

**815<sup>th</sup>****816<sup>th</sup>****817<sup>th</sup>****840<sup>th</sup>**

# 483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

**VOLUME 42**
**September 2019**
**NUMBER 3**

## President's Message

Dear 483rd Members,

The 483rd reunion for 2019 is coming. This year in Dallas, Texas with the 15th Air Force veterans. It will be an exciting time for all of us. We can make new friends, share stories, and gain deeper understanding of other's WWII experiences. It will provide an opportunity to thank the veterans for their service. Furthermore, recall the ones who already passed away. All are invited to join us September 19-22, 2019 in Dallas.

I would like to thank all the past and present contributors to the newsletter. The articles have helped everyone gain a greater understanding of events and personal experiences during WWII.

Thanks to Bruce for putting together the newsletter year after year.

Jay has worked tirelessly in putting together the reunion in Dallas and is our incoming President!

Great!

**Mark Halebsky**

## 2019 Reunion – Dallas, TX September 19–22, 2019

As discussed in our Business Meeting during last year's reunion, the 483rd Bombardment Group will join other bomb groups of the 15th Air Force for this year's reunion, to be held September 19-22, 2019 in Dallas Texas.

So far, I have received about a dozen individual and group registrations, but we certainly hope more of our veterans, families and friends will attend this gathering.

We recognize we need to minimize costs on hotel and tours. By partnering with the larger group,

we will achieve this goal and meet new friends. We will continue to have our own activities including a private group dinner, YounGuns, board meetings and our solemn memorial service. However, we will join the larger group banquet and two tours. We agreed to reduce the number of group tours to two tours to minimize fatigue and walking. The two scheduled tours include AT&T Dallas Cowboys Stadium (Friday) and the Frontiers of Flight Museum (Sunday). There are two other excellent venues as optional early-bird tours (Sixth Floor Museum and Bush Memorial Library), but they do not accommodate large groups. Please note your interest in these tours on the form so I can plan accordingly.

The hotel is the Wyndham Garden of North Dallas. Due to the hotel's already low rate and an incentive from the municipality of Farmers Branch Texas, we are receiving a special room rate of \$71.20 (per night + taxes) for single, double or ADA accessible rooms.

Reserve your room online now by using the website address below:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/gn/bombardment-reunion-20191>

Or, you may also reserve by calling Reservations Manager Kharin Hanes at the hotel's in-house reservations desk. Call (972) 243-3363 Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Central Time and ask for Kharin.

- Mention you are reserving with "Bombardment Reunion 2019" to receive the group rate.
- If you have mobility issues, ask Kharin for a room with the shortest walking distance to the hotel lobby.
- If you need an ADA accessible room, be sure to ask.
- If you have these or any other special requests, you must ask otherwise they will not know how to help you.

**Reservations must be made by ASAP!** If you need to cancel for any reason, you may do so without penalty if you cancel by 6:00 PM CST on the day before your arrival.

- The group rate is available between September 16-24, 2019.
- A full, hot breakfast buffet for two is included with each room. Additional persons in a room may purchase the buffet for only \$5 per person.
- Parking is plentiful and complimentary.
- The hotel shuttle is available for BOTH Love Field and DFW airports.

### **Here is our itinerary:**

#### **Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Arrival and Check-In Day. Registration desk and hospitality room is open from mid-morning. Deli sandwiches, various snacks and drinks provided throughout the day.

6:30PM -- An optional informal welcome dinner (most likely an Italian buffet with extra help to carry plates for our folks) followed by a short welcome and information meeting. The mayor of Farmers Branch will welcome our group. The hospitality room will reopen after the dinner meeting.

#### **Friday, September 20, 2019**

**9:00AM** -- Depart the hotel to tour AT&T Cowboys Stadium, have lunch, and return to the hotel by 3:00PM. <http://attstadium.com/tours>

**5:00PM** -- Private Social Hour (cash bar)

**6:00PM** -- Dinner for our individual 483rd Bombardment Group

#### **Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**Morning TBD:** Board Meetings

**Morning TBD:** Ladies' Brunch and Crafts Demo led by Nancy Clifton

**Morning TBD:** Veterans and Guest Speaker Presentations. We'll have 15-minute bathroom breaks between each session and lunch break of 1-1 ½ hours at mid-day.

