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483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

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President's Message

Dear 483rd Members,

In my last message, I announced that we had confirmed our annual Reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico for September 10-13, 2020.

Unfortunately, I share sad news that the 2020 Reunion is postponed until September 9-12, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 15th Air Force Reunion Committee voted on this decision with much discussion and consternation. I contacted several 483rd Bombardment Group families and we agreed that we must reduce risk and take care of ourselves. As one member so clearly expressed: We are the 483rd BG Family. We miss each other and certainly want to get together again!

The rationale for postponing the Reunion:

- Most legitimate scientific and medical advice limits larger crowd interactions until next year or vaccine availability
- As a second wave develops, states may institute travel bans limiting travel to only essential travel again
- It is unlikely that we will get good participation because most attendees are in the senior age group demographic

Nevertheless, we look forward to our Reunion in Albuquerque in 2021. In this newsletter you will find more information about interesting sites and adventure in the Albuquerque area from our Publicity Chairman, Sandee West Maeda.

Considering the constant depressing news about the pandemic, I can share a positive story. I worked 38 years for a renowned American medical device and pharmaceutical company in

Chicago and Germany. I was an engineering and technical support manager responsible for manufacturing medically necessary diagnostic tests to detect infectious diseases. The reason I share my background is because I am still communicating with my former colleagues. I can assure you that this professional team of scientists, doctors and dedicated employees are working tirelessly to develop accurate molecular tests for COVID virus and accurate blood tests for COVID antibodies (measurement of protective immunity). Other renowned companies are developing therapies and vaccines, hopefully available by late 2020. Care must be exercised until such time as a vaccine or treatment becomes available.

The pandemic has changed us. The sacrifice of quarantine/lockdown has been tough but there are some positive outcomes we personally recognize. We have noticed changes that may be beneficial in the long run. Although we miss fine dining at fantastic Chicagoland restaurants, we are enjoying home-cooked meals. I am blessed that my wife Nancy is a fabulous cook, but she has some new "sourdough obsession" and her sourdough starter is like a family pet. We are prioritizing family and loving watching our grandchildren grow. We have been playing Charades with friends via Zoom; strange but fun. And for our mental health we are spending more time in nature. We have beautiful forest preserves where we walk and bike. Just sitting on our patio listening to birds and relaxing is very therapeutic. We hope you are remaining optimistic and feeling blessed during these stressful times. I know the veterans lived through the Great Depression and World War II. This pandemic is another life challenge, but this too shall pass.

In closing, I am proud to serve as your 483rd Bombardment Group President. Please continue to contact me with any questions or suggestions. As one of our members so eloquently stated, "We are family"!

Jay Clifton



member who was in the 483rd. It appears that I may soon run out of sources on the internet, I will have to try and find another or stop looking.

Take care,

Guy Venier

Membership Secretary

TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter		
Name	Date	Reported By
Carrillo, Edward B	9/11/2015	Guy Venier (Obit)
Debolt, Forrest E (Frosty)	4/24/2008	Guy Venier (Obit)
Dewa, Alexander J	9/26/2008	Guy Venier (Obit)
Dunning, John C	4/3/2011	Guy Venier (Obit)
Fitzpatrick, Thomas	12/1/2018	Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Foster, Gordon D	3/11/2016	Guy Venier (Obit)
Grindal, Waldo O	2/13/2007	Guy Venier (Obit)
Guernsey, Homer Lee	12/9/2011	Guy Venier (Obit)
Holder, C Wayne	1/7/2005	Guy Venier (Obit)
Meaux Sr, Richard C	10/20/2008	Guy Venier (Obit)
Micelli, Charles V	5/1/2007	Guy Venier (Obit)
Miller, Henry James	3/7/2007	Guy Venier (Obit)
Reinhard, John W	12/18/2001	Guy Venier (Obit)
Schmutz, Elwood August	7/14/2010	Guy Venier (Obit)
Stinger, Charles J	2/15/2014	Guy Venier (Obit)
Worcester, Winthrop	1/15/2015	Guy Venier (Obit)

Membership News

Dear Comrades:

It seems this article is coming around quite often. I have exhausted as to what to print since my article seems to be the same one every printing. Since I do not hear from the membership I have to find things to write about. I have exhausted using the internet to find any members of the 483rd who have died so I can enter the names in the monthly reports. I look in my taps books and if the name is not there or in the roster, it means I have found a



Notes from the Publicity Chair...

