



PANTHER PRESS



From the President:

It's been almost two months since our reunion in San Antonio. I'll let our other officers expound on the results but I will tell you a Great time was had by all! It was something to have our banquet in an old morgue. I don't know how to adequately express the fulfillment and enjoyment that is experienced by attending one of our reunions. If you haven't attended one in the past I challenge you to test my evaluation of our reunions. Next year in Myrtle Beach, SC, would be a good start. A big "Thanks" goes out to our Steve Dykes and Larry Hawkins and the 547th EBA (specially Pat Disanto) for all the work to make the 2018 reunion so successful.

We elected a new 2nd Vice President, Roger Sweet, at the last reunion. The 2nd VP is responsible for Membership. I believe Membership is the most important office in our Association. And, of course, Roger can't do it alone. I look forward to Roger's leadership in bringing more members into our Association. It's not an easy task. It takes help from every other member in the Association.

With the coming holidays I wish you a great Thanksgiving...we have so much to be thankful for, especially our great country and military,...and wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Phil Loftis, pgloftis@gmail.com, 256-651-9829

From the 1st Vice President:

As 2019 winds down and the holiday season approaches, I am reminded of the many blessings in my life and the wonderful people with whom I have had the pleasure of associating and knowing as a result of our military service. Our recent reunion, a joint reunion with the 547th EBA and held in San Antonio, Texas, September 26-29, brought many of us together for what turned out to be a very enjoyable time of fellowship, recollection and learning. It was so successful, in fact, that our respective organizations have agreed to continue holding joint reunions into the foreseeable future. While turnout was excellent, many friends and associates were unable to attend and dearly missed. Never fear, though. A new reunion opportunity looms in less than a year as we set our next joint reunion for North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. **Please mark your calendars for September 24-27, 2020.** Final details and reunion registration materials will be provided in a future edition of the Panther Press. You can expect beachside accommodations, a fun first day reception, a bus tour, business meeting, memorial service, and ample free/beach time. This will be an off-peak season for that area, so we expect manageable crowd size as it was in San Antonio.

Our president emeritus, Joe Papapietro, is the lead planner so you can expect a well-planned event. We have prepared an information paper with preliminary details (see my attached Memorandum For Record) that Joe will periodically update and share with you via the quarterly Panther Press issues. Feel free to give us your feedback as well as suggestions for future reunion venues and any interest you might have in hosting a reunion in your vicinity. The 2021 joint reunion will be planned and coordinated by the 547th and that venue has not yet been set, though a number of excellent potential locations are being discussed. I sincerely look forward to you joining us in Myrtle Beach next September.

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

From the 2nd VP:

Hello All! My name is Roger Sweet. I was elected to this office in San Antonio, Texas. I served with the 11th Engineers in Korea 1967-68 as Communications Chief at Camp Essayons. My goal is to try and bring more of the engineers together. If anyone who reads this letter has any names of fellow engineers or just wants to ask questions about our goals and future survival please e-mail me at sesweet71147@yahoo.com or call 313-768-7205. Well, with that said my wife, Sharen, and I had a fantastic time at the reunion in San Antonio. The sites were great. Conversations with fellow engineers and wives were very uplifting. So, to all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Please keep in touch!

Roger Sweet

From the Treasurer:

As of October 31, 2019, the Association funds in our accounts total \$16,915.87.

Reminder, we still have 11th Engr Bn Association Tee 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 is on the AWOL list, please renew your membership.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2020 Myrtle Beach reunion. Thank you all for your support of the 11th Engineer Battalion Association.

Essayons John L Booth, 732-345-1134, BoothJL@aol.com

From The Secretary

No report this edition other than to say Happy Thanksgiving and have a Very Merry Christmas!

Essayons, Rick Goring, 816 674-3763, marlrickg@gmail.com

From the Historian:

With this issue of the Panther Press I am initiating a new feature which I refer to as 'Historically Speaking'.

This effort will consist of short articles (not to exceed one page in length) addressing discrete elements of Corps of Engineers and Engineer organization background including but not limited to discussions of Corps formation, evolution, roles and missions, uniforms, insignia, organizations and units. Where possible I will integrate how my research has had a direct impact on the 11th Engineer Battalion.

