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
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Friends of the 497th:
Corey Thompson

1. 497th and 500th websites.
2. 497th CDs.
4. Friends of the 497th.
5. CDs.
6. FOLD3.
7. WWII Memorial.
8. E-Mail and Postal Mail, Websites.
10. Veterans History Project.
11. Membership Applications.
12. Reunion Photos.

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1. 497th and 500 Websites. We have had to change the arrangements for the sites. As of this
writing, we are trying to update them and get them running again.

2. 497th CDs. We recently completed digitizing the scrapbooks for the 869th, and 870th, and 871st.
Any of these are available on request for members who renew. New members will get them
automatically.

3. Wings of the Marianas. This is the successor organization to the 73rd Bomb Wing Association.
While plans for 2016 are presently incomplete, it is expect that the Reunion will take place in the
last week of May in New Orleans. It will feature a trip to the WWII Museum.
4. **Friends of the 497th Bomb Group** is composed of those with ties to the 497th but have joined the 500th Bomb Group Association. Corey Thompson (broxbb29@gmail.com) is the 497th Representative.

5. **CDs**. There are CDs available for the 497th and the 500th. Both feature Personal Accounts, the Montone Collection, as well as three squadron scrapbooks from the 500th and three from the 497th (the 869th). New scrapbooks for the 870th and the 871st Squadrons have been completed. Members can request copies at the time of membership renewal. New members will get one CD of their choice. Others can be purchased for $10.00 (includes postage).

6. Fold3. The site is listed below.

   http://www.fold3.com/browse.php#292|h1bCH6AV-

   There has been a great deal of interest in the records of men of the 497th and 500th as well as the 20th Air Force as a whole. Direction for easy access to the 497th and 500th sites is enclosed in this mailing. If the viewer looks around, many photos of the 20th can be found. There is no charge. Some of these records, especially Personal Accounts are available nowhere else.

7. **World War II Memorial.** You may already be familiar with the WWII Memorial. All those who were KIA are supposed to be listed but many are not. There were well over 300 men from the 497th and over 200 from the 500th who were lost. Individuals can send in entries as well. Since there were many from the 500th that died and were not listed, the 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association honored all men from the 500th who died in service. For further information, go to http://WWIIMemorial.com and then go to the Registry. It is also possible to add photos. For those interested, the Honor Roll list of the men of the 497th is available on request from edlawson@netsync.net. It shows all the men memorialized with links to National Archives and the World War II Memorial. The links take the viewer right to the Memorial where entry can be downloaded. Volunteers are sought for help in adding 497th names to the WWII Memorial.

8. **E-Mail and Postal Mail, Websites.**

   Note this notice is being prepared in two forms. An e-mail version will go out as well. The e-mail version will make it easier for those with computers to log on by just clicking. There are many sites on the web. They can be found by just going to B-29.

   **A.** B-29 SuperFortress Then and Now. Consolidates a great deal of information with many sections http://www.b-29.org/

   **B.** Milt Martin: Includes 17 videos including Pratt, 29th Bomb Group, Flying the Hump and the Marianas. https://www.youtube.com/user/miltm1944

   **C.** WWII Airfields of the Plains. During WWII vast expanses of Kansas and Nebraska were transformed into massive training bases for American Bomber Crews. Special section on the 330th Air Service Group. Many crew photos. https://flic.kr/g/pyvrr

   **D.** Prairie Bombers Digital Library. Has a great deal on the 497th, especially on individual crews. www.PrairieBombers.org

   **E.** Saipan, http://vimeo.com/107303765. Saipan Then and Now by Gary Boothe (who also made the video on Tinian). “Spectacular and informative. You have created another masterpiece. Many thanks for the attention to detail and especially for the time and effort you devoted.” Bill Copeland.

G. Lost Crews http://www.exciteableitalian.com/497/lost_air_crews.htm

9 Japanese Television Interview. In June, we were contacted by a Japanese Television organization for a program to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. The crew came from Toyama. Toyama was the last target of the 73rd. Charlie McCoy and Ed Lawson were on that mission. The camera crew and interviewer along with Erika Takehama, the translator, went to the homes of both men for the interviewer. The interviews plus much historical data were included in a CD that was made for broadcast in August. Plans are now under way for a version in English to come out at the end of December. We hope to have it available for our members. We also plan to show it at the New Orleans meeting.

