



President's Message

2011 Reunion in Italy! This is the last Afterburner before our October reunion in Italy. Roberto and I have continued with our emails and phone calls since our last Afterburner. In fact, Lynn and I visited with Roberto and Patti in May when we were in Italy. He went over the reunion details with us and we tweaked a few things that we feel will make it even better. We have added a short stop at the [Sicily-Rome \(Anzio\) American Cemetery](#) to our itinerary. On the way to Sorrento, we will visit this special place for what will be a poignant time to reflect on those who went before us in service to our country. More reunion details, reminders, and attendee names in this newsletter.

Last Minute Space Available! We've had a few cancellations after the wait list was cleared, so we have a few vacancies for the reunion. If you'd like to join us on what will be another fabulous reunion in Italy, please contact Ben now.

Final Payment! As we told all attendees earlier this Summer, we delayed the final payment until September. We had to do so due to the uncertainty of the euro exchange rate. Each attendee will receive an email or phone call from Ben approximately September 2 with the final payment information. Once you receive that, please send your check to Ben at the address in the email and in our ARA Directory. Please don't delay as we have to then transfer the money to Tours by Roberto.

Post Reunion Cruise! It is a GO and we still have 70 people cruising with us --- 11-night Mediterranean & Holy Land. Regardless of what the TV & internet news may show you, we continue to hear very positive travel news about Egypt and the other areas! The tour operators are begging for tourists so it will be a great time to visit. We have a few more cabins available, but the price has increased. Contact Ben now if you want to join us.

2012 Reunion Savannah! All of you received the email or letter from Elaine Horton, as well as the fabulous schedule for our 2012 event. She and Tom have finalized the plans for Savannah and what a wonderful program they have arranged. Deposits need to be made prior to November 30, but...anyone paying their deposit by October 31 will be entered in a raffle to be awarded \$100 cash at the reunion. And...we'll have a few more nice gift surprises. Gotta be present to win!

Website! The website has been updated with more info on Italy and Savannah, as well as other items. Check it out at www.avianoreunion.com.

In this Issue...Italy Reunion update, Names of Attendees, Savannah 2012 article, and...more...

ARA Officers

Ben Catalina - *President*
Rodger Gracey - *Vice President*
Emily Povey - *Secretary/Treasurer*
Nick Leone - *Editor*
Lisa Ringler - *Webmaster*
Tama Tillman - *Board Assistant*

FUTURE REUNIONS

2011 Italy - Hosts: Ben & Lynn Catalina
Dates: October 8-15, 2011
2012 Savannah, GA - Hosts: Tom & Elaine Horton
2013 Las Vegas, NV - Hosts: Doris Burnett with
Nancy and George Beckwith

WELCOME New Members

William (Bill) & Terry Bayliss
15611 Dove Meadow
San Antonio, TX 78248
Phone: 210-408-2034
Email: wabayliss@sbcglobal.net
Friends of Catalina

Pam Kelleher
1513 Robin Crest Dr.
West Columbia, SC 29169
Phone 803-917-8001
Email: kelleherpam@gmail.com
Relative of Scannell

Jon Scannell
22217 Sausa Lido Ct.
San Antonio, TX 78258
Phone: 210-451-8742
Email: fendi1473@gmail.com
Relative of Scannell

NAMETAGS FOR REUNION



Members that have attended previous reunions should already have nametags and lanyards. Attendees that have not previously received a nametag and lanyard or those that cannot locate their nametags and/or lanyards need to notify Emily Povey (empo@tampabay.rr.com or 813-251-4664). There is no charge for the first nametag and lanyard, but those receiving replacements will be charged \$1.50 for the holder and \$2.50 for the lanyard. No charge for those just needing the paper insert with name printed. **Emily will be delivering those items ordered to the reunion,** but be sure to contact her as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.



CORRESPONDENCE

Neil Lewis (5/4/2011) – Nancy passed away this morning. She was not in pain and did not suffer. Hospice did a great job of supporting us in every way. Nance fought the disease all the way but ALS is something that you can't beat. Buck, Lisa, and family were with her till the end...I would like to thank everyone for their concerns, words of encouragement and prayers...memorials in Nance's name may be made to The Emory ALS Center. Their website is: www.neurology.emory.edu/ALS/help.html.

Rodger & Betty Gracey (6/20/2011) – How's the summer going? Ours has been so hot and dry, but we did manage to meet Marnie and family in Ireland for 2 ½ weeks. Great fun, and we all had to buy coats! Looking forward to the reunion in October.

