



## 2017 Presentations ~ ~ The George Bledsoe Medal

I am using this newsletter format to keep our friends notified of the work that the Foundation is doing to keep the memory of George Bledsoe alive in the minds of the American people by honoring those across the world who have made significant contributions to the preservation of American military aviation history.

The George Bledsoe Award is presented to those who make significant contributions to the preservation of the history of the air war in World War II. This award is named in honor of George Bledsoe who devoted his lifetime to service to mankind, first as a B-24 Liberator pilot flying dangerous low level night missions with the Carpetbagger operations in England and Scotland during World War II. Later as a teacher to thousands of students, Bledsoe became a role model for living life with integrity and a commitment to excellence. His legacy and his memory continues to live on in the lives of his students where Bledsoe made a lasting impact.



During July through September 2017, Dr. Vernon L. Williams, President of OPHF, traveled to Wethersfield (England), San Diego (California), and Washington, D.C. to speak about George Bledsoe's service to our nation and to award four Bledsoe Medals to honorees who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the history of the American air war during World War II.

Plans are underway for three additional Bledsoe Medal presentations in 2018, one in England and two in the United States. More details will follow in the next newsletter when those presentations are announced.



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 16, 2017

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### **Retired Chief Inspector Ross Stewart (MDP) to Receive the American George Bledsoe Award Medal at Wethersfield Airfield Heritage Museum**

The Old Primero Historical Foundation has announced that Retired Chief Inspector Ross Stewart (Ministry of Defence Police) will be presented with the George Bledsoe Award Medal for his work in the preservation of World War II aviation history. The presentation ceremony will take place at the Wethersfield Airfield Museum, Building 301 at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2017. The Museum is located on the Wethersfield Ministry of Defence Police Headquarters base, formerly the World War II site of the 416th Bomb Group and

later home to several American Cold War USAF combat units.

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

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### **Richard Henggeler to Receive the George Bledsoe Award Medal at 388th Bomb Group Annual Reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, California**

The Old Primero Historical Foundation has announced that Richard Henggeler will be presented with the George Bledsoe Award Medal for his work in the preservation of World War II aviation history. The presentation ceremony will take place at the 388th Bomb Group annual reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, California at 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Henggeler is receiving this award for his many years of work in creating a significant historical collection of World War Two materials related to the 388th (H) Bomb Group, and the creation of a web delivery system making those materials

accessible to the public worldwide.

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SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

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**Wayne Sayles and Doris Sayles to Receive the American George Bledsoe Award Medal at 416th Bomb Group Annual Reunion in the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia**

The Old Primero Historical Foundation has announced that Wayne Sayles and Doris Sayles will be presented with the George Bledsoe Award Medal for their work in the preservation of World War II aviation history. The presentation ceremony will take place at the 416th Bomb Group annual reunion at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2017. The Sayles are the principal organizers



behind the establishment and operation of the 416th Bomb Group Archives in Gainesville, Missouri. Under the leadership of the Sayles, the Archives has developed a significant archival collection on the 416th Bomb Group history in World War II and has established an innovative program of preservation and educational programming for the Archives.

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That's the update on the Bledsoe Award for now. Two additional awards are scheduled for 2020. Keep pace with the Bledsoe Award news by regular visits to the Old Primero Historical Foundation website.

Please consider a donation to the Old Primero Historical Foundation.  
OPHF is a 501 (c)3 and all donations are tax deductible.

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