The B-26 Marauder Historical Society

The Marauder Thunder

To Ensure This Aircraft's Rightful Recognition **2024—Summer**

2024 B-26 Marauder Historical Society Reunion







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Join Us

Please consider joining us at the B-26 MHS Reunion in Tucson, AZ. We hope that you will submit a photo and information of your Marauder man or woman.

Highlights of this year's reunion will be visits to the PIMA Air & Space Museum renowned for its collections and exhibits, we will discover what the Titan Missile Museum has to offer, it was active during the Cold War.

Join us for Education Day as we will learn about the restoration of the PIMA B-26, listen to Andrew Boehly, curator of the PIMA Museum, and hear from others about the B-26.

Perhaps experience the local cuisine and enjoy a prickly pear cactus beverage.



Veteran Salute

Submitted by Lyn Sidner Baugh

Homer James Avery was born on Dec. 7, 1921, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He earned a bachelor of fine arts in industrial design from the University of Illinois.

Not long after Pearl Harbor was bombed, on his 20th birthday, Mr. Avery joined the Army Air Forces and eventually commanded a B-26 bomber with the 323rd Bomb group. He flew in 44 missions over Germany, but the most lasting impact of his military service may have come from his basic training.

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President's Message

Hello MHS!

On Behalf of the Board of Directors - and our excellent volunteers, we Thank You for your membership and interest in the B26 Marauder Historical Society. For years, our founders have taken time to meet and share stories and their vision to preserve the history of both the plane and all those who built and maintained it and more! September 2024 has come, and we are just a month away from our 2024 Reunion in Tucson!!

We hope to see as many of you as possible. Call to Action!! - we need members and donors to continue to work towards the goals of the MHS. Please join us at the Reunion and if unable to attend, please consider a generous donation in honor of your connection to the B26.

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Add MHS to your Fry's Community Rewards!

1. Create an online Fry's account
2. Go to www.FrysCommunityRewards.com and sign-in.
3. Select 'Enroll Now'. Under 'Find Your Organization' Enter B-26 Marauder Historical Society or our number (DJ822) Then select 'Search'
4. Once you found us click 'Enroll'
5. you will see a confirmation page stating 'You have successfully enrolled in Community Rewards'

B-26 Real Stories

based on mission reports from the archives and interviewed first hand participants.

Story #3 From the book "Back From 44, The Sacrifice and Courage of a Few"

Submitted by Nick Cressy

Based on a real training event and aftermath in training in Louisiana.

The base security and safety officer came in to the bar and pronounced, "The bar and club are shut down by order of the base commander, Colonel Manson."

Looking around at each other we put down our drinks and started to move to the door then he continued, "At ease… don't leave yet… all personnel on flying status report to the base theater in Class A's, no exceptions… 0800 hours sharp… Colonel Manson's order."

There had been some pilots doing low level buzzing passes, seemingly to impress or startle locals. This practice went on and some of the pilots got a kick out of it, is this what happened.

After a short night's sleep, all training crews got ready in Class A's and went to chow. The mood was somber… it was 0745, all are gathered in the theater. Lots of talk about what happened and other conversations.

Then breaking the silence, a loud "Ten Hut! All snapped to attention as Colonel Manson entered and walked down the aisle to the front of the theater. He stopped and turned around facing the audience in a stern look, a perfect parade rest stance in a flawlessly groomed uniform. His stone-cold silence made all nervous and then in a low tone firm voice, "At ease… take your seats."

All sat wondering what was next as Colonel Manson starred at the audience and didn't talk for what seemed to be an eternity then he let loose with a firm lecture, "Last night one man committed suicide and five men were murdered."

"Last night one of our pilots decided to show the folks in his hometown what a shit hot pilot he was, he buzzed Main Street and crashed."

"When I arrived at the scene their remains were still burning." The colonel's voice was never raised but his focus went right at you… all listened.

His eyes were like steel and if looks could paralyze he continued, "I am sick and tired of such appalling stupidity."

"I guarantee to each of you that if I catch anyone using my airplanes for buzzing and showing off, I will court martial your ass and send you to federal prison."

After his final statement he moved up the aisle and out of the theater… there was silence.. All left the theater thinking about how stupid we can be without thinking about the consequences.

