

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

"INTRUDERS"

NHA TRANG
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 32

FALL 2007

REUNION 2007

"HUGELY SUCCESSFUL" !!

Lots of FNG's....

GREAT TOURS!

... WONDERFUL FOOD ...



***FABULOUS
HOTEL !***

***ST LOUIS AIRPORT PLAZA HOTEL
ST LOUIS, MO***

AND WE'RE GONNA DO IT AGAIN

NEXT YEAR!

THAT'S A PROMISE.

From the President

Butch Jones was appointed September 2006 to fill the Treasures position. Due to his increased work load he has asked the Executive Board to discuss finding a replacement. Jerome "Fred" Beck (retired IRS Auditor) stepped up. He was appointed by President Darryl Stevens and confirmed by the EB to take the remainder of the Treasures term beginning September 1, 2007.

The 2007-08 Committee Chairman have been appointed and confirmed by the EB. They will appear in the news letter. The Commo Committee has been hard at work up dating and correcting some glitches on the web.

In the past year more information on PTSD has been available. An excellent article by Robin Hicks was in a previous newsletter. Member Charlie Fredricy of California has volunteered that if anyone needs help looking for information or just wants to talk feel free to contact him. His e-mail is: cfredricy@aol.com or his cell is 805-857-5193.

Jay Hays
President

From the Reunion Chairman..

The membership of the 2007 Reunion Committee has increased and as chairman I am very appreciative of the great job they have done. The Executive Board was active and very supportive. The camaraderie at the Reunion was great with many 1st time members in attendance. Ed and Anita Duke, and Intruder of the Year (IOYA) Marshall Hawkins was unable to attend due to heart surgery. Our condolences go out to the Jim Fisher, and family, whose mother in law passed away that week. Kelly Mayhew's smiling face and PX assistance was missed.

The Association Memorabilia was displayed in accordance with the bylaws. The original 281st Guideon along with the IOYA Plaque and Presidents Cyclic Gavel (Pictured) were present with new items donated including a flight suit.

The weather was great. The Grants' Farm tour was enjoyed by many including the

historic Route # 66 Ted Drews Custard. Those who went on the Boeing Plant tour had positive comments. Friday night's R&R Hawaii with caricature artist Share Faerber, Jerry Stanfield's 400 orchids from Hawaii and photography service along with tropical decorations and great food was enjoyed by all. Three former commanders spoke and we had a power point presentation on some of their highlights with the 281st.

The membership meeting went smoothly with President Darryl Stevens asking former CO Don Ruskauff to tap the Cyclic Gavel to open the meeting and again to close the meeting at the request of the new president. About half way through, Crowne Plaza General Manager, Shirley Wheeler, who was hosting the Ladies Brunch, stepped in just long enough to announce that the ladies were on their 5th bottle of Champagne. The cost of the Brunch was paid by an anonymous donor. Barc Boyd also donated many unique 281st license plate brackets. It was suggested by Richard Murray that we change the name from Reunion to Annual Therapy. This was echoed by many 1st time attendees as well as how much they enjoyed getting re-acquainted and the fellowship.

The professionalism of MC Joe Bilitzke was appreciated by all and carried the events. Jack Mayhew and committee presented an impressive memorial service for our MIA/KIA brothers. Cheryl Becker played keyboard back ground music. Bob Ohmes received a standing ovation when he got up from his wheel chair and walked to the front to thank all for the prayers and support he had received this past year. Saturday banquet speaker, Special Forces SGM retired Donald J. Taylor, was inspiring as he detailed many Delta/281st missions and the professionalism of the 281st. At the end Gary Stagman presented him with an Honorary Membership to the 281st Association. Thanks to Brian Paine, on behalf of the association, Don Ruskauff presented Bob & Bonnie Ohmes a gold rose for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Ohmes were present with their children, grandchildren and friends. Their grandchildren along with Bill MacHarg's grandson were presented books about the Missing Man Table.

