



**The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc.
The Long Rangers**

Welcome

to

First Quarter 2022 Newsletter

IMPORTANT REUNION NEWS UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BREAKING NEWS!!!!

Well we are back. Thank you all for your patience this past year. We have been struggling with the workings of the reunion. **We ran into a bit of a problem.**



The Hotel Elegante' has been SOLD!!!!

We have lost our host hotel for the June reunion. With that being said, we have CANCELLED the reunion in Colorado Springs Colorado.

Do not fret though. We have been working diligently to find us a new reunion site. I sent out over 10 RFP's to different hotels and we have a combined listing. We feel that we have found one that will definitely fit the bill. The officers have to get together shortly but it looks like we will be having our reunion in August

instead of June. I will put out another newsletter as soon as we finalize that hotel site.

AS A SIDE NOTE

The 307th Bomb Wing Reunion in Louisiana planned for April 6-10, 2022 has been postponed. We will keep you informed of when it will be rescheduled.



FINAL FLIGHTS

As is our custom and our honor, we pay our sincere respects to the families and crew members of the 307th Bombardment Group who have taken their final flight since our last gathering. They will always be with us!

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of the Captain Jack Palmer. Jack took his final flight on Christmas Day at his home in California. Jack was, for years, our association parliamentarian and a long time member of the 307th Bombardment Group Association (H).

Maj. Gen. Clarence "Ed" Atkinson, Jr., 371st BS Mechanic at Ephrata, Washington (dec.) 7/17/21

S/Sgt. Gaines O. Boone, 372nd BS TTO, Pilot – Lt. George A. Boyd (dec.) 9/14/21

Capt. John M. Palmer Jr., 424th BS Pilot (dec.) 12/25/21

THE HISTORIAN CORNER

On February 14th, 2022, Albert L. LeGault, Radar Operator, longtime resident of Minnesota, will be celebrating his 100th birthday. We celebrate the anniversary of LeGault's 100th birthday with a bit of biography submitted by his



grandson Chris Loecher.

How appropriate that Grandpa Al shares his birthday on a day we celebrate love. For all of us lucky to know Al, he is known as one of the most kind, supportive, loving, and community minded people there is.

What a lot of people don't know about Al is that he is a decorated WWII veteran. He is a proud member of the legendary 13th Air Force, 307th Bombardment Group, Long Rangers. Al is a true hero who took part in some of the most dangerous missions in the war and is also an accomplished artist and photographer who documented his time overseas in vivid photos and art. For years Grandpa Al kept his time in the war to himself, not talking about what he experienced due to modesty and not wanting to relive the memories. Over time he has opened up and shared his experiences so we can all learn from his time deployed to the Southwest Pacific Area. S/Sgt. Albert L. LeGault, Radar Operator, 371st Bombardment Squadron, is currently being celebrated by the 307th Bombardment Group (H) Association. After all these years we would like celebrate Al's service to our nation.

When Grandpa Al returned from the war, he was married and moved to Minneapolis with his wife of over 60 years, Jeanne. Al then went to work for JB Hudsons in Minneapolis. Al was a fixture in downtown and at Dayton's as a watch maker and repair man for Hudsons. Every day, rain or shine, all seasons, Al would walk from Dayton's to the farmers market to catch the bus back home. When he retired after over 40 years of service, Hudson's honored Al with a large celebration for everyone's favorite watch repairman. Mention his name to people at Hudson's and people smile and even people too young to have known him have heard of his legend.

Today we celebrate Albert L. LeGault, the most youthful 100 year old who still walks one mile everyday. Loving father, grandfather, great grandfather, neighbor, community member, accomplished artist, watch maker and decorated WWII veteran, Al is a shining example of how to live life to it's fullest.

The photo above is Grandpa Al during the war years and below Al today.

