

February 2015

New Orleans is in our sites!

Hello 307th BG Veterans, Family Members and Friends!

And a very special welcome to our new members, couples members and family members.

Welcome to the family!



It's hard to believe that the first month of the year is already gone. Time really

flies when you're having fun! You can be sure that your executive team is having a ball preparing for our 2015 Family Reunion in New Orleans. We hope you are looking forward to it. We sure are! Family and friends welcome.

Just a few notes this month to keep everyone up to date!

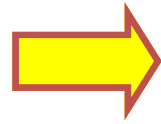
First and foremost, please double check to assure that your 2015 membership dues are paid. There is a section in the New Orleans Reunion Registration Form, to add your dues to the registration order, or you can go directly to the Membership/Renewal Page at http://www.shop.307bg.net/Membership_c4.htm

Thanks for your continued support.

INSIDE:

Ed DeVos, author of *The Stain: Crisis in Conscience*, will be in attendance in New Orleans and will talk about his latest release, *The Chaplain's Cross!*





Don't wait for the mad rush!
We have an Early Registration
Deadline of March 15, 2015

New Orleans is one of the
most popular cities in the U.S.
and hotel rooms are always at a premium.

You can book your room NOW and your credit
card will not be charged until departure day!

You will not want to miss this trip!

Drury Inn & Suites **New Orleans**

820 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

[Drury Website - Driving Directions & Map](#)

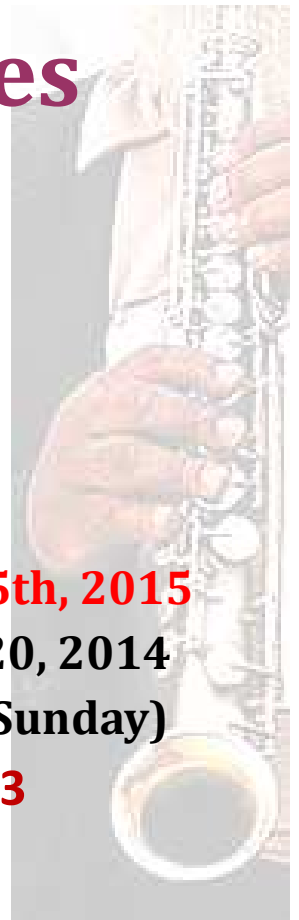
Call Now - 504-529-7800

Early Registration Deadline: March 15th, 2015

Reunion Dates: September 16 thru 20, 2014
(Wednesday thru Saturday - Depart Sunday)

Our Group Number is: 2230673

307th Bomb Group



Who is Jim Hough?

And why is he tinkering around behind the scenes in the 307th Website?



Well, the fact is, if we didn't mention it you may never have known.

Jim Hough was briefly mentioned in our November '14 newsletter. A veteran himself, Jim Entered the Navy in January 1966 at Great Lakes Training Center, transferred to Millington NAS Tennessee for reciprocating jet engine and helicopter schools, assigned to Heltraron 8, Ellyson Field Pensacola, Florida. After two weeks he entered air crewman school.

Jim researched the Pacific Theater of Operations for over 20 years. He ran across a reference to the 307th Bomb Group and dug a little deeper. While browsing the internet one day last summer, Jim came upon the 307th BG website and found more work than he ever bargained for. Although most of our photos are in great shape, he found hundreds of our scanned photos damaged by age, creases, folds, fades and tears. He placed a call to Jim Walsh and offered the 307th an unforgettable gift. He offered to thumb through the photos in our Website Photo Library [<http://www.307bg.net/history/index.asp>], pick out the ones that needed fixing and replace them with the new and improved versions. All as a donation to the 307th BG. We could not pass up an offer like that!

Since last July, Jim has worked with Don Calarco to replace and exchange hundreds of otherwise damaged photos. Many of them, looking like new, are photos of our fathers and grandfathers. Some, you may never have seen. We urge you to spend some quality time browsing the Photo Library. If you find a photo of your veteran hero, let us know the page and the photo number and we'll rename the photo so it can be searched and found by name. Send your discovery information to Don Calarco at members.services@307bg.net.



Here's a [Before] and [After] example of Jim Hough's work on our Photo Library.

