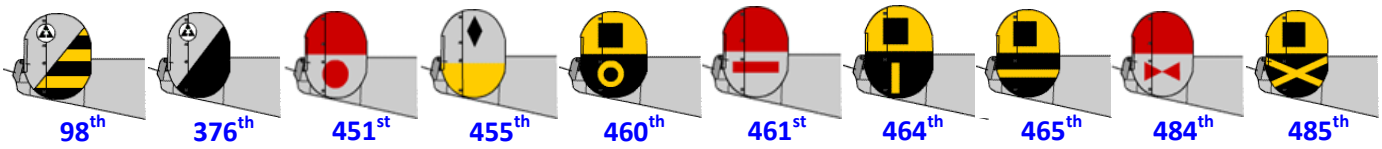
2018 BOMB GROUPS JOINT REUNION

98th, 376th, 451st, 455th, 460th, 461st, 464th, 465th, 484th & 485th BOMBARDMENT GROUPS (H)



Thursday, September 13th – Sunday, September 16th.

Thursday, September 13th is arrival and check in day. The hospitality room and registration desk will be open from 10:00AM till 5:00PM and then again at 8:00PM until ? The Hospitality room will feature the usual heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

- **From 5:00-7:00PM Thursday, the hotel is hosting a welcome reception that will feature assorted cheeses in addition to fresh fruit and vegetable trays with dip, coffee and fruit punch.**
- **At 7:00PM we will transition into our all groups welcome meeting at which time we will go over the upcoming schedule of events.**

Friday, September 14th will feature activities at, and a tour of the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

- **Friday morning, we will depart the hotel at 8:00AM for a short drive to the AF Museum. Another bus trip will be made from the hotel to the museum a little later in the morning for those who might want a little later start.**
- **Upon arrival we will be allowed some private time with ropes down visiting the B-24 "Strawberry Bitch", an original B-24D that was assigned to the 376th BG, "Flash" Gordon Byfield, Pilot, one of our participating veterans and bomb groups.**
- **At 9:15AM we will move to the Carney Auditorium for a special presentation of commemorative Presidential Unit Citation medals to each of our veterans by a General officer from Wright-Patterson AFB.**
- **Also in the Carney Auditorium, we will then have the traditional Military Memorial Ceremony, conducted by Chaplain/Captain Chris Cairns, Grandson of the last CO of the 485th BG and Reunion Chaplain.**
    - **As a part of this Memorial ceremony a multi part wreath will be presented. This wreath as a whole will represent the combined effort of our bomb groups that worked together in the Fifteenth Air Force to secure victory over the Axis powers during WWII. The wreath will have removable sections with each section representing one of our individual Bomb Groups.**
    - **The individual group members can then take their part of the wreath to their respective marker in the Memorial Gardens outside on the museum**

grounds (each of our groups has a marker in that garden) to conduct any type of ceremony they desire.

- **Following that, everyone will be free to tour the museum at will.**
- **Lunch is on your own today.**
- **Buses will leave the museum at 1:15, 2:30 & 3:45PM to return to the hotel.**

Friday evening will feature our Individual Group Banquets as we have done in the past.

- **Social hour will begin at 5:30PM with a cash bar in the commons area.**
- **Dinner will be served at 6:30PM**

<u>Saturday, September 15th</u> will feature an expanded program of Veteran speakers, discussion panels or speakers from outside our organization. It will be a day when we "stay in house". Everyone can relax, visit, attend the speaker presentations or do whatever their heart desires.

Lunch is on your own today. In addition to the hotel restaurant, there are numerous places within 1 or 1 ½ blocks of the hotel. A list of local restaurants can be found in your registration packet.

Saturday evening will feature our all groups Banquet.

- **The Veterans group photo will be taken at 5:15 at the entrance to the banquet ballroom. Social hour will begin at 5:30PM with a cash bar in the ball room.**
- **At 6:30PM the Sons of the American Revolution will present and post the Colors dressed in authentic Continental Army uniforms; immediately following we will recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem sung by a vocalist from the GEM City band.**
- **Dinner will be served at 6:45PM**
- **The GEM City band will provide big band music for our dinner and after.**

<u>Sunday, September 16th</u> will begin with the 376th (Rev. Bob Oliver) hosted church service at 9:00AM.

- **We will leave at 10:15AM to return to the museum for more exploration. This museum is huge.**
- **Lunch is on your own at the museum.**
- **A bus will depart the museum at 1:15, 2:30 & 3:45PM to return to the hotel.**

There will also be an alternative tour Sunday that will depart the hotel for the Dayton Art Institute at 10:15AM and then continue on to the Second Street Market at 12:30PM for shopping and lunch on your own. Departure for a return to the hotel will be at 2:30PM.

Sunday evening will feature our Farewell dinner which will be served at 6:30PM.

That will conclude our joint reunion for 2018.
May your travels feature CAVU conditions.