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398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

VOL. 31 NO. 3

FLAK NEWS

JULY 2016



MEMORIAL DAY AT CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY

The 398th was well represented at this year's Memorial Day ceremony at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Maddingly. Widows, sons, daughters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family members and friends journeyed across the pond' and were joined by our UK friends for our 2016 "Back To England Again" biennial tour. This year's return to England coincided beautifully with the Memorial Day service at Maddingly. *Event photos are throughout this issue.*

Photo above, kneeling from left: Frank Hunter MacDonald, Sally MacDonald Mackie, Lee Bradley, Maria Hunter Mackie, MSgt. Will Sullivan, Cathy Yarmoski. **Standing from left:** Roy Casson, Rod Finn, David McCoy, Elaine Halama, Maria Hunter MacDonald, David Ziegler, Claire Murphy, Connie Novek, Dawne Dougherty, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Marianne Gluhosky, Shelley Bennett, Harvey Ditchman (behind Shelley), Trish Barnes, Kevin Marsh, Linda Finn, Les Barnes, Geoff Rice.

A Message from the President:

BY MARILYN GIBB-RICE

President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

Over 130 people attended the biennial Memorial Service for the 398th Bomb Group and the 55th Fighter Group at their respective memorials near The Woodman Inn in Nuthampstead. Just under 30 Americans were on hand for the service and the opening of the second building named the Hunter Building of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. Hunter's daughter Maria, grandson Hunter, granddaughter Sally and great granddaughter Maria were in attendance for the opening. Some comments by the group about the museum were: amazing, wonderful, fabulous, remarkable, meaningful, pristine!

My sincere thanks to the Friends of the 398th committee that made the service such a success and to the trustees of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum who worked so very hard and were so determined to get as much completed as possible for the opening of the Hunter Building.

We will bring lots of photographs to the Norfolk reunion to share with everyone. We do hope to see you there.



Connie Novek and Geoff Rice and 'friend' in the new Hunter Building at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum

Memories of my Memories

By Connie Novek

Vice-President, 398th Bomb Group Memorial Association

Was so looking forward to the trip back to England for the dedication of the Museum that our Friends of the 398th built to honor our loved ones who were stationed there during the war, but I was concerned that anticipation would not be the realization. Was I ever wrong to be concerned.

The daily trips were well planned and wonderful. The visit to Cambridge and the Memorial Day Service there, the church service at Anstey the visit to Duxford, and Parham and their museum, the interesting visit to Bletchley Park to see and hear about the breaking of the Enigma code were all wonderful.

But, the most outstanding of the entire trip was, of course, the main reason I wanted to make the trip. The Dedication of Museum to our men who were based there during the war. The time and effort that our friends have put into creating this wonderful memorial is amazing. The construction and display should bring joy to all who visit.

The three widows on the trip, Dawne Dougherty, Chrysta Moore, and me, were so moved by the displays at seeing memorabilia to our husbands.

The museum is a treasure, and there are no words enough, that can thank all who worked so hard to create it.

I hope that many people will have the opportunity to visit.



Marilyn Gibb-Rice at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum

Photo by Amy Murphy

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA!

Join Us for the 398th Bomb Group's 33rd Annual Reunion August 10-11-12-13, 2016

NORFOLK IS THE PLACE!

Please join us this August for the 33rd Annual 398th BGMA Reunion! We have incredible tours planned throughout the entire event. They are a Naval Station Norfolk Tour including Nauticus (the National Maritime Center) and the Battleship Wisconsin, Colonial Williamsburg, the Jamestown Settlement, the MacArthur Memorial, the Chrysler Museum of Art and a Riding Norfolk City Tour.

In addition to our tour line-up, we have arranged a dinner cruise with Spirit Cruises Wednesday evening aboard the *Spirit of Norfolk*. Thursday's Welcome Dinner and Saturday's Farewell Dinner will be held at the hotel. Our Farewell Dinner band this year will be "The Skylark Band" a popular Norfolk area band which will feature the sound of swing and Frank Sinatra arrangements.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: 1-757-213-2231

Time's running out! Please call the Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport Hotel for your reservations **BY AUGUST 4TH** for the 398th BGMA Reunion. Ask for the **398th Bomb Group room rate of \$99.00** (+14% tax & \$2 occupancy tax) per night. No mail-in reservations are required.

