

The 11th Engineer Battalion Association

PANTHER PRESS



March 2026



From the President:

Greetings to all! Spring seems to have arrived here in Georgia, although old man winter may land a few more blows before taking his leave. I hope you all got through the severe weather without too much damage.

As I write, our Armed Forces are fighting Iran. Let us all pray for victory; the safety of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians; and the establishment of a stable, non-hostile Iranian government.

Special recognition is due to Bob Diehl, who has been traveling the globe in support of the 11th and our Association. Go NoBig!

We are a little more than six (6) months out from our reunion, 17-21 September at the Jacksonville Doubletree Riverfront Hotel. See the 1st VP input for information.

Jacksonville, in addition to its balmy weather and beautiful beaches, is an interesting place. The largest city in the contiguous U. S. by area (900 sq. mi.), it is on the St. John's River and near Naval Station Mayport, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Blount Island Command (USMC), the Port of Jacksonville, and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (Georgia).

The area has been inhabited for at least 4,500 years and claimed by Spain from 1565-1821 (except 1763-83 under British rule). Lots of history! I look forward to seeing you all there.

Essays! Norm Fagge, faggenorman@comcast.net

From the 1st Vice President:

Hello 11th Engineer Battalion Association (EBA) veterans, members, and families. Time is passing quickly and again, I want to remind each of you of our upcoming reunion planned for September 17-21, 2026, in Jacksonville, FL.

The hotel, rates and dates are locked in, but we are currently working on the tour options and buses. For this reason, the exact agenda and final cost remain incomplete. These issues will be resolved before the end of March.

I can only request your patience regarding the delay. Each of you can expect to see a sign-up worksheet soon. The worksheet will be distributed via email, and everyone would be encouraged to sign up as soon as convenient.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or suggestions.

Essayons, Jeff Corker. 256-776-0877. Corker94CSM@gmail.com

From the 2nd Vice President:

Snow and more snow I am tired of shoveling so, I am ready for some warmer weather. Being from upstate New York I guess you might expect that the winters are all bad. From what I have seen so far, I guess we all got hit with some kind of a bad outcome of sorts. I live about 90 miles from Fort Drum, the home of the 10th Mountain Division. We got about 10 feet of snow here so far and the temperature has been below 0 for most of Jan and Feb.

So, let's talk about the reunion coming up in September. I know that it is going to be warm because it's in Florida. So now we need each one to start gearing up to attend. If you are reading this newsletter on the web site, I hope you decide to join us for a good time and make some good friends also. If anyone has any questions at all about our organization or reunion or just need to talk you can feel free to contact me by phone, 315-404-3772 or sesweet71147@yahoo.com.

Roger Sweet, 2nd VP

From the Treasurer:

The Association funds in our accounts as of 1 March 2026 are \$18,424.65. We have no outstanding checks.

Our major expenses for this year will be the 11th Engineer Battalion support, the 2026 reunion, and the newsletter.

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

As of today, we have **ONLY 38 Association members paid for 2026**, that is less than the 46 paid members last year. If your name is on the **AWOL** list, please renew your membership. **If you know someone on the AWOL list, please contact them and encourage them to pay their dues.** Consider paying for more than one year to save on the cost of a check, and postage by both you and the Treasurer who must mail out your membership card.

Thank you all for your support of the 11th Engineer Battalion Association.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Jacksonville for the 2026 reunion.

ESSAYONS! John L Booth, 319 Victory Gallop Court, Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078 908-309-5586 (leave message, the cell will not ring if you are not on my contact list) BoothJL@aol.com

From the Secretary:

This position is vacant. We are looking for someone to step up and fill this Association position.

From the Multi-Media Master:

Reportedly, a Native American observed that Daylight Savings Time is like cutting a foot from the bottom of the blanket, then sewing it onto the top of that same blanket! Regardless, on March 8 we advanced our clocks ahead one hour.

