



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



JANUARY, 2012

President.....Bruce Fonnest  
 Vice President.....Bill Ray  
 Secretary.....Floyd Babcock  
 Treasurer.....Jim Shamblen  
 Chaplain.....Billy Bassakyros

Sgt. at Arms.....Blaine Jones  
 Webmaster.....Walter Lester  
 Historian.....Jerry Bright  
 Past President.....Doc Shepherd  
 Reunion Chair.....Gale Helser

## REUNION RECAP & UPDATE

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, another reunion has come and gone and this one was one of the best thanks to Gale Helser and Bill Ray. This one was a record breaker; it was great to see FLW after 45 years. The Engineer Command was great and they treated us like stars. I sure hope that everybody had as good a time as I did. We had a lot of new members. This was their first reunion and I hope that it will not be their last.

The next reunion will be in DC in 2012. That, too, will be a great reunion. I just hope that we have as many at that reunion as we did at the 2011 reunion.

Again, I want to say - good job on the reunion, Gale and Bill. I sure hope to see everybody that was at the 2011 reunion at the 2012 reunion. Take care and see you next year.

Bruce W. Fonnest  
 A-Co. 70-71  
 President

### FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Well, here we are beginning a new year with hopes and expectations high. I hope that each of you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. 2011 was a good year for the 39TH ENG BN (CBT) Alumni Association; not only did our membership increase by some 100 members but we had the largest reunion turnout (87 members/guests) in our 11 years of existence. The main goal with reunion planners is to have the current event better than the

previous one, but topping Fort Leonard Wood will be a task that I hope Gale and I are up to. I want to thank each of you who were able to attend; the events each day went off without major malfunctions, thanks to our very gracious hosts at Fort Leonard Wood and the Baymont Inn & Suites. I also want to thank all the members who participated in doing interviews with Dr. Larry Roberts; although somewhat apprehensive, most admitted that they felt better after being able to talk openly in the group setting and I have been informed that there was good information that will help the Engineer School in training future combat engineers. Also, thanks to the stubbornness of some of our members as to the design of our Plaque, it is beautiful and should make any veteran of the 39th proud to see it in its rightful place in the Regimental Room (the miniature plaque will travel to each future reunion).

There are so many members that helped make 2011 a banner year, mostly by contacting fellow veterans they served with and letting them know our association exists. Some were able to attend and become members. There are 2 members that I would like to acknowledge for their extra effort: BURL MAST for a monetary donation and PHILLIP "ALAN" GEORGE for donating maps with names of Fire Bases and LZ's that we called home; he had them enlarged and laminated and they will be displayed at future reunions.

I want to give a special thanks to all the ladies involved in the association; you basically take care of

the hospitality room like no man ever could. You keep all of us corralled and under control as best as you can. During the year, you make sure that we do what is needed so that we can be together to tell lies or whatever because we all know, "behind every

good man is a great and special woman." Ladies: my hat is off to each of you and thank you for being there, no matter what!

To all who helped make this a banner year, "HOOHAH".

Now for a big BLUE BULL welcome to our LIFETIME and NEW Members; it is great to have you with us.

**LIFETIME Members:**

Roger Daigle HHQ 89-92	Richard "Dick" Walker A Co. 67-68	Richard "Dick" Holland D Co. 68-69	Jim Leatherman HHQ 66
John Lewis C & D Co. 71	Roger Neubauer D Co. 67-68	James "Jay" Spare, Jr. HHQ 65-66	Joe Frank D Co. 67-68
Marty Walsh D Co. 67-68	Al Bornmann A, B, & HHQ 68-69		

