The Legacy is a quarterly publication of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association
Volume 25 --- April --- May --- June --- 2015 --- Issue #2

CONGRATULATIONS BAVA YOU'RE 25 YEARS YOUNG!

SILVER ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNED FOR BAVA IN OKC

The origin of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA) was in 1989 at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Big Lift. With about 400 airlift veterans and dependents attending it was hosted by the Luftbrucke Chapter of the Air Tanker Association at Rhein-Main AB. They agreed to organize and hold an annual reunion and elected Ken Herman to lead the organizing of the new association with assistance of Galaxy Tours.

They held the first BAVA reunion and organizational meeting the following year 1990 at Nellis AFB and Las Vegas NV at the invite of Col. Tom Hanson who had been the President of the Luftbrucke Chapter at Rhein-Main AB. During the event they adapted a constitution, a set of by-laws and elected the following officers; Ken Herman as President; Billy Mills Vice President and Bill Gross as Secretary Treasurer. Tom Hansen and Gail Halvorsen and were elected as Directors at Large and still serve.

One of the goals was to have an annual re-union in the U.S. and every fifth year hold a reunion in Berlin. In 1999 they terminated the relationship with Galaxy Tours as it was sold to another tour operator.

The purpose of our association is to commemorate the service of the participants of the Berlin Airlift, both military and civilian. To perpetuate the history and significance of this major airlift operation, and to honor those who gave their lives to make it such a historic success. Finally, to establish programs that will enhance education, friendship and understanding between the German people and the participating allied nations.

Our membership is open to all who participated in carrying out the airlift operation and recipients of the airlift effort, also to family members and others who have shown their appreciation for what the airlift has historically achieved. Currently membership is about 425, but is decreasing rapidly as the youngest participant is 83 years old.

Visit our website at; www.berlinairlifthistoricalsociety.org
CHUCK CHILDS
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I hope that all of you will be making your reservations for Oklahoma City. I’m healing slowly but surely from my accident and should be in good shape when I arrive in Oklahoma. It will be a great reunion at a very reasonable price.

Eddie Ide has been knocking himself out on this one. We miss Fred Hall’s expertise in setting up the reunions, however Eddie’s doing great as Fred’s substitute (Fred keeps him straight) and upcoming reunions will be wonderful to attend. Please try to attend; we must keep BAVA going, even if your Great Grand Children attend with you.

Speaking of upcoming reunions the City of Omaha has contacted me concerning next year. The prices are good and they have much to offer including a German Oktoberfest, food and dancing all offered by a German Club. I’ll be submitting a proposal to the board at the OKC meeting.

Jim Colburn’s death was a shock as was Christie Winnette, wife of Army Rep. Bryce Winnette. It’s important to know of these deaths so we can keep our records up to date and acknowledge our departed members. It’s sad to hear of our members that are passing away. I call the familites and extend BAVA’s sympathy and it’s really appreciated.

Tom Hansen is on the ball with the BAVA scholarship with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ. This is our legacy and a wonderful cause. Send your support checks and keep our name alive.

BAVA is doing fine.

“Oklahoma here I come” and I hope that means you also.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNED FOR BAVA IN OKC

25 years, can you believe it? What a partee is planned. This is a special event and all BAVA members should attend. Mark your calendars for registration day Wednesday Sept. 30. That was the last day of the Berlin Airlift in 1949. We close with dinner Saturday evening Oct. 4th. A great bluegrass band will perform and we’ll cut the anniversary cake. Did I mention that this is the place to be with your family and grandchildren?

It’ll be an event filled with stories, new friends, amazement, and old buddies. What about those great hotel rates?

OK, so you might have a walker, cane or wheel chair, we have folks that will assist you and patiently wait. You set your own pace and enjoy the food and stories. Lots of stories, you’ll be surprised how much better they get every year. There’s nothing like laughter, smiles and friends to make you forget aches and worries.

No computer? Get one of the grandkids to take you to OKC.com to see what’s waiting. We won’t do all you’ll see because the reunion is only three days. But if you arrive early and/or stay later the hotel will give you the same low rates. Dust off those boots, get ready to grab that cowboy hat; we might even “ride in a surrey with a fringe on the top”.

Use the enclosed registration form. But if you need another membership or registration form just send an e-mail to;

bavaokc2015@yahoo.com

Europe’s last C-47 was grounded by Coventry Aviation because of new regulations requiring weather radar, FM immunity and installed air stairs.
TENTATIVE REUNION SCHEDULE
SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3.

