

# Member's Corner

by Don DeVoro



Meet Sertoman Bill Moriarity, a member since March of 1992. Bill has lived in Crestwood Missouri since 1950, where he and his late wife Dorothy raised three daughters and five sons. He is a retired distribution manager for Vestal Labs and proud grandfather of 23, and beaming great-grandfather of 8, with two more on the way. Last April, a group of 24 of his kids and grand kids played golf in honor of his birthday. Bill, now disabled by a stroke in 1997, was able to hit the ceremonial "first ball" of the event, dubbed the 2002 Moriarity Golf Classic.

Bill was born in Kirkwood in 1921, graduated from McBride High in 1939, and had a distinguished tour as a B-26 bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II. His bomb group was stationed in Chipping Ongar, England and he flew 54 missions over France and Germany, including the bombing of Utah Beach on D-Day. Some of his war stories are published in "Voices of D-Day" and "Tales of the Marauders". One of his missions resulted in heavy enemy ground attacks on his plane and the resulting fuel loss caused him to crash land the plane with full payload of bombs in a French farm field. His whole crew survived. On yet another mission, the plane received 175 holes from flak and Bill had to delicately land with a 500 pound bomb stuck in the bomb-bay. His bomb group, the 387th, now gathers annually and will do so next month at the Air Force Museum near Dayton, OH. Bill plans to attend. He also has 3 grandsons getting married this fall and he plans to attend all three.