



# Wingman



Winter

506th Fighter Group Association

2007

## 2007 Reunion to Return to Tampa & Lakeland Florida

For 2007, the annual reunion returns to Florida. That seems appropriate as so many retirees head south to Florida and the 506th Fighter Group has their roots there as well. At last year's reunion, it was decided to try to visit Mac Dill Air Force Base as well as Lakeland. So that is what is on the schedule.

We will be staying in Tampa as we did in 2004 at the

Radisson Bay Harbor. For those who attended the previous Tampa reunion, it is just a few blocks from our previous accommodations. Because Mac Dill was only available during the week and we chose to attend the Sun 'n Fun airshow as planes were arriving, we will be blocked into a little higher weekday rate than we might have liked, but

we are also getting an extra nice hotel.

## Mustangs & Legends

This year, or the first time, a second event is scheduled for the members of the 506th Fighter Group and their families. In addition to the annual reunion, it was decided that our members should participate in a significant event which honors the North American P-51 Mustang and the men who flew them.

Additional information about this event is posted later in this newsletter, but all members should mark their calendars now to attend.

## Tentative Reunion Schedule

Date	Day	Event
4/16/07	Mon	Welcome Dinner
4/17/07	Tue	Sun 'n Fun Airshow Lakeland
		Dinner at Hotel
4/18/07	Wed	Tour MacDill Air Force Base
		Banquet
4/19/07	Thu	Hotel Checkout

## More Newsletters

With the interest expressed by the members to participate in an additional event this year, it only makes sense to increase the number of issues of this newsletter to 3 per year. So, following the April reunion in Tampa, a review of that meeting and an update on the Gathering of Mustangs & Legends will be covered by an issue to be published in May (if all goes well). Hotel and schedule information should be complete by then and allow members to make timely reservations.

This should be a once in a lifetime event to see the largest gathering of P-51s since World War II. Of the approximately 165 flying in the US, over 100 are expected to attend.

Additionally, there will be a public opportunity to honor those of you who took them off to war. More to come.

### A Word or two about Dues

*This newsletter is being mailed to 200 families who are on our mailing list. Last year 64 contributed to our voluntary membership. Thank you for your participation. While a lot of folks contribute their time to make the reunion, newsletter and web site successful, it is your membership dues that pays to mail out this and future newsletters. Thanks for your support.*



## What to expect at the 2006 Tampa Reunion

As in past years, we will have a welcoming evening meal to get us started. On the first of our 2 full days in Tampa, we will travel by charter bus to Lakeland for a day of "everything aviation", as we visit the Sun 'n Fun Air Show. Everyone will have plenty of time to hug a Mustang and visit with the current pilots who fly them. Exhibitions on airplane merchandise will also be on display. During this weeklong event, approximately 6,000 airplanes arrive and 400,000 folks participate.

For our other day in Tampa, we have scheduled a visit to Mac Dill. Because this is an active military base and with their attention directed to events outside our homeland, there will be a possibility of adjustments to this plan, but as we go to press, it is all a go. Hopefully it all works out, as Mac Dill was our most ask for attraction. Besides the meal the first night, we plan on two more meals together at the hotel. Not only will this give us time to socialize, but time to make plans for next year as well as have time to remember those who are no longer with us.

## The Importance of Reunions

by Amy Starin Woodrick  
Daughter of Pat and My Starin (458th)

Not too long ago I saw a local news story about a WWII group that was having its last reunion. Attendance had dwindled so they had decided to no longer have their reunions. This made me realize yet again how lucky we are to still have the great attendance we have had every year since 1985. And since the year 2000 we have had second, third and even fourth generation participation! Last year the first generation still outnumbered the second and it was also the first time that the fourth generation attended.

My first reunion was with my mom and dad in 1995 and then again in 2000. I have continued to enjoy coming since my parents passing in the early 2000's. These later reunions have come to be even more precious to me since my parents are gone. This year will be my eighth reunion, I am incredibly grateful and honored to be a part of the 506th Fighter Group Reunions.

Please encourage your children and grandchildren to attend or have them come to represent you.

