

CLIFF BALL WING NEWSLETTER



Holiday Edition



January 1, 2010

Vol 2 Issue 1

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Ivan Livi, Vice President
Dennis Yerkey, Secretary
Tom Barruso, Treasurer
Ivan Livi, Scholarships



OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS



Date: October 16, 2009

From: Harold Walter, OX5 National Secretary
14421 Killarney Ct
Wichita, KS 67230

To: Jim Kirk, Cliff Ball Wing - OX5
P.O. Box 18561
Pittsburgh, PA 15236_0561

Subject: OX5 Clifford Ball Memorable Award

Enclosed is the award certificate for the OX5 Clifford Ball Memorable Award. Your wing was recognized to receive this award at the National OX5 Aviation Pioneers reunion held in Grapevine, TX October 10, 2009.

Congratulations for producing an outstanding Wing newsletter. The newsletter is a major factor in holding the wings together.

I hope you receive many more awards in the future.

Sincerely,

Harold Walter
OX5 National Secretary
hwalter3@cox.net

Newsletter Award

During the Awards Ceremony at the 54th National OX5 Reunion, the Cliff Ball Wing was awarded the Cliff Ball Memorial Award for the Outstanding Newsletter of the Year.

The CBW newsletter is published on a quarterly basis as part of the Wing revitalization process.

Clifford Ball Memorial Award



AWARDED TO

Cliff Ball Wing

FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT IN PRODUCING AN
OUTSTANDING WING NEWSLETTER

By the
OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS
AND ITS MEMBERS

I, THEREFORE, AFFIX MY HAND AND SEAL, AND DIRECT THE SECRETARY
TO AFFIX THE CLUB SEAL THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2009



TONY MOSE
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

NATIONAL AWARDS CHAIRMAN



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*



A LETTER FROM BARBARA (BALL) EWING

January 1, 2010

I accompanied my father, Cliff Ball, to the founding of the OX5 Club in Latrobe in 1955. The purpose of the club was extremely important to him, and I have always felt a loyalty to the Cliff Ball Wing and to the members who have carried on the commitment to perpetuate the early days of aviation as part of our country's heritage. I was pleased to join the Cliff Ball Wing as a History member several years ago.

One of their initiatives was the restoration of *Miss Pittsburgh*, Cliff Ball's airplane that launched the delivery of airmail from Pittsburgh to Cleveland in 1927, and its display at the Pittsburgh International Airport, which brings public attention to our aviation history. My family and I are very proud of the Wing's accomplishment and the DVD that tells the remarkable story of finding and restoring *Miss Pittsburgh*.

Now the members of the Cliff Ball Wing have adopted another excellent project, a yearly Scholarship Fund, to reach out to young people who are as enthusiastic and committed to aviation as are the old-timers. The Scholarship Fund represents a significant investment in the future of American aviation and in the continued vitality of the OX5 Club. I have supported this worthwhile cause since its inception and will continue to do so in the future.

Thank you to the members of the Cliff Ball Wing and best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors.

Barbara Ewing

The BW Cliff Ball Wing would like to thank Barbara Ewing for her financial support to our scholarship fund.

Check out our new National web site: <http://www.ox5news.com>



A TRIBUTE TO BEN VENABLES by Ivan D Livi

Ben Venables, Cliff Ball Wing-OX5 member #L-13516 has been a member since the inception of the organization. He is quite proud that his application was signed by Cliff Ball when Ball was President. A native of Brookline, Pa. now residing in Castle Shannon, Ben began his aviation career as a ramp agent for Pennsylvania Central Airlines on June 1, 1941. After five months as a ramp agent, Ben was reassigned to the sheet metal shop in Washington, DC. As a sheet metal repairman he spent three and a half years repairing baffles and intake pipes. During that period Ben also worked as a welder. He was then transferred to Pittsburgh where he worked on Line Maintenance for ten years.

An opportunity arose for Ben to leave airline work and to become involved in corporate aviation maintenance by accepting a position with the National Steel Aviation Department at Allegheny County Airport, Pittsburgh, Pa. He held the position of Chief of Maintenance for thirty-two years until his retirement in 1982.

Ben has been a Designated Maintenance Examiner, IA and a private pilot since 1958. He has also served as a consultant for numerous companies during his career and was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration by being awarded the Charles Taylor Award for having worked in aviation maintenance for more than fifty years.

At 92 years of age, Ben remains very active and attends all CBW meetings. He has recently returned from a one month visit with his son in Palatka, Florida.

