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BuzzOneFour.org

No active press release at this time – please check back.

Scroll down for past press releases.

About: *BuzzOneFour.Org*

BuzzOneFour.Org is an informal privately funded group of volunteers who wish to preserve the memory, and recognize the sacrifice of the crew of the Boeing B-52D “Buzz One Four,” which crashed in Garrett County, Maryland on January 13, 1964, while involved in the Cold War airborne alert operation known as Chrome Dome.



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50th Anniversary of Nuclear-Armed B-52 Bomber Crash

Conservation of Monuments to Air Force Flyers Expected to be Complete in Time for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of B-52 Bomber Crash in Garrett County, MD.

Garrett County, Maryland, Wednesday, July 09, 2014 - Citing the contributions of America's "Cold Warriors," the "Friends of Buzz One Four," an ad hoc committee of patriotic citizens, has announced that its efforts to conserve two monuments are expected to be complete in time for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration on July 12, 2014. The informal committee was able to achieve this feat with the help of donations from private citizens, civic organizations, and the Maryland Historical Trust.

"Friends of Buzz One Four" spokesman Bucky Schriver expressed his deep appreciation for the support and expertise provided by Nancy Kurtz, the National Register Coordinator for the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mr. Schriver also noted the excellent professional conservation of the monuments performed by Howard Wellman Conservation, LLC.

The "Friends of Buzz One Four," future plan includes repairs to a third monument in Salisbury, PA, and the installation of an interpretive sign in the vicinity of the site where the nuclear-armed Boeing B-52D bomber crashed just over a half century ago in January of 1964.

Photographs of the conservation process can be found on the Visitor's Photo page of the www.BuzzOneFour.org website.

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50th Anniversary Commemoration of B-52 Bomber Crash

*Three crewmen perished, 2 survived bailing out in blizzard conditions and were rescued.
Two 9 megaton Mark 53 thermonuclear bombs were recovered in the wreckage.*

Grantsville Maryland, Sunday, June 01, 2014 – Just over fifty years ago, a B-52D bomber with a crew of 5 and carrying two Mk 53, 9 megaton yield thermonuclear bombs crashed at approximately 1:42 AM on Big Savage Mountain near Barton, Maryland.

An official Commemoration Ceremony marking the 50th Anniversary of the event will begin at 11:00 AM at the Buzz One Four Memorial on Route 40 near River Road on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Route 40 will be closed to through traffic between New Germany Road and 1st Street from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The Penn Alps Restaurant and the Spruce Forest Shops will remain open for business with access from the 1st Street side. Please see the attached maps for road closures and parking information.

Various activities are planned including guest speakers, various artifacts related to the crash will be on display, driving maps to the various memorial sites and markers will be available. All of the family members of the Buzz One Four crew have been invited and many are expected to attend.

A discussion of the events surrounding the tragic loss of "Buzz One Four" and its crew will be held at the Avilton Community Center, 8295 Avilton Lonaconing Rd, which is located not far from the 1964 B-52 crash site.

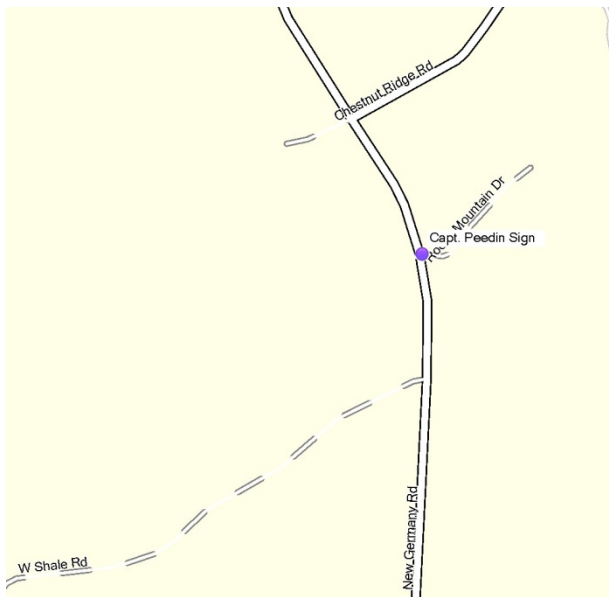
Updates can be found on the 50th Anniversary page of this website. [Click here.](#)

