

815th816th817th840th

483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME 44

December 2021

NUMBER 4

President's Message

Greetings to all during this holiday season. We hope you had the opportunity to share a family gathering during Thanksgiving. Nancy and I hosted Thanksgiving Dinner for the first time in many years. My elderly mother had always hosted this family tradition, but we were able to bring her from Ohio to our home in Illinois to celebrate with 17 family members!

As we look back on 2021, we are grateful for our blessings including the Reunion in Albuquerque New Mexico where our 483rd family came together. Personally, we welcomed our fourth beloved grandchild (third granddaughter) Hailee in April and our son Eric married Tori in September. My 98-year-old father-in-law Ken Hoffman continues to cherish life and flew an airplane for the first time in 50 years (many thanks to Howard White for making the arrangements – *see pictures of his flight on page 3*)!

We hope all of you are keeping healthy and living life to the fullest. We are blessed to be part of the 483rd family. I am proud to continue to serve as your 483rd Bombardment Group President. Please contact me with any questions or suggestions or just have a friendly chat.

We look forward to coming together again at the Reunion in Wichita Kansas in September 2022. We wish you every happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year!

Take care,
Jay Clifton



Heaven got another hero... from the Greatest Generation

(submitted by Michele Rickey-Pidd)

Lt. Col. USAF Retired, **Stanton Michael Rickey** died on November, 9, 2021 in Dallas, Oregon. In his words, *"I was a feisty old guy that the Nazi Luftwaffe failed to kill in 1944, but succumbed to cancer."* He had just celebrated his **101st birthday** with his wife Addie, and his five children (Jo Ellen Rickey Gagliano (Steve), Thomas Boyd Rickey (Sharon), Claire Anne Rickey Addison, Michele Leilani Rickey-Pidd (Michael), and Malia Helen Rickey Barrientos (Carlos) and various grandchildren in attendance. Those that couldn't make it in person participated in a lively Zoom call!

Stanton was born in San Francisco, CA on October 30, 1920 and moved to Marin County at age 3. From the US Marine Corps Reserve in high school, he was called to Active Duty in November 1940. He served in the initial Marine Expeditionary Force sent to the South Pacific in Jan 1942, then returned to enter Army Aviation Cadet pilot training. As a 15th Air Force B-17 Aircraft Commander, he flew 27 missions in Europe, and participated in the first "shuttle raid" to the Soviet Union. He was pilot of one of the 483rd Heavy Bomb Group's 14 B-17's shot down during the climactic aerial battle of Memmingen, Germany on July 18, 1944. Captured while attempting to cross into Switzerland, he remained a POW until liberated by advancing Soviet troops on May 1, 1945.

After WWII, he flew for United Airlines as a flight instructor. With the onset of the Korean War, he was recalled from the USAF Reserve on October 18, 1950. Later, he was selected for the Regular Air Force status and remained on Active Duty until retirement as a Lt. Colonel on August 1, 1971. His

decorations included the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medals, USAF and Joint Command Commendation Medals.

Stanton received a BA from San Francisco State in 1953; MA from George Washington University in 1955. In this capacity he served in Intelligence as a Strategic Target Analyst & Mission Planner at the HQ Far East Air Force, HQ Pacific Air Forces, HQ Tactical Air Command, USAF War Games Division Pentagon, and HQ 7th Air Force Vietnam, and the joint command staff of CINPAC Hawaii.

He married his high school sweetheart, **Helen Patricia Sheehy** on April 10, 1943. Together, they shared wartime experiences, traveled extensively, and over the span of 44 years, lived in numerous localities throughout the USA and Japan. This legacy has produced eleven grandchildren and seven

great grandchildren. In his “spare time”, he ran many marathons (Honolulu, Sacramento, New York). Helen passed away on June 11, 1987 in Hawaii.

Stanton found the second love of his life when he married **Adeline “Addie” Dyal** on Dec 1, 1988 in Kauai. They moved to Salem, Oregon in 2007, spent many winters in Mesa, Arizona. In 2019, they moved permanently to the Dallas Retirement Village in Dallas, Oregon.

Stanton was very active with the B17 Alliance Group and the 483rd Bombardment Group Association as a Past President 2007. Extremely proud of being a three-war veteran, he loved nothing more than sharing his vast trove of stories with his family and even strangers! Truly, he was one of our nation’s heroes. To say he will be missed is an understatement.



TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squadron	Date	Reported By
Flaherty, Charles	816	12/6/2021	Renee Johnson
Marks, Everest L.	817	8/27/2021	Mitch Marks
Rickey, Stanton	817	11/9/2021	Michele Rickey-Pidd

Pictures of Ken Hoffman Flying an Airplane for the First Time in 50 Years



Ken getting ready for the flight



Reviewing the check list



Starting the engine



Take off!



Away he goes!



Back on the ground at the hanger

From the Publicity Chairman

Wichita, Kansas will be the next destination for the 15th Air Force Reunion in September 2022.

Some Fun Facts About Wichita

- Wichita is known as the "Air Capital of the World." In the 1920's and 30's it was the aircraft hub of the country
- Wichita is the birthplace of Pizza Hut and White Castle fast-food chains.
- A.A. Hyde discovered Mentholatum in 1894 in the current **The Spice Merchant & Company** building.
- In 2008, the NAACP recognized Wichita as **the site of the first sit-in by African Americans** at an all-white lunch counter in July 1958.
- Actress Kirstie Alley, best known for her role as Rebecca Howe in "Cheers," was born in Wichita on Jan. 12, 1951.
- First electric guitar was played at the Shadowland Ballroom in Wichita by Wichitan Gage Brewer in 1932.