If you wish to inquire about repairing any of your personal photos, contact Jim Hough at jimhough7@msn.com



A Big “Welcome to the Family” to our New Members:

**Florence Hood - Bill Sawyer Jr. - Major Landes
Robert Tatman - Bonnie Hannon - Elizabeth Gorden
Scott & Deborah Hurlbert - Virginia Dodd Family**

The 307th Executive Team promised “change” and they have been busy at work making positive changes and improvements to Member Services.

Here are a few helpful links:

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

[Click HERE to open the New Interactive Online Registration Form for New Orleans](#)

[Open the New 307th Gallery and watch it grow](#)

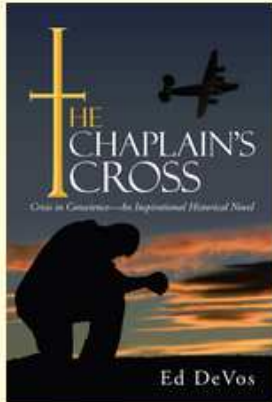
[Visit our Final Flights Page](#)

[Catch up on past Newsletters](#)

[Tour the Fold3 Collection](#)

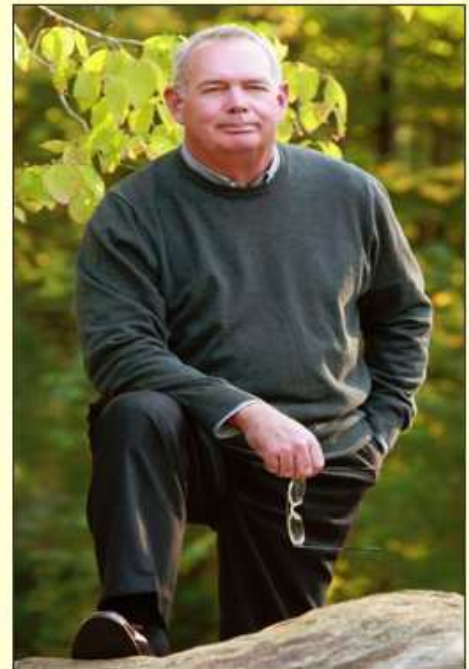
[Don't miss the Laura Hillenbrand Story
by Wil S. Hylton](#)

[Visit the 307th PX](#)



Ed DeVos's Second Book, *The Chaplain's Cross*, is now available.

Recently released by WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson and Zondervan, the world's largest producer of Christian books, is *The Chaplain's Cross*, the second historical inspirational novel authored by Ed DeVos. *The Chaplain's Cross* is a thought-provoking story of two men – one an Army Air Corps chaplain and the other, a Japanese fighter pilot – as these two men prepare for a battle that takes place over Truk Atoll on 29 March 1944, a battle in which the 307th Bomb Group is awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. In this historical inspirational novel, the author weaves the actions of these two men, exploring their views of their faith as well as how they interact with those around them.



Ed DeVos is the son of a 307thBG Bombardier. He wrote the *Chaplain's Cross* to honor the men of the 307th

*"Ed DeVos, a highly decorated military officer, is an experienced writer of thought-provoking historical fiction. His two works, *The Stain*, and most recently, *The Chaplain's Cross*, feature characters who model valor, integrity, honor, and courage as they face spiritual and moral dilemma warriors have always faced on the battlefield."*

Ed will be attending the New Orleans Reunion in September. He'll be available to autograph a few books, answer questions about his amazing stories and discuss his next endeavor.



The story of the 307th Bomb Group "Long Rangers" in World War II is an impressive one. Did you know why we have such an affinity to the 307th Bomb Wing?

- Two Presidential Unit Citations were awarded to the Group, one for action in the bombing of the Island of Truk, the most heavily defended and strongly fortified Japanese base in the Pacific. During withdrawal, gunners of the Group destroyed 31 of the 75 attacking aircraft, probably destroyed 12 more and damaged 10 in an air battle that lasted 43 minutes.
- This daring raid, made on 29 March 1944, neutralized the Islands air-fields, making possible long range flights without fighter protection. The second Presidential Unit Citation was awarded for the successful strike at the Baltkapapan Oil Refineries in Borneo on 30 September 1944.
- The 307th had to fly their B-24 Liberator bombers 17 1/2 hours for a round trip of 2,610 miles, the longest mass daylight mission ever flown by this type aircraft.
- The 307th Bomb Group gunners shot down an average of 25 per cent of their Japanese fighter interceptors. 307th Bomb Group Crews encountered coordinated and concentrated interception by Japanese airmen over many Japanese held islands without their own fighter escort including Rabaul, Truk, Yap, and Palau.
- Their first taste of combat came Dec 27th 1942, when 27 aircraft flew 1,260 miles to bomb selected targets on Wake Island All planes returned safely from the flight after having flown 2,240 miles, the longest mass raid of the war to that time. As a result of this mission and the many long distance flights to come, the 307th soon became known by nickname as the "Long Rangers"
- The Group's aircraft were the first over Tarawa, Naura, Ocean Island and the Marshall Islands. It was January 1943 when the unit was credited with its first Japanese Zero.

