500th Bomb Group Memorial Association and
Friends of the 497th Bomb Group
23 Westerly Drive, Fredonia, New York 14063 e-mail: 500thbombgroup@netsync.net  Tel: 716-673-1921
Fold3  500th Direct http://www.fold3.com/browse.php#292/h1bCH6AV-

Directors: 
Kenneth F. Fine, Secretary-Treasurer 
Edwin D. Lawson, Chair 
Charles E. McCoy 
Hugh Phillips 
Clyde Barnhart 

Alternate: 
William Copeland 

2. Reunion Hotel and Program 
3. In Memoriam: Jean Allen 
4. Ciardi 
5. Photos from Wichita. 

1. Reunion 2018 will be held in Omaha. The date has been set for May 31-June 2. 
2. The hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton in the Downtown/Old Market area at 555 South 10th Street, Omaha, NE  68102. The room rate is $110 plus taxes and good for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion. To reserve a room, you may call 1-800-Embassy (800-362-2779). Our group code is M29. Complimentary cooked to order breakfast, evening reception from 5:30-7:30, complimentary Shuttle service within a 3 mile radius, 24 hour fitness facility and an indoor pool, sauna and hot tub. 

Tentative Schedule. 
Program at 7:30. 
Friday, June 1st. 8AM to 3PM. First, visit to Offutt AFB. Tour of the base, see the POW, MIA Accounting Agency, the Military working dogs, Air Traffic Control and other functions. Lunch after the tours and then return to suites. 6:45 to 9PM. Travel to the beautiful Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for a wonderful Greek dinner and entertainment. You are encouraged to bring dancing shoes! 
Saturday May 2, 8:15 AM-3PM. After learning about and touring Boys Town we will head to the Strategic Air & Aerospace Museum. The Strategic Air & Aerospace Museum is dedicated to the Nation’s most prized and rarely displayed military aircraft. You can check out https://sacmuseum.org to see the aircraft and collections. Lunch here under the “Wings”. 
Back to hotel at 3PM. Relax or go check the amazing old town shops and restaurants until time for happy hour. 
Evening. B29 Wings of the Marianas Banquet.
In Memoriam: Jean Henri Allen

By: Mark G Maloy, President of A Square Heroes Foundation

We have lost a unique and beloved B-29 veteran. The incredible Jean Henri Allen passed away on January 9, 2018 at the age of 95. January 9th has been a unique and pivotal day in Jean’s life since 1945. A linchpin at the start of a military career that included doing battle tours in the Army Air Corps during WWII as well as Army service tours during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Jean was from South Carolina and the youngest of 9 children when he was born in 1922. His mother worried she had run out of names for the new baby. Jean’s older sister, studying French at the time, suggested the name Jean Henri.

After Pearl Harbor, Jean enlisted in the Army Air Corps becoming a gunner on the alternate crew for the famous B-29 “Waddy’s Wagon.” He served on Saipan flying the critical Japanese home island bombings. He completed 28 missions from November 1944 to September 1945. He flew 5 missions on “Waddy’s Wagon” of the 869th Squadron of the 497th Bomb before it disappeared during a mission over Tokyo on January 9, 1945.

Jean passed away on the 73rd anniversary of the loss of “Waddy's Wagon.” Jean later flew with a new crew formed by Jack Vetters, who had been the co-pilot on the original “Waddy's Wagon.” Vetters had been injured during a base attack and didn’t fly the fateful January 9, 1945 mission. Vetters’ B-29 was called “Misti Christi”.

The Vetters crew would all win the Distinguished Flying Cross on an early mission flying my Uncle Bob’s borrowed B-29 “Sky-Scrapper III”. Nearly 70 years after WWII, I'd have the amazing luck to get to know two gunners who flew a mission in my late Uncle’s B-29 -- Jean Allen and his lifelong friend, “Misti Christi” fellow gunner George Beck.

After retirement from military service, Jean used the GI Bill to get degrees in Special Education. For the next 13 years he taught and worked with challenged high school students helping them find jobs and trades.

“Waddy's Wagon” brought Jean into my life in late 2010 at the start of researching my Uncle Bob Maloy’s WWII history which resulted in the A Square Heroes Foundation (ASHF) honoring Jean and Bob’s 497th B-29 Bomb Group. Jean and I worked closely on preserving and sharing the “Waddy's Wagon” history. He was a cherished and generous Board Member. His personal outreach efforts on the Board included paying for the full Internet services provides to Veterans in critical care at the VA hospital in Martinez, CA. His daughter has ensured this contribution will continue.

