



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



March, 2016

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well Brothers and Sisters winter is over and spring is abounding here in Texas which is great unless you have allergies. 2016 is going to be a busy year for us with the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War Veterans Welcome Home event happening here April 23rd-24th at the Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base. Some of you may remember that last year because of terrorists threats right here in our back yard that all bases went into lock down and our whole venue changed to a later date and location. Through all of that we still had a great event with a large turnout; this year I know in my heart that there will be no changes. The event this year will be staged to coincide with the Blue Angels Air Show which is something special in and of itself; see the attached flyer. There will be plenty of Vietnam era exhibits along with your chance to tell your story to officials from the Library of Congress who will be recording the information to be placed in the archives for future generations to know who we are and what we did and accomplished.

Also the 39th will be deploying sometime after April 15, 2016. I have not been told where they will be going, only that this is the 39th's first deployment since December, 1965 when they shipped out of Fort Campbell heading to Vietnam. We have been invited to Fort Campbell to bid them a farewell on April 15th; see the attached flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. I will try to be there and I sincerely hope that some of you guys in close proximity of Fort Campbell will also be able to attend. I have been asked to send a head count of any of our members that will be attending so

please let me know by e-mail or phone as soon as possible.

Our membership is still growing, although at a somewhat slower pace but it is so good to talk with you guys when you find us. There is one special request; please let me know if you move, change phone numbers, etc. so that corrections can be made to the roster (this is the only way we have to stay in touch and keep you informed). We are still hoping that some of the 39th who served at Fort Devens will join us and help fill in the blanks from that part of our history; if you know any of these guys, please tell them about us.

Now for a big "Blue Bull Welcome" to our newest members and one long lost member.

### NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Lawson	Bill Naragon	Terry Rossiter
A Co. 71	HHC. 69-70	C Co. 67-68

Please take the time to fill out the reservation form in this newsletter and call the hotel to make your reservations for our upcoming reunion in September.

I am going to sign off now; we are being involved in more events during the year which means that we are finally being recognized. I know that April seems to be a pretty full slate but then we have until the September reunion to rest up and start all over again.

Take care, enjoy life and Carolyn and I hope to see each of you at one or all of the events I have mentioned.

### BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW, BROTHERS FOREVER

Bill Ray, President  
3<sup>rd</sup> Plt. C Co. 67-68  
bill39th@sbcglobal.net  
(817) 239-0787 (cell)

# REUNION UPDATE

## Reunion 2016 – Dallas/Fort Worth Texas – September 21-25, 2016

Half Way! We are just half-way between our last great reunion in Norfolk, VA and the next one in The Dallas/Fort Worth area. The actual location for the hotel is in Plano, Texas, just a few miles north of Dallas on Highway 75. Our hotel is the Comfort



Suites, a newly renovated hotel that has given us a great rate of \$79 per night. **RESERVE NOW by calling 972-881-1881 directly to the hotel. Be sure to identify yourself as being with the 39th Eng Bn Block to get this rate.** The room rate includes a hot morning breakfast, free internet, free morning newspaper, in-room refrigerators and microwaves



and they are pet friendly, so bring Fido. As well, if you need any special accommodations (handicap accessible, etc.), please let them know at the time you make your reservation. We will have a very spacious hospitality room with poolside access and smoking area right outside the room.

Plano has a very eclectic downtown featuring many small shops and restaurants. It's a great way to spend an afternoon or evening. There are many great restaurants near the hotel and some of the state's finest shopping malls and shopping centers.



We have free time set up in our schedule to allow you to check out the area on your own.

(<http://plano.gov>)

Our theme will be the Great State of Texas "Welcome Pardner" hospitality, so Cowboy up and

have a real western adventure. All of our featured events are one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The registration form is in this newsletter, so fill it out and return it as soon as you can so we can lock in our numbers for each event. You can pick and choose which events you would like to participate in or just check them all. Be sure to indicate how you wish to pay for the event. You can pay in full (fully refundable if you need to cancel up to 30 days prior to the reunion), pay a deposit and the balance upon arrival or charge to your credit card. Regardless of how you prefer to pay, be sure to indicate which events you wish to attend on the registration form.

