



# PANTANELLA NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2023

## 464TH BOMB GROUP

### Special Interest Items

- Don't miss the 2022 Wichita highlights in this issue.
- Complete Group financial information now available.
- News Flash—the Group now has Non-Profit Status.
- Aircraft detail added to the Group website! Check It Out!

### Inside this issue:

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Visit us on the Web:  
[www.the464th.org](http://www.the464th.org)

## WELCOME COMMENTS FROM YOUR BG PRESIDENT...

Two hundred and thirty-five people gathered in Wichita Kansas for the 2022 Combined Bomb Group reunion for yet another memorable event. This year twenty-three members from the 464th BG participated along with twelve other groups in our fifth combined group reunion. Unfortunately, travel restriction prevented two 464th BG veterans originally planning to attend from joining us. However, we were pleased that three new members and two members attending their first reunion in fifteen years were able to attend.

Reunion attendees enjoyed a wonderful tour of McConnell Air Force base, home of the KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling wing. This aging aircraft is being replaced by the Boeing KC-46 Pegasus as the American military aerial refueling and strategic military transport aircraft of the future.

The group also enjoyed tours of the Kansas Aviation Museum and the Wichita Veterans Memorial Center located in downtown Wichita.

As in the past, Saturday's focus was on the veterans with stories and presentations about their time in Pantanella. The day concluded with a banquet featuring Kenny Ray Horton, grandson of a 484th BG veteran and a twenty one year veteran of the US Navy where he was the singer, song writer and leader of the Navy's Bluegrass band, Country Current.

In closing we invited Philippe Castellano, President of the French Aéro-Re.L.I.C. to attend the reunion and make a presentation on the 464th BG planes lost in southern France. International travel restrictions stood in the way—stay tuned for his talk at the 2023 reunion!

Tom Will, President



European Theater of Operation, Pantanella Air Field Home of the 15th Air Force 464th & 465th Bomb Groups.

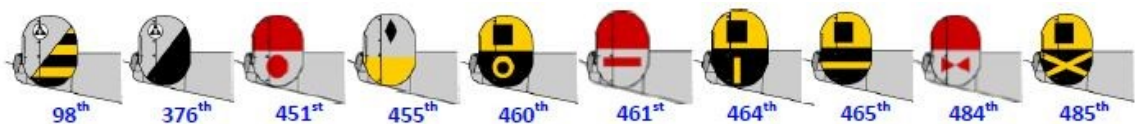


## REUNION ROUND UP—Wichita, Kansas SEPTEMBER 15th, 2022

Four of the six Veterans attending the reunion assembled for a group photograph after the Saturday presentation session at the 2022 Wichita, Kansas reunion. Family and friends watched as these men came together proudly representing the 15th AAF sharing their experiences in the Army Air Corp Mediterranean Theater



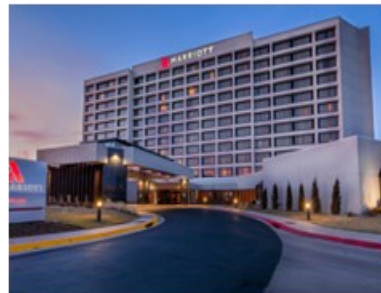
of Operation in WWII. These fine men represent the Greatest Generation!



# COMBINED BOMB GROUP 2022 WICHITA REUNION PICTURE GALLERY



**WICHITA KANSAS REUNION**  
September 15th—18th, 2022



**Wichita Marriott**  
9900 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, Kansas 67207 USA

Twenty-three members from the 464th Bomb Group attended the four-day combined group reunion at the Wichita Marriott Hotel in Wichita, Kansas September 15th thru September 18th, 2022. In all two hundred and thirty-five people attended the combined group banquet Saturday evening enjoying the music of Kenny Ray Horton, a veteran of the US Navy where he was the singer, song writer and leader of the Navy's Bluegrass band, Country Current. Though no 464th BG veterans were able to attend there were six veterans from across the thirteen bomb groups.



The 464th BG group assembles after the Wichita individual group dinner Friday evening.



The Wichita 464th BG meeting room with several memorabilia display tables...



The 464th BG hospitality room readied for the Friday evening individual group dinner & meeting.



Chuck Stanley and Garrett Hass share memories from Chuck's father and Garrett's grandfather.