Hotel Website: <http://www.westinneworleanscanalplace.com>

REGISTRATION FORMS REQUIRED BY JULY 1

Your completed Registration Form, found in the April issue of the FLAK NEWS, is due back to our Reunion Chair, Ken Howard, no later than **JULY 1st**.

For replacement forms contact Ken at 105 S. Knox St., Elmwood, IL 61529-9702.
Home Phone 309-742-8546. Cell Phone 815-238-3691.
E-mail kenhoward@hotmail.com, subject: "398th Reunion".

The Registration Form can also be printed from our website www.398th.org under the heading 'Reunions and Tours'.

Photo below: The Norfolk waterfront



*Enjoy the classic and modern sounds of swing
and jazz as it comes alive with the*

"Skylark Band"

Saturday, August 13, 2016 – 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
The FAREWELL DINNER at the hotel



Skylark provides sophisticated, funky grooves different from your run of the mill top 40 swing groups. They play a kind of swing/funk, danceable and listenable by everyone. You will hear songs you know, but with new, modern arrangements, along with your favorite Sinatra type material.

Led by composer Skip Hancock on vocal and piano, Skylark will bring their unique brand of musical Americana to our special event.

Back To England Again Tour – Recap!

By Lee Anne Bradley

Our “Back to England Again” reunion kicked off Friday, May 27th, with a morning coach ride from Cambridge through the beautiful countryside to the Parham Airfield Museum in Nr. Framlingham, Suffolk. There, after a warm welcome and introduction by the museum volunteers, our group toured the facility which is actually comprised of two separate museums; the “390th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum” housed in the original wartime Control Tower of Framlingham Station 153, and the “Museum of the British Resistance Organisation”. Both museums are packed with fascinating displays, such as recovered aircraft engines, uniforms, photos, even a room recreating an airman’s living quarters complete with bunk beds, pinups and a potbelly stove. After enjoying a light lunch in the museum cafe, we all gathered outside for a group photo and then waved goodbye to our gracious hosts.

Once back in Cambridge our group enjoyed a very interesting guided tour of this very famous university city and its colleges, including Kings Chapel. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour and though it was a wonderful way to spend the afternoon.

We wound up our day of tours by having dinner at one of Cambridge’s most famous pubs, The Eagle. There we enjoyed traditional English fare such as fish and chips, Shepard’s Pie, and a dish coincidentally named “Hunter’s Chicken” (much to the delight of the Hunter clan!). Naturally a few pints of ale were available to wash it all down!

The Eagle Pub is famous for the ceiling in their RAF bar where during WWII the airmen would use lighters to burn, or write with ladies’ lipstick, their bomb or fighter group numbers. Our group had great fun looking for the “398” and once found it became an instant ‘photo op’ location!



Above: Our group received a very warm welcome from the Parham Airfield Museum staff. Pictured at left is Museum President Peter Kindred. Seated from left are Maria Hunter, Connie Novek, Dawne Dougherty, Maria Hunter Mackie, Sally Hunter and Sandra Averhart. Standing in back is tour guide Tim.

Top Right: The Eagle Pub’s famous ceiling. Do you see the “398”? *Photo by Kevin Marsh*

Bottom Right: Maria Hunter Mackie and her uncle Hunter MacDonalld pose under the spot on the ceiling where they found the 398.



Back to England Again Tour – Recap! *Continued from Page 4*



Top Photo: Widows Chrysta Moore, Dawne Dougherty and Connie Novek were called first to lay their bouquets at the 398th BG Memorial.

Middle Photo: The second, third and fourth generations were then called upon to lay their bouquets.

Bottom Photo: The United States Air Force Honor Guard from RAF Mildenhall.



