

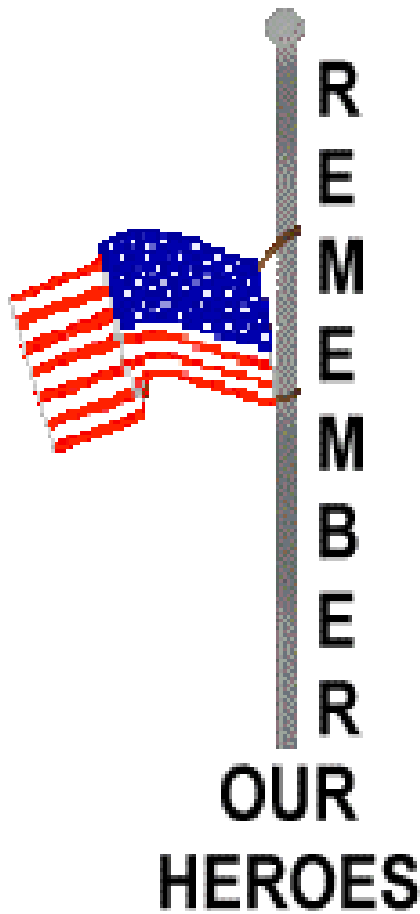
281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

NHA TRANG
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 37

Christmas 2008



The Prez says....

Reflecting on this past Veteran's Day I offer these comments. In Birmingham, AL we have one of the largest and oldest Veteran's Day Parades in the country. I have enjoyed attending on several occasions.

My most memorable parade was right after the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York. Margaret and I were watching the parade when a young lady with her small son walked up beside us and we made small talk concerning the parade. After a while she turned to me and asked "Did you ever serve" I guess I was so dumbfounded that anyone had asked me, a Viet Nam Vet anything about my service that I did not respond immediately. Finally Margaret replied, with pride I might add "He is a Viet Nam Vet" The young lady immediately responded "Thank you for your service" I can truthfully say that this was the very first time anyone had ever said to me "Thank you for your service".

People at work began to ask me about my service and even my friends that I had grown up with were now asking. I believe that it became popular to become a "Vet" after 9/11.

I remember returning home in January of 1968 and none of my friends ever asking me about my experiences. Less than two weeks into my leave I found myself wanting to be back among my Army comrades that shared those experiences with me and that cared about each other.

Being reunited with this special group of men from the 281st and rekindling this "special bond" we all share has enriched my life immensely. As the holidays approach I thank each of you for your service to this great country, I say to you all welcome home and may we never forget the 46 brave men that paid the supreme sacrifice. God Bless you all!

Frank Little
President



Our VP speaks....

♪♪ *THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS* ♪♪

Recently I have heard several comments about our past reunions in St. Louis and some of the fun places where 281st members have visited. This usually leads into a discussion on, "what are we going to do this year?" or "do you know any good places to eat?"

So, after much thought and mind searching and scratching I have decided to help everyone get prepared for the next reunion by presenting:

MOM'S TOP TEN LIST

Or, some great things to do at the St. Louis Reunion

#10 – Ted Drews Frozen Custard: When the summer gets hot everyone in St. Louis heads to Ted Drews. Do not let the long line discourage you, it moves very fast, and that gives you time to determine what you want to order, on old Highway Route 66.

#9 – Chesterfield Bottoms: Lots of stores for shopping and two excellent restaurants, The Wild Horse Grill (exquisite) and Annie Gunn's.

#8 – St. Louis Zoo: Rated #1 zoo in Zagat survey, over 6,600 exotic animals, located in Forest Park.

#7 – Six Flags: All day family fun park which includes Hurricane Harbor Water Park. Located in Eureka, MO. If you are going that way, ask me about a great Bar B Q place which is also in Eureka.

#6 – Pappy's Smokehouse: Speaking of Bar B Q, Memphis style ribs and Q, has a great lunch special. Close to St. Louis University in Mid Town.