Congratulations to Marshall Hawkins, Survivor Assistance Committee Chairman, for being the 2007 Intruder of the Year. Thanks go to Secretary Jeff Murray for delivering the plaque to his hospital room in Oklahoma Sunday morning.

A surprise announcement was made by Jack Mayhew's partner and special guest Tim Schaefer. Without Jack's knowledge Tim has set up the 281st Scholarship fund in honor of Jack and is donating \$5000.00 annually. This will be for 281st members, their families and decedents. Details are forthcoming.

The evenings final presentation was to General Manager Shirley Wheeler who was presented with a 281st Guideon matted (signed by all in attendance) and framed (Thanks to Fred Lewis). She was emotional and overwhelmed with tears of joy to say the least. Shirley was accompanied by her husband, Lynn, who has volunteered to help next year with registration or anywhere he can. Most then retired to the Hospitality Room, thanks to Fred Lewis. The 145th guys finally closed down the HR for the evening along with the always last guy out Ed Haas.

This is my last Reunion Chairman report, many thanks to all.

Jay Hays

2007 Reunion Committee Chairman

The Secretary Reports.....

General Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was conducted at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on Saturday, August 6, 2007. The meeting was opened by Darryl Stevens, President. The minutes of the previous meeting were handed out by Jeff Murray, Secretary, and read by the interested members.

The financial report was presented by Butch Jones, Treasurer, and summarized.

Gary Stagman announced that we gained 8 members and lost 6. He also announced a change to the dues collection procedure in that all dues will be sent directly to Gary.

Marshall Hawkins was not in attendance but it was announced that we are having trouble locating family members of those who have passed away. On the plus side, Marshall has

made it a practice to attend as many funerals as he can, both in his capacity as Survival Assistance Officer and just because he's a good guy.

Memorabilia...Sales are brisk but not nearly as brisk as when Kelly was in charge. Hats are selling extremely slow, as are reunion shirts. Awards Unlimited is handling our sales. Election Results...Fred Lewis reported that 45 ballots were returned, 4 were non-members therefore their votes didn't count. Frank Little is the new VP, Ken Smith the Junior Member at Large. The dues payment dates were changed to coincide with the annual reunions, and Gary asked that Fred Mentzer post same to the newsletter.

Awards...Frank Little announced that Marshall Hawkins was named Intruder of the Year, and he also showed a plaque he had made up for the hotel staff.

History...Fred Lewis has put all of our documents in document protectors, made a request for more old stuff Intruders may have stashed somewhere. Don Torrini announced he has a friend who wants to formalize our history, which would be great if that happens. Joe Bilitzke volunteered to help Intruders weave the maze of the Veteran's Administration in our quest for disability claims. That generated a lot of discussion. Jack Mayhew jumped in with a request that we start talking to returning Iraq War Vets, he said his local USO is taking a big lead on this and if we want to support any organization that would be the one we should focus on.

11 first time reunion attendees were recognized at the meeting.

Jay Hays was introduced as the new President, Fred Lewis will be the new Senior Member at large, and Fred Beck is our new Treasurer as Butch Jones had to resign due to work pressure and conflicts.

Some discussion ensued about alternative locations for future reunions and once again St. Louis won out simply due to cost. It is far cheaper to meet here than anywhere else, and will be far cheaper for the next 5 years at least, as our per-room cost will be a whopping \$67@ in 2012.

Next year's reunion will be from July 28th through August 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned in time for lunch.

Jeff Murray
Secretary

The Remembrance Chair Speaks..

Remembrance comes in many forms and this report certainly falls in that category. A few weeks ago, I happily announced that I had out lived the national average only to have the number crunchers move the target forward a week later. This does not change the fact that Gary Stagman and I still have a standing goal of being the individuals who turn off the association lights and spend the remaining funds on good scotch.