This first effort, attached, addresses the early formation of the Corps of Engineers.

DISCLAIMER: I am not a historian by education or an expert in these areas but will research and report my findings in brief, one page summaries. My goal is to make them interesting and informative yet short and concise.

NOTE: If you have an interest in Army history or by virtue of education and/or past assignments expertise in an area of Corps of Engineer or 11th Engineer Battalion history I welcome your input, either in the form of suggested topics for me to research or as an article that you would like to submit as a "Guest Contributor".

Speaking of history...check the photo out on page 16 of three soldiers from the 547th that served in one of the last, if not the last, segregated units during WWII.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Joe Papapietro, 1-717-818-7331, myoldarmy@gmail.com

From the Web Master:

On Facebook there are several 11th Engineer Battalion sites. Our Facebook site is the
11th Engineer Battalion Association, US Army.

We have an established Association structured by By-Laws. Originally organized by Korean War era Veterans, driven by Fred Boelsche. I encourage our readers to request membership at this site if you have Facebook. If you know of non-Association 11th Engineers that have Facebook, (encourage them to join our Association) encourage them to request joining that site. If you have significant documents, photos, recollections, please submit them to be added to that site. Our Historian Joe Papapietro is also interested in significant information regarding our 11th Engineers.

Other Facebook sites:

*One site belongs to the Active Component 11th Engineer Battalion. This has events at their HQ located at Camp Humphrey, South Korea. Visit this site often.

*Another site is labeled with the suffix "Reunions". I thought my role would be a Moderator at this site, but that hasn't happened yet. It was organized by well-meaning Veterans, but does not have an Association with a By-Law structure. This site has the most members.

*There is another 11th Engineer site that has some activity. Do not confuse it to be within our input and control.

Web Site:

I recently gained Admin control to our official Association Web Site. It is organized in "Word Press". I am learning this program by trial and error. It is in need of my attention. My goal is to make it a viable web site. Please share with me material that may be displayed within the site.

Bill Davis, PO Box 336, Cool, CA 95614, 530-885-3917, wrd1945@sbcglobal.net

From the Chaplain:

Taps

San Antonio Reunion is in the rear view mirror and we have already set our sights with great anticipation on gathering on the beach for a late Summerfest in Myrtle Beach, SC, with Joe P. planning another reunion. Chaplain Rock and Susan have our sandals and suits packed!

In San Antonio, I reflected on the "relationships" renewed and the new ones made with the 547th at the Emily Morgan Hotel, a blessed venue smack in the middle of all the action. The Memorial Service sent 8 of our 11th Engineer Association heroes off with grace and dignity. Our tour of old San Antonio was eye opening to many to the history and love that this city brings. Our closing dinner was festive and very enjoyable as we shared stories both from the 11th and the 547th. Auctioneer Joe P. drove max profits for the Assn while getting a barrel of laughs concurrently as usual!

God is good "all the time". He expects us to gather and communicate in fellowship periodically. We "lean in" and "lean on" each other in the good times and bad. As your Chaplain, I pray for all the Assn and ask you to consider to pray with me to attend the Myrtle Beach Reunion in 2020. Mark your calendars 24-27 September. Come a few days early and let's lay on the beach together and worship our great Lord of Lords!

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

Jim Rock, 901-292-3084 (cell), Email jrocknroll@comcast.net

Bless you and your family

From the Photographer:

Before I put on my photographer hat, I would like to thank all of the attendees of the reunion we had in San Antonio. It truly was my pleasure to coordinate the event for all of you. Pat and her team in San Antonio did a great job of lining up (and keeping them lined up) the activities we

enjoyed while we were there. I was glad we were able to appreciate the city councilman who was instrumental in finding a replacement tour company when the one we contracted with originally backed out literally the day before the tour was to start.

