



# The Panther Press

June 2019



## From the President:

The upcoming reunion is a little more than three months away. You will hear a lot about the reunion to be held in San Antonio this year in this edition of the Panther Press. Attending one of our reunions is a great way to renew friendships you made during your military career.

We just celebrated the 75th anniversary of the landing of D Day at Normandy on 6 June. I hope you took a few moments to celebrate those that served and gave the ultimate sacrifice. We had a cookout at our house but before we ate we took a few moments to allow each attendee to remember family members that served in the military. I hope you realize what a privilege and honor each of you have/had by serving in the United States military. There is no experience like it and those that do not have the experience will never know what it means.

This June 6th will be the 75th anniversary of the D Day landing at Normandy. What a momentous event in history. I was fortunate to have a stepfather that fought in WWII, landed at Normandy on D Day, fought across Europe, and knocked down the back gates of the Dachau Concentration Camp. He took five photos at Dachau and I've included three below. Needless to say, they are priceless. I mention all this to emphasize, as far as the military brotherhood, we are connected with all those who have gone before us and all those yet to come.

We are experiencing the passing of almost 400 WWII veterans a day. I encourage each of you to seek out our WWII veterans and get to know their story.

Hope to see you at our San Antonio reunion.

Phil Loftis, [pgloftis@gmail.com](mailto:pgloftis@gmail.com)



## **11th Engineer Battalion Association**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President ----- Phil Loftis  
1st Vice President ----- Larry Hawkins  
2nd Vice President ----- Ron Smoker

### **APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Secretary ----- Rick Goring  
Treasurer ----- John Booth  
Chaplain ----- Jim Rock  
Newsletter Editor ----- Steven Dykes  
Web Master ----- Bill Davis  
11th Engr Bn Liaison - Joe Papapietro  
Historian ----- Joe Papapietro  
Photographer ----- Steven Dykes

### **EMERITUS**

Ernest Seymour ----- President  
Rev. Allan Eubank -- Chaplain  
Joe Papapietro ----- President

### **From the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

We are quickly approaching our association's 2019 joint reunion with the 547th in San Antonio, Texas, September 26-29, at the Emily Morgan Hotel. [For details, you will find the reunion registration materials within this edition of the ~~Panther Press~~.] San Antonio is one of the most visited areas in America and we anticipate a good turnout. About 20 of our association members and several 547th members have already submitted their registration materials and room reservations. I urge that if you are considering going to the reunion that you complete and submit your registration form and make a hotel reservation, ASAP. Note--you can always cancel your room reservation up until the evening of the 23rd of September without penalty. However, if you wait to register after the cut-off date, you will pay a non-discounted rate, if you are able to get a room at all. Also, while rooms are readily available at this time, the tour bus is also limited in size to the first 51 people who are registered. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact our local planner Steve Dykes [(214) 693-5188; sdykes9@hotmail.com] or myself. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

Looking ahead to next year, planning of the 2020 reunion to be held in Myrtle Beach, SC (also a joint reunion with the 547th) is coming along nicely. Joe Papapietro and his wife Richel are our local planners and have submitted an information paper with preliminary details and request for your feedback. Please take a moment to check it out and let us know any comments.

Essayons,

Larry Hawkins, 330 603-7059  
lhawkins463@earthlink.net

## **From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Smoke Signals**

As you read this article our Association's 2019 Call-A-Thon will be well underway with our Volunteer Callers attempting to reach out to you and every other Member to say Hi, thank you for your past and hopefully continuous support and to briefly chat about whatever subject each of you might desire. Our calls also provide a good opportunity to confirm and/or update the information that the Association has on file for each member and to seek our members' ideas, opinions and general thoughts, as to the focus and performance of the Association. If you haven't yet been contacted you should be receiving a call in the next few weeks. Also, if you had been left a phone message by our callers requesting that you call back,

please take the time to return their call. If you do not receive a call by the end of July, please notify me at either my home phone number or email address, as listed below, so I might take appropriate follow-up action.

