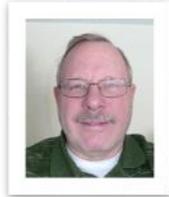




**Hello Everyone,**

I updated the journal news-  
letter header to match to a his-  
torical version of the Buckeye  
Flyer for this edition of the jour-  
nal. Many of you may recognize  
the header on the left. It was the header style  
back in the 70's. Staying connected is im-  
portant. I have been connecting with most of  
you by email and Facebook. I also have been  
reaching out with phone calls. I want to hear  
your suggestions for improving the Buckeye  
Wing Association. Tom McVey



**If Tomorrow Never Comes**

I sometimes hear Garth Brooks sing "If To-  
morrow Never Comes". It is a truly great song  
with an important message for us all. I want-  
ed to bring to your attention the impact of  
procrastination. We all put things off. We  
think we can take care of things at a later  
date. That works well for some things but we  
all know there are no guarantees in LIFE.

So, I propose we each take stock of those im-  
portant things we want to do or say to our  
loved ones. I urge each of you to make sure  
you do those important things now. Make  
sure your loved ones know how much you  
love them. Say it out loud!

**2016 Reunion Update**

**I hope everyone is making plans to attend  
this reunion, it is just 10 months away.** We



will be returning to the  
Radisson Inn in Covington  
Kentucky. In January we  
will mail out the reunion  
form for you to register.  
We are beginning to put  
together the list of events

for the reunion. The hospitality room will be  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor. The view of the Ohio River  
and the surrounding area is marvelous.  
Please mark your calendars for 5, 6 & 7 May  
2016. You may call the hotel at (859) 491-  
1200 now to reserve your room the rate is  
\$119. I suggest you ask for a room on the  
east side of the hotel. We will have more in-  
formation about the reunion in the October  
newsletter. I hope to see you at the Reunion  
during 5, 6 & 7 May 2016.

**Buckeye Stories**

Keeping the memories of the Buckeye Wing  
alive can be done by writing down you stories  
and sharing them with your pals. I am proud  
of the dozen stories  
that were written by  
our members during  
the past year. It



started with a story  
by **Charlie Mercer** with "A Mission Never For-  
gotten", I could almost feel the C-119 plane  
going up and down in the storm. **Chris Han-  
son** wrote four stories about her days as an  
Aero Med Technician. **Chris** wrote of the sur-  
prises one encounters while traveling, lobster  
runs and the sweet oranges from Florida. **Ker-  
mit Roseberry** wrote of his basic training in  
1941. **Rosy** was in the US Army Air Corps.  
He was a rascal of continued on page 2

## Buckeye Stories Continued from Page 1.

a troop, we learned that **Rosy** had his basic training at Miami Beach and he lived in a hotel during his basic training. **Jeffrey Price** wrote an Ode to Bill Anders. Bill was an ART Loadmaster in the 355<sup>th</sup>. Jeffrey refreshed our memories of Bill in his youthful days as a golfer, leader of loadmasters and a true friend to his fellow airmen. **Art Lewis** wrote a fictional story about going to Nome Alaska. The weather was cold and the landings on icy runways were challenges. **Bob Bien** shared his pictures and a story about spray missions in 1983. Five planes and aircrews sprayed hundreds of thousands of acres in several western states. These stories tell of the basic fabric of our many careers in the 302nd.

## Website Updates

I have added the Buckeye Wing stories as a new page to our website. The page now has 12 stories. I would like to add many more stories. After you read these stories, I suggest that you write you own story and send it to me. I am working on a story about the patches and mottos of the 302nd Wing. I am getting help from **Charlie Mercer, Henry Harlow, Ron Conn & Bob Bien**. I also have extended part of the website into word-press. This is easier to maintain and the 2015 final flyover is in this new area. Links to the wordpress extension are on the main page of BuckEyeWing.org.



## Agent Orange

Over the past six months a lot of news about Agent Orange has come out. The UC-123K aircraft that the 302<sup>nd</sup> operated from 1972 to 1986 were used in Operation Ranch Hand. Over 20 million gallons of special agents were sprayed from 32 different aircraft. About 10 million gallons of this was Agent Orange. Wes Carter from Westover AFB lead a four year effort to get the VA to recognize the exposure of USAFR members from these UC-123K aircraft. In addition our spray branch team sprayed chemicals using spray equipment from Vietnam.

At the Wilmington Breakfast For Friends, we had the VA county agent and Retired Lt Col Peter Lurker give presentations. About 100 people were able to see the work bone by the Institute of Medicine. They also had a question and



answer session. On June 19, 2015 the VA began to accept new claims. We are just now hearing of people who have went to the VA or contacted their local county veteran service agents. Many people have lost or misplaced their records. We are helping each other by writing buddy letters and sharing copies of documents that we have.

A special thanks goes to **Charlie Mercer** for the work he did on Jan, Feb & Mar to help us get our list of 302nd members updated so we could contact people about this issue.

## Agent Orange Continued from Page 2.

On June 29th Jeffrey Price, Bob Bien and Tom McVey drove to the Cincinnati office of Senator Rob Portman. We met with Mr. Michael Dustman to seek the support of Senator Portman.



We want his support for the Agent Orange issues that confront or 302nd members. We want Senator Portman to

announce his support and sign on with the other seven senators that support the C-123K issues. We want Senator Portman's support in the awarding of medical and disability benefits to the 1,000 or so members of the Buckeye Wing that were exposed to agent Orange. We thank **Dr. Peter Lurker** for his advise and his work on the article of the study of the C-123K Agent Orange exposure. Over the next few months we will learn more about how this will impact us in the 302<sup>nd</sup> Buckeye Wing.

