



# Buckeye Wing Journal



## Summer 2013

### *~ Message from our President ~*

The countdown begins! The dates for our reunion are May 15, 16 & 17 2014. The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Fort Myers, FL will host our reunion. We will receive a special guest rate of \$95 plus tax with breakfast voucher included. Guests may reserve additional nights at the same rate. Transportation to and from the Fort Myers Airport (RSW) is included at no additional cost. This may make car rental an option during your stay. However, car rental is available at the airport if you choose the flexibility. There is plenty of free parking at the hotel.

Crowne Plaza Hotel is located across from the Bell Tower Shops, all with-in a short walking distance. Shoeless Joe's Restaurant inside the Crowne Plaza and offers a good food and beverage menu. There are several other restaurants in or near the Bell Tower. The Crowne Plaza Guest Coordinator will provide each guest a "Things to Do" package while in Fort Myers.

During May Fort Myers temperatures average a low 70 degrees at night to middle 80's during the day. We are hoping to plan a Dolphin Sightseeing cruise for Saturday morning if the details can be worked out. Adventures in Paradise operates a rather large pontoon style watercraft. More on this trip will follow. They also have a Paradise Trolley for transportation to and from.

Friday late afternoon would be a good time for a poolside BBQ if enough Buckeye Wingers are interested. It would be offered by Crowne Plaza and the cost would be depending on our menu. As in past reunions you will receive a packet for your reservation, banquet menu selections and other items of interest closer to the May '14 date.

We hope that many of you will attend the 2014 Reunion so mark your calendars now and save the date!

This is your reunion so if you have any suggestions please let me know. One member suggested we have shrimp and other small finger food during our social time. Please share your thoughts!

Best Regards,  
Joe Agnew, President 2012-2014  
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Join us in Ft. Myers, FL in May 2014!

Be sure to check the web site or our Facebook page for periodic updates.

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

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### Buckeye Wing Association Calendar

The first edition of the Buckeye Wing Association calendar will be published this year for 2014 and will be available in November at the Breakfast with Friends in Wilmington. Businesses in and around the Wilmington, OH area are supporting this calendar. If ever in the area we ask that you would patronize the businesses featured on our calendar, as they are our friends. Below is a sample of what it could look like. You may pre-order by mail to secure a copy. An order form is included

here, on our web site or by contacting Karyl Heismann-Menchen. The calendar will be for sale at \$5.00 each or two for \$9.00. If you know someone who might like to advertise or place a memorial message on the calendar have them contact Karyl as well. You may also include a birthday, anniversary, memorial or event for 50 cents each or five for \$2.00. Let's make this first edition a great one!

**Karyl Heismann-Menchen**

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[buckeyewing@live.com](mailto:buckeyewing@live.com)

### Flying Boxcar Ball Cap

At the May Breakfast with Friends John Bowling had for sale a beautiful ball cap with the C-119 Flying Boxcar handsomely stitched on the front. You may have a line stitched on the back above the clasp for free. They are for sale at \$14.00 each and will be delivered by first class mail in a box. Send any questions to: [ggergasko@woh.rr.com](mailto:ggergasko@woh.rr.com) Make checks payable to: Jerry Gergasko and mail to him at PO Box 163, Englewood, OH 45322-0163

**Buckeye Wing Association**

302nd AIRLIFT WING

**MARCH 2013**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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### Final Flyovers in 2013



Bruce H. Waring, USAF, Retired  
January 19, 2013



John H. Bright, USAF, Retired  
January 29, 2013



Ann E. Ferguson  
January 21, 2013



George Janasov, USAF, Retired  
April 7, 2013



Terry Norris, USAF, Retired  
April 10, 2013



Roger Mowery, USAF, Retired  
April 16, 2013



George Moyer, USAF, Retired  
May 2, 2013



### National Museum of the US Air Force

- An art exhibit highlighting Tuskegee Airmen now open at the museum. The exhibit titled "Red Tails, Silver Wings," features 35 paintings by Chris Hopkins and can be viewed daily during regular museum hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The artwork is displayed in the museum's Hall of Honor, and admission to the museum and the exhibit is free. The exhibit will be open through February 2014.