TOWER HOTEL
3233 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, 73112
Phone - 405-842-6633

Take Airport shuttle. Quoted at $20.00 for first person. $22.00 for two and $2.00 for each additional. (four = $8.00 each)

Wednesday - September 30
1100 Registration Opens
1300 Board Meeting
1700 Welcome reception
2000 Hospitality Room

Thursday October 1
0800 Breakfast Meeting
1000 Bus Cowboy Hall of Fame
1230 Lunch in same building.. (estimate 1400 return to hotel)
1800 Hospitality Room

Friday October 2
0800 Breakfast Meeting -
1000 BUS to downtown
    Boat ride. Lunch on your own in Bricktown shops.
17:30 Bus to Dinner Theater
2200 Hospitality Room

Saturday October 3
0800 Breakfast Meeting -
10:00 Bus to Tinker AFB
1730 Cocktail Hour- Cash bar
1830 Farewell Dinner
2100 Hospitality Room

I registered on _________ and paid
$________ by check # _________ sent
to Treasurer Fred Hall
I called the hotel at 405-842-6633 and used identity code BAVA OKC to register on _________.

BAVA REUNION REGISTRATION FOR OKLAHOMA CITY
SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3.

Complete and mail the form below with registration $$ check. Then call the hotel at (405) 842-6633 use registration code: BAVA OKC for our group rates.

Hotel Rates (inclusive) Double/Double @ $ 79.00 King Size @ $ 69.00

TOWER HOTEL, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, (405) 842-6633

--- cut here and mail form below --- cut here and mail form below --- cut here and mail form below ---

Members Name ___________________ Address ___________________
City __________________ State _____ Zip _______ Phone ______________

My closing dinner choice check one ___ Chicken ___ Beef

Others attending ___________________ ___ Chicken ___ Beef

Others attending ___________________ ___ Chicken ___ Beef

Number attending ___ x $ 245.00 per person = $ ______ inclusive.

Mail this and your check to Fred Hall 3204 E. Joppa Rd. Carney MD 21234
A letter sent to your editor’s brother

November 24, 2014

Berkeley Ide
140 E. Cook Ave.
Anchorage AK 99501

Dear Berk,

The members of BAVA were extremely delighted and proud of the recognition you bestowed on them at the Nashville re-union last month. The Cold War Veteran award was a complete surprise to each of them, as evidenced by their comments and smiles. They especially appreciated your individual attention.

The Berlin Airlift has become little more than a short paragraph in today’s history books because of advances politically and in technology during the past 65 years. Despite larger aircraft, higher speeds and numerous disasters around the world the Berlin Airlift still stands as the largest and most successful use of air power for humanitarian purposes.

Our members that you decorated with the patriotic lanyard, badge and medallion represent over 150,000 American servicemen and women that were directly or indirectly involved in “Saving A City”. Your action on the 65th anniversary of this great event was evidence that this effort has not been forgotten.

On behalf of all the members of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association please accept this humble and sincere “Thank You” and “Well Done” from your brother, for the effort, time and dedication you displayed at our re-union.

I was very proud to watch you and see how well you were received. I know that Mom, Daddy and our siblings would share in these words if they were watching. Hey, Maybe they were?

Your little brother, Eddie

COMPLETE THE OTHER SIDE AND MAIL IT TO:

Fred Hall - OKC Reunion
3204 E. Joppa Road
Carney MD 21234
HOW GOES IT?

Borrowed from the airlift

Bill Tyndall has just turned 90 years young in Newport Richie FL. He went to Rhein Main in late June of 48 and stayed till Feb. '49. During his 7 airlift months he was at R-M & Wiesbaden, but most of his time was on coal flights from Fassberg. During a refueling he was on a C-54 wing and the aircraft ahead powered up an engine blowing him off and injuring his knee. He re-injured the same knee in 1993 just 5 years before moving from MA to FL. Now Bill isn't sure but he thinks he has some black lung disease from his time at Fassberg. Good luck on that one with the VA.

Colonel Wolfgang Samuel has written a new book entitled “In Defense of Freedom”

The twenty-eight stories serve as a graphic reminder of the selfless heroism of WW II Army Air Force flyers and how necessary they were to achieve victory. The stories in this unique book are about men who went face to face with their adversaries, who saw their buddy’s crash, die or become POW’s. Many later went on to become the backbone of the post war Air Force, serving in the Berlin Airlift, Korea and Vietnam during the Cold War years. His earlier book “I Always Wanted To Fly” contains stories that have appeared in the legacy and on the old BAVA website. Both of these books are available thru Amazon.

Visit these websites

www.berlinairliftyoungveterans.org
www.spiritoffreedom.org

STATUS UPDATES OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND & HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT AWARD

As we approach the one year anniversary of establishing the BAVA scholarship with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ., the endowment currently total $27,500.00

This is based on interest and three additional contributions. So we may be seeing our first scholarship given out this year. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund send your check to:

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Contributions, Box 864436,
Orlando FL 32886-4436

In the memo line put “D259-BAVA Endowed Memorial Scholarship”. Your check to the scholarship qualifies as a non-taxable 501 (3) (c) donation.