Tom Will shares Saturday brunch with new members Gary and Dominique Frecaut.



Bill Chamberlain, Cheri Robinson and Jan Engle reminisce about B-24 Liberator *Shoo Shoo Baby*.



Hughes Glantzberg, Richard and Laura Karow, Dan Krynocich, Jerry Junkins, Jaelynn&Kent Hathaway.



Our group meets for pictures after the Sunday evening farewell banquet dinner.



Richard and Nora Mazotti share stories with Dan Krynovich during Friday dinner activities.



The McConnell Air Force base KC-46 aerial refueling tanker replaces aging KC-135 tankers.



KC-46 aerial tanker General Maintenance Hangar McConnell Air Force Base Wichita.



McConnell Air Force personnel explain the air readiness mission to our bomb group.

## WICHITA, KS Reunion Saturday September 17th, 2022 Business Meeting Minutes

The group assembled Friday September 16th for dinner with BG President Tom Will welcoming twenty three members and guests to the reunion at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita. Tom read the list of Fallen Heroes during the Missing Man ceremony complete with a round table and all its elements. The Missing Man table tradition occupies a very special place of dignity and honor at our reunions.

Saturday's business meeting began with the pledge of allegiance led by Don Krynovich. Although there were no 464th BG veterans in attendance, Garrett Hass gave an update on his grandfather, Alton Perington, and Tom Will shared news of his father, Carl Will. Each guest then introduced themselves and shared a story, experience or memory of the veteran they represented. Bill Chamberlain shared a film of Robert Wingfield landing 'Big Fat Mama' following collision with 'Southern Gal'. Jan Engle reported she spoke with David Henderson, son of 'Southern Gal' navigator, John M. Henderson a collision survivor.

The group enjoyed compelling and emotional stories provided by both returning members and several new attendees including Gary and Dominique Fre'Caut, Laura and Richard Karrow and Jerry Junkins.

Garrett Hass delivered the Treasurer's report and Bomb Group sponsors were acknowledged. Special mention was given to Sharon Goode and Paula Archazki for their ongoing

efforts keeping the books and to Don Krynovich for transporting supplies and setup at the reunion. The well decorated 464th BG hospitality room was full of displays, books, information and collections brought by several members. Jaelynn Hathaway delivered several boxes of group archives from the collection of past treasurer and veteran Tony Schneider. Don Krynovich and Jan Engle sorted thru some wonderful photos and notes that were uncovered and saved. Some of the material may be posted on the website and could be valuable to those seeking information on the crews or specific aircrafts.

Hughes Glantzberg, 464th BG webmaster, was recognized for his ongoing work and contributions to the website. Detailed information on each aircraft is now available on the website Aircraft tab under the respective Squadron.

Laura Karrow delivered Philippe Castellana's presentation on the five 464th BG planes lost over southern France. Laura also talked about her first hand experiences visiting France and the crash site memorial of Captain Hornbaker's plane 'Strictly from Hunger'. Charles Stanley's presentation detailed experiences of his father and so many airmen after ditching their planes in Yugoslavia. His book 'The Lost Airmen: US Bomber Crews Stranded Behind Enemy Lines in Yugoslavia during World War II' chronicles their story as POWs.

[charlesstanleyjr.com](http://charlesstanleyjr.com) – Charles Stanley Jr., Author

Jan Engle, Secretary

### Saturday Presentations:

Shot Down by Steve Snyder

<https://youtu.be/H1vCKFN0jrU>

Lost Airmen by Charles Stanley

<https://youtu.be/UtZ9ijg4w8Y>

Liberando Reflections of a Reluctant Warrior John Horn

<https://youtu.be/wnG9pS1Wht8>

15Th USAAF by Philippe Castellano

Presented by Laura Karrow

<https://youtu.be/Lw9AP27V7s8>

Home of the Brave

[https://youtu.be/\\_oBR3tjonVWc](https://youtu.be/_oBR3tjonVWc)

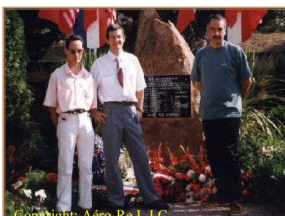
### 464th BG History:

Visit the 464th BG website History page at [History \(the464th.org\)](http://History(the464th.org)) for the Pocatello, ID special orders extract as the group formed up with crew assignments and processed thru the Lincoln, Nebraska Army Airfield for assignment to the 12th Army Air force and travel to North Africa for phase training before transfer to the 15th AAF in Italy. See the official orders on the website at [12th Wing 464th BG Crew Rosters web.pdf](http://12thWing464thBGcrewrostersweb.pdf) ([the464th.org](http://the464th.org)).

