



## Santa Fe, Here we come!



Hello 307th BG Veterans,  
Family Members and Friends!

We're just too excited to wait till the end of this newsletter to talk about our upcoming Reunion and Official Members' Meeting in the Crown of the Southwest; Santa Fe, New Mexico. Better known by its more popular name, "The City Different".

Your executive team has been working together with Beth Kendall, our host in Santa Fe, to package one of the best trips ever. Our first agenda was to find the hotel that would appreciate our business and welcome our eccentricities.

We're happy to announce that we have found just that. Along with the support of the Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau, we will be staying in the newest "landmark" hotel in Santa Fe. The Drury Plaza Hotel Santa Fe! The "City Different" sure has a way to make folks welcome. (details are inside)

### Drury Plaza Hotel Santa Fe

226 Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
[www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)  
800-378-7946

**Registration Deadline: April 15th, 2014**

**Reunion Dates: September 17 thru 21, 2014**

**Please call the Hotel to make your reservation as early as possible.  
We will need to confirm our total group numbers by the end of April.**

**Be sure to mention the 307th Bomb Group.**



## Join us in Santa Fe!

### For our 2014 Reunion and Members Meeting

**Big Reminder here.** We absolutely need to have your reservation confirmed with the Hotel no later than April 15. We have been offered a deeply reduced rate and a load of freebies, provided we can have all our reservations in by April 15, 2014. Please help us to meet our quota, as our room rate may increase if we are below our expectations. Leveraging an early reservation date, we were able to arrange for an exciting list of Low cost or Free services during our stay!

#### **This is what free tastes like in Santa Fe!**

Wake up each morning to a FREE HOT QUIKSTART<sup>®</sup> Breakfast – At the Drury, “hot” means fresh pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage and more.

FREE 5:30 KICKBACK<sup>®</sup> – From 5:30-7:00 pm each evening, kick back, relax and enjoy a rotating menu of hot foods cold beverages and 3 bar drinks. Yes FREE!

FREE Long Distance outbound calls for one for hour every room every night.

FREE Wireless Internet Access – High speed Internet in all rooms and the lobby.

FREE Soda and Popcorn – From 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm every night in the lobby.

We'll pitch in to put together a bar in our “private” Hospitality Suite.

FREE admission to the [Bataan Memorial](#) and the [Bradbury Museum in Los Alamos](#).

And our Room Rate is a mere \$109 per night (single or double occupancy)

Just for fun, the link below will take you to a 1943 Air Corps training film that is particularly interesting to those of us with a special connection to the fliers who went to war in the B-24. If you have 17 minutes to spare, it's a wonderful reminder of the days when we trained aircrew by the tens of thousands -- annually.

Entitled "24s Get Back," its primary focus is on how to land a four engine aircraft when you don't have the full use of your engines, landing gear or other necessary equipment. I suspect that one of the factors influencing the script was the lingering reputation of the B-24 as an aircraft that had superior performance to the the B-17, but less survivability when damaged.

<https://archive.org/details/TF1-3743>

Enjoy! Compliments of John Poggi



## Join us in Santa Fe!

### For our 2014 Reunion and Members' Meeting

**THE GOOD NEWS:** There are several economic options for transfers to and from the Albuquerque airport to Santa Fe; from an economy, yet scenic **train ride** with shuttle service to and from the train to a **private shuttle** or a **shared ride**. We'll be providing reservation information to you as soon as we receive your registration forms.

We've all been busy preparing for this exciting trip and we look forward to seeing as many 307th members as possible.

The hotel is just perfect and it's only one block away from all the action of Santa Fe. It's going to be fun! There's even talk (not confirmed yet) that we may even have a private pow wow with a few veterans or prodigy of the True Code Whisperers—[the Navajo Code Talkers](#).

[Click HERE to download and print the \[mail-in\] Paper Registration Form](#)

[Click HERE to open the On-Line Registration Form](#)

(If the links above don't work for you, please use the links in the body text of the email)

See you there!