**NEW Members:**

Chester Alford D Co. 67-68	Mike Baisley C Co. 68-69	Vaughn Bradley HHQ & A Co. 69-70	Doug Bottomley C Co. 70
Forrest Burnett D Co. 67-68	Kent Decker D Co. 67-68	Richard Ebert C Co. 66-67	Carey Frasier D Co. 60-70
Dan Gannon D Co. 67-68	Jay Gjerstad HHQ 70-71	Oscar "Oly" Guerra D Co. 67-68	Charles Harrell D Co. 67-68
William "Billy" Hampton D Co. 67-68	Greg Heacock D Co. 67-68	Orlan Hilberlink D Co. 67-68	John Holland
William "Bill" Hoover D Co. 67-68	Lewis Hylton D Co. 67-68	Wade Johnson C Co.	Terry Krause C Co. 70-71
Tenho Hukkala 39th Bn 68-69	Dale Logan D Co. 67-68	Harry Manring D Co. 67-68	Ronald Matthews D Co. 67-68
Larry Mattingly A Co. 70-71	James McCurry D Co. 67-68	Richard McLaughlin B & D Co. 68-70	Gary Musick D Co. 67-68
Henry Nelson D Co. 67-68	Patrick O'Brien 137th 69	Herbert O'Quinn D Co. 67-68	Larry Ofner A Co. 66-67
Harold Pearson D Co. 68	Dennis Peterson D Co. 67-68	Donald Powers D Co. 67-68	Vern Rumble D Co. 67-68
Terrel Sharpe D Co. 67-68	James Singer D Co. 67-68	Lloyd Smith C Co. 69-70	Harry Spates D Co. 70-71
James "Jay" Spare, Jr. HHQ 65-66	Michael Spellman D Co. 67-68	Allen Swander A & D Co. 67-68	Clarence Taylor D Co. 67-68
Henry Thomas D Co. 67-68	Richard Thompson A & D Co. 67	James Ton 39th Bn 70	Fidel Valdez C Co. 67-68
Jack Wagner 45th Grp 68-69	Richard "Dick" Walker A Co. 67-68	Ron Ward C Co. 68-69	Randy West D Co. 67-68
Steve Weston D Co. 67-68	Larry "Dale" Whittington D Co. 67-68	Michael Larry Barrett A Co. 71-72	Stephen Rideout D Co. 69-70

I would also like for you to welcome a new HONORARY Member: Mark Arguello. Mark has been

to our reunions in D.C. (2007), Sacramento (2008) and Fort Leonard Wood (2011); he has taped and

photographed our gatherings and is in the process of composing a CD or DVD of numerous Veterans reunions he has attended. You can see his work by going to his site: ArchiveServicesByMark.com.

Please accept my thanks again for all of your help during 2011 and I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year and hope to see each of you at this year's reunion in Washington, D.C. when we will celebrate Veterans Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Wall.

BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW  
 Bill Ray  
 Vice President  
 3rd Plt. C Co. 67-68

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial situation of the Association is firm. We began the year with \$1,914.06 and ended the year with \$4,368.43. We received receipts of \$8,927 for the year and made payments of \$6,472.63. A detailed report of the receipts and disbursements follows. Included in the receipts is \$1,400 for Life Membership and \$350 for annual dues. The sale of hats and shirts added an additional \$325 and donations of \$130 were made. An additional \$124 was collected at the reunion and donated to the US Army Engineer Museum fund.

The Reunion at Ft. Leonard Wood was a huge success. With over 90 attendees and an enormous amount of support from the Installation, we had a grand time touring the base and having the Dedication Banquet in the Engineer Regiment Room at the US Army Engineer Museum. Between registration and some donations, the Reunion receipts were \$4,725. Expenditures for lunches, dinners, and pizza as well as the cost of the shirts and hospitality room expenses amounted to \$4,240.06. Additionally, \$90 in registration fees was returned.

The drive to fund and develop a 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) Plaque was an unqualified success. A beautiful and, in our eyes, the most impressive plaque in the Engineer Regiment room was developed by Jerry Bright and presented to the Engineer Regiment at the Dedication Dinner during the reunion this past October. During the fund raising

drive members donated a total of \$3,308. The Association received \$2,103 (\$1,873 in 2011) and an additional \$1,205 was donated directly the Army Engineer Association. The final cost of the plaque was \$2,500. The remaining funds are a part of the increase in our remaining balance at the end of 2011.

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>
Annual Dues: \$350	Administration: \$ 723.57
Lifetime Dues: \$1400	Museum Donation: \$124.00
Hats: \$180	Reunion: \$4,240.06
Shirts: \$145	Returned Registrations: \$90.00
Donations: \$254	AEA: Plaque: \$1,295.00
Reunion: \$4,725	
Plaque: \$1,873	
<b>TOTAL: \$8,927</b>	<b>\$6472.63</b>

We are in great financial shape and look forward to the preparation of the 2012 Reunion in Arlington, VA for the Veterans Day Holiday in November.