Orvel Ward Sherrill (October 4, 1924 - July 19, 2024)

Orvel Ward Sherrill, born October 4, 1924, in Gage, Oklahoma, to Charles Emil Sherrill and Cora M. (Hampton) Sherrill, passed away peacefully at the age of 99 on July 19, 2024, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He has now joined his beloved wife, Virginia, in heaven. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Mobley-Groesbeck Funeral Service of Sand Springs.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 10 a.m. at The Father's House with Pastor Danny Lynchard officiating. The service may be viewed https://www.facebook.com/fisherbaptistchurch



Following the service, a graveside service with military honors presented by the U.S. Air Force will take place at 2:30 p.m. at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. Viewing will be on Monday, July 29, from 12-8 p.m. at Mobley-Groesbeck Funeral Service, with family and friends gathering from 5-7 p.m.

Orvel grew up across various parts of Oklahoma, spending his younger years in Locust Grove and Yonkers, but most of his youth in Tulsa and Wagoner County. It was at a dance that he met Virginia Lee Hurd, who asked him to walk her home. Their families lived on adjoining farms. They married on July 3, 1943, when they were just 17 and 15 years old. The couple briefly lived in Silverton, CO, before settling in Sand Springs, OK, where they raised their three children: Gloria, Ward, and Barbara. They enjoyed 80 years of marriage.

As a young man, Orvel worked various jobs including on the railroad, as a farm hand, and in the mines of Silverton. He also participated in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the southwest, building roads. Orvel served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II from 1943-1946, where he trained in Louisiana and served as a tail gunner on a B-26 during numerous dangerous missions in France and Germany.

Upon his discharge, Orvel began working with Oklahoma Power and Water, which later became Public Service Company. He was a dedicated employee, retiring as a Transportation Superintendent after 40 years of service. In retirement, Orvel enjoyed caring for his farm where he raised Polled Herefords. He was also an active supporter of his children's and grandchildren's athletic events.

Orvel was a hard-working, determined, family man. He and Virginia volunteered their time to help build churches and parsonages. Over the years, he served in various capacities at the churches he attended, including Trinity Baptist Church, Broadway Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Mannford, and The

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Veteran Salute (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Stationed at what became Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he developed a fondness for the Texas hill country and met the woman who would become his first wife, Mona Pierce, in Lubbock. The couple had two children.



After the war, Mr. Avery taught at the University of Iowa and the University of Colorado, where he began experimenting with jewelry-making techniques.

In 1953, he returned to Texas with his second wife, the former Sally Ranger, with whom he later founded his company. Mr. Avery began fabricating jewelry in his in-laws' garage in 1954, and he quickly found success selling his products through churches on consignment. What began as a one-man operation in Kerrville, Tex. — about 65 miles northwest of San Antonio — now employs more than 3,500 people in 80 stores across the South.

Homer James Avery passed in 2018.

Orvel Ward Sherrill (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Father's House. At Broadway Baptist Church, he served as Chairman of the Deacons, and at First Baptist Church of Mannford, he helped his wife establish a park for the church children, which is named in their honor.

In addition to his professional and volunteer work, Orvel was a firefighter with the Silver City Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, the last ten of which he served as chairman of the board.

Orvel was preceded in death by his wife of 80 years, Virginia, who passed on May 5, 2023; his parents; his sister, Mary Alice Ketcher; and his stepbrothers, Jack Byrd and Robert Byrd. He is survived by his children: Gloria Virginia Pickett, Ward Lee Sherrill and wife, Linda Bradshaw Sherrill, and Barbara Sherrill Fowler.

Memorial contributions may be made to John 3:16 Mission, Attn: Development, 575 N. 39th W. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74127, or online at www.john316mission.org; and The Father's House, 4008 S. 137th W. Ave., Sand Springs, OK 74063, charities that were close to Orvel's heart.

Leave your memories of Orvel and view his tribute online at www.mogro.co.



Marauder Man Glenn Julius has passed

Glenn Julius, 102, entered into rest on Saturday afternoon, November 11, 2023, at his home. He was the husband of the late Grace L. (King) Julius with whom he shared 71 years of marriage.

Born August 25, 1921, at Mulberry in Washington Township, Glenn was a son of the late Rufus M. and Mabel (Harlacker) Julius. At the age of 5, he started school at Airy Hill, a one-room school.