#5 – Kreis Restaurant: Favorite for more than 50 years, Marilyn and I used to go there when we were dating. Also a 281st favorite for their enormous serving of Prime Rib.

#4 – Grant's Farm: View the homes of President Grant with a tram ride through the wildlife preserve with a stop at the famous Clydesdale breeding farm.

#3 – Carl's Root Beer Stand: On Manchester Road in Brentwood. One of my high school hangouts, as I graduated from Brentwood High School, just down the road on High School Drive. Cheeseburgers, foot long hot dogs with chili, and ice cold draft root beer.

#2 – Wine Tasting: At Mount Pleasant Winery in Augusta, Mo. Great wine with wonderful outdoor seating with views of the Missouri River Valley. A great time!

***We all should go during the reunion!

#1 – Italian Food: St. Louis has some of the best Italian Food Restaurants in the country. Ask anybody from St. Louis and they will be glad to tell you about one of their favorites. Three of my favorites are: **Rigazzi's**, on the Hill. Bon Appetit says they have one of the best pizzas in the U.S. City guide rated it as having the best toasted ravioli in the city. BTW, toasted ravioli is a St. Louis tradition not to be missed. Marilyn and I had one of our first dates here over 35 years ago. Home of the frozen fish bowl of beer. **Zia's**, also on the Hill. Always crowded, family place very good. And **Joe Boccardi's**, several locations in St. Louis, one in midtown by St. Louis University, one in Columbia, IL. And my favorite in downtown Eureka, where we go at least once every time we are in St. Louis.

Jim "MOM" Torbert
Vice President

The Chaplains Corner.....

I'm going to use part of my sermon from last Sunday titled "Unwrapped Presents" as my column this month.

I'd like to tell you a story about a man named Bill. Bill loved Christmas as a child and loves Christmas even more today. Bill just loves to give presents to his children.

Bill spends the entire year shopping, buying, wrapping and hiding presents. He is certain that what he has purchased will bring his children great joy.

His children get up, hug him and wish him a Merry Christmas. The day would be perfect except for one thing....Bill's children simply refuse to

open their presents. They simply walk up, take hold of their presents....say, "nice box Dad, pretty paper this year" but they never un-wrap them. As the scene fades you see Bill with tears in his eyes and a knife in his heart. The children walk away leaving the unopened presents under the Christmas tree.

Now, Bill is just an imaginary father that I made up. Our Heavenly Father has sacrificed for all of His children to provide a gift that He knew they really needed.

Tragically like Bill, our Heavenly Father watches with tears in His eyes and a knife in His heart as His children walk away without un-wrapping the present He has bought for them through His Son, God sent the gift of peace over 2000 years ago as a baby born in Bethlehem. Wait a minute, if Jesus came to bring peace why do we still have so much trouble? The peace Jesus brings is not the absence of conflict and trouble but a state of trust in the midst of conflict and trouble.

It really is more blessed to give than receive. Our Heavenly Father will be blessed as He sees the joy and peace His gift brings to you. Don't leave God's gift unopened this year.

Marge and I wish you and yours the merriest of Christmases and a wonderful New Year.

Norm Kaufman
Chaplain

The Membership Guy....

In nine years we are at member # 354 !!! . This year I have been very thankful for the wonderful response of 2008 and 2009 dues received. It has picked up a lot from previous years, but more still need to be sent in to keep your membership in good standing for voting purposes. I have received several inquiries as to how much LIFE membership dues are. So

we'll see some new LIFE members pretty soon.

Now it's time to get the 2009 dues out of the way, so if you haven't sent them in yet, **please do.**

All NEW applications for membership and RENEWAL DUES will come to me (unless sent in with reunion registration form) at the address on the membership form. If you need a renewal form or application, email me at: cooter@charter.net or you can also get the application off the 281st web site at www.281st.com.