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

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DATE: 6 October, 2011

PLACE: Baymont Inn and Suites, St Robert, MO

TIME: 1200 hours

ATTENDEES: Bruce Fonest – President, Bill Ray - Vice President, Gale Helser - Past President, Jim Shamblen – Treasurer, Rick Stradal - Secretary

The reading of the minutes from the 2010 General Meeting was deferred to the 2011 General Meeting.

Gale brought up for discussion that the by-laws be amended to now read two year minimum terms for all elected officers as one year terms seem insufficient to learn the position or get things done. The change was then brought up for a vote and passed.

Gale also recommended that the same elected officers be retained for 2012.

It was understood that the elected President has the option to appoint chairs. The following positions were suggested: Sergeant-at-Arms - Blaine Jones; Association Chaplain - Billy the Greek. The members suggested for those positions were agreed upon by the rest of the Executive Board.

Gale informed the Executive Board that members-at-large, who are appointed, are selected so as to groom them to step into an elected position.

Gale passed out brochures of the three cities in the western United States where we might hold the 2013 Reunion: Seattle, WA, Colorado Springs, CO and Tucson, AZ.

Gale stated that the 2012 Reunion will be held (all contracts to be finalized at a later date) at the Holiday Inn in Crystal City, VA. The dates will be from Saturday, 10 November through Monday, 12 November, 2012. (Veteran's Day). An Executive Board Meeting will be held on Friday, 9 November 2012. (*Editor's Note: This information has changed. The location and the dates have changed. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the correct information.*)

Gale suggested, and the Board agreed, that a drawing be held for one lucky winner (member) to win a free stay at the Holiday Inn during the reunion because of the complimentary room clause in the contract. Also, Gale said he will have the attrition clause removed from the pending contract.

Question was asked, and a brief discussion took place, on having a separate category for Lifetime Members. It was decided that no separate category is needed. Jim mentioned that to date in 2011, eleven new Lifetime Members enrolled with three more inquiring into Lifetime memberships.

Bruce and Jim discussed the need for a second name on the signature card on file at the bank where the Association's deposits are kept. It was agreed that the current President's name and signature be added to the signature card.

Gale suggested that in the by-laws describing the Vice President, that the word, permanent, be stricken and replaced by the phrase, minimum of two years. The Board agreed to the suggestion.

Gale also suggested a change in the by-laws that now states, immediate past presidents, be changed to read, all past presidents, in regards to Executive Board meeting and decision making. The Board agreed to the change.

Jim suggested in the by-laws dealing with the Treasurer that the word, meetings, be changed to annual General Members meetings. The Board agreed.

Jim will give a verbal report of the Association's finances at the General Meeting but will also be able to deliver a written report, if one is desired by any member, only upon the request of the President. To obtain a written financial report, any member must send a written request to the President, who, in turn, will pass it on to the Treasurer.

The 2011 Executive Board meeting was adjourned at 1250 hours.

#### IMPROMPTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DATE: 7 October 2011

PLACE: Baymont Inn and Suites, St Robert, MO

TIME: 1530 hours

ATTENDEES: Bruce Fonnest – President, Gale Helser - Past President, Jim Shamblen – Treasurer, Rick Stradal - Secretary

This impromptu meeting was called by Gale to make us aware that a token of appreciation was in order for Bill Ray, Vice-President, for all the work that went into making the 2011 reunion a giant success. Gale informed us that if we all agreed, he can have a plaque made up and ready by 1800 hours the same day. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 1540 hours.

#### GENERAL MEETING NOTES

DATE: 7 October, 2011

PLACE: Baymont Inn and Suites, St Robert, MO

TIME: 1715

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bruce Fonnest, President, Bill Ray, Vice-President, Jim Shamblen, Treasurer, Rick Stradal, Secretary, Gale Helser, Past President

Bruce opened the meeting by informing members present (full room) that the 2012 Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, Crystal City, VA the weekend of Saturday, 10 November through Veteran's Day, Monday, 12 November, 2012. Dates will soon be finalized by Gale.

The 2013 Reunion is tentatively planned for Tucson, AZ. Tucson was voted on over Seattle, WA and Colorado Springs, CO by the Executive Board. It is current with moving the reunion sites from the Midwest; the East and the West.

Jim read the Treasurer's report. Final balance as of Friday, 7 October, 2011 was \$6,291.52.

Donations for the 39th Engineer Plaque were \$3,258, of which \$2500 was the cost of the plaque and a smaller replica that will be the unit's copy. Jim stated that the remaining \$758 will be used to offset the cost of Saturday night's banquet, thus costing each member \$10 now.

