

Report of The 2001 Reunion In Atlanta , GA

Notice of Dissolution

This will be the final issue of the Torretta Flyer. The Association has filed for dissolution of the 484th Bomb Group Association corporation, as of December 31st of this year, as approved by the Directors and Members of the Association. As noted in the 2001 annual meeting report, the Association's collections and archives will be transferred to the WWII Military Institute, of Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. We will be busy in the coming months indexing documents and preparing them for shipment.

Report on the 2001 Reunion

The last reunion was held in Atlanta, GA at the Airport Marriott Hotel Oct 3-8, 2001. It was anticipated that because of the attacks on New York and Washington, DC on September 11, 2001, many cancellations would occur because the safety of air travel was put into great doubt. However the bravery of WWII veterans and their families was assured from the get go, facing adversity is not new to our generation, what with the depression, enemy fighters and flak we endured during the war years. 230 brave ex GIs, and wives, children, grandchildren, friends, and family members attended the reunion. It took a little guts to climb on an airplane and defy the new unknown enemy. The only reason for cancellation, that we know of, was health problems.

Starting with registration on the 16th floor and our displays in the adjoining Mercedes Room of the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel on Wednesday October 3, 2001, more than 230 members and guests gathered together one more time in reunion and enjoyed the hospitality of Atlanta and the Airport Marriott Hotel. The view from the 16th floor of Atlanta and commercial flights taking off from the airport was spectacular, as well as a "reassuring" sight to behold.

There was much to see in Atlanta and the tours gave members an opportunity to enjoy the sights. The Atlanta City Tour, including a visit to Coca Cola, and nostalgia; Margaret Mitchell (Gone With the Wind-Author) House; Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama; and Georgia's Stone Mountain Park.

At the banquet on Sunday evening, the patriotic mood of the country and all of our members was reflected in the table arrangements where 10 small American flags were placed inside each of the red, white and blue napkins on each table, as a souvenir for each guest. With the military on alert, we were fortunate to have the Dobbins Air Force Reserve Color Guard for the flag ceremony and the presence of Lt/Col Army Chaplain Paul Harwart and his wife Lorilee, from Forscom Hdqtrs, Ft McPherson, Georgia, to give the invocation before dinner was served.

A poem written by Joseph L Revelas, 826th Squadron, and dedicated to the members of the 484th Bomb Group, was read by Ross J Wilson 825th Squadron See page 6.

The program began with a written message from the 484th C.O. M/Gen (retired) William B Keese, read by Harry B Harris 825th Squadron and is reproduced on page 7.

Your President and Founder, Bud Markel, gave a summing up presentation of the Association's history and accomplishments. Music and dancing continued on to close the evening.

The Memorial Service on Monday, October 8th, was conducted by Chaplain (LTC) Paul Harwart. The names of 34 deceased members and family members, made known to us since the 2000 Reunion, was read by Russell L Hawes, 827th Squadron.

Annual Meeting Report

The annual business meeting took place on Sunday, October 7, 2001 at 9 AM. Minutes of the Members Meeting of October 29, 2000, were read and approved. Reading of the Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2000 was dispensed with and the Report was made available for anyone who wished to look at it.

The Chairman reported that the balance of monies in the Memorial Scholarship Awards fund totalling \$13,096.16, has been distributed during the year 2001, as follows: Two awards of \$1,000 each was given to two Harvard Public School students in Harvard, Nebraska. 18 awards were given to students in Cerignola, Italy. Two awards of \$705.36 each and 16 awards of \$605.34 each.

In accordance with recommendation and approval by the Board of Directors, the location for the 484th Bomb Group's archival materials, was determined to be World War II Institute at Florida State University, in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Chairman reported that the 29 issues of The Torretta Flyer, the Association publication, will be bound in two volumes, and distributed to 53 appropriate museums, institutions and libraries, such as: The Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson, Ohio; San Diego Aerospace Museum Library, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Air Force Academy Library, Colorado Springs and others.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, any remaining assets in the general fund will be distributed to the 15th Air Force Association, which meets the requirements of our Articles of Incorporation, as a Veterans organization under IRS Code 501(c)(19).

Election Of Directors

In accordance with the Notice of Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing Directors for the year 2000-2001, the election of directors was set to take place. On recommendation that the present slate of Directors be elected to serve until the final dissolution of the Corporation, and upon motion made and carried, voting was dispensed with and Sigmund B Markel, Beatrice M Markel, John M Billings, Harry K Hubertz and Edward Schwartz were elected to so serve until the final dissolution of the Corporation has been made.

15th Air Force Association Membership

Here is the address of the 15th Air Force Association for those interested in membership: The 15th Air Force Association, Box 6325, March Air Force Base, CA 92518.