**5:00PM** -- Photo Session

**5:15PM** -- All Groups Social Hour (cash bar)

**6:00PM** -- Banquet Dinner

**7:00PM** -- Musical entertainment provided by Ladies for Liberty (Andrews Sisters type USO show) <http://ladiesforliberty.com/about/>

**8:30PM** -- Program ends, hospitality room reopens.

#### **Sunday, September 22, 2019**

**8:30AM** -- Optional Church Service

**10:00AM** -- Military Memorial Ceremony

**11:00AM** -- 483rd Bombardment Group Memorial Service

**1:00PM** -- Depart hotel for tour of Frontiers of Flight Museum <https://www.flightmuseum.com/>

**4:00PM** -- Depart the Frontiers of Flight Museum for return to the hotel

**6:00PM** -- Informal farewell dinner; hospitality room reopens after dinner

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## **Membership News**

Comrades:

After many discussions with my daughter, we decided to stay home from this reunion in Dallas. I've attended 37 reunions, which include several in Dallas. The hassel at the airports with wheelchair was to much for me and my daughter. I do get around my home with wheel chair and am able to wheel myself to my computers and printers. I only hope that the dues paying members would step up and make a donation or at least pay their dues. I am able to handle my computers an drive to the bank to make deposits. Give my regards to whoever asks about me.

*Guy*



TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squad	Date	Reported By
BENOIT, RAYMOND	815	2/8/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
CAMPBELL, WILLIAM	817	12/2/2011	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
DIECKMAN, LESLIE B	815	8/5/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
FAIRBANKS, ARTHUR	815	4/9/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
FINLAYSON, CHARLES R	840	7/10/2015	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
FLETCHER, WILLIAM R	815	7/9/2019	OLAH FLETCHER
LEBLANC, HERBERT P	816	4/16/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MCGINNIS JR GEORGE	815	9/9/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
PIERCE, JAMES BRUCE	817	3/17/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
STREET, MARION	815	6/19/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
WAGNER, FRANCIS S	816	4/14/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
WAGNER, KENNETH E	816	1/15/2019	KENT WAGNER
WATSON, OLIVER	815	6/13/2019	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
WHITE, DONALD E	817	8/20/2014	GUY VENIER (OBIT)

### Did You Know?

*This section contains reprints of selected stories and other interesting information from newsletters published during the past years and other 483rd BG publications.*

#### FROM THE U.S. TO ITALY WITH THE FLIGHT ECHELON

*Written by the 1989 Newsletter Staff  
(Vol. 9, No. 4, August 1989, page 6)*

Upon leaving MacDill Field the B-17Gs were flown to Hunter Field Georgia with key Ground Support Personnel as passengers. In some cases, non-essential flight crew members were transferred to the Surface Echelon reporting to Camp Patrick Henry for transport by ship to the overseas destination. The key Ground Support personnel were being flown to the overseas base to set up support for the planes enroute, and upon arrival at the theater of operations to set up initial support facilities at temporary bases until the 483rd's operating base was established. At Hunter Field all members of the Flight Echelon received the usual medical examinations, shots, special equipment, etc., required for overseas duty including orientation for flights to overseas bases. On departure from Hunter Field, each crew received sealed orders that were to be opened only after reaching the first day's point of no return. When opened, these orders called for a South American, South Atlantic, Africa and Italy flight.

Of the total number of planes sent to Italy by the 483rd B.G. there was only one that failed to make it. This plane went down in the South Atlantic on March 14th. Problems began to develop at 11:30 p.m. when

one engine malfunctioned and caught fire. The pilot was unable to feather the propeller or extinguish the flames, consequently the wing began to burn. Finally, the engine dropped from the wing mounts at about 10,000 ft. giving about 5 minutes to prepare for ditching. The pilot achieved a successful crash landing in pitch darkness. The plane broke into two parts and sank within seconds.

Twelve hours later a seaplane located the one life raft that had been released, dropped additional rafts, oranges and water. The sea was too rough for the plane to land and pick up those in the raft. Twenty-four hours later a destroyer-escort arrived and took all on board. All men escaped without injury with the exception of one major impairment, and were returned to Recife, Brazil. Transportation was provided and everyone continued their flight to Italy.

There were other situations which interrupted the scheduled flight plans of individual planes, but in general, the flight plans called for the following:

Puerto Rico Flight time—6 hr. 15 min.