### Remember Their Sacrifice...

It is not out of heedlessness or cowardice that the Germans keep abandoning immense numbers of tanks and armored vehicles by the roadsides of France. These tanks and trucks are out of gasoline.

**General H. M. Arnold, Oct 1944**



## 464th BG Presentation to Combined BG Group and Veterans

Philippe Castellano, President of the Aéro-Re.L.I.C, has spent a lifetime researching WW II airplanes lost in southern France. His website [Aéro-Re.L.I.C](http://Aero-Re.L.I.C) ([aero-relic.org](http://aero-relic.org)) has a lot of information on the bombers and fighter planes lost defending France. He is a recognized country expert and contributor to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) an agency within the U.S. Department of Defense whose mission is recovering American military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action. A resident of Cannes, France, Philippe accepted our invitation to attend the Wichita reunion, however last minute travel restrictions prevented attendance. Laura Karrow delivered his presentation of the five 464th BG planes lost over southern France. Philippe works even to this day establishing memorials at the crash sites and reconnecting veteran families with the stories of those lost planes and lost souls. Philippe is planning to attend our next reunion, stay tuned for more.

# In Memoriam — Remembering Our Veterans Who Flew their Last Sortie

## 776<sup>th</sup> Squadron

Elton W. Ankney 11/10/2019  
 Stanley E. Fowler 2011  
 John D. Porter 3/28/2018

## 777<sup>th</sup> Squadron

John C. Baker 7/6/2017  
 Wallace R. Roberts 6/29/2019  
 Freddie Jack Riggs 5/14/2021  
 James Allen Ten Eyck 5/30/2007  
 Leonard Vaughn

## Squadron Unknown

Gene L Dulaney 8/8/2012

## Headquarters Staff

Daniel Colvin 11/11/2017

## 778<sup>th</sup> Squadron

James Corr 7/27/2019  
 Gerald Felzien 1/8/2022  
 Robert W. Hornbaker 5/25/1944  
 Alfred R. Karow 4/16/2008  
 Paul E. Ritenour 1/1/1998  
 Francis J. Villano 10/22/2021

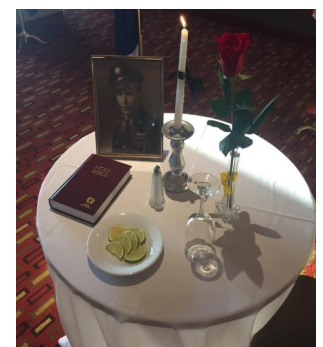
## 779<sup>th</sup> Squadron

Alfred W. Carey 9/17/2017  
 Zdzislaw B. Dewicki 12/16/2021  
 Leonard S. Dwor 5/25/2014  
 George R. Frazer 9/1/2021  
 Fred Gonfoff 2/7/2020  
 Gerald W. Junkins 11/22/1997  
 Robert Rigby 6/19/2017  
 Freddie J. Riggs 5/14/2021

*“Flying the Last  
 Sortie...  
 Missing from  
 our ranks but  
 never ever  
 forgotten”*



The Missing Man Table



**Plan to join us in September for the 2023 Bomb Group reunion to help us remember**

### *An Airman’s Prayer by Chaplain John Eastwood*

*God guard and guide us as we fly through the great spaces of the sky; Be with us as we take to air in morning light and sunshine fair. Eternal Father, strong to save, Give us courage and make us brave; Protect us whereso'er we go, from shell and flak and fire and foe. Most loved member of our crew, ride with us up in the blue. Direct our bombs upon the foe but shelter those whom Thou dost know. Keep us together on our way, grant our work success today. Deliver us from hate and sin, and bring us safely down again. O God protect us as we fly through lonely ways across the sky.*



### **Honoring and Remembering Heroes**

The 15th AAF sustained 18% of the Army combat fatalities. It lost 3,364 aircraft and 21,671 personnel killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoner -- 20,430 bomber crewmen and 1,187 fighter pilots. The Fifteenth fought four

broad campaigns: against enemy oil, enemy air force, enemy communications, and enemy ground forces. Lest we never forget the supreme sacrifices of the ‘Greatest Generation’ securing the freedoms we enjoy today.

