



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

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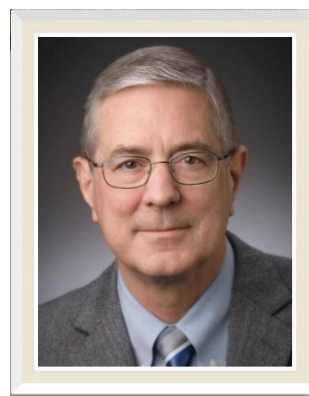
NUMBER 1

President's Message

Dear members of the 483rd Bombardment Group Association family. It is bittersweet that I share my last article with you. Per the Association's bylaws approved years ago, the Association was dissolved by a majority vote of the Qualified Members at the Annual Reunion in Wichita Kansas during the Association's Business Meeting held on September 17, 2022 (Minutes attached below). Pursuant to the Association's Constitution, *"all of the Association's remaining assets shall be transferred to the Museum of Aviation Foundation in Warner Robins, Georgia for maintenance and preservation of the Association's Artifacts and Memorabilia."*

In September 2021, several of us visited the Museum and were pleased that the curator is taking great care to preserve the 483rd Bomb Group's memorabilia. A dedication ceremony for the restoration of a B-17 "Flying Fortress" is scheduled for August 18, 2023, where we plan to retire the Colors and present a check of approximately \$15,000. The Museum would especially welcome participation from the 483rd Bombardment Group at this event (please contact me if you can attend). I encourage you to visit the Museum of Aviation Website for more information: <https://museumofaviation.org>

Also, please read the enclosed article posted by Dave Raffel about the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund, that will continue to nurture the memories and legacy of our heroes.



Bruce Coogler

October 7, 1956 ~ February 13, 2023
66 Years Old

It is with deep sadness that we remember and cherish the friendship of our dear friend Bruce Coogler. Bruce passed away suddenly on February 13th. All of us who attended the annual Reunions will cherish the friendships we nurtured with Bruce and his wife Jana, his parents J.D. and Dee, and their

children Amanda and Blake and their families. Bruce tirelessly published this newsletter for many years and helped his father J.D. with the publication of his WW-II memoirs. We will always remember Bruce's gentle and kind demeanor. We are heartbroken, but we are at peace knowing that Bruce was a man of faith, and his spirit will forever touch our lives.

Bruce's obituary link:

<https://www.rhonefuneralhome.com/obituary/Bruce-Coogler>

We look forward to coming together again at the 15th Air Force Reunion in the Washington DC area from October 12-15, 2023. Please review the enclosed information about this Reunion: https://15thaf.org/5th_BW/483rd_BG/Reunion/Reunion.html

I am very proud to have served as your 483rd Bombardment Group Association President. Take care all and blessings to all. *Jay Clifton*



Legacy Fund Transition

There is a saying: “when one door closes, another one opens.”

After decades of service to our 483rd Bombardment Group veterans, their families, and friends, the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association has now retired.

But there still is an organization that strives to perpetuate the memory and legacy of our heroes, the **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund**.

The Legacy Fund is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 organization that can provide a long-term vehicle to continue the goals and purposes of the now retired 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.

If this organization is going to succeed the Legacy Fund needs both **YOUR help & YOUR support!** We need help in many areas, including webpage development, newsletters, Reunion coordination, and fund-raising. Please contact a Legacy Fund board of director member to discuss how you can help. Also, please consider sharing your email address for future communications. We have mail addresses for over 600 members, but only 85 email addresses. Postage is now 63 cents, so USPS mailing is very expensive. And, on Facebook, please subscribe to the 483rd Bombardment Group Heavy:

www.facebook.com/groups/923392188102686

Lastly, we need your financial support! There are two ways one can make a charitable contribution:

- Write a check for the **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund** and mail to:
53 Principe De Paz
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
- Go to www.483rdLegacyFund.org and contribute using your credit card.