Jean attended countless B-29 reunions hosted by the 73rd Bomb Wing Association and the last three B-29 Wings of the Marianas gatherings. A Square Heroes Foundation honored him at the B-29 Wings of the Marianas reunion in Wichita, KS in 2017. We created a hat that recognized his service in 3 wars, his contributions to our VA hospital outreach efforts and his enthusiastic support of ASHF.

Immediately after his return from WWII in October 1945, Jean married his long-time sweetheart Dorothy Poston. They had a daughter Jeanie and a son John. Jean reenlisted in the Army in the late 1940s. He would do tours in Korea and finally Vietnam. The family was also stationed in Germany during his service years. His wife and son have predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Jeanie Fernandez, son-in-law Lacho Fernandez and grandson (a Navy veteran) Alex Fernandez. Jean was buried with his wife of 67 years at The Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, TX. Remembrances honoring him can be made to A Square Heroes Foundation at: https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ashfdonate

Jean can be seen in a very fun video I made with B-29 fellow gunner and ASHF Board member, Sid Bolin, discussing life on Saipan between dangerous missions in 1945 when they shared a Quonset Hut. https://vimeo.com/145811166
4. Ciardi.
John Anthony Ciardi (/ˈtʃɑːrdiː/ CHAR-dee; Italian: [ˈtʃardiː]; June 24, 1916 – March 30, 1986) was an Italian-American poet, translator, and etymologist. While primarily known as a poet, he also translated Dante's Divine Comedy, wrote several volumes of children's poetry, pursued etymology, contributed to the Saturday Review as a columnist and long-time poetry editor, and directed the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in Vermont. In 1959, Ciardi published a book on how to read, write, and teach poetry, How Does a Poem Mean?, which has proven to be among the most-used books of its kind. At the peak of his popularity in the early 1960s, Ciardi also had a network television program on CBS, Accent. Ciardi's impact on poetry is perhaps best measured through the younger poets whom he influenced as a teacher and as editor of the Saturday Review.

Ciardi taught briefly at the University of Kansas City before joining the United States Army Air Forces in 1942, becoming a gunner on B-29s and flying some twenty missions over Japan before being transferred to desk duty in 1945.[1][2] He was discharged in October 1945 with the rank of Technical Sergeant and with both the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster.[2] Ciardi's war diary, Saipan, was published posthumously in 1988.

**TAKE-OFF OVER KANSAS**

At first the fences are racing under. Horses and men
Are different yet - we see the men look up.
Higher, whole rivers curl: the palmistry
Of the forgotten hills prescribing loop by loop
Whatever you would read in your own hand.
   At what altitude is this another land?

   At random with the wind clouds touch and leave us,
Ripped by our passage, funneled back by speed.
Then fall away. And fields fall and become a pattern:
A plaid abstraction that no hand or spade
Touched ever in all the wilderness converted.
At what altitude is the world deserted?

Precisely by altimeters the voice
Speaks on a wire and we ourselves convert.
By mask and tube we suck our lives from tanks.
And gloves that were our hands touch steel, assert
All of our fallacy that we were men
Before the engines left the world again.

What shall the guns think when a shadow spans
The digits of a sight, and triggers move?
Was any human part in the machine
That left its smoke to show which way it dove?
You only see the first plume and first fall.
You think, "It was not human after all."
Once past the sight of faces, where they fade
Immeasurably back to field and seed,
Only arithmetic and scattered cloud
Stay whole above the thundering of speed.
And someone's voice crackling the interphone,
That later you remember was your own. *Other Skies*
Wars are, without question, rough. My experiences in WWII at Saipan where I was stationed and flights over Japan on a B-29 had its share of perilous moments. Nevertheless, every once in a while, something happened that was so unusual, so out of place, that one could only laugh.

Air Raid

In late November 1944, I was on Saipan. Air crew members were lucky. They were quartered in Quonset huts which were pretty luxurious compared to the crowded tents that ground echelon (support staff) had. The B-29s had arrived and the Japanese Air Force was attacking us from neighboring islands. We had air raids at night and in broad daylight. One night, the sirens went off. We could hear the anti-aircraft firing from the hill beside us. Planes were coming toward us. Tracer bullets were going by. In our fear and panic, we struggled to get the nearest protection there was – a canvas cot. Another man had the same idea and we fought with each other to get under that canvas cot.

When the all-clear was sounded, we both had a good laugh. The canvas cot would not have protected us at all against machine gun bullets. But in the face of the attack, any protection at all was taken. You may have heard of the man with whom I fought. It was John Ciardi. John was to go on to become a distinguished poet and editor for the Saturday Review.

