



82nd Fighter Group Association Newsletter

Issue 103

February 2022

CLOSEOUT AND FINAL REUNION

**MARCH ARB, RIVERSIDE, CA
JUNE 21-24, 2022**

THE 82ND FIGHTER GROUP & ASSOCIATION IS COMING HOME



MARCH AIRFIELD



MUROC DRY LAKE

THE 82ND FIGHTER GROUP HOME - MOJAVE DESERT - 1941

The President's Page

PRESIDENT
Lowell Phillips

VICE PRESIDENT
Steve Powell

TREASURER
Marc Buonaguidi

SECRETARY
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Olen Medley

96TH SQUADRON
Richard Ostronik

97TH SQUADRON
Mel Roalsvig

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John Netzer Parliman

ROSTER
Mary Buonaguidi

WEBMASTER
Jerry Martin

HISTORIAN
Bruce Loewenberg

It was the intent of the originals to keep the Association a social organization for them, family and friends and to perpetuate those bonds of friendship in their memory. However, it unfortunately appears the 82nd FGA, as it approaches its 43rd anniversary, is on its last Flight Formation. Like all WWII veteran's organizations, general membership, our bank account and reunion attendance are all declining and there are only a few who are keeping things going.

Reunion costs are not fully covered by registration and event fees, but subsidized by the Association which, as mentioned above, can no longer afford to do so. With all this in mind March Air Force Base has been decided as our last reunion. Reunion information is in this issue.

We are still in the process of gathering as many pictures as we can of 82nd Fighter Group members during WWII to put in an album ready for the 2022 reunion at the P-38 National Association Museum at March AFB, Riverside, CA. (www.p38assn.org) A second photo album will be pictures of our past FGA reunions. Any pictures families want to copy or contribute to the 82 FGA photo album will be appreciated.

Jerry Martin is continuously updating our website as new photos and information come to him.
(www.82ndfightergroup.org)

If you haven't signed up for the newsletter or requested to join the 82nd FGA Facebook Group, please do. John Parliman has revamped our Facebook Group page (82ndfightergroupassociation)

Adorimini,
Lowell

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A Non-profit,501(c)(19) Organization

Treasurey Report

		Tue	Wed	Thur	Total
Banquet Room				(\$500)	(\$500)
Banquet Corkage (\$10/bottle x 40 = \$400 + 25% Service Charge)				(\$500)	(\$500)
Hospitality room		(\$315)	(\$315)	(\$315)	(\$945)
Hospitality event provisions		(\$300)	(\$300)	(\$300)	(\$900)
Service charges and taxes (23% + 7.75%)	30.75%	(\$97)	(\$97)	(\$251)	(\$444)
Bartender at Banquet				(\$250)	(\$250)
Audio-visual aids Microphone, speakers, projector, screen ??				(\$700)	(\$700)
COSTCO sandwiches, chips, cookies, waters (50 attendees @ \$20)			(\$1,000)		(\$1,000)
Buses for Closeout				(\$880)	(\$880)
Chair Rental for Closeout - 75 chairs			(\$250)		(\$250)
Comp meals for noted guests			(\$600)		(\$600)
Plaque to be placed in the P38 hanger near the 82nd FG display				(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)
Flyover				(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)
Donation to P38 National Association				(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)
March AFB prices - museum? Tables?			(\$1,000)		(\$1,000)
Possible financial donors - Lockheed				\$5,000	\$5,000
Deposit paid to Embassy Suites (1/15/2022)				\$1,500	\$1,500
Bank Balance as of 1/31/2022 (Paid \$1,000 for Air Museum, \$1,500 hotel deposit)					\$4,773
					(\$696)

At the beginning of the planning process, our intent was to stay within our small budget. As the plan evolved, it became clear that the expenses for the event were growing, especially in light of this being potentially our last formal reunion.

The above chart shows anticipated expenses. Our current Bank Balance is \$4,773. We have paid a \$1,500 down payment on the reunion hotel expenses. Lockheed has committed a \$5,000 donation, and we still are in the negative.

We had to put the registration fee back in but at the reduced amount of \$25. In addition, we are asking our members to consider voluntary donations to help offset the final expenses for what we think will be a very memorable and fitting close to the Association.

Our By-Laws originally stated that any remaining monies at closing would be donated to a USAF-related educational or research institution. Around 2010, that was changed to 'the support of the 82nd memorial.' Unfortunately neither the funding nor those with the time to manage the project were available.