Our Annual Meeting/Reunion in San Antonio, Texas will be here sooner than we know it, and although there are many of you who are no longer able to travel and attend, I am hopeful that the rest of you are avidly planning to attend or at least seriously considering attending. Our 2019 Planning Committee, along with their helpers, has been working diligently to make this year's Reunion another memberable event for all who attend. Please don't let their tireless efforts go unsupported and I hoping to see many of you in September.

Finally, I will be completing my tenure as your Association's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Membership Chairman), culminating at this year's Annual Meeting. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your cooperation, support and continued Membership. In an attempt to assist our Association with identify prospective candidates to fill the soon vacated 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. position, I'm soliciting nominees and volunteers who would be willing to take on the position. I encourage your support in providing the names of prospective candidates as nominees to our Secretary, Rick Goring, or to me, so that their names can be officially entered on the ballot for election by the vote of our General Membership, as set forth in our By Laws. Your Association needs its leadership positions filled in order to effectively and efficiently support its activities and programs. Please seriously consider taking on this challenge, I'm sure you will enjoy the experience and the benefits of which will greatly assist your Association.

## **From The Secretary :**

Our combined Reunion with the 547th EN BN is rapidly approaching, get your reservations in soon. Don't miss any of the exciting events that are on tap. Hope to see you there.

If you haven't yet served as an Officer or appointed board member of our Association, now is the time to consider stepping up. We are always looking for fresh minds and ideas, so let yours be heard. The position of Secretary will be opening, consider this position. Contact me and I'll share the duties with you. See you in Texas!

Essayons,

Rick Goring  
marlrickg@gmail.com

## **T – Notes:** Notes from the Tresaurer, June 2019

As of May 31, 2019 the Association funds in our accounts total \$16,634.85.

At the 2018 Reunion Business meeting it was agreed that I should have our financial records reviewed. Again, my thanks to Zach Hagedorn for taking on the monumental task of reviewing the 2012-2018 books. I am happy to report that Zach's review was completed and he approved the financial books, and that our President Phil has concurred.

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Reminder that we still have 11<sup>th</sup> Engr Bn Association T-Shirts available for sale to our members. Contact me or Jeff Corker if you are interested in purchasing one or more. Order Form is attached to the newsletter.

If your name on the AWOL list, please renew your membership.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2019 San Antonio reunion. Thank you all for your support of the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association.

ESSAYONS

jlb

John L Booth  
56 Hope Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
732-345-1134