5. Photos from Wichita from Sandie Gillard and Kristine Homan.
500th Bomb Group Memorial Association. March 2018

Grace Bohr, Ron Wollick, Jack Rodin, Sol Knipp, Buck Knipp, Chum Bohr.

Cathy Debbrecht, Mandy Cohen, and Nary Swindall

Sandie Gillard and Kristine Homan

Marilyn and Gordon Stubbe

500th Bomb Group Memorial Association
Membership Renewal (Year is from June 1, 2017-May 31, 2018)

Yes! I want to continue as a Partner and help the 500th Bomb Wing Memorial Association with its mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and heroism of the men of World War II.

The 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Checks can be made out to: 500th Bomb Group and sent to: Kenneth F. Fine, 2003 SW Meyer Blvd, Blue Springs, MO 64015, (816) 228-4212, finechateau@msn.com

Annual Dues $25. Contributions___ $15 ___ $20 ___ $30 ___ $50 ___ $100 ___ Other

Name ____________________________________________ Address_________________________________

Please Print
Telephone ( ) ( ) ( ) E-mail ________________________________________________

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related_________________________________________

Unit in the 73rd: ____________Group__________Squadron___________Other______________

(If Other, Please give further information)________________________________________________

-9-
B-29 Museum Membership Application/Renewal

The B-29 Museum holds the memorabilia collection of the 73rd Bomb Wing. It has extensive exhibits and educational programs.

YES! I want to join and help the B-29 Museum with its mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and valor of the men who trained at the Army Air Fields in Kansas during World War II. The B-29 Museum is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible. Fiscal year: January 1-December 31st.

Checks can be sent to: B-29 Museum, Inc., and sent to P.O. Box 29, Pratt, KS 67124.

Annual Dues: ___ $20. ___ Life Membership $200. Contributions___ $15 ___ $20 ___ $30 ___ $50 ___ $100 ___ Other ___ Total_____

Name ____________________________________________ Address__________________________________

Please Print

Telephone ( ) ( ) ( ) E-mail _____________________________

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related________________________________________

Unit in the 73rd:_________________Group__________Squadron__________Other__________________

(If Other, Please give further information)________________________________________________
B-29 Wings of the Marianas
Registration Form
Thursday May 31 – Sunday June 3, 2018
~ ~ Omaha, Nebraska ~ ~
Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha-Downtown/Old Market

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 1, 2018
- For submission of payment with Registration Form and Optional Activities
  sign up, or cancellation
Complete this form:
- Send with check made out to B-29 Wings of the Marianas
- Inscribe “B-29 Wings Reunion 2018” in the check’s Memo slot

Mail to:
B-29 Wings of the Marianas
19201 Highway 12, #261
Sonoma, CA  95476-5413
(Your cancelled check is your receipt)
(Keep a copy of your completed registration form)

Make Your Own Hotel Room Reservations at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha-Downtown/Old Market
Hotel: Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha-Downtown/Old Market (555 South 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68102)
Reservation Line: (800) 362-2779
Reunion Room Rate: The room rate is $110 plus taxes and good for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion. Our code for
the group is M29.
Identify yourself as: Member of the “B-29 Wings of the Marianas Reunion”

~ ~ Please fill in all information below for verification to our contact list, and so your name badges will be correct. ~ ~
Name (Please Print):
If applicable: Bomb Wing #: _____ Bomb Group #: _____

Additional Guests (Please Print):

Your Mailing Address: (with Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Area Code & Phone Number:                E-mail:               Fax #:  

~ ~ Registration ~ ~
Please: Check reunion schedule at the reunion for confirmation of activity times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Persons Attending</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Sub-Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 Membership Dues for the B-29 Wings of the Marianas*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>x $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Registration Fee includes Thursday evening social, Friday evening dinner and Saturday evening dinner banquet</td>
<td>x $130pp**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday June 1 (Optional Activity) — Excursion to Offutt AFB</td>
<td>x $52pp</td>
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<td>8AM – 3PM: First we will travel to Offutt AFB. We will enjoy a very nice lunch after our tours and then head back to our suites.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday June 2 (Optional Activity) — Excursion to the Village of Boys Town and the Strategic Air &amp; Aerospace Museum</td>
<td>x $68pp</td>
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<td>8:15AM – 3PM: We will tour the Village of Boys Town, followed by The Strategic Air &amp; Aerospace Museum.</td>
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(* If not attending reunion, but want to maintain or initiate membership, you can submit $25 for 2018 membership dues.)
(** pp = per person)
(For more information, visit http://www.b-29wings.org)