However, sometimes reality sets in and in that regard I am reminded that when Jim Valvano, the former NC State basketball coach was fighting terminal cancer he composed a list of ten things that he wanted to achieve before he died. One of them was to break 80 during his weekly golf game with three of his closest friends. A few months into his ordeal he found himself on the 18th hole with a short putt for a 79. When it was his turn to putt he taped the ball off the green. His friends, who know of his list of goals, ask him why he did this and he responded that had he made the putt he would have eliminated the need to be with his friends each weekend and that their friendship was more important to him than anything else. At our annual reunion my friend Tim Schaffer, with help from Gary Stagman and my lovely wife certainly showed me how important friendship is.

Also at the reunion, one of our senior members and an old friend remarked to me that he spent too much time alone and "did not have anything to spend his money on". I quickly assured him that my wife could help him in the money-spending category. However, now we have a better solution for him; the scholarship fund that Tim set up for us will be funded annually and it is certainly a great way for us to help fund the education of our young folks who will inherit the challenges that we leave behind. One only needs to talk to young men and women like those who attended our reunion this year to know that we are leaving things in good hands. However, by providing a little help we can be assured of

their ability to do the job better than we did. In that regard the scholarship fund has already received additional pledges and we now ask you to consider an annual pledge of any amount to our 281st Intruder scholarship fund. In this regard we are certainly open to setting up sub-scholarships, within the overall structure of the fund, that are to be awarded in individual names. I for one will start the Bob Moberg and Less Paschall scholarship funds and will match all contributions up to \$1,000 for each. This is a great way to establish a scholarship in the name of one or more of our 46 heroes that we lost and or left behind or in the name of any other individual associated with the 281st.

Within a few days the legal work will be finished and the documents will be transferred to the EB. At that time I will ask the EB to formally accept the program and to establish a board of trustees to insure that the funds are replenished each year and awarded to qualified applicants in a manner that is consistent with the high standards that we have set for the association.

If you would like to serve on the board of trustees please contact me as I would like to make a recommendation to the EB as to the composition and membership of the trustee board by the end of September so that we can get started for next year. Gary has obtained information from the SOA as to how their scholarship fund works and it looks like we can do this without "reinventing the wheel." Please let us hear from you as we not only need your money, we need your views and suggestions and help.

From day one several of us have discussed the possibility of having an Intruder scholarship fund and now it is a reality. For Tim's thoughtfulness and very generous gesture, I for one shall be forever grateful.

Jack Mayhew
Remembrance Committee Chairman

PS: If you wish to contact Tim you may do so at Tim Schaffer <tschaffer@hri-online.com> or 443-321-7777

The Chaplain's Corner

It seems that the newsletter deadline comes around faster and faster these days. I think it comes with age. Some of you may have seen this article by an unknown author before but some things just bear repeating. So since I seem to have gotten caught with my proverbial pants down around my ankles and a newsletter deadline looming in the near future. So after another reunion this article seems rather appropriate.

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the Military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life.

They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence.

Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.....Such good men."

Norm Kaufman
Chaplain

From the Bean Counter...

If you were unable to attend our reunion in St. Louis this year you missed a great time to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. It does not seem like I have been your treasure for a year but time passes fast when you are having fun. Due to an

increased work load because of my business I have ask the Executive Board to please find another capable individual to assume the duties as the treasure of our association. Fred Beck has stepped up to fill that role. We all appreciate his servant attitude and willingness to help out. I would be amiss not to say "Thanks" to Brian Payne for helping me during my transition period last year.

Our association is on sound footing as our finances are concerned. Our reunion brought in about \$15,551 in revenue and we spent \$18,963 for a net cost of -\$3,412. Remember that our association is a non-profit organization. I can't think of a better way to spend our money than on our members. With that said, we still have \$11,759. in our bank account.

Also we have two CD's that total a little over \$20,000. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the treasure for the past year and I am sure I will find others ways to continue to support our association in the future.

As of 09-07-2007 Fred Becker will assume all duties of the treasure. Start making your plans now to attend the 2008 Reunion in St. Louis.

Thanks, - Butch Jones



The Senior Member@Large ...

