

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

THE PROCLAMATION BELOW WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR PRESENTATION DURING THE BANQUET AT THE 1984 REUNION IN ORLANDO, AND IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, D.C. 20330
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 461st AND
484th BOMB GROUPS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of President Reagan, I am delighted to extend congratulations to members of the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups Association on the occasion of your Fourth Annual Anniversary.

Your personal courage and dedication in the perilous skies over Europe that earned two Distinguished Unit Citations for each of your groups are well recorded in Air Force history. You can take great pride in valiant service defending our nation's cherished ideals. It seems fitting that you have gathered to renew friendships formed in battle and to honor fallen comrades who sacrificed their lives to keep our country free.

Best wishes for many more such celebrations.

Verne Orr

THIS NOTE WAS HANDED TO US DURING THE 1984 REUNION:

I am the audio visual person at the hotel who provided the TV and tape player for your meetings. While walking through your exhibits in St. Cloud Hall (Hyatt Hotel) on Thursday, I have never felt so close to our nation's history as I did walking among the men of the 461 and 484 Bomb Groups. Looking at the memorabilia and listening to conversations, I finally realized the great sacrifices and commitments it takes to live and maintain freedom.

Although knowing none of you as anything but senior citizens, your convention and meeting has given me a respectful and proud understanding of our nation and its history.

Although what you did, and what you are, go greatly unnoticed in this day and age, I want you to know that what you did for me and my peers and for all future free people should never be forgotten. Thank you for being the men that you are and were, and for what you did for the world.

(Signed) W. A. Becher

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

We have had many inquiries about Senator George McGovern, who as many of you know, was a B-24 pilot with the 15th Air Force during WWII. To put the record straight, he was assigned to the 455th Bomb Group. The 455th, together with the 454th B.G. were based in the vicinity of Cerignola, not too far from Toretta. This information was taken from McGovern's biography, authored by Robert Sam Anson. It was published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

ANNUAL MEETING

Watch for announcement for date of the 1985 annual membership meeting. Location: Los Angeles, California area.

DUES REMINDER

Members who have not paid their 1984 membership dues, should send in their \$15.00 NOW, so that we can close the books for 1984. Dues for the year 1985, are payable: \$15.00, as of January 1, 1985. You may wish to pre-pay now as many members have already done.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Scholarship Fund was created to help needy Italian students further their education. By limiting the resident requirements to areas around Torretta and Cerignola, the scholarships will honor our fallen comrades by this living memorial. Your continued contributions are most welcome.



WHAT USED TO FIT INTO A TAIL TURRET, NOW LOOKS LIKE THE BALL TURRET! *SIGH*
Bill Hogan 827 Sq.

SICK CALL

Get well soon! ROBERT COLLIER, JR. (827th Sq.) is due to have surgery for a total left knee replacement 10/16/84

JAMES GOUGH (826th Sq.) is scheduled for surgery 3/23/84. Crew member, Ray Foss, wrote us that Jim would appreciate our prayers and cards.

FRED McGRATH (766th Sq.) has MS and other medical problems that prevents him from attending reunions but he welcomes correspondence from war time buddies. You can write to him at 1645 Joffre Road, Forked River, NE 08731.

TOM JAVARUSKI (764th Sq.) We were told, at the Orlando reunion, that Tom's wife, Marge, is responding to treatments for cancer. Although she gets tired easily and had to give up her job, her mental attitude is good.



PHOTO OF MARGE AND TOM JAVARUSKI
764th Sq.