British Guyana Flight time - 6 hr. 30 min.

Belen, Brazil Flight time - 5 hr. 30 min.

Natal, Brazil Flight time - 6 hr. 30 min

At the Natal stop thorough inspection from nose to tail and top to bottom were made by Ground Support Units. Extra fuel tanks were installed in bomb bays and additional supplies added to the cargo, some Government and some personal.

Dakar, Africa Flight time - 11 hr.

Marrakech/Casablanca, Morocco

Flight time - 8 hr.

Bizerte/Tunis, Tunisia

Flight time - 7 hr. 15 min.

Foggia, Italy      Flight time - 3 hr. 30 min.

Upon reaching Foggia, the planes were temporarily assigned to bases being used by other Fifth Wing Bomb Groups and began flying combat missions from these bases while the 483rd base at Sterparone was being readied. Six missions were flown during this interval with the 1st mission to Split, Yugoslavia on April 12th. All planes and personnel were transferred on April 22nd to Sterparone and began their first mission from home base on April 23rd to Wiener Neustadt, Austria.

## **GROUND SUPPORT DUTIES AT THE ORDERLY ROOM**

Written by J.A.McCord (840th), Felix L. Cardenas (840th), and the Newsletter Staff  
(Vol. 9, No. 4, August 1989, page 5)

Every worthwhile organization must have a focal point for the handling of the organization's administrative duties. Such was the function of the Squadron Orderly Room. And because it was frequently the place where unwanted assignments were issued, most squadron members avoided going beyond the nearby Bulletin Board and Mailroom. The unvoiced feeling among squadron members appeared to be, "I'll leave you to work, if you'll leave my name from special details."

The overall supervision of the Orderly Room and squadron management fell upon the First Sergeant. Among his duties were all the functions related to: Squadron records; the living area; recreation; sanitation; discipline enforcement; insect control; fire safety; and carrying out orders of the Commanding Officer. He also assigned the Orderly Room staff their specific duties for handling other than routine jobs. He conducted inspections; assigned men to Charge of Quarters; sentry duty etc.; welcomed newly arrived men and assigned them quarters; authorized passes for off-base trips; and headed squadron troop formations.

To aid the First Sergeant, he had an assistant that handled many of the routine things assigned by the First Sergeant. The assistant also reviewed all documents received and those sent out from the Orderly Room, and followed through on those items requiring close supervision until completed.

One of the benefits of being in the military service was the pay received and its disbursement. This work was handled by one other member of the

Orderly Room staff known as the Paymaster. It was his job to see that all matters pertaining to a man's allotment; his monthly cash payment and other financial provisions were kept current. In addition to handling individual problems it was also his duty to obtain from 15th Air Force Finance Office (near San Severo) the cash required for pay day, and for supplemental payrolls to cover newly arrived men, including per diem and travel pay when due. Once the payroll was distributed, the record for each man assigned to the squadron had to be adjusted to show the transaction. The payroll for Italian civilian employees was another job handled by the Payroll Clerk.

Another essential job in the Orderly Room was the Classification Specialist. He was responsible for all "Form 20" records. Should a job assignment be changed for any member of the squadron, this staff member made it official by recording the fact in a man's file. Information for these records came from the Morning Report, Special Orders, and many other notices that passed through the Orderly Room. In addition to keeping up-to-date personal records, he was required also to prepare monthly reports for Group headquarters on the number of men serving in each classification. In addition to these assignments, he wrote a squadron history report for Group at the end of each month, and in some squadrons a weekly newspaper about squadron personalities and activities.

The Morning Report was a full-time assignment for another member of the Orderly Room staff. This daily record contained information on all enlisted men and was obtained from many sources. Such information as who was on sick leave; hospitalized; transfers (in and out); those on furlough and rest camp; men on active duty; deaths; and contacting the units where this information originated. The preparation and maintenance of notices for the Bulletin Board were also a routine assignment for this staff member.

And there was the Mail Clerk - everyone's friend, whose job it was to pick up both personal and official incoming mail at Headquarters for the squadron. And to deliver outgoing personal mail to the censorship office, as well as the delivery of official mail to Group. Incoming personal mail was given top priority for distribution to the troops.

