



# 39<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION ALUMNI NEWS



APRIL, 2014

|                     |                                 |                      |               |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| President.....      | Bill Ray                        | Webmaster.....       | Walter Lester |
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| Secretary.....      | Dave Miles                      | Member at Large..... | Mike Shaw     |
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| Sgt. at Arms.....   | Mike Male                       | Reunion Chair.....   | Gale Helser   |

## 2014 NASHVILLE REUNION

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is going to be a great year for the 39th Engineer Battalion CBT; the rumors that have been circulating about the 39th being re-activated are now confirmed as true. Gale Helser and I have been contacted by officers who will be in command of the new B Company, inquiring into our history and getting as much information as possible about the 39th. B Company will be standing up sometime early spring with the Battalion and doing a full stand up early fall at Fort Campbell, KY under the 101st Airborne. It is our hope that we will be able to participate in some type of ceremony while our reunion is going on in Nashville and I will keep you posted as new information comes in.

Because of early reservations, our reunion dates have been expanded with registration being on Friday September 26 instead of September 27 and running through Monday September 29 when we will hold our banquet; more information on the reunion can be found in Gale's article in this newsletter. On a brighter but somewhat troublesome note, because of early reservations and another event happening at the same time as our reunion, we have exhausted the room block set up at the Sheraton Music City. We have located another property at the same price and in close proximity to our present location for the overflow. In my seven years being associated with the Alumni Association, I cannot remember a time when reservations hit the mark this early in the year so a big "Thank You" to all members for being more

active and participating in our reunions.

On a sad note we lost another member; Timothy Driscoll passed March 1, 2014 after a series of medical issues while in San Antonio, TX. Tim's obituary is included in this newsletter.

We have quite an itinerary for the upcoming reunion in Nashville and I hope that each of you will be able to join Carolyn and myself as we watch the 39th come back to life. *See you September 26 through September 30 in Music City.*

### **BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW, BROTHERS FOREVER**

Bill Ray, President  
(817) 239-0787  
6205 Big Springs Dr., Arlington, TX 76001  
3<sup>rd</sup> Plt. C Co. 67-68

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Brothers of the 39th. This is my first time to address my brothers and fellow members of the 39th ENG BN (CBT) Alumni Association. It is an honor to be part of the 39th and now you're new Vice President. I hope I can just half fill the shoes of our past VP Bill Ray. During the 3 years that I have been a member of the association, I watched in the background as he worked so hard and put his whole heart in the 39th. Bill and I will be getting together sometime in April in Texas in hopes that he can put

me on the right track toward what I need to know and do to serve the members of the 39th as your VP.

Now for a big “Blue Bull Welcome” to our new members, lifetime members and new honorary member, it is with great pleasure to welcome you to the Association.

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

|                |                 |             |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Roy Thompson   | Troy E. Wilburn | David Wynne |
| C Co. 68-70    | A Co. 67-68     | C Co. 66-67 |
| Bruce W. Haigh | Bob Griffin     |             |
| B Co. 67-69    | B Co. 69        |             |

#### **LIFETIME MEMBERS:**

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Winston Warden | David Wynne |
| B Co. 66-68    | C Co. 66-67 |

#### **HONORARY MEMBER:**

Brian “Tuff” Delahanty  
Donald Boney’s nephew

On a different note; I think we had a great reunion in Tucson and the 2014 reunion in Nashville should be right up on the same scale. My brothers, come on out to Nashville for a super time together; Shirly and I are looking forward to being with all once again.

#### **BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW**

David Romans, Vice President, 479-883-3777 (Cell)  
A Co. 66-67  
usrome@live.com

## **TREASURER’S REPORT**

The financial situation of the Association is firm. We began the year with \$9166.72 and presently have \$8733.21 in two accounts. We received receipts of \$350.00 for the year and made payments of \$783.51 for the web site, postage and mailing of the newsletter. One requirement remains outstanding for travel to coordinate reunions in Nashville and Tidewater. Included in the receipts is \$200 for Life Membership and \$50 for annual dues. The sale of hats, shirts, crests, patches, cozies and donations added an additional \$100.

At the request of the Executive Committee, the Association’s bank account has been transferred from the local bank to a National Bank, Wells Fargo to expedite the availability of funds and to protect our Association should the need arise in securing the

funds for any purpose.

We are in great financial shape and look forward to the preparation of the 2014 Reunion in Nashville TN in September.

I have a supply of Hats (\$15 for one and \$10 for each additional one) in Red, White, and Black as well Unit Crests (\$6), Unit patches (\$4), and Cozies (\$2) available. Call me at (757) 838-5654 or send checks to: 10 Jacklyn Circle, Hampton VA 23666 to get these items mailed to you before the Reunion!

