

May 87

449th Bomb Group Association

“FLYING HORSEMEN” (WW2)



716



Group
HQS
and



717



718

719

716th, 717th, 718th, 719th Bomb Squadrons and the 348th Service Squadron.

MAY 87 NEWSLETTER

3rd REUNION INFORMATION

3RD REUNION = COLORADO SPRINGS — SEPT 23-25, 1987!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all at The CLARION HOTEL)

TUESDAY, Sept. 22nd, 1987.

1800-2200 **REGISTRATION** begins (all committees and early arrivals), **Registration will continue until Friday evening 1900.**

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 23rd, 1987. REUNION BEGINS!

0800-1000 Display and hospitality set-up times. **Registration continues** through the day, **until late evening.**

1000-1100 **GOLF TOURNEY PARTICIPANTS** assemble for transportation to Peterson AFB Golf Course.

1200-1300 **GOLF TOURNEY TEE TIMES**, at Peterson AFB

1000-1500 **Ladies Shopping Tour...Pikes Peak Bus Co.**, through Olde Town and Colorado Springs areas. Lunch during tour.

1745-1845 Social Hour; **Cash bar.**

1900 **“GET ACQUAINTED” BUFFET.** All members and guests. Informal.

THURSDAY, Sept. 24th, 1987.

0900-1600 **“Mountain Tour Day”**...we have two tours, both begin at 0900 hrs. and return between 1530 and 1600 hours. **TOUR “A”, the PIKES PEAK Tour** goes to the summit of the peak, lunching in the Garden of the Gods prior to the travel through the Park...**the box lunch price is included.**

TOUR “B”, the CRIPPLE CREEK Tour goes into the mountains to the gold **mining town of Cripple Creek**, lunch will be on individual basis in the town, Pikes Peak Tours bus Co.

1745-1845 Social Hours; cash bar.

1900-2300 **WESTERN BUFFET & “SPIRIT OF THE WEST” floor show**...one price for the full evening of Western entertainment.

FRIDAY, Sept. 25th, 1987.

0900-1300 **AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOUR & VISIT.** During this Tour we will hold our **Memorial Dedication** of the 449th Memorial Plaque at the Academy Cemetery Memorial Wall, Pikes Peak Bus Co.

1300-1500 Lunch on your own.

1500-1630 **449th BOMB GROUP ASSOC. BUSINESS MEETING.** All members...Election; discussions, Memorial plans, next reunion, etc.

1745-1845 Social Hour; cash bar.

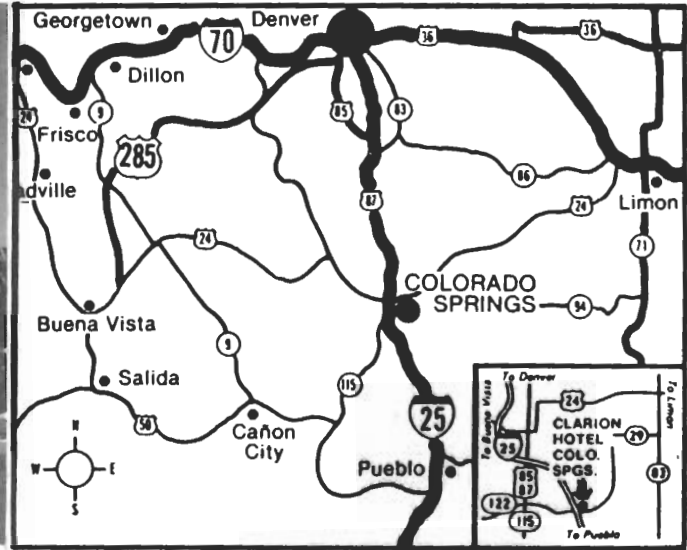
1900 **ANNIVERSARY & REUNION BANQUET.** Special program. A “sit-down” banquet (coats & ties for men, ladies, long dress optional).

2400 REUNION ends...

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION AND DATA:

COLORADO SPRINGS:...“For All The Right Seasons”...and;...“The City With a Heart of Gold!”

