



# 475<sup>th</sup> NEWS

November 2004

Those who failed to attend the last reunion in Branson, missed having a really great time. Granted, it was a bit of a chore getting there from about anyplace, but it was well worth the effort. The shows were spectacular, the food exquisite. Vi and Norman Weiss really out did themselves in hosting the entire reunion. I urge each of you, if you can walk or crawl not to miss any more reunions. The good Lord is thinning out our ranks so let's not miss the chance to see each other as often as we can. The next reunion provides a relaxing atmosphere where you can be as active as you want or just lounge around on your dead end on deck or by the pool. More on this later in this newsletter.

Following the Branson reunion, a number of the guys and dolls proceeded on to Ontario, California to attend the P-38 Association convention. Lee and Bobbie Northrup headed up a team of 475<sup>th</sup> people to set up a tent, trailer and cockpit display at an air show on the Chino Airport. We all witnessed fly-bys of many WW II aircraft to include the Lightning. Tom Oxford, Jack (Fox) Olson, Joe Forster, Howard Max, Dale Thisted and PJ Dahl signed books and lithographs, sold by a crew comprised of Anne Madison Gagliardi, Ruthie Max, Bobbie Dahl and a crew of grandkids from the Oxford household. Sales at the show and the Branson reunion produced almost \$5000 for the 475<sup>th</sup> FG Historical Foundation, Inc.

A few week after the P-38 Association convention, some 475<sup>th</sup> faithful attended the Seattle Museum of Flight's Gala opening of their \$53 million dollar wing, designated the Personal Courage Wing. It features an impressive collection of WW I aircraft on one floor and WW II aircraft on another floor. They also have memorabilia from many units as well as videos and film of pilots and ground crews. In that we have more memorabilia than we can adequately display in our March Field Museum, negotiations with the Museum of Flight people was opened several months ago. As a result, the 475<sup>th</sup> has acquired a prime spot in this beautiful facility. An actual P-38, with Jack Purdy's markings hangs over the center of the WW II area. Under it is a very impressive display of the 475<sup>th</sup> memorabilia including a DVD on the history of the group. Pictures and biographies of several 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter aces are also shown and will be changed periodically. If you get to the Northwest, don't miss this attraction. It is great to have such exposure for our unit.

Not only do we have a fine satellite of our museum in Seattle, but we have a similar display in Australian. A well to do Aussie, who is an avid Pacific Theatre WW II aircraft enthusiast has pulled a 432<sup>nd</sup> sqd P-38 out of the New Guinea Cuni grass and is in the process of restoring it in Adelaide, Australia. At his museum of aircraft at the local airport he has a beautiful display dedicated to the 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. They have a DVD of our history and other memorabilia, provided by 475<sup>th</sup> members as well as from our March Field museum. So we are getting to be known world wide and are looking to expand our displays to other class museums. Bobbie and PJ Dahl, during a vacation to the SW Pacific/Viet Nam area, had the opportunity to visit the Adelaide facility and report that it is really a nice tribute to our fighter group. The Aussies, who have fought along side us in every major conflict, love Americans and PJ and Bobbie felt humble with all the attention they received. Check out the Aussie WEB site at 'classicjets.com.

If you haven't done it recently bring up our WEB site. It has been revised considerably and more work is yet to be done. Our WEB master is finalizing preparations to sell books, lithographs, DVDs, etc. on the internet. Money will be used to sustain our museum and continue to have a full time docent at the facility. Toni Olson is currently doing just that so people who come out on the weekends will not find the place locked up as in the past. She is doing a great job and even selling some items we have available at the museum.