It is the intent of the Executive Committee at closing to hold \$500 to support the website for 5 years as well as the amount to publish the last newsletter. Any remaining monies will be donated, as per the original By-Laws, to a USAF-related educational or research institution. I will report the final account reconciliation and the donation recipient in that newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Marc Buonaguidi, Treasurer

Folded Wings - Olen Medley 95thFS - 4/23/21

This is how history is remembered by Nanette Medley and Nancy Medley Manduano, Olen Medley's twin daughters. Our dad's active duty was North Africa, Sicily and Italy as a P 38 crew chief. He was transported to Europe aboard the Queen Mary. While on this passage she collided with and sank a British ship. A documentary was made of this catastrophe entitled: Disasters at Sea: National Geographic, featuring our Dad. He was later interviewed for another documentary covering this event: World's Deadliest Wrecks: Collisions at Sea.

There are many more stories we could tell like our historic reunion at St. Louis, hosted by Charlie Pinson, our first reunion. We both sat in F-15's and we played pass the pigs with active duty AF. Then there was a reunion in Panama City, Florida at Tyndall Air Force Base. The 95th Squadron was formed here in World War II. Our Dad was the last surviving member. We were taken to the Officer's Club. This is where and when we fell in love with the 82nd

Fighter Group as we sang their fight song, "Bad to the Bone," at the top of our lungs as we drank from the shell casings that were carried by the P 38's, after all, it was appropriate to shout, "death with finesse." We both feel the same love and camaraderie for this group! Our dad was the only veteran that made it to every single reunion, then his wings folded on April 23, 2021. Our dad loved the 82nd Fighter Group as family, even after all those years. We made precious memories with our dad and his military buddies every year. Our dad will be missed more than we can express. Thank you for your memories 82nd Fighter Group! See



Keeping in Touch

Fran Kane sent a Christmas card saying all is well.

Had a nice phone conversation with past president **Leo Fisher '96th FG**. He is doing well in Tucson and wishes everyone a great reunion. Leo is proud to be 102 and shocked to hear he's the oldest of our vets.

Nona Isaacson contacted us to pay dues and was very happy to hear the reunion would be in her backyard. It'll be great to see you, Nona.

Leo Press, '97th FG was happy to hear about the reunion and plans to attend with his two daughters. His tent-mate **Mel Roalsvig, '97th FG**, will also be there.

Lute Thompson and **Dick Ostronik**, both **'96th FG** tell us they are attending.

The family of **Julian Demers, 95th FG**, and wife, **Luella**, will be attending to honor their parents.

fHank Phillips, 96th FG, had his 99th birthday in December. It was fun to view the ZOOM for family and friends that couldn't attend.

Reunion and Closeout Update and Background

This is a happy time and a sad time. The 82nd Fighter Group and its 95th, 96th and 97th Fighter Squadrons started in Muroc Dry Lake, Mojave Desert, CA in early 1942. It was the perfect place to train for North Africa. The group moved to March Airfield later in 1942 in the southern Mojave.

In 1977 at the annual reunion of the Pilot Aces Association, the 82nd FG aces decided to track down other 82nd members including enlisted men - an example of the camaraderie among all 82nd personnel that the Group and its Association are proud of. In 1979, those they contacted met in Corpus Christi, TX for what amounts to the first 82nd FGA reunion. 75 attended. By-laws were established in 1981 as membership grew. At the peak 350 attended reunions. It was normal to see over 10 new members, 10 guests and up to 10 USAF active duty pilots in attendance.

Since 2008 officers and other Executive Committee members have been replaced by all but two second generation members and there is no one on the bench. More importantly, as mentioned by our President and Treasurer, as our originals and spouses left us, our membership roster, reunion attendance and bank account all started to decrease similar to the fate of most WWII associations. Which brings us to today.

The Executive Committee has had three on-line meetings in the last year with a lot of discussion and research inbetween. The first decision, by unanimous vote, was to closeout the Association pending majority vote of members at the next annual meeting. The second, was to have that meeting and closeout at a final reunion in June 2022 at the P38 National Association Museum at March ARB.

Later meetings were to develop the reunion and closeout programs. Per our President, Lowell Phillips, "Our intent was to hold a bare bones reunion with minimal cost. As planning evolved, it became clear that the expenses for the event were growing, especially in light of this being potentially our last formal reunion." We want to make this event memorable in honor of the 82nd Fighter Group and befitting the bonds of family and friendship we have developed over 43 wonderful years. It's been a great flight.