If you have any questions, or want more information, contact any of the Legacy Fund board of director members:

Russell Daniel --- rdaniel@hostworks.com

Jay Clifton --- cliftonjay57@gmail.com

Sue Haugh --- suehow12@hotmail.com

Rick O'Hara --- rick.ohara1@gmail.com

Furman Daniel --- jfdaniel@gmail.com

David Raffel --- daveraffel@gmail.com



B-17 Restoration Dedication

Masters of the Air Miniseries

Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB
August 18, 2023

The Museum of Aviation is planning an event for the B-17 restoration dedication and would especially welcome participation from the 483rd Bombardment Group. The date for the event is August 18th.

In addition, the Museum is partnering with Middle Georgia State University to develop a program for their history students to digitize and catalog the 483rd Bombardment Group records that are currently in their archives.

The author of the book, *Masters of the Air*, Donald Miller, will be speaking at the B-17 restoration dedication ceremony. Mr. Miller's book is about the Eighth Air Force based in England. The 483rd Bombardment Group was of the Fifteenth Air Force based out of Italy, but the Eighth had similar B-17 missions to fight the Nazi's.

The book is being produced into a miniseries: Soon to be a major television event from Apple TV, *Masters of the Air* is the riveting history of the American Eighth Air Force in World War II, the story of the young men who flew the bombers that helped bring Nazi Germany to its knees, brilliantly told by historian and World War II expert Donald Miller. The *Masters of the Air* miniseries will be the companion to Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg's *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2640044/>



TAPS – Deceased Veterans Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squadron	Date	Reported by
Westerland, Herbert A	816	10/19/2022	Jay Clifton
Diamond, Theodore	840	8/2/2022	Jay Clifton
Hodge, Harry H	840	6/8/2022	Jay Clifton
Crow, William K	816	2/15/2022	Jay Clifton
Bratlie, Jack R	816	2/11/2022	Jay Clifton
Ford, Thomas A	817	7/27/2021	Jay Clifton
Fager, Charles A	816	2/26/2021	Jay Clifton
Loesch, Richard P	817	2/22/2021	Jay Clifton
McGee, Manley L	815	1/31/2021	Jay Clifton
Kleinknecht, Carl W	817	12/4/2020	Jay Clifton
Rivera, Hilario M	817	11/27/2020	Jay Clifton
Hill, Edwin B	840	11/20/2020	Jay Clifton
Tigh, Charles E	815	9/1/2020	Jay Clifton
Tuxworth Sr., William J	840	7/3/2020	Jay Clifton
Werner, Vincent S.	815	4/11/2020	Jay Clifton

2023 Bomb Groups Reunion

Thursday, October 12th through Sunday, October 15th

Washington, DC area

Westin Dulles Hotel, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon, Virginia

To reserve rooms, please call [1-866-932-7062](tel:1-866-932-7062) and tell them you're booking with the BOMB GROUP REUNION or click the button below titled Westin Dulles Hotel Reservations. The room rate is \$112 per night plus tax and includes breakfast buffet for 2 per room. Rooms are available at the group rate from October 9-18, 2023, to allow extra time before and after the reunion to take advantage of the nearly endless list of things to see and do in the Washington DC area. Reservations must be made by September 22, 2023, to be guaranteed the group rate. Cancellations at no charge may be made up to 48 hours prior to arrival. The hotel is pet friendly.

Westin Dulles Hotel Reservations

Parking is usually \$10 per day but is free for our group. The hotel offers a free airport shuttle to Dulles International Airport and to the nearby Metro light rail station. If you have questions, contact Jay Clifton:

(847) 217-7485

or E-Mail: cliftonjay57@gmail.com



Reunion Events and Activities – Preliminary Itinerary

Westin Dulles Airport Hotel, Herndon, Virginia
October 12-15, 2023

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Arrival and check-in day. Hospitality room open from 10:00AM

6:00 PM – Welcome and information dinner and meeting.

