

Frederick Hixenbaugh

79 Chestnut Street

Rivesville WV 26588

December 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

DEC 11 2017

Senator Steve Daines;

My name is Frederick Hixenbaugh and I am writing you in regards to the B-47E Tragedy on Emigrant Peak on July 23rd 1962.

As you probably gather, I am the namesake of Lt. Frederick Hixenbaugh one of the 4 young men who gave their lives for our country on that fateful morning. I was born the 4<sup>th</sup> child in May of 1963 to my Uncle Freddy's brother Joseph Charles, who unfortunately passed away this past year. I was told multiple times the story of my parents asking permission of my grandmother Pauline to name me after him and the obvious tears that followed. I have carried his name with pride now for 54 years. I also lived and worked near Washington DC for some years in the 80's, so I have visited and placed flowers on his headstone in Arlington National Cemetery many times. So, when I was contacted by my Aunt to reach out to you for help in getting the crash site officially named "B-47 Ridgeline" and get a bronze plaque placed, it was something I felt I had to get involved with. I feel deeply that even though his headstone is in Arlington, that the area in which these four young men, just beginning their lives, were lost should not only be remembered but memorialized as well.

My 3 siblings and I have made a concerted effort to ensure that even though he was not here to be a part of our, or our children's lives, that he is loved and remembered as a huge part of our family's proud history and traditions. As a matter of fact, I believe we need to go to great lengths to never allow any of our future generations to forget any of these men, Uncle Fred, Capt. Bill Faulconer, Lt. David Sutton and Lt. Lloyd Sawyers or any man who has paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us left behind. I also believe we all should attempt to use his memory as a benchmark to strive for, not only in the lives of our friends and families, but support of the beliefs of our nation as they did.

I write this not only to support his Family but all the families and people involved in this most noble of efforts.

Thank You for all Your Valuable Time and Assistance,



Frederick Hixenbaugh

Senator Steve Daines  
13 South Wilson Ave. Suite 8,  
Bozeman, MT 59718.

May 22, 2018

Dear Senator Daines,

I am Keith Joiner, we met at the dedication of the memorial established to honor the airmen that gave their lives on July 23rd, 1962 on Emigrant Peak. I was the Master of Ceremonies at the dedication. Bryan Well is my wife, Joannette's, cousin. At the time of the Memorial dedication, I was the Commander of VFW Post 5159 in Hot Springs. I served in the United States Navy for 22 years and 8 months.

I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend that dedication. Your presence really meant the world to all of us involved as well as the family members and guests in attendance.

I would also like to offer my support for naming the ridge where the crash occurred "B-47 Ridge", and for the authorization to place a commemorative plaque naming and honoring those that gave their lives on that hallowed ground. I believe that it is long overdue. As an active member of the VFW, I see first hand, the importance of showing the loved ones of our fallen heroes that we, as a Nation, honor and remember those who have died in the defense of this great country.

Very Respectfully,

Keith Joiner  
P.O. Box 752  
Hot Springs, MT 59845  
keithandjoanette@gmail.com

Subject : Support for Plaque at Crash Site  
From : Nancy Hippenbaugh Beasley  
To : Senator Steve Daines  
Date : Dec. 3, 2017

Senator Daines,

My name is Nancy Hippenbaugh Beasley, My brother 1st. Lieutenant Frederick J. Hippenbaugh was one of the four young men killed on that fateful day in July 1962 when their B-47 crashed into Emigrant Peak.

The "B-47 Ridgeline" is a perfect name for the crash site. That plane altered the ridge of that mountain forever. Evidence of the wreckage will always be there. It needs to be recognized as a military plane crash and have a permanent plaque naming the site the "B-47 Ridgeline."