Larry Chiarotti (July, 2011) - ...letter on the Savannah convention but...will not be able to attend...Miss you guys and the good times we had in Aviano back then (almost 40 years ago!)...Say hi to the friends we know...

Note From Ann Burns: "Wish Curt and I could join you at one of the reunions, but age is catching up with us. We have certainly enjoyed the ARA and have fond memories of Aviano and the people we met. Have fun in Italy".

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Joe & Claire Dorris
2225 Governors Bend Rd.
Huntsville, AL 35801
Phone: 256-829-2270

Larry Chiarotti email:
Ichiaro@teletu.it

Rodger & Betty Gracey
email: bjg@pixius.net

George Hefner phone:
720-371-2339

Ed Jones email:
edjonesreno@gmail.com

Tom Phillips email:
hotfoottom@yahoo.com

Ray Walbridge cell phone:
405-312-7165

Amalfi Coast & Southern Italy Final Notes

FLIGHTS:

Thank you all for making your flight arrangements to coincide with the trip start and end dates, and for providing the flight info to Ben. Most of you are arriving into Rome a day or more earlier than our reunion start date, and some are staying in Italy for a few days after the reunion. Regardless of when you arrive Rome, everyone will need to be at Rome (FCO) airport on the morning of Oct. 8 to meet our busses. We'll provide the exact meeting location and bus departure time by email in late September.

For those arriving prior to Oct. 8 and staying at hotels, remember that you are responsible to make your own arrangements to get to your pre-reunion hotel. And you must make your own arrangements to get from the hotel to the airport to meet the reunion busses. Most Rome hotels do not provide a free shuttle, but can make arrangements for you.

After the reunion, our busses will be dropping folks off at the port for the cruise and at the airport. For those folks remaining in Rome or other destinations after the reunion, you must make your own transportation arrangements from the airport to your hotels.

PRE- AND POST-REUNION HOTELS:

As we go to press, we have folks staying at 13 different hotels in and around Rome. If you are one of the few procrastinators and still have not made your hotel arrangements...we will say a prayer for you and will send blessings from the Pope.

PASSPORTS:

Remember, they are mandatory! They MUST be valid for at least six months after your scheduled return to the USA. Visas are not required for our reunion or for the optional cruise.

SHOTS:

No special ones required for the reunion or cruise. However, we always recommend you check with your doctor to see if your normal immunizations are current.

FINAL PAYMENT:

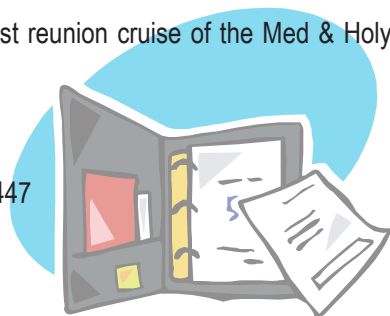
Your final payment for the reunion is due in early September. Do **NOT** pay it until contacted by email from Ben. Remember that the final balance will be based on the euro adjusted rate applied to the full price of the reunion.

CRUISE INFO:

A few cabins on the post reunion cruise of the Med & Holy Land are still available.

QUESTIONS? HELP?

Ben & Lynn Catalina
210-658-0019 or 888-522-7447
Bcatalina@satx.rr.com
lcatalina@satx.rr.com



AVIANO REUNION 2011 ATTENDEES

Ben & Lynn Catalina	Phil & Hilda Howerton
Jay & Jane Maust	Lew Erhart & Tayler Bailey
Bill & Emily Povey	Betty Farmer & Bonnie Collier
Bill & Gloria Walker	Dave & Maryellen Scherer
Mike Hansen &	Sally Eaves
Linda Kazarian	Pete Ross
Joe & Franca Rutter	Tom & Cheryl McIlroy
George & Nancy Beckwith	Brent Ives & Karen Szkarlat
Jaime & Belinda Vazquez	Carol Davis & Tom Elpers
Bill & Dee Davis	Zane & Margaret Hoit
Jim & Jill Dohr	Tom & Carolyn Scannell
Al & Lou Currie	Glenn & Martha Heckman
Rodger & Betty Gracey	Paul & Cheryl Glaza
Tom & Elaine Horton	William & Barbara Lloyd
Gene, Jean, & Gay Ives	Lou & Astrid Ondrusek
Faye & Victoria Ives	Ursula Dominguez &
George Hughes & Josie Webb	Connie Brown
Doris Burnett	Topper & Carole Long
Joanne Harnit & Neva Cole	John & Renee Javorek
Nick & Margaret Leone	Pam Kelleher

Amalfi Coast & Southern Italy Reunion Update



Tours by Roberto, Roberto Bechi's company that we have used for the past three Italy reunions, has prepared a wonderful itinerary. Full itinerary details are listed on our [ARA Website](#), but here's a quick summary.