- Chris
Loecher,
Grandson



Allow us to introduce to you, Michael T. Naya. Michael is a Kean University Sophomore majoring in History-Education. Now nineteen years old, he has been interviewing World War II veterans since he was fourteen years old. Michael Naya is a honorary member of the 5th Marine Division Association, the 7th Armored Division Association, and of the Kenilworth, NJ, Rotary Club. He is an associate member of the Kenilworth Historical Society, the 12th Armored Division Association, the American World War II Orphans Network, and the 96th Bomb Group Association. Michael is the lead and founding member of the Young Historians Program of the D-Day Squadron. The goal of the YHP is to educate children, teenagers, and young adults on the history of WWII through surviving veterans, aircraft, and educational outreach programs. Michael has interviewed the following 307th Bomb Group veterans:

S/Sgt. Harry Bush, 424th BS Tail Gunner & Photographer

Col. Ed Jurkens, 307th BG Group Operations Officer

Capt. James Mahoney, 371st BS Navigator

S/Sgt. Lewis H Smith, 372nd BS Nose Gunner

Sgt. Dale Stickrath, 371st BS BTO (Ball Turret Operator)

**Sgt. Royce A Tasker, 372nd BS Engineer/TTO (Top Turret Operator)
T/Sgt. John A. Wright, 424th BS Radar Specialist**

I have facilitated these interviews, participated in two of them, and can attest to Michael's doing an excellent job. Michael will soon submit an article for our next newsletter. **The 307th Bombardment Group (H) Association welcomes Michael Naya as our own Honorary Member!**

Historical Records:

If you have any questions about your loved one's military records with the 307th BG, let me help you find the details that will make your search complete. Jim McCabe may be contacted through our website or directly at 307thbg@comcast.net or by phone: (804)277-8014.

The Treasurers Corner

It is with great pleasure that Greta Walsh (Treasurer) has been keeping a close eye on our books. She had been maintaining our records since 2015 and doing a wonderful job.

As of today 2/12/2022, in our coffers we have

\$8963.31

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

[Click Here to Renew your membership with the 307th BG Assn](#)

OR

Print the below form off and mail it in with a check to the below address

Check the appropriate box:

[\\$95.00 - Family Membership - Family Membership now includes up to 5 immediate family members.](#)

(That's a \$80 savings.) Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia

and recognition at annual reunions. Annual Membership renewal fees are due on January 1st each year. Enroll the whole family for one low price! Children 12 years old and under are FREE.

[\\$60.00 - Couples Membership - Couples Membership now includes two members at a savings of \\$10.](#) Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia and recognition at annual reunions. Annual Membership renewal fees are due on January 1st of each year.

[\\$35.00 - Single Membership - 307th Bombardment Group Association Membership is renewable annually.](#) Membership has benefits and privileges, including a vote during annual membership meetings, access to historic archives, memorabilia and recognition at annual reunions. Annual renewal fees are due on January 1st each year. We welcome you!

Please mail this back to the following address:

**307th Bombardment Group
C/O Greta Hughes Walsh - Treasurer
2032 Mason Lane
Spring Hill, Tennessee 37174**

You can also always sign up online at www.307bg.net. [Go to the PX Store and select the Membership renewal](#)

[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Association](#)

****Membership sign - up/renewal form****

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Renewal Year _____ | _____



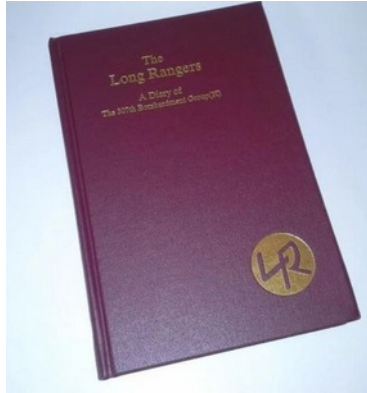
Welcome to 307th BG PX.

Visit the new PX Store

[Visit the PX Store Here](#)

There are a few added items posted in the new 307th Bombardment Group PX Store including newly added used books which can be difficult to find. Log on to the 307th BG website at www.307bg.net and click on our PX Store link! Here you can browse our collection of 307th Bombardment Group memorabilia like books, hats, jackets, pins, patches, etc.

[You can get to the PX Store by clicking Here](#)



THE LONG RANGERS a DIARY OF THE 307th.

The 307th Bombardment Reunion Group has been raising funds to defray the cost of reprinting *The Long Rangers A Diary of The 307th Bombardment Group (H)* by Sam Britt.

We have reprinted the book and are still accepting donations to continue to help with this cost. We wish to thank all of those that have contributed donations in order to keep this story and the memories of the men that served valiantly for our country. All donations are 100% tax deductible and we very much appreciate all you have done to assist us.

This book outlines the combat missions and stories of our 307th BG pilots and aircrew, ground crew, HQ officers and other personnel during their deployment to the Southwest Pacific Theater of WWII.

[The Long Ranger Book](#)



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