I want to thank everyone that has been sending me their new information to update the master roster, this saves postage and you get your newsletters faster. PLEASE keep your information on the master roster up to date.

Thank you for your continuing support, to the 281st AHC Association!! This allows me the extra time to try to help others thru information to pursue their claims with the VA system. In the past two months I have received 3 positive completions to their VA claims. Good show for standing your ground and keeping at the VA to get your claims settled in a satisfactory manner.

I have put out some feelers to others about putting out a pamphlet to assist Intruders in submitting their VA claims. Hopefully we can get it put together in the very near future. This is going to be a combined work of love and concern for our fellow brothers in arms of 40+ years ago. I haven't had much time to get this project off the ground. I've had good responses from fellow Intruders assisting in the task, now to just get through the rest of the holidays and then maybe get this well on its way to completion. Camping season has come to a fast halt, so the camper is winterized and put up for the winter. Cold weather got to me too fast to make a final trip this year.

On another note, I've been working with Jack Mayhew trying to get the 10th CAB units coordinated so "MOM" Torbert, the 2009 Reunion Chairman, will have the points of contacts for the "Vagabonds" in place. (Look for the Reunion Chairman's comments or otherwise known as the VP in this NL)

I have received quite a few personnel updates, so keep them coming in so you can receive your newsletters and mail out information..

Nicki and I wish to pass on to you all to have a "Merry Christmas and a very safe Happy New Year!!

Gary Stagman
Membership Chairman

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Jeff Murray, our intrepid Treasurer, writes about Brian Paine's 2008 Annual Christmas Party held each year in November. This was the sixth such event and, as usual, a resounding success! – Fred

THE MAJOR MINI OF EACH YEAR

As he has for several years now Brian Paine once again hosted an open house for Intruders, Delta, friends and family at his home in Katy, Texas. This is an annual event in the Murray house so I will tick off the events and try and recapture reasons why I attended once again.

The wives are the main beneficiaries of the Paine Event, as there is a normal old Ace Hardware store right down the road that is a special place every Christmas. They have a really large and extremely reasonably priced selection of Christmas knick-knacks and my spouse has probably made the store's season's sales for the past 3 years. She talked my reluctant neighbor into attending one year, I say reluctant because she was hesitant to intrude upon an Intruders event, but she has returned twice, both for the shopping and the hospitality. Even my daughter has made two treks south, she actually thinks Brian is nice.

The main event seems to always start on a Friday, Brian fixes breakfast and people seem to just appear from all over. Bob Mitchell and Sherry were there this year, Jack Mayhew came to lend some dignity, Mom Torbert was "hired" as head chef and he brought Jim Baker along. Hawk & Vonda drove down from Norman, OK too, but only half of that duo lent any dignity to our affair. Darryl & Joan Stevens even brought along their skinny dog. Normally we nibble on food and drink all day and head to Rudy's for German food on Friday night but this Friday Mom cooked a huge pot of chili. Around 10 we all repaired to our respective cheap hotels.

(Notes and Comments Con't)

The next morning Mom was up bright and early cooking quiche, sausage, beer biscuits and raspberry pastry. His nickname fits. Throughout the entire day there was more food than we could all eat, and Rudy's German band showed up to play out of Brian's garage. Football was on in the TV room and Brian never ran out of beer, or any other beverage for that matter. When suppertime rolled around he broke out the German food, more types of German food than I can describe, but let me try. 2 types of Wurst with authentic sausage, 2 types of cabbage, German bread, about a half dozen types of potato salad, including a warm German version concocted by Mom (I had 2 helpings of that). There were 6 Black Forest cakes, more wine than you can find in your local winery and Brian makes the absolutely best eggnog in the world, and won't divulge the recipe. We ended the evening sipping brandy and dipping fruit under a chocolate tower. I was fatter than I was when I arrived and didn't care. The next morning those that were willing trotted off to an organic breakfast while the rest of us headed home to await another year.

