



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

(1943) Ephrata, WA – MacDill Field, Tampa, FL – Steparone, San Severo-Pisa, Italy (1945)

VOLUME 38

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NUMBER 3

President's Message



Greetings!

I can't believe this is my last message to our membership as President. I attended my first reunion as a guest of my Dad and was excited to attend because the 483rd and the reunions meant so much to him. I really enjoyed myself and looked forward to attending again. Then, as I attended more and more of the reunions and got to know so many of you on a personal basis, the 483rd became a highlight to me as well. Words cannot adequately express what an honor and great privilege it has been for me to serve this great organization and each of you as President. I am so grateful for the sacrifices each of you made to answer the call to arms when our nation and the world was at a crossroads of a tyranny that just could not succeed. It was because of you all and what you did to win the Second World War that all of us enjoy our lives today. For without you and the sacrifices you made, this world would be so much different and incomprehensible in comparison. So from the bottom of my heart may I say, "Mahalo Nui Loa (thank you so much) for allowing me to serve you these last three years." You all hold a very, very special place in my heart!

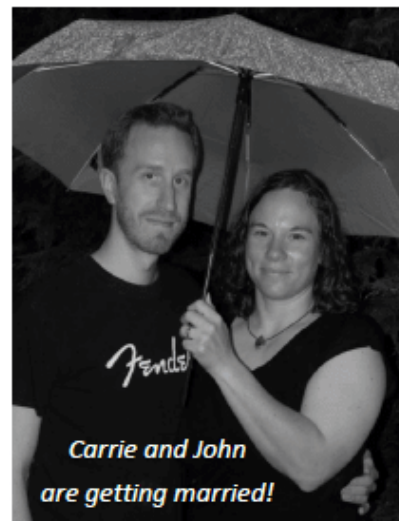
Reunion Deadline Is Coming Up

I sent in reservations for my Mom and I just recently for the Reunion. Have you sent your reservation in yet? Or, were you like me--I'd think about it but then I'd get sidetracked and I wouldn't take the time to do it. Well if that is still you, there isn't much time left to get those registrations in to Jana Coogler, Reunion Chair, before the late

registration fee kicks in. You also want to make your hotel reservation if you haven't done that. Jana has organized so many wonderful excursions for us. I know we will have a fantastic week! Also of note: Jana has made arrangements for the special rate to apply a couple of days before and after the Reunion for any of you that would like to extend your stay in Albuquerque.

See you in The Land of Enchantment in October!!!

Sandee



Carrie and John
are getting married!

After three years of dating, third generation 483rd members Carrie Davis and John Kelly are getting married October, 10th 2015. Join them at the reunion in Albuquerque to celebrate their new life together!

TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squad	Date	Reported By
BATTIN, MAURICE L	483	05-08-15	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
BIFFONI, ULYSSES	817	03-15-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
ESTES, GEORGE C	817	12-19-11	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
FINLAYSON, CHARLES R	840	07-10-15	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
HUNTER, J RAY	816	01-14-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
JOHNSON, WARREN S	817	05-19-15	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
KNEPLER, EDWARD E	840	06-26-13	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MILLNAMOW, HARRY P	817	08-17-15	CRAIG MILLNAMOW
MOORE, SELBERT H	840	07-24-14	ANNA MOORE
REITHMILLER, PAUL M	840	01-27-97	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SIMMONS, RUSSELL H	817	06-26-12	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
STRAPKO, WILLIAM S	840	06-19-15	MARYANN DENNING

Membership News

Dear Comrades:

After every newsletter mailing, the post office sends several newsletters back to me with notations like, RTS, return to sender, undeliverable as addressed etc. The address has not been changed but I have to make an attempt to locate the member and see if anything has changed in his or her address. Trying the member's phone number and find that it has been disconnected. Since there is no way to contact him or her, I must take the member off the mailing list even though they are members in good standing. So please, check your phone number and if there are any changes let me know so I can update your record.

Take Care, God willing, will see you in Albuquerque.

Guy



Harry Millnamow

Harry Millnamow, one of the three founders of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association, died on August 17, 2015 at the age of 97. Harry, along with Phillip Leutke and Leonard Moss, organized the first reunion that was held in Detroit in 1979. He was association president in 1991 and continued attending every reunion through the 2012 reunion in Detroit. Harry's leadership and dedication to the association as well as his always cheerful spirit will be missed.



