

#### VOL. 32 NO. 1 STATION 145 RACKHEATH APO 558 March. 1, 2013

#### FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY – SEVENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) ASSOCIATION, LTD IRC Section 501 C (19) EIN: 39-1592334

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Fred Holdrege 790<sup>th</sup> Home Page: fred790.tripod.com/welcome.html

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3 year	3 years	Andrew J. Wilkinson	"Sandford" Botley RoadHorton	Heath Hampshire SO507 DQ	, England 44 2380-692113	
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3 year	3 years	Tom Johnson	4120 Sweetwater Drive	San Leandro, Ca 94578	Phone: (510)895-1892	

#### FROM THE PRES:

First of all, I hate to inform you of the passing of my father, Ralph Davis. Ralph passed away Sept. 25, 2012. Just shortly before our reunion here in Dayton.

Our reunion this year in Dayton went very well, and I hope that everyone that attended had a good time. This could not have been done without the time and dedication of quite a few people and I would like to take up a little space here and thank them.

First my wife Liz, who put everything together for us from the trips to the museum, hotel and meals. My sister Lisa and her husband Keith for cooking the meals and helping with coolers and making all kinds of runs for me to bring all the things I forgot. My brother Kerry and his wife Karen and my son Shawn and his wife Missy for all the help and support that they gave me.

At our membership meeting it was decided that we would keep the Bomb Group together and that we would have a reunion this year. It was decided by the board that we would join up with the 492<sup>nd</sup> this year in San Antonio, Texas June 27<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

At this meeting we also decided that POOP FROM GROUP would continue, but will change to a digital format. We will need everyone that wants to receive POOP to contact us (more information in next column from Brian Mahoney) and give us your email information. If you don't have an email address or do not have access to the internet, we will still be putting out a limited number of printed POOP so no one just left off the list.

The new digital POOP will be edited and published by Andy Wilkinson. It will be in a PDF format. If you do not have a PDF reader you can download one for free from Adobe. We would like to thank Andy for taking this on. He will need all our support and any information that you feel needs to be in POOP will now go to Andy. I will still be a contact for you and for Andy to make sure the flow of information is not disrupted.

#### **FROM BRIAN MAHONEY:**

#### FROM BRIAN MAHONEY:

We Want Your Email Addresses! Please Read! -Brian Mahoney

Starting with the very next 'POOP' we will be distributing the newsletter as PDF file, attached to an email. Your board is keen to reduce costs but also not leave anybody behind. If you do not have the ability to receive the newsletter by email, send a note today to me (address in the masthead) and we will see that you still get a printed version in the future.

I will confess, that even as one of the heavy adopters of new technology, I have long preferred to hold the paper in my hand. but at nearly 60, now, I also am seeing the advantage of getting a nice clean electronic newsletter, which I can easily enlarge in the Acrobat Reader, and see all the sharp details in the words and the photos. I say this in hopes that it may encourage any who are hesitant, to give it a try.

We only have email addresses for a handful of our nearly 800 current subscribers, but hope that most of the rest of you will be able to switch to the electronic version, allowing us to save a pretty penny and still keep our party going! SEND ME AN EMAIL RIGHT AWAY. Please use "467 news" in the subject line, and I will note the information. <u>BriCamera@MindSpring.com</u>. We also want you to keep us current with your regular mail address... if an email bounces, we can at least send you a note and remind you to update us. We want to stay in touch! Your phone, while optional, would also be a nice back-up plan. I know that many of you veterans are moving late in life, and we want to be able to follow you!

Thanks, and best wishes!

#### FROM PERRY WATTS:

Dear Bob, Committee Officers, Veterans, Family Members and Friends:-

Since writing my previous letter in May 2012 and published in the May edition of the POOP Journal we have had a visit on 25 August to the Second Air Division Memorial Library at Norwich by two family members, namely Yvonne (daughter of Mike Caputo (dec'd)) and Brian. As a matter of interest it was Mike who made the splendid large scale model of the B-24

"Witchcraft" which he kindly donated to the 2 AD Memorial Library where it is displayed suspended from the ceiling near the entrance door. It was really wonderful to listen to Yvonne read some very interesting and personal paragraphs from the book that she has written relating to her dear Dad. Following which Yvonne kindly invited Memorial Trust Governor Richard Middleton, David Hastings and I to join her and Brian for lunch at the Assembly House (just across the road from the Library).

