

LeRoy A. Blake



LeRoy A. Blake. Note the tattoo

Castro Valley, CA

Dear Mr. Markel,

I am writing on behalf of the late LeRoy A. Blake. My grandfather, who passed away on July 13, 1998.

He loved being in the Air Force and often talked about WWII. He had some great stories and I now wish I had written them down. He was a Staff Sergeant in WWII. He was in the Army Air Corps from September 28, 1942 through September 25, 1945. He flew 51 missions accumulating 662 flight hours, 268 combat hours. He was a radio operator on a B-24. His training took him from Pocatello, Idaho through Harvard NE to the 484th BG in Italy

He was proud of everyone he was with, especially the crewmen he flew with, some of them became good friends. He was proud to be an American and was very patriotic.

He belonged to 484th Bombardment Group, 826th Bombardment Squadron (Pathfinder) USAF 15th Air Force, 49th Bombardment Wing. He had three (3) Oak leaf Clusters to his Air Medal and campaign ribbons for service in the Mediterranean Theater Of Operations.

He often flew with Capt. James M. Stewart, who also was the Operations Officer for the 826th Sq. Roy flew missions from the very first mission on April 29 to Drnis M/Y Yugoslavia, 1944 to July 21, 1944 to Brux, Czechoslovakia.

This wonderful man accepted myself and my children as if they were his own. I will always remember him and will deeply miss him. If I can be of any further help please feel free to contact me by my E-mail address: harley.honey@worldnet.att.net or by mail. Please remember this man and all the other men in the Armed Services.

Michael H Patrick, grandson,

Machael M Fleming, adopted grand daughter

Paul Vatterott

Paul Vatterott, Flight Surgeon 484th Bomb Group

The Association has just learned of the passing of the Flight Surgeon in June of 1989. After his service with Armed Forces he practiced medicine in St. Louis, MO for 32 years. He was the father of nine children, and grandfather of 33 grandchildren.

William J. Bowes

William J. Bowes, 77, of Pittsburgh, passed away 6/22/00 due to cancer. He served from 1942 to 1945 working on radios for the Bombers. He was at the "Harvard" Air Base in Nebraska, and the campaigns in Northern Africa and Italy (1945). After WWII, for 25 years he was an electrician at P&LE Railroad, and for 22 years a steam fitter with other businesses. He is survived by Ruth, his wife of 52 years, and three of his four children, also two grandchildren.



William J. Bowes

Joe R Bryant

Joe Richard Bryant, tail gunner, 461st BG, 765th Sq, Art Hughes Crew #90, was born 15 of March, 1925 in Clarksville, Tennessee. Preceded in death by his wife, Bettie, on the 17th of October, 1996. Joined the U. S. Air Force when he was 18 years of age. He was shot down over Germany went down in Yugoslavia. On the 20th of November, 1944 joined the Russian Army walking to Bucharest where the U. S. flew the crew back to Italy. Awarded several medals including the Purple Heart. He was not proud to be a killer. "May God forgive him". Joe came to Houston on the 1st of June, 1950 to attend the University of Houston studying Mechanical Engineering. He worked in engineering and design in the 1950's, then sales in 1958, including forming his own company, A. Aeron Bryant Equipment Company and was still running the business until his death. Joe liked to meet and communicate with people.

He is survived by his children: Pam and Robert Adams, their children: Lauren Preske and husband Mark (greatgrandchild Kenzi) Erika Lynch and Robert Adams; Mary and Bruce Gray and their child, Chris Gray; Debbie and Don Krause and their children: Emilie and Lindsie Krause; and Tom and Liz Bryant and their child: Joe Bryant.

Albert Padovani

Plymouth, MA- Albert W. Padovani, 83, of Plymouth, MA, husband of Mary L. (Lovell) Padovani, died on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2000 in the Mayflower Nursing and Rehab Home in Plymouth. Mr. Padovani, a druggist, owned and operated along with his brother Harold, the Padovani Pharmacy in North Plymouth from 1946 to his retirement in 1985. He was born on Jan. 13, 1917 in Plymouth, son of the late Albert and Teresa (Lugli) Padovani. Educated in the North Plymouth elementary schools, he was a graduate of Nathaniel Morton Junior High School and Plymouth High School of which he was president of the Class of 1935. During World War II, Mr. Padovani served in the U.S. Army with the 484th Bomb Group. Besides his wife, Mary, Mr. Padovani leaves several nephews, including Alan H. Padovani of Carver and Joel H. Padovani of Plymouth; and nieces. He was the brother of the late Andrew and Harold Padovani and Rose Giabbai.