Since the Reunion has been postponed to September 2021, I thought I would give you some of the sights Albuquerque has to offer. I know that we were in Albuquerque a few years ago so I have tried to give you sights that we did not visit at that reunion or the sights we will visit in 2021. These suggestions could be visited either before or after the reunion should you be interested.

Casa Rondeña Winery

733 Chavez Rd NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, NM 87107

Casa Rondeña Winery was lovingly established in late 1995 as a family undertaking, with the first plantings in 1990 at the hands of vintner John Calvin and his two young sons, Ross

and Clayton. The Tasting Room opened in August 1997 and a winery building, with a commemorative Tricentennial bell tower, was completed in the autumn of 2004. In 2008, a new barrel aging and storage facility, including the Founder's Rotunda, was built in order to expand production capability of the winery and hold special events for winery members and special guests. www.casarondena.com

Rattlesnake Museum

202 San Felipe St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

The American International Rattlesnake Museum is an animal conservation museum located in Albuquerque, New Mexico in Old Town Albuquerque. The museum is devoted to snakes, particularly rattlesnakes, and is dedicated to rattlesnake education. The museum also contains a gift shop. www.rattlesnakes.com

National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

The National Hispanic Cultural Center is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of Hispanic culture, arts, and humanities. The Center presents over 700 events and creates the opportunity for thousands more through its art museum, library, genealogy center, and educational resources. The NHCC is a division of the State of New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and is further supported by the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. www.nhccnm.org

The ABQ Biopark Botanic Garden

2601 Central Avenue NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The ABQ Biopark Botanic Garden is a 36-acre botanical garden located beside the Rio Grande. The garden showcases plants of the Southwest and other arid climates, and includes a 10,000-square-foot conservatory. One wing of the glass conservatory houses plants native to the Mediterranean climates zones of Spain, Portugal, Turkey, South Africa, Australia, Chile and California. A second wing features xeric plants from North American deserts. The garden also

features various exhibitions showcasing plants of different local habitats in New Mexico, medicinal plants, a butterfly pavilion and other attractions. The Garden's design was awarded as the 2019 Architecture + Community Award by the New Mexico Architectural Foundation. www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/biopark/garden

Old Town

www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/uploads/OTMA-Map.pdf

Old Town is the historic original town site of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the provincial kingdom of Santa Fe de Nuevo México, established in 1706 by New Mexico governor Francisco Cuervo y Valdés. It is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties as the Old Albuquerque Historic District, and is protected by a special historic zoning designation by the city. The present-day district contains about ten blocks of historic adobe buildings surrounding Old Town Plaza. On the plaza's north side stands San Felipe de Neri Church, a Spanish colonial church constructed in 1793. Old Town is a popular tourist destination with a large number of restaurants, shops, and galleries, and is also home to the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and the Explora science center are located a short distance to the northeast. Old Town is known for its luminaria displays during the holiday season, particularly on Christmas Eve. www.albuquerqueoldtown.com

Unser Racing Museum

1776 Montañó Road NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87107

The Unser Racing Museum, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S., is a non-profit museum celebrating the accomplishments of New Mexico's native racing family, the Unsers. The museum celebrates multiple generations of Unsers, from patriarch Jerry Unser, to Al Unser III and Mariana Unser as well. Shaped like a steering wheel, the museum features multiple exhibits, and actual racecars driven by the Unsers. There is also

a rotating exhibit, featuring a new racing aspect every few months. www.unserracingmuseum.com

Gruet Winery

8400 Pan American Freeway N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87113

Founded in 1984, Gruet Winery specializes in Méthode Champenoise sparkling wines. Family owned and run, the New Mexico-based winery produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay-based sparkling wines and a small collection of still wines, with roots originating from Gilbert Gruet's Champagne house in Bethon, France. More than 25 vintages later, Gruet Winery has achieved unprecedented acclaim and remains a favorite of the nation's top sommeliers. www.gruetwinery.com

***** 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, 612 Central Street #102, Kansas City, MO 64105.

- You can also go to www.gofundme.com/483rd-bombardment-group-legacy-fund and contribute using your credit card.

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

*** 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 will be distributing annual scholarships to ROTC students pursuing careers 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.