As your newly appointed Senior Member @ Large my primary duty is the Association's Awards program. I will present to the Executive Board (EB) for their consideration and/or actions any and all recommendations for awards to our members. If you know of any "Intruder" that is worthy of some special recognition for his efforts or actions please let me know. I'll follow up on it and see that it gets to the EB for their action. A recommendation may come from anyone; it doesn't necessarily have to come from an Officer of the Association. So please let me know if you know one of our own who is deserving to be recognized and I'll put it before the EB and we'll see if we can give that individual an award.

I also accepted to chair the "Hospitality Room" for the 08 reunion. The 07 reunion was my first attempt at hosting this gathering place. I'm sure I could have done some things a little better. With what I learned from this year's experience and with your input, I hope to improve the offerings for next year.

I received several positive comments on the Hospitality Room and I appreciate these folks for going out of their way to thank me. I only received one negative comment and that was in the form of a very bitter and hurtful letter. This letter was not only addressed to me, but to the entire reunion committee. I can't even imagine this Individual's mindset or what he hoped to gain when he composed this letter. He made no suggestions or had any constructive criticism on how to improve the reunion or what he would like to see happen at this event. The letter was just full of hurtful comments. The author of this letter was not present during any of the reunion meetings, nor was he involved in the planning, yet he stated that the committee members demonstrated total "apathy" in the planning and execution of this reunion. The letter contained false accusations and statements about members that were meant nothing more than to hurt them. I hope he feels better, NO; I really hope that he gets the help that he obviously needs. His is a perfect example that some of our kind are still carrying a heavy burden and are in need of our prayers and understanding.

I would like to acknowledge Carole Downs (Mrs. Harry Downs) for all her wonderful ideas and help. She took time away from the other reunion activities to help me. She shopped with me, providing ideas and suggestions on items and quantities to better serve your taste and pleasure. She worked hard restocking the food and drinks as well as keeping the area clean. Because of a mix-up in the Association's Sam Club authorized buyers, Carole allowed us to use their Sam's Club membership. This was certainly helpful and a saving's to us. If you get the opportunity please thank Carole for all that she did for us in the "hospitality Room". She didn't have to do it. There were also other Ladies who helped and I appreciate them as well.

If you have an idea or a suggestion on food or drink or what you would like to see happen in the Hospitality Room please feel free to let me know. A suggestion was made by a member prior to the 07 reunion that we obtain soft drink mixers in 12-ounce cans instead of the 2 litre bottles like those used in the past. This idea seemed to work well as there was less mess and the drinks didn't go flat. Another idea was to serve water in the 8-ounce bottles because in the larger bottles the water became warm before it was consumed. This is the kind of stuff I'm looking for to help make your Reunion a much more pleasurable time. So please Email or phone me and if it's my power I'll see what I can do to make this room more to your liking and use.

Respectfully.

Fred Lewis

Redmule4@fidnet.com (573)341-3149

The Dues Collector and Junior Member@Large

As I transition from assisting the Membership Chairman, Gary Stagman, in collecting dues to the new Junior Member At Large of the 281st AHC Association's Executive Board, I offer the following analysis of what is going on with membership dues collected over the past three years. There is also a brief look at dues to date for the 2008 year. As most of you know, dues are now collected at the time of reunion and are delinquent thirty days after the 1st of August of the preceding year. Therefore, 2008 Dues were collected with Registration for the 2007 Reunion. Gary will be sending reminders to all those who did not pay their 2008 dues with reunion registration.

281st AHC Asso. Membership Analysis Sep 2007							
Member-ship Year	Life Members	Annual Members Paid	Disabled, Deceased, in Active	Members not Paid	Total Members	% Annual Members Paid	Ratio Annual to Life Members
2005	80	126	8	113	327	38.5%	4.1
2006	84	48	11	187	330	14.5%	3.9
2007	89	79	12	161	341	23.2%	3.8
2008¹	89	34	12	207	342	9.9%	3.8

Notes: 1. 2008 Annual Dues Paid only reflect those paid at reunion; with the change in the By Laws, dues for 2008 are now due and Gary will be sending notices and collecting (I hope!) so these numbers should change and improve.

