

Address given by twin daughters of Plt Off Furniss at his Memorial Dedication Service on 27 September 2021

Gill

When Sheila and I began our research in March 2019, we could never have envisaged that the outcome would be such a fitting tribute to our father, Pilot Officer, George Furniss.

Today, we would like to extend our very sincere thanks to all the people who have helped us with our quest to uncover this important piece of our family history.

Geoff Taylor of Heritage South Holland who helped us at the very beginning.

Reuben Holmes, whose enthusiasm and information has got us here today.

Lynn Harrison of the Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian who provided publicity and support to move the memorial idea forward.

And, of course, Philip and Jane Darley who have supported us throughout and provided us with much interesting information.

We have been moved and inspired by everyone we have been in touch with and our thanks go to you all.

Sheila

On behalf of Gill, the Furniss Family and myself; we thank everyone who has been involved in putting together this beautiful memorial service of dedication to our father, George.

Thank you especially to Councillor Angela Newton who has worked tirelessly with her team and with Spalding Council for arranging this excellent and very moving tribute.

Thank you also to Group Captain Richard Mighall whose help and attention to detail has been impeccable

Also, the Royal Air Force Auxiliary , Squadron Leader Deborah Crowther and 616 Squadron who are here today to honour George

We would also like to thank Reverend Philip Johnson for conducting the service.

Anthony Fell and the St Nicholas Community Brass band and

Steve Wand for the bugle calls.

And of course, Gary Huggins for the impressive memorial stone.

And to everyone who has shown such an interest in George's heroism and all who have come here today to honour him and the sacrifice he made on this day 68 years ago, we express our sincere gratitude to you all.

Thank you!