



Wingman



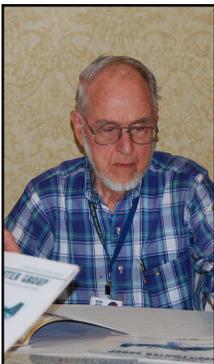
Fall

506th Fighter Group Association

2012



Left to Right: Jack Rice, G. B. Lambert, Abner Aust, Bill Peterson, & Ed Linfante. Not pictured: James Bercaw.



Bill Ebersole

2012 Reunion Review

The 2012 reunion for the 506th Fighter Group was held in conjunction with the Atlantic Air Museum annual World War II Weekend in Reading Pennsylvania. For the last 22 years this event has focused on telling the history of the war years both overseas and on the home front. Thousands of attendees came in period costumes and re-enacted events of the early 1940's.

The eight 506th veterans that attended the reunion became a key part of the event. The arrival of Tom Duffy's newly painted P-51 Mustang *Kwitcherbitchin* became the focal point for our members and their families. This is the first time a plane has been painted to honor an Iwo Jima unit, in this case the 457th Fighter Squadron. Lots of photos were taken, autographs requested & signed, books sold, and interviews granted.



Lawrence Dolan



Above: At the World War II Weekend not only was the airport filled with warbirds, but there were a large number of vehicles used to help set the atmosphere for the event.

Right: For the 506th veterans and family members, the key to the weekend was seeing a P-51 Mustang painted as one of their own airplanes. Tom Duffy wanted to honor one of the Pacific Theater fighter units. When he located the 457th Squadron's, *Kwitcherbitchin*, he knew it was the perfect choice. For Tom, meeting our veterans who served on Iwo Jima was a special treat.



At each Reading event, the Capital Wing of the Airman's Preservation Society re-enacts the mission briefing to bring to life a key event from the war. This year they chose the June 1st mission from Iwo Jima. They were delighted to have several members of the 506th who participated in the original mission, and critiqued their reenactment. Following the briefing, they joined around *Kwitcherbitchin* for a group photo with 506th members Abner Aust, Bill Ebersole, and Ed Linfante.



Kwitcherbitchin on Iwo Jima

The *Kwitcherbitchin* connection - left to right John Benbow, named for his uncle, the 457th FS OpsO who may have flown *Kwitcherbitchin*, Kristine Thies, daughter of Alan Kinvig one of the original pilots, George Wagner Jr. son of George Wagner Sr. the crew chief on Iwo Jima, and Tom Duffy, current owner/care taker of the new *Kwitcherbitchin*.



Save the Date NOW for the '13 Reunion

We will be participating in the Planes of Fame Airshow at Chino California

May 2-5, 2013

We will be staying at the Hilton Hotel near the Ontario CA Airport. Details will be in the Spring newsletter which should out by March 1st. Why the west coast? We are going to visit Dolly, the 2nd plane painted as a 506th Mustang. The original was flown by J.J. Grant & Norman Miller of the 462 FS.





506th Fighter Group

3571 Far West #214

Austin, Texas 78731