After graduating in 1937 from Dover High School at the age of 15, Glenn went to work on his father's farm. He worked one winter as a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad and worked several years in heavy construction. In 1942, Glenn enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force, eventually earned the rank of Sergeant, and served in England, France and Holland during World War II. After being honorably discharged, Glenn returned to farming, and was active on the farm into his nineties. He was still riding his four-wheeler on his 102 birthday.

He enjoyed traveling with Grace and visited 49 states. Their trips were often to Army reunions in various locations. In his later years he was a loving care giver to his wife.

He loved farming with his sons and grandsons and was especially proud of his grandsons' work ethic and accomplishments in school and professions. He enjoyed delivering hay for over 40 years to customers in Lancaster County, many times with his young grandsons, which often included several stops at McDonalds.

He was an active lifetime member of Bermudian Church of the Brethren. In 1950, Glenn was elected to ministry at the church and was ordained in 1952. He continued to be one of the Bermudian ministers until a pastor was hired. Glenn was a strong leader, pillar, and patriarch of the Bermudian Church family, also having served as a board member, Sunday school teacher and church historian. He gave many tours of the local church and family history.

Glenn is survived by two sons, David L. Julius of Dover and Galen M. Julius and wife, Marilyn of East Berlin; three grandsons, Collin Julius and wife, Laura, Dustin Julius and wife, Renee and Ean Julius and wife, Morgan; three great grandchildren, Peter, Leo and Molly, with one on the way; and a brother, Donald Julius of Dover. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Naomi Julius Houseal and three brothers, John, William, and Paul Julius.

A Reunion to Reflect
2024 B-26 Marauder Historical Society

2024 B-26 Marauder Historical Society Reunion – Tucson, AZ



B-26 Marauder™ Historical Society

OCTOBER 25 – 27, 2024

Tucson, Arizona has been chosen this year for our 2024 MHS reunion. Tucson is known for its Wild West history, beautiful missions, breath taking scenery, Pima Air Museum, Titan Missile Museum, The Biosphere and so much more. Tucson is a fantastic aviation city, with lots of history, as well as Davis Monthan Air Force Base, the boneyard and all it attains.

The reunion will be based around Pima Air Museum, and the coming home of the restored B-26. We hope you all will join us for the Educational Day and come along with us on the exciting tours we have lined up. Please be sure to reserve your dates: October 25th - 27th, with a possible post trip to be announced in the near future. We can't wait to see you all there!





Follow us on our website and Facebook for more information.

https://b-26mhs.org/

https://www.facebook.com/B26MHS/



2024 ARIZONA FALL REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October Friday 25th - Sunday 27th , 2024



Thursday, 24 October -- Early Arrivals

Early Arrivers Dinner

Friday, 25 October -- Arrival Day

Registration Desk/ MHS Store Opens 7am
Hospitality Opens 4pm
Lunch on own
Titan Missile Museum Tour 11 am—4 pm
**Please note there are ADA restrictions, no elevator in this building*
Evening Welcome Reception at Hotel - 6:00pm
Dinner on own after reception

Saturday, 26 October-- Learning Day

Registration Desk/ MHS Store Opens 7am
Hospitality Opens 8am
Lunch in Hospitality
Education 1:00pm - 04:30 pm
Pat Rogers—B26 Restoration
Andrew Boehly—Pima Air & Space Museum
Ron Bolesta
Mark Casey
Banquet 5pm
Honor Guard
Missing Man Ceremony
Opening remarks by President and Reunion Chair
Keynote Speaker
Raffle
Silent Auction



Sunday, 27 October

Pima Air and Space Museum Tour
*Exclusive tour of newly restored B-26 returned to Pima
Lunch on own at Pima Air & Space
Hospitality/ MHS Store Open when we return from Pima
Dinner on own



Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel

- Banquet
- Opening reception
- Complementary Breakfast
- Pima Air & Space Museum tour
- Silent auction
- One education event

2024 Tucson – B-26 MHS Reunion Registration Form – October 25 - 27, 2024

Please use this registration form for up to TWO attendees. Make copies of this form to register additional individuals. Members may bring one guest at the member rate.

Name: _____ **MHS Member? Y N** First or Nick Name for Badge: _____

Guest Name: _____ **MHS Member? Y N** First or Nick Name for Badge:

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Bomb Group _____ Bomb Squadron _____

Wheelchair or Special Assistance? **Y N** **(describe on separate page)**
Please bring necessary mobility assistance.