Our Facebook site has 188 participants. Everyone who is in support of our 11th Engineer Battalion Association is welcome! Most are former 11th Engineer Battalion Soldiers. Some are spouses or are family.

A few participants answer the easy questions to become a member, then try to sell memorabilia. I delete those posts. Anything sold on our site is sanctioned by the Association. Profits from sales are in turn used by the Association to benefit the Active Duty 11th Engineer Soldiers.

Past and current Soldiers are encouraged to post photos (on the FB site) of their experiences with the 11th Engineer Battalion. Please include an explanation of the photo event.

Bill Davis wrd1945@gmail.com 142 E Colusa St, Orland, CA 95963 (530) 320-6907

From the 11th Engineer Battalion Liaison:

For anyone near Ft Leonard Wood, the Annual Best Sapper Competition runs 16-24 April. It's a "feel good" watching youngins doing their all.

<https://home.army.mil/wood/index.php/units-tenants/USAES/Sapper/BSC>

The 11th Engineer Battalion held joint training with the RoK Army for convoy operations. See photo immediately below.





For all of you that were in the 902d Float Bridge Company, this photo of float bridge training in Korea should bring a tear to your eyes.

The 11th Engineer Battalion held their Ball 11 Dec 2025. The Association and an Illustrious (but humble) Alumni paid for a table of 10 deserving Soldiers.

The battalion allowed us pages 9-10 (attached) of the Ball Program. See next pages.

Bob Diehl, Battalion Liaison, 11th Engineer Battalion Association.

From The 11th Engineer Battalion Association

The 11th Engineer Battalion Association has sponsored a Table at the 11th Engineer Dinner/Ball for deserving new Jungle Cats (since 11th at Ft Benning). The Association has helped the AD 11th in other ways. Since 1917 many have gone before you. WWI, where the motto "First to Fight" was earned. Panama, where you picked up your mascot/moniker "Jungle Cats". Jungle Cats in almost every USA Conflict since WWI, WWII, Korea, Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq. We know.

Who are we? We are Old Jungle Cats (maybe not more mature), Alumni, earned the emblem, etc. We've been there, somewhere. You will reach an age maybe in your 50s or 60s and wonder what happened to Jim, etc. Korean War 11th Engineer Vets wondered and started the Association/Reunions in 1993. A couple are still living.

We do more than Reunions. We funded an 11th memorial at Gouzeaucourt, France at the main Intersection. If you get to NW France, you can see Memorial and nearby Normandy. In the area are a lot of ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission) Cemeteries from both World Wars. November 2020, the National Museum of US Army opened, and we placed a plaque for the 11th. It's at Ft. Belvoir just S of DC, well worth at least a day and is free. NMUSA has an impressive MOH section including Jungle Cat SFC Paul R Smith. We've donated to other organizations; and support one another. It's great for networking. But our prime support goes to the AD 11th.

Current members are from 60s when 11th was still in the RoK, 70s-80s Ft Belvoir, 90s Ft Stewart, early 2000s Ft Benning. And we are continuing the Reunions and helping the Active Duty Soldiers where we can. Thanks to Facebook and the 11th and subordinate Companies Posting on Facebook, it's easy for us to see Jungle Cats soldiering. Keep posting, we like to see our Tax Dollars at work. With only 10% of US ever serving in military, you have experiences unknown in civilian life. That feeling in your chest? Its Pride.

Other Engineers think of you. The Huntsville, AL SAME (Society American Military Engineers) chapter has been sending goodies to the 11th for the Holidays (Hickory Farms Gift Boxes, etc). If you don't know SAME, WWI changed warfare, think mechanization. In 1920, SAME was formed to have Engineers study Lessons Learned.

We all appreciate you Serving.