## A Business Update from Our Bomb Group Treasurer

We had another fun reunion in Wichita! Going to the Kansas Veterans Memorial and the Wichita Air Museum were my favorite events. The reunion is a break even on reunion registration fees and reunion meals with the exception of the 464th Saturday luncheon. Shipping expenses were a bit higher this year due to the reunion location, increasing costs and handing of materials for our hospitality room. We had net income of \$480.00 for 2022 with \$5,097.19 cash on hand at year end. Financially we are doing a good job balancing our payments. A big thank you goes out to Sharon Goode and Paula Archazki for doing such a wonderful job keeping track of our business financials.

Donations support the newsletters, website, reunion registration mailings, the 464th BG Saturday luncheon, group dinner extras and supplies and miscellaneous expenses – donations are necessary and greatly appreciated. Currently we have collared shirts, mugs and the 15th Air Force wooden plaques for sale. Contact Tom Will, Sharon Goode or myself if you need one. Get ready for 2023 as we head to suburban Washington DC, a city rich with war memorials! We hope to see everyone there!

Garrett Hass  
Grandson of SSgt. Alton Perington 779th



**BG Veterans are  
United States of  
America Patriots**

### Wichita Reunion Financial Recap | Summary of Wichita Reunion Income & Expense

\$4,201.00	\$4,201.00	\$ 0.00		\$6,876.00	\$6,338.00	\$448.00
Reunion Expense	Reunion Income	Net Total		Group Income	Group Expense	2022 Net Balance

### 464th Bomb Group Financial Report | Profit & Loss January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

Revenue		Expenses	
Direct Public Support	\$2,250.00	Business Website Webmaster	\$500.00
Reunion Fees Collected	\$4,201.00	Reunion Registration & Lunch Expense	\$4,201.00
2021 Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$425.00	Promo Items Shirts, Plaques & Mugs	\$252.00
		Office Expense, Printing and Mailing	\$709.00
		Shipping, Luncheon & Misc. Expense	\$676.00
Total Income	\$6,876.00	Total Expense	\$6,338.00

**2022 Net Income  
\$448.00  
Cash On Hand  
\$5,097.19  
December 31, 2022**

*Financial Notes: Registration fees and reunion meals break even with the exception of the 464th Saturday luncheon which is a cost to the Group. Donations are necessary and very much appreciated! Plan now to attend the 2023 Reunion in the Washington DC suburbs!*

### Pantanella Airfield Legend Lives on Today in Italy (see article page 8)

In the eighteen months of existence the Fifteenth Air Force, operating principally from the complex of airfields in southern Italy, destroyed all gasoline production within its range in southern Europe; knocked out all the major aircraft factories in its sphere; and destroyed 6,282 enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground. The Fifteenth crippled the enemy's transportation system over half of once-occupied Europe with repeated fighter and bomber attacks. On occasion it helped disperse enemy counter attacks and spearheaded the advances of our own armies. The Fifteenth dropped 303,842 tons of bombs on enemy targets in nine countries of Europe, including military installations in eight capital cities. Its combat personnel made 148,955 heavy bomber sorties and 87,732 fighter sorties against the enemy. Most vital of the Fifteenth's oil targets was the Ploesti complex of refineries, which contributed about 30% of the entire Axis oil supply and an equal amount of gasoline. Ploesti was protected by 150 first class fighters and 250 heavy flak guns when the Fifteenth began a series of attacks against it. The Fifteenth bombers flew 5,287 sorties, dropping 12,870 tons of bombs. The cost was 237 heavies, 10 P-38 dive bombers and 39 escorting fighters. More than 2,200 American Airmen were lost. But the overall results were good. At the end of the campaign the refineries were reduced to only 10% of their normal rate of activity.