I have yet to make contact with the 547th's photographer so we can compare and contrast our documentation of the event. No one could cover all of the group all of the time. I have about 400 shots of the festivities and I know there were opportunities that I missed. If any of you have any photos you made that you would like to share, please forward them to me at this address: PantherPress11Engr@gmail.com. Let me know when, where, and the occasion for the picture(s). Feel free to share any "back story" you may have, too.

One of the things I had hoped to accomplish at the reunion was to promote the CD that I made of the photographs President Phil and I made of the memories we collectively created at the 2018 Nashville reunion. If you noticed the display running on a monitor in the registration area in San Antonio, that was the CD I am promoting. Photographs are arranged chronologically and tell the story of what we did. A number of people ate at the Wurst place in town; it has a separate section. In addition, there is a section of photographs of attendees being themselves and another of out-takes from the group photo.

From what I am able to determine, on 28 September 2018, we saw the last public performance of the late Tony Joe White. He passed on October 24, 2018 due to a heart attack. I have collected a few of his performances and have put them on the CD.

There is more material here than I am comfortable putting on the wire. Anyone wanting a copy of the CD needs to send me \$10.00 for it. Shipping and handling is included. Obviously, this is more than it costs to produce. I propose to cover my costs and donate the rest to the 11th Engineer Battalion Association. To insure deliveries, make sure to send your name, USPS mailing and e-mail addresses with your order. Send your information and personal check or money order to: Steven Dykes, 216 Hidden Springs Drive, Bastrop, TX 78602. Mail delivery occurs at peculiar times in the hinterlands of Texas. Allow 3 weeks for receipt of the CD.

Steve Dykes

...And a note from your Panther Press Editor:

The newsletter is for your benefit to keep you up to date on what is happening in the association and with your past fellow comrades in arms. If you have special topics you would like included in the newsletter, please let me know.

Phil Loftis pgloftis@gmail.com 256-651-9829

THE 11TH ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOCIATION WEB SITE:

WWW:11thengineerbattalionassociation.com

11th Engineer Battalion Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: 11th & 547th ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOCIATIONS JOINT REUNION 2020

TO: See Distribution

FROM: Larry Hawkins, 1st VP, 11th EBA Reunion Chairman

DATE: October 14, 2019

1. Representatives of the 11th and 547th Engineer Battalion Associations (EBA) held discussions during the 2019 reunion at San Antonio (26-29 Sept 2019) to address plans for a follow-on joint reunion in 2020. The following agreements were reached:

- a. Given the success of the 2019 reunion the two organizations agreed to conduct another joint reunion in 2020.
- b. The 11th EBA will assume lead planning responsibilities for the 2020 reunion.
- c. Details agreed upon for Reunion 2020 include:
 - 1) LOCATION: Myrtle Beach, SC.
 - 2) DATES: 24 – 27 September (four nights, arrive Thursday, depart Monday)
 - 3) AGENDA: The tentative agenda (details TBD) is outlined below:
 - a) Thursday, 24 Sept: Registration and joint meet and greet reception in the Hospitality Suite with refreshments & “heavy” hors d'oeuvres (5 to 11 PM).
 - b) Friday, 25 Sept:
 - i. Group activity to include daytime tour, dinner & show (TBD).
 - ii. Hospitality Suite open after the show until 11 PM.
 - c) Saturday, 26 Sept:
 - i. Morning: Association Business Meetings (separate) 9 AM to noon.
 - ii. Afternoon: Open activities to explore Myrtle Beach.
 - iii. Evening: Hospitality Suite open from 5 PM to 11 PM.
 - d) Sunday, 27 Sept:
 - i. Morning: Open for religious services / free time.
 - ii. Afternoon: Memorial Service (time & location TBD)
 - iii. Evening: Group photos (time & location TBD)
 - iv. Banquet & Auction (time & location TBD)
 - e) Monday, 28 Sept: : Hotel check out & departure

