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483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME 41

June 2018

NUMBER 2

President's Message

Dear 483rd Members,

A lot has been happening over the last several months. Jay Clifton has been working tirelessly to plan our Reunion in Oklahoma City, OK to be held this September. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Jay and I personally visited our host hotel and many of the sites which we will tour and I can tell you with confidence that you are going to have a great time. As usual, Sandee Maeda was a huge help in making our reunion happen. Jay tapped her experience along the way and it was a huge help. I know that you all join me with hats off to both Jay and Sandee for making this a success.

Also, as many of you know, Dave Raffel, Mark Halebsky, and I have been working hard on getting the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund up and running. The Legacy Fund is now officially incorporated in the State of Missouri and has received its approval as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity. We have opened a bank account and have begun to accept contributions. The aim of the Legacy Fund is to provide a vehicle by which to raise enough money to sustain in perpetuity Air Force ROTC scholarships and also gifts to the Museum of Aviation (Warner Robins) in the name of the 483rd. This will be a lasting tribute to our veterans and the 483rd. We have submitted requests for contributions to several companies, including Air Lease, Boeing, United Rentals, Abbott Labs, etc. and are awaiting their decisions. In addition, many members of the 483rd Association have made very generous contributions as we strive towards our goal of raising \$75,000 over about the next 2½ years. Please consider making a tax deductible

contribution from yourself or your business or workplace today.

Many of you may have read in the last newsletter of the communication we have had with Michele Carafa, an Italian citizen, who lives near the site of the Sterparone air base. As a result of this, I received a series of emails from Helen (LaFlamme) Capone. Helen is the daughter of Lawrence E. (Larry) LaFlamme, who was a radio operator in the 817th Sq. for a stint of 50 missions. Helen and her son traveled to Italy and met Sig. Carafa, who gave them a personal tour of the area near the former airfield. Helen took a CD of the "Heroes of the 483rd" book to present to Sig. Carafa on behalf of the Association. Fun stuff!



At the end of the reunion I will be passing the presidential baton to Mark Halebsky, as he assumes the reigns as your incoming President. Thanks to all of you for your help and encouragement along the way. I have enjoyed the honor of serving as your Association President.

With kindest regards,

Russell Daniel

PS: If you would like to contact Michele Carafa, he can be reached by email at: carafa.michele@gmail.com

TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squad	Date	Reported By
BERTHELSON, DUANE E	817	7/28/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
CARLOS, CHRISTOPHER	816	10/16/2012	GUY VENIER
CHARTIER, KEITH F	816	7/2/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
CUNNINGHAM, CECIL W	815	4/17/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
DANIELSON, ROBERT	816	12/7/2014	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
EICHOLTZ, CHARLES F	840	12/23/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MCDONNALL PAUL	817	8/1/2003	FAMILY VERIFIED
MICKALSEN, MORGAN	815	11/2/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MONCRIEF, ANDY E	817	2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
PIERCE, JAMES B	817	3/17/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
PRITCHETT, THOMAS	816	1/7/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
RACKLEY, CLIFFORD W	817	1/28/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
ROSS, JAMES	816	3/11/2004	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SOLOW, ROBERT I	815	2/5/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SZAFRANSKI, JOSEPH E	815	4/29/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)

Membership News

Greetings comrades:

I want to thank all the members who sent me get well cards. I am now home with all my computers and printers. As information is sent to me, I can update all the records right away instead of having to wait for a ride to my house. It is great to be home again after 5 months of “assisted living” locations. I drive to the cemetery and feed the blue jays and squirrels every day and they come to meet me since they know my car and I park in the same location near my last resting place. God willing, I will be able to make Oklahoma City this fall. Take care. Hope to see you in Oklahoma City this fall. Living in an assisted home is for the birds.



Guy



***** IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ *****

With the inception of the 483rd Legacy Fund, a proposal is being made for a change to Article III, Part C of the Constitution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association to provide for funds of the association to go to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund if/when the association ceases to exist.

This is a proposal to change the first paragraph of Article III, Part C of the Constitution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association in its entirety and to replace it by the following:

"Dissolution of the Association may only be enacted by a majority vote of the Qualified Members at an Annual Reunion and during the Association's Business Meeting. Proxies will not be accepted. The President and Secretary shall thereupon prepare and execute Articles of Dissolution authorizing the Board of Directors to transfer the remaining assets of the Association over to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated in the State of Missouri."

As per Article V of the Constitution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association, this proposal is respectfully submitted for consideration of the members.

Did You Know?