So to sum it all up, why do we come each year? My friends at work ask me the same thing...it's what Intruders do. Delta shows up (Chester in particular is a regular) and folks who for some reason or another cannot make it to St Louis show up here. It's good to catch up with people, especially those you meet only infrequently. Earl Broussard was there, you should know he is on the heart transplant recipient waiting list, so travel afar is out of the question. It was great talking to one of the truly good guys, plus Darlene brought with her two bowls of the best bread pudding I have ever eaten. How she puts up with Earl is a mystery but why Earl keeps her around is simple.

Finally, Brian & Marilyn. Hosting 60-70 people annually is an event of some difficulty. He does it because, and I am making this up but it is probably very accurate, Brian is first and foremost an Intruder. He likes us, even if some on this net think the reverse. At first I was amazed folks would travel across several states just to visit Brian, that is not the case, folks travel across several states to visit Intruders and Brian's place just happens to be the venue. Marilyn is the perfect spouse, not a perfect Army spouse for BP didn't stay beyond his tour but Marilyn is gracious and is everything BP is not. She seems to enjoy this event more than the rest of us. If Janie hosted this she would have ulcers.

Ask around, this is a fun event, everyone is invited, and it is one relaxing weekend. Make your reservations for next year early. - Jeff Murray

A short, very short, email from John Hyatt off the 281st CHAT-NET...

Short (Very) Flying Story

One day a long, long time ago, there was this Pilot who, surprisingly, was not full of bullshit ... But it was just one Pilot a long, long time ago.... And it was just for one day.

For those without access to the Internet here's a letter posted on the 281st Website Bulletin Board, from Elena Casey, the first Scholarship Award winner and grand-daughter of Francis "Fenchy" Bosseau (Wolf Pack 1967-68).

Dear Members of the 281st AHC Association,

Thank you so much for aiding me in my college experience! Life is amazing here at Messiah College. All of my classes are going well and I have decided to take up a double major in Spanish Education (K-12) and Elementary Education. And, if all goes according to plan, this time next year I will be in Cheltenham, England on a study abroad program with the University of Gloucestershire.

The majority of the faculty and students here are genuinely gracious and I have been able to become friends with many of the girls on my dorm floor and peers in my classes. I have joined the outdoor club and tutor in Harrisburg with an adult ESL program, the Center for Education, Employment and Entrepreneurial Development (CEEED), weekly. As for this week, I am visiting Washington DC through a trip sponsored by the Student Activities Board.

Again, thank you so much for helping me make my first year at Messiah so enjoyable. It is a honor to receive the scholarship in the name of CW3 George Thomas Condrey III. I wish you all the best!



Sincerely,
Elena Casey

This following is the latest update (12/03/08) on the 281st Monument Committee for the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOMF) from Ken Smith, Senior Member at Large and Chairman of the 281st Monument Committee....

I had not spoken to Paul Galloway at the ASOMF (ASOMF) since I submitted the artwork back in late September when I requested that he complete the final version for the inscription on the 281st Monument. Paul was waiting for me to contact him and tell him to move forward with the order and send him a check for \$3800 (\$3,750 for the monument and \$50 for the artwork). Paul is very busy now also since he is the acting Executive Director of the ASOMF.

I have also been very busy and literally on the road or in an airplane for most of the month of October and November including a mad dash across the country helping my daughter, 2nd LT Christina Smith, USAF (graduated US Air Force Academy May 2007) to relocate from Vandenberg AFB, CA to McGuire AFB, NJ. On that trip I was fortunate to have a chance to have dinner with Don Torrini and Gary Stagman near the Crown Plaza since I decided to let LT Smith complete the last leg of the trip on her own and I flew home from STL. I logged more than 4,000 road miles and another 5,000 airline miles in the scant time of 30 days spanning 10/10/08 to 11/10/08!