## **From the Reunion Liaison Coordinator**

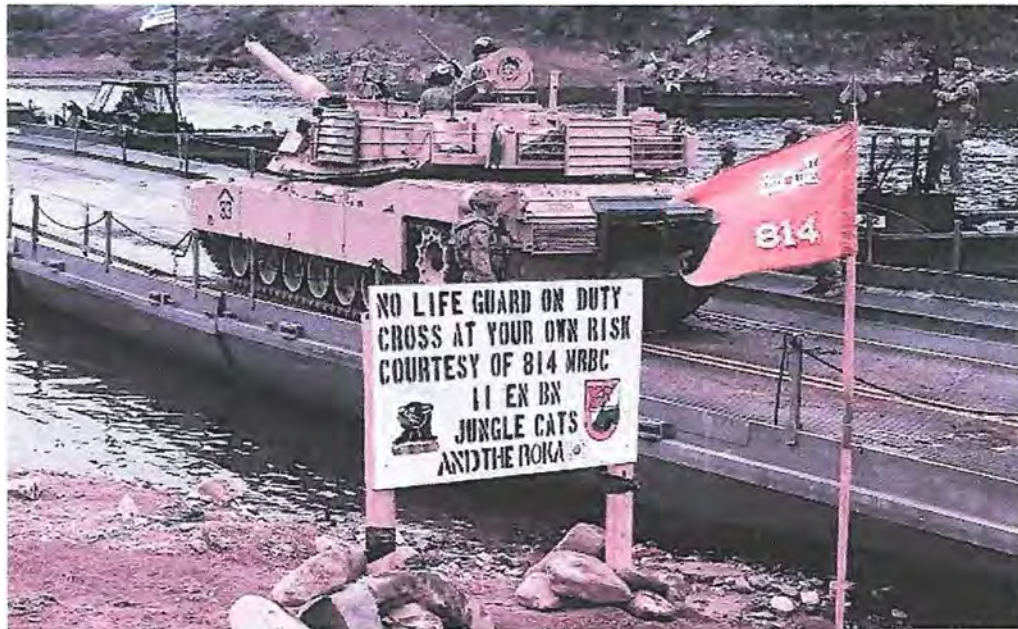


This has been an eye-opening and learning experience for me. I made a site visit to San Antonio a couple of months ago. It had been a while since I was in San Antonio (like the most recent millenium) It is full of surprises. A couple of soldiers in period dress wer rehearsing with an artilley piece when I was there for the site visit. nother group of five was performing the manual of arms. I also noted a few dioramas around the Alamo that show the development of the area at a given time. What interested me most about them was a tag that said they were donated by Phil Collins. I asked at the hotel about it and yes, Virginia, it is that

Phil Collins. (Phil Collins, solo artist and former lead singer/drummer for Genesis, not to be confused with Tom Collins, an adult beverage. Turns out he is a history buff and loves San Antonio...but I digress.) San Antonio is now the second largest city in Texas. Yet the area around the Alamo and the Riverwalk are the same cool places they have been. A copy of the tour itenerary is attached. Also attached to this issue of the ~~Panther Press~~ as is an updated registration form. If you have already registered for the reunion, you don't need to send an updated version in.

Steven Dykes  
Reunion Liaison Coordinator  
[PantherPress11engr@gmail.com](mailto:PantherPress11engr@gmail.com)





### **From the Battalion Liaison:**

The Battalion has seen tremendous growth since its activation only 18 months ago. The update below, provided by LTC Ramskugler, Jungle Cat 6, and CSM Rodney Russell, Jungle Cat 7, highlights a number of recent activities including a comprehensive Battalion External Evaluation, the Engineer Ball, Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year awards and Best Sapper competition participants. Looking forward, the Battalion is currently preparing for a Change of Command ceremony planned for August when LTC Ramskugler will pass the colors to the incoming commander LTC Rob Dion (bio attached).

### **FROM THE FRONT....A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER AND CSM:**

**Jungle Cats Forward!** We greet you on behalf of the over 900 Jungle Cat Soldiers currently serving at Camp Humphreys, Korea! We just completed a Battalion External Evaluation in April and May that included crossing the 3/1AD Bulldog Brigade over the Imjin River and breaching a simulated North Korean Obstacle Belt at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex near the DMZ! If called, We are ready to FIGHT TONIGHT and KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL WE WIN!

We recently presented the **2018 Soldier and NCO of the Year** plaques to **PFC Ryan Palotay** and **SGT Austin Kirby**, along with the gift cards, and they were thrilled! Unfortunately we did not get pictures of the event, but the competition this year will be even fiercer now that the Jungle Cats saw how the 11 Association honors them!

On March 1st, 2019, 11E hosted the Peninsula-wide **Engineer Ball**, with General Abrams (USFK Commander) as our guest speaker! Beyond its benefits to 11E and the effect of staking 11E's claim as the center of gravity for Engineers on Pen, the ball was a strategic success in pulling together the joint Engineer community, ROK partners, and industry. The SAME executive director also attended. Two Engineer general officers said they heard from afar how great the event went!

In April, **2LT Gabriel Hammock** and **SSG Ronald Thomas (TEAM 34)** represented the **11th Engineer Battalion** at this year's **Best Sapper** competition. They placed 13th out of a field 48 teams!

This summer is focused on weapons qualification, crew gunnery, and squad/platoon live fire. The Battalion **Change of Command** will occur at Camp Humphreys on August 9th, 2019, with LTC Rob Dion taking the mantle of Jungle Cat 6!