I am so grateful to Bryan Wells making us aware of where the crash site is and that we could see the actual site without having to climb the mountain. He has been "the caretaker of the B-47 Ridgeline" all of these years. This mountain is the burial ground for these four officers. There needs to be a plaque placed in the debris field. It is our duty and obligation to place a plaque to honor them for their service and making the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you Senator Daines for all you are doing to get this very important piece of legislation passed. We are forever grateful to you and Bryan Wells.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hippenbaugh Beasley

**TO: Joshua Sizemore, Senator Daines Office**  
**FROM: Gregory K. Sutton**  
**SUBJECT: B-47 Ridge Crash Site**

May 23, 2018

Mr. Sizemore,

My name is Greg K. Sutton, Ph.D. I am writing this missive/email in support of Senator Daines' legislation to name the crash site of my father's plane "B-47 Ridge" and to place a plaque commemorating their sacrifice on Emigrant Peak in Montana. Mr. Bryan Wells and Mr. Keith Joiner have worked hard the last several years to construct an appropriate memorial for the four men who died in the plane crash 23 July 1962. To both men, and all those who have helped them with this vision, we are eternally grateful. Not only does my family support their work to commemorate these airmen (my sister Melynda Karol Sutton Moyer and my mother Ella Louise Hembree Sutton Wenman) but so do the surviving family members of the other men killed in the crash. I have no doubt you will be hearing from them in the very near future.

It is our fervent hope that Senator Daines will introduce this legislation in the coming weeks and that it will have bipartisan support in the Senate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at this email address.

Respectfully,

Greg K. Sutton, Ph.D.  
Dept. of History and NAS  
East Central University  
Ada, OK 74820

DEC 13 2017

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

I am writing to you in support of placing a memorial plaque on Emigrant Peak in the debris field of the B-47 accident which occurred in July of 1962.

I am the widow off Capt. Joseph W. Faulconer who was the instructor pilot on the aircraft that crashed there.

My late husband and I did not have children, but the other crew members did. Some of their children were very young at the time of the tragedy and may not remember their fathers. It is especially for those children that I write this letter. A remembrance of this sort would let them know that their fathers were well respected and honored for their service. Also, the designation of "B-47 Ridgeline" on flight maps and USGS maps would give these children and now their children, something to point to with pride and to know that their father's sacrifice was recognized and honored in a more permanent way.

I am most grateful for your efforts to get legislation passed that will accomplish the placement of this memorial and naming of the location as mentioned. I wish you success in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

*Myrna Faulconer Fair*

Myrna Faulconer Fair  
8928 W. Warren St.  
Wichita, KS 67212  
(316) 722-0011  
befair@sbcglobal.net

Sharon Sawyers Wilcoxon  
707 West 7<sup>th</sup> St  
Cisco, TX 76437  
May 22, 2018

Senator Daines  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

My name is Sharon Sawyers Wilcoxon. My father was First Lieutenant Lloyd Sawyers and he was killed in the B-47 Bomber crash on Emigrant Peak on July 23, 1962. I was 4 and my sister Sheila Sawyers Johnson was 2 at the time of my father's death.

Two years ago, July 2016, my sister and I attended the memorial at the base of Emigrant Peak. This was the first time that she or I had been to the area. My nephews and brother-in-law actually hiked up to the crash site and took pictures and brought some small pieces of wreckage to us. I think we both finally found a sense of closure after that experience.

I am writing this letter in support of the B-47 Ridge Designation Act. I thank you for your dedication to the endeavor of pursuing the passing of this Act.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sawyers Wilcoxon



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 7TH BOMB WING (AFGSC)  
DYESS AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS**

**APR 18 2018**

Colonel Brandon D. Parker  
Commander, 7th Bomb Wing  
7 Lancer Loop, Suite 107  
Dyess AFB TX 79607

The Honorable Senator Steven D. Daines  
13 South Wilson Ave., Suite 8  
Bozeman MT 59718

Dear Senator Daines

As the Commander of the 7th Bomb Wing, I am humbled and grateful for this outpouring of patriotism. Our installation was the home of the B-47E bomber crew that flew the fateful training mission on July 23, 1962. The crew consisted of Captain Joseph Faulconer, an instructor pilot, and First Lieutenants Lloyd Sawyers, David Sutton, and Frederick Hixenbaugh. The crew originated from Dyess AFB and was assigned to the 96th Strategic Aerospace Wing. To their misfortune, their B-47E crashed into the southwest side along the ridgeline of Emigrant Peak, Paradise Valley, Montana.

We wholeheartedly feel it is appropriate to mark this significant historic event and provide the general public and aviators with the local history. Additionally, we support your efforts to have the crash site along the Emigrant Peak designated as the "B-47 Ridgeline." We also support your efforts to allow the United States Forest Service to issue a permit allowing the placement of a memorial monument at the crash site. This endeavor will ensure the memory of our four brave Airmen will never be forgotten.