2. Joe Papapietro (myoldarmy@gmail.com) has been designated the 11th EBA 2020 Reunion Planner.
 - a. Joe is responsible for planning all aspects of the reunion to include: the detailed agenda, activities, transportation, memorial service, banquet, guest speaker, color guard, auction, costs and registration process.
 - b. Joe will keep the 11 EBA 1st VP (Reunions) and the BOD and Officers informed of progress and provide this data to the 547th via their POCs President Bill Davis (wrd1945@gmail.com), Reunion Coordinator Dave Tarbox (1959cessna172@gmail.com) and Newsletter Editor Randal Ripley (randal.ripley@yahoo.com)

DISTRIBUTION:

11 EBA BOD & OFFICERS

547 EBA REUNION POCs (Davis, Tarbox & Ripley)

INFORMATION PAPER

a/o 31 OCT 2019

SUBJECT: 11/547 ENGINEER BATTALLION ASSOCIATION (EBA) JOINT 2020 REUNION

TO: MEMBERS OF THE 11TH & 547TH ASSOCIATIONS

I. REFERENCE: REUNION 2020 MEMO FOR RECORD (attached with 1st VP report).

II. EMERGING REUNION 2020 DETAILS:

1. **HOTEL:** Based on location, amenities and costs a decision has been made to hold the reunion at the **Beach Cove Resort:**
 - a. This property consists of 300+ privately owned condominiums whose rentals are managed by the Resort.
 - b. Located at the south end of North Myrtle Beach it is less subject to the traffic/congestion of Myrtle Beach proper yet offers easy access to shopping, restaurants and entertainment.
 - c. The resort property has multiple pools & hot tubs and provides direct access to a wide, sandy beach.
 - d. The rates at the Beach Cove Resort (see below) are very competitive and include a complimentary breakfast for two, a Hospitality Suite and free covered parking.
 - e. More info and photos is available at their web site: <https://www.beachcove.com>
2. **DATES & RATES:** Room rates in Myrtle Beach are dependent upon the week/month of the planned visit. September offers an excellent combination of good weather and reduced rates.
 - a. Initial discussions with the Beach Cove Resort have focused on the period of 24 – 27 September. NOTE: This is a four night stay, arrive on Thursday and depart Monday.
 - b. Room rates for an ocean view one-bedroom suite (BR + BA + Family Room/Kitchen) including resort fee and breakfast for two is about \$125/day.
 - c. Two-bedroom units (separate BRs + BA + Family Room/Kitchen) run about \$225/day.
 - d. Handicap accessible units are available but limited. These will need to be booked early.
 - e. NOTE: The above rates are preliminary and subject to further negotiation based on the total number of rooms / room-nights booked.
3. **PRELIMINARY REUNION AGENDA / ACTIVITIES:** Based on the agreed upon Memorandum the 2020 reunion will be four days/four nights in length with attendees arriving on Thursday afternoon and departing on Monday morning. The following information is preliminary and subject to change based on the number of attendees and transportation costs but represents my best guess based on past experience:
 - a. **Thursday, 24 September:**
 - i. Arrive at Beach Cove Resort.
 - ii. Hotel & Reunion Registration
 - iii. Joint 'meet and greet' reception in the Hospitality Suite.
 - iv. Refreshments & "heavy" hors d'oeuvres (5 to 11 PM).

b. Friday, 25 Sept:

- i. Joint Memorial Service at 9 AM, to be coordinated by the respective Association Chaplains (location TBD).
- ii. Group activity (see options, below) to include daytime tour, dinner & show (times/events TBD).
- iii. Hospitality Suite opens after return to the Resort (~9 PM) until 11 PM.

c. Saturday, 26 Sept:

- i. Morning:
 - a) Separate Association Business Meetings (9 AM to noon).
 - b) 11 EBA spouse activity, TBD. (547th spouses welcome). (9 AM to noon).
- ii. Afternoon: Open for individual activities to explore Myrtle Beach including:
 - a) The Boardwalk and Sky Wheel,
 - b) Family Kingdom Amusement Park,
 - c) Broadway at the Beach,
 - d) Plantation tours,
 - e) Many golf & putt-putt courses or
 - f) Weather permitting, just relax on the beach.
- iii. Hospitality Suite open from 12 Noon to 11 PM.