- (1) This will be the third Reunion of the 449th Bomb Group Association WW2. Our first reunion, Tucson November 83, and our 2nd, Dayton October 85, were fantastic...as agreed by the Association Cabinet, from the nominated selections, Colorado Springs was selected for the 1987 Reunion. After deliberation, the dates in September were selected in December 86 and arrangements began.
- (2) In September 86, a committee of 449ers met at the Clarion Hotel to discuss plans for the 3rd Reunion, and the next two days were spent going over these plans and “dry-running” possible tours. The Dedication of the 449th Memorial Plaque, at the Air Force Academy Cemetery, was the prime planning factor. When it was determined that the Academy scheduled these dedications on week-days only, the dates were then established...Friday would be the day of the Dedication and with the Air Academy football team out-of-town, we had no reason to utilize a Saturday or Sunday, desiring the Memorial Dedication to be one of the final events. With our Anniversary and Reunion Banquet for the Friday evening, all the other planned events “fell into order” to precede these two main events. The Golf Tourney was added as a special event, for the first time in our Reunions, and a special Tour for the Ladies to occur during the Tourney!
- (3) **The CLARION Hotel** was selected for its capability to seat 600 persons for a banquet...several other nice Hotels could not, and the Broadmoor “posh” Hotel prices too steep! The Clarion is a new Hotel, of the same order as the Marriott of our 2nd Reunion...(see layout and directions on page 3).
- (4) **HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Please note that the 449th is not making room reservations for you...you **must** send in the Reservation Request Card yourself and separately from the 449th Advance Registration Sheet. The **Clarion** rates are special rates for the season, with a “cut-off” date of midnight August 23rd! Two nearby Hotels are **available** (2 blocks distance) The Hampton Inn, South, (303) 579-6900; and Budget Inn, (303) 576-2371; both are just off Exit 138 from Interstate-25; tell them you’re 449ers!
- (5) **449th ADVANCE REGISTRATION SHEET:** All attendees are to complete this sheet and return it to the Association Secretary, R.F. Downey, 4859 Stanhope Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128 with the \$15.00 Registration Fee. This Fee is to assist in Reunion Expenses...and the Advance Registration is necessary to determine numbers for each event...mail this Advance Registration Sheet and your check (made out to 449th Bomb Group Association) to the Secretary as soon as possible...mail your Hotel Reservation Request Card to the Hotel, and include one night’s lodging as deposit!
- (6) **AIRPORT-TO-CLARION TRANSPORTATION:** The Clarion Hotel provides **FREE TRANSPORTATION** with white and green trimmed van service...call 576-5900 for pick-up at the Airport!
- (7) **CAMPERS/R.V. VEHICLES:** Call Colorado Springs Convention Bureau for hook-up services, 1-800-821-0022. The Clarion parking lot can accommodate those without hook-ups. Plenty of parking for all!
- (8) A Denver based Photographic Company will be taking photos for your selection; group shots, crews, couples, etc. (no Album is planned for this Reunion).
- (9) Special arrangements have been made for discount rates for the **OFFICIAL CO-CARRIERS** of our Reunion...**CONTINENTAL/EASTERN AIRLINES** are providing us special rates...see page 7...and use the “Easy Access Number EZ9AP56” upon calling!



CLARION HOTEL™

COLORADO SPRINGS

2886 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80906
TELEPHONE: (303) 576-5900

LOCATION:...60 miles south of Denver, on Interstate 25, at exit 138, the Clarion Hotel is convenient to all major Colorado Springs attractions. Just 8 minutes from the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport. Free limousine (van) service.

LUXURIOUS GUEST ROOMS: The 449th Bomb Group Assn. is getting a special discount price for the latter summer month of September! The \$69.00 rate is for single or double occupancy, and the Executive Suites are 75.00 single or double. The 69.00 rooms include a refrigerator (where we can stock our coffee, rolls, milk, etc.) and have a comfortable seating area with couch and lounge chairs. (therefore, the Executive suites must have something more?). Our advance committee adjudged the rooms as larger than those at the Marriott.

WEATHER: September is the last warm month for Colorado Springs; and the Aspen trees are beginning to turn yellow! Our September trip was in great weather, skies bluer than blue, but a sweater is recommended for all away-from-the Hotel excursions, especially for tours! Golf weather is outstanding! Some slight breezes might occur. Ladies of the committee advise bringing comfortable shoes for their tours, suits and slacks, with a dress or two for the inner Hotel affairs...especially the Banquet, Friday.