MAKE YOUR REUNION HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Call (800) 325-3535
or via the Internet at:

[www.starwoodmeeting.com/
Book/483rdBombardment](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/483rdBombardment)



The room block registration ends September 22nd and the block is nearly full, so if you haven't already made your reservation, please do so now! The room rate is \$105 per night (single or double) and if you would like to extend your time in Albuquerque, the rate is valid for 2 days before the reunion and 2 days after. Complimentary breakfast will be available Thursday morning through Sunday morning but you must identify yourself as being with the 483rd Bombardment Group when making your reservation to get the free breakfast.

2015 REUNION – ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO October 13 – 17, 2015

This is your last chance to register for our 2015 reunion! It will be held October 13 - 17, 2015 in Albuquerque.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and this will be an important reunion for all 483rd members and friends to attend. Please plan now to attend this reunion and let your voice be heard regarding the future of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association and its future reunions.

Here's an overview of the tours we'll take:

Tour of Albuquerque

This fully narrated introduction to Albuquerque will showcase historic neighborhoods and stories of the growth and history of the town and a cruise down Historic Route 66. We'll have some time to take a look around the Old Town Plaza shops or you can choose to see the Albuquerque Museum.



International Balloon Museum

Albuquerque is the hot air ballooning capital of the world and the home of the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum. Hot air and gas balloons have been used for adventure, scientific experiments, the arts, warfare, espionage and the exploration of space. The museum houses a collection of wonderful documents and artifacts from the historic to the most recent ballooning feats.



Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

This Cultural Center is jointly owned and operated by the 19 Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico whose ancestors were the cliff-dwellers of the 4 corners states. We'll be welcomed by a tribal member and view the current exhibits and artwork on display. The IPCC also has a comprehensive gift shop and there will be time for lunch at the Pueblo Harvest Café.



National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

This is the nation's only congressionally chartered museum in its field and a Smithsonian affiliate. Originally known as the National Atomic Museum, it was established in 1969 as an intriguing place to learn the story of the Atomic Age, from early research of nuclear development through today's peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Visitors can explore how nuclear science continues to influence our world. A docent will be available at the Museum for our group or you may choose to view the exhibits with your own interests in mind.



Turquoise Museum

On the way to the Turquoise Museum, we'll stop for lunch at El Camino, a restaurant on Historic Route 66. At the Turquoise Museum we'll have a fun and energetic tour where we will laugh during a seminar titled "The True Colors of Turquoise". Bring your favorite piece of turquoise and discover its origin and value!



Sunset Dinner at Sandia Mountain

This promises to be a relaxing way to end the week's tour. Sandia Mountain dominates the east-side of Albuquerque and is 10,378' above sea level. Before dinner you may want to take the Sandia Peak Tram ride which lasts 15-minutes and travels 3,800 vertical feet through biological life zones that equal a trip from Mexico to Alaska, revealing deep canyons and an awe-inspiring view not soon to be forgotten (*Tram is on your own and will cost about \$20 - approximate round trip time allowing for viewing from the peak is one hour*). If you'd rather not take the Tram, then just enjoy the scenery and sunset at the base of the mountain while enjoying your favorite beverage. We'll all have dinner at the base of the Tram (6,560') at Sandiago's Mexican Grill. The dinner menu includes your choice (one entree per person) of Blue Corn Enchiladas, Burrito Sandiago (beef or chicken with beans, rice, and cheese), Sandiago's Cobb Salad, Portabella Stack, or Carne Adovada Plate (pork marinated in red chili and then baked). Includes soft drinks and dessert but alcohol is available COD. Sunset is at 6:30.



Coastal Mexican Cuisine, at the base of Sandia Peak Tramway



"FLYING FORTRESS" A MUST READ BOOK

Submitted by Mike Rickey

I recently was gifted with a copy of FLYING FORTRESS written by Edward Jablonsky and originally published in 1965. It is out of print, however slightly used copies are available at www.amazon.com for the bargain price of \$8.00 plus postage.