On Saturday 29 September Jill and I attended the annual reunion of the Kirby Kids at Kirby Bedon and it was a great pleasure to meet up with 467<sup>th</sup> Group Veteran Frank Bales and his charming wife Pauline and also their niece and her husband. Frank was the copilot on the B-24 "Broad and High" which battle damaged and out of fuel unfortunately crash-landed at Kirby Bedon (on the outskirts of Norwich and about 7 miles from Rackheath) on the return flight from the 467<sup>th</sup> Group mission to Woippy, France on 18 August 1944.

It is appropriate to mention that Tilia Properties who own several of the former buildings/sites on the Industrial Site (former WW2 airfield Technical Site) at Rackheath have named a building they recently completed 'The B-24 Cafe'. The building is quite large and contains a meeting room as well as a fairly large dining area. It was the Chairman/Proprietor of Tilia Properties, namely Mr. Nick Hovey, who decided to have the various roads on the Industrial Site with names relating to the 467<sup>th</sup> Group such as – Albert Shower Road, Ramirez Road and Witchcraft Way. The company also restored and own the former Control Tower and the remaining T2 Hangar.

Now the sad news -- Tommy Dungar, a former resident of Rackheath who had a wealth of knowledge relating to the activities of the 467<sup>th</sup> Group during WW2 and at that time being a 15/16 years old youngster, passed away on 26 July aged 83 years. - On 14<sup>th</sup> September another 467<sup>th</sup> Group stalwart, namely Denis Sporle passed away at 80 years of age As some of you may recall it was Denis, a lifelong resident of Barsham, Suffolk, who arranged and organised the building of the splendid Memorial to Stalie Reid and his fellow Crew Members who sadly lost their lives when their B24 "Miss-Fire" crashed at Barsham on the night of 22 April 1944 on their return flight from the Group mission to Hamm, Germany.

Some other local news – For those who have visited the area and for those Veterans who may have visited and imbibed there during 1944/45 another piece of information relating to "The Green Man" Pub at Rackheath. Unfortunately the publican Lestyn Thomas decided to close the Pub as operating the establishment was not profitable.

I have been busy during the past few months researching and writing another book – 228 pages, including a vast number of photographs. It is a detailed history of the most famous B24 in the United States 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force in WW2 – the B-24 "Witchcraft". Now awaiting publication.

Wishing You a Very Happy and Healthy New Year Best wishes to you all from Jill, James and myself. Perry Watts

Distinguished Member of the 467<sup>th</sup> Group Veterans Association and UK Based Group Historian.

## IN MEMORY OF Marvin Ralph Davis



DAVIS, Ret. Major Marvin "Ralph", (PHD) Age 89, born on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1922 went to be with the one he loved, his beloved wife, on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2012. Ralph was retired from Wright Patterson Air Force Base as a Deputy Director of the Fighter Attack SPO, and the United States Air Force as a decorated (receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross) WWII (B24 Liberator) and Korean War pilot. Ralph had 40 plus years military and civil service. Ralph also worked with NCR during his early years. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, his Master of Science Degree from The Ohio State University and his PHD in Management from Columbia Pacific University. Ralph was preceded in death by his mother Aurelia T. Davis, father Marvin F. Davis and wife of 62 years Doris Sommer Davis. His is Survived by three children, Kerry and Karen Davis of Beavercreek Ohio, Lisa and Keith Wilson of Beavercreek, Ohio and Bob and Liz Davis of Huber Heights, Ohio. He also had six grandchildren Shawn and Melissa Davis, Nicole Davis, A1C Ryan Drake, Kerrianne and husband Josh Taylor, PVT Spencer Drake and Kurtis Davis as well as 10 great grandchildren PVT Jesse McKown, Jerrod (Jeff) O'Steen, Jordan Davis, Savannah (The Vamp) Davis, Corey and Ella Taylor, and Audrey, Camille, Surina and La'Nika Davis. Palph was part of the 467th Bomb Group (H), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division and The Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He enjoyed spending his time around the one's he most loved, his kids and grandchildren.