**11th Engr Bn Association
Facebook**



**11th Engr Bn Association
Webpage**



11th Engineer Regiment Memorial

If your career or other means takes you to NW France, there is a Memorial to the 11th in Gouzeaucourt, near Somme American Cemetery ABMC, Bony. In WWI, long distance movement was still by rail. 11th was there before other US Army units to build a spur to the front. The Memorial arose from the determination of a 11th Soldier's niece. The 11th Association would pay for the construction of the memorial and the people of Gouzeaucourt would build it. A Feel-Good follows. (Submitted by COL Joe Papapietro, COL (ret) Association Historian)

Battle of Cambrai at Gouzeaucourt, France: It also captures the sequence of events surrounding the loss of PVT Dalton Ranlet, an 11th Engineer soldier declared MIA at Gouzeaucourt. His remains, found 38 years later, ultimately brought us into contact with his surviving sister and her family, and the good people of Gouzeaucourt who helped us nurture the idea, and now the reality, of an 11th Engineer Regiment memorial. PVT Dalton Ranlet was a 17-year-old railroad worker from Queens, New York who lied about his age to enlist. He deployed with the 11th in August 1917, was mortally wounded during the German attack at Gouzeaucourt and was later declared Missing in Action.

In 2010 Linda Gagen, PVT Ranlet's niece (daughter of Ranlet's sole surviving sister), was researching the family history when she discovered her uncle's name on a grave marker in the American Cemetery at Somme. Aware that he had been listed as MIA, Ms. Gagen embarked upon what proved to be a multi-year quest to learn more about the details of when and where her uncle's remains had been found, identified, and interred. In the process she contacted several French citizens who went out of their way to assist her. In 2014 she traveled to France and met the mayor and other officials from Gouzeaucourt who provided a warm reception and the answers to her many questions.

During the meeting between Ms. Gagen and the Gouzeaucourt officials it was noted that although a number of monuments existed in the vicinity of Gouzeaucourt memorializing units that had participated in the Battle of Cambrai, there was not one for an American unit. The idea of a memorial honoring the 11th Engineers had been explored before but always shelved due to the lack of a sponsor and funding.

With Ms. Gagen's persistence the memorial concept worked its way back to Fort Leonard Wood, then to the 11th Engineer Battalion at Fort Benning who sought out the 11th Engineer Battalion Association to inquire if there was any interest in pursuing it. The Association, in concert with French authorities in Gouzeaucourt, views the memorial as an important opportunity to commemorate the actions of the US Army's World War I "First to Fight" unit, the 11th Engineers.



From the Historian:

I've recently come across a few items that reveal some additional details regarding the early history of the 11th Engineer Regiment in France during World War I.



Shown above is a bronze medal (about the size of a half dollar) that was commissioned by A Company, 11th Engineers after its return from serving in France during WWI. It's a beautiful piece, well struck with great detail and a wonderful patina. It looks like it was meant to hang on a watch fob or pocket watch chain. I believe it can rightfully be called one of the earliest "challenge coins" that most military units have today.

While most of us are familiar with the 11th Engineer Regiment's exploits during WWI at Cambrai, St. Mihiel, Somme & Gouzeaucourt, I have been unable to find specific references to the 11th at the Battles of Arras, Bethune and Bernecourt as noted on the medal. If I find these references, I will forward that information.

Another recent find (attached) is an archive copy of a NEW YORK TIMES article dated May 1st, 1919, reporting on a parade down 5th Avenue in honor of the men of the 11th Engineer Regiment upon its return after the war. Of note, within the article is a copy of COL Parsons' touching farewell address to the men of the regiment. I have also pulled out COL Parsons' farewell address as a stand-alone document.

Also attached, find a Signal Corps photo of COL Parsons on horseback taken in France c1918. Note the castle on the saddle blanket! I wish I knew the name of that beautiful horse.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Jacksonville reunion in September!

Respectfully submitted, Joe Papa, Association Historian

HEROES OF CAMBRAI HAILED IN PARADE
Crowds Lustily Acclaim 11th Engineers, Who Blocked Hun Rush in November, 1917

CITY'S "FIRST IN WAR" Men Weep as Col. Parsons Bids Them a Touching Farewell at Luncheon In Regiment's Honor.