My interpretations of these results are as follows:

1. Dues payment has fallen sharply over the past two years.
2. Reminders sent by both mail and email improved collection between 2006 & 2007, but did not regain the success of 2005 where nearly 40% of the membership was paid up and "in good standing".
3. Lifetime memberships are growing slowly at about 4 – 5 per year, but these can hurt the organization since once paid they do not generate yearly cash flow for the organization.

It was a real eye-opener to assist Gary in this task of collecting dues. I want to encourage all members of the 281st to pay your 2008 dues ASAP! Organizations are only as good as the members and their continued interest in that organization. The 281st is too unique and special to be disregarded for a mere \$25.00 (tax-deductible donation) a year. Please support your legacy, your heritage and be a proud member in good standing of this one-of-a-kind and proud association; and most of, all be a part of what it stands for!

Ken Smith

The Membership Maaaaaaaaaaaaan.....

Below is part of the first article I wrote for the Intruder Newsletter. My how time flies when you're having fun!!! At this time, I was Member #051. I'm not sure how many members there were in July 2000.

Senior Member At Large - Membership Chairman

My name is Gary L. Stagman, elected as Senior Member At Large and appointed as Membership

Chairman for the 281st Assault Helicopter Association during the Unit Reunion/Business Meeting of July 2000. I first came to the 281st in Jan 66, at Fort Benning, Georgia and arrived in VietNam with the unit in Nha Trang. I was with the unit from Jan 66 to Dec 68. During this time frame I flew as Crew Chief in Wolf Pack, Rat Pack & Bandits flight platoons. In Oct 68 when I was promoted to SSG, I was then moved to Maintenance. I again returned to the 281st in Jan 70 and served as Maintenance Platoon Sgt until the unit deactivation in Dec 70. I probably am the unit's longest serving member.

In the past seven years we have increased our membership and we are now up to member # 345 !!! During the 2007 reunion in St. Louis, we had one conversion from annual to life status and 4 new members who picked up their membership papers when they signed in for the reunion. In addition we were able to collect dues for 2008, at registrations, for several of our members

During the Executive Board meeting held on 1 August 2007 it was determined by the board that it would be best to consolidate the renewal dues and new membership applications under the Membership Chairman. Therefore, effective immediately I am back in the business of collecting all membership monies, i.e. dues and new applications. Only thing I ask is if you are not attending the reunion, PLEASE use the membership form and send your renewal dues to me. The by-laws state that they should be sent with the reunion registration form. However, it makes my makes record keeping much simpler if they come directly to me. Please send all NEW applications for membership and RENEWAL DUES to me at the address on the membership form which is:

Gary L. Stagman
281st AHC Membership Chairman
2525 Reveres Route
Granite City, IL 62040-6148

For your information I have included the new updated by-laws change that was voted in by the members in good-standing:

Section 4. Membership and Dues Assessments:

- A. To become a member of the Association, a qualified individual must submit a New Application form as found at the Association website, or in the Association newsletter. Annual membership renewal dues shall become due and payable on August 1st each year. The membership year of the Association shall begin August 1st and end July 31st. Dues renewal will be \$25.00 annually, and will be collected on the Annual Reunion Registration Form. Members are not required to attend the Annual Reunion, but may pay their dues using the form. New members joining the Association prior to October 30th shall be assessed \$25. A graduated dues schedule shall apply to new members only. A new member joining after October 30th shall be assessed dues on the following schedule for the remaining initial calendar year of membership: Nov-Jan = \$18, Feb-Apr = \$12, and May-Jul = \$0.
- B. Life Membership dues may be paid in one payment or over a period of one year in no more than six payments including the down payment. These payments, including the down payment, must be initiated and completed within the timeframe of a membership year. A membership year begins in January and ends in December. Upon completion of the last payment, a Life Membership card will be issued by the Membership Chairman. Should a member initiate payment toward a Life Membership and fail to pay the full amount within the established timeframe, the amount paid will be considered to be paid-up Annual Membership Dues and will be amortized over a period that will be equal to the amount of money paid based upon the price of Annual Dues.
- C. Fees and dues that do not reach the Association by August 1st shall be considered delinquent. A member shall not be considered in good standing with the Association

until the dues have been paid. Members that are not in good standing forfeit their rights and privileges to vote, hold elected or appointed office, serve on committees, or participate in general membership meetings.