(This article was written as a follow-up to last quarter's newsletter story - Project Frantic Mission "X")

The Real Russian Collusion

by Leon Waldman
(June 2018)

It was late May 1944 and we had about 15 to 20 missions to our credit. We had recently got a new B-17G to replace the old war weary "Bad Penny" that had over 100 missions. It had been given to us when the 99th Bomb Group "grabbed" the new G models that we had flown over from Hunter Field. I was glad to have a closed window waist gun position again! No more -40°F wind blowing into the waist area! Word came down from Headquarters that we were to prepare a travel bag with Class A uniform, shaving stuff, etc. for a mission. Very unusual!

At this time I made a big mistake! Had some words with my co-pilot, lost my cool and threatened him. The worst thing I ever did in my military career. Staff Sergeants should not mouth off to Lieutenants. As a consequence I was grounded, ordered to dig a 4x4x4 hole for a latrine. I got off cheap! I was alone with our dog who gave birth to 3 pups while our group was bombing the Balkens. They flew out on a mission and instead of returning to Sterperone, flew on to Mirograd, Russia. June 2, 1944 – a date to remember! A few days later they flew another mission out of Russia and back to Russia.

Around June 11th they flew out on a third mission in the Balkens and then returned to our base. On this mission Russell Burney, who took my position in right waist gun was knocked down by a 20 MM shell that a German fighter threw into the tail wheel area. Fortunately, some of its force was absorbed by the bags the guys had packed in that area. Russell was not hurt but I always thought about the possibility that had I been in a different position and caught a slug in my body! Fate?

A short time later the Mighty 8th Air Force pulled a similar stunt but it did not come off so well. They lost 48 of their B-17s on the ground to German bombers in one night, so that was the end of the shuttle missions.

It was not brought out until much later about the timing of the 483rd's missions during June 2-11, 1944. D-Day, June 6th, took some pressure off at

Normandy forcing the Germans to move planes to the Russian front - and now you know the rest of the story.

2018 Reunion – Oklahoma City September 25-29, 2018

The 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association Reunion in Oklahoma City will be held September 25-29, 2018. Don't wait to make your hotel reservation:

Holiday Inn OKC Airport
4401 SW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Phone: 1-405-601-7272
Toll-free: 1-800-HOLIDAY

The room rate is \$99.00 plus tax per day, including two breakfast coupons per room. The Holiday Inn OKC caters to reunion groups, especially the military, and is a very pleasant and upscale property conveniently located close to OKC Airport (~5 miles, 10 minutes) with free shuttle buses that can be arranged. Be sure that when you make your hotel reservation you tell the person you speak with that you are with the 483rd Bombardment Group.

Here's a list of the tours that are planned:

The American Pigeon Museum

We have arranged a private tour of this very interesting museum with the focus on how pigeons supported the Allies in WWII. Communications improved considerably between World Wars I and II, but pigeons were still used throughout World War II as supplemental and emergency means of communication. Their duties varied depending on the branch of service. But wherever the army, navy, coast guard, or marines went, pigeons likely went, too. Taken across enemy lines by patrols in pursuit of valuable information, they returned with news on the location and strength of enemy troops, gun positions, pending attacks, traffic conditions, and other vital data. Pigeons were the only means of communication for some advanced observation posts where terrain or proximity to enemy lines



made it impossible to string wire or use a radio. Carried in baskets, in a sling under the arm, or in a patrol member's shirtfront, the birds were released under fire, and most succeeded in getting through.

The Science Museum Oklahoma



This the state's premier destination of hands-on science experiences with thousands of space, aviation and cultural artifacts. The museum offers

intriguing exhibits, exciting live science experiments, demonstration shows and more.

Myriad Botanical Gardens

Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's most beautiful and vibrant garden and park spaces offering visitors a 15-acre natural escape in the heart of downtown. The centerpiece of the Myriad Botanical Gardens is the Crystal Bridge Conservatory, home to thousands of beautifully displayed tropical and desert plantings. We will have guided tours to discover 750 varieties of plants, a cascading waterfall, and a sky bridge to experience stunning views into the tropical forest.



OKC Museum of Art



The Museum's collection covers a period of five centuries with highlights in European and American art, and one of the largest

stunning collections of glass sculpture by Dale Chihuly. We will enjoy lunch on our own (reasonably priced menu) in the Museum Café, which features light lunches with a nice ambiance.

Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum

The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum stands as a symbol of strength in the wake of unspeakable violence. We will have a guided



docent tour of the Memorial Museum to experience the brutality of the Oklahoma City bombing, and the tenderness of the response. We will also have a National Park Ranger guided tour of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

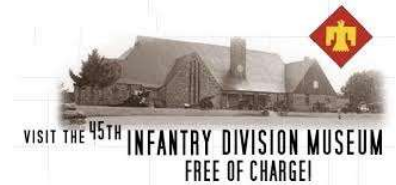


We will begin with lunch at the Museum Grill (included in tour price). Lunch will be followed by docent guided tours of

Prosperity Junction (a replica frontier town), Art of the American West Gallery featuring iconic Western artists (most notably the Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell collections), Native American Gallery representing American Indian art, and Western Performers Gallery (a tribute to the shaping of the movie cowboy, including stars such as John Wayne).

45th Infantry Division Museum

The 45th Infantry Division served 511 days in battle during World War II, participating in 8 campaigns. The



World War II gallery examines the actions of the Thunderbirds from Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. One of the finest collections of American military weapons in the nation, the Reaves Collection was acquired by the museum in 1980. The collection features firearms and related artifacts dating from the Revolutionary War through Vietnam! See original drawings by Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin whose characters, Willie and Joe, chronicled the lives of the infantrymen in World War II, using both humor and sobering realism to tell their story.

Tinker Air Force Base



Tinker Air Force Base is honored to show our veterans and their families a very interesting guided tour of these facilities, critical to preserving our nation's safety and defense. The tour

will be followed by a sumptuous buffet at the Tinker Club (included with tour). More

Tinker Air Force Base was named in honor of Major General Clarence L. Tinker of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. General Tinker lost his life while leading a flight of LB-30 "Liberators" on a long-range strike against Japanese forces on Wake Island during the early months of World War II.

Tinker AFB's history began in 1940 when a group of Oklahoma City civic leaders and businessmen learned that the War Department was considering the central United States as a location for a maintenance and supply depot. On April 8, 1941, the order was officially signed awarding the depot to Oklahoma City.

During World War II, Tinker's industrial plant repaired B-24 and B-17 bombers and fitted B-29s for combat.

Tinker's largest organization is the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex. It is the largest of three depot repair complexes in the Air Force Materiel Command. It provides depot maintenance on the C/KC-135, B-1B, B-52 and E-3 aircraft, expanded phase maintenance on the Navy E-6 aircraft, and maintenance, repair and overhaul of engines for the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Navy and foreign military sales. Additionally, the complex is responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of a myriad of Air Force and Navy airborne accessory components, and the development and sustainment of a diverse portfolio of operational flight programs, test program sets, automatic test equipment, and industrial automation software.

Today, with more than 26,000 military and civilian employees, Tinker is the largest single-site employer in Oklahoma.

***** IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ *****

Our tour of Tinker Air Force Base and dinner at the Tinker Club will require more information to be included with your registration. On the back of the registration form, you will find a form to fill out and send with your registration. This information must be completed for each person covered by the registration form and match each person's ID. You will notice there is a place for a "Registration Number". That number is really for your social security number. Also, do not use hyphens (-). An example is 123456387, rather than 123-45-6387.

Bricktown Water Taxi

We booked a one hour cruise floating down the Bricktown Canal to the Oklahoma Land Run Monument. The Monument commemorates the opening of the Unassigned Land in Oklahoma Territory with the Land Run of 1889. The frenzied energy and emotion from one instant during the run is captured in bronze by artist Paul Moore, and is one of the world's largest bronze sculptures featuring 45 heroic figures of land run participants, frozen in motion as they race to claim new homesteads.



After a short stop at the Monument the boat will return to the Bricktown dock, where the bus will depart back to the hotel. Some may wish to stay in the vibrant Bricktown Entertainment District to enjoy its nightlife, and can arrange self-transportation back to the hotel.

From the Fundraising Coordinator:

UPDATE - 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund

As a reminder - the reason we created the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund is to provide a long-term vehicle to continue the goals and purposes of the existing 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association.

The Legacy Fund has already received over \$5,000 so far from board/committee members, and one donor-advised fund at a charitable foundation.

By the way - If you have a donor-advised fund at a community foundation, you can make donations from that donor-advised fund to the Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund is a 501(c)3 organization. This is NOT true for the 483rd Bombardment Group Association, which is a 501(c)19 organization.

President Russell Daniel has given us the challenge of building our war-chest to over \$75,000 within the first 3 years of our organization. We have also been contacting various corporations to seek their financial support of our endeavors. Hopefully, this will bear fruit, and we will experience a dramatic increase in our treasury.

We want to extend an appeal to the entire membership of the Association to make a tax-

deductible donation. Please consider donating now to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund. No amount is too small...or too large!

You can send donations to:

David Raffel, 483rd Legacy Fund, 1105 NW 91st Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64155

If you have any questions about the Legacy Fund, please contact Russell Daniel at: RDaniel@HostWorks.com; or Dave Raffel at: DaveRaffel@Gmail.com.