Jim Shamblen, Treasurer  
10 Jacklyn Circle  
Hampton, VA 23666  
(757) 838-5654 (H)  
(757) 344-7371 (C)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

DRISCOLL–Timothy Brien, Esq., died on March 1st, 2014. Born on January 4th, 1943 in Brooklyn to Timothy Driscoll of Crosshaven, Co. Cork and Mary Driscoll (nee O’Brien) of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, he graduated from Mr. St. Alphonsus Redemptorist Seminary as President, Student Body, 1965. He served with the 39th Combat Engineers in Chu Lai, Vietnam (1967-68). Upon his return he received a Master’s Degree in Sociology from St. John’s University. In 1976 Governor Carey appointed him Liaison to Veterans—the first Vietnam Veteran to hold the position. Determined to practice law, he returned to school and graduated from Fordham University Law School in 1984 at the age of 41. A popular lecturer at Brooklyn’s NYCTC for forty years, he co-authored An Album (History) of Irish Americans. Tim co-founded the Bay Ridge Branch of the Irish Immigration Reform Movement and the American Committee for Ulster Justice. In 2012 he received the Frank T. Carvill Distinguished Service Award from the County Cork Association.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda Lam and her family, his sister Isabelle Murray, brother in law Jim, nieces and nephews Peggy, Barry, Jimmy, Shelley, Shaun, Lynn and grand nephews Kevin, Tim, Calum, and Finn and extended family.

*Published in The New York Times on Mar. 4, 2014*

## REUNION HEADQUARTERS

Don't miss this one!!! This reunion is already starting out to be one of the biggest turnouts, if not the biggest, in our history. We are still over 4 months out, with over 100 attendees; go Bluebulls! Nashville is one of the 5 most visited cities in America and, once there, it will be easy to see why. There is so much to see and do, we couldn't begin to describe it all. The following paragraph topics will highlight the itinerary.

**LODGING:** Our HQ will be the Sheraton Inn Music City, located just minutes from the Nashville Airport with free shuttle service to anyone flying in. The Shuttle will also be available to transport you anywhere within 3 miles of the hotel during your free time. All our events and trips will begin and end at the Sheraton. A huge thanks to everyone who has made their reservations at the Sheraton; we are at capacity. We have filled 60 rooms and are still growing. Due to conflicting events at the Sheraton, we have contracted a second hotel just minutes away to handle the overflow for the balance of our attendees. Our TDY location, The Holiday Inn Express has blocked enough rooms to accommodate everyone who has not yet made their reservations. Make your reservations NOW! Holiday Inn Express 615-883-1366, ask for Nicole or Doreen and reserve under the 39th Eng Block. The rate is the same and the amenities are very comparable; this was almost our original selection. Both hotels will provide transportation between both properties so there is no need to drive back and forth. All events, registration and banquet will be at the Sheraton. We hope that this is not too inconvenient, but is a good problem to have, as it shows how great we have grown over the years. Thanks to everyone who registered early giving us the time and opportunity to react and resolve the situation. If any additional rooms open up at the Sheraton, registrants at the Holiday Inn will be contacted and offered the opportunity to change their reservations.

**REGISTRATION:** Our reunion will run from Friday September 26th until Tuesday September 30th. Due to the hotel situation and all of the available activities, we have extended the reunion by one day.

We will be starting a day earlier than originally planned. If you made reservations at the Sheraton starting on the 27th, please consider coming in a day early. The hotel will extend the reservation for all

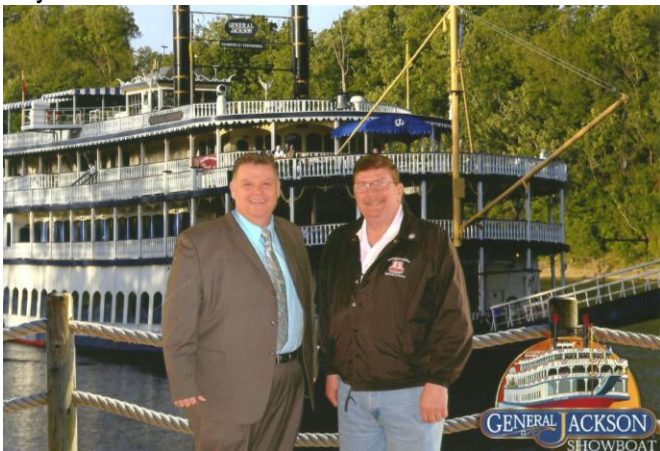
previously registered guests for the additional day. Also remember, if you wish to extend your stay to spend more time in the area, the Sheraton and the Holiday Inn will honor a 3-day prior and 3-day following rate guarantee. You must book the extra days when you make your original reservation or contact them ASAP.

