



UNITED STATES BALLOONING HALL OF FAME

A Partnership of the Balloon Federation of America and the National Balloon Museum

Candidate Information Form

Date Submitted: March 8, 2017

CANDIDATE NAME: Buddy Bombard

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Briefly describe the basis for the submission:

Buddy Bombard has an inherent motto in life: to live a life of towering memories. As a multi-talented young man, he set out on his quest for the fulfillment of his dream in the form of Hot Air Balloon tour operator over European cities.

The exclusive five to ten days tour of the travel company, across six European countries, viz., Italy, Turkey, France, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic is a master-creation of the genius in Bombard.

Buddy trained Malcom Forbes for his FAA balloon license and years later, Malcom recognized Buddy with his annual Chateau Balleroy Award for Buddy's outstanding contributions to the ballooning world.

Buddy Bombard remains the host to the company trips for seven months in a year, during the peak seasons. With so much pressure at work, Buddy retains the enthusiasm and charm with which he began his journey to the top. Nor has he compromised on the quality features of the trips. The trips are still as unique and exotic as are promised by the entrepreneur and his enterprise. Buddy's mesmerizing flights on his balloons have stirred many innovative and thirsty minds into taking a plunge into the depth of thrill and pleasure.

Provide references: Identify two individuals that can speak to the quality and significance of the achievement, and to the character of the candidate.

Reference Name:

Telephone or E-mail:

Reference Name:

Telephone or E-mail:

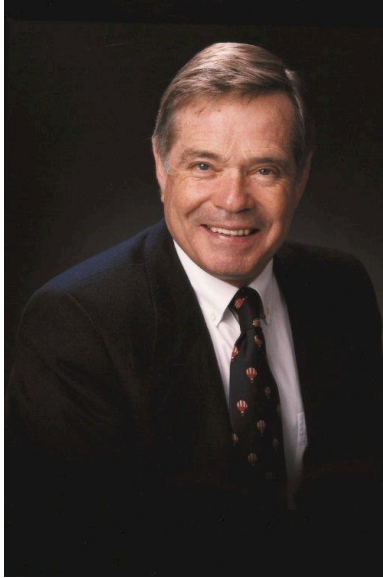
PERSON MAKING THE SUBMISSION:

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CANDIDATE HISTORY:

Buddy Bombard

Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions

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In 1964, thirteen years before Buddy Bombard's Europe, Buddy Bombard founded Chalet Club, a highly successful travel organization of 14,000 members for whom he created and escorted many unusual soft adventure programs. Typical offerings of one to ten days included skeet and trap shoots, scuba diving schools and trips, balloon weekends, Grand Canyon river raft trips, wilderness horseback trips in the Rockies and glider soaring in Sugarbush, Vermont.

Buddy trained Malcom Forbes for his FAA balloon license and years later, Malcom recognized Buddy with his annual Chateau Balleroy Award for Buddy's outstanding contributions to the ballooning world. Buddy holds a multi-engine airplane license with 1,275 hours as pilot in command, and in 36 years accrued more than 5,000 hours as a commercial balloon pilot. His background also includes experience as professional photographer, glider pilot and scuba instructor, with extensive experience in river running, skiing and yachting. During 22 years of active competitive sailing Buddy completed two Trans-Atlantic crossings in small yachts and served as a first-string crew member during four America's Cup defenses aboard Vim, Weatherly, Constellation and Intrepid. Buddy continues to host all of his trips and during the off-season divides his time between his homes on Palm Beach and Chateau de Laborde in France.

The following is from *Hotel and Resort Insider* – Buddy Bombard – the Grand Old Man of Adventure and Tourism

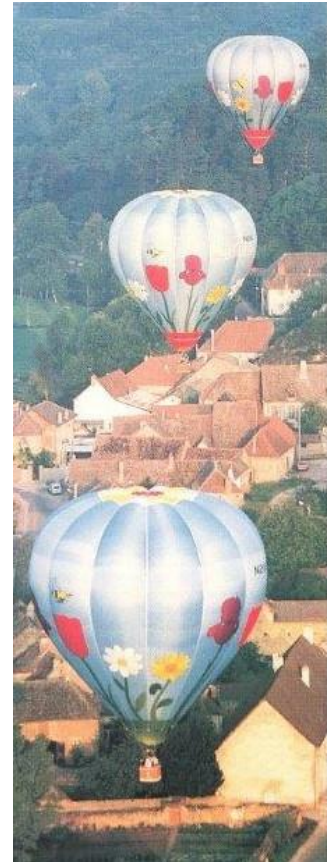
Buddy Bombard has an inherent motto in life: to live a life of towering memories. Buddy Bombard, a multi-talented young man, set out on his quest for the fulfillment of his dream in the form of Hot Air Balloon tour operator over European cities. Starting from Mr. Nobody, as the son of a bank employee in New York, Bombard gradually emerged as Mr. Somebody, through his religious hard-work and versatile ingenuity. This year, Buddy Bombard's Europe, a multinational adventure tour company is celebrating its thirtieth

anniversary. The exclusive five to ten days tour of the travel company, across six European countries, viz., Italy, Turkey, France, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic is a master-creation of the genius in Bombard.

A versatile genius, as he might rightly be addressed to, Buddy Bombard is a man of brimming brains and talents, as being one amongst the brilliant founders and pioneers of the adventure industry. A skier, an Air Force jet pilot, a scuba instructor, Americas Cup yachtsman, an insurance executive, a photographer, an honored balloon pilot and a tour and travel entrepreneur - the man is blessed with virtues to cherish throughout his life.