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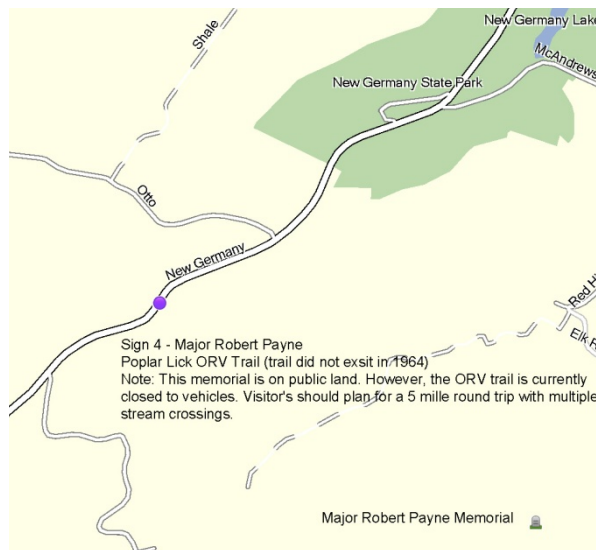
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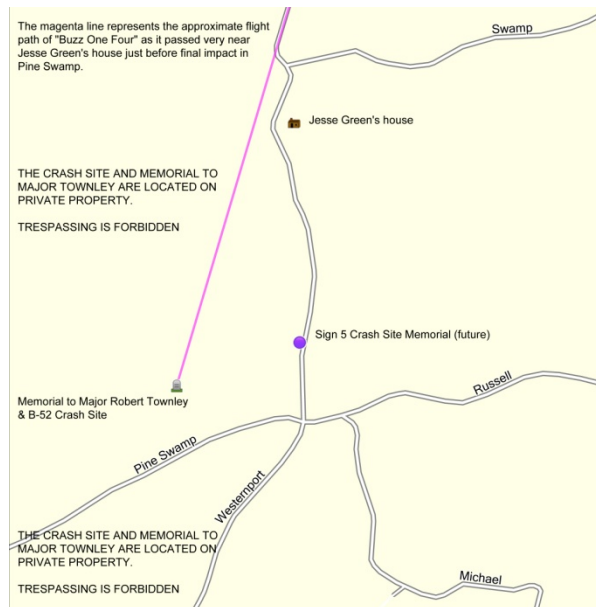
Site 2: Stone House – Major Thomas McCormick
Late in the afternoon on the day of the accident, the Pilot, Major Thomas McCormick, walked several miles in deep snow to the Warnick Family’s Stone House.



Site 3: New Germany Rd. – Captain Parker Peedin
Captain Peedin remained at the point where he landed. On the day following the crash, a Civil Air Patrol search plane sighted Captain Peedin’s parachute and notified a ground search team. A short time later, the search team located Captain Peedin, and brought him out of the woods to New Germany Road.



Site 4: Major Robert Payne Memorial
Landing in 11°F temperatures, lost and without winter flight gear, Major Payne attempted to walk to safety, only to die of exposure. His remains were located in Poplar Lick and recovered 2 days after the crash.



Site 5: Major Townley Memorial & Crash Site
After clipping a mountain with its wing tip, “Buzz One Four,” with Major Townley still aboard, came to rest in Pine Swamp. Major Townley’s remains were located in the wreckage in the evening of the following day.



50th Anniversary Commemoration

THE “BUZZ ONE FOUR” CREW

Survivors:

Pilot:

Major Thomas W. McCormick

Co-pilot:

Captain Parker C. Peedin

Lost:

Navigator:

Major Robert L. Payne

Radar Navigator:

Major Robert E. Townley

Gunner:

TSgt Melvin D. Wooten

A Boeing B-52D, Serial Number 55-0060, radio call sign “Buzz One Four,” was returning to Turner Air Force Base in Albany, Georgia from an unplanned stopover at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts. It was on the final leg of an airborne alert flight as part of the Cold War operation known as “Chrome Dome.”

At approximately 1:42 AM on January 13, 1964, the aircraft, armed with two Mk 53 thermonuclear devices, was flying at 30,000 feet when it encountered extreme air turbulence which induced a structural failure of the tail, rendering the aircraft uncontrollable.

The pilot ordered the crew to evacuate the crippled bomber. The Navigator and Tail Gunner successfully parachuted but later succumbed to injuries and exposure before they could be located. The Radar Navigator was unable to exit the aircraft, and perished in the crash.

The Pilot and the Co-pilot, both suffering from severe hypothermia, survived their ordeal and recovered.