## **Santa Fe Itinerary**

**Arrival day:** Wednesday, September 17th, 2014

Registration

Check-in

Hugs, Kisses

Enjoy the property and get captured by the excitement of the “Plaza”

**Day 2:** Thursday, September 18th, 2014

Breakfast (on the house)

Wheels up 1030Hrs. Return 1430Hrs

[The Bataan Memorial](#)

Admission (FREE)

Box Lunch & Beverage (your selection)

Thursday afternoon

Make your way to the Plaza and mingle in with unique Southwestern hospitality, enjoy “The City Different!”

Thursday Evening

Make your way to the private Hospitality Suite to solve the mysteries of the world over a drink or two.

(MORE)





## Santa Fe Itinerary

### Day 3: Friday, September 19th, 2014

Breakfast (on the house)

Wheels up 0930Hrs. Return 1430Hrs

[The Bradbury Museum](#)

Admission (FREE)

Box Lunch & Beverage (your selection)

Friday afternoon and Evening

Catch up on what you missed on the Plaza; See Loretto Chapel and the Palace of the Governors, a 17th century Santa Fe landmark.

Yes, the private Hospitality Suite is still open.

### Day 4: Saturday, September 19th, 2014

Take a day to enjoy the city and the side tours

3:30PM Members' Meeting, roll call, business matters, elections.

Saturday Evening

The 307th BG Reunion Banquet (Cash Bar)

The Long Rangers' Show

### Day 5: Farewell / Departures



# Historian's Corner

Hello 307<sup>th</sup> BG Members:

If you have any questions about your or your loved ones military records with the 307th BG, let me help you find the details that will make your search complete. I may be reached through the website or directly at [307thbg@comcast.net](mailto:307thbg@comcast.net) or by phone: [\(804\)277-8014](tel:8042778014).

## Recent Communications:

From: Ken Holmes

To: Don Calarco:

Dec 26, 2013

Don,

Thanks for much for the calls and the great conversation. Lots of feelings go into these re-connects and it's worth it to proverbially "not forget". It's a big part of each family's not so distant history. Look forward to getting together sometime and hearing from Jim McCabe. Also, ahead of time, serious thanks for taking the reins and saving the whole group for the future.

Sincerely,

Ken Holmes

Son: Sgt. James C. Holmes, Tulsa, OK, 307th, 424th Sq.

-----  
Ken,

I'm forwarding this email to Jim McCabe, our historian. I enjoyed our conversation and I look forward to meeting you. Jim can answer any questions you might have about the 307<sup>th</sup> BG and he may be able to dig out some information on your dad. Thanks again.

Don

---

(continued)



From: Jim McCabe  
To Ken Holmes  
Jan. 9, 2014

Do you know if your father's pilot was Youngmark and was your mother's name Maryjane?

Jim

---

From Ken Holmes:

Thank you so much for responding. Yes, my mother's name is Maryjane, she's 87 in Schaumburg, IL. And I believe Youngmark was the pilot. The one crew member I remember them exchanging Xmas cards with until about 5 years ago was Ted Stevens I think. She did tell me they went to one reunion in Ohio, I think, when the 307th plaque was installed there. I am getting his "box" with the mementos and see what is in there. I recall a mission list from spring 44 to spring 45 and other things long ago.

Thank you so much. What you do brings so much genuinely important joy, memories, and keeping alive for the next generation involvement.....that no one else can do....a unique knowledge set where people simply would not know where to turn and it would just disappear.

I'll get his serial number if you don't have it somewhere. I would really love to know as much as possible about the 424th at that time. I would think Presidential citations, Balikpapan and longest unescorted run, would be when he was there, but I am not sure. Sorry for the long note. Excited to have someone that can relate and knows the information. I'll make the reunion with his grandson, the pilot. Thanks so much. Everyone probably buries you with requests, but I appreciate your efforts and would like to know whatever we can get or where I should go to get it. My mom couldn't believe that you returned my email asking about Youngmark and "Maryjane".

Sincerely,  
Ken Holmes

-----  
Greetings Ken!

It is our pleasure to welcome you, Maryjane, and your family back to your 307th BG family. The father's of our entire executive staff all served with and/or flew missions with your father from Morotai, so your father is especially dear to us in that he had the backs of our own dad's on the many treacherous missions flown from Morotai from 1944-45.