Thanks for keeping the Association alive and well! With gratitude,

CSM Rodney Russel JC7 and  
LTC Chad Ramskugler JC6

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

**ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:** As I undertake the process of collecting Association memorabilia and historical artifacts I realize more and more how big the task is. As no centralized records or inventory existed previously I am asking for your support:

- Current and former members of the Board of Directors and appointed Officers: I am requesting copies (not originals) of documents and other historical records that you compiled while in office.
- Members at Large: To the extent that you might possess items of historical significance (unit orders, awards/decorations, photographs, other memorabilia, etc.) please contact me to discuss your willingness to provide the Association with copies of the paper documents and/or photographs or other items. My new email address is: [myoldarmy@aol.com](mailto:myoldarmy@aol.com).

**CAMPAIGN STREAMERS:** According to historical records the 11<sup>th</sup> has been awarded a total of 25 streamers. These include the following (photo attached):

## **11<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER REG (RAILWAY) - WWI**

- CAMBRAI 1917
- St. MIHIEL 1918
- MEUSE-ARGONNE 1918

- KOREA, SUMMER 1953
- SOUTHWEST ASIA
- CEASE FIRE

## **11<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER BN - WW II**

- American Theater, Streamer without inscription
- Rhineland
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

## **KUWAIT**

- SOUTHWEST ASIA CAMPAIGN STREAMER

## **WAR ON TERROR**

- Campaigns TBD

## **11<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER CBT BN – KOREAN WAR**

- UN DEFENSIVE
- UN OFFENSIVE
- CCF INTERVENTION
- First UN COUNTEROFFENSIVE
- CCF SPRING OFFENSIVE
- UN SSUMMER OFFENSIVE
- SECOND KOREAN WINTER
- KOREA – SUMMER/FALL 1952
- THRD KOREAN WINTER

## **OTHER HONORS / DECORATIONS**

- MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (ARMY) - KOREA 1950-1951
- MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (ARMY) - KOREA 1953-1954
- ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD - 1994
- ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD – 2001
- PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) - IRAQ 2003

I have initiated the acquisition of 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Campaign Streamers. The BOD approved the purchase of three WWI streamers and I have gifted to the Association three WW2 streamers. **HELP NEEDED:** I am seeking member contributions to purchase others as they might become available on the secondary market where the price is about \$35 each “used” vs. \$75 each new.



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**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?** This is a new Panther Press feature where I hope to identify members of the Jungle Cat family who have gone on to represent us with honor & distinction. I am happy to accept your recommendations and input for future newsletters.

**Colonel Brian Sizemore**, after commanding the 11<sup>th</sup> at Fort Benning (before its brief inactivation in Dec, 2016) subsequently served as Chief of the Commander's Initiatives Group at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning. He was promoted to Colonel in 2017 and then assumed command of the St. Louis District, where he serves now.

**Joe Papapietro**  
Association Historian

## **From the Chaplain:                      Taps June 2019**

San Antonio Reunion 2019 is just around the corner. The staff of the 547th is busy as the host unit planning a great event for all. The Memorial service this year will be unique. The members of the 11th

Engr Bn Assn will conduct their own unit memorial presentation. The Chaplain with the assistance of staff members has assembled a memorable tribute to those members who have gone before us.

Please take time to submit your hotel reservations and reunion information before the suspense date so we can look forward to seeing you at the check in table.

Life is a blessing – Live life large – Live it to the fullest everyday - take nothing for granted – Give thanks for each day that God has given you and praise him for allowing you to serve others in your home, family community, church and synagogue, and in the 11th Engr Bn Assn. Steve Dykes is a perfect example of one

who serves others tirelessly .... Friends, family, Dad, and now as the unit representative on site in an Antonio for our 2019 reunion. You will never be forgotten Steve.

We have lost a hero recently from the 11th Engr Bn Assn since our last newsletter. Donald D. Kreikemeier passed on January 5 2019. Funeral mass with full military honors. Keep Don and family in your thoughts and prayers.