(If you do not attend the group dinner, please come in ~7:00PM for the information part of the meeting)

Friday, October 13, 2023

8:30 AM – Tours of US Army National Museum & the Air and Space Museum

5:30 PM – Happy hour for Individual Group dinners

6:30 PM – Dinner

Saturday, October 14, 2023

8:00 AM – Ladies Craft Demo (Nancy Clifton)

10:00 AM – 483rd Bombardment Group Private Memorial Service

10:00 AM – Veteran and Speakers' Presentations

12:00 PM – Lunch on your own

2:00 PM – Presentations continue

5:30 PM – Happy Hour and Veteran and group photos

6:30 PM – All Groups Banquet

7:30 PM – Musical entertainment by The DC Three

Sunday, October 15, 2023

9:30 AM – Memorial Service at the Air Force Memorial and tram tour of Arlington National Cemetery

11:30 AM – Lunch

1:00 PM – Afternoon tours of National Mall (WW-II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall)

5:00 PM – Buses return to hotel

6:30 PM – Farewell dinner

**483rd Bomb Group Annual Reunion
Minutes of the Meeting
September 17, 2022
Wichita, KS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Clifton at 11:00 A.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of allegiance was led by President Jay Clifton.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 2020 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Dennis West motioned to approve the 2020 Business Meeting Minutes as published in the March 2021 Newsletter.

With no objections, President Jay Clifton accepts the 2020 Business Meeting Minutes.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Chaplaincy

Chaplain Ken Davis Jr. reported as follows:

Ken was able to attend the funerals for 483rd Bombardment Group members Charlie Flannery and Guy Venier on behalf of the association.

B. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Leon Waldman passed away this year. President Jay Clifton reported as follows:

Vanguard Mutual Fund	\$14,332.00
Treasurer's Checking Account	\$840.00
Clipped Wings Account	<u>\$50.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$15,222.00*

*The above does not include the reunion or legacy account.

Considerable effort was spent by Jay Clifton and Dennis West to transfer the accounts to active members of the association after Leon Waldman's passing and the group would like to extend its appreciation for their efforts. Dennis West has been filing annual IRS Form 990 tax reports on behalf of the Association.

C. Newsletter

Chairman Bruce Coogler reported as follows:

Three newsletters were printed this year in December, March, and June accounting for 492 newsletters, 225 were mailed and 267 were e-mailed. The electronic version is received a few days earlier and it is in color.

D. Clipped Wings

Chairman Sheryl Norton reported as follows:

There are six clipped wings recipients, four veterans and two spouses. There have been no expenses.

ENDING BALANCE **\$50.00**

E. 2022 Reunion

President Jay Clifton reported as follows:

The association joined the 15th Air Force Reunion again this year. The 483rd Association is able to provide positive contributions to the planning of the 15th Air Force Reunion and the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association is able to leverage the greater numbers of the larger group for better buying power and providing opportunities to the members. Next year's reunion location will be decided on in early 2023. Rick and Charlene Coulson had the 483rd banners cleaned and restored prior to this year's reunion and have agreed to continue as the banner custodians.

ENDING BALANCE **\$80.00**

F. Fundraising

There is no Fundraising report because Chairman David Raffel was not able to attend the meeting.

Continued, 483rd Bomb Group Annual Reunion, Minutes of the Meeting, September 17, 2022, Wichita, KS

G. Membership

Chairman Guy Venier passed away this year. President Jay Clifton reported as follows:

The membership roster is being modernized into a digital format compatible with current software programs to help manage the database in the future. President Jay Clifton is assuming the role of searching obituaries of veterans to help reconcile the roster and honor the fallen.

H. Publicity

Chairman Sandee West Maeda reported as follows:

Sandee is currently working with someone to update the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association website. In addition, the webmaster for the 15th Air Force Group has helped to make the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association website more secure.

President Jay Clifton called for a vote of unanimous consent for all Committee Reports to be accepted as read. **With no objections, President Jay Clifton accepts the 2022 Committee Reports.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

There is no Old Business

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cadet Scholarships

Carrie Davis motioned to give the cadets \$1,000 each at this year's banquet, Dennis West seconds. **The motion carried; the cadets will be given \$1,000 this year.**

B. Dissolution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association

Dennis West motions to dissolve the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association, Pam Davis seconds.