For additional information, please visit the Official Website:

www.buzzonefour.org • info@buzzonefour.org

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Points of Interest

1. TSgt. Melvin D. Wooten Memorial

West Salisbury, PA

Sign 1A: N39 45.517 W79 05.437

Sign 1B: N39 45.715 W79 05.309

2. mick

Rt. 40 East of Rt. 219 North (no sign at this location)

N39 41.619 W79 05.775

3. New Germany Road – Captain Parker Peedin

N39 39.229 W79 07.393

4. Poplar Lick ATV Trail – Major Robert Payne

Major Payne Memorial

N39 37.085 W79 09.012

5. Crash Site / Major Robert Townley Memorial

Westernport Road near Pine Swamp Road

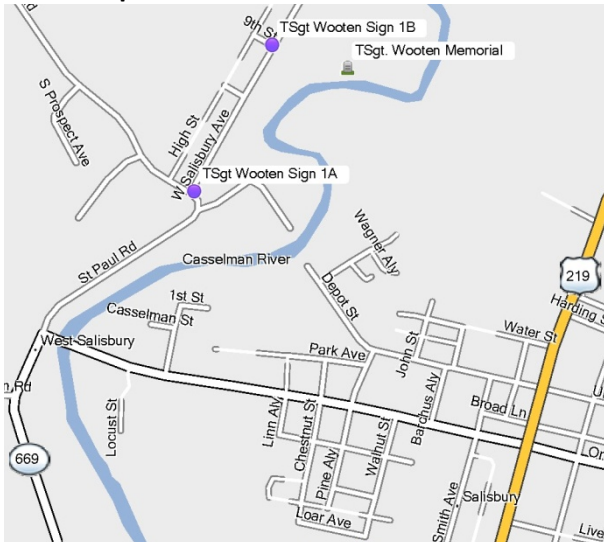
N39 34.066 W79 04.241

Note: The actual crash site and the memorial to Major Townley are located in a swamp on private property. **TRESPASSING IS FORBIDDEN.**