*Editor's Note: Though the 506th had a relative short history during the WWII, and considering the fact that reunions are rather new to the group, and including the fact that our veterans grow older, our membership continues to expand. This newsletter will be mailed to over 200 families. Also, at the '06 reunion was one of the best attended, particularly by younger family members. All that took the time to attend continue to make plans to return. How about you?*

Below are members for whom we have bad addresses. *Any help would be appreciated.*

	Last Name	First Name	City	State
Mr.	Albrecht	Francis	Oakland	CA
Mrs.	Bahlhorn	Edward	Sacramento	CA
Mr.	Cacioppo	Charles	Williston Park	NY
Mr.	Fillipino	Joseph	Prague	OK
Mr.	Fisher	Mike	Meadowview	VA
Ms.	Fitta	Susan	Kaufman	TX
Mr.	Graham	Gordon M.	White Stone	VA
Mr.	Graham	Robert	Gloucester	MA
Mr.	Green	Taylor	Conroe	TX
Mr.	Grimmett	Bill	Pauls Valley	OK
Mr.	Guerin	Charles	Pompton Plains	NJ
Mr.	Heimann	Arthur	Decatur	IN
Mr.	Heimann	Arthur	Decatur	IN
Mr.	Hetland	William	Lakeland	FL
Mr.	Higley	Denver	Yuma	AZ
Mr.	Howard	John	Pittsburgh	PA
Mr.	Irving	Howard	New York	NY
Mr.	Johnson	Carl	Santa Ana	CA
Mr.	Katner	Garth	Chicago	IL
Mr.	Kinvig	Allen	Sedona	AZ
Mrs.	Klump	Dee	Hampton	VA
Mr.	Koellner	Alfred	Millport	NY
Mr.	Lillard	Thomas	Wilmette	IL
Mr.	Linebarrier	Grover	Camden	AR
Mr.	Maher	Harry	Bearfoot Bay	FL
Mr.	Moody	William	Palatine	IL
Mr.	Moore	George	Stratford	CT
Mr.	Podeswa	Louis	Edgewater	FL
Mr.	Posta	Charles	Newman	CA
Mr.	Prybil	Frank	W. Sun City	AZ
Mr.	Puzick	Phil	Woodbridge	VA
Mr.	Puzick	Stephen	Collorado Springs	CO
Mr.	Reynolds	Girard	St Petersburg	FL
Mr.	Sparks	George	Marion	IN
Mr.	Stockhaus	Fred	Scottsdale	AZ
Mr.	Van Doren	Charles	Holland	MI
Mr.	Williams	C. B.	Panama City Beach	FL
Mr.	Worthen	Curtis	Amherst	NH

## Radisson Bay Harbor Hotel

7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway

Tampa, Florida 33607

(888) 201-1718

(813) 281-8900 local

[www.radisson.com/tampaf1](http://www.radisson.com/tampaf1)

Tell them you are with the 506th Fighter Group  
Complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport

Room Rate: \$99 per night plus tax

## The Gathering of Mustangs & Legends

"A Once in a Lifetime Aviation Celebration"

September 27 - 30, 2007

Rickenbacker International Airport  
Columbus, OH

The world-leader in P-51 Mustang operations, Stallion 51 Corp, in association with Columbus Regional Airport Authority will be hosting one of this century's greatest aviation celebrations!

The Gathering of Mustangs & Legends is happening ONCE AGAIN!!! Mark your calendars for September 27 - 30, 2007 for 4-days of fun-filled flying with the P-51 Mustangs and their friends.

The 1999 Gathering of Mustangs & Legends was termed as one of the great aviation events of the 20th Century. Held in Kissimmee, FL at Stallion 51, it amassed 65 Mustangs and 12 Legends for a weekend of flying, fun and old-fashioned story telling by the present day owners and the real life experts who flew the Mustang into battle. The first Gathering only whetted the appetite for more and gave hope that there would be another.

Over 100 Mustangs are expected to attend along with 51 Legends who will be an array of Aces, crew chiefs, WASP's and others who were part of the P-51 family. They will reunite at the historic Rickenbacker Int'l Airport (LCK) in September 2007, which will be celebrating its birthday of 65 years in rich aviation history.

LCK opened in 1942 as Lockbourne Army Air Base and served as a glider and B-17

training facility as well as being home to the 332nd FW of the infamous Tuskegee Airmen. In 1974 the base was renamed Rickenbacker Air Force Base in honor of Columbus native, WWI Ace and Congressional Medal of Honor winner; Eddie Rickenbacker.