Wichita's Numbers

- 5-million longhorns driven up the Chisholm Trail to the Wichita railhead
- Population of Wichita - 389,877 (as of 2019); 640,218 (MSA as of 2019)
- 8,100+ **hotel rooms**
- 1,200+ **restaurants**
- 220+ days of sunshine
- 144 **parks**, greenways and recreational corridors
- 100+ miles of bicycle and walking paths
- 35% of all U.S. manufactured general aviation aircraft
- 30+ **annual festivals** and major events
- Hundreds of performances during **Riverfest**
- 21 **live theaters**
- 19 **museums**
- 30+ **art galleries**
- 11 shopping districts
- 12 **golf courses**
- 9 **disc golf courses**
- 10 **local breweries**
- More than 23 **food trucks** in the Wichita Food Truck Coalition

- **7th largest zoo in the United States** with third-largest elephant exhibit
- **One of 7 wildlife parks** with Humane Certified Award
- **Largest dinosaur theme park** in the country
- 3 **Universities** – Wichita State University, Friend University, Newman University

Wichita's Weather

- Average annual rainfall: 28.61 inches
- Average annual snowfall: 15 inches
- Coldest month: January
- Hottest month: July
- Air quality index in Wichita is 21% better than the national average
- Pollution index in Wichita is 95% better than the national average
- Average Weather in September is around 83 degrees during the day and 60 degrees during nighttime

Below is the text of an email sent to Jay Clifton from Ms. Evelyn Williams of the Hampton, VA Public Library that we thought you might be interested in:

Good Afternoon Mr. Clifton and Ms. Davis,

As a youth services librarian, I would just like to say a quick word of thanks! I've been able to get some great use out of your association's resource links list as I'm running an educational US military history project for a small group of 12-15 year olds during these times of remote learning. We were even able to use some of this information for our group work on World War II. Thanks so much for sharing! 483rdbombgroup.org/links/

I hope you don't mind, one of our youngest and most enthusiastic, Amelia has also asked me if I could share a piece that she and her father found together on New Mexico's Role in World War II which includes a great breakdown on the Los Alamos Research Center, the Manhattan Project, "Project Y", atomic bomb development, etc. I've included it below if you'd like to review!

We noticed you don't have this one listed, but Amelia was actually the one to bring up that this

could be something you might like to include for others who may also have an interest in learning more on the history of WWII, like our group!

If you find you are able to use this one, would you please let me know? We're meeting tomorrow virtually, and I would absolutely love to surprise Amelia and the group if you're able to do so - I'm hoping to keep spirits up despite the past year's events, and I think it would make her proud to see she was able to pay it forward and maybe even show her father her contribution if it ends up being included!

Thanks again for all your help here,
Evelyn Williams

<https://cindysnewmexicollcs.com/New-Mexico-Registered-Agent/NM-Role-in-WWII>

*** **Fundraising Appeal** ***

This Holiday season we give thanks for many things in our lives --- including our freedom & democracy. Without the courage of the American military in World War II, including the 483rd Bombardment Group, we may not be here to enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice.

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.

The **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund** is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 organization which accomplishes this "mission" by providing financial support for the wonderful 483rd

Bombardment Group display at the Museum of Aviation in Robins Air Force Base in Georgia; and providing annual scholarships to college students who are pursuing a future career in military aviation.

We are asking you to consider making an end-of-year contribution to the **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund** to help us continue their legacy! 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. Russell Daniel, 53 Principe De Paz, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87508.
- You can also go to www.gofundme.com/483rd-bombardment-group-legacy-fund and contribute using your credit card.

For more information about the **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund**, please visit our website at: www.483rdLegacyFund.org.

If you have any questions, or want more information, contact Dave Raffel at DaveRaffel@Gmail.com, or by phone at: 913-709-3382. Also, please feel free to share this appeal with your family and friends thru e-mail and social media.

THANK YOU, and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*** Donations are tax-deductible. ***

YOUR 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jay Clifton
cliftonjay57@gmail.com
847-217-7485

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jay Clifton
cliftonjay57@gmail.com
847-217-7485

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY

Guido "Guy" Venier
13185 Picadilly Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
586-268-3126
guy483rd@comcast.net

TREASURER

Dennis West
ironman8x@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Carrie Davis
5102 Holden St.
Fairfax, VA 22032
carrie_davis@hotmail.com

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Sandee West Maeda
760-213-5022
483rdreunion@gmail.com

REUNION CHAIRMAN

Jay Clifton
cliftonjay57@gmail.com
847-217-7485

FUNDRAISING

David Raffel
daveraffel@gmail.com

LEGAL COUNSEL

Timothy K West, J.D., C.P.A.
8415 Meadowlark Dr.
Lakewood, CO 80226-1167
tim@wennercpa.com

CHAPLAIN

R. B. (Ken) Davis
DavisRBR@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bruce Coogler
713-899-6854
LBCoogler@icloud.com

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 (Deceased) 2004
Fredric A. Hicks (Deceased) 2005
Wilfrid Hebert (Deceased) 2006
Stanton "Mike" Rickey (Deceased) 2007
Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008
Jim Ashley (Deceased) 2009
Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012, 2017
Sandee West Maeda 2013, 2014, 2015
Harold Chubbs (Deceased) 2016
Russell Daniel 2018
Mark Halebsky 2019
Jay Clifton 2020