6. Crash Memorial–Little Crossings–Rt. 40 & River Rd.

N39 41.787 W79 08.197

Detail Maps for Points of Interest

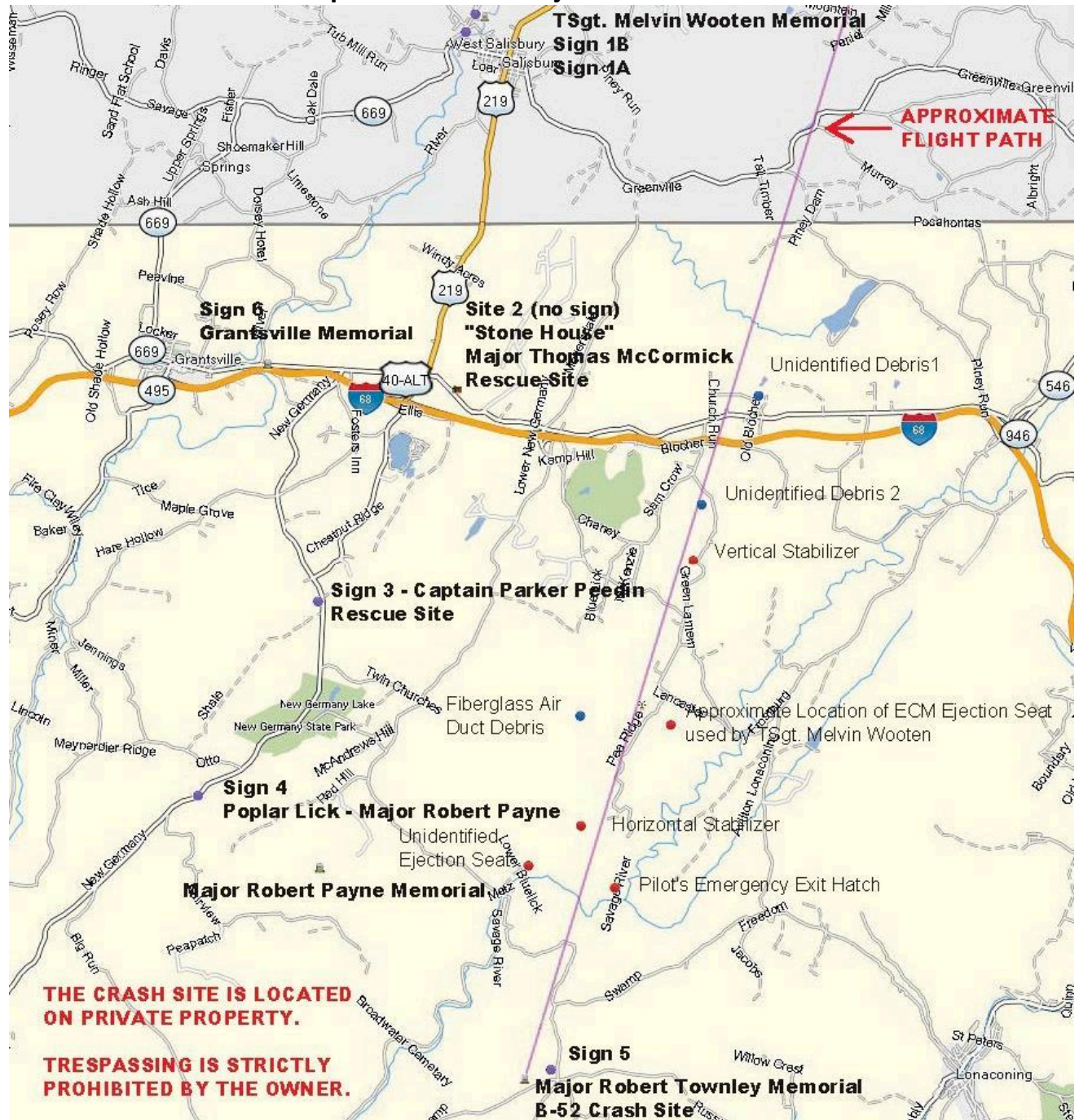


Site 1: TSgt. Melvin D. Wooten Memorial

Severely injured in the process of ejecting from the aircraft, TSgt. Wooten perished shortly after landing. His remains were recovered near the Casselman River four days after the accident.



Map Overview of Major Event Locations



Approximate Map Scale: 1" = 1.5 miles

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*Three crewmen perished, 2 survived bailing out in blizzard conditions and were rescued.
Two 9 megaton Mark 53 thermonuclear bombs were recovered in the wreckage.*

Grantsville Maryland, Sunday, February 23, 2014 - Fifty years ago, a B-52D bomber with a crew of 5 and carrying 2 Mk 53, 9 megaton thermonuclear bombs crashed at 1:42 AM on Big Savage Mountain near Barton, Maryland.

An official Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the event will be held in and near Grantsville, Maryland on Saturday, July 12, 2014.

Various activities are planned including guest speakers, various artifacts related to the crash will be on display, driving maps to the various memorial sites and markers will be available. All of the family members of the Buzz One Four crew have been invited and many are expected to attend.

A discussion of the events surrounding the tragic loss of "Buzz One Four" and its crew will be held at the Avilton Community Center, which is located not far from the 1964 crash site.

Updates can be found on the 50th Anniversary page of this website. [Click here.](#)

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50 Years Ago: Nuclear Armed B-52 Bomber Crashes

*Three crewmen perish, 2 survive bail out in blizzard conditions and are rescued.
Two 9 megaton nuclear bombs are recovered in the wreckage.*

Grantsville Maryland, Monday, January 13, 2014 - Fifty years ago today, a B-52 bomber with a crew of 5 and carrying 2 Mk 53, 9 megaton thermonuclear bombs crashed at 1:42 AM on Big Savage Mountain near Barton, Maryland.

The aircraft, a 7 year old Boeing B-52D, call sign "Buzz One Four," was assigned to the 484th Bombardment Wing of the Strategic Air Command stationed at Turner AFB near Albany, Georgia. It was enroute from Westover AFB in Massachusetts to Turner AFB in Georgia on the final leg of a SAC "Chrome Dome" airborne alert mission.

Flying at 30,000 feet, the bomber encountered severe wind turbulence which caused a catastrophic failure of the vertical stabilizer and damage to the horizontal stabilizer. The aircraft rolled out of control with no hope of recovery.

The pilot ordered the crew to eject from the aircraft and attempted to radio a "Mayday" distress call reporting that the crew was bailing out of the stricken bomber as it fell out of the sky. Four of the 5 crewmen were able to eject. The 5th crewman was unable to eject. Buzz One Four, armed with 2 Mk 53 nuclear bombs, crashed in blizzard conditions in Garrett County, Maryland. Three of the crewmen did not survive.

A discussion of the events surrounding the tragic loss of "Buzz One Four" and its crew will be held Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 5:00 PM in the Lake House at New Germany State Park, which is located not far from the 1964 crash site.

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