

I dedicate this book to my mom and dad with immense gratitude for their never ending love and support. I love you and respect you both. Thank you for my life.

This book was compiled by Michael Bernard Joseph Pulizzi, eldest child of Peter S Pulizzi and Irene Nan Daugirda Pulizzi. It covers his Air Force years from March 1953 - March 1957 with a large focus on his second tour of duty to North Africa Sept - Oct 1956. It is during this tour that he was able to visit Italy and locate his family in Sicily. It should be noted that this was the first time a Pulizzi from the USA visited family in Sicily since his father Bernardo left to come to America on May 31, 1910. The photographs of family used in this book are from that tour of duty and how I was able to use them so many decades later, to locate our family once again.

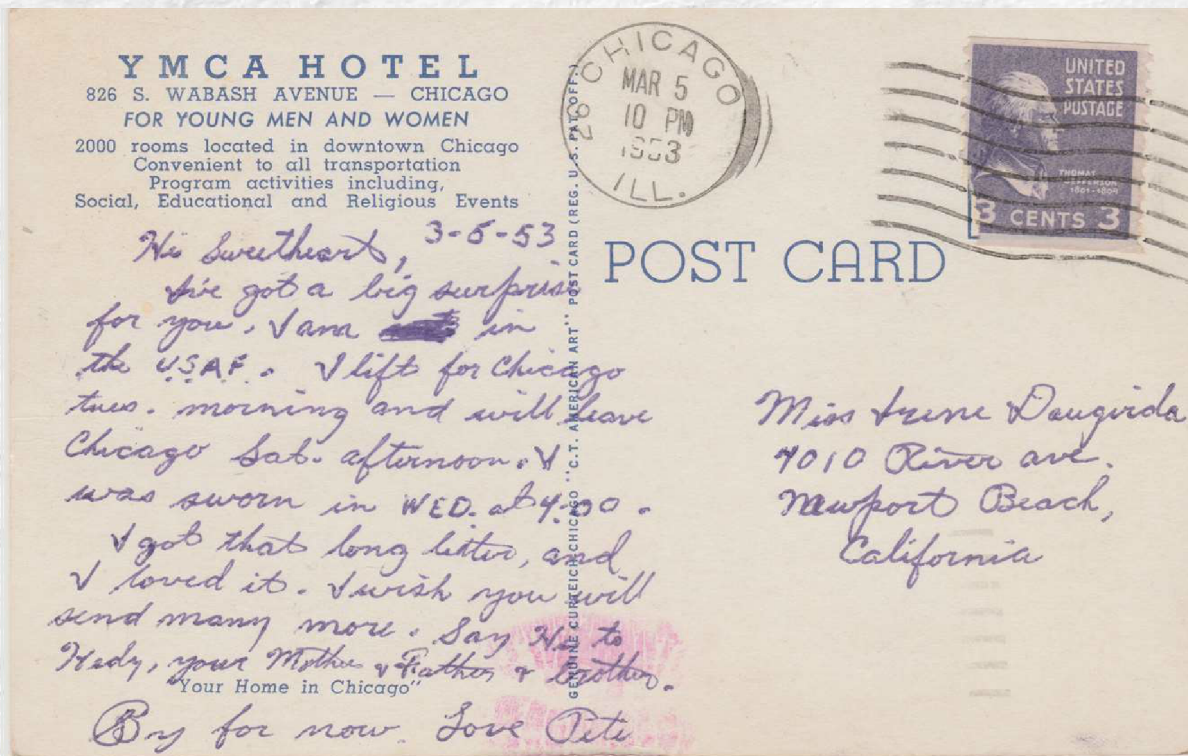
How Peter made it to Italy and Sicily from North Africa is a great story - While in North Africa, Peter and a buddy Sgt Cobb made a burger stand on base, which was located near the base theater. They made the grill from a 50 gallon drum and would get supplies from the commissary. He and Pete would do the cooking and sell to the airman leaving the movies as well as those just coming by. After a week in business the base commander shut them down for sanitary reasons. They split the proceeds 50/50 so Peter ended up with \$300. He decided that \$300 was enough to get him to Italy and Sicily and try to find family. When he was getting ready to go to Rome he stopped at the American Express office on base for some spending money and the lady asked where he was going. Dad told her and she asked if he was going to visit the Vatican and dad said he hoped to do so. She then asked him to say a prayer for her while there because she was very much in love with an airman and really wanted him to propose. Dad remembered to offer this prayer at the Vatican and when he returned to the base, he went to see her to let her know he did as she asked. When he saw her, she put out her hand and the engagement ring was on her finger.

After Rome he flew to Sicily and made his way to Marsala. His grandmother Angela Marino Lombardo had told him that her nephew Andrew Marino and family lived in Marsala and to look him up, she had his address. Andrew's son is Salvatore was about 16 at the time. His wife's name is not known at this time. Peter found Andrew, who worked at the courthouse in records, and was able to look up where Pete's family lived in Petrosino. Andrew had a friend that had a Lambretta motor scooter so the friend, Andrew and Peter all road on it from Marsala to Petrosino (skinny guys I guess). About halfway they stopped in a village called Strasatti for directions at a county grocery store. Pete remembers it being the only building around on that corner. The lady inside recognized Pete's surname and told him that the Pulizzi's were known as the long neck people. She also told him that the store used to be a school and she went to school with his mother and remembers her very well. It is at this corner that they turned and headed straight for Petrosino.