4) Sunday, 27 Sept:

- i. Morning: Open for religious services.
- ii. Afternoon: Free time, open for individual activities.
- iii. Evening (5PM): Group photos (location TBD).
- iv. Banquet & Auction (6 – 9 PM) in Beach Cove Resort Banquet Room.

5) Monday, 28 Sept: Hotel check out & departure.

II. GROUP ACTIVITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. Day trip by motor coach to Georgetown, SC (<https://www.historicgeorgetownsc.com/>) aka 'Little Charleston'. Georgetown provides a beautiful historical environment of oak lined streets encompassing 50+ antebellum mansions, art galleries and antique shops. It is alive with history and small town commerce and southern charm. Here you can tour Winyah Bay, visit the Hopsewee or Hampton Plantations, the Kaminski House Museum or The Rice Museum.
2. 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 around 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 (at you own cost) is available at three on site

venues (the Courtyard Café, the Atrium or the Old Kitchen). NOTE: Tickets are good for a week for those staying after the reunion.

3. One of the above excursions will be coordinated with dinner at a noted local restaurant (TBD) and an after dinner show at the Alabama Theater (voted #1 in Myrtle Beach).

III. PLANNING MILESTONES:

1. FEBRUARY 2020: Complete final reunion plans with costs and detailed agenda.
2. MARCH/APRIL 2020: Issue Reunion Registration Form with Spring 2020 Panther Press.
3. JULY 2020: Registration Forms with payment due.

IV. INFORMATION NEEDED: Estimated headcount of attendees.

1. Please send me an email (myoldarmy@gmail.com) with an indication of your intent to attend the Myrtle Beach 2020 reunion. NOTE: This is NOT A COMMITMENT but should represent a better than average likelihood that you plan to attend.
2. A good headcount is vital to negotiate the best possible resort rates and plan for needed transportation.
3. Also, please use this email address to submit questions about the reunion. I will be happy to address any concerns you might have, answer any questions about the agenda or provide additional information regarding Beach Cove Resort facilities, amenities, rooms, activities, transportation, etc.

Joe Papapietro
2020 Reunion Planner
myoldarmy@aol.com

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM THE 2020 REUNION PLANNER (NOVEMBER 2019)

Greetings:

Please view this input in concert with the report from Larry Hawkins, 1st Vice President for Reunions and the attachment he included (Reunion MOU with the 547th EBA).

I have attached an Info Paper addressing emerging details on plans for Reunion 2020 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The IP addresses the following:

1. **HOTEL SELECTION**
2. **DATES & RATES**
3. **REUNION AGENDA / ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. **Thursday, 24 Sept:** Arrive, registration, meet & greet in Hospitality Suite
 - b. **Friday, 25 Sept:** Joint Memorial Service, Group activity, Hospitality Suite
 - c. **Saturday, 26 Sept:** Bus Mtgs, Spouse Activity (TBD), Free Time, Hospitality Suite
 - d. **Sunday, 27 Sept:** Religious Services, Free Time, Group Photos, Banquet & Auction
 - e. **Monday, 28 Sept:** Hotel check out & departure.
4. **GROUP ACTIVITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION:**
 - a. Day trip by motor coach to Georgetown, SC
 - b. Day trip by motor coach to Brookgreen Gardens, a former rice plantation.
5. **PLANNING MILESTONES:**
 - a. FEBRUARY 2020: Complete final reunion plans with costs and detailed agenda.
 - b. MARCH/APRIL 2020: Issue Reunion Registration Form.
 - c. JULY 2020: Registration Forms with payment due.
6. **INFORMATION NEEDED:** Your input re: attendance and questions.

Please block the dates on your personal calendars: 24 – 28 September 2020

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joe Papapietro
Reunion Planner, 11th Engineer Battalion Association
1-717-818-7331
myoldarmy@gmail.com

A Visit to the National World War I Museum

Kansas City, Missouri is home to the National World War I Museum. Just two weeks after the Armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918, a group of Kansas City leaders got together to discuss the construction of a memorial suitable to commemorate the memory of the 116,000 men and women of the United States who died in World War I. Funds were raised and construction of the memorial was completed and dedicated on Nov. 11, 1926. The occasion was celebrated by a crowd of 150,000 including the then president, Calvin Coolidge. A top Kansas City attraction, the memorial was formally designated the "Official National World War I Museum" by act of Congress in 2004.