It has been 65 years since the introduction of the P-51 into combat history,, there are only approximately one percent of the original 15,868 Mustangs flying today; the majority of those planes will be at the Gathering in September 2007. As rare as the P-51 has become, the great veterans of WWII are even rarer. This is what the event is all about - these men and women - to reunite them together again: to honor, to thank, to hear their stories one more time.

In addition to celebrating the history of the P-51 Mustang and Legends, we will also feature a World-Class Air Show celebrating Air Force Heritage past and present. WWII fighters that flew with and against each other such as the P-40, P-63, P-47, P-38, ME-109, FW-190, and Spitfire are expected to be in attendance along with some of the country's top Air Show Performers at this incredible aviation celebration!

Please join us in celebrating this Once in a Lifetime

Event that you won't want to miss!

## History of the 457th to be Preserved in Ft. Worth.

Do you have any historical items that you would like to have displayed in the 457th FS Heritage Room? They would love for you to loan them your treasures, telling the stories of their forefather fighter pilots. Please include a short note discussing the item on loan, so a plaque can be produced denoting the owner and telling the story of the artifact. Owners can recover their loaned item(s) at any time.

If you can help, contact Lt Col Bruce "Baghdad" Cox at [bruce.cox@carswell.af.mil](mailto:bruce.cox@carswell.af.mil) or 817-235-0755.

## Show your squadron pride

Polo shirts have been designed and made for each of the 3 squadrons that make up the 506th Fighter Group. All have the unit patch embroidered in the unit colors on high quality cotton pique navy blue polo shirts. Under the unit patch is the squadron and group info in white letters (just like the attached order form). Order yours today while supplies last.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

## Would you like hats?

The squadron polo shirts have been such a hit with the sale of over 7 dozen to date, maybe we should ask what other unit merchandise would you like. Additionally, would you prefer future merchandise to promote the 506th Fighter Group or for the individual squadrons. When you mail in your annual dues, how about a note on your suggestions.

## This just in! Air Force Thunderbirds to perform at Gathering of Mustangs.



## Members Gone West

*We will remember you! Always!*

### 2006

Budd Baumgardner  
Ray Miller  
Frank Seale  
Tom Thiessen

### 2007

Charles Barr  
Bennett Commer  
Lon (Joe) Todd

New Address

506<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group  
3571 Far West Blvd. #214  
Austin, Texas 78731

- \* To renew you membership and update our records, please complete the middle portion of this form. Your membership helps pay for the newsletter.
- \* To order polo shirts, complete the other side
- \* For those attending the reunion, in addition, please complete the lower portion. Make your reservation by March 15th.
- \* Mail (with your check) to:  
506th Fighter Group  
3571 Far West Blvd. #214  
Austin, TX 78731



## 2007 Dues - 506th Fighter Group

Just complete and return to:  
506th Fighter Group  
3571 Far West Blvd. #214  
Austin, TX 78731

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Email Address:	

**2007  
Dues  
\$15**



## 2007 Reunion Registration - 506th Fighter Group

*This information will be used to complete your nametag & admission to Mac Dill AFB.*

Name of Those Attending	Home Town	Squadron	Social Security No.

**Reunion  
Registration  
Fee  
\$95 ea.**  
(if paid by April 1, 2007  
\$105 if after that date)  
*Registration Fee  
will be Refunded if  
Canceled by  
April 12th.*

# Promote the Squadrons of the 506th

*They help tell the story and preserve the history*

## Order Polo Shirts Today!

Satisfaction Guaranteed

### Squadron Polo Shirts \$ 30 ea.

Polo shirts are navy blue with multi-color squadron patch embroidered on left. Because you are ordering sight unseen, refunds or exchanges will be offered.



457th Fighter Squadron  
506th Fighter Group  
Iwo Jima '45

Size	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X-Large	
XX-Large	



458th Fighter Squadron  
506th Fighter Group  
Iwo Jima '45

Size	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X-Large	
XX-Large	



462nd Fighter Squadron  
506th Fighter Group  
Iwo Jima '45

Size	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X-Large	
XX-Large	

Shirts will be shipped to the member's address on the side of this form.

Qty	Item	Each	Amount Enclosed
	Reunion	\$95	
	Shirts	\$30	
	Dues	\$15	
	<b>Total</b>		



## 506th Fighter Group

3571 Far West #214

Austin, Texas 78731

