

Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlin

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AUG 17 2016
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Mayor Robert Kelly
City of Great Falls
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
USA

Berlin, 17. August 2016


Dear Mayor Kelly,

I am delighted that your city, Great Falls, where countless flight crews and maintenance personnel were trained for the Berlin Airlift, will be hosting a reunion of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA) from 7 to 10 September 2016. Even today, the Airlift of 1948/1949 holds a special place in the memory of the people of Berlin. This unprecedented logistical feat expressed the solidarity of the Americans and their partners with West Berliners, who were cut off from the world by the Soviet blockade, and saved many lives. I myself did not experience this difficult time, but I know from the stories of my parents and many other Berliners how grateful they will always be for the Allies' incredible support and the supply of essential goods, especially in the harsh winter of 1948/1949.

The reunion of the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA) is an excellent opportunity to highlight the very significant historical role Great Falls played in sustaining the Airlift and recruiting aircrews and maintenance personnel. At the same time, I would like to thank you on behalf of Germany's capital city for the help you have given the veterans in organizing this reunion. In doing so, you are honoring their service and helping to keep the memory of the Airlift alive, an operation that saved the lives of many Berliners and laid the foundation for Berlin's strong bond with the countries that carried it out.

As a sign of this enduring bond, I would like to ask you to give my very best regards to the veterans on behalf of the people of Berlin.

Yours sincerely,


Michael Müller

Mayor Bob – We were so busy flying in Great Falls that I do not think that anyone had time to take pictures. We are all in age now and many of the veterans that flew in Great Falls are alive. I believe that I will be the only one at the Reunion that flew in Great Falls. The following information may be of some value.



Chuck Childs

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Emailed to Mayor 2-22-16