The next morning everyone made their way to Nuthampstead for the memorial service at the 398th BG and 55th FG Monuments located across the lot from the Woodman Inn and the new Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. It was cloudy and cool outside at first (ok, I thought it was freezing!) but as the service began the sun peeked out and it gradually warmed. It turned out to be a lovely day. The memorial service was beautiful, not only attended by our 398th group of 30 but also by many locals and Air Force personnel from RAF Mildenhall. Maria Hunter Mackie, Col. Hunter's great granddaughter, and I were called upon to read Psalm 91 and Revelation 21: 1 -7. After our readings, our three widows; Dawne Dougherty, Chrysta Moore and Connie Novek were called up to lay small flower bouquets with notes written to the 398th men, past and present, upon the 398th monument. The sons, daughters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and friends were then called to lay their bouquets and notes. TAPS was played by Terry Hope and there was a moment of silence. Lt. Col. Kevin Webster, 95th Reconnaissance Squadron Commander, RAF Mildenhall then introduced Maria Hunter, Col. Hunter's daughter. She touchingly spoke of her father and mother and her memories of home life before her dad was assigned overseas with the 398th BG.

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Back to England Again Tour – Recap! *Continued from Page 5*

Following the 398th BG Memorial Service, Marilyn Gibb-Rice invited everyone over to the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum's newly installed Memorial Garden for the official grand opening of the new Hunter Building. Maria Hunter cut the ribbon at the door and a crowd of over 130 poured into the building where all were instantly transformed back in time to WWII. It was absolutely amazing. Everything from mannequins dressed in donated original uniforms to B-17 artifacts dug from the fields were featured in high quality lighted display cases. Medals, photographs, documents, books, footlockers, silk maps. You name it; they had everything 398th in the Hunter Building. Several of our widow's and family member's eyes welled up as they happened upon their late husband's or dad's photos and memorabilia on display.

From the Hunter Building everyone crossed into the James Building which houses the 55th Fighter Group memorabilia such as photos, uniforms, Station 131 base items and P-38 artifacts recovered from the fields of Nuthampstead. Here the brilliant displays are well maintained by Russ Abbey, Historian for the 55th FG. Russ is assisted in his fine work by Peter and Brenda Godfrey, all members of the "Friends of the 398th" and the "3 Counties Aviation Archaeology Group".

There was so much to take in, it was absolutely overwhelming. Many were heard to say that this museum was different from all the rest because of how *personal* it all was. Many, MANY, thanks to all of the trustees and volunteers of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum; Harvey Ditchman, Geoff Rice, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Sandy Johnson, Andrew Grisbrooke, Rod Finn, Paul Droy, Chris Barry, Russ Abbey, Peter and Brenda Godfrey, Chris Rixon and countless others whose dedication and very hard work made this fine museum a reality. It is a true tangible legacy to the men of the 398th BG and 55th FG. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts to help keep their memories alive for many generations to come.

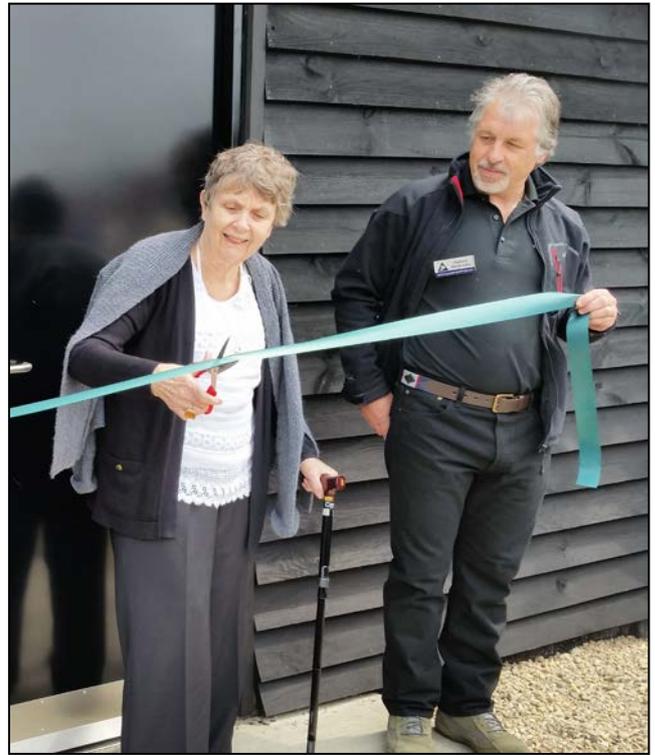


Photo Above: Maria Hunter cuts the ceremonial ribbon, officially opening the Hunter Building named in honor of her late father Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr. at the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum. Andrew Grisbrooke, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, is the fellow holding the end of the ribbon.