As your Chaplain, if you have a special prayer request or need help please call or email me.

Jim Rock 901-292-3084 (cell)  
E-mail: jrocknroll@comcast.net

Bless you and your family

## **From the Editor:                      The Last Word**

Hello Cats, I am trying out a new configuration for my computer that will end some of the pagination errors some of you have had to deal with using Word On-line. Let's see how Adobe Acrobat works. I'm getting ready for the reunion in San Antonio. The board of leaders of the 11<sup>th</sup> EBA are well represented in the reservations I have seen so far.

Some questions have arisen concerning visiting Austin on weeks before and after events having to do with the 11th/547th Engineer Battalion's reunions. Here is what is going on in the area. UT plays in Austin on 9/21 against Oklahoma State; no game 9/27, and at WVU on 10/5. Their biggest rivalry played vs U of OK on 10/5 in Dallas during the state fair (Use cut and paste to use in you browser) <https://www.bigtex.com> for their calendar. Austin City Limits has a festival beginning on October 6 through October 11. ACL line up on a day-by-day basis <https://www.aclfestival.com/lineup/by-day/>

Here are 11 fun things to do in Austin. [https://www.escapehere.com/destination/11-things-to-see-and-do-in-austin-texas/?utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_campaign=EH\\_BNG\\_US\\_DESK-SearchMarketing&utm\\_content=o\\_c\\_1174278708632354&cus\\_widget=kwd-73392453568540:loc-190&utm\\_term=austin%20texas&cus\\_teaser=&msclkid=fd823d4337ae1a746b6760511a89944a](https://www.escapehere.com/destination/11-things-to-see-and-do-in-austin-texas/?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=bing&utm_campaign=EH_BNG_US_DESK-SearchMarketing&utm_content=o_c_1174278708632354&cus_widget=kwd-73392453568540:loc-190&utm_term=austin%20texas&cus_teaser=&msclkid=fd823d4337ae1a746b6760511a89944a)

Steven Dykes  
Editor, the Panther Press



## **11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association**

### **Annual Dues Payment Form**

As your 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association Treasurer this is a reminder of payment for Annual dues (\$15.00/year) are **due on January 1 each year**. We are currently summoning the collection of dues and asking that you **please update** the information requested below, so that we may verify/update the information on file as it pertains to you and your service with the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated 11<sup>th</sup> ECB Unit Served: \_\_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> ECB Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Locations served with the 11<sup>th</sup> ECB \_\_\_\_\_

Time Period Served: (From) \_\_\_\_\_ (To) \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Telephone Number and/or Email for alternate Point of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

As previously mentioned our dues are **\$15.00 per year** with the Membership Year coinciding with the Calendar Year, i.e., January 1 to December 31. In the past, some members have opted to pay dues for a number of years in advance and/or have sent in additional funds that are put into our Association's General Fund, some of which may be used to pay dues for a few of our less fortunate members. We encourage both! All donations to the General Fund are TAX DEDUCTABLE. The Association is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(19) post or organization for past and present members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Please complete: year 20\_\_\_\_ Dues Payment: \$15.00 Additional Years at \$15.00/years: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Funds to General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-paid Membership Dues through: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check #/Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks or Money Orders only.)

**Please make your Check/Money Order out to "The 11th Engineer Battalion Association" and mail to:**

**John L. Booth**  
**Treasurer, 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association**  
**56 Hope Road**  
**Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07724**

Once I receive and process your form and payment I will forward your information to the Secretary. Upon receipt, the Secretary will verify/update your information, as applicable, on our Association Roster and send your Membership Card reflecting its new expiration date. If you have prepaid your dues for the current year, or beyond, please note that fact on the above form. However, please still complete the information requested on this form, so we can verify/update our records.

In the past year we have had problems contacting some members. Please provide alternate telephone # or email address for us to contact in the event that we cannot reach you at those listed above. \_\_\_\_\_

Also, if there is an issue, comment or recommendation that you believe is for the good of our Association and/or that you would like to further discuss, please make a note in the space below or the back side of the form.

**Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (John Booth) at 732-345-1134 or email: [boothjl@aol.com](mailto:boothjl@aol.com) or Rich Goring, Secretary at 1-816-674-3763 or email at [marlrickg@gmail.com](mailto:marlrickg@gmail.com)**



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### **Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Dion Jr.**

Lieutenant Colonel Dion was commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 2001 from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Officer Advance Course, and Intermediate Level Education.

Lieutenant Colonel Dion's previous assignments include Platoon Leader and Assault & Obstacle Platoon Leader for Bravo Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, during the battalion's deployment as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Divisions initial invasion into Iraq; Battalion S2 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion; Military Transition Team Engineer Advisor for the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Infantry Division in Iraq for OIF 04-05; Battalion Maintenance Officer for the 29<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion; and 523<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Company (Horizontal) Company Commander in the 84<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion during the battalion's deployment to Iraq for OIF 07-08.



Following company command, Lieutenant Colonel Dion attended Advanced Civil Schooling at the Georgia Institute of Technology and then completed a utilization tour with USACE Sacramento. Lieutenant Colonel Dion was then assigned to the 555<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade as the Brigade Plans Officer, Battalion S3 in the 864<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, and Brigade S3.

Following his assignment in the 555<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Dion was selected as an Arroyo Center Fellow in Santa Monica, California and then completed a utilization tour with HQDA G8 Program Analysis & Evaluation.

Lieutenant Colonel Dion is currently the Division Engineer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division / ROK/U.S. Combined Division. He will assume command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion in August 2019.

Lieutenant Colonel Dion's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (with 1 oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and Sapper Tab.

Lieutenant Colonel Dion holds a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Missouri, a certified Project Management Professional, and a Certified Construction Manager.

Lieutenant Colonel Dion and his wife (Angelica) have been married for nine years and have one son (Sean) and one daughter (Kelly).

## **11<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION LIAISON**

The Battalion has seen tremendous growth and maturity since its activation 20 months ago. The update below, provided by LTC Ramskugler, Jungle Cat 6, and CSM Rodney Russell, Jungle Cat 7, highlights a number of recent activities including a comprehensive Battalion External Evaluation, the Engineer Ball, Soldier and NCO of the Year awards and Best Sapper competition participants.

Looking forward, the Battalion is currently preparing for a Change of Command ceremony in August when LTC Ramskugler will pass the colors to the incoming commander LTC Rob Dion (bio attached).

LTC Ramskugler, who assumed command of the 11<sup>th</sup> in October 2017, was responsible for the battalion's reactivation and integration in Korea. He and his wife Elizabeth and children Gloria (8), Stella (7), and Samson (3) are looking forward to their move to Wisconsin where he has been selected to serve as Professor of Military Science at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. As PMS he will command the 'Fox Valley' ROTC Battalion including cadets at UW Green Bay, Ripon College, Marian University, and St Norbert College.



God speed, LTC Ramskugler. The Association extends its thanks and appreciation for your leadership and service to the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and your friendship to the Association.

You will always be a member of our Jungle Cat family.