President-Don Calarco: Father-Dominic Calarco, Nosegunner, 424th BS, Pilot-Weisleder

Vice Pres-Christine Hoover: Father Ray Pruett, Ball Turret Operator, 370th BS, Pilot -Reamy

Secretary-Jim Walsh: Father: James Walsh, Ground Crew Refueler, 371st BS

Historian-Jim McCabe: Father: Michael McCabe, Navigator, 424th BS, Pilot-McCullough

Yes, it is time for the grandchildren to embrace their grandfather's military history as it is indeed a storied one for which they should feel most proud. Like ourselves and our extended family members, you and your family members are blessed to be walking this earth, courtesy of the skill and heart of Staff Sgt. James C. Holmes, his crew, the men who flew with him and the ground crews who supported their efforts. Fully informing you of your father's military service is a process which will take some time as there is much to share.

(continued)



For every question we answer, you will have many more. I will be able to provide you your father's Mission Plans, Mission Reports, photographs, videos of some of his combat missions, and we will secure any medals he did not receive from the Department of Defense free of charge. You are correct that in addition to his other commendations, he is entitled to the Philippine Liberation Medal. We also need the support of you and your family members as we operate through the modest dues of our 307th BG Assoc. members. I hope to meet you and family members at our reunion this coming Sept. in Santa Fe, NM. It would provide you and yours the opportunity to meet and speak with men who flew missions with your father.

This is the website for our association, <http://www.307bg.net> . There is a link on the bottom/left, "Join Us and Renew". I hope you and many family members will choose to join us in preserving the memory of our veterans. There is also a link for our PX. Through this link I would recommend you purchase copies of both books, Up the Slot by Sam Walker and The Long Rangers A Diary of the 307th Bombardment Group (H). They are both modestly priced and detail many of the missions flown by your father. I hope you will forward this email to all of your family members so we can begin this process in earnest. You should be prepared to laugh, cry and swell with pride as you learn the details of your father's military service with the 307th Bombardment Group (H). Staff Sgt. James C. Holmes, Waist Gunner/Radio Operator, 307th Bombardment Group, 424th Bombardment Squadron, Youngmark Crew, was a Long Ranger!

Sincerely,

Jim McCabe, Historian  
307th BG Assoc.  
[www.307bg.net](http://www.307bg.net)  
[james-mccabe@comcast.net](mailto:james-mccabe@comcast.net)  
[804-277-8014](tel:804-277-8014)

-----  
Jan. 10, 2014

From Ken Holmes:

Re: Staff Sgt. James C. Holmes, Waist Gunner/Radio Operator, 307th Bombardment Group, 424th Bombardment Squadron, Youngmark Crew

My dad had this picture. The story way back when was that after an aborted bomb run due to visibility and cloud cover, they saw an opening in the clouds before dumping their bombs, and all of a sudden see this huge task force, the Jap task force. One guy yelled, "Look at the size of that ship!"....of course the Yamato. I asked if they bombed it. He said they tried, but were amazed at the incredible evasive turning radius for a gigantic ship like that. He showed me the picture which I didn't know if he took it, or someone on his crew took it or someone in the 307th took it. Years later at some Savings and Loan Convention, he met some S&L guys from Japan. One of them had been on the Yamato when it happened and remembered it as they were so surprised. Unbelievable. So again, I don't know the facts....but I have always had this picture. Looking at old blogs about 307th, 424th, I saw a James McClellan or something like that, in 2008, post a question about this picture. So I suppose it was distributed to a bunch of the crews as a memento.

(continued)





It is attached.

[http://web.mail.comcast.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en\\_US&id=293768&part=2](http://web.mail.comcast.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=293768&part=2)

Ken Holmes

-----  
Ken,

The attempt to sink the Yamato alone would have been enough for your father to suffer PTSD. Your father's and the few other crews knew what it would mean to take the Yamato out. She had nine 18.1 inch guns, considerably larger than our battleships which had 16 inch guns. The B-24's that survived this attempt had hundreds of holes in them. This was one of many missions that your father and his crew survived against incredible odds. The men did not discuss it much. They almost got her. A few of the bombs bracketed her so closely it left only half-moon shaped bomb bursts in the water next to her. It was reported that the Yamato was damaged and at reduced speed after this attack. Our Navy caught up with her later sinking the Yamato with most of her crew.

