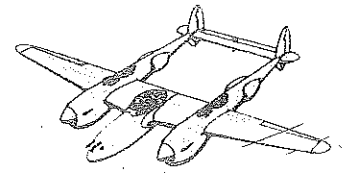




475TH FIGHTER GROUP NEWSLETTER



2008



Another 475th Fighter Group reunion is history. Tampa, Florida was the site and although our numbers are dwindling we had enough bodies on board to have a great time. There were a total of 65 for the Saturday night banquet, albeit a lot of them were guests. The cruise around Tampa Bay with a really great lunch was attended by 46 of us. It is a fact that over 2000 WWII vets are dying each day and our fallen warrior memorial conducted by Marvin Rose identified 9 who have fallen since our last warrior memorial.

Talk about loyalty. We had guys show up in wheel chairs, walkers and carrying oxygen around in a bottle. One was heard saying he probably would not make it another year. But God bless those who would not let a little thing like being in a wheel chair, or not being able to hear, etc, keep them from showing up. Emil Krevokuch came with his faithful son pushing the wheel chair. Who can match Emil's perpetual smile and charisma? He made every event and held court in the hospitality room. Gladstone Mortimer made the scene. He had to leave after one day, but he made the scene. John Loisel, our group commander came in on his cane. John seems to be getting younger and sharper everyday. He came unescorted and really gets around great with that gimpy leg. Joe Forster was with his son Jody who has done a lot of art work for the 475th Fighter Group. Curt Tinker pulled up lame Sunday morning and we thought for awhile we may have to shoot him or visit the VA hospital. But Bobbie Northrop and Ann Van Der Geest administered medication and attention and he rested all day before catching his Monday flight home. He is currently undergoing tests to see what is going on with the leg.



THE ENTIRE 475TH GANG

The Australians, Margaret and Bob Jarrett joined us again. They are such a joy and everyone loves spending time with them. They were dinner partners with Dr. and Mrs. Bill Deweese, who are big supporters. Bill's brother, Chuck, was MIA following a mission to Indo China out of the Philippines. PJ and Leo Blakely were on this flight and shared some details to Bill that could come only from someone on that strike.

The hotel was great and located in the heart of the restaurant district so we all had a chance to sample some great cuisine. The big hit was the seafood at the Mitchell's Fish Market. Several folks came early and left late so the restaurants got some good action.

Theresa Spezzano shared duty on the registration desk with Bobbie Dahl. Without her help Bobbie would not have made it. Theresa is such a great asset to the 475th.

A special feature was a flying P-38 model, with a wing span of 12 feet or so, on display at the banquet. It is the product of Glenn Reilly. He towed it all the way from Texas. It is really beautiful and he flies it in competition. It was great that Glenn took the time and trouble to bring it and by the way it sports the 431st sqd colors..

The trustees/membership meeting was held and the following changes to the number and members of trustees and officers were proposed and approved:

Trusties: Chairman, Perry Dahl; Trusties: Thomas Oxford, Lee Northrop, Dale Thisted and Anne Gagliardi.

Officers: Perry Dahl, President; Lee Northrop, Vice President; Barbara Dahl, Secretary and Christopher Madison, Treasurer.