October 8: Pickup at Rome's Fiumicino airport (FCO). Depart for Sorrento, Hotel Corallo Sorrento.

<http://www.hotelcorallosorrento.com>

Oct. 8-12: Touring around Sorrento area to include Pompeii and Capri and other beautiful areas.

Oct. 12: Depart for Matera, Albergo Italia.

<http://www.albergoitalia.com/eng/index.htm>

Oct. 12-14: Touring around Matera in the Sassi and Apulia areas.

Oct. 14: Depart for Lucera, Grand Hotel Vigna Nocelli and our Farewell Banquet. www.grandhotelvignanocelli.com

Oct. 15: Depart for Rome airport and cruise port.

Questions? Email or call Ben or Lynn at 888-522-7447 or 210-658-8388 or batalina@satx.rr.com.

AVIANO REUNION HISTORY CONTEST

Think you know the background of the Aviano Reunion Association and its reunion history? Be prepared for a special seniors knowledge-testing-brain-busting trivia contest to be held in Sorrento or Matera or wherever we have plenty of vino. Prizes to be awarded!



MEMORIES OF AVIANO

Our vault is dry. We need your input to continue supporting this section. What are some of your favorite memories of your assignment at Aviano Air Base? We'll take short articles, a paragraph, or even some bulleted items. For example, some of Ben & Lynn's favorite memories:

- Paying the 80,000 lire monthly house rent by cash while visiting the landlord and his family and sampling all his wine!
- The periodic unannounced electrical outages
- Hail & farewell parties at the Club
- Waiting one year without a water bill...and then getting the \$20 bill for the whole year
- Gas shortages and no vehicle Sundays
- And the fun we had walking with neighbors
- And learning how to ride bikes again
- Learning to ski at Cortina
- Gas coupons

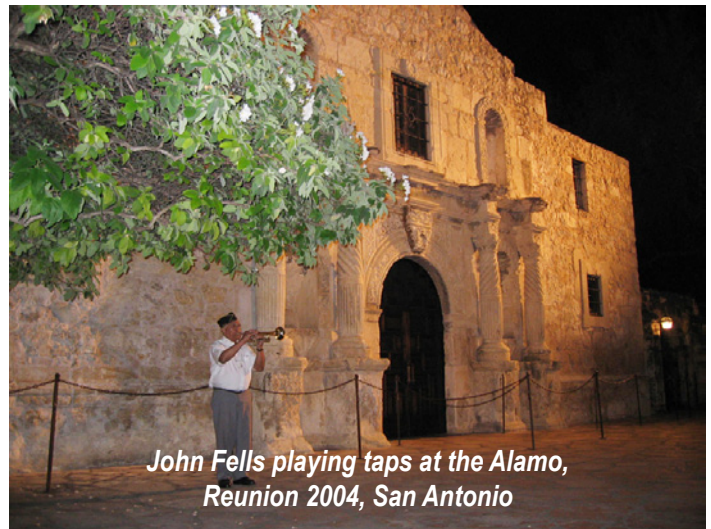


Members in the News

Got a special good news event you'd like to share with the membership? A wedding, achievement, marriage milestone, birth, or something of special interest for which you are proud. Send your input to our Editor, Nick Leone.



Congratulations to first time grandparents, Ben & Lynn Catalina. Granddaughter Haley Bryn Williams was born to daughter Jamie on August 10. Jamie & husband Chris are still trying to sleep through the night. The Catalinas have photos available, but not as many as Bill & Gloria Walker or Carolyn Watters, but will soon catch up!



John Fells playing taps at the Alamo, Reunion 2004, San Antonio



Mike & Linda & Merillee, Reunion Hosts 2009, San Diego

Aviano Reunion Association - Savannah, 2012

Sunday, September 30th – Friday, October 5th

A few quotes from "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" by John Berendt to put you in the mood...