Check out the log for 26 October 1944 in this link:

<http://www.combinedfleet.com/yamato.htm>

And this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGy5ApynvBw>

All the best,

Jim

-----  
Thanks. I'll be joining shortly from the website. The best investment I could make. My mother couldn't believe your email. It was great. My father didn't go to many reunions. He had a lot of emotional memories that were hard for him. I can't wait to meet all of you. Also, is there a list of members by State or City?

Thanks  
Ken Holmes



## Another thought!

As you may know, the 307th Bombardment Group made a significant and historic decision to present a collection of personal war memorabilia to the Indiana War Museum during our Indianapolis Reunion Trip.

The significance of the presentation, although heart warming and emotional for many in attendance, was a display of our pride, honor and love for our veteran heroes of the 307th.

These items consisted of personal memorabilia that was contributed to the 307th BG to include in our inventory as assets and resources of the history surrounding the missions and events experienced during this ungodly war.

It is with great pride and confidence that we now, once again ask for your participation in a renewed program to catalog and store as much personal memorabilia from our veteran members as possible.

Whether or not your veteran has passed on or is still an active member of our beloved association, please help us, if you can.

Much of the material brought home by our veterans are either stored in a safe-keeping location, already divided among family members or stuffed in an old foot locker avoiding dust.

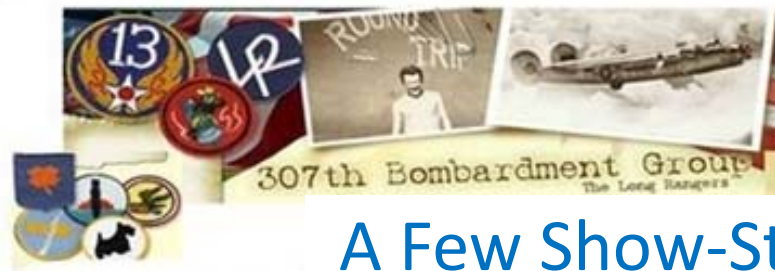
These items are the heart and soul of what helps us to sustain the memories of the heroes in our lives.

Please put aside a day to go through these materials and package them up and send them to us for cataloguing and storage. We will photograph each item and assign a catalog number for reference and store them for safe keeping and future display. Medals, Silk Maps, Over-sized Patches, Letters, Mission Reports, Norton Bomb Sights, Sextants, Leather jackets and bags in good condition and Old Military Photos are just a few of the most treasured items.

Once you have made your selections and accompanied inventory list or 307th storage, please contact Jim McCabe and he will forward shipping instructions.

Jim McCabe

[james-mccabe@comcast.net](mailto:james-mccabe@comcast.net)



## A Few Show-Stoppers!

This year, we will once again, spotlight a few of our most precious Veterans and have an opportunity to hear some great stories. The Long Rangers' Show, hosted by our prestigious and most knowledgeable Historian, Mr. Jim McCabe will be taped for our archives following dinner, Saturday night.

If you were in Indianapolis you may remember us hinting at testing a 307thBG "Skype Account". Well , with some help from his grandson and about fifteen minutes invested, Uncle Jack Palmer, your parliamentarian and Don Calarco, your president tested the 307thBG SkypeLine and it was an incredible success, easy and fun. 307thBG SkypeLine Schedule is coming soon. And Oh! The 307thBG SkypeLine will be open intermittently during the entire Reunion and the Members' Meeting, scheduled for Friday afternoon. Remember, this is an official meeting that requires a quorum to elect and appoint officers.



## Visit the new PX Store

**There are a few new items posted in the new 307th Bombardment Group PX Store**  
Log on to the 307th BG website at [ [307bg.net](http://307bg.net) ] and click on **PX Store!**

Here you can browse our collection of 307th Bombardment Group memorabilia like books, hats, jackets, pins, patches, bumper stickers and special services for members and guests.

