

**82nd combat
Engineers**



1960 TO 1977
MEMBERS

NEWSLETTER

Publisher Debbie & Rich Ozark
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Hello all!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.
We hope that the New Year will be a happy
and a very healthy one for everyone and their
families.

A Soldier's Silent Night

Written by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt in 1986

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to
give,

and to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, net even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and
dreary,

I found the home of a soldier, once I could see
clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States Soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing
to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas
day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my Country, My Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

The the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and
pure,

whispered, "carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all
is secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right.
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.



Food plays a big role in New Year's traditions. Eating
black-eyed peas, ham or cabbage are thought to
bring prosperity. However, stay away from bad luck
foods like lobsters, because they move backwards,
and chicken, because they scratch in reverse. It is
believed that eating these on New Year's day might
cause a reversal of fortune

Fact: Americans buy about 30 million to 35 million
real Christmas trees every year

Fact: It takes an average of seven years to grow a
Christmas tree of average retail height (6-7 feet)

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a
vampire?

A: Frostbite.

2012 REUNION - MEMPHIS, TN

October 11, 12 & 13, 2012

Well, the 2012 reunion is in the books. Memphis was an experience I'm sure all will remember. But, I've come to the realization that it's not where you're at, the city or the building, but it's the people that you are with. It was like coming home to family and realizing that the time we are able to spend with each other is really the only thing that matters. We hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed all the great Memphis BBQ's. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion (2014-in Branson, MO) !



Getting ready for the troops
"Oops, who has the thumb tacks?"



"Do I write my name on the name tag?"

2014 Reunion will be held in Branson, MO. – more details on page 5.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
A: Snowflakes.



Auction time



".....just one more dollar Carolyn"



"Get your dollar ready"



Friendship and food at BB King's
2012 82nd Engineers Business Meeting Minutes



82nd Engineers Business Meeting was called to order at 1 pm on Friday Oct 12th at the Crowne Plaza's Delta room in Memphis, TN.

28 people were in attendance of the 32 people attending the reunion. A quorum was met.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2010 Business meeting minutes were read by Debbie Ozark and accepted as read.

Finance report was given by Maurine Cozart.

As of 10/12/12 - \$1204.40 in the website fund.

As of 10/12/12 - \$4,305.27 in the reunion fund.

Note: 2012 reunion had not been paid in full yet.

Finances were accepted and noted.

Newsletter report was given by Rich Ozark.

1,266 mailings went out since the last business meeting in 2010. Motion made to continue newsletter to all that do not have internet access. Accepted by all.

Old Business:

1. Paul Green made a motion to discontinue the POW/MIA table at the reunions. We do not have all the items needed and it was felt that it shouldn't be set up if we couldn't do it properly. Agreed upon and accepted.

New Business:

1. Paul Green made a motion that we should discontinue using the reunion fund monies to pay for alcohol (hard liquor) at the reunions. Motion seconded and accepted by all.
2. Reunion frequency discussed. Question was raised as to if we should have it every year or keep it every 2 years. Motion made to have it every year. Seconded and accepted.
3. Discussion on reunion hotel and about the cost and convenience of location. Motion made to assign a host for each reunion. Seconded and accepted.
4. Reunion location options were discussed. Places voted on were Evansville, Indiana; Jacksonville, FL; Las Vegas, NV; Myrtle Beach, SC and Branson, MO. Las Vegas took the top vote with Branson right behind it. Decided that it would be Las Vegas in 2013

and Branson in 2014, still during the 2nd week in October. Volunteering for host was Monty Montegut.

- a) Footnote: The logistics of holding a reunion in Las Vegas as early as next year was questioned after the meeting. Everyone was asked to consider the difficulty in planning it so quickly and the cost. During the Banquet meal on Sat, it was voted upon again and decided that the next reunion would be in Branson in 2014.
5. **Officer Elections** were held and results were accepted unanimously by all:
 - a) Commander: Paul Green (Newly appointed)
 - b) Secretary: Debbie Ozark
 - c) Treasurer: Maurine Cozart / co-treasurer: Rich Ozark
 - d) Chaplain: Sylvester Lantz (Newly appointed)
 - e) Website Manager: Tom Frey
 - f) Newsletter Publisher: Rich Ozark
 - g) Sergeant at Arms: John Large
 - h) Historian: Dan Hafeman (Newly appointed)
 - i) Auctioneer Manager: George McDonald
 - j) Reunion Manager: Monty Montegut (Newly appointed)
6. Tax Exempt status questioned and discussed. Not sure if it would be helpful, but it would be looked into.
7. 2012's auction raised \$780.00. Many thanks to all that supplied items and bided.

The floor was opened up for discussion of any thoughts.

Meeting was closed by a heartfelt prayer lead by Sylvester Lantz.