HOTEL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Lighted tennis courts, Indoor and Outdoor Pools, Sauna, Weight Room, Jacuzzi, Putting Green, Shuffle Board, Fitness course, Big-Screen TV, In-Room Movies. Bolero's Restaurant, top floor, offers fine specialties. A full service Cafe-restaurant is open 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Note; A Deli, Sax's Third Avenue Restaurant, is located at the lobby level, within the hotel...open 24 hours. For those who might stay over Sunday...the hotel holds a champagne brunch between 0900 to 2:00 p.m. And, of course, a fine Gift Shop...and a mens Barber Shop that does shoe shines! (remember who we had do our shoes?...a lot of good it did at Grottaglie, but some of us did manage to keep one pair fairly respectable!).

PARKING: There is space for 500 cars...all outdoor. Covered off-loading area...**NO CHARGE FOR ALL THE MOUNTAIN SCENERY!**

THIS 3rd REUNION HAS FOUR (4...count 'em) TOURS!...HOLY COW!!!

REUNION DETAILS — DATES — TIMES — PRICES!

There is the Sightseeing-Shopping Local Tour for Wednesday...and the two Tours for Thursday (but you can only participate in one of these, as they occur simultaneously), and then there is the great tour of the Air Force Academy on Friday, for all!...here is the information! **Tuesday, the 22nd, is the arrival date for the committees and for those playing in the Golf Tourney!** (check the overall schedule page 1)

WED. 23 Sept: GOLF TOURNEY (players assemble at the Clarion at 1000 hours for pairings, and information...Pat Gentry, 719th pilot, is the Golf Committeeman for the 449th! The playing course is at Peterson Air Force Base, where we have tee times reserved beginning at 1200 hours...but we must be readied for them! So all golfers be on time at the Clarion. Register in Advance, on the Advance Registration Sheet for your participation...and pay your green fees, cart fees, club rentals, at the golf house! Prices are: Greens fees; \$10 for 18 holes, \$5 for 9 holes; carts are \$8 for 18 holes, and \$4 for 9 holes...clubs rent for less than \$5...these prices just cannot be beat! (a ladies tour occurs for the same times of the Golf Tourney)...present plans is for a "best ball" twosome tourney...most likely for 9 holes, with some players staying for the full 18...but counting the front 9 as the Tourney portion!...**Include your 9 hole average with Registration.**

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING TOUR:

Price is \$10 per person; via Pikes Peak Bus Tour Co. with professional tour guide...departs Clarion Hotel 1000 hours and returns 3 p.m.; the tour travels through downtown Colorado Springs; Colorado College, Monument Valley Park and Millionaires Row (gold mining money)...then to Old Colorado City, where all can shop in 98 different and unique shops and boutiques...lunch will be at Furr's Cafeteria (separate individual expense)...then through Manitou Springs, on to Gold Camp Road to Helen Hunt Falls and returning to the Clarion. Tickets required for this Tour...Register in Advance!

...between 5:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. is our first SOCIAL HOUR with Cash Bar, at the Clarion, in preparation for the buffet. At 7:00 p.m. is our "**GET ACQUAINTED BUFFET**," our "no holds barred" informal gathering, advance registration tickets required...\$12 per person which includes gratuity and tax...informal program of introductions, greetings, and using Henry Flesh; "Hank" has agreed to help us with the M.C. chores for this opener!...if he is the same "card" that he was back in 1944, watch out!!!

...and of course, **all must Register at the 449th OPERATIONS SHACK** where you will receive your Reunion Envelope, containing your name tags, programs, and the tickets that you indicated when you sent in your Advance Registration sheet...this makes it all run much more smoothly! Stop at the Registration tables as soon as you can, and **before showing up for your events...or you just might be too late**...and have your check book ready, to speed up the line! Registrations go on all day during the Reunion...except during the evening buffets, the A.F. Academy Tour, the business meeting, and the Friday banquet...but all day Wednesday and Thursday...make it easier for the committee Secretary and Treasurer by Registering as soon as possible!

THURSDAY 24 September is "**SCENIC TOUR DAY FOR THE 449th**" wear comfortable clothes, shoes, and bring a sweater, and plenty of outdoor film with your camera! Tickets paid for in advance, by registration.

