



## 716th MP BN VIETNAM REUNION

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012

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Please follow your website for the news & happenings within your reunion & with other members. It's also where you can post your "need to know" news to share.

[www.716mpvietnam.org](http://www.716mpvietnam.org)

\*\*All Reunion Memory Books are set to be mailed out within the next 3 weeks.



# 716



WE HOPE EVERYONE IS WELL AND READY FOR ALL THAT COMES WITH THE CHANGING SEASONS- ESPECIALLY SINCE FALL WAS IN SUCH A HURRY THIS YEAR & SUPERSTORM SANDY MADE MOTHER NATURE'S POWER KNOWN! I'M MOST THANKFUL NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED IN ST. LOUIS, MO IN AUGUST DURING OUR 716<sup>TH</sup> MOST SUCCESSFUL 14TH REUNION. IT WAS AGAIN A PLEASANT MIX OF HALF NEW AND HALF RETURNING MEMBERS. THE HILTON HOTEL TREATED US SO VERY WELL & THERE WAS SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO IN THE CITY THAT WE ARE STILL HEARING FROM MANY OF THE ALMOST 280 (160 VETERANS PLUS GUESTS) THAT ATTENDED ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU ENJOYED THE REUNION & THE SITES!

OUR TWO SPECIAL GUESTS DURING THE WEEKEND WERE MSG. CASEY L. FREEMAN AND 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. DAVID PREWITT WHO ARE BOTH CURRENTLY SERVING WITH THE PRESENT DAY 716<sup>TH</sup> MILITARY POLICE CORP. THEY WERE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND MOST INTERESTING TO TALK TO AND AS MUCH IN AWE OF OUR GROUP OF VETERANS AS WE WERE OF THEM! THEY TRULY ENJOYED THE REUNION AND TALKING TO AS MANY OF THE "SAIGON WARRIORS" AT THE REUNION AS POSSIBLE AND THANKED US REPEATEDLY FOR BEING INVITED. THOUGH WE SURPRISED THEM BY ASKING THEM TO SPEAK TO OUR GROUP, THEY BOTH MADE A SPEECH THAT IMPRESSED EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE AND BROUGHT US TO OUR FEET AND UP TO DATE ON THE NEWS OF THE 716<sup>TH</sup> MPs. AND WE AGAIN THANK THEM BOTH FOR JOINING US AT THE REUNION.

\*WE ALSO WANT TO THANK SHARON & DAVID SAND FOR THEY HAD MUCH TO DO IN GETTING THE OFFICERS AWAY FROM THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES SO THEY COULD BE WITH US.

THE HOSPITALITY ROOM WAS VERY BUSY DURING THE REUNION AND WAS A GREAT GROUP EFFORT. WHATEVER YOU DONATED TO "THE CAUSE" WAS TRULY APPRECIATED BY ALL & WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

THE NEXT REUNION IS SET FOR ABOUT THE SAME TIME IN AUGUST 2014- A DEFINATE SITE HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED ON BUT PLEASE WATCH THE WEBSITE OR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

As you can imagine, record keeping for apx. 2300 veterans (such as our roster) can be time consuming but we just cannot stop searching for more 716<sup>th</sup> MPs that served in Vietnam. Rosters during some years were a good source of info but definitely NOT during years 1970, 71, 72 or 73 that we have gotten from St. Louis records. If you have any old orders from those years- please MAKE A COPY (never send originals unless you know the post office better than we do) and send your copies to Duane Hursey. ALL YEARS- if you haven't checked for OLD orders please do so. They help us out tremendously and you may see someone you know at a near reunion! Thank you all!

# 30



Veterans Day 2012~ Constitution Park, Washington DC near the Vietnam Memorial was packed with thousands of people, mostly Vietnam Veterans and their families. The ceremony to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of completion of the

Vietnam Memorial "The Wall" in 1982 was very moving and at times the huge crowd was amazingly silent. The speakers reminded us that the memorial is visited by over 4 million people from around the world each year to pay respect to the 58,282 names of our fallen soldiers whose names appear on the black granite monument, and plans are to add the names of those who died later as a result of serving in Vietnam. We were surprised to hear 40% of those who come to The Wall are too young to know anything about or to have a connection to the Vietnam War. For these & many other reasons, they are building a 35,000 sq. ft. Education Center at The Wall which was dedicated in 2007 & ground breaking ceremony was held this November 28<sup>th</sup>. Each evening, a vast array of objects left at panels in memory of the names listed above are collected & stored; but the over 400,000 items will be moved into the Education Center in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection & displayed on a rotation basis. The name of each fallen soldier is being listed in the center along with the story behind each name for posterity & education of future generations. Another monumental goal has become to also collect a photo of each of the 58,282 names for display on the "wall of Faces" to make an even better connection with visitors. There will also be an exhibit about what veterans experienced when they came home.