Discussion: There are many variables in the dissolution of the group to include expenses, newsletter, notification, memorabilia, rosters, etc. The Constitution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association spells out dissolution process for the association in Article III paragraph III which states, "Dissolution of the Association may only be dissolved by a majority vote of the Qualified Members at an Annual Reunion 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 Museum of Aviation Foundation, Inc. Warner Robins, Georgia, for the maintenance and preservation of the Association's Artifacts and Memorabilia." A Qualified Member is anyone in good standing at the time of the meeting. Continuation of the Association is difficult when signature authorities have issues with death, illness, etc. Although the second generation has done a lot to keep the Association going for the veterans, it is not fair to keep asking a small group of members to do all of the work within the Association. The desire to continue the Association is emotional out of a sense of duty to the veterans and community. The members of the Association can still participate in the annual 15th Army/Air Force Bomb Group Reunion, keep the website, roster, newsletter, scholarships, etc. if desired, just the legal entity of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association would be dissolved. President Jay Clifton called for a vote on the motion. **With thirteen yeas and three nays, the motion carried; the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association will dissolve.**

The Board of Directors will create an addressable actions list for the dissolution of the Association. Ken Davis has offered to investigate the state in which the Association was started and Mike Whye offered to help. Dennis West will file IRS Form 990 tax report for the Association.

C. Announcement of Dissolution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association

Dennis West motions to use the newsletter to announce the dissolution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association, Sandee West Maeda seconds. **The motion carried; the dissolution will be announced via the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association newsletter.**

Continued, 483rd Bomb Group Annual Reunion, Minutes of the Meeting, September 17, 2022, Wichita, KS

D. Remaining Newsletters

Bruce Coogler motions to have up to three more newsletters published for the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association: 1) tell membership about the dissolution, 2) inform the membership of the stand-down ceremony at Warner Robin Museum of Aviation if it occurs, and 3) communication about the stand-down ceremony and any additional information that needs to be conveyed prior to final dissolution, Dennis West seconds. At the 2014 reunion, COL Pat Bartness (ret) presented the idea of a stand-down honor ceremony for the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association that includes a ceremonial lowering of the 483rd banner from the flagpole at Warner Robins Museum of Aviation. President Jay Clifton called for a vote on the motion. **With fifteen yeas and one nay, the motion carried; the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association will have three remaining newsletters.**

E. Expenses Associated with the Dissolution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association

Dennis West motions for the Board of Directors to retain the Membership checking account at the 5/3 bank for paying final expenses of the dissolution of the association to include the cost of the newsletters, Sandee West Maeda seconds. **With no objections, the motion carried; the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association will retain the 5/3 bank Membership checking account until final expenses of the association are paid.**

F. Input for Addressable Action Item List for Dissolution of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association

Dennis West motions to accept addressable action items from the Association membership to the Newsletter Editor for a period of thirty (30) days post notification of dissolution in the newsletter, Sandee West Maeda seconds. Note that this is the same newsletter as the publishing of these minutes. **The motion carried; input for addressable action items from the Association Membership will be accepted for a period of thirty (30) days post notification of dissolution in the newsletter.**

G. Donation to Warner Robins Museum

Dennis West motions to not provide a donation associated with this Business Meeting to the Warner Robins Museum of Aviation, Carrie Davis seconds. According to the Articles of Dissolution, the remaining assets of the Association will go to the Museum of Aviation Foundation, Inc. Warner Robins, Georgia, for the maintenance and preservation of the Association's Artifacts and Memorabilia. President Jay Clifton called for a vote of unanimous consent. **With no objections; a donation will not be provided to the Warner Robins Museum on behalf of the 483rd Bombardment Group associated with this Business Meeting.**

H. Committee Chairmen Positions

President Jay Clifton directs all current Committee Chairmen to retain elected and appointed positions through the end of dissolution. **With no objections, the direction is accepted; all current Committee Chairmen will retain their positions until the end of Association dissolution.**

I. Acknowledgements

The Association would like to thank everyone for all they have done to support the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association, the veterans, and the community.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dennis West motions to adjourn the meeting, Carrie Davis seconds. **With no objections, President Jay Clifton adjourned the meeting at 12:41 P.M.**