"Welcome to Savannah! ... [It] is like plunging into a luxuriant green garden ... Walls of thick vegetation [rise] up on all sides and arched overhead in a lacy canopy that filter[s] light to a soft shade ... sealed off from a world that suddenly seem[s] a thousand miles away ... The squares [are] the jewels of Savannah ... James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, had been responsible for them... Cars can't cut through the middle; they must go around them. So traffic is obliged to flow at a very leisurely pace ... The squares are [their] little oases of tranquility. The whole of Savannah is an oasis. ... [They] are isolated. Gloriously isolated! ... [They] are a little enclave on the coast ... off by [them]selves, surrounded by nothing but marshes and piney woods. [They] are not easy to get to at all. ... [They're] a terribly inconvenient destination. ... [and they] rather enjoy their separateness... [The residents speak with] the coastal accent described in 'Gone with the Wind' — "soft and slurring, liquid of vowels, kind to consonants." ... with laughter as light as wind chimes. ... This place is like "Gone with the Wind" on mescaline! ... Savannah takes its parties very seriously ... If you have to leave a party, you always take a traveler."

Well, I am ready to go. How about you???

We will be staying at the historic Mulberry Inn, at the great rate of \$129 per night (or upgrade to a suite for \$30/day!). A pianist will be in the lobby every afternoon for tea, coffee, lemonade and sweets – complimentary! Parking is \$12/day (or just join their Holiday Inn Priority Club when registering, and it will be FREE!). A taxi from the airport is approximately \$25. Reservations may be made at the hotel beginning October 24, 2011. Call 912.238.1200 and ask for the Aviano Reunion Group Rate. If you want to extend your stay (before or after the reunion dates), they will arrange for you to do so at the reduced rate of \$149 per night (or \$179 per night for a suite).

We have arranged for 10 specially designed tours, five included meals that will show off the best of Savannah and a welcoming hospitality suite for the amazing cost of \$600 per person. The full itinerary details are listed separately in this Afterburner. You won't leave hungry!!

Key payment due date deadlines are:

November 30, 2011: \$100 per person deposit

THOSE WHO PAY THEIR DEPOSIT BY OCTOBER 31, 2011 WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR \$100 CASH TO BE GIVEN AWAY AT THE WELCOME RECEPTION (must be present to win)!!

February 15, 2012: \$250 per person interim payment

July 15, 2012: Balance of \$250 per person due

July 15, 2012: \$35 per person due for the optional dinner at Mrs. Wilkes

(1.) The deposit is refundable until January 31, 2012.

(2.) After January 31, 2012, the deposit as well as any past or future payments become NON-refundable, unless we are able to substitute another member to take your place..

A Few Rules:

Because of the tremendous response to our interest survey, we may have to create an attendance limit. Signups will be first-deposited, first served, following these rules SO DON'T DELAY IN MAKING YOUR DEPOSIT!

1. First priority will be to members who attend the Italy reunion in 2011.
2. Next priority will be given to members with longest continuous membership in the ARA.
3. All other members of the ARA.

Can a nonmember of ARA attend? Unfortunately, no. Attendance is reserved for ARA members only. If you have relatives or friends who want to attend, please have them email Emily Povey at Empo@tampabay.rr.com or mail to her at 626 East Davis Blvd, Tampa, FL 33606-3922 so they can fill out the membership form and pay their \$15 annual dues. We would love to have them as members and as reunion attendees.

HOW TO REGISTER: Send a deposit check for \$100 per person, payable to the Aviano Reunion Association, along with the names for whom the deposit is being sent, and mail to the address below. Also, tell us if you will need a nametag.

QUESTIONS?

Elaine and Tom Horton
2722 Lansdowne Lane
Atlanta, GA 30339

Call Elaine at 770-333-7875 or e-mail her (preferred) at:

elaine@elainehorton.com

AVIANO REUNION SAVANNAH 2012

Itinerary

September 30 - October 5, 2012

Day 1 - Sunday, September 30th

- Check in after 4 pm (hotel will try to accommodate earlier if needed)
- 5:00-8:00: Welcome Buffet

Day 2 - Monday, October 1st

- 8:30-10:00: Trolley tour of City
- 10:00-12:30: Lunch on your own
- 12:30-3:30: Historic Homes Tour
- 5:00-7:00: Dinner/The Pirates House
- 7:00-8:30: Haunted Tour