Our proposal to the Air Force Association to establish a joint annual Humanitarian Airlift Award, it is currently being staffed at Air Mobility Command whom the Air Staff designated to oversee and develop possible approval. From Tom Hansen

MISSING MAN FLIGHT

Since our last newsletter Secretary Southers has been notified of the deaths of the following members.

John W. Blute
Stanley Krantz
Vincent Granberg

Christie Winnette,

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.
Congratulations to BAVA for achieving the Silver Anniversary. This is an occasion that we share as the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation was founded the same year as BAVA -1990. That year the BAHF was just my dream and acquiring a C-54 seemed like something impossible.

Then I attended one of the first BAVA meetings and in Valley Forge PA I met four veterans that helped me build the foundation; Fred Hall, Billy Morrissey, Bill Gross & Jerry Munn. Over the years Gail Halvorsen has become an integral part of the foundation with the annual “Candy Parachute Drop” at Kitty Hawk NC on the anniversary of flight, December 17th.

When we got the C-54E in 1992 and began working on the concept for the “Spirit of Freedom” they were right there, getting it painted in the air lift format, building the displays and especially lending their expertise in the operation of the Douglas Skymaster. We had many missions over the past 25 years and other BAVA veterans have become crew members, held joint memberships, and shared in our mission of “Berlin Airlift Education”. BAVA members were and are always welcomed at the “Spirit of Freedom”.

The BAVA annual support contribution is more than appreciated. It has been instrumental in our longevity and I cannot thank BAVA enough for this and for the encouragement given by the BAVA board and you, the individual members.

We go into 2015 with upgraded interior displays, a repainted exterior since the Montgomery reunion and a welcome to all BAVA members to visit us when we’re near you. Our website; www.spiritoffreedom.org lists our appearance schedule. Bring your friends and family to see the C-54E when we’re near you. This year as in the past 25 years we at the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation will continue to work hard to improve our on board museum exhibit inside our Douglas C-54E preserving the history and legacy you created. We thank each and every one for your kind support over the years to keep the “Spirit of Freedom” flying.

With appreciation,
Timothy A. Chopp, Founder & President.
BERLIN AIRLIFT HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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BAVA member & author Dan Harrington took part in a one-hour discussion of the blockade on Irish radio Dec. 14th. You can listen to the program at; http://www.newstalk.com/The-Berlin-Blockade-194849.


Both are available from Amazon.
This is a derivative from my book “From the shadows into the light, the search to touch the face of God.” It’s all about you, our beloved Berlin Airlift heroes and Allies for your compassion, bravery, and the remarkable citizens of this great nation.

Promoting this to any organization will help keep the memory of the greatest humanitarian intervention in history alive.

I provide my testimony about our survival during WWII and the Airlift plus an array of interesting stories. Included in this book are testimonies from Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, Fred Hall, Dub Southers, Lewis Dale Whipple, SMSt. Melvin S. Jenner Joseph Groetsch, and Col. Charles E. Bartels USAF.

You can purchase by credit card at http://www.usamazinghistory.com, please use the discount code 2282. You can also order over the phone at (520) 858 0345. Inquire about discounts on larger orders. Please mail your check or money order for $26.90, includes a $3.00 BAVA member discount, to:

Ruth Publications, LLC
229 W. Central Avenue # 1205
Coolidge, AZ 85128

Please write clearly your name, address, and telephone number. I’ll continue every effort to preserve your profound legacy. God bless you and your families richly and keep you in the palm of His hands.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Ursula

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"DUB" SOUTHERS, SECRETARY

First I would like to say Thank you for your quick payments of BAVA dues. Your dues status is in red on the mailing label. If you’re not up to date send a check today. Remember, family members and inlaws (no outlaws) can join you at the reunions. Your dues support the Legacy and our other outreach efforts. The reunions are a great place to let your children and grandchildren learn of your participation in the successful effort to keep world peace. Use the form below to let you family know of your legacy.

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BERLIN AIRLIFT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Enroll me as a member of BAVA

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City St. Zip ________________
Phone # (_____) ____________

BAVA member ____________________ is friend or family member.

I'm a veteran I'm not a veteran
Dues are
$ 20.00 a year (US) $ 25.00 (foreign)
Three years $ 50.00 $60.00 (foreign)
Life Membership is $ 150.00

Make checks payable to;
Berlin Airlift Veterans Association
Send check with this form to;
Berlin Airlift Veterans Association
1510 Shamrock Drive
Duncanville TX 75137-4024
MAY 12 1949 THE BLOCKADE OF BERLIN IS OVER!

SEPTEMBER 30 THRU OCTOBER 4TH 2015
BERLIN AIRLIFT VETERANS ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATE 25 YEARS