charlie noted the changes to the directory which were done to make the directory smaller and reduce costs. In the distant past, the directory was published every year. That has changed to every second year. Recently it has been five years since we last published a directory. At the board meeting it was decided that future printing of the directory would be on an "as needed" basis. Item closed.

Merchandise:

Bob Koehne briefed the members that the board of directors had authorized the purchase of a replacement stock of 13th Bomb Squadron Association challenge coins. The coins are given to or traded with guests, reunion speakers, dignitaries, and offered for sale to association members. Bob Parks asked about making a high-quality polo shirt available for purchase. The problem is that there is a large minimum order requirement that would probably exceed our expected needs. Lt. Col. Polidor said that the Squadron has shirts and other merchandise available and that squadron members would be bringing some of that merchandise to the reunion. Item closed.

New Business:**Election of Officers:**

The positions of 1st VP, Secretary, WWII Rep, and Vietnam Rep are due to be voted on at this meeting. There have been no nominations for these positions and no one volunteered at this meeting. The incumbents of the officer positions, 1st VP Ron Silvia and Secretary Tighe Carvey have agreed to stand for another term. Ed Connor, the WWII Rep is not in attendance at this reunion. Bob Koehne has asked Bud Compton to assist with this position. Bud served with the 2nd Bomb Group in WWII. Dave Clark, the Vietnam Rep is not in Attendance at the reunion, and

we have been unable to contact him to see if he interested in continuing. There was a discussion about the need for Era Representatives now that membership is not large. Bob Koehne said he would favor keeping the current arrangement so that the voting members of the board would be greater than just the five officers. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers and representatives as presented by the board.

M: Bob Parks, S: Bill Hamann

Passed unanimously.

2020 Reunion:

Bob Parks announced that the 2020 reunion will be in San Antonio, TX from 30 Sept through 4 Oct. The reunion hotel will be the Holiday Inn, Market Square. The group room rate is \$109/night which includes free parking, free breakfast for two, and all audio/visual needs, as well as meeting rooms as necessary. Bob and Myrtle Parks are still working on details, but possible activities include the nearby Riverwalk, a Lackland Graduation with a possible B-2 flyover, and a trip to Fredericksburg, TX with a visit to the Museum of the Pacific. Item closed.

2021 Reunion:

With the retirement of Bob Parks from the reunion planning function, and more importantly, with no one volunteering to assume those duties, the Association faces a dilemma. Our reunions are no longer large enough to allow us to hire a commercial reunion planner and with no internal planner it appears that we will either have to agree to meet informally without speakers, dinners, and tours; or we will have to sign up as a group for an ocean cruise, a river cruise, or an all-inclusive land tour. Bill Hamann has briefed the board on findings he and Ellen learned about 3 and 4-day ocean cruises from Port Canaveral or the Miami and Fort Lauderdale area. Lt. Col. Polidor noted that active members would be unable to participate in cruises or tours, but if there was a gathering in a hotel the night prior to the cruise/tour departure they would be able to participate in

that. Bob Koehne observed that members flying in from the West Coast would probably have to arrive one day prior to departure anyway so the best option would be to have a one night gathering in a hotel followed by a short cruise the next day. There was general consensus that we should have a pre-organized venue for future reunions. Bob Koehne will attempt to rally members with expertise in dealing with cruise lines to come up with a viable offering. Item open.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

M: Charlie Breitzke, S: Bob Butterfield

Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.



The INVADER is the official newsletter of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association, a Non-profit organization. The INVADER is published three times yearly for the benefit of the Association members. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association or of the Department of the Air Force.

*Members of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association must maintain contact with the Association or "after two years of not communicating with the association, a member will no longer receive the INVADER or the Directory".

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The INVADER masthead displays the principal combat aircraft of the 13th Squadron since its initial activation in 1917.
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Cover photo: Looking down Capitol Blvd at the state capitol building in Boise, Idaho, host city for the 13th bomb Squadron Association's 2019 reunion, photo by Bob Koehne.