If you have any information about Intruders that we have not found or have missed in the process please send me their information on so I can make contact and get a letter off to them. I do have a positive side of all this in that when I'm talking to guys and they mention names I get leads which I can follow up on... I have not given up on this yet and don't plan to ever doing so. Therefore, I am still begging for information that is out there in old orders, roster, etc. I have received some information on guys who served in the 1969 timeframe. But, I still need your help and I will take any information that I can get to keep the searches going.

Last but not least: We continually get request for individual contact information from other intruders who want to contact you. In order for us to assist them, and you, **we must have your current address, phone number and email address.** So please remember to send me your info when you move, change your phone numbers or email provider. Otherwise making contact with you is just about out of the question. PLEASE help me keep your information on the master roster up to date.

Thank you for your continuing support, to the 281st AHC Association!!

"Clear Left" !! Cooter

Membership Chairman – Gary Stagman

P.S.: I wish to thank everyone for the wonderful and much needed support and help in making this years reunion a "HUGE SUCCESS" !!!



Notes and Comments

Comments and some emails from the CHAT and HQ nets...

As many know (or didn't know), Intruder of the Year Marshall "Hawk" Hawkins developed a problem with his ticker requiring hospitalization just before the reunion. Jeff Murray stopped by Oklahoma on his way home to present Hawk with the IOYA plaque Fred

281st HQ Net

Monday Aug 6, 2007

From: Jeff Murray

Mission accomplished. Janie woke me up at 3:15 and said "Let's Go" Sunday morning and we were on the road at 3:45, got to Norman around 11:30 (she drives fast) and Hawk was sitting in the bed asking who wanted to look at his butt. His daughter was there, I was surprised, she was real refined and actually nothing like him. I wasn't really surprised, I just thought I would pass that on. He seems to be doing great, really liked the award, the doc came in while we were there and said once the tubes come out he can go home. I think he is ready. He professes to be coming to Brian Paine's in November. His new girlfriend was staying there 24-7 and was a lot of help, real friendly person.

He's really upset about missing the reunion and has the ITOY plaque hanging in the hospital room

awaiting a spot in his office when he returns. Great reunion you guys, this one seemed to go without any hitches at all and we're looking forward to 2008. - Jeff

Monday Aug 6, 2007

From: Bob Ohmes

RE: [HQ_281AHC] Marshall

Wonderful news about Marshall! Hope he just gets better and better! We missed him at the reunion--- his handsome face is always appreciated (this from Bonnie!) and his cheerfulness.

Thank you for the tribute to our 50 years of marriage, and we wouldn't (couldn't) have missed this event. Our family and dear friends loved it and talked about coming back next year! Our grandsons have been in JRROTC in high school so they really enjoyed all the military parts and also immediately read their books. They were delighted with it as they knew the story and said they "had" to learn that in their classes. It was a wonderful day for us, esp. me, as I just had to be there for part of the reunion to thank you all for prayers, phone calls, visits, emails, etc., as I know I would NOT be there alive but for them! Thank you again. You are all just great!

My best to all of you,
Bob Ohmes

Here's a SITREP from Anita Duke concerning Ed's recovery progress.....

From: ANITA DUKE

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007

Subject: ED'S UPDATE

Ed is doing better each day. Still has lot of pain. No way to sleep that don't hurt something. Can't laugh, and don't think about coughing. Has lost about 25 lbs. What a diet plan!!!!!!! He really enjoys reading your e-mails and knowing so many prayers are being said on his behalf, as been a source of joy for us. Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards and e-mails. Thank you for keeping in touch and being concerned for him. - Anita

Jack Mayhew weighs in on the Intruder Weight Loss Club program....