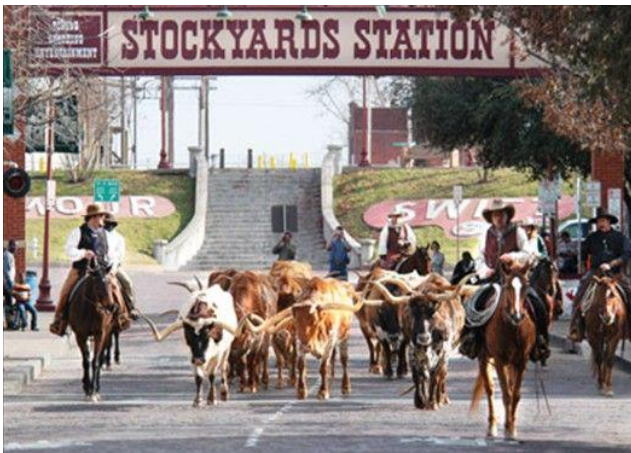
What are we doing and where are we going?



How about the South Fork Ranch (the site for the filming of the famous TV series "Dallas")? We will have a tour of the estate and hold our banquet there on Saturday night with live entertainment following the banquet. The banquet will consist of a truly southern buffet, so no specific selection will be required. Just check the number of persons attending. ([www.southfork.com](http://www.southfork.com))

We will also be visiting the Fort Worth Stockyards and hopefully be able to witness a live cattle drive right down the middle of the street.





([www.fortworthstockyards.gov](http://www.fortworthstockyards.gov)) That will be followed by a great Mexican Dinner at the famous



Joe T. Garcias Mexican Restaurant, a superb culinary experience. ([www.joets.com](http://www.joets.com))

Ride the BULL at the world-renowned (and world's largest) "Billy Bob's" Honky Tonk. This will really get you into the cowboy/cowgirl atmosphere. There will be some options available for this event for those who wish to take it to the western extremes and will be offered once you arrive at the reunion. ([www.billybobstexas.com](http://www.billybobstexas.com))



We will also visit to the Dallas Book Depository (The Dealey Center), the location from which Lee Harvey Oswald fired the fatal shot that took the life of President John F. Kennedy. This is a very historic and well-presented reflection of the events of that day. Do you remember where you were when the announcement came? I do! ([www.jfk.org](http://www.jfk.org))

Add to all of this our annual Pizza Party, which will include wings and salad for those who are not excited about pizza. Of course, we'll have our usual Hospitality Room fully stocked with your favorite beverages and snacks. Special requests will be honored, if possible. We will travel primarily by motor coach to our events and some private vehicles as necessary. Got boots? Bring 'em. Got a southern drawl? Exercise it. Got a hitch in your giddy up? Bring it to the banquet and we will work it out on the dance floor.



*Most of all,  
Just Be  
There, Y'all.  
Want more  
information?  
Just call  
President  
Bill Ray or*

Reunion Chair Gale Helser. Be sure to check out the web sites listed throughout this article as well. Brothers then, Brothers now, Brothers forever, Gale Helser, Reunion Chair  
32423 FM 2925, Rio Hondo, TX 78583  
([galehelser@peoplepc.com](mailto:galehelser@peoplepc.com))  
(956) 367-0999



**39<sup>th</sup> ENG BN Reunion 2016 – Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX – Sept. 21-25**  
**COMFORT SUITES, Plano, Texas**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$45 members/ \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 guests Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Registration includes member gift, hospitality supplies, pizza party and beverages & snacks)

Any special requests for beverages or snacks? \_\_\_\_\_

9/22 **Dallas Book Depository (JFK – Dealey Plaza) & Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant** \$55/person \_\_\_\_\_ number attendees Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*www.jfk.com / www.joets.com*

9/23 **Fort Worth Stockyards/Billy Bob's** \$34/person \_\_\_\_\_ number attendees Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*www.fortworthstockyards.gov / www.billybobstexas.com*

