
Report On The Dayton Reunion

Dedication of the Plaque at Dayton

The highlight of the 1995 reunion in Dayton, Ohio was the dedication of the plaque in the Memorial Park of the Air Force Museum. Both Col. Bill Keese and Lt/Col. Chester Busch were present to address the assembly.

A registration memento of a miniature plaque was given to members and guests as they registered for the reunion. The miniatures proved to be so popular that all extras were sold out at the end of the reunion. The plaques were reordered and are on hand for sale to members. They are priced at \$25.00 including shipping.

Now as far as the arrangements for the plaque is concerned, it was the board of directors who felt a permanent place or institution would be a good place to install the plaque. Most of the aircraft on display at Air

Force military airfields throughout the continental United States are owned by the Air Force, but with the closing of many military bases planned or already taking place the board agreed on the Dayton location for the first plaque installation, with the approval of our members. The Dedication of the 484th Bomb Group's plaque took place on Friday, September 15, 1995 in the Memorial Park adjacent to the Air Force Museum's main building. After the conclusion of the Dedication ceremony, guests visited the Air Force Museum. A bus service between the Dayton Marriott and the Museum shuttled members and guests to and fro.

Our Second Reunion in Dayton

The 1995 reunion in Dayton is our second visit to the city that hosts the United States Air Force Museum. We had previously been in Dayton in 1982. For those who remember, the Sheraton Hotel where we were staying was too small to hold the annual dinner dance resulting in the use of the Dayton Convention Center just two blocks away.

Arrangements for the banquet including ordering the food and table decorations was done through a company completely separate from the Convention Center. Without a face to face meeting or even a hand shake, the company agreed over the phone to provide the food and decorations. After the reunion they sent us a bill, which

was promptly paid, and included a nice thank you letter. How they knew we were good for the money, we don't know to this day.

For this 1995 Dayton reunion, recognition is given to our local Dayton members Jim and Mary Pool, for all of their efforts on our behalf.



Drawing of the Miniature Plaque that was given to all attendees of the 1995 Dayton Reunion.

The Ceremony

This was a full military ceremony. The guests were welcomed by the museum official, Bob Bobbitt, followed by the posting of the colors by Sgt. Merlyn Yeager's uniformed company from VFW Post No 3283 of Huber Heights, Ohio, then the invocation was given by Chaplain Joseph Hanna. The President of the Association Bud Markel gave a brief history of the of the 484th Bomb Group. At this point, Bill Keese, the Commanding Officer was introduced to speak, followed by Chester

Busch, the Deputy Commanding Officer, who spoke briefly about the organization. The plaque was unveiled by Arthur Shaw, 827th Sq, and then Charlie McKew, one of our five Directors, presented the plaque and the accompanying green ash tree to the museum. The Air Force Museum's Director, Richard L Uppstrom accepted the plaque and tree for the museum. Chaplain Hanna then gave the benediction. The firing party fired four volleys, then withdrew while a bugler in full Air Force Blues played taps. The color guard company then retired the colors, and the audience was invited to take pictures. After the reunion the Association tendered a check to the museum for perpetual care of the plaque and tree.

For members and families information: The location of the 484th Memorial plaque and tree is Site 267, in the Memorial Park, which is adjacent to the Air Force Museum, at the outermost edge of the Park.

One of the most popular activities at reunions, and the 1995 reunion was no exception, was the display room. Most of the orders received by the Association over the years have been duplicated and placed in display folders. Other materials include documents, maps, and photographs. At Dayton we were fortunate to receive mounted photographs from the King Beach (827th Sq) Photo Collection which were exhibited for the first time in the display room.

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