



# ***82nd Fighter Group Association Newsletter***

Issue 95

June 2017

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**2017 Reunion - Portland, OR**  
**September 27th - October 1st**  
**Schedule & Registration Form**



*provided by Leonardo*

**Portland Waterfront**

# The President's Page

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Olen Medley

### **96TH SQUADRON**

Richard Ostronik

### **97TH SQUADRON**

Jerry Powell

### **NEWSLETTER**

John Netzer Parliman

### **ROSTER**

Mary Buonaguidi

## **NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM**

### **LIAISON**

Bruce Loewenberg

### **WEBMASTER**

Darren Buonaguidi

Hello 82nd Family!

We're just a few months away from another reunion, this time hosted by Jerry and Belinda Martin in Portland, Oregon. Lorraine and I are excited to attend a reunion in the northwest, since we missed the Seattle reunion a few years ago. Thanks again to Jerry and Belinda for all they've done to host the reunion. We're all looking forward to it and I'm sure it will be fantastic!

Of course, we're all heartbroken in regard to Charlie Pinson's passing. Charlie was one of the first 82nd members I spent any significant time with. I loved listening to his and all the other members stories from the war. We were, and still are, completely awestruck by the tales of combat and hardship, camaraderie and sacrifice. Charlie was one of many great men in the 82nd and we will miss him terribly. America will miss him terribly.

There will be elections for various positions at this reunion, as always. Please let us know if you feel called to serve the 82nd in some way.

I can't believe it's already May. We will see you all soon.

**ADORIMINI!**

Todd Felton

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# Reunion Tantalizers

**President Todd** relates the 142nd Fighter Wing of the OR Air National Guard is sending a color guard for our banquet and he continues to work on a guest speaker.

**Jerry Martin** is working on a list of things to do in Portland for the registration packet that will have something for everyone.....and ***breakfast, happy hour and parking are complimentary.***

So hurry, make your hotel and travel arrangements. The ***registration form is due September 1st.*** Hope to see you there.

## What Makes a Fighter Pilot

**Lute Thompson (96th)** sent us some WWII musings called 'Home Front Memo' by Carl Sandburg (1940). The comments on fighter pilots are particularly interesting.

Among the new flyers, I am reliably informed, when training is over and they get insignia wings to wear over the heart, they would like to serve in fighter planes rather than the bomber. Action fast and wild where cool headwork and quick thinking count – it seems this is what they prefer, and the army and navy commands can't accommodate the many who are asking for it.

In the fighter planes they hunt and kill alone – they crash and die alone – they weave and hit and get away and come back for more – alone.

The fighter pilot hears only the song of his roaring engine and in a dogfight commands himself and obeys the orders of his own head. Alone he reads his instrument board – and alone climbs or dives or zigzags. By himself he says Yes or No or Maybe in the whirls of speed and the spitz of fire when he takes his chances, when he tries to pick the right split second for the next six things to do in that split second.



## **Schedule of Events**

### **Wednesday, September 27:**

3pm - 11pm: Registration and Hospitality Room - Hotel Suite

### **Thursday, September 28:**

9:00am to 1:00pm: Tour of the Columbia River Gorge and Multnomah Falls, lunch on your own

Note: Buses board at entrance to hotel at 8:45 am, depart at 9:00 am.

### **Friday, September 29:**

9am - 11pm: Registration and Hospitality Room - Hotel Suite

9:15am - 3:00pm Evergreen Aviation Museum, lunch on the mezzanine

6pm - 9pm: Reception - Hotel banquet room

### **Saturday, September 30:**

9am - 11pm: Registration and Hospitality - Hotel Suite

9am - 10:30am: Annual Meeting - Hotel banquet room

6pm - 7pm: Cocktail Reception - Hotel banquet room

7pm - 10pm: Dinner/Program - Hotel banquet room

### **Sunday, October 1:**

9am - 12 noon: Hospitality - Hotel Suite

Departures



**82nd Fighter Group Association Reunion, September 27th – October 1, 2017  
Portland, Oregon  
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, 9000 SW Washington Square Road, Tigard OR. For reservations, call 503.644.4000 and ask for the 82nd Fighter Group rate of \$160.00 plus tax (single or double). Deadline for making hotel reservations is Wed, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 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 group dates. Please note: Breakfast, Happy Hour and Parking are part of the room rate.**

(See attached Schedule for full agenda and details)

Event	Date & Time	\$ Per Person	# People	Total
Columbia River Gorge Tour including a visit to Multnomah Falls. Lunch on Own.	Thursday, Sept 28th 9:00am - 1:00pm	<b>\$10.00</b>	#	\$
Evergreen Aviation Museum (lunch included)	Friday, Sept 29 9:30am - 3:00pm	<b>\$25.00</b>	#	\$
Reception	Friday Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> 6:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>\$30.00</b>	#	\$
Reception, Program, Dinner	Saturday, Sept 30 6:00pm - 11:00pm	<b>\$47.00</b>	#	\$
<b>Registration Fee, (1) fee covers your party</b>		N/A	N/A	<b>\$ 65.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>				

**Saturday Dinner Entrée and Number of each:**

<b>Chicken</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>#</b>
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- Retain a copy of this completed form for your records.
  - Please make check payable to: **82<sup>nd</sup> FGA Reunion**
  - Complete all forms and mail payment by **September 1st, 2017**
  - Mail to: **Mary Buonaguidi, 82<sup>nd</sup> FGA Meeting Planner, 3405 Circulo Adorno, Carlsbad, CA 92009**
- For questions or assistance, please feel free to contact **Mary Buonaguidi, 82<sup>nd</sup> FGA Meeting Planner**  
 e-mail: [Mary.Buonaguidi@ConferenceDirect.com](mailto:Mary.Buonaguidi@ConferenceDirect.com) or phone: 760-942-7104