Bruce motioned, and it was seconded, that Blaine Jones be appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Rick read the minutes from the 2010 General Meeting that was held in Mansfield, TX.

Questions were raised by Bill about the lack of a chat type room on our website. In addition, Fred Jackson stated he could not sign in to the guestbook. Both issues were promised to be looked into.

The entire day of Friday, 7 October, 2011, members of the Army Engineers Archive section, based at nearby Ft Leonard Wood, were at the hotel to scan the many photos and other historical documents that members had brought back with them from their tour in Vietnam.

Question was raised about if a group photo was to be taken. A group photo will be taken on Saturday evening, time and place yet to be determined.

Rick read a by-law change that was discussed and passed at the Executive Board Meeting held on Thursday, 6 October, 2011. The change in the by-law now will read that all elected Executive Board members will now serve a minimum of two years. A motion was made to accept this change and was seconded.

Discussion then ensued as to whether the newly adopted by-law took effect immediately. A general consensus agreed that it would. A question then was raised asking whether the present elected Board will serve only through 2012, since they were elected in 2010. More open debate occurred. It was then decided a new election will be held so that the elected Board members will serve through 2013. Before an election could be held, Bruce asked the general membership whether anyone other than the present Board members would like to be nominated. There were no other candidates. An election was held and the present sitting Board members were all reelected, to begin serving their minimum two year terms.

On another unanimous vote, it was decided that Billy the Greek will retain the duties as Association Chaplain.

A motion then was made by Roger Goforth and seconded by Floyd Babcock that the 2011 General Meeting end.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 1750 hours.

#### ADDED IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

The plaque ceremony was held on Saturday evening, 8 October at the Engineer Museum, Ft Leonard Wood, MO. The 39th Engineers Association President, Bruce Fonnest, presented the plaque to a Major and a Command Sergeant Major of the US Army Engineer Corp. The plaque will now be displayed on the wall of the Museum's assembly hall.

Many members were given the opportunity to tell of their time in Vietnam. This was accomplished with the help of the Archivist section of the Engineers who recorded the member's accounts.

## THE CHAPLAIN'S WORD

Faith: The Final Frontier!

Faith is something that not only gives hope, but moreover goes beyond what the rational mind can conceive of. Faith that you can win at some sporting event, or complete some task at work, or overcome something that is beyond what you are physically able to do, is the power of faith. Faith using this understanding is a mystery that all humans can build upon as they travel down the road of life in order to overcome any adversity they meet along the way. If you have ever entered an Orthodox Church, you will be surrounded by Holy Icons depicting human beings who have passed through some of the most horrific trials and deaths you can imagine. All of these people depicted there did it with one thing in heart and mind, and that is, they had faith. Faith not that they will be delivered from the fate that awaits them, but that it is worth suffering for something they truly believe in.

We all have heard the expression that he/she had blind faith. That is, they trusted in something other than themselves without knowing if it really exists. When two people come together in order to start a business or some venture, they have faith that it will have a positive outcome. No one says or thinks that all the time and money they put into whatever they are trying to do will fail! For faith to be truly active in a person, he/she must first believe that what they hope for, can and will happen. Once faith takes hold of a person, it grows within them. Blind faith does not possess by itself any other properties. So, you go blindly, hoping and believing half-heartedly that your expected outcome will happen. True faith on the other hand, leads to more than what meets the eye.

What do I mean by this? Well, all those saints who had faith in God realized that faith spawns on something greater than they could imagine. Faith leads to freedom, and freedom leads to power. So, through faith we gain freedom. Freedom to do things we would normally not ever allow ourselves to do. Once we gain freedom, we move to the most important part of Faith, power. With power we have the strength to go through events in our life that we would not be able to endure before without it. Then, faith is not so blind in a person as you have been lead to believe, but an ever-present activity that gives one the ability to suffer willingly for a final outcome which they believe in.

God Bless All of You!

Very Reverend Vasilios Bassakyros  
(aka, Billy the Greek) "B" Co. 66-67

## ANNUAL REUNION

Friday, Nov. 9 – Monday, Nov. 12, 2012

Crowne Plaza  
Crystal City, VA

Call for reservations: **703-416-1600**

**Tell them you're with the 39th Engineers!**

**Book now!** (You can cancel up until 6:00 pm on the day you would check in with no penalty.)

**39<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION (CBT) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
"BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW"**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

**SECTION I: NAME:** The name of the organization is the 39<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (CBT) Alumni Association.