Photo at Left: Wilfred Dimsdale (background), Claire Murphy and David McCoy admire one of the many fine displays in the Hunter Building.



After spending quite some time in the museum, everyone headed over to the Woodman Inn where Sandy Johnson, the proprietor of the Woodman, offered a very special selection of meals and beverages for the crowd. Sandy was also very helpful throughout the day with anything that needed to be done last minute. Thank you Sandy and your entire Woodman Inn staff.

From the Woodman we made our way out to the flag pole on the old Station 131 airfield for the flag ceremony, arriving there by car, tour bus and jeep. Yes, jeep! There were several restored jeeps on display, brought over for the day by local owners, and a few lucky souls were able to hitch a ride in them to the flag pole. One of those “lucky” souls was Hunter MacDonald... unfortunately he hitched a ride in one of the jeeps *not* going to the flag ceremony and ended up several miles away before realizing something wasn't quite right. LOL! Hunter was always good for a laugh and we really enjoyed his tales.

But I digress... back to the flag ceremony. We had two flags to fly this time. First was Claire Murphy's father's flag, Capt. Arthur B. Murphy, 600th Navigator. Second to fly was Cathy Yarmoski's father's flag S/Sgt. Frank Yarmoski, 601st Toggler/Gunner. Cathy's dad's flag was left on the pole to be flown to destruction, then Claire's dad's flag will be raised again and also flown to destruction.

Following this very moving flag ceremony, Marilyn made the announcement that Harvey Ditchman received a certificate from the “Museums + Heritage” for his outstanding volunteer work. The “Museums + Heritage” organization celebrates the very best within museums, galleries and heritage. There is nobody more deserving of this recognition than Harvey. If not for his devoted and tireless work on the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, the James and Hunter buildings would not have progressed so quickly. Harvey, you are amazing... and a very talented builder to boot! You have totally earned and deserve this honor.

All in all this was a very special and emotional day in which everyone who attended will remember for a very long time to come.

Continued next page...

Top Left Photo: Chrysta Moore showing Roy Casson her husband's crew photo in the Hunter Building.

Top Right Photo: David McCoy salutes as Mike Ryan helps to lower Claire Murphy's dad's flag.

Bottom Photo: David Ziegler, Shelley Bennett, Cathy Yarmoski and Elaine Halama gather around Cathy's dad's plaque after his flag was raised.



Back to England Again Tour – Recap! *Continued from Page 7*

Sunday morning our group attended a special church service at St. Georges Church in Anstey. St. Georges Church is home to the 398th BG stained glass window honoring all of our 398th men killed in action while stationed at Nuthampstead. It is always a treat to see this spectacular work of art in person. It is absolutely awe inspiring.

After the church service several members of our group went directly to the Imperial War Museum Duxford to see their newly revamped American Air Museum and the Duxford Spring American Air Show. The air show was spectacular and we lucked out with decent weather (although still cool!). It featured many WWII era planes including fly-bys by the B-17 “Sally B” and various other warbirds such as P-51’s, C-47’s, Spitfires and Stearmans. Also on hand were Hawker Hurricanes and we watched an incredible display show put on by the Red Arrows.

Our group staked out a patch of grass close to the American Air Museum and set-up folding chairs and spread large blankets on the ground so we could watch the show in relative comfort. We also had a ton of snacks which were devoured in no time flat! Chairs, blankets and snacks were all courtesy of Marilyn & Geoff. Thank you!!



Left clockwise: 1. Dawne Dougherty and Connie Novek listening to an interview by Marilyn’s dad, James Crouch, in the American Air Museum. 2. Our gang watching the air show. 3. The “Sally B”. 4. The Red Arrows. 5. A P-51 Mustang. **Air show photos by Geoff Rice**

Back to England Again Tour – Recap! *Continued from Page 8*

The following day was Memorial Day Monday, a very special day for our group indeed. Arriving at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Madingley, our group joined hundreds of others for the cemetery's Memorial Day Service. Unbeknownst to me, I had been chosen to lay a wreath on behalf of the 398th BG during the wreath laying ceremony. I was very surprised and honored to say the least! I was one of the "Presenters".