Day 3 - Tuesday, October 2nd

- 8:00: Leave hotel to Low Country, SC
- 9:30-10:30: Parris Island Museum
- 11:00-2:00: Historic Beaufort and Tours of The Point Historic District
- 2:00: St. Helena's Episcopal Church
- 3:00-4:00: Return to Savannah
- 4:00-5:00: ARA Business Meeting
- 6:00-7:30: OPTIONAL DINNER at Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room

Day 4 - Wednesday, October 3rd

- Morning on your own
- 11:00-2:30: River Cruise and Port Tour, catered lunch by Paula Deen
- Afternoon on your own
- 5:00-8:00: Dinner at The Pink House

Day 5 - Thursday, October 4th:

- 8:30-10:00: Eighth Air Force Museum
- 10:30-11:30: Old Fort Jackson
- 11:30-12:00: Tybee Island Lighthouse
- 12:30-2:30: Crab Shack Restaurant (ordering on your own)
- 5:30-8:30: Farewell Banquet at The Mulberry Inn

Day 6 - Friday, October 5th:

- Checkout is by 11:00 am

Total cost of the tour: \$600 per person, to include ten tours, five meals, transportation, admission tickets and tips. One optional meal at Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room for \$35 per person.

Y'all Come

Glenn A. Stell

Col. Glenn A. Stell, USAF (ret.) died Sunday, June 26, in Dallas. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 19, 1917.

Glenn joined the Army Air Corps, flying A-36 dive bombers in the North African, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns of 1942-43. He was awarded the

Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart

From 1962-65, Colonel Stell served as a commander of the NATO Base in Aviano, Italy, where he supervised the nuclear arsenal and base operations. After retiring from the Air Force, Glenn lived and worked in Houston from the mid-60s until the early 80s when he moved to Kerrville with his wife Geogianna, who redeceased him in 1997.

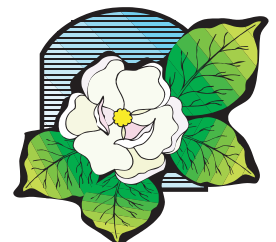
He is survived by his sons, Robert Stell of Dallas, Jack Stell of San Marcus and Bill Monroe of Houston; daughters, Joan Edmonds of Pensacola, FL, Ruth McMaster of Highland Village and Ann Parker of Kerrville; 16 grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.



SAVANNAH SMILES



Now that word is out that we are having our 2012 reunion in Savannah, it seems that we are seeing more of Savannah in the news...and not published just by Elaine Horton. In early August, the San Antonio Express-News had a front page photo and story about the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts USA...featuring the new special cookie...the Savannah Smiles. Why Savannah? The Girl Scouts were founded in Savannah in 1912 by Juliette Low. And why the photos in the SA paper? Several of our San Antonio scouts were selected to be featured on the cookie box...with all smiles! Support your local Girl Scouts cookie sales.



Aviano Reunion Memories in Italy



Italy 2005, Chianciano Terme



Italy 2008, Aviano Air Base

Italy 2011 Group Photo...

Where Will It Be???



Roberto & Anna look forward to seeing all the Aviano Reunion attendees in Italy!

FROM THE EDITOR'S KITCHEN LAMB LOLLIPOPS WITH MINT SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup gray or sea salt

1 cup fresh mint

2 racks of lamb, about 1 1/2 pound each, frenched by the butcher
freshly ground black pepper 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Add sea salt and fresh mint into food processor and crush until the salt and fresh mint is green and fragrant. (If you like you can add one or two cloves of garlic to the salt)

Heat oven to 375 degrees'F. Season the lamb with freshly ground pepper and rub them with the mint salt. (I like to do this part and let them set in fridge for a couple of hours).

In a deep-sided oven proof skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the lamb racks, skin side down, and cook until browned, about 3 minutes. Turn the lamb over and put pan into oven, uncovered, for about 10 to 12 minutes for medium -rare. Remove the lamb to a board, cover with foil, and allow it to rest for 5 minutes while you make the sauce.

SAUCE

Using a 10 1/2 oz can of beef consommé(I use Campbell's I think it has more flavor) add approx. 2 tbls.of corn starch stir until dissolved (do not dilute consommé) place in small sauce pan and heat over medium heat stirring constantly until thickened remove from heat and add approx. 1/2 cup fresh mint. This can be done ahead and let set and you can add few grinds of pepper to taste.

Slice the lamb between the ribs into chops and place on warm platter. Drizzle with sauce, pass additional sauce.





AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION
AFTERBURNER

The Newsletter of The Aviano Reunion Association

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Huntsville, AL 35801