**SECTION II: AUTHORITY:** The Association was formed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Branson, Missouri, August 18, 2001.

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVE**

**SECTION I:** The objective of the association is to promote the History of the 39<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (CBD) and to preserve the fellowship and camaraderie of the members of the battalion. "Brothers Then, Brothers Now".

**SECTION II: PARTICIPATION:** Participation in all Association events is encouraged and will be the goal of the Association.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

There are three categories for membership in the association: Regular, Associate, and Honorary.  
**SECTION I: REGULAR MEMBERS:** The regular members of the association will be any person that served with the 39<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and its associated units. Regular members are liable for dues and have the right to vote and hold Executive Officer positions.

**SECTION II: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Associate members may be any individual interested in the Association who has demonstrated an interest in the Association and a strong willingness to contribute to the objectives of the Association. Associate members will be liable for dues and have the right to vote and may hold positions on any standing committee, but are ineligible for election to Executive Officer positions.

**SECTION III: HONORARY MEMBERS:** Honorary members will be individuals of the Association nominated by any regular or associate member and ratified by the Executive Committee. Honorary members will not be liable for dues and will have no right to vote or hold office. They may participate in Association events.

**ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

**SECTION I: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:** The elected officers of the Association will be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary and will serve a minimum of two (2) years. In the event of the Vice-President Secretary, or Treasurer, for any reason does not complete their term of office the Executive Committee will appoint a regular member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of office.

**A. PRESIDENT:** The President will supervise and administer the Association, preside over all meetings of the Association Executive Committee, be responsible for the expenditure of funds, and act as an alternate member for deposit and withdrawal of funds from the Association account. It is the responsibility of the President to see that all committees are appointed and that all officers and committees will work in close cooperation with each other to plan Association activities. The President will do any and all things within his power to advance the interests of the Association. The President or his representative will sign all contracts.

**B. VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President will perform any or all of the duties of the President during the absence of the President. *In addition, the Vice President will be on the Membership Committee a minimum of two (2) years.* In the absence of the Treasurer, Vice President is authorized to receive all fees and assessments. The Vice President will turn over all such funds, along with a complete itemized report, to the Treasurer before the next regular meeting/event. In the event that the President does not complete a term of office, the Vice President will automatically assume the responsibility of the President until an election at the next general membership meeting.

**C. TREASURER:** The Treasurer will act as custodian of all funds and financial records of the Association. The Treasurer will be responsible for the accountability of such funds and will be the primary member responsible for the deposit and withdrawal of funds for the Association account. The Treasurer will keep a ledger or an account book containing reports and financial accounting and make a complete report at Association annual general membership meetings. *He will also be able to deliver a written report, if one is desired by any member only upon the request of the President. The member will be required to submit the request in writing to the President who will notify the Treasurer.*

**D. SECRETARY:** The Secretary will keep a clear and complete record of the Association activities. The Secretary will be a member of the Publicity Committee and insure that the activities of the Association are properly noted for the Historian and placed in the Association scrapbook. The Secretary will keep minutes of all meetings. The Secretary will publish a current copy of the Constitution and By-Laws for all members. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary may be authorized to receive all fees and assessments. The Secretary will turn over all such funds to the Treasurer along with an itemized report. The Secretary will assume the duties of the historian when needed. The Secretary will maintain the roster of the Association members with the assistance of the Membership committee.

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** *All Past Presidents will be a member of the Executive Committee and have all the voting right of the past office.*

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** *Members at Large will be nominated and elected during the bi-annual membership meeting to serve a term of two (2) years along with the Executive Officers. Their purpose will be to assist the Executive Officers in Association matters and to prepare to step into executive officer positions. They will have regular members voting rights but will not be on the Executive Committee.*

**CHAPLAIN:** *Will be appointed by the President. The Chaplain will serve the same term as the President. The Chaplain will have regular members voting rights but will not be on the Executive Committee.*

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** *Will be appointed by the President. The Sergeant at Arms will serve the same term as the President. The Sergeant at Arms will have regular members voting rights but will not be on the Executive Committee.*

**HISTORIAN:** *Will be appointed by the President. The Historian will serve the same term as the President. The Historian will be a member of the Executive Committee.*

**SECTION II: NOMINATION, ELECTION, AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** Nomination for the Association officers will be announced and/or made at a *Bi-Annual membership meeting*. An election of officers will be held at the same meeting immediately following the nominations.

