

Report on the San Diego Reunion

Two hundred happy people attended the 1996 Reunion in "picture postcard" Southern California weather, where we took a tour of the USS Kitty Hawk, a fleet aircraft carrier. The Kitty Hawk was named for the experimental aircraft flights made by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, South Carolina, beginning December 17, 1903. A lunch at the Bali High restaurant followed the carrier tour. This famous eatery is located on the edge of a palm tree grove at Mission Bay.

The nearby San Diego Aerospace Museum was visited also. For the information of members who did not attend the reunion this museum has a great library full of photos and information on the B-24 bomber. On your next Southern California vacation make this a must see. The ladies event was held at Nordstroms for a fashion event and luncheon.

The Guest Speakers at the Banquet were Jessie Thompson and Gordon Jones of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association who told of their experiences on December 7, 1941 when the bombs started to fall on Pearl Harbor.

At the banquet Dick Muscatello, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee surprised the president and secretary of the 484th BG Association by presenting them with his and her black & gold Movado watches. Dick said that the presentation was made possible by the members and guests attending the reunion. Your president and your secretary want to thank all of the attendees at the San Diego reunion for being so thoughtful and generous. Bless you all.

Annual Meeting Report

The annual business meeting took place on Saturday, October 5, 1996 at 9 am. The minutes of the last meeting were read and a summary of the financial report was given and approved.

Scholarship report:

A report from memorial scholarship committee member, Ross Wilson was presented, including the current financial status of the two memorial scholarship fund accounts. Vernon Janke, new committee member, gave his report as an attendee of the Harvard Nebraska award ceremony where he presented the award of \$1,000 to Jennifer Schwenk. (The story was featured in Torretta Flyer No 30.)

The committee recommended that an additional award of \$1,000 be given to a Harvard Nebraska high school graduate student for the year 1997, following the same criteria of scholarship, service and need. In addition, the committee recommended that an additional \$1,000 award be given to a high school graduate in the Washington DC area for the year 1997, to coincide with the annual reunion meeting to be held in that area in 1997. The two additional scholarship awards for the year 1997, as recommended, were approved by the membership present. These two scholarship awards are in addition to the four Italian scholarship awards offered annually.



Bud & Bea on the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk

Election of Directors

In accordance with the notice of the annual meeting for the purpose of electing directors for the year 1996-1997, the election of directors took place. The directors are; Bud Markel, Beatrice Markel, Frank Valdez, John Billings and Charles McKew.

1997 Reunion

Under new business the recommendation was made and approved for the 1997 reunion to be held in the Washington DC area in the fall of 1997, for the specific purpose of holding the 1997 annual reunion in conjunction with the dedication of the 484th Bomb Group's memorial plaque and tree in the Arlington National Cemetery. The Fairview Park Marriott Hotel in Falls Church, Virginia has been selected as the site for the 1997 Annual Meeting.



Jessie Thompson and Gordon Jones, the guest speakers at the 1996 Reunion In San Diego.