Lastly we want to thank Scott Frederick and Howie Ramshorn of the P38 National Association for their assistance, for allowing use of the Museum for our closeout and ultimately for helping us preserve the memory of the 82nd.

John Netzer Parlman, Editor

2022 Closeout and Final Reunion Schedule
June 21- Friday, June 24
Hilton Embassy Suites Airport Hotel, Ontario, CA

Tuesday, June 21

- Hospitality Room open for attendee registrations 12pm
- Complimentary reception in lobby 5pm
- Supper on your own

Wednesday, June 22

- Complimentary full breakfast in restaurant
- Annual Meeting** in Hospitality Room 10 - 11am
- Hospitality room open 11am - 5pm
- Complimentary reception in lobby 5pm
- Supper on your own

Thursday, June 23

- Complimentary full breakfast in restaurant
- Board bus at 8:30am for March AFB
- Closeout ceremony** at P38 National Assn Museum at 10am
- P38 Flyover** approximately 11am
- Snack Food 11am – 12:30pm
- Explore the P38 National Museum 11am – 12:30pm
- Board bus for hotel 12:30pm
- Hospitality room open 2 - 5pm
- Complimentary reception in lobby 5pm
- Banquet** 7 – 10pm...ish
- Hospitality room open afterward until no one left**

NOTES FOR YOUR STAY

- Free shuttle from airport: With luggage ready, call 909-605-0281 + 0 at menu.
- Free shuttle to shopping within 2 miles of hotel.
- Parking is \$15 for hotel guests, free for those just attending events.
- Hotel check in is 4pm. If early, bring your luggage to the hospitality room.
- Cancellations 72 hours before check-in time
- The Closeout Ceremony program is being developed. The time may be lengthened.

**82nd Fighter Group Association Final Reunion and Closeout
June 22-24, 2022 Ontario, CA**

REGISTRATION

First and Last Name _____

Guest(s) Names _____

Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

Staying at the Embassy Suites? Y/N _____ Do you require a wheelchair? Y/N _____

Host Hotel: Embassy Suites - Airport, 3663 E Gausti Rd, Ontario, CA 91761. For reservations, call 909-605-0281 and ask for the 82nd Fighter Group rate of \$165.00 plus tax. Deadline for making hotel reservations is May 30, 2022. Make your reservations before the deadline to ensure availability and the group discount. Based upon the hotel's availability, the group discount will be available (3) days before and after the reunion dates. Please note: Full Breakfast and Happy Hour are part of the room rate.

(See Schedule for full agenda and details)

Event	Date & Time	\$ Per Person	# People	Total
Registration - Hospitality Room	Tues, June 21st 12 - 11pm	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Annual Meeting – Hospitality Room	Weds, June 22nd 10 - 11am	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Reception – Hotel Lobby	5 - 7pm	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Bus to March ARB departs from Hotel - 8:15am Bus departs from March ARB - 12:30pm	Thurs, June 23th 10 - 11am	XXXX	#	XXXX
Closeout Ceremony – March ARB	11am – 12:30pm	XXXX	#	XXXX
Light Snack	11am – 12:30pm	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Explore the P38 National Museum	11am – 12:30pm	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Reception – Hotel Lobby	6 - 7pm	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Banquet – Sierra Nevada Room	7 -10pm	\$45.00	#	\$
Registration Fee per person (12 and under no charge)		\$25.00	#	\$
Optional Donation to offset any event shortfall		\$	XXXX	\$
Make check payable to 82nd FGA Reunion			Total:	\$

Saturday Dinner Entrée and Number of each:

Chicken	#	Salmon	#
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- Retain a copy of this completed form for your records.
- Make check payable to: **82nd FGA Reunion**
- Complete all forms and mail payment by **May 1, 2022**
- Mail to: **Judy Parliman, 5415 N Ironstone Ter, Hernando, FL 34442**
- Questions? email Judy at judyparl416@gmail.com or call 352-601-0091

82nd Fighter Group Association
3405 Circulo Adorno
Carlsbad, CA 92009



**82ND FIGHTER GROUP RETURNS HOME
JUNE 23, 2022**

**P38 National Association and Museum
March ARB, Riverside, CA**