

815th816th817th840th

483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME 45

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NUMBER 1

President's Message

Greetings to all! We hope you had the opportunity to share a family gathering during the holidays and are looking forward to Spring. We had a busy winter season as my elderly mother was ill, but she is recovering nicely. She had been living alone so we made the tough decision to move her from her Ohio home to our Illinois home. She will miss her friends but make new friends and she is reunited with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Illinois and Iowa.

We are grateful for our blessings and the hopeful end to the pandemic, and we are enjoying seeing smiling faces again! We will celebrate my father-in-law Ken Hoffman's 99th birthday this month and will travel to his favorite trout fishing hole at Bennett Spring Missouri next month. We hope you are spending cherished time with your loved ones.

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.

Take care,
Jay Clifton



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.

THE 483RD TEAM — FLIGHT CREWS PLUS GROUND SUPPORT UNITS

*Written by Clyde Barnes (840th)
(reprinted from 483rd Newsletter, Vol 9, No 2-
March 1989, page 2)*

When accepting his presidency at the Sacramento Reunion, Jack Edwards (840th) commented on the fellowship enjoyed by those who flew the 483rd Bomb Group's B-17s and the dedication of those who served in the Ground Support Units. The assurance every flight crew had that the plane they were assigned to fly would take them to the target and bring them back home again was based on the faithfulness of those who would not release a plane for a mission until it was in perfect operating condition, loaded with maximum fuel, a full bomb load, an extra container of ammunition and all the other contributing factors involved in getting a mission safely on its way. "And this bond of trust and mutual understanding is the reason for the camaraderie enjoyed today by our association members," President Edwards said. The audience's response indicated they agreed 100 percent.

No doubt you have wondered how it came about that we - each man a specialist in his field - were drawn together in the 483rd Bomb Group. To understand what happened, you will need to look back upon your first few days as a member of the United States Army of WWII. Many of us do not

Continued on page 4

TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squadron	Date	Reported By
Nauman, William (Bill)	840	1/10/2022	Russ Nauman
Perkins, James (Jim)	840	1/26/2022	Jayne (Gibson) Kelsey
Venier, Guido (Guy)	815	3/8/2022	Renee Johnson

From the Publicity Chair

The Itinerary for our next reunion in Wichita, Kansas is as follows:



2022 REUNION ITINERARY



Thursday, 9/15/22 - Registration desk open from 10:00am till 9:00pm; Hospitality room closes 11:00pm

- 6:00pm Welcome dinner and meeting. Those who choose not to participate in this dinner are encouraged to come in about 7:00pm to attend the informational meeting.

Friday, 9/16/22

- 9:00am - Tour McConnell AFB – with lunch at the Dole Center on base.
- 12:45pm - Depart McConnell AFB.
- 1:00pm - Tour Kansas Aviation Museum next door to McConnell AFB.
- 3:00pm - Depart Kansas Aviation Museum.
- 3:15pm - Tour Wichita Veterans Memorial Park. Depart
- 4:15pm – Depart for return to hotel.
- Return to hotel by 4:30pm
- Individual group dinners. Cash bar opens in common area at 5:30pm. Dinner served at 6:30pm

Saturday 9/17/22

- 10:00am – Noon Veterans & Others Presentations Morning Session
- 10:00am – Noon 449th BG Private Memorial Service
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm Veterans & Others Presentations Afternoon Session
- 5:15 - Veterans group picture at a location TBD
- 5:30pm - All Groups Banquet. Cash bar opens in the ballroom at 5:30pm with dinner served at 6:30pm. Entertainment by Kenny Ray Horton during “happy hour” and resumes after dinner.

Sunday 9/18/22

- 9:00am – 10:00am - 483rd BG private memorial service.
- 9:00am – 10:00 am - Non-denominational church service.
- 11:00am – Noon - All Groups Memorial Service.
- 12:30pm – 2:00pm - Lunch on your own in Old Town Wichita
- 2:00pm – Tour Museum of World Treasures in Old Town Wichita
- 4:15pm – Depart Museum for return to hotel
- 6:30pm – Farewell dinner

*Hospitality room will be closed during the times the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday dinners take place between 5:30pm – about 8:00pm. **Closing time for the Hospitality room will be 11:00pm each evening.***

**Fifteenth Air Force Bomb Groups Reunion
483rd Bombardment Group Reunion
September 15-18, 2022
Wichita, Kansas**

Host Hotel

Wichita Marriott
9100 Corporate Hills Drive
Wichita, Kansas 66207
Phone: 316-651-0333



- Room rates will be \$102 per night, plus tax and will include a full, hot breakfast buffet, including made to order omelets, for up to two per room.
- Rooms at the group rate will be available for probably three days before and after the reunion dates. Exact dates are yet to be determined.
- Free airport shuttle from 7:00 am – 10:00 pm.
- This hotel has been recently renovated and is spectacular. The staff is outstanding, and our Hospitality room will be second to none.
- ***NOTE: This room block is NOT YET AVAILABLE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS. When that becomes possible, the Reunion page of the 483rd BG website will be updated with all the latest information. So please check the website regularly.***