Support the 483rd

Excitement is building for our upcoming 40th reunion in Oklahoma City from September 25th thru the 29th. It will be wonderful to see old friends and meet new friends in the process of paying tribute to the heroes of the 483rd Bombardment Group.

Given the reality of the dwindling numbers of actual 483rd heroes, it is increasingly up to us who comprise the second and third generations of the 483rd to carry on their memories and legacies.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help in this effort.

Your contributions will not only keep our organization vibrant, but they will also help us perpetuate the history of the 483rd at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. We also give out annual scholarships to ROTC students pursuing a future career in military aviation.

There are now two ways that you can make a charitable contribution. The quickest way is to go to www.GoFundMe.com/483rd-Bombardment-Group-Association and contribute using your credit card.

The second way is to write a check to the 483rd Bombardment Group Association and send it to our treasurer: Mr. Leon Waldman, 14630 Dickens Street, Apt. #108, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3610.

We need your help to perpetuate the memories and legacies of the heroes of the 483rd!

*** Contributions are tax-deductible. ***

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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 (Deceased) 1995
Harold D. Leveridge (Deceased) 1996
William I Jeffs (Deceased) 1997
George F. Stovall 1998 (Deceased)
John A. Campbell (Deceased) 1999
Verne H. Cole (Deceased) 2000
Benjamin H. Adams Jr. (Deceased) 2001
Robert W. Mitchell (Deceased) 2002
John P. Nobel (Deceased) 2003
Curtis B. Clark 2004
Fredric A. Hicks (Deceased) 2005
Wilfrid Hebert 2006
Stanton "Mike" Rickey 2007
Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008
Jim Ashley (Deceased) 2009
Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012
Sandee West Maeda 2013, 2014, 2015
Harold Chubbs 2016
Dennis West 2017

483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion - Registration Form

Oklahoma City, OK

September 25 to 29, 2018

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) Reunion" and send to Jay Clifton, 7589 Bittersweet Drive, Gurnee, IL 60031. Any questions concerning Hotel Reservations, Meals, Tours, Registration or general reunion questions call or text Jay at (847) 217-7485 or email: cliftonjay57@gmail.com.

Please complete all registrants' names & circle whether Veteran, Wife, Widow, Friend or Guest

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

Squadron _____ Email Address: _____ Phone (____) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

Date	Event	Price	No Attending	Total
Tuesday 9/25, 1:00 pm	Early Bird Tour: The American Pigeon Museum and Science Museum Oklahoma	\$38.00		
Wednesday 9/26, 8:30 am	Wednesday Tour: Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma Museum of Art (Lunch on your own at Oklahoma Museum of Art Cafe)	\$40.00		
Wednesday 9/26, 6:30 pm	Welcome/Memories Night Dinner & No Host Bar (5:30 – 6:30) Choice of: Chicken Breast (#____), Roasted Pork Loin(#____), or Shrimp Primavera in Alfredo Sauce (#____)	\$35.00		
Thursday 9/27, 9:00 am	Thursday Tour: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, Nat'l Cowboy Museum (lunch included), 45 th Infantry Division Museum (Dinner on Your Own Around Hotel)	\$52.00		
Thursday 9/27, 7:30 pm	YounGuns Dessert Reception For those interested there will be a No Host Bricktown Pub Crawl following YounGuns Reception	\$12.00		
Friday 9/28, 9:00 am	Ladies' Brunch: American Breakfast Buffet Entertainment to be announced.	\$23.00		
Friday 9/28, 12:30 pm	Friday Tour: Tinker Air Force Base Guided Tour, Dinner at Tinker AFB, Bricktown Water Taxi and OK Land Run Monument..	\$70.00		
Saturday 9/29, 6:30 pm	483rd Banquet, No Host Bar, Pictures (5:00 - 6:30 pm) Combination Dinner of Chicken and Steak	\$50.00		
	Registration Fee Per Person (EXCEPT VETERANS)	\$25.00		
	Late Registration Fee*** Per Person after September	\$25.00		
			TOTAL	

Mail Registration Form & Check payable to "483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion" to Jay Clifton. (See address above.)

***A late registration fee will be imposed for registering after the registration deadline of September 15, 2018, with special exceptions for health issues. This was initiated at the 2013 483rd General Business Meeting to help plan tours and schedule buses. Reunion registration cancellations will be accepted until September 15, 2018 without fee or penalty, so . . . please help by registering early.

Come -- Enjoy -- Have Fun !!!

Information for Security Clearance at Tinker Air Force Base

Note: Veterans with DOD ID do not need to fill-out for themselves but must for family/friends.

1	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
2	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
3	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
4	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
5	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
6	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	