More >>



- They hit the Japanese in the air. They shot down 355 planes, 68 probables and 51 damaged. On the ground they destroyed 170 airplanes, scores of airfields and supply dumps, oil refineries and harbor installations. On the sea they sunk 21,000 tons of shipping and damaged another 112,000 tons.
- Shortly after V-J Day, the proud numerals of the 307th Bomb Group became just another line on the list of deactivated fighting units.

Enter the 307th Bomb Wing

- In November 1945, the 307th Bomb Group was deactivated, but with the Air Force's Policy of preserving the names of the top fighting units of World War II, the 307th Bomb Group was reactivated as the 307th Bombardment Wing on 4 August, 1946. Assigned to Macdill Air Force Base, Florida, and furnished with B-29 Aircraft. The 307th Bomb Wing took part in all Strategic Air Command Operations until the outbreak of the Korean War in July 1950.
- They had a successful campaign in Korea, and received another presidential unit Citation for their extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy of the United Nations during the period of 11 to 27 July, 1953. At this time they flew 93 sorties and dropped 860 tons of bombs on targets at the Simanju Air Field, where despite severe icing, intense enemy anti-aircraft fire and coordinated search light fighter opposition they rendered the airfield unserviceable.
- During the course of the Korean operations, the Wing mounted 6,052 sorties against enemy targets. flew 55,473 combat hours and dropped 51,757 tons of bombs.
- The 307th Bomb Wing returned to the United States in 1954. The 307th Bomb Wing, the last remaining B 29 Wing in the Far East. returned in October 1954 to be equipped with the B 47 Stratojet bomber and reassigned to the new duty station at Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska.

[Material contributed by the Lincoln AFB web site.](#)



**A few words about the
307th Bomb Wing Association
50th Anniversary Reunion
at Lincoln, Nebraska!
(about an hour from Omaha)**



The 307th Bomb Wing succeeded our WWII Bomb Group, and flew B-47 bombers and KC-97 tankers during the Cold War era.

Jim McCabe, Jack Palmer, John Poggi, and possibly others will be attending the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the 307th Bomb Wing, this coming June. If you are interested in a trip to meet some really nice folks in Lincoln Nebraska, below is the registration form.

**307th Bomb Wing, B-47/KC97 Association
50th Anniversary (1954-1965) Reunion
Registration Form June 4 – 7, 2015
Country Inn & Suites**

****MANDATORY REGISTRATION FEE FOR EVERYONE** # _____ X \$40.00 = _____
FRIDAY NIGHT CHUCK WAGON BUFFET # _____ X \$25.00 = _____
*****PLEASE SELECT YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRE' FOR THE BANQUET*****
10 OZ HERB COATED PRIME RIB # _____ X \$35.00 = _____
FRESH SALMON FILET # _____ X \$30.00 = _____
VEGETARIAN DINNER # _____ X \$20.00 = _____

All plated meals come with Entre', Salad, Potato/Rice, Vegetable, Roll, Dessert, Coffee, Tea or soda

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 307TH BW B-47/KC-97 ASSOCIATION

**MAIL TO:
BILLY WILLIAMS
5546 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
LINCOLN, NE 68521**

PLEASE PRINT name (s) as you want them to appear on the name tag (s)

NAME _____

NICKNAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST (S) _____

SQUADRON (S) _____ **YEAR YOU DEPARTED LAFB** 19____

DO YOU WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON FRIDAY NIGHT (circle one) YES NO

Time limit to talk will determine how many mark yes.



This note bears repeating!

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 Bomb Group.

These items consisted of personal memorabilia 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 memo-

rabilia 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 is either stored in a safekeeping 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 cataloging 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, Norden 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 decided what memorabilia you may be contributing, please compile an inventory list.

Then, contact me. I will forward shipping instructions.

Thanks for your support of the 307th BG (HV).

Jim McCabe

james-mccabe@comcast.net