Scan of a patch from the 907th CAMS  
Thanks to **Henry Harlow**



## Dayton Air Show & The Thunder Pig

The Air Heritage Museum in Beaver Falls, PA flies C-123K tail 664 . The president is Bill Schllig a former 355th Pilot. Bill and his crew flew 664 to the Dayton Airshow for a static display. Check out the 302nd hat I gave to Bill. 664 went to the bone yard in 1981. In April 1994 a crew from Air Heritage (Virgil Wyke, Bill Cambell, Matt Haydock, Russ Wood, and Bob Morelli) left for Tuscon, AZ to assess a project to bring C-123K "home". Now 34 years later the plane



looks just like it did in 1981. It was a trip down memory lane. I met **Tim Pheister** and his son **Kevin** on the ramp. Tim transferred to Pittsburgh and it felt like a mini reunion as the three of us talked about the days at Rickenbacker.



Air Heritage Website:

<http://airheritage.org/>

## Conversations on Facebook

200 Members



I know a lot of people don't like or use Facebook. However, I continue to see some good pictures and interesting dialog you may want to join.

## Mottos of the 302nd

302nd Wing JUSTEM ET TEMACEM

Just and Resolute

302nd CAMS Can Do Is Done!

355th You Call We Haul

356th VICTOR VIAM DUCAT

Has two Translations

1) Let the Victor Show the Way  
from USAF website

Pilot Major Ken Race

designed the patch and he  
told Charlie Mercer it means

2) Let a Winner lead the way".

Please send us your squadron number and motto.

## Surprise Birthday Party for

### Col Frank Hamilton

I just spent a wonderful day!!! Few and far between now a days. I was among a large group of people who attended a surprise birthday party for

Col Frank Hamilton. His 90th. Veteran of three wars, (WW2-B-



25's). (As was his wonderful wife Judy I might add). There was a memorial installed honoring him at the Air Force Museum Memorial Park at Wright Patterson Air Force Base today.

A more fitting, and deserved, commemoration could not be had. A man among men, a leader of men, a compassionate, understanding, yet demanding you



do your best leader of men. A patriot with no peer. We should all take a moment to reflect on what this man has done for our country; and pray there will be more to follow.

God bless you Frank Hamilton (Col, USAF Ret) and Thank you!

Charlie Mercer

## Final Flyover



Hats off to our fellow Airmen and other members of the Buckeye Wing Association

as they have made their Final Flight. If you know of any people we need to add to the FINAL FLYOVER then please contact us at our email or phone number.

### 2015

Ronald Mays, May 23, 2015

Lloyd C, Hodges, May 14, 2015

MSgt William R. Anders, April 21, 2014 Vietnam

Hysell C. Hale , Jan 26, 2015

Lorene Hale, Feb 16, 2015

Plowman, Raymond, Jan 26, 2015

### 2014

Ruth Allen, Aug 30, 2014

Lt Col Kenneth Baldwin, May 4, 2014

Richard Beard, Nov 4, 2014

Major Mike Bogosian, Mar 10, 2014

James Bonlander, Feb 13, 2014

MSgt Roy H Boles, Reported in May 2014

Charlie Brown, Nov 16, 2014

SMSgt Sally Brown, Jan 16, 2014

SMSgt Dale W. Davis, Apr 8, 2014

Bill Gish, Aug 27, 2014

Col Norman L Hayes, Oct 12, 2014

SMSgt Harry M James, Apr 5, 2014 Korea

CMSgt Raphael Johnson, Jan 3, 2014 Korea

Col Paul Lavin, USAF, Retired, Jan 30, 2014 Vietnam

Dickie L Lecrone, May 7, 2014

Col Rodney Macauley, Aug 27 2014 Vietnam

Col James A MacMaster, 2003 reported in 2014

Lt Col Robert C Salamon, Mar 31, 2014 WWII B-17 Nav

Charles H Williams, Feb 12, 2014

## Member List

I continue to refine the member list that is on our website. Please look at the list and if you see any info that is incorrect, then let me know so I can update it. The list is password protected the password is xxxx.

## Keep in Contact

Please visit our Buckeye Wing Association website for information on the 2016 Reunion. 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

[ohioairforce@gmail.com](mailto:ohioairforce@gmail.com)

Phone 513-377-0472

Your President Tom McVey

# Buckeye Wing Association

Next Reunion 5-7 May 2016 – Radisson Inn Covington, KY

Edit

## Stories

Here are some stories from members of the 302nd Buckeye Wing. We encourage you to send in a story so we can share on this page for others to read.

1. [Charlie Mercer – A Mission Never Forgotten](#)
2. [Charlie Mercer – Headset](#)
3. [Jeffrey Price – Ode to Wild Bill Anders](#)
4. [Chris Hanson – Oranges From Florida](#)
5. [Chris Hanson – Just a Local Flight](#)
6. [Charlie Mercer – Snodgrass This is IT](#)
7. [Chris Hanson – Shorts or Long Johns](#)
8. [Chris Hanson – Lobster Run](#)
9. [James Garnes – Notes about Rip Collins](#)
10. [Kermit Roseberry – Basic Training and Flight School](#)
11. [Art Lewis – of Props and Docs – Alaska 1966](#)
12. [Bob Bien – Minnesota and Idaho Spray Missios 1983](#)

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[Happenings](#)  
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[Buckeye Memories](#)  
[Agent Orange](#)

Webpage with Buckeye Wing stories

www.buckeyewing.org