Dual Runways & Hard Stands on Hills



Old Chapel Converted into Headquarters

# COMBINED BOMB GROUP & 464th BG 2023 REUNION INFORMATION

October 12th thru October 15th, 2023



## The Westin Washington Dulles Airport

2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon VA 20171  
 Reservation Desk (833) 448-1007 866-932-7062

Plan to make your hotel reservations early. All reservations must be made by September 22, 2023. **Watch the website for registration form posting.** Invitations and registration forms will be distributed to those on our roster in the spring time frame. *The room rate is \$112.00 per night, plus tax and includes a full, hot breakfast buffet and free airport shuttle. Situated in the Washington DC suburbs of Fairfax County, Virginia, the hotel is conveniently located near a metro line with access to all that the Washington area has to offer! The bomb group rate is available from October 9, 2023 to October 18, 2023. Call (866) 932-7062 and mention BOMB GROUP REUNION to reserve your room by phone or register online using the following link below.*

[Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#)



### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH — Arrival day and reunion check in (hospitality & registration rooms open as guests arrive)

✦ All Group Welcome Meeting at 7:00 pm convenes to review the upcoming schedule of events for the Washington, DC reunion.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH — Touring Local Sites and Individual Group Dinner

- ✦ After a leisurely breakfast depart early-morning for a wonderful tour of the World War II Memorial site grounds.
- ✦ Following lunch visit the Korean war memorial and Vietnam War memorial wall.
- ✦ 464th Bomb Group individual group dinner beginning with 5:30 pm Social Hour and Tail Insignia pictures following dinner.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH — Features a focus on our Veterans...

- ✦ Saturday morning begins at 9:00 AM with a 464th BG Business Meeting followed by a complimentary 464th luncheon at the hotel.
- ✦ As has been our custom, Saturday features presentations by Veterans and stories about Army Air Corp in WWII Europe.
- ✦ Saturday evening All Groups Banquet—Social Hour at 5:30 PM in the ball room with a cash bar, dinner and entertainment.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH— Morning Church Service

✦ Following morning church, visit the Air Force Memorial for a moving memorial service capped off with traditional Farewell Dinner.

## You Spoke, We Listened...Survey Results Explained

The 464th BG survey is designed to let us know how we are doing maintaining the identity of our bomb group and help shape future reunions. The 464th BG Wichita reunion survey includes individual responses, comments and analysis of results. Key takeaways from this year's survey include:

- ◆ Overall very nice reunion, all about the World War II Veterans
- ◆ Marriott Hotel staff was very accommodating for our group
- ◆ The Memorial Service and 464th individual dinner well received
- ◆ Hotel very accommodating – comfortable rooms/great service
- ◆ Excellent Saturday buffet luncheon also saved time and expense
- ◆ Appreciated tour operator coordinating hotel transfers & tours

SURVEY QUESTION	SCORE
✦ Reunion City Location	4.4
✦ Hotel Accomodations	4.9
✦ Meal Selections	4.7
✦ Reunion Cost	4.7
✦ Transportation	4.6
✦ Combined Grp Functions	4.5
✦ 464th Bomb Group Dinner	4.9
✦ Memorial Service	4.4
✦ Hospitality Room	4.9
✦ Registration Process	4.8
✦ Tour Selections	4.6
✦ Communications	4.6

Scores Based on a Five Point Scale with 5 Being Best

## The Last of the Breed

by Colonel Carson  
WWII Fighter Pilot

Air war has been different from that on land or on the sea in important ways that don't occur to most people. Sea and land battles were fought in major engagements with all the forces available brought to bear on the objective, such as the Battles of Coral Sea and Midway, or those of Monte Cassino and the Ardennes. On average these would last from a few days to a couple of weeks, followed by long periods of regrouping, maneuvering, resupply and small-scale jousting back and forth while holding the line and looking for the next opportunity.

This was not the case in the air. Never did all the Luftwaffe forces ever meet all the Allied air forces in a single engagement over Germany, Russia or North Africa to force a decision by conquest in those areas. The air war was a war of attrition, the kind that no commander likes in principle. An air force is supported by airfields, petroleum, factories, chemicals, ball bearings, railroads, and rubber industries. By its very definition it requires a battle of attrition to destroy it. Whereas a sailor or soldier would fight three or four major engagements in a war, the airman would go out on a new engagement on every mission, forty or fifty or more. Except for periods of leave, you had to fly each one as if it was a new war, different from yesterday. It might turn out to be a 'milk run' but you wouldn't know that until you got back with your skin and your airplane all in one piece.