Wichita Kansas is a surprising gem of a city smack dab in the middle of flyover country! Wichita has a very rich history in aviation and in the early 20th century, the municipal airport was the busiest airport in the country due to its central location. There are MANY things to see and do; much more than we will have time to experience. The tour options include:

McConnell Air Force Base Tour

Located four miles southeast of the central business district of Wichita, a city in Sedgwick County, Kansas, United States, the airbase was named in honor of Fred and Thomas McConnell of Wichita, who had both been Air Force pilots and veterans of World War II. It is the

home of Air Mobility Command's 22nd Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Reserve Command's 931st Air Refueling Wing, and the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Intelligence Wing.



The Kansas Aviation Museum

Housed in the former Wichita Airport terminal building, there is much to see in this beautiful Art Deco style building including aircraft on static display outside on the ramp. It is also a great place to watch the aircraft from McConnell AFB take off and land, which happens on a regular basis.



Veterans' Memorial Park

A lovely park along the banks of the Arkansas river in the beautiful riverfront area of Wichita. It features seven memorials to veterans of all wars and Gold Star mothers.



The Museum of World Treasures

A quirky and fun museum in the heart of the Old Town district of Wichita. Old Town is a fun area loaded with restaurants and shops and is very walkable.



A note from the Reunion Committee Chair:

I really hope you'll consider attending this next reunion. All the ingredients are here to make this a really fun and memorable affair. Wichita is a fun and surprising city. It has lots to offer and is a clean, friendly town that is easier to get to than what you might think. The airport offers flights with all major airlines and the interstate highway I-35 splits the country in half. Please consider coming to perpetuate and honor the legacy and memory of those veterans who are still with us and for those who have gone on to their glory.

Did You Know?

THE 483RD TEAM — FLIGHT CREWS PLUS GROUND SUPPORT UNITS

Continued from page 1

recall those early days because things moved so rapidly that not too many of the proceedings registered with us. What was new to us had become routine to those assigned to reception center duty and though each of us had entered our new lifestyle as an individual, we quickly learned we were part of an assembly line technique for classification.

Those who had enlisted for a specific type of training, such as cadets for pilot, navigator, bombardier, OCS, etc. soon were separated and sent to their respective training centers. Those who had voluntarily enlisted for a particular branch of the Service or had received greetings from Uncle Sam were given a series of classification tests.

One of the first and most important examinations given was the "Color Identification Test." It was at this point that an enlisted man's future assignment was quite often determined. The higher his score in this test, the more narrow his limit of assignment became. Men with excellent color identification were selected for positions where distant vision identification became essential - i.e., aerial gunnery among others. (An interesting sidelight - the U.S. Navy would accept no one who failed to pass the color identification test, distant identification capability being essential at sea as it was in the sky.)

Those who failed to pass the Army's Color Identification Test were placed in a flexible pool that could be used according to results of several other classification tests that determined how an

individual would eventually be classified and where he would be assigned.

Many of you will recall some or all of the "Army General Classification Test" (AGCT) where about 150 multiple-choice questions dealing with a variety of general subjects were asked with a time limit of 40 minutes given. The results were machine tabulated and entered on a recruit's service record. In addition to the AGCT, various aptitude tests were also given when a particular skill was indicated. The results of these tests were also entered on the new service record. Physical tests added another category to a man's classification i.e., if he wore eyeglasses, his work assignment usually was a job classification number (MOS - Military Occupational Specialty) where glasses were acceptable - i.e., Administration, medical, supply, etc.

Of course, where a recruit was eventually sent depended upon the need of the Army at a specific time. When the Army was expanding at a rapid rate, men were being assigned to those organizations needing trainees to fill quotas. And later (in 1944-1945) when combat casualties in Europe were high, a larger percentage of those entering military service were trained as infantry replacements.

In general, this is how the classification system worked when most of us became members of the USAAF and - unbeknownst to us - how those things that occurred brought to pass our assignments (more or less) during WWII. Many of those passing the Color Identification Test were quietly assigned to air combat training. Those who failed to pass the Color Identification Test during their first few days in the Army were often selected for USAAF assignments based on results noted from the AGCT, Aptitude and Physical tests. These men were given Ground Support duties, even though many of them had hoped to become part of a flight crew.

By the time air cadets had completed their training and been commissioned, they had learned the value of teamwork and how important it is for each man to seriously perform his assignment to the best of his ability, and to have faith that others would respond to this responsibility.

In his book "G. I.", Lee Kennett states, "An important factor in combat areas is the belief by each member of a team that he could not let other men down. This bonding of trust and fellowship created a loyalty to all who served together, and even today, most veterans will admit they have never had such

profound friendships before or since their Army days." We in the 483rd Bomb Group Association know this feeling of camaraderie toward one another. We were a team - a good team to have been a part of.