PS: If you haven't done it already, please renew your membership for 2014, your support keeps our organization running.



# Final Flight

As is our custom and our honor, we pay our sincere respects to the families and crew members of the 307th Bombardment Group who have taken their final flight since our last gathering. They will always be with us!

**Harry Bryson, of the 370th**, nose gunner of Pistol Pakin Mama, with the Elvin Reamey crew.  
Passed away on January 1, 2014, at the age of 94.

**Claude E. Jordan Sr.**  
Korean Air Force veteran and former president of the 307th BG. Father of our former Secretary Cathy Daniel.  
Passed away January 28th, 2014.

**John G. McLoraine**, Navigator  
Passed away December 16, 2013.

## Belated

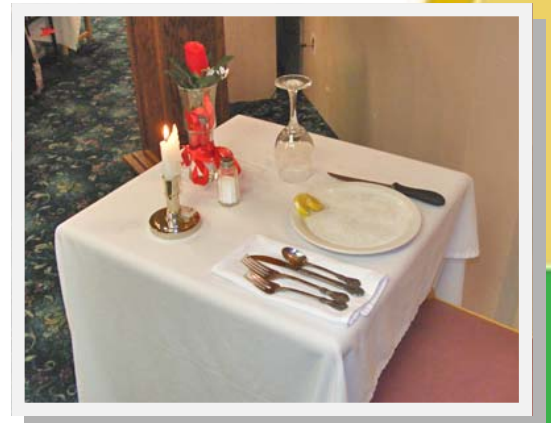
**Ruth Cotter**, dear wife of Murray Cotter, Bombardier with the Weisleder crew  
Ruth passed away on June 15, 2013.

**Pilot John Edward Rodwick** 307th BG/424th Sqdn.  
Passed away January 2007.

**William Manley**, of the 307<sup>th</sup>  
Passed away July 29, 2012.

**William G (Bill) Dodd** 424th Squadron  
Passed away on October 16th, 2012.

**Rock Daigle** ball-turret gunner  
Passed away April 19, 2011.





# Welcome to:

## The 307th BG Skype-Line

Please do your very best to join us in Santa Fe!

But, for any reason, if you or a member of your family are unable to make the trip this year, please do the next best thing. Set them up on the 307th BG Skype Line and allow them to join in on some of the activities.

There will be a schedule published to let you know when to log in and join in the fun.

It's not nearly as difficult to do than it looks, but you might want to ask a 13 yr old to help set up a computer, laptop or tablet PC.

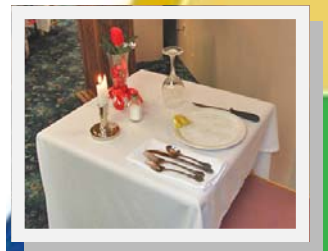
### Here's what you'll need

1. A desktop computer, laptop or a tablet PC .
2. A web-camera (Some laptops and tablets have built in cameras)
3. A pair of headphones with a microphone (Just like a radio operator)
4. A comfortable chair or a few extra pillows

The Setup is easy (here's where you will need a computer savvy 13 yr old)

1. Type into the URL field : <https://login.skype.com/account/signup-form>
2. Sign up for a personal Skype account and complete the entire process.
3. Add a contact: LongRangers307
4. Send your Skype name to [orders307@americanmktg.com](mailto:orders307@americanmktg.com)

We'll take it from there and send an email to all who responded with a link to a schedule and instructions for joining the reunion remotely!







The following pages contain an invitation from the  
**307th Bomb Wing**

It is very short notice, but we have been invited to participate in the 307th Combined Bomber/Tanker Reunion 24 to 28 April 2014.

Jim McCabe, our Historian will be attending along with any interested 307th BG members in addition to 307th veterans from WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam and Current Day join us in this reunion.