**ARTICLE V - FUNDS AND ASSETS**

**SECTION I: EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS:** The major expenditures of the Association will be for printing and postage of the newsletter, and other administrative expenses. Funds may be expended for food, refreshments, prizes, trophies/plaques, and fees for special events held by the Association. All expenditures must be approved by the Treasurer and reported to the President quarterly. All funds will be held in a bank account in the name of the 39<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association. All withdrawals must be in accordance with the provisions of ARTICLE IV above.

**SECTION II: AUDIT OF FUNDS:** The funds account will be audited by the Executive Committee prior to the annual membership meeting. A report of that audit will be rendered at the meeting by the treasurer and approved by a majority of those present.

**ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee of the Association will be composed of the elected officers of the Association, the Historian, and all Chairpersons of Programs, Membership, and Publicity Committees. The President will be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The By-Laws will be amended by a quorum vote of the Executive Committee and presented for approval at the annual membership meeting.

**ARTICLE VII- COMMITTEES**

**SECTION I: STANDING COMMITTEES:** The following will be standing committees of the Association: Membership and Reunion. The President will appoint the chairperson in charge of all standing committees. The members of the standing committees will be approved by the President to serve on such committees during the same term of office as the President.

**SECTION II: SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Special committees (such as social or publicity) may be appointed by the President to perform functions not performed by the standing committees and will serve in their appointed capacity until dissolved by the President.

**SECTION III: HISTORIAN:** The Historian will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee. This member will be responsible for consolidating into an Association scrapbook any photographs, press clippings, and other materials that involve the events and people of the Association. The Executive Committee and Special Committees will work closely with the Historian to ensure that all materials needed to keep the scrapbook are provided.

**SECTION IV; MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Association Vice President will be an automatic member of the Membership Committee. The aim of this committee will be to do any and all things that will contribute to the membership growth of the Association. The committee will keep accurate membership records, any necessary reports and provide the Treasurer with funds collected for dues.

**SECTION V: REUNION COMMITTEE:** The reunion Committee is responsible for making arrangements for reunions to possibly include recommending a site, making arrangements for rooms, refreshments, coordinating with other facilities for food and drinks required at meetings. The committee chairperson will present all receipts to the Treasurer for payment. This committee will work with other associations as required.

**SECTION VI: SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Committees may be created by the President, as necessary, to perform functions required in carrying out the purposes of the Association. Special Committee functions will be determined by the Executive Committee at the time the committee is established.

**ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS**

The meetings of the Association are classified as General membership/business or committee meetings.

**SECTION I: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP/BUSINESS MEETINGS:** A general membership/business meeting will be held at the time and place directed by the President or by a petition signed by a majority of the current membership. Generally the meeting will be held during the annual reunion. These meetings will be held at a minimum bi-annually. *Bi-Annual nomination, election, and installation of officers will be performed during the business meeting.* It will be the right of any member to be heard at any general membership/business meeting.

**SECTION II: COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Committee meetings will be called by the committee chairperson to perform such functions as deemed necessary.

**SECTION III: QUORUM:** A quorum will consist of the active membership present at any meeting.

**ARTICLE IX - FEES**

The fees of the Association will be membership dues and any assessments for special events.

**SECTION I: DUES:** The members of the Association are requested to pay annual dues on a voluntary basis. Payment of dues will not be a requisite for participation in any activity of the Association. The annual membership dues will be \$10.00 per year, due at the beginning of each year.

**SECTION II: ASSESSMENTS:** Any assessment of special events money will be collected at each event and deposited in the Association account.

**ARTICLE X- AMENDMENTS**

The By-Laws of the Association may be amended by a quorum vote of those present during any General Membership/Business Meeting.

**ARTICLE XI- ASSETS**

No part of the assets or property of the Association will inure to the benefit of, or be distributed or be used for any private member unless approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of the Association, its property and assets will be used to pay all liabilities and obligations. Disposition of the residual assets will be disposed of under recommendation of the Executive Committee and ratified by a vote of the current active membership. All members will be notified of their financial responsibilities, if any, in the event there are not enough assets to cover all liabilities.