A SCARY RIDE WITH LTC SPERRY

Written by Joe Heimel (816th)

*(reprinted from 483rd Newsletter, Vol 9, No 2-
March 1989, page 7)*

Training for our future combat assignments was completed and we were considered ready to cross that great ocean and face Germany's finest in aerial combat. All seemed to be in readiness for the big move, but no one seemed to know just how soon.

"Soon" turned out to be real sudden. Too sudden for some of us. Four enlisted men from our crew had obtained passes to go into Tampa from some Orderly Room "hotshot" who was not to issue passes to anyone. Not our fault really.

After enjoying our sight-seeing jaunt to town, we returned to the base at MacDill to find that the 483rd had vanished. The barracks were empty. No one around to talk to. Orderly Room was deserted and dark.

We asked someone "Where's the 483rd?" "Shipped out," was the answer. "Where to?" "Could have gone to hell for all I know," he replied.

At about that time a jeep roared up to the Orderly Room, screeched to a stop, and a tall lanky LTC got out and asked who we were and what we were doing there? We told him we were enlisted men from Bob Johnston's crew and just returned to base from pass to town.

That was when "the you know what" hit the fan. Furious, he demanded "What #\$*&* jackass issued you guys a pass?" It seems that someone in the Orderly Room had not been alerted and we slipped through.

LTC Sperry said, "You fellows get all your gear and be out on the flight line by B-17 # (can't remember) within 10 minutes, you are going for a ride."

When Sperry arrived at the plane he said, "Load your-gear and hop in." "I need a co-pilot" he said, pointing at Bill Nielsen, who was an engineer, "and you are it." "I also need a radio operator" and asked if any of us could operate a radio? I had some radio school and knew enough to operate the plane's radio. So I was assigned radio.

Shortly after this we took-off and were never more than 100 feet off the ground all the way to Hunter Field in Georgia. A wilder ride we never had! Sperry flew that B-17 like a P-51. Heard him call "Hunter Tower,

this is Air Force B-17 number so and so, I'm on final approach." No permission, no nothing, just acknowledgement from the tower. A sharp bank to the left and I looked out the window and swore the wingtip was about to plow a furrow.

Anyhow, we landed safely and as we walked away from the plane all that LTC Sperry said was "How did you guys like the buggy ride?" We survived fifty combat missions but I don't think any of them was any scarier than that ride. (Joe intoned: Humorous now, but not so funny then. Editor)

***** 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 contributing 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: 53 Principe De Paz, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87508.

- You can also go to www.483rdLegacyFund.org 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 Raffel at 913-709-3382.

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

YOUR 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 (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, 2021

BOMB GROUPS REUNION

September 15-18, 2022 Wichita, KS



Veteran/Fallen Hero _____ Group _____ Sqdn _____ Highest Rank _____

Registrant Name: _____ (One Form per Registration Packet)

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Name Tag Names (Include Veteran Relationship): _____

Registration fee _____ # people _____ @ \$20.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH—Welcome dinner,

Lasagna with meat # people _____ @ \$39.00 Sub Total \$ _____

Eggplant Parmesan # people _____ @ \$39.00 Sub Total \$ _____

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH— McConnell AFB with lunch, Kansas Aviation Museum &

Veterans Memorial Park tours # people _____ @ \$58.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Individual Group Dinners

London Broil # people _____ @ \$47.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu # people _____ @ \$39.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Penne Pasta # people _____ @ \$39.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH DO NOT include 461st veteran in meal sub totals

All Groups Banquet

KC Strip Loin # people _____ @ \$51.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Mediterranean Salmon # people _____ @ \$45.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Grilled Portobello w/Spinach on Wild Rice # people _____ @ \$39.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Tour Museum of World Treasures

with lunch on your own in Old Town Wichita # people _____ @ \$41.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Farewell Dinner — Pork Tenderloin # people _____ @ \$43.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

Roasted Fall Vegetable Plate # people _____ @ \$43.00 each Sub Total \$ _____

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

Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____

Please send this form along with your check payable to:
Jay Clifton: 7589 Bittersweet Dr, Gurnee, IL 60031

*Registrations must be received at the address above by September 9, 2022.
No changes may be made after that date.*

McConnell Air Force Base Tour

If you are signing up for the McConnell AFB tour, you will need either a DOD identification card or prior security clearance. If you do NOT have the DOD identification card please provide the information below.

Submit this page along with your reunion registration form. McConnell needs time to process this information so your registration including this page must be sent in time to be received no later than September 1, 2022 if you intend to go on the McConnell tour.

If you are NOT signing up for that tour, please ignore this page.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Drivers License Number: _____

State of issue: _____

Social Security Number: _____

If you do NOT have a drivers license please fill in blanks below.

Name: _____

State ID Card Number: _____

State of issue: _____

Social Security Number: _____