Our best wishes to Ben, a first class aviation pioneer who has supported the OX5 throughout the years.



**Happy Holidays from the 2010 CBW
Officers and Board Members**

L to R

- Cliff J Yerkey, Board Member
- Ivan D Livi, Vice President
- Dennis G Yerkey, Secretary
- Darla Mroski, Board Member
- Jim Kirk, President
- Frank B Long, Board Member
- Tom J Barruso, Treasurer

CBW SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The clanging of bells and shrieking of whistles announced the culmination of the CBW Second Annual Fundraiser. The fundraiser was based on **Steeler Super Bowl XLIII Champions** game tickets as prizes. The winner was the owner of the ticket that hit on the November 7 Pennsylvania Lottery Evening Number. In addition to two tickets to the Cincinnati Bengals and the Oakland Raiders games the winner received reservations for two brunches at the Allegheny Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club and a free parking pass.

The \$3,000.00 raised by the CBW fundraiser was donated to the Northrop Rice Foundation which administers a number of scholarship and award programs that benefit the aviation schools, instructors, and students. The funds will be combined with those from the Villnave Charitable Trust and the AMT Society making it possible to award tuition scholarships to ten students of the member schools of the Aviation Technician Education Council.

For more information on the scholarship and award programs administered by the Northrop Rice Foundation, go to the foundation web site.

<http://www.northropricfoundation.org>

by Ivan D. Livi, Scholarship Chairman

DONATIONS AND SALES by Thomas Barruso, Treas

Barbara Ewing	Donation to the Scholarship Fund
Ivan Livi	Donation of Aviation Memorabilia
Doug Moler	Donation to the Cliff Ball Wing
DVD Sales to Date	25



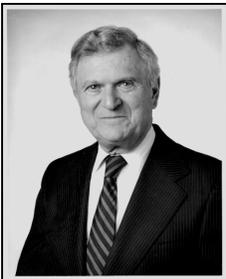
BARRUSO ELECTED OX5 NATIONAL TREASURER

by Dennis G Yerkey

Mr. Thomas Barruso was elected 2010 OX5 National Treasurer in November 2009 and intends to use his 39+ years of banking and accounting experience to update and restructure the financial and business functions of the organization.

Thomas has been a member of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers for over 15 years and in 2008 assumed the office of Treasurer of the Cliff Ball Wing. In this capacity, he has reorganized the handling of their financial matters. In addition, he serves as Controller for the CBW Scholarship Fundraising Program.

Thomas is a native of Monessen, Pa., but presently resides in Pleasant Hills. He and his wife Doris have two daughters, Darlene and Cheryl, and one grandchild Alexander. Thomas is a Korean War Veteran and a member of the Pleasant Hills American Legion.



LIVI ELECTED TO OX5 NATIONAL BOARD

by Dennis G Yerkey

On Oct 7, 2009, I had the honor and privilege of nominating a new member to the OX5 National Board of Governors. The process to appoint a new member is clear. In compliance with the OX5 Aviation Pioneers National By-law Article VII, I submitted the name, resume and picture of our very own Ivan D. Livi, VP CBW.

We are extremely pleased to learn that on October 10, 2009 Mr. Livi was elected to the Board for a term of 3 years.

Ivan has a distinguished career in aviation dating back to 1944 when he worked for the Army Air Corp at a primary flight training program conducted by Hawthorne Aviation in Orangeburg, SC. In 1993 he retired as President/Director of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics and is presently serving as Vice President of the Northrop Rice Foundation. He is also a Life Board Member of the Aviation Technician Education Council which he helped found in 1961. He is currently self employed and is doing consulting work.

With his vast aviation and civic volunteer experience, I know he will be an outstanding asset to the OX5 National Board. We wish Ivan great success.

To CBW members:

You will soon be receiving the *National Dues Notice* which will contain pre-addressed envelopes. Please mail your dues as soon as possible. The organization depends on it. Jim Kirk, CBW President

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AVIATION HISTORY



Night-time view of the Miss Pittsburgh and Miss Youngstown (right background) mail planes at Bettis Field, Allegheny County. The pilots are Dewey Noyes & Merle Moltrup.

In 1922 Representative M. Clyde Kelly of McKeesport submitted his first airmail bill to the House of Representatives. President Calvin Coolidge signed the Kelly Air Mail Act into law on January 17, 1925. The act had a clause that provided for the government to foster commercial aviation. Government encouragement would have an enduring effect on the aviation industry.

Source: Life in Western Pennsylvania. Circa: 1930