

Report On Association Activities

by Bea & Bud Markel

First, I have to report that like many of you dear members, I was just recently hospitalized once again, and once again have recovered. I was in the middle of putting together material for this issue of the Flyer and it has taken me a while to get back to it.

Since the last Flyer and the 2000 Reunion, in Ft. Worth/ Dallas, Texas, all members should be aware that the 484th Bomb Group Association, a California nonprofit corporation, will be dissolved

Special Vip Guests **Professor Umberto Albanese and wife,** **Antonietta**



From Left: Bud Markel, Antonietta Albanese, Bea Markel, and Umberto Albanese

as of December 31st of this year, as approved by the Directors and Members of the Association. To the best of our ability and with the resources available, we have achieved our goal of bringing the members of the 484th together as a Group and we have established living memorials, by way of voluntary member donations to a Scholarship Fund Awards program for the young people near our Torretta airfield in Cerignola, Italy, as well as students in the U.S.A.; Harvard, Nebraska and Washington, DC. We have also placed and dedicated 484th Bomb Group Commemorative Plaques at the USAF Museum Memorial Park, Wright- Patterson AFB, Ohio, and at United States National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. We have not as yet, established a location for the accumulation and preservation of the Group history for perusal of future generations.

Report On The 2000 Reunion

The best one yet! We received this comment from so many of our members who attended the Dallas/Ft. Worth Reunion. Our Group was given recognition by the Mayor of the city of Irving,

Texas, and honored by a special flag flown at the Texas State Capitol, by proclamation, on the official 484th Bomb Group Day and presented to the 484th BG at the Banquet, together with a certificate from the City of Irving, Texas.

We were honored and pleased to have in attendance at this Reunion our Honorary Member from Cerignola, Italy, Professor Umberto Albanese, who has been in charge of the selection of the students for the Scholarship Awards and the presentation ceremony in Cerignola since 1986.

This was the very first trip to the United States for the Professor and his wife, Antonietta, which was not an insignificant undertaking, given the language barrier. Their enthusiasm at being present at the Reunion was matched by the reception given to them by our members.

At the Reunion banquet, Professor Albanese made his presentation to the Group with regard to his special feelings for the service to his country by members of the 484th Bomb Group, and the significance of the Scholarship Awards Program. His presentation was in Italian, of course, and was translated into English, in increments, by our own Richard Muscatello. He also presented a framed certificate from the City of Cerignola to the 484th Bomb Group. His wife, Antonietta, gave her own special presentation in the English she had mastered, and it was warmly received by members in attendance. In appreciation for all of his efforts and work for the Association, a certificate of recognition and appreciation was presented to Professor Albanese.

With funds donated by our member, Reed Sprinkel, his wife, Rita, and the Association, a bronze sculpture by the American Western Artist Frederick Remington was given to Umberto and his wife.



The Remington "Bronco Buster"