There was one more assignment within the Orderly Room's scope of operation that changed

each day, it was the "Charge of Quarters" (CQ) position. This assignment was rotated each day and was for a 24-hour tour of duty. The CQ's job was to provide Orderly Room service after the permanent staff had finished their day's work. The CQ handled the sign-in and sign-out record; answered all telephone calls after the staff had left for the evening; made periodic inspections of the Squadron area for fire safety and security; and remained alert for any emergency that arose. He was also responsible for wake-up of mess hall personnel, Engineering pre-flight crews (one hour before "H" Hour), and Flight crews at "H" Hour.

Because of the effectiveness of our Orderly Rooms, the 483rd produced a smooth-running organization that achieved high efficiency with a minimum of distraction.

The newsletter staff appreciates the assistance and guidance provided by who have made this report possible.

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### \*\*\* Fundraising Appeal \*\*\*

The 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund is dedicated to preserving the memory & the legacy of the heroic men who bravely comprised this B-17 bomb group during World War II. Without their determination and sacrifice the World War II may not have had the same outcome as it did.

We are asking you to consider making a contribution to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund to help us continue their legacy.

The 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 organization that will provide a long-term vehicle to continue the goals and purposes of the already existing 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association. These goals and purposes include, financially supporting the wonderful 483rd display at the Museum of Aviation at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia and providing annual scholarships to college students who are pursuing a future career in military aviation.

Please help us perpetuate the memory of the 483rd Bombardment Group! There are two ways that you can make a charitable contribution:

- You can write a check for the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund and send it to: Mr. David Raffel, 5951 NW 63rd Terrace #1415, Kansas City, MO 64151.

- You can also go to [www.gofundme.com/483rd-bombardment-group-legacy-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/483rd-bombardment-group-legacy-fund) and contribute using your credit card.

If you have any questions, or want more information, contact David at 913-709-3382. Also, please feel free to share this appeal with your family and friends thru e-mail and social media.

Donations are tax-deductible.

### \*\*\* Support the 483rd in Your Estate Plan \*\*\*

You can provide vital financial support for the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund even after you're gone, so that we can continue our mission of perpetuating the legacy of our heroes from the Greatest Generation.

This can be done by a "bequest" in your estate plan.

A bequest is a gift from your estate, made by including language in your will or living trust, that names the 483rd Bombardment Legacy Fund as a beneficiary. The bequest can be made as a specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or specific property.

Here is some sample bequest language:

"I, (your name), of (your city, state, zip), give, devise, and bequest to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund (specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or specific property) to be used towards fulfilling the mission of the organization."

Whatever amount you would consider giving would make a huge difference in our long-term efforts. Your bequest will not only keep our organization vibrant, but it will also help us perpetuate the legacy 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.

For more information on how this can be done, we encourage you to consult with your personal accountant or estate planning attorney. If we can also be of help to you in achieving your planned giving goals for the 483rd, please feel free to contact Dave Raffel at [DaveRaffel@Gmail.com](mailto:DaveRaffel@Gmail.com).

## **YOUR 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **WEB SITE**

483rdBombGroup.org

## **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 (Deceased) 2006  
Stanton "Mike" Rickey 2007  
Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008  
Jim Ashley (Deceased) 2009  
Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012  
Santee West Maeda 2013, 2014, 2015  
Harold Chubbs 2016  
Dennis West 2017  
Russell Daniel 2018



# BOMB GROUPS REUNION

September 19—22, 2019 Dallas, Texas



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group 483rd Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names as they are to appear on name tags: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in Early Bird Tours? ☐ Sixth Floor Museum ☐ Bush Memorial Library ☐ None

Registration fee # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>—Welcome Dinner, Italian Buffet

#people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.50 Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>—Tour AT&T Dallas Cowboys Stadium with gourmet lunch & drinks

# people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Group Dinners:

Grilled Filet 10 oz. # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$37.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Salmon # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Eggplant Parmesan # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

All Groups Banquet:

New York Strip 12 oz. # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$34.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rosemary Lemon Chicken # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Tart (Chef's Choice of Veggies) # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.50 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

Lunch on your own today. Tour in afternoon

Tour Frontiers of Flight Museum # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$29.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Farewell Dinner—Farewell Fajitas # people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a wheelchair? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form along with your check payable to Jay Clifton:

Jay Clifton 7589 Bittersweet Drive, Gurnee IL 60031