#### FOLD WINGS:

Borgeson, Rodney C. Davis, Marvin R. Linson, James W. Mulconry, Frank L. Vogler, Eugene L. Brown, Frank F. Girard, Lawrence W. Merrell Jr., Arthur M. Tracy, Jerry



Walter Johnston "Johnny" Mundy Jr. age 85, passed away at home on June 3, 2011 after a brief illness. A faithful husband and loving father, he left this earth in the arms of his wife Ruth and son John. He was preceded in death by his mother Elizabeth, father Walter and sister Liz.

He was born in Medford, Oregon an August 16, 1925 and attended public schools in the towns of Jackson and Medford.

He graduated high school at age 15 and relocated to Long Beach, California with his family during the early days of WWII. There he met his future wife of nearly 65 years, Ruth Faye Atkins.

Johnny enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was trained as a gunner in the 467<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

After the war he married Ruth on June 20, 1946 in Idyllwild, California. Together they raised three sons, John Richards, James Garvin and Jeffery Steven Mundy. Walter worked for many years at North American Aviation on many famous aircraft such as the X15 and the Apollo Moon Capsule Project in tandem with NASA. He was an entrepreneur and founded his own companies on three occasions, Tend A Brush in Waco, Texas, M2 in Washington D.C. and Arlo poles in association with Clint Murchison and Ling Temco Vaught in Meridian Ms.

In later years he was Director of facilities ofr Norhtrop Aviation from which he retired in 1993.

Johnny and Ruth lived for many years in Tehachapi, California and Edmond, Oklahoma before resettling in 2010 in Jacksonville to be with their son John and his wife Linda.

He was grandfather to Nicolas, Oliver and Regina Mundy. He was Uncle to Jerry, Tommy, David, Judy and Charles Johnson, Carol Lynn and Sue Ann Williamson, Arve and Keith Houser, Len and Charles Newcomb. He fondly loved his sister in law Mozelle Houser.

Johnny became President of the 467<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and also served as a board member of the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum in Savannah Ga. He was active in the affairs of building the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.D. Memorial Library wing in Norwich, England. He was stationed at Rackheath, in East Anglia where he flew as a crew member on the famed Liberator B-24 Aircraft.

## Remember the Reunion-San Antonio, Texas

Dear 492nd Friends and 467th Bomb Group Friends,

Make your plans now for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 492<sup>nd</sup> BG Association. We are looking forward to a joint reunion this year with the 467<sup>th</sup> BG Association. Tom Johnson, Andy Wilkinson and his son Tom, from the 467<sup>th</sup>, attended our reunion in San Diego, had a great time and encouraged the members of the 467<sup>th</sup> to join us in San Antonio.

<u>Accommodations</u> - El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel offers a reduced group rate, has a Trolley Stop (which is the city's bus system) and a River taxi stop, but unfortunately no free airport shuttle. The hotel is located at the start of the new Museum Reach section of the Riverwalk with wonderful displays of outdoor public art. River barges cruise the river passing through a lock and dam system as they make their way up river turning around at the Pearl Brewery Complex, a great spot for shopping & eating.

<u>Activities</u> - Rick Centore (492<sup>nd</sup>) has been working with the public affairs office to arrange an escorted tour of **Lackland AFB**. For some of you this may not be a first visit, but it will be memorable, including viewing of a graduation ceremony on Thursday. Chuck Langgood & Ginger Hester, (492<sup>nd</sup>) planned sites for Friday's **City Tour**, including a visit to the Alamo & shopping at El Mercado the largest Mexican market outside of Mexico. Saturday is an opportunity to visit the **Pacific War Museum and/or shop Fredericksburg** in Texas Hill country a small city with a unique German heritage. There much more to do, so extend your stay and take advantage of the inexpensive trolley & river taxis to get around San Antonio.