This is one of the finest, and certainly most comprehensively documented book about the B-17's role in defeating Nazi Germany in WW II. It consists of 361 pages with over 400 stunning illustrations (many actual combat action photos). The book traces

the story of the early development of the B-17 by the Boeing Co. and its mission of strategic daylight bombing to destroy the German military/industrial complex. The enormous contribution of this airplane is best summarized by General Carl "Tooe" Spaatz, who said: "Without the B-17 we may have lost the war".

FLYING FORTRESS captures the exhilarating tale of the B-17 with thrilling accounts of the exploits of these planes and the crews that flew in them. In human terms the author describes the flak-blackened skies over enemy targets and details of the shared stories of individuals who experienced moments of terror and exhilaration during countless air battles. After enemy fighters had knocked out 2 or even 3 engines, or flak had torn great holes in the sides or wings, the B-17 often had the uncanny ability to absorb such punishment and return to base. Others were not so lucky, and a chapter is devoted to the POW experience at Stalag Luft One, where many of the 483rd were incarcerated.

A chapter describes the formation of the 15th Air Force and its employment against targets like aircraft factories at Wiener Neustadt and the critical oil refineries of Ploesti. Also our deployment of six B-17 Groups to fly the first shuttle mission to the Soviet Union. On page 237 there is a startling photo of a B-17 exploding in mid-air and engulfed in flames after taking a direct flak hit over the target at Nis, Yugoslavia. It was flown by James O. Preston of our 840th Squadron and all on board perished. An alert 483rd photographer captured this moment, providing one of the most horrific photos of WW II.

The book also provides detailed statistics on the specifications and capabilities of each model variation of the B-17. It states that 12,731 were produced and 4,750 were lost on combat missions. Detailed drawings and photos show the aircraft interior and location of each aircrew position. Excerpts from training manuals describe the job descriptions and functions of each aircrew member. Procedures for takeoff, landing and techniques of formation join-up and flight patterns are explained in detail, as well as crew responsibilities during emergencies.

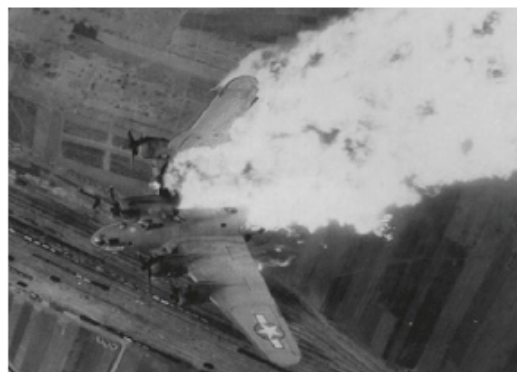
Because of the totality of B-17 data in a single publication, this great book is a most deserving addition to the personal library of all 483rd Association members, or for placement in the hands of our grandchildren to preserve our legacy.

James O. Preston Crew – 840th Squadron
(excerpts from 483rd Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 1, Dec. 1988)

The original crew came together at Salt Lake City, Utah and shipped to Rapid City, South Dakota 29 November 1943. The crew shipped to MacDill Field Tampa, Florida, 6 January 1944 and became part of the 483rd Bomb Group. They flew to Italy by the southern route.

The Preston Crew flew in B-17 42-5786 on a mission to Nis, Yugoslavia 15 April 1944. The plane received a direct flak hit, was engulfed in flames and the right wing came off. An alert 483rd photographer captured this moment providing one of the most horrific photos of World War II. B-17 42-5786 was a war weary that had served with the 99th Bomb Group. This was the first crew and plane lost in combat by the 483rd Bomb Group.

Documents confirming the death of Toutant have yet to be located. No parachutes were observed but only 9 bodies were recovered from the plane. Members of the 840th Squadron, who were consulted, indicated there were no survivors.



Members lost:

James O. Preston	P	John T. Cieslak	R
Harry L. Johnston	CP	Albert M. Cline	LW
Gordon G. Lindholm	N	Jack Brown, Jr.	RW
Jesse D. Gresham	B	Harold J. Pierce	BT
John C. Toutant	E	James E. Cooper	TG

