

1989 NEW ORLEANS REUNION

There was over 350 members and guests at the New Orleans reunion. The New Orleans Marriott Hotel was the official site for the 1989 reunion. Sitting on one edge of the French Quarter, across Canal Street from the St Charles streetcar, and only three blocks from the Mississippi River, the hotel was walking distance from the main attractions of the city. The site of the recent New Orleans World's Fair, at the foot of Canal Street, was visited by many of the attendees. It has been converted into a regional shopping and eating complex. Completely air conditioned, it provided a comfortable environment for enjoyment of leisure activities such as relaxing at the Cafe Du Monde for cafe au lait (New Orleans style coffee) and beignets (little pillow donuts dusted with powdered sugar that are unique only to New Orleans). The attendees enjoyed the oyster and shrimp bars, that seemed to be everywhere, the world famous restaurants, the antique shops of the French Quarter, and, of course, Bourbon Street, the Jazz music that poured out of the saloons and bars, and the drinks fashioned out of hurricane glasses.

On Friday members and guests piled into busses for a tour of Keesler Air Force Base, where many of the engineer-gunners learned their military occupational specialty (MOS). For some engineers it was a trip back in time to the moment when they first met with the venerable B-24. The nostalgic theme was carried out by the guest speaker at the banquet who presented a slide show talk on the history of Keesler Field. We would like to thank all of the helpers for their assistance in making the New Orleans reunion most memorable: Doris and Clark Ecton, Caryl and Ralph Carr, and Joe Ercole.

Annual Business Meeting Report New Orleans, Saturday, September 3rd at 10 AM. At the business meeting, on Saturday morning, after the minutes of the last meeting and financial report were approved, and the Scholarship Committee's report was given, the election of directors for the coming year took place. The directors are: Bud Markel, Bea Markel, Frank Valdez, Tom Javaruski and Chris Donaldson.

Scholarship Committee The Scholarship Committee report was given by Ed Goree, and after some discussion by the members present on the recommendation made by Professor Umberto Albanese, who heads the Italian staff in making the annual selections, to increase the number of students selected for awards or to increase the dollar amount of the awards, the members voted unanimously that the amount and number of students selected for awards be left to the discretion of the members of the Scholarship Committee.

Important Matters Some other matters of importance to all of our members were dealt with at the annual meeting. A report on the current membership status of the Association, indicates that while the total paid-up membership (currently 800 members) remains stable, there is an imbalance of membership and attendance at the annual meetings between the two Groups, with the 484th BG in the majority. Members of both groups in attendance made no recommendations for any changes.

Needy Fund A report was made on the Assistance (or Needy) Fund to help members of modest income to attend future reunions which was established just prior to the San Francisco reunion. After a great deal of discussion, it was the concensus of the membership, although no formal vote was taken, that the amount of monies contributed to the fund over the two year period was not sufficient to warrant continuing the funding program. The monies contributed to the Assistance or Needy Fund will be transferred to the Association General Contribution

fund. The question of the site for the 1990 reunion was brought up for discussion, with a hand vote taken on either Washington DC or Nashville, Tennessee, the two most popular of the sites listed in the questionnaires. Nashville was the winner! The membership also agreed that the time of the year most desirable was the last week of September and the first two weeks of October, irregardless of the higher room rates during these peak seasonal periods.

Prior to leaving New Orleans, the Reunion Committee (Bud and Bea Markel) contacted the Nashville Marriott Hotel and finalized negotiations, with the result that the 1990 reunion of the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups Association will take place October 12-15, 1990, in the city of Nashville, Tennessee, at the Nashville Marriott Hotel.

Midwest Location Chosen for the 1991 Reunion.

The discussion of a site for the 1991 reunion was brought up, and a Midwest location was recommended. Indianapolis, Dearborn (Michigan), Chicago, Kansas City, are under consideration.

Contributors to the Memorial Scholarship Fund from March 1989 to January 1990

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| Arthur Aldene 827 | Leo V Matranga 825 |
| Albert K Borcharding 824 | Val R Miller 765 |
| Joseph C Bott 825 | Edward J Morris 766 |
| <i>In Memory of Don Reid 825</i> | John L Mulligan 827 |
| Walter L Bruesch 826 | <i>In Memory of Bob Fetter 827</i> |
| Clarence L Bush 824 | E Forrest Nance 824 |
| Kelton G Bush 767 | Barrow F Neale 826 |
| James T Chafin Jr 825 | Vincent W O'Shea 826 |
| George Christie 765 | Louie W Odom 826 |
| Fred Dierksmeier 826 | Sidney Ostrovsky 827 |
| Joseph Dondero 826 | John B Paine 826 |
| Hal Draper Jr 766 | Carl H Peter 767 |
| Peter Drill 484 | Louis A Peterson 826 |
| Clark W Ecton 825 | James D Pool 825 |
| Franklin S Ennis 824 | Edward Prendeville 766 |
| Joseph J Ercole 824 | Harold D Pressel Jr 825 |
| Angelo L Ferrara 767 | Claude F Schroeder 827 |
| Dorothy Fetter 827 | Edward Schwartz 826 |
| <i>In memory of Bob Fetter 827</i> | Arthur T Shak 824 |
| George S Flamand 825 | Nicholas Sidovar 766 |
| Ellsworth Goodell 826 | Richard A Sites 824 |
| Edwin T Goree 764 | Hubert W Souther 764 |
| Tillman J Gressitt 827 | Telford V Stradley 764 |
| Donald G Hanson 826 | Stanley Szemreylo 827 |
| Robert V Hayes 766 | George Thullesen 767 |
| Mike Hendrickson 824 | Charles E Trinkle 826 |
| John Hicks 826 | John L Underwood 764 |
| Harry K Hubertz 824 | Leon Usherson 825 |
| John D Iconis 461 | Carl H Voss 826 |
| Theodore T (Ted) Janes 825 | David R Ward 826 |
| Mike Karwoski 824 | Harry R Watkins 825 |
| Paul W Kerr 826 | Lawrence P Weakley 824 |
| Edward J Latal 767 | Edward J Whalen 827 |
| Joseph F Malloy 827 | John A Whitacre 825 |
| Adolph Marcus 824 | Norbert Wholeben 824 |
| <i>In memory of George Bouras 824</i> | Orville L Wildman 826 |
| <i>In memory of John B O'Neill 824</i> | John H Williamson 766 |
| | Ross J Wilson 824 |
| | Bernard Young 827 |