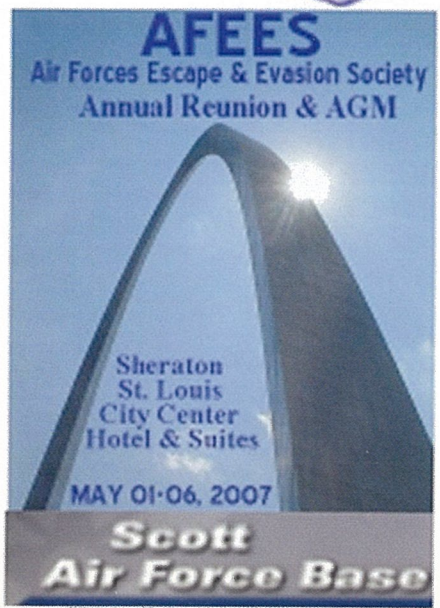


# Reunions

- 2009 Dayton, Ohio
- 2008 Savannah, GA.
- 2007 St Louis, MO.
- 2006 Albuquerque, NM
- 2005 New Orleans, La.



**National Museum 2009  
of the US Air Force®**



## AFEES

### AIR FORCES ESCAPE and EVASION SOCIETY

26 APRIL 2008

SAVANNAH GEORGIA

#### BANQUET AGENDA

1845 - Dinner Seating	
1900 - Welcome Members	Richard Smith
Post Colors	Color Guard
National Anthem	Grant Lorenzo
Introduce - Guests	Richard Smith
Introduce - First Timers	Richard Smith
1915 - Invocation	John Wand
1920 - Dinner Served	
2010 - Break	
2025 - Intro Ralph Patton Intro General McNabb	Richard Smith Ralph Patton
2040 - Helper Gifts Helper Photograph	Richard Smith Scotty David
2100 - 2009 Reunion Comments	Members
2130 - Closing Comments Adjournment	Richard Smith

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### World War II companions meet again 64 years later

Posted: April 25, 2008 07:44 PM EDT

Updated: April 25, 2008 08:05 PM EDT

SAVANNAH, GA (WTOC) - Friday was a reunion 64 years in the making. Airmen shot down behind enemy lines in World War Two, known as Evaders by evading the Germans were reunited with the people who helped them on the ground.

Jim Armstrong, an evader, and his Helper, Denise Lenain walked side by side this afternoon at the Mighty Eighth Museum. It's the first time they've seen each other since 1943. Mr. Armstrong brought his whole family to the special event where they ate and walked the grounds. He even showed Denise the replicas of some of the planes he flew.

When Mr. Armstrong, from Thomasville, GA, learned that his helper was still alive and well in Paris, he thought it was wonderful. When they met after six decades, the smile on his face was as big as his gratitude for the woman that "helped" him survive behind enemy lines.

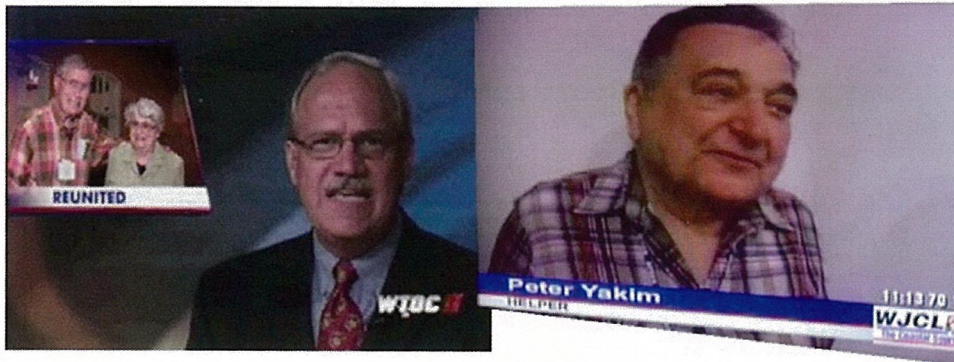
He said, "She is my helper of World War II. I am here today because of her and other helpers that took me in and paid the price that i can make an escape eventually by a fishing boat."

Helpers supplied Evaders with civilian clothing, false identity papers, and currency. The Helpers and Evaders lived together for months often blending in to society and even walking unnoticed down to the cafe for food. Denise Lenain was a student at the time when her philosophy professor recruited students for the cause.

This is the first time they've seen each other since 1943, Paris, France. It's also the first of these reunions ever in Savannah, though reunions happen annually throughout the United States.

An added bonus today was that society members, helpers, and guests were treated to a sneak peak at the museum's new Escape and Evasion Exhibit with a special ribbon cutting. The official grand opening will take place next month.