More on the Memingen Mission

Ludwig Hauber, German historian and Battlefield Archaeologist, has written a story about Stanton Rickey's participation in the Memingen Air Battle of 18 July 1944. It will be published in the June edition of a German magazine. Translation of Title is: "Time Story Bomber Pilot. A B-17 Pilot tells my toughest enemy flight". If you would like a copy of the story, I'm sure Stanton would be happy to send it to you – but you'll need to be able to read and understand the German language, as it is not translated to English.



There are few of us who would hesitate to label 100-octane fuel a very volatile and dangerous fluid, and agree that vibration is a most deadly hazard to tubing, piping and other fuel handling accessories found on aircraft. This combination always a deep concern of the Ground Support Crews required constant inspections after, in between and before each flight. Leakage of fuel could quickly turn into a destructive fire at any time an engine was started or the main switches turned on to check or use electrical equipment either on the ground or while in flight.

Such a situation developed one day in 1944 when Crew Chief Orville Murphy (815th) and his Ground Support Crew were making their "after flight and bomb loading inspections" and cleaning their B-17. The following quotation from Fifteenth Air Force orders dated September 23, 1944 briefly tells the story of what happened on July 31, 1944 and the recognition accorded Sgt. Murphy for devotion to his aircraft:

Award of the Soldier's Medal

"Orville D. Murphy, Technical Sergeant, 815th Bomb Sq., 483rd Bomb Gp. For heroism at great risk of life at an Allied Airfield in Italy on July 31, 1944. The airplane on which Sgt. Murphy was working was suddenly enveloped in a fire of undetermined origin. Realizing the imminent danger of explosion of the fuel and bomb load of this aircraft and the danger to other aircraft in the area, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Sgt. Murphy entered the burning aircraft, procured a fire extinguisher and battled the flames and successfully brought the fire under control. Though suffering from severe burns, he remained in the area to supervise the final suppression of the flames and the removing of fuses from the bombs. By his outstanding courage, professional skill and devotion to duty, in risking his life to save the lives of others and prevent destruction of vital equipment, Sgt. Murphy has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. By command of Major General Twining."

There is more to this award that isn't covered in the above citation, Sgt. Murphy was taken to the Army Hospital in San Severo where he was attended for third degree burns requiring five weeks of painful treatment before being returned to his squadron for a period of limited duty. Orville says there are still some things he recalls about his stay at the hospital. When he first arrived, his face and head was covered with a heavy

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.

GROUND SUPPORT CREWS FACED DAILY FIRE HAZARDS

By Clyde Barnes (840th)

(483rd Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 1, Dec. 1988, page 6-7)

paste-like substance by the doctor and his assistant, then wrapped in gauze. Later when the gauze was removed, his nose itched and when he automatically wiped it, part of the nose fell off. Fortunately, the nose healed and filled out to near its original shape. He now has practically no scars from his burns.

Though the orders awarding the Soldier's Medal to Sgt. Murphy doesn't relate the details of this accident, he has provided us with additional information that is of interest to all who serviced and flew our planes. The fire was caused when the main electrical switches were turned on for a routine inspection check and an electrical spark ignited fumes that had leaked from a minute penetration of a wing tank. The fuel fumes had filled the wing cavity and penetrated the bomb bay and fuselage areas at the time the main switches were turned on. As soon as the flames occurred, Sgt. Murphy seized a portable CO2 fire extinguisher and began to spray the flames and while one fellow crew member used another CO2 extinguisher to spray Sgt. Murphy's clothing, other crew members sprayed

inside the wing as they had been trained for such emergencies, with the result that the fire was quickly controlled with no serious damage to the aircraft.

T/Sgt. Murphy was older than most of us - he was 39 in 1944 - was soon promoted to Master Sergeant and later in 1944 was made Line Chief when the original Line Chief was rotated back to the U.S.

M/Sgt. Murphy says the Soldier's Medal and the Orders share a most honored place on his living room wall today and provide fond memories of the time in Italy with the 483rd Bomb Group and of those with whom he served. He also has this to say, "Courage is not rare among those who may seldom be called upon to demonstrate it, but most often, men will react to an emergency without any thought for their own safety as was the case when my plane caught fire and my crew immediately went into their fire drill, each man thinking the same thought, 'This can't happen to my plane!'"

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483rdBombGroup.org

PAST PRESIDENTS

Phillip A. Luetke (Deceased) 1980
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