The first thing to strike a visitor approaching the Museum is the 216-foot-tall Memorial Tower that soars above the Kansas City landscape. The tower is open to the public most days (weather permitting), an elevator takes visitors to a landing just below the top then 45 stairs later, to an observation balcony overlooking the Memorial Park and the Kansas City skyline.

The Museum is divided into several sections: The East and West Galleries, the East memorializing the period before US involvement and the West is the period 1917-1919, subsequent to the United States entry. In addition, there are memorial halls and a poppy field in homage to John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields".

World War I was notable because of trench warfare, a warfare of stalemate and siege. These trenches, both Ally and German, are reproduced in the museum and the visitor can clearly imagine the mud, dirt, squalor and dangers of life in combat in the trenches.

The museum features a Renault tank that looks completely intact with the dirt and mud of the battlefield caked on its armor. Until you see the rear of the tank, a German 7.7mm artillery round blew a huge hole in its left rear side, effectively ending its combat days.

Of special interest to both Julie and I was a visit to the Edward Jones Research Center located in the basement of the Museum. There we were able to research the 11th Engineer Battalion and Private Dalton Ranlet, the Battalion serviceman who was thought to be first to be killed in World War I. Research shows that the Battalion, known then as the "11th Engineers (standard gauge railway construction regiment)" departed on July 14, 1917, from New York bound for France aboard "Carpathia" a Cunard Line ship most famous as the first rescue vessel to reach Titanic on April 15, 1912. (Carpathia was later sunk by a German submarine in 1918). The research center had the actual passenger manifest that shows that Private Ranlet was assigned to B Company, (the Company that I had the honor of commanding 47 years later in 1964!). He was berthed along with fellow privates in third class facilities. He was assigned the berth number of 353.

Records show that Private Ranlet was killed by a German attack on November 30, 1917. He was buried in Somme American Cemetery.

Although we, in the Association, believe that Private Ranlet was the first American KIA of WWI, records show that this is not the case. Some three weeks earlier, on November 3rd, Private Merle Hay and two other comrades, James Gresham and Thomas Enright, of the 16th Infantry Regiment were killed while fighting off a German attack near the French village of Artois. So perhaps we weren't the "first to fight" but we were close.

The World War I museum is a must see, must experience for those of us who served. It is well done and highly informative about this period of combat than most of us have forgotten.

I do intend to go back some day and spend more time in remembrance of those who went before.



2019 San Antonio Reunion 11th Engineer Battalion Association

Attendees

1st Level: Kyong Hui Smoker, Wendy Owen, Floss Booth, Norm Fagge, Christina Corker;

2nd Level: Angela Loftis, Ron Smoker, BG Paul Owen, 2LT Bridwell, Carmel Brady, Sharen Sweet, Marjorie Fagge, Jeff Corker;

3rd Level: Phil Loftis, Larry Hawkins, Ray Brady, Roger Sweet, Julia Brown, Dave Brown;

4th Level: Steven Dykes, John Booth, Russell Marks???, Carol Davis, Bill Davis, Edward Marques, Joe Papapietro, Susan Rock, Jim Rock, Rachel Papapietro. Not present: Mike & Julie Ellegood.



Photo taken by Joe Papapietro of three 547th Engineer Battalion nonagenarians, with his wife, Richel, at the San Antonio reunion. Cesar White, Bill Bishop, and Doc Tunstall serviced in the unit during WWII while it was still an all Negro segregated unit. The cake was to celebrate Cesar's 94th birthday.

There is history in this photograph.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

PART I: THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS EARLY YEARS.

16 JUNE 1776: The Continental Congress organized an army with a chief engineer and two assistants. Colonel Richard Gridley was named by General George Washington to be the first Chief engineer. Army engineers, including several French officers, were instrumental in many of the battles of the Revolutionary War including Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and the final victory at Yorktown. After the war, there being no standing Army at the time, the engineers mustered out of service.