<u>Wednesday Night Welcome</u> – Hospitality Suite/Trinidad room on the main floor. This is the time to reconnect with friends or meet new ones. Pick-up your Registration packet with name tags, meal ticket, reunion schedule and your gift. Norma Beasley (492<sup>nd</sup>) loves to surprise us each year with a wonderful reunion keepsake. You can drop-off goodies to share, raffle prizes you are donating & buy some raffle tickets. Our casual supper is a Taco Bar available 6-7:00. No other activities planned - just enjoy the companionship and settle in.

<u>Meals</u> – Breakfast at the hotel is included. Most of our dinners will be at the hotel in the

La Habana room across from the Trinidad which is our Hospitality Suite. Except Thursday night, just outside the downtown area where we are staying, is Rio Cibolo Ranch, no trip to Texas would be complete without a cookout and chance to see the Longhorn cattle.

*Formal Banquet* – is Friday night. Our group photo will be taken at the hotel before dinner - when we will all be looking our best; jacket & tie are optional. Each household will receive a souvenir 8x10 to take home.

<u>After Dinner Time</u> –Thursday, while at the ranch- hayride & cowboy style entertainment around the campfire. Friday, Brian Mahoney, (492<sup>nd</sup>/467<sup>th</sup>) will describe the shared history of the two bomb groups. Saturday, is Southwestern night, with strolling mariachi during dinner. And afterwards, Howard Heckmann, (492<sup>nd</sup>) the Grab Bag Master & his "assistants" will once again host the Raffle & Silent Auction.

## Please return your registration form by May 15<sup>th</sup> to:

#### **Fran Gramberg**

#### 7025 West Bruns Road, Monee, IL 60449

#### Phone 708-670-8084 or e-mail: fgramberg@msn.com

## Remember the Reunion-San Antonio

## **June 27<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013**

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS - Must be made 30 days prior by May 26, 2013

#### El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78205

#### Hotel Reservation 1-210-277-4043 ask for Lupe Hernandez

Hotel Website: www.eltropicanohotel.com

Double rate \$99 per night (+ tax). Full American Breakfast Buffet Included.

Be sure to tell them you are with the 492nd & 467th BG Reunion. If you would like to register on-line e-mail Fran Gramberg for the link fgramberg@msn.com.

Even if you are not sure of your plans please reserve your room – You can always cancel up to 72 hours prior at no charge.

#### **HOTEL SERVICES**

- Breakfast vouchers included for a full American Breakfast.
- Group room rate extended three days before & after, subject to availability.
- <u>From the airport</u>, you can take a taxi (\$25-\$29 one way) or an airport shuttle (approx. \$18 one way) to El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Tickets for the shuttle can be purchased in the baggage claim area at the airport.
- Self-parking reduced by 50% to \$9.00/day
- Hotel Check-In 4pm & Check-Out 12pm
- Nearby connections to the San Antonio Trolley system and River Taxis
- Internet access, coffee maker, iron/ironing board & hairdryer in all guest rooms
- Wheel Chair accessible rooms are available
- Hospitality Suite Trinidad Room- Main Floor we can bring our own food & beverages
- Outdoor Pool, Exercise Room, Internet, Restaurant & Lounge onsite.
- Hotel can receive shipments up to 3 days before arrival. Label with 492<sup>nd</sup> or 467<sup>th</sup> BG & recipients name.

#### 492<sup>nd</sup> & 467<sup>th</sup> BG HOSPITALITY SUITE - REGISTRATION PACKET PICK-UP

Hospitality Suite – <u>Trinidad Room-Main Floor</u>. Registration Packets will be in the Hospitality Suite for Pick-up. Please bring snacks & beverages to share.

#### **OPlease no peanut products due to a member's SEVERE allergyO**

#### **RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION**

Howard Heckmann (492<sup>nd</sup>), our 'Grab Bag Master' reminds everyone to please donate a prize. Items may be brought to the Hospitality Suite - Trinidad Room on the Main Floor. Let him know if your item is for the Raffle (\$5 - \$10 value) or for the Silent Auction (over \$10 value). The proceeds help defray the cost of the reunion group photo, incidentals & entertainment.

#### **GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**

Each household will be given a souvenir 8x10 copy of the group photo taken Friday night. It should be available for pick-up in the hospitality suite before the end of the reunion.