Special Guests: The Thunderbirds

See you soon!  
307th Executive Team

**Special January 2014 NewsLetter concerning the 307th Combined Bomber/Tanker Reunion 24 to 28 April 2014. We are delighted to have the 307th members from WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam and Current Day join us in this reunion. This is Fantastic and we welcome all with open arms.**

**Hooray, the Thunderbirds are coming to our Reunion !!!**

This short letter is to give you a more complete rundown on Barksdale. Timing, Activity and Cost. You **NEED** to arrive Thursday 24 April 2014 , as we will start activities early Friday.

**Thursday 24 April** - Check in to the hotel, register at the reunion desk and visit. Hospitality Room Open 1600-2100 with CASH BAR

**Friday 25 April** - 0900 - Busses will start loading for the Global Strike Museum, formerly the 8th AF Museum, they have a B-17, B-24, B-29, B-47, KC- 97 & B-52 on display.

0930 to 1000. Busses continue until all are at the Museum.

1100 -1300 Buffet at the Barksdale Club (Former Officers Club) which is across the street from the Museum. This is included in your registration fee.

1300 - Busses will again shuttle until all are at the 307th BW AFRC, where Tours and Briefings will take place, we might even get on a B-52 ???

1600 - Busses, again a shuttling return to Diamond Jack's.

1700-1900 ICE BREAKER in the Hospitality Room – Provisions by the 307TH BW AFRC. CASH BAR. Hospitality/Memorabilia Open to 2100.

## **Saturday 26 April**

UNIT PICTURES will be taken immediately after the Business Meeting. There is free time this afternoon, maybe a little wandering. We are no more than 10 minutes from what is known as The Boardwalk, near the Red River, interesting shops and restaurants in the area. We are arranging a Mini-Bus to carry you to and from between 1130 – 1520. DO NOT MISS the LAST BUS at 1520.

**Time to get dressed up, couples photos and banquet are ahead!!!**

1630-1800. Couples Photos and Order a Reunion Book if you'd like for \$ 35.00

1730-1845. Cocktail Hour - CASH BAR (1700 – 2100). Hospitality/  
Memorabilia Open 1100 - 2100

1900-2100. BANQUET

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NV MEEKS TROPHY Presented to 307th BW AFRC

POW/MIA CEREMONY

BLESSING

DINNER

SPEAKER TBD

**Sunday 27 APRIL.** 0930- Busses to the THUNDERBIRDS AIR SHOW. We are to have a SPECIAL AREA for us. There will be 30 Minute Shuttles until all are in place. LUNCH will be as you can ( venders ). 1430 - (guessing ) Busses will return us to DIA-MOND JACK'S in shuttles.

Hospitality / Memorabilia OPEN 1300 – 1900 ( NO BAR )

This will conclude our 2014 Reunion - Good Health and GOD SPEED till next time ???

**Monday 28 April.** SAFE TRAVEL HOME

**We suggest Hotel reservations be made as soon as possible.**

**But, No Later than 1 April 2014 Reunion 24-28 April**

**Diamond Jack's Casino Resort**

**\$99 + Tax**

**Booking Name 307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing**

**Code if Needed S07BWIN**

**Toll Free 1-866-552-9629**

**Good idea to also Complete Airline and Car Plans**

**See You At The Reunion**

**Direct Questions to Tony Minnick 402-423-6848 or 402-430-7206**

**E Mail [tonym@inebraska](mailto:tonym@inebraska).**

# 307<sup>th</sup> Combined Bomber/Tanker Association

## Reunion Registration Form

April 24-28, 2014

**\*\* Registration Form Must Be Received NLT April 1, 2014 \*\***

**\*\*\* Reunion Registration Fee is Mandatory \*\*\***

Registration Fee (all) # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Exception – Local 307<sup>th</sup> BW AFRC Members \$ \_00\_

Saturday Banquet Dinner Choice

Seared Atlantic Salmon # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 42 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Breast of Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 35 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To:**

**307<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing Assoc.**

**Additional: To Help W/Our Planning**

Mail To: Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ ETA \_\_\_\_\_

Tony Minnick Please Circle By: Train Plane Car

5920 Robin Ct Handicapped: Cane Walker Wheel/Chair

Lincoln, NE 68516-2364 Staying: At Diamond Jack's or Other

Please PRINT your name's as you want them on your name tags !!!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron's \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Nicknames: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_