NOVEMBER 1783: After the Revolutionary War Congress disbanded the bulk of the Army, including the Corps of Engineers with its Chief Engineer and Companies of Sappers and Miners. By the following June, the surviving military establishment consisted solely of an infantry regiment and a company of artillery stationed at West Point.

9 MAY 1794: The Congress established a Corps of Artillerists and Engineers thus returning Engineers to the ranks of the Army for the first time since it was largely disbanded at the end of the Revolutionary War.

16 MARCH 1802: Congress established a separate Corps of Engineers. From this date until the present the Corps has been in continuous existence. At the same time, Congress established the Military Academy at West Point, New York. From this date until 1866 the superintendent of the academy was always an engineer officer. The first superintendent, Jonathan Williams, also became the Chief Engineer of the Corps of Engineers. During the first half of the 19th century, West Point was the major (and for a while the only) engineering school in the country.

THE WAR OF 1812: After being reestablished in 1802, the Corps of Engineers began constructing and repairing fortifications on the East and Gulf Coasts. As tensions with England over maritime rights led to the War of 1812 the Chief Engineer, Colonel Jonathan Williams, expanded the system of fortifications protecting New York Harbor, including the 11-pointed fort that now serves as the base of the Statue of Liberty. As a result of the success of its fortifications during the War of 1812, the U.S. developed an expanded system of modern, casemated, masonry fortifications to provide the first line of land defense against the threat of attack from European powers. After the War of 1812 Congress reduced the size of the country's infantry and artillery forces but increased number of Engineer officers.

1838: Congress again increased the size of the Corps and doubled the number of authorized engineers. It also created the Corps of Topographical Engineers as a separate Corps within the Engineer Department.

a. The Topographical Engineers provided surveyors, explorers, cartographers, and construction managers to assist in opening the nation's interior for commercial development and settlement. It provided needed expertise to support U.S. expansion into the American West.

b. The Corps of Engineers supervised the construction of coastal fortifications, lighthouses, jetties and piers for harbors, and mapped navigation channels.

NOTE: In 1863 Congress disbanded the Corps of Topographical Engineers and reunited them with the Corps of Engineers.

FORTIFICATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE: Fortifications built by the Army Engineers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and after 1848 on the Pacific coast, defended the nation until the second half of the 19th century when the development of rifled artillery ended the earlier impregnability of the massive structures. While fortification work was important, the greatest legacy of the early Corps of Engineers was its work on infrastructure to enhance commerce and provide routes linking east and west to connect markets and enhance opportunities for settlers moving westward. Both commercial development and national defense, as shown during the War of 1812, required more reliable transportation arteries. Out of those unruly streams, the Corps of Engineers carved canals, roads, navigation passages and harbors for a growing nation.

NEXT: PART II: Evolution of Corps of Engineers.

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18

As of 11/01/2019

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.

Gioiosa, Thomas E., LTC (ret)

Goring, Richard H., COL (ret)

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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.

Owen, Paul E., BG

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)

Tolley, James S.

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

Wyatt, James D. passed 8/4/2019

Hubbell, John D. passed

8/27/2017

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.

Graves, Donald E.

Gray, John R. (Jack)

Hamilton, Barry, K., CSM (ret)

Harper, Ronald A.

Henderson, Delbert

Hermanson, Merrill R.

Hixson, Arnold G.

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.

Porcelli, Louis L.

Purdin, Terry L

Raines, Brian

Ray, Lynn

Renna, Richard

Robshaw, 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)

Trainor, John

Trevino, Mike

Vetter, Leo

Vinczi, Bela L.

Waugh, Earl M.

Weeks, Robert E. (Bob)



11th Engineer Battalion Association Annual Dues Payment Form



As your 11th 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 11th Engineer Battalion.

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Street: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Designated 11th ECB Unit Served: _____ 11th ECB Assignment: _____

Locations served with the 11th 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, 11th 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 or Rich Goring, Secretary at 1-816-674-3763 or email at marbricke@gmail.com