Thank you for your efforts to memorialize our countries heroes. If I can be of further assistance or you required additional information, please contact me at 325-696-2121.

BRANDON D. PARKER, Colonel, USAF

**DEATH FROM ABOVE**



February 28, 2018

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

Please accept this letter in support of community efforts to place a memorial plaque on Emigrant Peak in the debris field of the B-47 accident which occurred in July of 1962.

As a keynote speaker at the memorial service in the summer of 2016, you are familiar with the community effort to protect this place and honor the families that lost loved ones on Emigrant Peak. .

We believe that cultural and historic resources in our community, like the B-47 crash site on Emigrant peak, should be protected and honored. We support naming the crashsite "B-47 Ridge." Further, we encourage you to work with local residents and the United States Forest Service to place a bronze plaque at the crash site in the debris field as a public service and also to honor the airmen that have their lives in service to our country.

Sincerely,

Steve Caldwell  
Commission Chair

Clint Tinsley,  
Commissioner

Bill Berg  
Commissioner



MAY 29 2018

*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**REPRESENTATIVE ALAN REDFIELD**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 59

HELENA ADDRESS:  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
PO BOX 200400  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400  
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:  
538 MILL CREEK RD  
LIVINGSTON, MT 59047  
PHONE: (406) 220-1247

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
HUMAN SERVICES  
TAXATION

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines

United States Senate

Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines

I would like you to support the community efforts for a memorial plaque to be placed on Emigrant Peak in the debris field of the B-47 Accident which occurred in July of 1962.

I believe that cultural and historic sites should be protected and honored. I support naming the crash site B-47 Ridge. I would like you to work with local residents and the USFS to place a bronze plaque at the crash site as a public service which would honor the airmen that gave their lives in their service to our country. Many of us had family members that responded to the crash that night and worked to fight the fire and recover the airmen.

Sincerely

  
Representative Alan Redfield



**PARK COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

February 28, 2018

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

I am writing on behalf of the Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) in support of community efforts to place a memorial plaque on Emigrant Peak in the debris field of the B-47 accident which occurred in July of 1962.

PCEC has been working to protect and preserve Park County's vast natural resources since 1990. We are the only countywide membership group focusing exclusively on the issues affecting public lands, water and wildlife in Park County. PCEC works with people to preserve and restore the county's world-class rivers, diverse wildlife, rural landscapes, and outstanding natural beauty, while protecting the health and wellbeing of people who live and work here.

Initially formed by a small group of community members concerned about resource extraction on public lands, PCEC has grown to cover numerous issues related to the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, public and private land management and community engagement and values.

We believe that cultural and historic resources in our community, like the B-47 crash site on Emigrant peak, should be protected and honored. We support naming the crash site "B-47 Ridge." Further, we encourage you to work with local resident, Bryan Wells, to place a bronze plaque at the crash site in the debris field as a public service and also to honor the airmen that have their lives in service to our country.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Uberuaga

Executive Director  
Park County Environmental Council  
PO Box 164  
Livingston, MT 59047

DEC 07 2017

Sen. Steve Daines  
13 South Wilson Ste.8  
Bozeman, Montana 59718

2/DEC./2017

Greetings,

I am a member of the Park County Mt. Cemetery board and Unit Historian of the American Legion, Park Post #23. On July 23, 2015, we held a Memorial Services at the Chico Cemetery near Emigrant, Mt. for 4 Airman that died in a B-47 crash on Emigrant Peak in 1962 on a training mission. The Airmen's' Families came from around the world for the services, looking at the plaque honoring the airmen and at the ridge off Emigrant Peak where the crash occurred. They found closure and comfort from the experience and now have a location where they can come and remember their family member and look at the ridge where his body parts still rest.

If possible, we would like to rename the ridge to "B-47 Crash site Ridgeline" and place a Bronze Plaque at the crash site on the debris for those that climb the mountain on National Forest land to view the field. Could you help us with this project?

Thank You,



Wm Dean Gilbert  
682 Adair Creek Rd.  
Livingston Mt. 59047