Reported by Jamie Ertle-Durden; jertle@wtoc.com



**MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM**

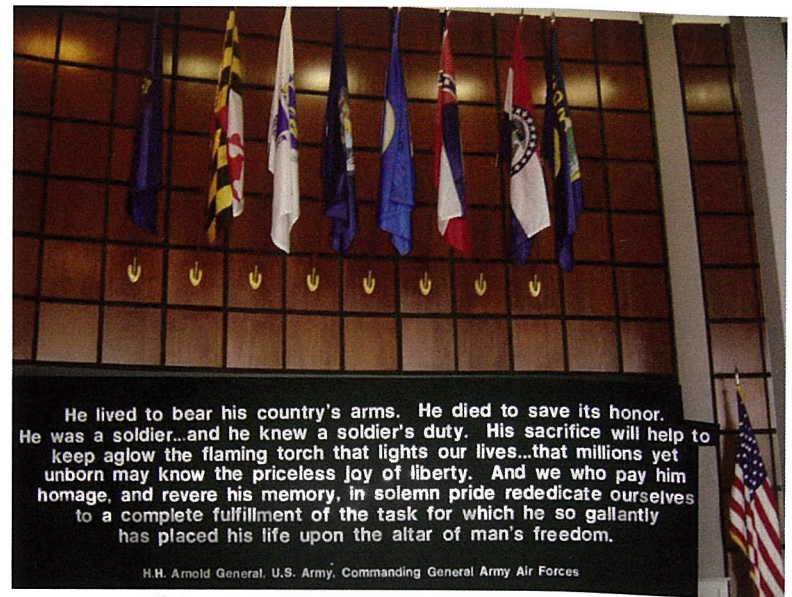
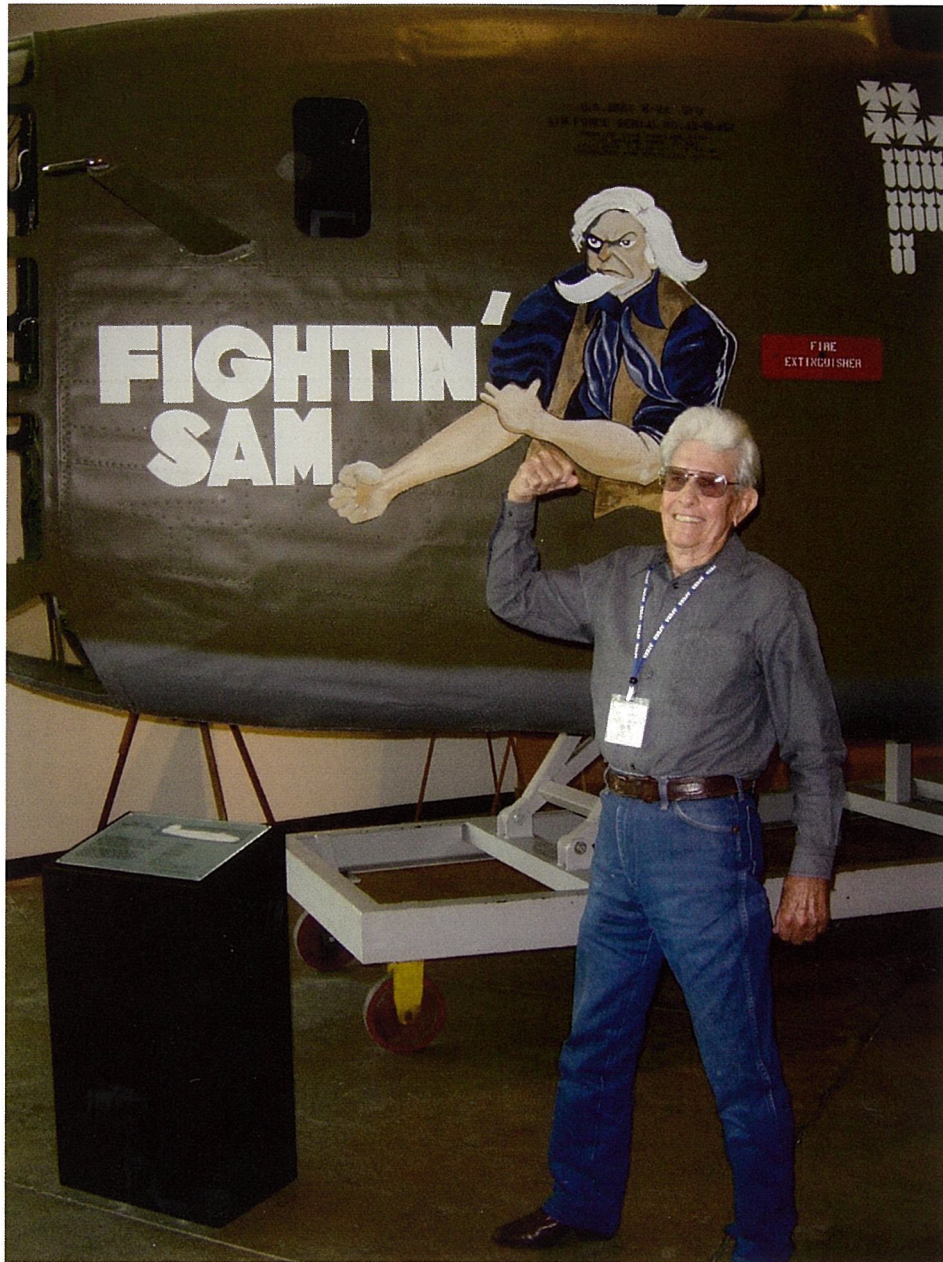
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