(Thurs. Tour information continued)

These two tours occur simultaneously so you must designate the one you desire, and have those correct tickets, through your registration. Both begin at 0900 hours, from the CLARION HOTEL...both to return at approximately the same times, between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m....the prices differ only because one has a box lunch cost included, the other lunches are by individual expense in Cripple Creek! Note that these tours are both by the Pikes Peak Tours Bus Co. who provide experienced tour guides...not just drivers...they will provide a running commentary on all the scenery...and do so for thousands of tours...prices include the motorcoaches, insurance, and ground operator at the Clarion.. We found, during our trial runs in September 86 that these guides are most knowledgeable, not only about the scenery and history, but for the comfort of those in our age group...and for those who have never visited Colorado Springs and made the ascents into mountains that start at the 6,000 foot level (for that is the elevation above sea level for the Clarion Hotel lobby!...and all of Colorado Springs, golf course included!)...some dizziness can be felt, until one becomes accustomed...the tour guides are accustomed to dealing with these situations.

THURS. 24 September; TOUR "A" PIKES PEAK / GARDEN OF THE GODS 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m....\$24 per person (\$6 is for the box lunch you will eat at the reserved pavilion in The Garden of the gods). You will travel up a 29 mile, well maintained and patrolled double-lane road...normal round trip is 3 hours...to the top of Pikes Peak, 14,110 feet...this road is the site of the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb for 12½ miles of this road, through 156 twisting turns...passing through 3 stages of vegetation and geologic scenery. The view is breath-taking! The experience memorable! On descent you will enter The Garden of the Gods, named because the early Indians believed that their various Gods (wind, sun, birds, etc.) dwelled there!...but actually is a nationally known tourist attraction of beautiful rock ledge formations, televised many times during Easter sunrise services! We will lunch at the pavilion (just us 449ers) and then tour this area of natural wonder.

TOUR "B" CRIPPLE CREEK / GARDEN OF THE GODS 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m....\$18 per person (plus your lunch, your selection while at Cripple Creek, your expense)...the same natural wonders of the Garden of the Gods (described in the above tour) plus the tour around Pikes Peak to Cripple Creek, Colorado...a step back in time to the gold mining town and its Victorian buildings and exhibits...a herd of donkeys, used in the mines, can be seen roaming the streets...an old 0-4-0- steam engine still makes a narrow gauge run...craftsmen dot the area...an active gold mine still flourishes...various ghost towns are nearby, all part of the historic area.

...Thursday evening, 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m...SOCIAL HOUR with Cash Bar, preparing for the Western Buffet and Evening Show!

7:00 p.m.; WESTERN BUFFET, followed by "SPIRIT OF THE WEST" four hour show of Western Entertainment. The \$17 price includes the buffet and the full floor show, put on by the "Crooked Canyon Entertainment Co.," using precision clog dancers, exhibition of western gun drawing/handling, lively western music, and some audience participation...(good chance to get into the act).

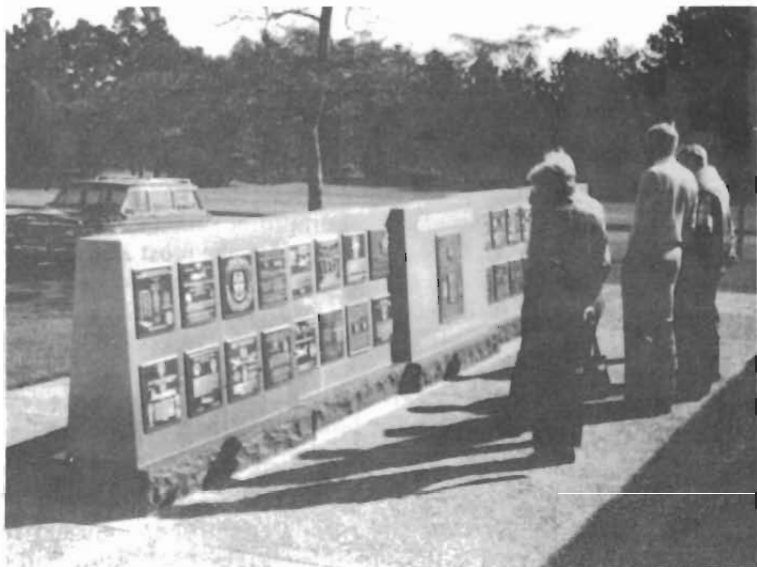
...after these tours and the Western show, we should all get in a good nights sleep for the full tour of the Air Force Academy, Friday morning...and the dedication of the 449th Memorial Plaque!