Before the Presenters were called up, members of the U.S. Air Force from RAF Mildenhall marched single file and parallel to the end of the Wall of the Missing. They each held one wreath to hand to their assigned Presenter. Once all of the servicemen were in line, the Presenters were called up and took their place facing their assigned serviceman. The servicemen handed their wreaths to the Presenters and then quietly marched out the way they came in. The Presenters were then instructed to lay their wreaths at the base of the Wall of the Missing. There was a moment of silence and then the Presenters returned to their seats.

Interestingly, my Air Force serviceman was MSgt. Will Sullivan who is with the 100th Air Refueling Wing. As it turns out, MSgt. Sullivan has a connection with the 398th. His dad's cousin was Sgt. Dale J. Schaupp, Engineer/Top Turret Gunner with the O'Neal Crew, 600th SQ. Schaupp was KIA on the 398th BG's May 19, 1944 mission to Berlin. The O'Neal Crew was the first combat loss for the 398th. Will discovered his second cousin was with the 398th BG while researching his family tree. He was thrilled to be able to be part of the 398th BG wreath laying. That makes two of us Will!



Top Right: Lee Bradley, Historian of the 398th BGMA and MSgt. Will Sullivan from RAF Mildenhall show off the wreath laid on behalf of the 398th BG at the Cambridge American Cemetery Memorial Day Service.

Bottom Left: Michael Haase and George Abbott LaDoux. **Bottom Right:** Kevin Marsh, grandson Eli Myers and daughter Shanna Myers.

Back to England Again Tour – Recap! *Continued from Page 9*

Our last day together found us at Bletchley Park, Home of the Codebreakers. Bletchley Park housed the codebreaking operation during WWII and was the birthplace of modern computing. Many historians estimate that the Codebreakers' efforts helped to shorten the war by up to two years, saving countless lives. It poured rain the entire time we were there but fortunately most of the exhibits were indoors. The Bletchley Park Estate Mansion, which served as the headquarters during WWII, was beautiful. It was also a good place to go in, dry off and warm up! The codebreaking huts looked like they had been frozen in time since 1945. Old wooden desks, typewriters, cipher machines, and Typex machines used to re-encipher outgoing messages, were all left in place. The main museum area had an Enigma, a machine used by the Germans to scramble their messages into unintelligible cipher text. Also on display were several models of Bombe machines, developed by Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman at Bletchley Park to decode the Enigma messages. This was a very educational and interesting trip!

That night we all met back at the hotel in Cambridge for a farewell dinner. It was very nice but also sad to see everyone go home. We had a great group of people which made for a very enjoyable Biennial Reunion. Before dinner, the group presented Marilyn with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a lovely card signed by all thanking her for her hard work in putting the 2016 "Back to England" reunion together. They also gave me a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a very sweet card thanking me for my work with the 398th. Geoff and Harvey also received cards and goodies thanking them for their hard work in helping to make the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum a reality. Tim, our tour bus guide was also a recipient of thoughtful thank you gifts from our group.

All in all, I have to say this was one fantastic trip and I look forward to our next Biennial Reunion in the UK in 2018. A HUGE thank you to everyone involved who made this event possible. It was *truly* memorable.



Harvey Ditchman, Connie Novek and Geoff Rice raise a pint on one of the movie sets from "The Imitation Game". Much of the movie was filmed on location at Bletchley Park.

"Back To England Again" Tour Participants:

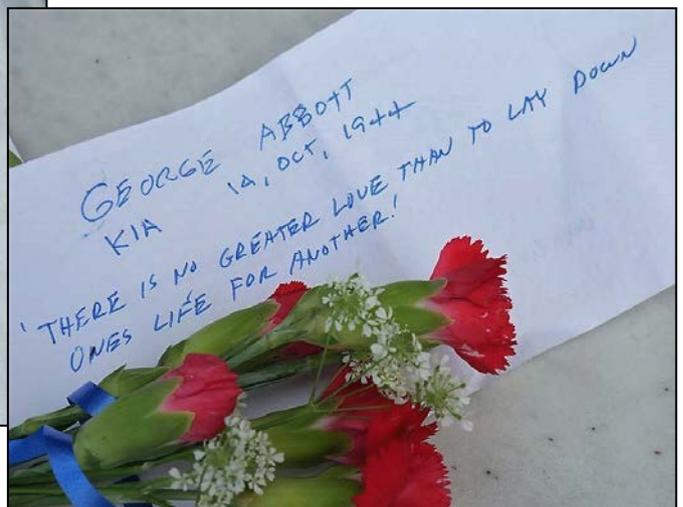
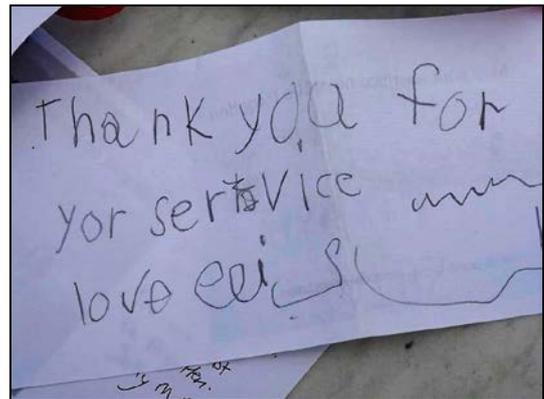
- Dawne Dougherty** – widow of S/Sgt. Tom Dougherty, 602nd Ball Turret, Waist & Tail Gunner
- Chrysta Moore** – widow of S/Sgt. Cecil "Tex" Moore, 602nd Tail Gunner
- Celia Murry** – daughter of Chrysta and Cecil
Beverly Bannister - niece of Chrysta and Cecil
- Connie Novek** – widow of T/Sgt. Elliot Novek, 602nd Radio Op
- Sandra Averhart** – niece of Lt. William H. Baker, 600th Navigator (KIA Nov. 25, 1944)
Roberta Dunklin – friend of Sandra
- Lee Bradley** – daughter of T/Sgt. Frederick C. Bradley, Jr., 601st Engineer/TT Gunner
- Marty Haas** – son of Lt. Jim Haas, 603rd Bombardier
Brian Haas – son of Marty, grandson of Jim
Xenia Eremine – girlfriend of Brian
- Maria Hunter** – daughter of Col. Frank Hunter
Frank Hunter MacDonald (known as Hunter MacDonald) – son of Maria, grandson of Col. Hunter
Sally MacDonald Mackie – daughter of Maria, granddaughter of Col. Hunter
Maria Hunter Mackie – daughter of Sally, great granddaughter of Col. Hunter
- George Abbott LaDoux** – son of Lt. Raymond LaDoux, 601st Navigator/Bombardier
Michael Haase – friend of George
- Kevin Marsh** – son of Lt. Walter E. Marsh, 603rd Bombardier
Leslie Marsh – wife of Kevin
Shanna Myers – daughter of Kevin & Leslie, granddaughter of Walter
Adam Myers – husband of Shanna
Eli Myers – son of Shanna & Adam, great grandson of Walter
Beckett Myers – son of Shanna & Adam, great grandson of Walter
- Claire Murphy** – daughter of Capt. Arthur B. Murphy, 600th Navigator
David McCoy – husband of Claire
- Marilyn Gibb-Rice** – Daughter of S/Sgt. Jim Crouch., 601st Toggler / Waist Gunner
Geoff Rice – husband of Marilyn
- Mike Ryan** – son of Lt. Michael O. Ryan, 602nd Navigator
Gloria Ryan – wife of Mike
- Cathy Yarmoski** – daughter of S/Sgt. Frank Yarmoski, 601st Toggler/Gunner
Elaine Halama – friend of Cathy
Shelley Bennett – friend of Cathy
David Ziegler – friend of Cathy

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Just a few of the touching tributes left at the 398th BG Memorial during the Service of Commemoration on Saturday, May 28, 2016



Many thanks to Marilyn Bishop, Amy Murphy Kevin Marsh, Cathy Yarmoski, Marilyn Gibb-Rice, Geoff Rice and Lee Bradley for the use of their photos in this issue of FLAK NEWS.