THE HOT SEAT

Editor's Comments

I know I've mentioned this before, but I'll say it again. When I was first asked to be editor of the INVADER, I wasn't fully prepared to step into such big shoes. I also wasn't prepared to deal with the emotional side of this job. The loss of any member of this organization has had a profound effect on me. Over the years that I have been working for the 13th Bomb Squadron Association, I have met so many wonderful people who have left a long-lasting impression on both me and my artwork. So many have become my friends. The camaraderie, the respect, and the friendship that all of you have shown to me and my family means so much to me. I've treasured each friendship I have made, from the stories you have shared, to your history, your photos, the shoulder patches and the memorabilia, it has all entertained me, fascinated me and inspired me. I could not do this job without that inspiration. That inspiration challenges me to make each issue of the INVADER special for you as we attempt to tell the long and fabled history of the 13th Bomb Squadron. Each issue takes months of planning and gathering of information from multiple and varied sources. Sometimes I'm working from absolutely nothing and then magically, as if the generations of past Reapers open the channels, a theme emerges and the issue comes together. Traditionally, the last issue of each volume is consumed with reporting the reunion, so I know at least what 6 to 8 pages are going to be and of course the centerfold of reunion photo highlights takes another 2 pages. Then there is the President's Corner, usually 1 to 2 pages and the new column by our Locator that is usually 1/2 a page to a full page. Along with the Locator Radar, there is the emotional part of each issue, the part I have the most difficulty with. In Memoriam we honor those who have flown west. Sometimes this is a brief list with only a few names. Sad as each passing is, I'm always thankful when there are only a few names on that list. I don't think there has ever been an issue of the INVADER where we didn't have an In Memoriam list, but I'm always hopeful that there will be no list. There have been times when, sadly, the In Memoriam list is a whole page. This part of the job I hadn't really considered. Each name represents a life lived beyond one's service in the 13th Bomb Squadron. A priest at a recent

family member's funeral, who had lived nearly 100 years, talked about the dates. There is a beginning date, a dash and an end date. The dates are significant, they mark a starting point and an ending point, but what is most significant is the "Dash in Between"! That "—" represents our lives, who we are, what we've done, our mark in life. This organization has had many members who have filled that "dash" to its fullest and beyond. For all of you, your service in the 13th Bomb Squadron marks a significant part of that "dash" or you wouldn't be reading this. There are 3 names on the In Memoriam list this issue that hit me pretty hard because I had developed a friendship with each of them. This issue is about their "dashes".

Dave Clark was always one of the people I liked to be around at the reunions. Together with his wife Nancy, they both kept Shane and I entertained with their stories and dry sense of humor. When I first met Dave, he introduced himself as "Turd Ferguson", from then on I always referred to Dave and Nancy as Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson.

Bud Compton and I had several things in common, but the thing we seemed to talk about the most was Jeeps. Because of my uncle, Bud and I also talked a lot about the B-17 and WWII. When I first took over as editor, Bud did everything he could to get me off to a good start and for that, I am eternally grateful. Bud's guidance was priceless.

I met Ed Connor at one of the reunions, I think at Hampton Roads. I received several phone calls from Ed after becoming editor. Our conversations were always interesting. He surely epitomized the term, "Been there, done that". He really was an amazing guy whose service went well beyond his service in WWII with the 13th, but his love for this squadron was something that I believe defined him much more so than anything he did afterwards in his career. Dave Clark, or should I say Mr. Ferguson, Bud Compton and Ed Connor will be missed. I can't thank them enough for their friendship, their history and their inspiration. I'm a better person for having known the three of you. Rest in Peace my friends.



Don Henderson, Editor

Don



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13th Bomb Squadron Association 2019 Reunion

Members of the 13th Bomb Squadron Association with members of the active 13th bomb Squadron from Whiteman AFB in attendance at the 2019 Reunion in Boise, Idaho, September 18-22, 2019.