The hidden talent in him took its recognition, when he found himself irresistibly drawn towards adventure sports, as he joined the Chalet Club - an outdoor adventure club. His tenure at the renowned club lasted for 11 glorious years, where he found himself growing into its President and leader. Soon his zeal in adventure creations took off its wings when he escorted a few of his friends on an airy trip through Burgundy, Champagne and the Loire Valley at treetop level on a balloon. That marked the beginning of his noteworthy enterprise across the globe, creating ripples in the world of adventure tourism. In the next few years of his career, Buddy remarkably indulged the multitude of guests in their passion for traveling and quest for the unattainable.

As a sincere approach, Buddy Bombard remains the host to the company trips for seven months in a year, during the peak seasons. With so much pressure at work, Buddy retains the enthusiasm and charm with which he began his journey to the top. Nor has he compromised on the quality features of the trips. The trips are still as unique and exotic as are promised by the entrepreneur and his enterprise. Buddy's mesmerizing flights on his balloons have stirred many innovative and thirsty minds into taking a plunge into the depth of thrill and pleasure.



The following is from *Travel Astronomy* – Balloons over the Swiss Alps with Buddy Bombard, the Wizard of “Ahhhs!” 02/23/2011

When Buddy Bombard was 12, his mom sat him down for a serious talk. “Buddy,” she said, “life is short. Seek out towering adventures.”

The young lad took his mom at her word, leaving the next day for a solo eight-mile bike ride to the nearest ocean where he hitched his first ride on a sailboat. For the next 20 years—from the age of 14 to 34—he crewed on many sailboats, eventually helping captain three America’s Cup yachts. But by 1968, at the ripe old age of 35, Buddy began to fear life was passing him by. Sure, he’d seen many ports of the world, but he longed to see what was beneath the sea, what was beyond the port. His Dartmouth economics degree and his job as an insurance executive just wasn’t cutting it.

He offered to take over the reins of the Chalet Club, a club of wealthy skiers who had bought a rail car, outfitted it with a player piano and stewardesses and used it to take them to the slopes of Stowe, Vermont each weekend. Buddy reckoned if these club members liked barreling down snow-capped mountains, they might be talked into jumping out of airplanes and rafting down untamed rapids. Soon the Chalet Club, under Buddy's leadership, became what he called "a ski club gone berserk." His members were pushing themselves further and further afield. One of the early trips even involved scouting the Loch Ness monster. Buddy's Chalet Club became for all practical purpose the world's first adventure travel company.

Today, Buddy, an Air Force jet pilot, skier, scuba instructor, honored balloon pilot, gourmet and renowned raconteur, helms his own company, one he has been running since 1977. Buddy Bombard's Europe specializes in ballooning adventures in Europe.



Buddy still personally escorts each trip. Thanks to his longstanding friendships with some of Europe's most colorful nobility (Princess Manni Wittengenstein of Salzburg and Prince Girolamo and Princess Irinia Strozzi of Florence, to drop just a few names), Buddy's guests often receive private invitations to ancestral estates. They dine in centuries old castles, in private villas, in posh French restaurants and even on-board the balloon.

Every January during the Chateau d'Oex International Alpine Balloon Festival, Buddy extends his normal "Highlights of the Alps" trip to take in the world famous festival that includes the best balloons from all over Europe. On this nine-day excursion through the Swiss Alps, three of Buddy's nine 8-story, baby blue balloons catch the dawn thermals and compete in precision events with more than 100 balloons ranging from a huge winged cow to giant frog to a hot air balloon cell phone. You'll float with this stellar fleet through quaint mountain villages, over herds of black chamois mountains goats, by walled medieval castles.

Many of Buddy's guests combine the trip with a ski vacation in Gstaad, where the likes of Julie Andrews and Roger Moore have homes.

Buddy currently offers eight ballooning itineraries in six European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Switzerland and Turkey) ranging from five to ten days in length. Buddy's guests stay at luxury hotels chosen for their local charm and historical significance. When he's not working, Buddy splits his time between a home in West Palm Beach, Florida and an estate, Château de Laborde, in Beaune, France.

Here's the short list of customers you may have heard of: Julia Child, Joan Rivers, Mary Tyler Moore, Kirk Douglas, Helen Gurley Brown, Malcolm Forbes.

The following is from *Travel Dragon* – Buddy Bombard's Europe

Since 1977, Buddy Bombard's Europe has offered the world's only experience of its kind, 5 to 11 day European vacations including daily sightseeing adventures by low-level balloon. Available to fewer than 500 guests per year, Buddy Bombard's Europe is about privilege without pomp; an imaginative blend of grace, luxury, serendipity, culture and fun.

Long a personal friend to Europe's local nobility, farmers, villagers and wine cellar masters, Buddy Bombard and his flowered balloons have opened doors through which his guests are privately ushered to incomparable "Insider's Europe" experiences, such as dining with nobility in their ancestral estates and castles, or drifting just-above-the-rooftops of medieval villages and UNESCO-protected architectural treasures. Spirited landing celebrations often lead to invitations into country homes where guests are considered not tourists, but very interesting visitors.

With departures in six European countries, travelers have a choice of vacations in Italy, Austria, France, Turkey, Switzerland or the Czech Republic. Incurable romantics, families, and



returning past travelers come for Buddy and his staff's attentive 5-star service and the deluxe hotel chosen for each trip, for lavish winter picnics in the balloons, twilight dinner parties prepared by Bombard chefs in the vaulted, candlelit chambers of an 11th century castle, to enjoy the exotic cultures of Istanbul or the thrill and passion of Palio. They come to drift through Burgundy's world famous vineyards or the Loire's chateau country, to dip into the canyons of Cappadocia or

glide gently through the Alp's snow-covered, 'pinch-me' scenery. And after each day's private sightseeing, superb meals and balloon adventure, after each evening's lavish dinner party, they pull the shade on the day believing what Bombard guests have exclaimed throughout the years, "It's Never too Late to Have a Happy Childhood."