



∞ *The Shako* ∞

The Official Newsletter of 'The Cleveland Grays'

The Cleveland Grays Armory Museum
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William Roediger, President | Katrina Hutcherson, Executive Director | Editor, SCPO Scott Hutcherson October 2008

October Membership Meeting



Monday Oct. 27, 2008

Social Hour starts at 6:00

Business Meeting at 6:45

Our Guest Speaker at 7:00

ALL MEMBERS & GUESTS Please R.S.V.P!

Cleveland Grays Armory presents



Mr. Anthony I. Mazzolini.

Tony Mazzolina's Dream~
is a quest to restore the last remaining WWII B-29 'Super Fortress' bomber that's still fit for restoration, known by its nose-art mascot, "DOC."

Please join us for our October meeting as we welcome Tony Mazzolini, who will tell us about his twenty-five year saga to locate, obtain, and restore this amazing example of military aviation history.



In early 1980's Tony became involved with *The Confederate Air Force* (now known as the *Commemorative Air Force*) where he began to get "hands on" with the venerable old B-29 airframe as embodied by "*Fifi*," the CAF's only operational Super Fortress. Working on maintenance and flying as a crewmember on his vacation days, it wasn't long before he "got hooked" on the bomber that brought the Japanese Empire to surrender.

Not long after, Tony developed a passion, (some say obsession-?) to rescue another B-29 and put her back into the air as a flying tribute to the men who won World War II.

As it turns out, restoring the aircraft was actually the least of his worries. Tony had to battle secret agendas, organizational indifference, continual fundraising challenges, as well as a host of military, state, and local bureaucracies to get that venerable old relic dragged out of the Mojave Desert and back on track to restoration.

Please join us to hear about one man's insatiable quest to make aviation history come alive-!

Light fare and refreshments will be available, so please phone (voicemail) or email your R.S.V.P. by Noon: Friday October 24, 2008 ☆

Honor VETERANS DAY, 2008 ~ Be Sure to make this year's G.I Jive Swing Dance Grays Note: Saturday November 8, 2008 *

☆ ***Dancers and volunteers urged to attend*** ☆

Here's your chance to once again enjoy a great evening of music, dancing and nostalgia. The dance starts at 1900 (7:00 pm). The gate price is only \$15, with proceeds benefiting the Cleveland Grays Armory Preservation Fund and the Andrew Nowacki Scholarship Endowment. The continued participation of patrons and volunteers is critical! 1940's-era attire is encouraged-!

Tickets can be reserved and held by the *Will-Call Desk* at the Door. Prizes will be awarded for best dancer and for best period costume. Even if you can't dance, consider volunteering; even if you're busy that night, buy some tickets for your neighbors. As always, your donations will be cheerfully accepted and greatly appreciated.

Come an hour early and learn how to dance-!

* *Correction to September Edition of The Shako*, ~ Please note November 8, 2008 is a **Saturday** ☆

Ohio to honor Grays Supporter

One of the 2009 inductees to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is a name familiar to our members:

CHARLES "Chuck" IANNI (deceased), Highland Heights, Cuyahoga County U. S. Army, WWII ☆

Many Grays members are well-acquainted with Chuck both as an armory supporter from "way back" —and— as a dedicated community leader. Chuck was the Founding Member of the Medal of Honor "John Towle Chapter" (Greater Cleveland), 82nd Airborne Division Assoc.



He also originated the chapter's award-winning "Airborne News," serving as its first editor. Chuck used every newsletter issue to advocate for both veterans and active duty personnel. Chuck was also active in many organizations: American Legion Post #610, the Association of the United States Army (Newton D. Baker Chapter), and the Italian American War Veterans Post #34. Chuck supported six JROTC units and two college ROTC units including those at John Carroll University. Beginning with the call-ups of Reservists and Guard Units for the Korean War, he helped organize many "hail and farewell" functions. To assist veterans seeking solace in alcohol, he became an A.A. Sponsor for a countless number of comrades. In acknowledgment of the many vets who said, "Chuck saved my life," Mr. Ianni would modestly reply, "With God's help, they saved their own lives." Chuck maintained an enduring commitment to visit the needy vets at the Wade Park (now called Louis Stokes) V.A. Hospital, where he bestowed his personal kindness anonymously.



The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony honoring Chuck Ianni and others takes place at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial on Friday, November 7, 2008. It begins with a public reception in the 2nd floor lobby at 2:00 p.m. followed at 3:00 by the Induction Ceremony in the main auditorium. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland will present the honors.