FRIDAY 25 September; AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOUR...buses depart the Clarion at 0830 hours...price \$10 per person, with guides. A full tour of the 18,000 acre Academy...the vast Field House that holds an indoor football field, full basketball arena, complete ice hockey arena...the exquisite 17 spired interdenominational Chapel...the new 3.8 million dollar visitors center...viewing of the complete noon-day formation of the Air Force Cadets...and the special printed program of the **Dedication of the 449th Memorial Plaque at the Academy Cemetery (pictured on page 6). The Academy hosts more visitors than any other tourist attraction in the whole State of Colorado!**

(FRIDAY, 25 Sept. cont'd) The Air Force Academy Memorial Plaques = Site of the 449th Plaque.

The three visible 449ers, left to right, are: Mary Lapham, Bill Tope, and Don Lapham...Dick Downey took the photo.

The 449th Plaque is the same size as those in the rows... The wording on our Plaque reads..."May the Spirit of our fallen comrades join with us today as we re-establish old friendships, rekindle the fires of patriotism and rededicate ourselves toward these lofty ideals of freedom and peace."...it has a B-24, with the title across its top reading...449th Bombardment Group (H) "Flying Horsemen" Grottaglie, Italy 1943-1945. The unit emblem and the 15th Air Force emblems bracket the upper sides...the bottom, and smaller line reads..."dedicated by the 449th Bomb Group Association (WWII).



...lunch this Friday will be up to each person, after we return from the Academy, approx. 1:30 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m.; **449th ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING:** Discussion of other future Memorials, election of officers, cabinet member reports, nomination of the 1989 Reunion site. Open to 449th members. Adjournment estimated approximate 4:30 p.m. (at The Clarion)

5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.; **SOCIAL HOUR** and Cash bar, preceding the Reunion and **Anniversary Banquet.**

7:00 p.m. **REUNION and 44th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET:** (Clarion main Ballroom)...price, \$15 per person, tickets from Advance Registration Full program, suit and tie for the men, long dress optional for the ladies.

...the 3rd Reunion ends after the benediction of the Banquet.

SPECIAL NOTE:...take time to enjoy your visit...the week-end of the 26th and 27th (Sat and Sun) affords you additional time for the vacation and trip you have made, a leisurely time for return homeward, and some additional time to spend with others you haven't seen since the 2nd Reunion...certainly make plans to attend the 1989, 4th Reunion!

449th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, deceased members since the origin and entry of **their names into the files**, which started in Nov. 82...each had responded to our newly formed Association...several **attended the Reunions.**

- Bivins, J.Summer 84; 716th Crew Pilot.
- Blanton, AutySept. 83...former MIA, Col. USAF Retired
- Bloomgren, FranklinLate 84...PFC in Grp. Hqs.
- Brady, Robert N.Pilot of "Bradys Gang," Nov. 85, 716th Sqdn.
- Brazzale, Guido N.Gunner on "Holy Joe," Fowler's crew, 717th; in 83.
- Drinan, EdwardCrew Pilot "Heavenly Body," Sept. 86; 716th Sqdn.
- Elliott, Earl J.SSgt. in Grp Hqs; Jan. 83.
- Ferguson, Robert719th; CP on Stubb's crew; 85 or 86.
- Florsheim, SylvanGroup Photographer, Oct. 83.
- Harris, Victor S.716th, Navigator on Bird's crew; Feb. 87.
- Hoggatt, Robert A.718th; Bombardier on D. Roger's crew; Dec. 82.
- Ketring, Collman H.719th Crew Pilot; Nov. 86.
- Pinix, Verne J.718th; July 84, Radio Operator on Mason's crew.
- Rabent, Raymond J.717th; Jan 83. One of 4 survivors on Ridgeway's crew.
- Race, Kenneth O.716th; Flight Engineer on Parkin's crew; early 85.
- Staley, Ray "Buck"718th Pilot; June 84, Col. USAF Retired.
- Webster, Lloyd J.716th; gunner on Kennelly's crew; April 84.
- Wilson, Luther C.718th, Radio Operator on Young's crew; Aug. 86.
- Wood, John W.718th, Pilot of "Woodschopper," Sept. 85.

...we add these names to those who have preceded us, during WW2 and for the interim years, before the organization of the Association.

NOTICE: Special arrangements and contracts signed for CONTINENTAL and EASTERN AIRLINES to be the "OFFICIAL CO-CARRIERS" of our "3rd" Reunion!!!