The artwork is now complete and I have shared it with my fellow committee members and the Executive Board (EB), and I will be requesting a check from our Treasurer Fred Beck so that the monument can be ordered. You may recall that it takes about six months for the monument company to complete the work. There is one minor caveat that Paul made to me about the artwork that is out of his control and ours too. If you look at the Intruder crest you will see the triangle patch in the lower right of the patch. You cannot actually see it in the picture (Figure 1), but there are words that are in the double lined border that you can make out in the blow up picture of the triangle (Figure2).

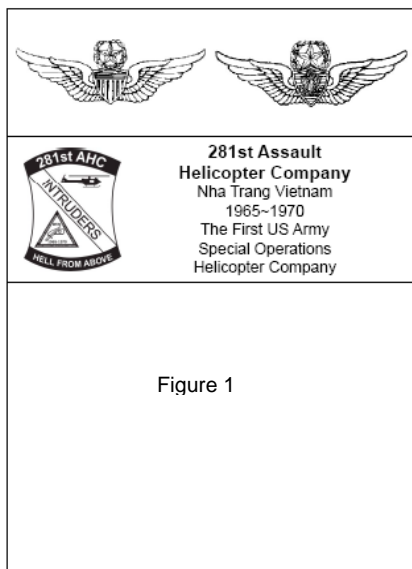


Figure 1



Figure 2

Paul is not sure that the monument company will be able to get these to appear on the monument itself given the scale and the difficulty of making those engravings. There is really nothing we can do to ensure that the words are there so we will just have to wait and see what the monument company tells us is possible. Other than that the project is a go!

The other issue that has started to emerge around the 281st Monument Project is what kind of dedication ceremony we would like to have when we decide to have the monument set in place. There has been some talk of holding the 2010 Reunion in Fayetteville, but that has only been floated as an idea at this point. The possible reunion facilities in Fayetteville are much more limited, and they are likely to be more expensive than St. Louis. I will be discussing the possibility of exploring this with the EB and our reunion experts. If there are members with feedback or opinions on this, please email me or our President, Frank Little, fwlittl@windstream.net to express your opinion on this. For those of you that don't know where Fayetteville, NC is; it is about an hour southwest of Raleigh, NC and there are many activities and things to do in the area if we should decide to do a reunion there in 2010.

Ken Smith
916-201-6965
ksmith9146@sbcglobal.net

From the Editor....

A word from the Commo Committee concerning the 281st Website. We added a new feature called the "Bulletin Board". The idea being similar to the old company bullet board of yore. To check on the latest doings of your association, or for that matter if you'd like to announce something like an upcoming Mini Reunion, just let me know and I'll add it to the Bulletin Board on the Web. Check it out at <http://281st.com>.

So that's it for this Newsletter, and its "goodbye 2008"! Karen and I wish you all....

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Sure the LZ is secure, I'm whispering because I have a cold. Trust me."

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Established 4 July 1999



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Vice President
Jim "MOM" Torbert
Secretary
Jeff Murray
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SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

NOW MAILING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2009/10 SCHOOL YEAR

The Deadline for formal requests for applications is February 15, 2009

Completed applications must be submitted by April 15, 2009

GET AN EARLY START & GET IT DONE!!

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Applications will be considered from any individual who is sponsored by a former member of the 281st AHC and/or their spouse. The Scholarship Board Chairman may request a sponsored applicant to document their connection to the sponsor and to the 281st AHC.
- b. Applicant must be a high and or home school graduate or a high school or home school student anticipating graduation during the year of his/her application.
- c. Applicant must be able to prove academic ability, interest in scholarship and leadership in school and community affairs.
- d. Final selection of scholarship grants recipients rest with solely with the Board and their decisions shall be final and binding.

Send your request for a scholarship application or request for information
by mail, email or phone to:

281st AHC Memorial Scholarship Fund

***Attn: Jack Mayhew
1150, 17th Street , N.W.
Suite 202
Washington, D.C. 20036***

***Email: intruder06@comcast.net
Phone: 202-683-1660***