

## Denver Reunion Chairman Report

By Roy Ladd

We have planned for a fun Convention in Denver. The Marriott is a 4 Star Hotel. You can walk to the 16th Street Mall by walking one block away. Free busses every 5 minutes going up and down 16th Street. Great restaurants and shops are also near by.

On Thursday after the ceremony at the Air Force Academy, we will be having lunch at the Air Force Academy Officers Club. The day promises to be a scenic experience.

And, our golf chairman, Bill Kelso, wants the golfers to know that the name of the course to be played in Denver is Kennedy.

We have enclosed a coupon on page 43 for the Super Shuttle to receive a special rate of \$30 round trip (per person) or \$18 one way (per person) between the airport and downtown. Also included is a map to locate the Super Shuttle Center in the terminal.

The following poem by Joanna J. Kelenian tells it all. Joanna is the daughter of James Cuva, 308th Bomb Group, Chengkung.

Look forward to seeing you in Beautiful Denver.

### *What Is A Reunion?*

*A gathering together of people we know.  
An event - to celebrate life!  
To remember the old and learn of the new,  
No hassles, no worries, no strife.*

*But, why are we gathered here tonight...  
After fifty some odd years?  
To share our thoughts and memories,  
In laughter - filled with tears.*

*As we look around this table,  
We see friends we thought we'd lost.  
Now - after all these years  
Our paths, once again, are crossed.*

*So, why did we do all the things we did?  
To fight in the war that we were in?  
Why did they ask us to give our lives?  
Why did we do it? Why did we fight?*

*For the love of God and country, right?  
We served the best we could.*

*Just boys and young men, doing our duty,  
We fought the way we should.*

*Over foreign lands and enemy countryside.  
Sometimes we hardly knew,  
If we would ever - come back alive.  
Our fear continuously grew.*

*But by the grace of God we did,  
Return to base each time.  
A few times there, we did limp back,  
And literally kissed the ground.*

*At last - the end of World War II...  
We went our separate ways.  
Some north, some south, some east, some west.  
We were alive - to live out our days.*

*As the years went by, we busied ourselves,  
With family, children, and careers.  
We've had good lives, with lots of love.  
We should give ourselves three cheers!*

*Again, let us look around the room,  
And count the empty chairs.  
A sadness enters into our hearts.  
Our crew members - are remembered there.*

*Now, let's raise our glasses - to the ones,  
Who bravely went on ahead - our friends.  
And pray that we get a second chance,  
To see them in the end.*

*So what is a reunion, you may ask?  
A gathering, to remember when.  
A time of joyous celebration,  
With our loved ones and our friends.*

## Bronze C-46 Dedication

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the first full day of our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Reunion in Denver, our group will bus to the U. S. Air Force Academy north of Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend the formal dedication of a bronzed model of the Curtiss C-46 Commando. The ceremony will be held in the Study Hall area of the Honor Court northwest of the Academy Chapel at 10:00AM.