10. Veterans History Project. Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The mission is to collect, collect, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Members who are veterans are asked to consider making a contribution. Family members of a veteran can also make a contribution. Check the enclosed leaflet.

11. Fold3 Directions. The 500th (and the 497th) have simplified directions for going to their websites. For further instructions or questions, e-mail 500thbombgroupb29@netsync.net

12. 500th, 497th, Wings, Museum Dues Applications.

500th Bomb Group Memorial Association
Membership Renewals & New Member Application (Year is from June 1-May 31)

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) __________________________________________
Renewal for Friends of the 497th

Yes! I want to continue as a Partner and help the Friends of the 497th Section of 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: 497th Section, 500th Bomb Group and sent to:
Corey Thompson, 497th Representative, 26351 S. McHardy Rd., Brandon, SD 57005-7009, Tel: 605-582-3437.
brobxb29@gmail.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) ________________________________

B-29 Museum Membership Application

The B-29 Museum holds the extensive collection of the memorabilia of the 73rd Bomb Wing as from other sources. 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.
Checks can be made out 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______
The B-29 Wings of the Marianas

“To preserve and perpetuate the history and achievements of the World War II B-29 Wings stationed in the Marianas, their planes, and the men who flew, maintained and supported them” through education, reunions, media, and museum.

Membership Application

Please print
Last Name: _______________________________    First Name: _______________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________Zip Code__________________

Email: _______________________________    Phone: _______________________________

What is your connection to those who served in the Marianas in 1944-1945?
Veteran: Last Name: _____________________     First Name: _________________________
Connection:     ___Spouse     ___Son     ___Daughter     ___Grandchild     _____Other

Will you want to avail your special skills/experience to help our mission? _______________ i.e., contributing to newsletter; computer work; reunions

Annual Membership ($25) ___________ Additional Contribution: ___________ Total ___________

Checks can be made out to: J.A. Cohen, Treasurer, B-29 Wings of the Marianas, and sent to:
J. A. Cohen, B-29 Wings
19201 Hwy 12, #261,
Sonoma, CA  95476-5413.
Website: http://www.b-29wings.org/
Veterans at B-29 Wings of the Marianas Reunion, Washington, DC, 2015

Front row: Left to right, Earl Stube, 502nd BG, 315th BW, Chum Behr, 314th BW, Emmanuel Horowitz, 501st BG, 315th BW; Jean Allen, 497th BG, 73rd BW; Stephan Leonoudakis, 499th BG, 73rd BW; Ed Lawson, 500th BG, 73rd BW.

Back row: Jack Rodin, 330th BG, 314th BW; Don Thurrow, 500th BG, 73rd BW; Jerry Presutti, 330th BG, 314th BW; Clinton Osborne, 498th BG, 73rd BW; Sid Bolin, 497th BG, 73rd BW; John "Jack" Davidson, 500th BG, 73rd BW; Henry Ratenski, 16th BG, 315th BW, Ed Hyde, 315th BW

On Platform: Partially hidden, Hugh Phillips, 500th BG, 73rd BW; Incoming Chair.

Photography courtesy of Sandra Ann Gillard
B-29 Wings of the Marianas Reunion, Washington, DC, 2015

“Completed full tour of duty (35 missions)”

Left to Right, Ed Lawson, 500th BG; Sid Bolen, 497th BG; Jean Allen, 497th BG
Back: Hugh Phillips, 500th BG

Photography courtesy of Sandra Ann Gillard

B-29 Wings of the Marianas Reunion, Washington, DC, 2015

“Holders of the Distinguished Flying Cross”

Left to right, Jack Rodin, 330th BG; Ed Lawson, 509th BG; Stephan Leonoudakis, 499th BG; Sid Bolen, 497th BG; Jean Allen, 497th BG;
On Platform, Nancy Bastin, 498th, Hugh Phillips, 500th BG, Incoming Chair

Photography courtesy of Sandra Ann Gillard
Propaganda Leaflet dropped over Japan with original notation below on record.

Serial No. 2056
Purpose: To cause a slackening in war production and avoid loss of civilian lives.

Comment: Fear introduced in the minds of industrial workers with warnings of continued bombing of industrial centers and the instigation of a total or partial evacuation of such an area.

Format: standard 5 x 8 leaflet. Rest of sentence indecipherable.

“Our bombing of your industrial area will become more and more severe. We warn you to move out of the industrial areas.

We do not wish to injure or kill civilians. Only by leaving the areas can you be saved. All factories are military objectives not the soldiers guard there”