**\*\*We wanted you to know that the 716<sup>th</sup> was represented that day by me, your secretary as I accompanied my husband & your V. President Tom Malotke on this journey once again. It never ceases to amaze us when we see the massive black monument and the sheer number of people paying respect to the fallen and to one another. From the very young to the extremely old that required help to get there, they were still so proud to be a part of that day. We were proud of our Aussie friends that make great efforts to come to our reunion when the speakers acknowledged the great part the Australian government and their countryman played in supporting us in Vietnam and in building the Education Center at the Wall by donating \$3.3 million at the dedication in honor of the 60,000 Australian soldiers who served in Vietnam alongside our troops. Many Australian people and veterans in the huge crowd stood up or came forward to be recognized by our small representation of a grateful nation all there to share Veterans Day. To learn more about the Education Center at the Wall- please visit [www.buildacenter.com](http://www.buildacenter.com) or call 866-990-WALL. The actual building of the Center cannot begin until they have raised the entire \$85 million needed; they have collected \$47 million so far. To help in any way with these projects- please use the same website & phone # listed above.**

### Important Medical News



New health issues are being covered & treated by the VA as they are determined to be associated with your having served in Vietnam & being exposed to Agent Orange, other toxic herbicides & pesticides during your Military Service. Some major ones I would like to mention are Diabetes Type 2 (it has been determined that Vietnam Vets have a HIGH rate of developing Type 2) and Ischemic Heart Disease which is also a service connected disease. Anyone having been diagnosed with Ischemic Heart Disease by any physician other than VA connected, please be sure to follow up with [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) 800-827-1000 or for the VA fast track for Agent OJ [www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOfasttrack/home.do](http://www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOfasttrack/home.do) And above all, please remember to always, check our website for any new medical information we can give you. It's just a quick note- YOU have to do the follow up on it. I try to keep the website up to date with more details than we can fit here. For any information- always call Dept. of Veterans Affairs 1-877-222-8387. Many of you also belong to Vietnam Veterans of America- they have a great deal of information available to all Vietnam Vets at [www.veteranshealth.org](http://www.veteranshealth.org) click on "benefits" for a list of VVA accredited service officers. or 800-882-1316. Whatever your needs, follow up for your sake & your families.

PTSD – Post traumatic stress disorder) This disorder has had many names and goes back as far as the 1600s- where the doctors labeled it's symptoms as "nostalgia ". Napoleons' battlefield surgeons called it "exhaustion". Starting with the Civil War it went from "soldier's heart", Shell Shock, combat fatigue, battle fatigue, and then "Post Vietnam Syndrome" to PTSD. There are many medications, treatments and counseling techniques that truly help. Again, use the websites & phone numbers listed above & follow thru to help yourself & your family.

Greetings to my brothers in the 716<sup>th</sup> and a Merry Christmas to all. Since our reunion, we have been very busy setting up our new startup LLC. As you might expect, it has not been a smooth transition from plan to production, as we went through 4 manufacturers and finally found a manufacturer in Minnesota that ONLY makes rings & can manufacture 1000 units per week with a lifetime warranty. Their workmanship is excellent and they are very excited about this endeavor. They have many awards from around the world for their excellence and pride of work. Our next step was to find an equally accomplished ring artisan to put on the finish and correct coloration of insignias. We found a company on the east coast that does ONLY this type work. We are now **READY TO TAKE ORDERS ON A 30-45 DAY DELIVERY SCHEDULE!** Pricing is as follows:



	<u>Retail price</u>	<u>716<sup>th</sup> price</u>	
Solid brass:	\$550.00	\$475.00	
Sterling Silver	\$650.00	\$600.00	<b>** 10ct, 14ct, 18ct solid gold by quote.</b>
	2 platings of 24ct gold \$100.00 extra		

Any 716<sup>th</sup> MP rings can have the insignias & letters in the 716th colors and it looks really good. Pictures of the ring can be seen on the website- but only with the dark green colors for now. We are currently working on a desert combat ring for soldiers who served in the Middle East for all branches. It will have a bronze look to it.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING THE RINGS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[www.716mpvietnam.org](http://www.716mpvietnam.org) or email me at [mmatysik@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmatysik@wi.rr.com). For those that have called me, I will be returning your calls in December and we can begin ordering the rings you requested. Mike Matysik

My email is [mmatysik@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmatysik@wi.rr.com) or contact me by phone # 262-695-1581

**\*\*Mike wants to do something special with the ring orders, so as a special note: a \$25 donation for each ring ordered will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project in your name.**

We'd like to send out a BIG thank you to the many members who attended the reunion and took that opportunity to pay their dues while there (and for the generous donations made also); but there are some members that still need to get caught up on dues. We know it is a tough time of year, but when you're able please send in your donation of \$15 to keep your reunion running & serving you. Our phone companies thank you! It also enables us to keep searching out the many names we receive of Vietnam MP soldiers that you served with in hopes of keeping the reunion growing. **As always checks go to the Hurseys at 520 550<sup>th</sup> St. Shelby, IA 51570 & must be made out to 716<sup>th</sup> MP BN Vietnam Reunion** and we thank you for your continued support.



#### BOOKS-

We still get requests for Brig. Gen. Albin Irzyk's book on TET "Unsung Heroes, Saving Saigon". This is an excellent book for all of our members, but unfortunately our reunion no longer has any available. Your best bet is to check Amazon.com or other internet websites or local bookstores.



Another book that's been suggested as good reading is by Henry T. Gallager, titled "The Ole Miss Riot: a Soldier's Story". It is also available on Amazon.com and at some book stores. If you read an outstanding book to pass along to others please let us know so we can check it out & let others know. Thanks.

It's time for the same ole request- they don't call me the reunion "nag" for nothing! PLEASE if you move, change your email address or anyother pertinent information- let us know. We get 100-200 newsletters returned each mailing due to forwarding expired and we have to re-stamp it and mail it again. Often it comes back a second time because members have moved again. It is costly to the reunion but more than that, it delays you in getting your reunion information which we hope you look forward to, especially at reunion time.

With news and business taken care of, we take this time to wish everyone a joyous holiday season however you celebrate and a Healthy Happy New Year.

Jan & Duane Hursey

Tom & Edna Malotke

Mike Young

Your Board Members