Please list guest contact information (address/phone/email) below if different from what is listed above:

_____

Registration fee includes: full access to the Hospitality Suite, Welcome Reception, Lunch Saturday and Sunday, access to all scheduled Lectures and Panel Sessions, the Banquet, plus transportation and admissions during the reunion.

- PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE FOR REGISTRATION FEES -

Transportation and Hotel

The Hotel will be providing shuttle service to and from the airport. It is located at **7350 S Nogales Hwy** . There are full-service restaurants in the casino, a swimming pool, a fitness center, and a coffee bar. In-room Wi-Fi is free, cable TV and double pillow top mattress.

To make your hotel room reservation at the Desert Diamond Casino Hotel, go online to http://tiny.cc/y1b8zz

or call, 877-777-4212 and mention you would like a room in the B-26 MHS room block to take advantage of the special Reunion rates. Rates are: $129 per night for single, double, triple or quad occupancy. The hotel will honor our group room rate until October 4, if space is available.

For social ground transportation, we recommend you call a cab, Uber, Lyft or rent-a-car from one of the many car rental vendors near the Tucson Airport. Perhaps split the cost with another reunion attendee.

By registering you understand that there will be audio and video recording and are providing consent to the use of your image/voice in these recordings.

Registration **You** **$325 =** $_____

Your Guest **$325 =** $_____

Special Rate for WWII Veterans _____ @ **$275 =** $_____

(Must be received at MHS office by 10/4/2024 to receive this rate)

If you are not a member of the B-26 Marauder Historical Society *add $20 and we will give you a membership for the remainder of 2024. This allows you to bring one guest at the reduced member rate.*

Non-Member please add $20 = $_____

Banquet-only tickets: Name #1 _____ Name #2 _____ _____ @ $60 = $_____

*(This option is for **non-registered** **individuals** who want to **attend the Banquet only**)*

Method of Payment

personal/business check
Credit Card payments

REUNION GRAND TOTAL: $_____

Online registration available on our Website!

Fill out your entry form online www.B-26MHS.org

☐ I am interested in joining in the no-host "early-arrivers" dinner on Thursday October 24th.

Note: Regular and On-site registrations will be at higher rates and Single Event registration will be on a space-available basis.

REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY

Prior to October 4 - Full Refund **Sorry, no refunds after October 4, 2024**

Upcoming Marauder Men Birthdays

September	Bill Spurrier	September 30, 1924
	Richard Brooks	September 1922

Articles Needed

We know that you have stories to be told! Please think about submitting an article we would love to hear about your family member or friend's stories and remembrances.

Books, Web Links and other information

Ron Bolesta's YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/@ronbolesta1421

Library of Congress interview with Homer James Avery
https://www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.88523

Link to an article about the PIMA B-26 restoration: https://vintageaviationnews.com/aviation-museum-news/martin-marauder-at-frenc h-valley-airport-bound-for-pima.html

Bombs Away by H.V. Larson

Marauders in the Mist by J.K. Havener

Walk out by H.C. Woodrum

Into the Wild Blue by R.W. Tigner

Back from 44 by N. Cressy

B-26 Marauder Historical Society

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B-26 MARAUDER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2024

National sponsor: ☐ $1000 or more Sustaining : ☐ $250/year Supporting : ☐ $150/year Contributing : ☐ $100/year Annual: ☐ $65/year Active Military: ☐ $25/year

I am a: _____ B-26 veteran _____ other veteran _____ spouse of veteran _____ other family member _____ supporter of the B-26

Name _____Phone _____

Email_____(***Thunder will be sent to email provided***).

Address _____Country _____

Bomb Group/Squadron _____Highest Service Rank: _____Job on the B-26:_____

Please accept my additional donation of $_____for use as needed.

Membership amount enclosed $_____

Total amount enclosed $_____

CREW CODES
P = Pilot **GC** = Ground Crew
CP = Co Pilot **CC** = Crew Chief
G = Gunner **E** = Engineer
N =Navigator **M** = Mechanic
RO = Radio Operator **B** = Bombardier

Save a stamp and complete your MHS membership online!
B-26MHS.org/membership