# Folded Wings

Charles Howard Pinson (96th) – 3/30/17

Don Correa (96th) – 3/30/17

Bruce Ireland (96th) – 2/24/17

Betty Jo Medley (95th) – 8/14/16

Jane Phillips (95th) – 12/13/16

Soren E 'Whitey' Anton (95th) – 5/31/15

Fern Morgan (97th) – 10/2015

Roland R Lynn (96th) – 2014

Chester 'Ike' Ekermann (97th) - 2012

In Loving Memory



**Betty Jo Medley**

November 30, 1925 ~ August 14, 2016

Betty Jo Medley was born November 30, 1925 in Ringling, Oklahoma to Otis and Dora Lee (Howard) Simmons. She passed from this life Sunday, August 14, 2016 in Tulsa at the age of 90.

Betty grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma and graduated from high school in Holdenville, Oklahoma. She attended Oklahoma Baptist University for a short while before marrying Olen L. Medley in 1948. She loved her profession as a wife, homemaker and mother raising twin daughters and her only granddaughter and great grandson.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Nanette Medley Forrester and Nancy Manduano; son-in-law, Dr. Joey Manduano; granddaughter, Lindsey Manduano and her husband, Bobby Williams; great grandson, Vincenzo Manduano; and, her faithful dog, Dora.

In Loving Memory  
**CHARLES  
HOWARD PINSON**



**Born**  
November 18, 1921  
Henderson, Kentucky

**Died**  
March 30, 2017  
Avon, Indiana

**Veteran Memorial Service**  
Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery  
June 23, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

The following story of 82nd valor comes from **Bruce Loewenberg** our 82nd Unit Rep and liaison to the National WWII Museum.

## The Story of the BAD Angel

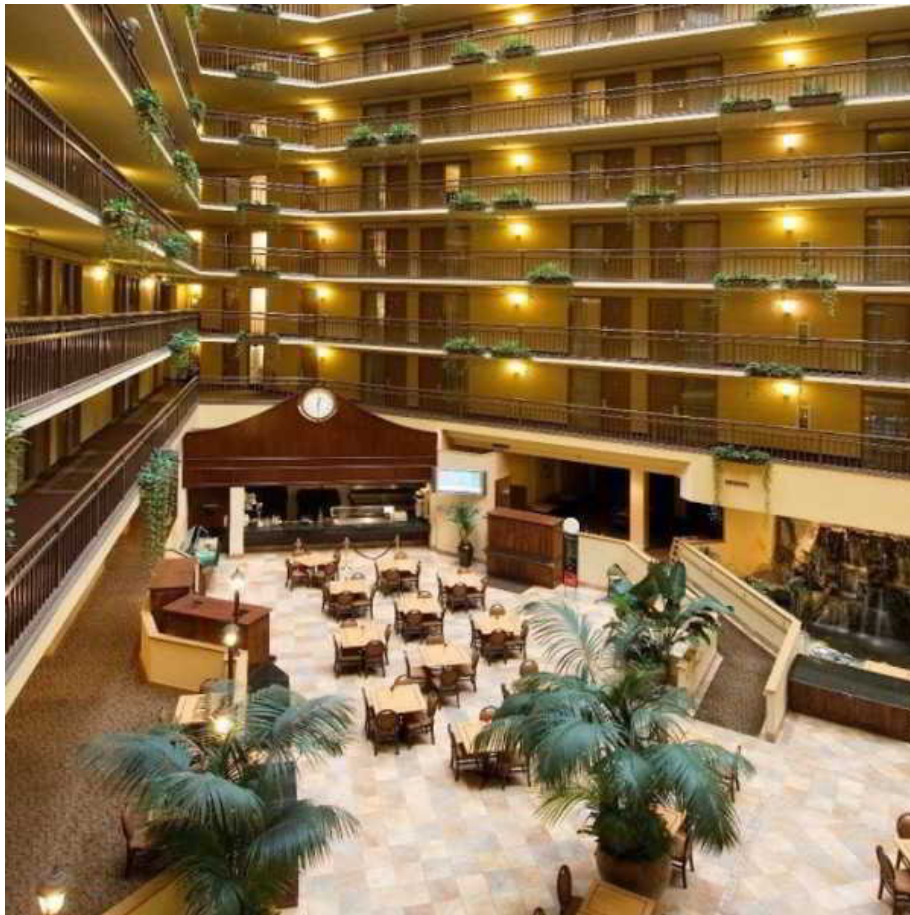
Lt. Louis Curdes arrived at his 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Fighter Squadron in April, 1943, and was assigned a P-38 Lightning. In less than a month of combat, Louis was an Ace.

A German fighter shot down his plane on August 27, 1943, over Salerno, Italy. Captured by the Italians, Louis escaped and volunteered for another combat tour in the Philippines where he flew P-51 Mustangs.

While attacking the Japanese-held island of Bataan, one of Louis' wingmen was shot down. Circling to protect the pilot, he noticed a Douglas C-47 transport with American markings attempting to land on Bataan, a Japanese-held island. He tried to make radio contact, but without success. Despite his wave-off attempts, the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Curdes knocked out one and then both of the engines as the plane persisted on its course. The big plane came down in one piece about 50 yards from his bobbing wingman. The wingman and the crew and passengers of the C47 survived. Lt. Curdes ended up marrying one of the passenger/nurses.

For shooting down an unarmed American transport plane, Lt. Louis Curdes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. On the fuselage of his P-51 "Bad Angel", he proudly displayed the symbols of his kills: seven German, one Italian, one Japanese and one American flag.

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**Embassy Suites, Washington Square Atrium**