**Joe Papapietro**

**11<sup>th</sup> EN BN LIAISON**

## **As of 6/4/2019**

### **ACTIVE MEMBERS dues paid**

**(\* paid for 2020)**

**(\*\*\* New Member since 2018 reunion)**

Arroyo, Pedro A., CW5 (ret) \*  
Atkins, Matthew S.  
Boehle, Fred F. \*  
Booth, John L., COL (ret) \*  
Brady, Raymond  
Brown, Wm. David,  
COL (ret) \*  
Clem, Joseph D., Jr. (Joe) \*  
Corker, Jeffery, CSM (ret) \*  
Davis, William R. (Bill),  
CSM (ret) \*  
Delleo, Michael F., Jr.  
Dennis, Bernard A.  
Diehl, Robert A. \*  
Downs, George M.  
Durkin, John A., COL (ret) \*  
Dykes, Steven W. \*  
Ellegood, Michael S. \*  
Eubank, Rev L. Allan  
Fagge, Norman D. \*  
Ferguson, Dennis E.  
Ford, Maria A. \*\*\*  
Gallagher, Patrick J. \*  
Goring, Richard H., COL (ret) \*  
Grimaldi, Gennaro J. Sr. \*  
Hagedorn, Zach Jr., COL (ret) \*  
Harrison, William Jr. \*  
Hawkins, Larry \*  
Herkert, August J. (Gus)  
Horne, Garth M. \*  
Houck, Boyd D. (Doug) \*  
Iwanyk, Eugene  
Keech, Ronald E. \*  
Kelly, Jason E. COL  
King, Billy J. \*  
Lantz, Fr Rev Gary L.  
Layde, William A. \*  
Lillibridge, John  
Loftis, Philip G, COL (ret) \*  
Marques, Edward D. \*  
Mather, Dana C.  
Mehl, Steven J., CW3 (ret)  
Mogren, Eric T. \*  
Papapietro, Joe G., COL (ret) \*  
Peterson, Donald (Pete)  
Pluciennik, Edward P. \*  
Rock, James G. COL (ret) \*  
Sayles, Andre H. BG (ret)  
Schumacher, Thomas J. \*  
Smoker, Ronald R. \*  
Struble, Roy \*  
Sweet, Roger P. \*

Throop, William H, COL (Ret) \*  
Trexler, Thomas D.  
Trott, Phillip W., CSM (Ret)  
Verploegen, David L. LTC (ret) \*  
Way, Walter \*

### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

**Boelsche, Charlotte**  
**(wife of NJ Fred)**  
**Smith, Bridget**  
**(wife of MOH awardee**  
**SFC Paul Ray Smith)**

### **Members who we have learned** **have passed in their final** **review, since the last newsletter**

Seidler, Albert H., passed  
1/10/2017  
Kreikemeier, Donald D., passed  
1/5/2019  
Seymour, Ernest S., passed  
4/27/2019

### **MEMBERS AWOL / NOT Current**

Alexander, Charles J.  
Allen, Joe E  
Bankowski, Leo  
Beck, Jesse R.  
Bell, Jimmy W.  
Berger, Richard P.  
Binetti, Micael R.  
Bowler, William E (Gene),  
COL (ret)  
Bradley, Edmund C.  
Coulter, Robert E. CSM (ret)  
Dimon, Charles E.  
Donnelly, Thomas F.  
Dorton, James R., MSG (ret)  
Fahey, Kenneth  
Fessenden, Paul H.  
Fiala, Charles J. Sr., MG (ret)  
Fischl, Richard G. (Doc) DDS  
Forget, Stephen  
Gardner, Roger R.  
Gioiosa, Thomas E., LTC (ret)  
Graves, Donald E.  
Gray, John R. (Jack)  
Hamilton, Barry, K., CSM (ret)  
Harper, Ronald A.  
Henderson, Delbert  
Hermanson, Merrill R.  
Hixson, Arnold G.  
Hubbell, John D.  
Hussin, Chris, COL  
Joyce, Michael, N.

Latham, John  
Loose, F. James (Jim)  
Lundquist, Lawrence R.  
Lunsford, Jessie  
Marks, Russell H.  
McGee, Thomas J.  
McNichols, Thomas R  
Nichols, Bobby R.  
Owen, Paul E., COL  
Porcelli, Louis L.  
Purdin, Terry L  
Raines, Brian  
Ray, Lynn  
Renna, Richard  
Robishaw, Paul A.  
Rosario, Erick R  
Shellenbarger, Robert T.  
Smith, Thomas P.  
Soehlke, Richard G. (Dick)  
Sperry, Rev Loy G.  
Still, Quenten G.  
Sulik, John A.  
Swanson, Eugene  
Teague, Noel O.  
Thomas, Gary, COL (ret)  
Tolley, James S.  
Trainor, John  
Trevino, Mike  
Vetter, Leo  
Vinczi, Bela L.  
Waugh, Earl M.  
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# 547<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION REUNION