**SATURDAY EVENT:** Saturday is scheduled to be a very busy day. We have contracted a motor coach to provide transportation for all the daily travel. We will start early in the morning with trips to the downtown entertainment district. Due to the number of attendees, the coach will make multiple trips so that everyone can be accommodated. The downtown district is the birthplace of Nashville's Music City designation. You can visit many fine attractions at your leisure. There are too many to list them all but a few must see's are *The Ryman Auditorium* (the original Grand Ole Opry), the *Country Music Hall of Fame*, *Printer's Alley*, *Tootsie's Orchid Lounge* (the first place many music stars got their start), *Studio B* (the original RCA recording studio where Elvis recorded all of his records as well as a huge number of other artists), and, of course, a long avenue of entertainment establishments where you can hear as yet undiscovered future stars performing live and FREE from early morning to late, late night. You may even be tempted to return to the downtown area in the later hours of the evening to re-enjoy the atmosphere. We plan on meeting at the *Wildhorse Saloon* near the lunch hour to relax and enjoy a true southern style lunch, usually with live entertainment. Who knows? We might even get the chance to learn or polish our line dancing skills. With enough interest we can reserve our own private area and make it a party. Try the *Pedal Tavern* while you're downtown where the fuel for the power comes in a glass and is provided by those who imbibe, and you get a downtown tour.



The motor coach will begin making return trips to the Sheraton following lunch and will continue making return trips throughout the afternoon. You can take as much time downtown as you like and return to the hotel at your leisure but we are not done yet. At 6:00 our coach will start transporting our group to the *Grand Ole Opry* at the *Gaylord Entertainment Center* just minutes from the hotel. If you wish to rest and recuperate following the downtown activities, we suggest you take an early return trip to the hotel. The Opry show starts at 7:00pm and runs until about 9:00pm and the coach will start making return trips immediately following the show. In order to accommodate everyone in a timely manner, there will be sign-up sheets in the hospitality room starting right after registration, first come first serve. Anyone who drives to the reunion and wishes to drive to the events is free to do so; more on that when you arrive. Seating at the Opry is scattered throughout the theatre and will be assigned as registration forms are received. Also first come first served.

**SUNDAY:** This is your free day. The annual pizza party will be in the hospitality room at 5:00 Sunday evening. You may wish to start your day with a service of your preference at one of the many places of worship near the hotel, or just sleep in. Information about local attractions will be available when you register and this will be a good time to visit any number of them at your own pace. One suggestion would be a riverboat cruise on the *General Jackson* which docks at the *Opry Mills* shopping center just minutes from the hotel. On Sunday, the boat features gospel music entertainment along with a luncheon buffet. There are cruises every day and the entertainment varies with each sailing. Check this out if you are extending your stay.



Gale with Wayne Chandler from Gaylord Entertainment.

**FT CAMPBELL:** We are still in negotiations with personnel at Ft. Campbell to arrange a tour of the base. This is where the 39th departed from on the way to Vietnam. There are many options that we are exploring to make this a day trip and we will try to keep you posted on the results. As you may or may not know, working with military events there always has a bunch of hoops to jump through before it finally becomes a real thing. On a very positive note, the 39th Eng Bn is in the process of reactivation and will be stationed at Ft. Campbell once again, and this is part of the negotiations we are entered into. We may not have any final arrangements made until the day of the event. If this does transpire, we will have sign-up opportunities and cost information when you arrive in Nashville or before. We'll keep you posted – a final itinerary will be available in the next newsletter.

**BANQUET:** Monday evening will feature our annual dinner banquet. Attire this year will be business casual and suits and dresses are encouraged. However, there will be no mandatory attire requirements – so come as you are. We are hoping to have some representatives from the newly reformed 39th in attendance. This will also be our annual raffle. Thanks to everyone who contributed to last year's raffle with donations of items and gifts. Your support is greatly appreciated. We use the proceeds from our raffle to help offset some of the costs of the reunion making it as affordable as possible for everyone to attend. If you wish to donate to this year's raffle, simply bring your donation with you or send it to President Bill Ray or Treasurer Jim Shamblen. You do not have to attend to donate. All support is appreciated, but we would like to see you at a reunion in the future. Brothers then, Brothers now, Brothers forever, Gale Helser, Reunion Chair  
32423 FM 2925, Rio Hondo, TX 78583  
(galehelser@peoplepc.com)  
(956) 367-0999

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**July 1st** for the Reunion Issue

Please send articles to the editor, Diane Helser at [diane\\_helser@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_helser@yahoo.com) or mail it to Diane Helser, 32423 FM 2925, Rio Hondo, TX 78583. Remember, this is your newsletter and your tool to keep in touch and share information with your Blue Bull brothers.