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PAST PRESIDENTS

Phillip A. Luetke (Deceased) 1980
 William A. Haskins (Deceased) 1981
 James V. Reardon (Deceased) 1982-83
 Lynn M. Borders (Deceased) 1984
 Joseph W. Gawthrop (Deceased) 1984
 M.L. "Bob" Hottman 1985 (Deceased)
 Harry K. Keller (Deceased) 1986
 Donald R. Speegle (Deceased) 1987
 James "Russ" Heflin (Deceased) 1988
 Evan M. "Jack" Edwards (Deceased) 1989
 Ralph H. Simpson (Deceased) 1990
 Harry P. Millnamow (Deceased) 1991
 William P. Dunn (Deceased) 1992
 Edward T. Cotton (Deceased) 1993
 Harry D. Whye (Deceased) 1994
 Ray H. Whitaker 1995
 Harold D. Leveridge 1996
 William I. Jeffs (Deceased) 1997
 George F. Stovall 1998
 John A. Campbell 1999
 Verne H. Cole (Deceased) 2000
 Benjamin H. Adams Jr. (Deceased) 2001
 Robert W. Mitchell (Deceased) 2002
 John P. Nobel 2003
 Curtis B. Clark 2004
 Fredric A. Hicks (Deceased) 2005
 Wilfrid Hebert 2006
 Stanton "Mike" Rickey 2007
 Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008
 Jim Ashley 2009
 Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012
 Sandee West Maeda 2013, 2014

483rd Bomb Group Reunion Registration Form

Listed below are all registration, tours and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total amount. Make check payable to "483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association", write "Albuquerque Reunion" in the memo area, then mail the form and check to Jana Coogler, 6026 Spring Creek Lane, Spring, TX 77379. If you have questions about the form or registration, please call Jana at (713) 898-8765 or send her an email at reunion483rd2015@yahoo.com.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____
 Squadron (or friend) _____ Spouse name (if attending) _____
 Guest Names _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Disability/Diet Restrictions _____
 Arrival Date / Departure Date _____ E-Mail _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON IS \$25.00

*Late registration fee per person is \$25.00 if not registered by September 14, 2014**

Date	Event	No. of People	Price per person	Total
Tuesday Oct 13 1 pm – 5 pm	<i>Early Bird Tour:</i> Depart hotel by motor coach for narrated tour of Albuquerque and a stop to tour Old Town Albuquerque		\$45.00	
Wednesday Oct 14 9 am – 4 pm	<i>Tours:</i> International Balloon Museum & Indian Pueblo Cultural Center <i>Lunch on your own at the Cultural Center restaurant</i>		\$56.00	
Wednesday Oct 14 6 pm	483rd Welcome and Memories Night & Dinner Buffet dinner		\$30.00	
Thursday Oct 15 9 am – 2 pm	<i>Tours:</i> National Museum of Nuclear Science and History & Turquoise Museum via motor coach with tour guide <i>Lunch on your own at El Camino Restaurant</i>		\$45.00	
Thursday Oct 15, 6 pm	YounGuns Reception (hors d'oeuvres)		\$15.00	
Friday Oct 16, 9 am	Ladies Brunch with entertainment by a Navajo Flute Player & Story Teller		\$20.00	
Friday Oct 16 4 pm – 9 pm	Sunset Dinner at Sandia Mountain: Depart hotel by motor coach with tour guide for dinner at Sandiego's Mexican Grill at the base of the mountain. Enjoy the sunset while you sip on a drink of your choice or ride the Sandia Peak Tram to the top of the mountain for a spectacular view (dinner is included in price but alcoholic drinks and Tram are on your own)		\$85.00	
Saturday Oct 17 6 pm	483rd Banquet <i>Meal Choices:</i> _____ <i>Meal for (write name here):</i> _____ ___ Sliced Roast Beef in Mushroom Demi-Glace _____ ___ Grilled Salmon _____ ___ Uptown Chicken _____		\$40.00	
	Registration Fee Per Person		\$25.00	
	LATE Registration Fee Per Person after September 14th (See note below*)		\$25.00	
			TOTAL	

Mail Registration Form and check payable to "483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association" (write "Albuquerque Reunion" in the memo area of check) to Jana Coogler, 6026 Spring Creek Lane, Spring, TX 77379

* A \$25 late fee will be imposed for registering after the 30-day prior registration deadline of September 14th, with special exceptions for health issues. This was initiated at the 2013 483rd General Business Meeting to help plan tours and schedule busses. Reunion registration cancellations will be accepted until September 28, 2014 without fee or penalty, so please help by registering early.