For more information, please consult:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/> (Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame) ☆

Progress on Roof Renovations

Grays Trustees and staff cope with logistical challenges and discover that additional damage repairs are necessary to the monitor structure.

The Armory's roof repair and building maintenance team recently decided to increase the project budget and scope of work to include all necessary upkeep and renovations for the flat roofed areas atop the skylight monitor structure, situated on the peak of the drill hall. These additional repairs and the proper renewal of all the monitor's flat roof areas were not part of the original estimate, but are vitally necessary nonetheless. This work is required to enhance insulation; to direct rain toward sloped areas and gutters; and to properly seal and tie-in the monitor structural area to the newly shingled main roof. The additional cost for these repairs is estimated to be just under \$19,000. **Now more than ever, Grays Armory needs your support~! Please consider donating your time, talents, or treasure.** ☆



What's Geocaching & Why's it catching on?

Geocaching (pronounced geocaching) is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. In this case, the "treasure" is a small container (or cache) that may contain a logbook with travel trips, coupons or perhaps some tasty goodies. A participant can place a geocache anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS unit can then try to locate the geocache. It can be great fun for out-of-town travelers who want to explore, or for anyone who just wants to play around with their Global Position device. Owing to its landmark status and prominent appearance, Grays Armory and its environs have become a popular Geocache site.



Go to www.geocaching.com and type in a desired zip code in order to obtain more information ☆.

Organizational News

With the Colors~ We note the passing of our fellow Grays Members

DAVID SAMUEL SMITH, formerly of Shaker Heights, and late of Virginia Beach passed away on Friday October 3, 2008. David was a long time member of *The Cleveland Grays*. He and his wife moved to Virginia Beach in early 2004 to be with their daughter and grandchildren. Dave was always proud of his patriot heritage, and he took his membership in organizations such as The Grays very seriously. Many of us remember Dave as an active member in the late 1970's, 1980's and into the decade of the 1990's. He was a loyal member of the Museum Committee, always lent a hand at work party events and very rarely missed a meeting or social gathering. He was also an officer in the *Army Navy Shaker Post* of the American Legion. Mr. Smith served in the U.S. Navy aboard a sub tender during World War Two.

JOHN KENNEDY ('JACK') LYNCH. JOHN KENNEDY LYNCH III, age 97, joined his departed wife, Jacqueline, on May 11, 2008. Known as "Jack" to his friends, he left a legacy of nine children, 41 grandchildren, and over 50 great-grandchildren.

A former Regional Counsel for the IRS, Jack Lynch was well known in legal circles and patriotic organizations around town. He was a member of the *Cleveland Grays* and was the War Department's lead attorney in land acquisition for the military during the Franklin Roosevelt administration. He was honored as *Irishman of the Year* by the Cleveland Athletic Club in 2002. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of his family, a round of golf, a good cigar, and a well-made Manhattan. Mr. Lynch's son (David Lynch) was once the Mayor of Euclid. John and his late wife Jacqueline (Jackie) were very active in veterans, civic and patriotic activities and organizations. During the 1960's and 1970's, Mr. Lynch assisted The Cleveland Grays to obtain its tax-exempt status and resolve non-profit corporate matters with the IRS. Charitable contributions in lieu of flowers were requested by the family.



RICHARD E. "RICH", "DICK" MAJER, age 76, born December 26, 1931, passed away on May 15, 2008 at his home in Shaker Heights. He was the beloved husband of Kathleen Majer (*nee Dowling*) (*Kopac*) and the late Mary (*nee Dowling*) Majer and the late Barbara (*nee Corcoran*) Majer. Richard Majer was a devoted grandfather, great grandfather, and uncle and a dear brother to his sisters Marilyn and Mary Lou. A lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio, Dick was also a decorated Korean Conflict Combat Veteran. He was the former Commander of the Shaker Heights Post of the American Legion and a former commander and lifetime member of *The Cleveland Grays*, as well as a member of the Canadian American Legion. A carpenter by trade, Dick founded *R.E. Majer, Inc.*, building and remodeled some of the finest homes throughout the Heights area and eastern suburbs. An avid outdoorsman, Dick hunted and fished on five different continents throughout his lifetime, (he was also an accomplished skeet shooter, winning the Ohio State Championship in the mid-1970'). In retirement, Dick continued his passion for the outdoors and enjoyed spending time with friends and family at his "farm" in Ashtabula County. The family would appreciate contributions, in the memory of Dick, to the charity of your choice.