**Note: Changes in above By-Laws are italicized.**

## REUNION CHAIR SPEAKS

It's hard to believe that it has been 5 years since our last reunion in DC. But it has, and now it's time to go back for the 30th anniversary of "The Wall." Our dates are cast in stone: November 9, 2012 through November 12, 2012 with a limited number of rooms blocked for November 8, 2012. For those of you who plan on arriving early or staying later to take in additional activities of our nation's capital, the additional dates will be on a "space available" basis. *You must inquire when you make your reservations.*

Due to the many requests to return to the Crowne Plaza where we were billeted in 2007, we have renegotiated our contract and will be returning to the Crowne Plaza Crystal City instead of the Holiday Inn. They are owned by the same company, so we had some leverage for getting what we wanted, as they really wanted to keep our business. The rates had increased substantially at the CP since our last visit. But, after heavy negotiations, we were successful at keeping the \$99 per night as our group rate. We have booked 100 rooms with the option to increase that if we need to prior to our early deadline of August 1, 2012.

RESERVE NOW!!! The inquiries for attending this year's reunion are running very high. I expect that we will fill all of our rooms early. Don't be left out; if you even think you might be attending call in NOW and make your reservations. I know it seems unnecessary to book so early. But, believe me, if you wait until the last minute, we will most assuredly run out of rooms. And, by then, it will be too late to get more rooms. You have nothing to lose. Everyone has until 6:00pm the day of arrival to cancel without any charges or obligation. We will be contacting everyone 2 weeks prior to the reunion to be sure that you are still planning to attend. I can't say this often enough or strong enough. RESERVE TODAY! Make your reservations directly to the Crowne Plaza at 703-416-1600. Do NOT use the national 800 reservation number for Crowne Plaza Hotels because they cannot give you the room rate we've negotiated, and they do not have access to our block of rooms. The number is 703-416-1600. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the 39th Engineer Battalion to

assure that you get the group rate. Be sure to book within the block, as all of our extra privileges (like our hospitality room and comp rooms) are based on filling our block. **As an extra incentive, everyone who books within the block by June 1, 2012 will be entered into a drawing for a free upgrade to a suite at the same rate as a regular room.** Plus, there will be some extras perks included with that room.

Within the next few weeks, we will be making arrangements for the activities that will be offered to our members for some trips and tours in the DC area along with another reminder for the reunion and a registration form that you will need to return to reserve your place on any additional events.

Five years ago, I was honored and privileged to be one of the readers at "The Wall." There have only been 5 times since the dedication of the memorial that all the names on the wall have been publicly read. It's a very moving experience and a humbling moment standing on the stage, showing your respect to those of us who were less fortunate than we were and did not return home. It is not an individually long process, as each reader is given 25 names to read. I remember receiving my list a couple of weeks before the event and after reviewing the names, I researched each name as much as I could, being sure that I had the exact pronunciation of each name. And, I can't remember how many times I practiced reading those names. It was important to me to be very accurate and solemn during this event. This opportunity is, once again, being offered to anyone who is interested in participating. If we, as a unit, wish to participate as a group, we can apply to do so. If you would like to be a participant, either as an individual or part of the "39th Engineer" group, please contact me via phone, email, or a letter and I will pass on the information. If we have a group interested, I will bring it before the executive board for their approval and will proceed from there. My info is: Gale D Helser, 32423 FM 2925, Rio Hondo, TX 78583. Ph 608-225-6090. Email: [galehelser@peoplepc.com](mailto:galehelser@peoplepc.com).

Brothers then, Brothers now,  
Gale



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

## 39TH ENG DONATES SILVER STAR TO FT. LEONARD WOOD DISPLAY



On Aug. 12, 1967 Pfc. Phillip George with Company B, 39th Engineer Battalion, volunteered to complete work on a road with his bulldozer under heavy enemy sniper fire. He finished the roadway with bullets ricocheting off his

machine. When the Engineer convoy started through the roadway, the convoy's third vehicle was hit by enemy fire causing the vehicle to run off the roadway. George, who was already in a safe area, returned to hook onto the vehicle and pull it to safety while receiving sniper fire the entire time. For his actions that day, George received the Silver Star and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

On this Veteran's Day, George gave his Silver Star and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry to the John B. Mahaffey Museum



Complex at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Prior to the ceremony, George took the time to speak to approximately 200 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers from Company A, 554 Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade about his experiences as a bulldozer operator during the Vietnam War.

The John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex is honored to have George's Silver Star and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry on display to the public.

## FORT LEONARD WOOD REUNION PHOTOS