#### **OPTIONAL TOUR INFORMATION**

#### THURSDAY June 27th - Lackland Air Force Base

#### Leaving in the morning returning in early afternoon. Bus Times to be Announced.

Escorted tour of the Air Force base, Airman Museum, Security Forces Museum viewing of the Airman's Coin Ceremony (BMT Graduation). Lunch in the Gateway room is included.

TOUR PRICE: \$35 adult or \$20 per child (3-11) includes lunch, bus & gratuity for driver.

THURSDAY June 27th - Dinner at Rio Cibolo Ranch (just 15 miles from our hotel)

#### Buses board at 4:45 p.m. Depart at 5:00 p.m. Return to the hotel at 10:00 p.m.

Upon arrival at the Ranch, relax and enjoy the sounds of the Country Fiddler on the deck of the Lazy Lily River House with a view of the Cibolo Waterfalls and Gardens. Step up to the Longhorn Saloon (Cash bar includes Texas wines and famous Rio Ritas). Western Round Up is served inside in the air conditioned Lazy Lily. Mesquite smoked chicken & pork ribs with potato salad, coleslaw, ranch beans and freshly baked rolls. Iced tea, water, lemonade and coffee provided. Guests will enjoy moonlit hay wagon rides, be entertained by a Trick Roper/Cowboy Comedian and watch the feeding of the resident Texas Longhorns. Finally gather around open fire pits for assorted fruit cobblers & ice cream.

**RANCH PRICE:** \$60 adult or \$30 per child (3-11) includes dinner, performers, bus & gratuities.

#### FRIDAY June 28th - Alamo, City Tour & Mexican Market

#### Buses board at 8:45 a.m. Depart at 9:00 a.m. Return to the hotel at 2:00 p.m.

Guided City Tour stopping at the Alamo, then a short driving view of the downtown area historical sites. Final stop at El Mercado a colorful outdoor Mexican Market with authentic shopping & cafés. (Option to return to the hotel instead of the market). Lunch on your own.

TOUR PRICE: \$20 per adult, \$10 per child (3-11), includes transportation & gratuity for driver.

#### SATURDAY June 29<sup>th</sup> – Fredericksburg (70 miles north)

#### Pacific War Museum and/or local shopping, wine tasting & dining

#### Buses board at 8:45 a.m. Depart at 9:00 a.m. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

Fredericksburg is located in Texas Hill Country a region known for its wineries & tourism. The town was founded by German immigrants which is richly reflected in the main street shops, bakeries, wine tasting rooms and varied restaurants. Right in the heart of the downtown is an incredible museum complex dedicated to all those who served in the Pacific War. The Admiral Nimitz Museum, George Bush Gallery of the Pacific War, the Plaza of the Presidents, Japanese Garden of Peace, Memorial Walk, and the Pacific Combat Zone. You will purchase your own ticket upon arrival WWII Veterans are Free, Adults-\$14, Seniors 65+- \$12. There are several restaurants a short distance from the museum. You can spend the day at the museums or shopping & dining or both. Lunch on your own.

#### TOUR PRICE: \$35 per adult, \$15 per child (3-11), includes bus & gratuity for driver.

If you like doing research on a computer there is more information about all the places we are visiting and others you might want to consider on your own.

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SPOUSE/FRIEND		E-Ma	ail				
ADDRESS		PH	ONE				
CARPLANEA							
Wednesday 6/26		VINNER SELECTIONS			1	naer) x \$15	=
			<u> </u>	Child Qty		x \$10	=
Thursday 6/27		Off-Site Ranch & Co	ookout			x \$60	=
				Child Qty	,	x \$30	=
Friday 6/28		Banquet – English Roas	t Beef	Adult Qty		x \$40	=
		Banquet – Roasted Po	ork	Adult Qty		x \$40	=
		Banquet - English Roas	t Beef	Child Qty	,	x \$20	=
		Banquet – Roasted Po	ork	Child Qty	,	x \$20	=
Saturday 6/29		Beef Fajitas		Adult Qty		x \$40	=
		Tortilla Crusted Tila	pia	Adult Qty		x \$40	=
		Beef Fajitas		Child Qty	,	x \$20	=
		Tortilla Crusted Tila	pia	Child Qty	,	x \$20	=
		OPTIC	NAL T	OURS			
Thursday 6/27 Lack		and AFB	Adult	Qty	× \$3	5 =	
			Child	Qty	× \$2	0 =	
Friday 6/28 Alam		o & City Tour		Qty	× \$2	0 =	
			Child	Qty	× \$1	0 =	
Saturday 6/29 Fred		ricksburg &	Adult	Qty	× \$3	5 =	
	Pacifi	ic War Museum					
			Child	Qty	× \$1	5 =	