-An 18-minute fireworks display will light up the sky on the grounds of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force June 28 beginning at 10 p.m.

Enjoy a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration!

### Buckeye Wing Association Web Site

Information on the 2014 Reunion as well as past reunions can be found here in addition to announcements, photos, contact information for your comrades, wing history and the final fly-over.

Please send us your stories and photos to share. Also, be sure to update us with your new address, phone number or email address so we can stay in touch!

Go to: [www.buckeyewing.org](http://www.buckeyewing.org)

Send questions to: [buckeyewing@live.com](mailto:buckeyewing@live.com) or



### Buckeye Wing Association



## Hat's off to Don White



Last week, I found out that Don White and a few fellow Buckeye Wing members have been taking care of the landscaping around the WWII and Buckeye Wing memorials for the past 13 years. I was impressed to learn of their dedication to our fallen comrades. I spoke with Jerry Millhouse, Ed Kienle and Karyl Menchen about this effort. I then called Don to hear from him about what he and a few fellow Buckeye Wing members had been doing. Don told me that a full story was in the Wilmington News Journal in 2012. I called the Journal and was able to get pictures and a copy of the article from last May. The Journal gave me permission to reprint this in our Buckeye Wing Journal.

This is just one story of our Buckeye Wing members that are making a difference in the community. I would like to hear about other projects that you may be involved in for the next newsletter. Please submit your stories to us so we can put them in the newsletter.

Tom McVey

5/26/2012 12:45:00 AM

### Simple Cleanup a Tribute to Fallen Friends

By **ROSE COOPER** Staff writer

Remembering friends who died in an airplane crash while they were serving their country has become a pre-Memorial Day tradition for a former Wilmington resident who now resides in Greene County, near Xenia. For at least 12 years, Don White has taken on the duty of cleaning up an area at the J.W. Denver Williams Jr. Memorial Park on Fife Avenue in Wilmington where veteran's memorials are dedicated to servicemen who died while they were serving their country.

Several of the men were White's friends and co-workers at the former Clinton County Air Force Base

who were killed in a military plane crash. "They were ferrying a plane to, I believe France, and they were in a box canyon when their plane crashed," White said. "They were all killed."

White served in the Air Force and was stationed at the Clinton County Air Force Base. He served in Korea in 1953 and 1954. "Then I became a civilian employee (Clinton County base) and then I became an Air Reserve technician.

White said after the men died in the crash, the Clinton County Air Force Base had plaques made up listing the names of those who were killed. Then the local base closed and the servicemen and personnel were moved to Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Columbus. The plaques were given to the Clinton County Historical Society for safekeeping.

After moving to Rickenbacker, the Buckeye Wing Association was formed and members included servicemen and civilians from the Clinton County Air Force Base. The Buckeye Wing later learned the plaques were in storage at the historical society. "Our group felt like these plaques should be brought back in public view," White said.

White was at the park on Friday cleaning up the area, weeding, trimming shrubs, landscaping and putting down mulch. "I always like to do this before Memorial Day every year," he said. "I do try to get here twice a year. I try and get it cleaned up and looking good at least by Memorial Day."

The fence around the memorials at the park was recently taken down and White said he likes the area better. "It's kind of an area of solitude. People can go in there and look around," he said.

Lori Williams, who was recently named director at the park, said no one knew who White was until recently. "He's been doing this for years," she said.

"I really appreciate what Mr. White is doing," said Mac McKibben, a member of the park board of directors. "We need more people like him."



Having the plaques mounted and displayed was done under White's direction. "Since it's our people, I feel the responsibility to be the caretaker of this area," White said. "It's kind of a personal thing with me, too."