Meet your new Chaplain, Sylvester Lantz:



Sylvester J. Lantz
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Arthur Daly Post 334
 Membership 26 yrs.
 Toledo, Ohio
 Past Commander
 Past Chaplin
 Executive Committee
 Chaplin 2012-2013
 Sacristan 13 yrs.
 in my church
 Chairman of Mayor's
 Coalition for Prostate Cancer
 2005-2006

I was 17 years old and drafted on the 4th of December, 1959. I took my first 8 weeks of training and second 8 weeks of training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Then I was assigned to A Company, 82nd Engineers. I was a 5 ton dump truck driver. In October 1961, 82nd Engineers were put on alert to go to Germany during the Berlin crisis. All the drivers flew to France and we convoyed from La Rachele France to Bayreuth, Germany.

After a few months in Germany, I went back home and then I decided to stay in the service. I was stationed at Fort Ord, CA., then back to Germany. I was in several different outfits, but never back in the Engineers.

I was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, TX in 1966. Then in August 1966, I was sent to Vietnam and was at Dong HA, South Vietnam until September 1967.

I spent 8.5 years in Germany, the rest of my time was spent in the states. After 22.5 years in the military, I retired a Sergeant First Class.

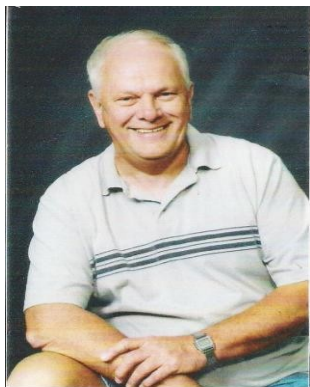
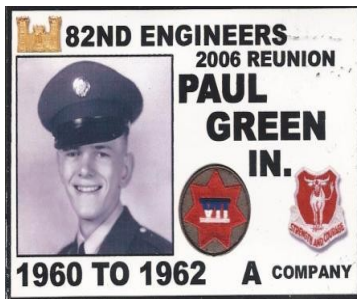
After the service I drove a truck and retired from the Teamsters. I was also a Deputy Sheriff for a few years. I have 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys, 23 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.



German-American immigrants used to decorate their trees with apples, nuts and marzipan cookies

Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace?
 A: He wanted to sleep like a log.

Meet your new Commander, Paul Green:



Short Life Story of Commander Green

Banquet night at the reunion:



Presentation of a letter from the President offering condolences for Eddie's passing and thanking him for his service to our country.

"I just want to say thank you to all of you for the tribute to Eddie and the framed letter from the President. I know that Eddie would have enjoyed this reunion just like he did all the others. You all were very special to him and he looked forward to seeing you at the reunions. Hopefully we will have more attending the next one. I know I am already looking forward to it. Thank you again! You are all the best!"

Maurine



2012 Reunion attendees



Branson, MO. 2014 Reunion:

We are diligently working with the Grand Plaza hotel to firm up some prices and small details for our next reunion. Your reunion committee is really excited about this site, both for the hotel and city. Branson is well known for their red carpet treatment for the military. There are many, many exciting things to see and do in the city.

We have spoken to other military groups that have had their reunions in Branson. Many hotels were given wonderful reviews, but the Grand Plaza really made an impression on us. They have many amenities including a free hot / cold breakfast buffet, free parking, microwaves, refrigerators, and an indoor pool and Jacuzzi.

The committee is reviewing the contract to see if any changes need to be made and we hope to have lots of information for you by the next newsletter.

Start saving your pennies, you are not going to want to miss this reunion.

Branson is known as the "Live Music Show Capital of the World".

"As the year-round home for America's Veterans, Branson is truly unique in its offerings to those who have served in the military and their families. In no other destination will a military reunion group feel more welcomed and appreciated."



Messages from the web:

We have received notice that Hubert Dunsford, D Company 237th Engineers passed away on September 4, 2012 at the age of 81, of Century, Fla. He was born in Jay, Fla. He served our country in the Army for twenty years, served in the Korean War and retired with honorable service. He has been a faithful member of Faith Bible Baptist Church in Bluff Springs. Condolences to the Dunsford family

TALKED TO KENNETH BUTCHER TODAY AND HE TOLD ME HE IS DOING A LOT BETTER HE IS USING HIS WALKER NOW AND HAS MADE PROGRESS WITH HIS LEFT ARM HE TOLD ME HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING AT THE NEXT REUNION IN BRANSN, MO. IN 2014.

I HAVE JUST TALKED TO DAVID ALBAINS WIFE CAROL AND DAVID PASSED AWAY ON VETERANS DAY 11-11-12. VIEWING WILL BE THURSDAY 11-15-12, FROM 10 TO 2 WITH THE SERVICE RIGHT AFTER. RUPP FUNERAL HOME 2345 S. CUSTER MONROE, MI 734-241-9300 DAVID I JUST WANT TO SAY YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ALL OF US, AND I WILL MISS YOU MY DEAR FRIEND.!

Jerry Heisler : I was with the 82nd as a ADM tech in Bamberg in 1971 and 72. ADM was assigned to Headquarters Co. - fabriler.com

Larry Burgett ldburgett1995@sbcglobal.net
check out the blue babe battalion web site. would be nice if the two got combined their information.

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1943-2010

Until We Meet Again!