A side note: Andrew Marino and his family also owned a dance hall next to where they lived and would rent it out for weddings and other occasions. There was also a church across or just down the street in which Peter took a picture of the altar, at least that is how he recalls it. That photo is included in this book as well as Google Earth image captures showing what I believe is the Marino home, dance hall and church. I have not been able to determine the name of the church as yet.



Before Peter ever thought of enlisting in the Air Force, he was in ROTC while a Sophomore at West Rockford High School. Photo from the Warriors yearbook 1951, page 114. Peter is second row up and center.



Postcard dated March 5, 1953 to Irene Daugirda notifying her that he has joined the USAF. He left for Chicago on March 3rd Tuesday, was sworn into the USAF on Wednesday March 4th at 4pm and will leave Chicago on Saturday the 7th. He stayed at the YMCA Hotel. While in line to be sworn in, he met Carl Pitchford who was standing in front of him. They have been life long friends.

Basic Training Sampson AFB Amarillo TX March 14, 1953 - May 14, 1953



Basic Training March 14 1953 - May 14 1953 based on two letters he wrote to Irene. He stated he left Sampson for Texas on May 14. Peter is in the third row down from the top and the third guy in from the right side. Carl Pitchford is 3rd row up from bottom and 3rd guy in from left. George Ballard is 3rd row and 2nd in from left next to Carl. Graduation from Sampson Air Force Base in Amarillo Texas.

Amarillo AFB, TX Per a letter he wrote to Irene, he arrived May 14, 1953 at 7pm but his DD214 states
May 14, 1953 - Sept 7, 1953

United States Air Force

Air Training Command

Be it known that

AIRMAN THIRD CLASS PETER S PULIZZI AF 16 435 062

has satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instruction of the Air
Training Command specializing in AIRCRAFT MECHANIC MEDIUM JET

BOMBER COURSE NUMBER 43151J

In testimony whereof and by virtue of vested authority we do confer upon
him this

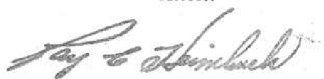
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

Given at AMARILLO AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

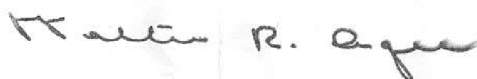
on this EIGHTH day of SEPTEMBER

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and FIFTY THREE

Attest:

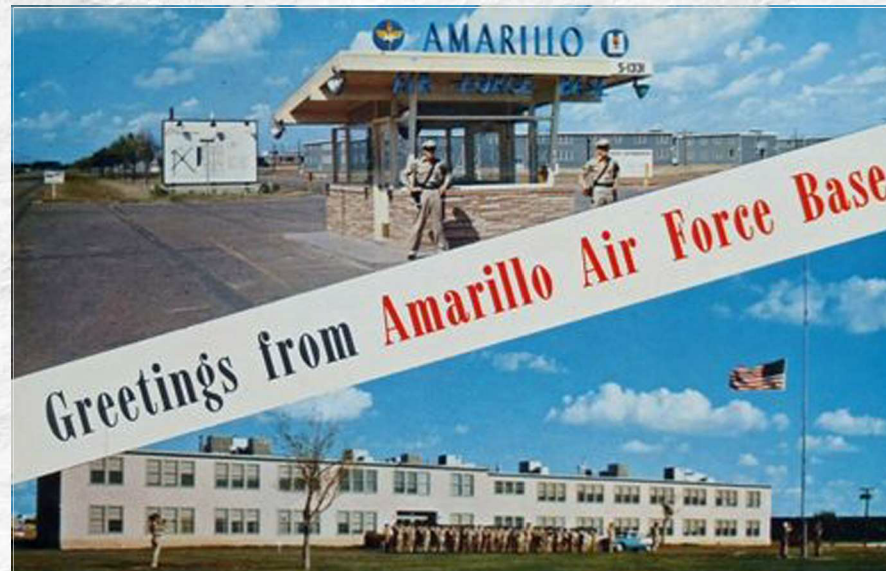


SECRETARY



COMMANDANT

ATC, 107, 33



Post card Pete sent to Irene. Nothing written on the back

Per a letter he wrote to Irene, he arrived in Texas on May 14, 1953 at 7 pm. Per his DD214, he was at Amarillo AFB from May thru Sept. From Texas, Pete was transferred to Hunter AFB in Savannah, GA., which would remain his home base for the duration of his enlistment.

Assorted photos of Peter S Pulizzi

Pete was a member of the 308th Bomb Wing, 375th Bomb Squadron. In 1951, the 308th was activated as a bombardment unit at Hunter Air Force Base, Savannah Ga, and initially equipped with B-29s, which Pete remembers seeing when he first arrived. Those aircraft were then replaced by the B-47E Stratojet swept-wing medium jet bombers in 1954, capable of flying at high subsonic speeds and primarily designed for penetrating the airspace of the Soviet Union. Deployed to bases in North Africa three times, twice in detachment form and once as a unit to Sidi Slimane Air Base Morocco (21 August - 26 October 1956). From November 1956 to March 1957, the wing tested the SAC alert plan by maintaining one-third of its bombers and tanker force on continuous alert.



To a
girl that
I will never
forget! We've had
some wonderful times,
but the future only knows
how things will turn out!
"I love you sweetheart."
Pete