As required by law we must submit business meeting minutes/officers to the Office of the California Secretary of State to sustain our non-profit status. At the trustees meeting in Branson, the board approved the elimination of the executive committee for the 475<sup>th</sup> Historical Foundation, Inc. The following were elected as trustees: Perry Dahl (Chairman), Lee Northrup, Howard Max, Joe Forster, Tom Oxford, Jack Olson, Dale Thisted, Anne Madison Gagliardi and Bobbie Dahl. The officers are President Perry Dahl, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lee Northrup, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Anne Madison Gagliardi, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Dale Thisted, Treasurer Johnnie Peregoy and Secretary Bobbie Dahl.

## APRIL REUNION CRUISE NEWS

If you haven't already done so, join your comrades and friends from the Greatest Generation. All the amenities of luxury; great entertainment; fun and games with gourmet meals; no cooking; no driving to a restaurant. Forget your aches and pains. Relax and enjoy 7 days at sea with your family and friends. Visit two exotic Caribbean Islands and hit the beach at the Princess Cays for fun and music. All this for around \$100 a day. You deserve it. Here are the specifics:

### 7 Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise

April 9-16 - Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale to St. Thomas, St Maarten and Princess Cays

Cabin prices start at just \$561 per person, based on double occupancy. Port taxes and government fees are additional \$187.49 per person. A deposit of \$250 per person is required at reservation. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 90 days prior to sailing. BUT HERE IS THE BEST PART.... We have obtained a special deal. If you call between Dec 12 and Dec 20 your deposit will be reduced to \$100 per person and you will receive an on-board Bonus Booklet with a value up to \$120 (one per cabin) plus an additional ship board credit of \$25. per person. Here is the number to call between Dec 12 & Dec 20:

**BRUCE TRAVEL AND CRUISE (954) 456-2400 (800) 367-9980**

Already signed up are: Wally, Judy and Susan Arbana, PJ and Bobbie Dahl, Joe and Jan Forster, Joe and Nancy Kentz, Warren Lewis and Edith Bergen, Carlo and Jane Marlow, Howard and Ruthie Max, Stan and Eleanor Merrill, Anne Madison and Bob Gagliardi, Lee and Bobbie Northrup, Tom, Judy and Sky Oxford, Seymour Prell and Ruth Leader, Johnnie Peregoy, Therese Spezzano, Marvin and Pat Rose, Paul and Tommy Sue Popkino, Tom and Barbara Simms, Curtis and Virginia Tinker with Curt Tinker Jr. and Linda Siegel, Dale and Barbara Thisted, Paul Thisted, Isabelle Walker, Vera Blythe and Scherri Werner, Frank and Ingrid Hammet.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

For those who have not yet heard the bad news, on 20 October, 2004 we lost another warrior, Glenn "Jake" Jeakle. Jake was, among other things, the editor of the annual Reunion Newsletter. He had been under the weather for some time and really had intended to get his newsletter out no later than the September/October time frame. I guess I was about the last one to talk to him regarding 475<sup>th</sup> business and although Jake really was not up to the task, he refused to send me the material so I could compile the newsletter. Jake was always a doer and he was determined to finish this newsletter. Unfortunately, the grim reaper had other ideas. Jake was a valued member of the board of directors for the foundation.. To say that he will be missed is indeed an understatement. He was just a great guy to be around. My efforts here certainly do not come close to matching the quality, contents, pictures, etc. that Jake has been putting together. Plans are in the mill to produce future newsletters emulating Jakes. (pj)

Earlene provided a copy of a verse included at Jake's memorial service. It says it all much better than I ever could.

God saw he was getting tired,  
 And a cure was not to be.  
 So He put His arms around him.  
 And whispered, "Come to Me".  
 With tearful eyes we watched him suffer.  
 And saw him fade away  
 Although we loved him dearly.  
 We could not make him stay.  
 A golden heart stopped beating.  
 Hard working hands to rest.  
 God broke our hearts to prove to us.  
 He only takes the Best!

Needless to say Earlene is in a state of shock. She thanks all 475<sup>th</sup> folks for their prayers and support and was grateful for the floral display from all hands of the 475<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. We have high hopes she will find it feasible to attend the April reunion cruise. They were the first to sign up.