Total =

		Or	
All Tours & Dinners	Adult Qty	x \$245	=
All Tour & Dinners	Child Qty	x \$125	=
		Total	=

ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT FRAN GRAMBERG

Send check payable to 492<sup>ND</sup> BOMB GROUP – No later than May 15th to:

Fran Gramberg

7025 West Bruns Road, Monee, IL 60449

Phone 708-670-8084 or e-mail: fgramberg@msn.com

# 492ml BGAssoc & 467th BG in San Antonio

Everyone will be given New Name Tags this year; no need to find & pack the old ones!

If you filled out this form before you do not need to do it again - I have your information.

NEW ATTENDEES ONLY please complete and return to

### Fran Gramberg

#### 7025 West Bruns Road, Monee, IL 60449

#### Phone 708-670-8084 or e-mail: fgramberg@msn.com

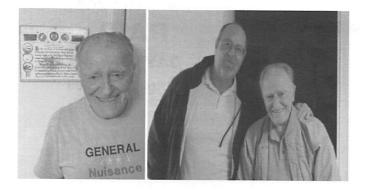
Please complete the form below, remember if you prefer a nickname then write it down.

#### WHAT YOU WRITE IS WHAT YOU GET

If you need additional tags made for other friends/family include a list of the additional names or you can

Full Name					
(Of the Person Wearing the Tag)					
My Veteran's Full Name					
(If you are the Veteran just write in "VETERAN")					
Veteran's Bomb Group Number					
Veteran's Plane Name					
Veteran's Crew Number					
Veteran's Squadron					
Veteran's Position					
Check if Veteran was KIA POW Internee					
(Circle one)					
492 <sup>nd</sup> BG Veteran 492 <sup>nd</sup> BG Associate Member Friend of the 492 <sup>nd</sup> BG					
467 <sup>th</sup> BG Veteran 467 <sup>th</sup> BG Associate Member Friend of the 467 <sup>th</sup> BG					

수집한 점점이 적 도시하는



Fred's son Mark joined Cindy Stevens and Brian Mahoney for lunch in October, and we found him to be very much 'on his game' still, with plenty of good stories to share. Some of the humor may have rubbed off on his son Mark, who decided that his old man, our last living squadron CO from the group, deserved a special 'field promotion,' and made him a fourstar general NUISANCE. On the wall behind Fred is a great keepsake from 'his boys' toward the end of the war in Europe. The text reads: "In fond remembrance of the Sixteen Month period of comradeship that has endured through the training rigors of the Salt Flats of Utah and a combat tour with the 8th Air Force in the European Theatre of Operations... to Major Fred Earnest Holdrege, Jr., A Fine Officer, An Eager Eagle, A Pal. This Testimonial of our Esteem is presented by the Enlisted and Commissioned personnel of His First Military Command. -Rackheath-East Anglia-Great Britain-February 1945-"

Fred later made full colonel in his career with the USAF. <u>SOME PICS FROM 2012 REUNION:</u>







SUNDAY DINNER – Ruth, Ann and Jay



Friday Night Dinner



Our Vets - Jack, Joe, Robert and Norm

POOP FROM GROUP 467<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP (HEAVY)

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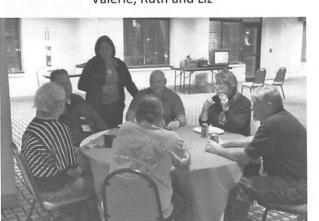
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FRANK S. WATSON 261 HAPPY TRL S LAS CRUCES NM 88005-8232





Valerie, Ruth and Liz





Friday Night Dinner