From: Jack mayhew [mailto:intruder06@...]

Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 1:47 PM

Subject: Intruder weight loss club

Intruders, last year we failed to follow through on our Intruder weight loss program and I accept full responsibility for same: however we did have a clear winner who came in as a dark horse. **The hero of the 66-67 weight loss program was the one and only Joe Bilitzke who lost a total of 40+ pounds over the year.** (The real winner was CSM Bob but he cheated.)

As our friend and Drill Sgt for weight loss, Barc Boyd so clearly states this is an issue for us all and one that we all need to attend to. Therefore, the 67-68 weight loss club is back in business ask we will again ask the Rev. Norm to be the scribe. Let's, start the count as of 1 Sept 07 and this year we will see this thing to its end. That is, those of us who participate will buy the winner dinner and he also gets to set next to Janie Murray who will again demonstrate her ability to consume the largest steak (**or drink the most**) in the house and still look better than all of us.

Next year we will have a weigh in on Friday night. We will again ask Barc to provide updates and weight loss tips on a weekly basis.

Norm, here are some charter members: *Jack Mayhew, Brian Paine, and Gary Stagman*. Everyone else, please let norm know of your intent ASAP. If Joe can lose 40+ we can do it and we will all live a bit longer. - Jack

Wednesday Aug 22, 2007

From: Barc Boyd[

HQ_281AHC] Intruder weight loss club

Sounds good! I am not interested in the weight loss as much as the loss of inches in the waist. When i started i was at about a 46", and slowly worked my way down to a very comfortable 40". Now i am able to wear a snug 38", an am still shooting for 36". The problem is most folks look at the weight loss as a goal, but sometimes there are other goals that can be established. For instance, when you wake up in the

morning and look at yourself in the mirror, just think how you might look with a six pack, and i'm not talking about beer on the inside or in the fridge! - Barc

An email from our President Jay Hays concerning Fred Funk.....

Saturday Aug 25, 2007

From: Jay Hays

I have learned today that Fred Had a second stroke Jan. 11.2007. I talked with his wife Betty today and she said Fred had worked up until his 1st stroke Nov. 2005. This 2nd stroke has been much worse and he is in a nursing home. He knows everyone but has some trouble talking at times. They get him into a wheel chair and he can partially feed himself. He is able to watch TV and the other day a SF movie was on and he was whistling a SF tune according to Betty. I have sent a thinking of you card and I'm sure Fred would appreciate hearing from all of us.

We occasionally forget to count our Blessings - Jay

Well folks, that's it for this Newsletter. As I've said numerous times in the past..... this is your Newsletter. If you would like to comment, critique, or publish an article, just let me know. And please let me know anytime you have a mini gathering of 281st vets, with pictures if possible.

START PLANNING "NOW" FOR NEXT YEARS REUNION !!

Fred Mentzer
Editor and Publisher

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

281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established 4 July 1999



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Jay Hays
Vice President
Frank Little
Secretary
Jeff Murray
Treasurer
Fred Beck
Senior Member@Large
Fred Lewis
Junior Member@Large
Ken Smith
Immediate Past President
Darryl Stevens

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards – Fred Lewis
Membership Committee Chairman - Gary Stagman
Remembrance Committee Chairman - Jack Mayhew
Historian - Bob Mitchell
Internet Groups Administrator - Brent Gourley
Commo Committee Chairman – Bob Mitchell
Legal Advisor - Brent Gourley
Reunion Committee Chairman – Frank Little
Survivor Assistance Chairman - Marshall Hawkins
Memorabilia Sales Committee-PX Chairman – Jay Hays
Association Memorabilia Chairman – Fred Lewis
Chaplain - Norm Kaufman
Newsletter Editor/Public Relations
Fred Mentzer