The ones that really caught it were the bomber crews. I don't think the public appreciates, even today, the living hell that a bomber crew under attack went through. I truly felt sorry for them. Unbelievable,

absolutely unreal to have half of your crew bleeding to death and not be able to turn back. No doctor on board, no medical corpsmen with stretchers to get them to the rear and a field hospital. It was fight or die, many times both. It was not unusual for a gunner to keep firing from his turret, and fix malfunctions of his guns too, while his life ebbed away in a pool on the floor. The citations for decorations are replete with such incidents. Such valor and moral lost in a haze or receding time... but I know, my friend, I know. The whole thing is carved in marble in my mind's eye, it's a little like looking through the wrong end of a telescope, the image is far away, but clear and well defined.

The sky was a new frontier. For many it was a challenge and an escape from the trivialities and the mediocrity of urban life or a hard scrabble farm that didn't pay. The airman is society's answer to the requirements of flight, differing from an era that preceded flight. There is an informal fraternity of military pilots and their crews.

It has been said that the sky, like the sea, is terribly unforgiving of carelessness or bad judgement. If you survive, however, it is a great teacher. I think this is one heck of a tribute to all Bomber Crews especially coming from a fighter pilot!



*American P51 Fighter Planes take to flight - A Welcome Site for the B24 (H) Liberator Crews*



# 464TH BOMB GROUP

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Webmaster,  
 Hughes Glantzberg  
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*The 464th BG wishes to recognize and thank Mr. Dave Blake, 461st BG for serving as our reunion committee chairperson for so many years. Dave does a wonderful job getting input from all the groups and coordinating the combined group reunions—Thank You Dave!*



[www.the464th.org](http://www.the464th.org)



## The Pantanella Airfield Legend Lives On...

Working for an Italian engineering firm Mr. Tommaso Caporale's grandfather helped construct the airfield in Pantanella. Today Tommy Caporale is working with the section head of the Aeronautical Army Association in Canosa awaiting authorization from the general command Aero-Army of Rome for construction of a memorial in Loconia - Pantanelle. Recently the general command commissioned an architect for the project. At Tommy's request our group sent Marshall Franco Di Pinto at assoaero.canosa@libero.it 15th Army Air Forces insignias and 464th and 465th Bomb Group stickers to be incorporated into the design of the memorial. Mr. Caporale has worked tirelessly soliciting support for a memorial from Loconia town officials and mayor also asking for supporting emails from our groups. Perhaps someday we can visit the 'Hill' again and the memorial.

## WASHINGTON DC SUBURBS

October 12-15, 2023

**Plan to make your hotel reservation for this year's reunion early—NO LATER THAN September 22, 2023.** Reunion notices and registration packets will be mailed in May to those on our BG roster and registration emails will be sent to everyone on our eMail list. Also look for the registration form on the 464th BG's website—the registration form can be printed and mailed to the address shown on the form. Additional interest this year makes **early registrations a must!**



## A Special Thanks to our Supporters...

The 464th Bomb Group does not have annual dues. Contributions from reunion attendees and members cover publishing newsletters and maintaining the website. For those planning to join the group at this year's reunion in Washington DC make sure to complete and submit the registration form. If your unable to attend the 2023 reunion consider making a contribution for continued group support.

**Mail all registration forms and contributions to the group's primary mailing address shown in the banner to the left. We hope to see everyone in Wichita for another great reunion!**

### THANK YOU DONORS

...for your continued support of the 464th Bomb Group's mission honoring our Veter-

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| M. Baumgardner | Nora Mazotti    |
| Wm Chamberlain | Joe Osentoski   |
| Jan Daley      | Alton Perington |
| Jan Engle      | Dennis Porter   |
| Carolyn Espil  | Robert Ray      |
| John Espil     | Tom Ritenour    |
| Sharon Goode   | Patricia Walker |
| Garrett Hass   | Dan Wilbur      |
| Richard Karow  | Carl Will       |
| Don Krynovich  | Tom Will        |



From the collection of John R. Gottschalk. Pictured L/R Tony Schneider, Gerald Welsted, Matthew Arlington & John Gottschalk.

*Ed Note: We need your help! If your address changes or you know a someone who should be receiving newsletters please contact us. We strive to keep the 464th BG roster and mailing lists current. There are 185 names on our mailing list and 225 people on our email list. Sending BG newsletters electronically helps lower group expense.*