CONTINENTAL / EASTERN



Call 800-468-7022 for reservations and information...in Florida, call 800-282-0244...9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for both 800 numbers! **Be sure and give them the 449th "Easy Access Number" of EZ9AP56 when making reservations!** Continental will provide a 12% discount off full day coach and first class fares, and a 6% discount off lowest round trip fare, if available. Eastern will provide a 50% discount off round trip coach and a 5% discount off lowest published fare. Continental Airlines has many flights into Colorado Springs!

SPECIAL NEWS ITEMS: A special printing of the full membership of the 449th Bomb Group Association will be made available at the 3rd Reunion, as part of your Registration package...all the information on each member; squadron, crew, position, number of missions, dates with the 449th, etc...with addresses of all...for we have just passed the 900 names in file!

Remember, we still have the larger Memorial for the Air Force Museum being studied by the Memorial Committee. This Committee Chairman is Dick Asbury (717); members are: Bob Bird (716), Art Swan (719), John Banas (717), Bill Tope (Hqs), Ed Sass (717), and Hollie Wilkes (Hqs). This will be one of the big items of our business meeting, at the Reunion.

Sales of the First History Volume, of Books 1 and 2, are still going on...they are \$20.00 each; order from the Association Secretary whose name and address is on the last page of this Newsletter!

The Association Historian, Don Lapham, reports additional sales from the special mailing in Feb-Mar 87...and that the Book #3, is to be a great addition to the first 2 books...many photos, hereto unpublished before have been sent in...more crew photos,...some great personal stories...they "just had to be a part of the printed history of the 449th Flying Horsemen"!...these



two small shots are just a portion of recently received information... Lapham will have a work copy of Book #3 at the 3rd Reunion...and the last printing of the 449th Bomb Group History will then be made...have you sent in all of your photos and stories? All subsequent will then appear in Newsletters, only!...and these Books make great gifts to grandchildren!!!



a 716th a/c, flown over by Hoyts crew; she ran out of fuel & crashed on base leg, 9 Jan 45.

a 717th ship, flown overseas by Brydon Ross crew 6 Jun 44.

348th Service Squadron information now coming in! ...after thorough search, we have located many 348th Service Squadron veterans! And it has been learned that they have been holding their own Squadron Reunions since around 1978! This outfit was part of the 9th Air Force, the 12th Air Force and joined us at Grottaglie Airfield to help start the 15th Air Force...they had served since 1942, in Syria, Palestine, and in North Africa (Libya), with the 98th and 376th Bomb Groups; all prior to the assignment with our 449th Group...after this year they join us at all reunions...for they, too, had scheduled their 1987 Reunion the same weekend of September as ours! ... **Their contact is: Leonard Klafka, 2144 South 107th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin 53227.**

The 449th BGA Newsletter

Compiled, written by
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4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128
(314) 892-4597

Printed & co-written by
Don Lapham
449th BGA Historian

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We are Federal IRS Tax Exempt #36 002 4203 Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(19).

YOUR FINAL CHECKLIST "449th FLYING HORSEMEN" REUNION #3!

1. Complete the enclosed **449th Advance Registration Sheet!** Mail to: R. Downey, Secretary, 4859 Stanhope Drive, St. Louis, MO. 63128; **and attach your \$15.00 registration fee** (make check to: 449th Bomb Group Association)...this is for reunion expenses...one fee per member, one fee only per family (includes guest family).
2. Complete **Clarion Hotel Registration Card**, enclosed. Mail to the Clarion Hotel with one nights rental, minimum. (they will send you a confirmation). We have a "cut-off" date...room reservations must be received **by them prior to August 24th** (by the 23rd) or our rates will not apply, and space is not set aside (blocked off for the 449th).
3. Read this **MAY 87 NEWSLETTER** thoroughly...it covers each day, each event.
4. Note that the prices of each event are outlined on the Advance Registration form. Send no money for these events, only the registration fee...and your tickets with Reunion Envelope will be readied for you in Colorado.

**(Jan-May 1944
tail markings)**

449th Bomb Group Association



3rd REUNION AND 44th ANNIVERSARY

449th Bomb Group Assoc.
716-717-718-719th Bomb Sqdns
& 348th Service Sqdn.
15th Air Force (WW2)
Richard F. Downey, Secy.
4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128



**3rd REUNION INFORMATION
MAY 87 NEWSLETTER!**

**FIRST
CLASS**