9/24 **Southfork Ranch Tour/Banquet/Entertainment** \$50/person \_\_\_\_\_ number attendees Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*www.southfork.com*

**Total enclosed** (min. deposit required to hold all selected events \$100/or pay in full.) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Fully refundable if canceled prior to Aug. 15, 2016)**

**If paying by credit card:** Circle one: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 3-digit Code on Back of Card: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Arriving via (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ flying \_\_\_\_\_ driving  
(Shuttle info will be sent with registration confirmation for DFW and DAL airports)

**AFTER 4/15: Mail Reservation Form and payment to:** Gale Helser  
**(Do not mail sooner – we're moving)** 941 W. Rio Guaymas  
Green Valley, AZ 85614

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

**Be sure to visit each website for more information**



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

As your new secretary, I am proud to be a part of the 39th Engineer Alumni organization. I also serve as the Veteran's Service Office for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

A little bit about me . . . Sandy and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding anniversary on Sept 3rd and sailing to the Mexican Riviera the week after our 39th reunion. A family gathering will be held at a local restaurant. We have 3 great kids and 7 grandkids who bring us continued joy. All our children are in service occupations.

And, just as I served, my children have chosen fields of service. Daughter Donna is a nurse practitioner; son Jim is a federal agent with Homeland Security and son Phil is a patrol officer in a local town. So proud of them all.

The week we got married, I was in Chicago for my pre-induction physical - which I somehow passed. Three weeks after our wedding, I got a letter from Uncle Sam and left two weeks later for Ft. Campbell. Some honeymoon! LOL 50 years went by fast!  
 Jim Lewis, Secretary  
 Co. D, HHC 67-68  
 Cell 219-730-8140



# 39th BEB ORGANIZATIONAL DAY

**15 APRIL 2016 - 1030 - 1430**  
**Eagle's Rest Pavilion**

6621 11th Airborne Division Rd.  
 Ft. Campbell, KY 42223

*OUTSIDE GATE 10 - Weather: Call 24 hrs prior to event*

- Shine & Show Car/Motorcycle Display  
 Winners: Best Car, Best Motorcycle
- Free Food (Grilled Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chips, Drinks, Fruit/Veggie Trays)
- Voluntary Potluck Competition  
 Winners: Best Dish, Best Side Dish, Best Dessert, Best Chili
- Inflatable Bounce House for Kids
- Ultimate Frisbee Competition
- Bubble Ball Soccer Competition
  - Tug-O-War Challenge
  - Open Court Basketball
- Corn Hole      ▪ Open Playground

**April 23 & 24** **FREE Open House to all**  
**During Air Power Expo**  
**Gates Open at 8 a.m.**

Please join us as we honor our Veterans and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base

**Vietnam War Education Center, Displays & Exhibits, Vietnam Veteran Guest Speakers, 50th Anniv. Pins, and "Tell Your Story" with Library of Congress' Veterans History Project**

For more information call (817) 782-7815  
 Email: FTWO\_Information@navy.mil  
 Facebook.com/NASFortWorthJRB  
 Facebook.com/VN50inNorthTexas



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

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## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**July 15th** for the next newsletter 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, 941 W. Rio Guaymas, Green Valley, AZ 86514.

Remember, this is your newsletter and your tool to keep in touch and share information with your Blue Bull brothers.



*September 21 - 25, 2016*  
**Dallas/Ft. Worth**

Book your hotel room today; there is no risk involved and you do not have to pay any deposit. Just call **972-881-1881** which is a direct line to our hotel – the Comfort Inn and Suites is located just north of Dallas on Hwy 75 in Plano, Texas. Be sure to let them know you are booking under the **39th Engineer Battalion Reunion** Block. They are offering a very affordable rate of \$79.00 per night and they are ready to start accepting reservations right now. This is a newly renovated hotel and the rate includes breakfast.

Should circumstances prevent you from attending, you can cancel right up to 24 hours prior to arrival. **Reserve Today!** It makes our planning much easier to have this information as far in advance as possible.