**39<sup>th</sup> ENG BN Reunion 2014 – Nashville, TN September 26-30, 2014**  
**HILL “777” LZ-MC (Operation Music City) - Music City Sheraton Inn**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ for name badge \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest name \_\_\_\_\_ for name badge \_\_\_\_\_

Unit & Years in VN \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 members/ \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 guests Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Registration includes annual remembrance gift, hospitality supplies, pizza party and beverages & snacks)

Saturday events: \$60/person \_\_\_\_\_ number attendees Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Event includes visit to downtown Nashville, Tickets to Grand Ole Opry and transportation.)

Monday trip to Ft Campbell \_\_\_\_\_ attendees – any cost will be determined and can be paid at registration

Monday Banquet \$50/person \_\_\_\_\_ number attending  
(Selections available when your registration confirmation is sent to you)

Describe and dietary requirements or restrictions below.

Total enclosed (min. deposit required to hold all selected events \$100/or pay in full.) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in a group lunch at the Wildhorse Saloon on Saturday? Yes / No

Describe any special needs (i.e., room amenities, mobility issues, dietary considerations, etc.)

Arriving via (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ flying \_\_\_\_\_ driving  
(Hotel provides shuttle service, number will be provided)

**Mail Reservation Form and payment to:** Gale Helser  
32423 FM 2925  
Rio Hondo, TX 78583

**Make checks payable to:** 39th Eng Bn



**39th Engineer Battalion Alumni**  
 32423 FM 2925  
 Rio Hondo, TX 78583

PRSRT STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 P A I D  
 McAllen, TX  
 Permit No. 223

VA Eastern Colorado  
 HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
 EASTERN COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
 1055 Clermont Street (DOM)  
 Denver, Colorado 80220  
 303-399-8020

Dear Mr. Arguello, 1/17/2014

Thank you for competing in the Denver Creative Arts Festival. Congratulations! Your piece "A Weekend to Remember" placed first in its category. See Judges' Score Sheets attached.

Your piece(s) will be sent by staff to the next stage of judging. National will determine the top three entries in each category. By the end of April, staff will be notified and requested to send the actual artwork to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the final phase of the national art competition. If your piece(s) proceeds the next phase of judges will determine 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category. All 1<sup>st</sup> place gold medal winners from the National Art Division Competition will be invited to the Festival.

The National competition results and a list of Veterans invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be distributed at the local level in mid-June. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be hosted in Milwaukee Wisconsin during the week of October 27-November 2, 2014.

If you are a VA employee please discuss leave options/restrictions with your supervisor in the event you are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in October.

If you have any questions please contact the Denver Creative Arts Festival Lead, Brenda Thornton at 726-376-6122.

Thank you,  
*Brenda Thornton, CTRS*

Brenda Thornton, CTRS  
 Recreation Therapist  
 Brenda.Thornton3@va.gov  
 (720) 376-6122  
 1055 Clermont Street (DOM)  
 Denver, CO 80220

### Vietnam Veteran's Documentary Wins First Place in Denver National Creative Arts Festival

"Weekend to Remember," a documentary by Vietnam veteran, Mark Arguello, has won first place in the "Combat Experience" category of the Denver National Creative Arts Festival held by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Eastern Colorado Health Care System. The film is a unique documentary of Veteran's Day weekend 2007, when Vietnam veterans, their families and survivors came together to mark the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "Weekend to Remember" is the only film that records the gathering from the perspective of the surviving veterans. Filmmaker Mark Arguello served in Vietnam in 1970 and felt compelled to witness and record the event. With no funding or film-making experience, Mark made his way to Washington D.C., video camera in hand. The resulting documentary poignantly captures the importance of the Memorial as a tribute to those who sacrificed their lives and as a touchstone that helps heal the wounds of those who returned from America's most unpopular military conflict.

"Weekend to Remember" moves to the next stage of judging for the National Art Division and the opportunity for Arguello to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to be held from October 27th to November 2nd, 2014 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "Weekend to Remember" was financed entirely from Mark Arguello's savings. It was completed in May of 2012. The official website, [www.weekendtorememberfilm.com](http://www.weekendtorememberfilm.com) contains a two minute trailer, photo gallery and merchandise page. Mark is donating seven (20%) percent of all sales to homeless veterans programs. There is also a Facebook page, "Weekend to Remember documentary film," please leave comments and show your support.