Event Date: September 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

## OVERVIEW

### 1. Tour



*This tour will meet in front of the Menger Hotel at 0900 we will walk to the Alamo where our tour starts, our next stop is the Japanese Tea Garden then off to Mission San Jose a 300-year-old working Catholic Church started by the Spanish under King Philip, we will also visit Mission Concepcion.*

*Afternoon Break will be at El Mercado or the market square for lunch and shopping lasting 90 Minutes. We will also visit San Fernando Cathedral America's Oldest Catholic Cathedral and our final stop before the relaxing 1-Hour Private Boat tour on the San Antonio Riverwalk. This will also be narrated by Boat Captains.*



*Our transportation will be 1-55 Passenger and 1-25 Passenger Bus.*

*Water will be provided by tour company.*



## INFORMATION PAPER

### SUBJECT: REUNION 2020 (MYRTLE BEACH, SC) UPDATE

1. Richel and I have made two trips to Myrtle Beach gathering information for our 2020 reunion. We have visited several hotels (two of which are on the ocean) and also explored opportunities for daytime tours and evening shows. Here's a summary of our findings/recommendations thus far:
  - a. **HOTEL:** I am leaning towards the Beach Cove Resort, a property of 300+ privately owned condominiums that offer 1, 2 or 3 bedroom units. The facility is just over the line in North Myrtle Beach and somewhat removed from the hustle and bustle (and traffic) of Myrtle Beach proper yet close enough to allow easy access to major shops, restaurants and show venues. It offers multiple pools & hot tubs with direct access to a wide, sandy beach. **IMPORTANT:** the Beach Cove Resort offers a complimentary Hospitality Suite and free covered parking. ( <https://www.beachcove.com> )
  - b. **DATES & RATES:** Room rates are very dependent upon the week/month of your planned visit. September & October offer the best combination of weather and reduced rates. With that in mind we are looking at the last week in Sept or the first week in Oct. During those periods room rates including taxes, resort fee, and breakfast for two is about \$125/day...subject to further negotiation. The 2 bedroom (but only one bath) units for the same periods run about \$225/day.
  - c. **ACTIVITIES:** We are still exploring options and need to make a decision on one or two days of scheduled tours. Thus far we have identified the following potential outings:
    - 1) A day trip to Brookgreen Gardens, a former rice plantation that is now a designated National Historic Landmark ( <https://www.brookgreen.org/> ). Use the shuttle to get you around to tour the facilities including the sculpture garden (the Nation's largest and most extensive sculpture collection of American Figurative Sculpture), a butterfly farm and zoo, and a boat tour of the old rice fields. Lunch is available at three on site venues (the Courtyard Café, the Atrium or the Old Kitchen). The price of admission including the boat tour is TBD + motor coach transportation. NOTE: Each ticket is good for one week, great for those staying after the reunion.
    - 2) Dinner at a local restaurant in Barefoot Landing ( <http://www.bflanding.com> ) followed by a hit show at the Alabama Theater.
    - 3) A visit to the Myrtle Beach Aquarium and new Pearl Harbor exhibit.
    - 4) Visits to the Boardwalk, Sky Wheel, Broadway at the Beach, Family Kingdom Amusement Park are just a few of Myrtle Beach other offerings.
  - d. **MEMORIAL SERVICE.** We've identified a "Memorial Park" at the old Air Force Base but are still looking for other options.
2. If you have any feedback on the above please contact me or Larry, 1<sup>st</sup> VP NLT 30 June.
3. By the end of July I plan to submit a draft agenda to the BOD and 547<sup>th</sup> POC. It will contain specific recommendations on dates, a hotel, activities, banquet menu and guest speaker options. I hope to be able to present a final agenda to the membership in San Antonio.
4. My contact info remains unchanged: Joe Papapietro  
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