NY TIMES ARCHIVES -- May 1, 1919, Page 19

New York's "First in War" unit, the 11th Engineers, made up of 1,400 New York boys who volunteered in the first few weeks after the declaration of war and covered themselves with glory in November, 1917, by stopping the gap in the British lines made by the German surprise counterattack at Cambrai, marched down Fifth Avenue yesterday morning in front of cheering crowds. They carried rifles and bayonets, with which they turned the tide in one of the most critical actions of the war. They looked the part of fighting men, the rôle in which they earned their greatest distinction, although they did vital work in preparing for every great offensive launched after they arrived in France.

All the way from Ninety-sixth Street to Thirty-fourth Street the soldiers were showered with personal greetings from thousands of relatives and friends among the crowd, and the cheer which started at Ninety-sixth Street lasted virtually without interruption the entire three miles of the march. On almost every block some of the men were recognized, hailed by name, and cheered. At Ninety-ninth Street several hundred men from the 58th Artillery Corps, formerly the old 8th Artillery of the Bronx, stood under the sign "Welcome to Our Comrades of the 11th." "We Have Beer," said one placard on the sidewalk, by way of a cheerful answer to "We Want Beer," a sentiment displayed on the transport bringing the 11th Regiment into port.

Colonel William Barclay Parsons, commander of the regiment, who headed the parade, received an ovation from one end of the line of march to the other. With him marched Lieut. Col. William T. Chevalier. Major Charles D. Drew commanded the first battalion and Major B. A. Value the second. The regiment marched to the Seventy-first Regiment Armory, where a reception was held, and then marched across Thirty-fourth Street to the Hotel Pennsylvania, where thousands of relatives and friends had assembled to cheer them again.

After a luncheon in honor of the regiment, Colonel Parsons made a farewell address to the men, in which he reviewed their record of achievements. He took leave of them in such affectionate and touching language that many were in tears. After thanking the Military Engineers Committee, which gave the luncheon, Colonel Parsons said:

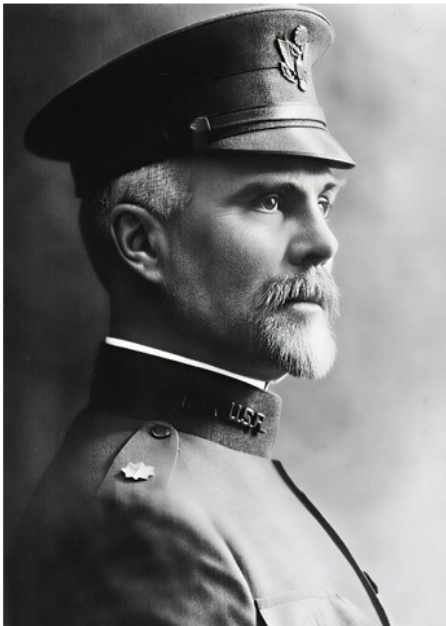
- "There are two things about the regiment that I can tell you that have not been in the newspapers. A year ago last March, when the Germans began their great offensive to break through between the French and British, a call was sent to General Pershing for help. He was asked for two regiments of engineers. There was no question about the first that should answer this call. It was the 11th. The second they had to think about, but for the first they called for the 11th at once.
- "The other fact is that sixty-eight men of this regiment have become commissioned officers since we went over. Out of fifty-two officers we have no fewer than forty-one who went out more than a year ago as noncommissioned officers, and, General. [addressing Major Gen. Shanks,] we have still other men who are fit and ready to be officers when the time comes.

"And now, my men, this is the last opportunity I shall have to talk to you collectively. The ties of nearly two years are going to be broken in a few days. We have marched together through mud, rain, and shells. We have seen our comrades fall. We have known each other as men and comrades. A comradeship like that cannot be broken without a pulling of the heartstrings. and I want you to know you take with you my ever-abiding love and affection.

"Don't feel that war is at an end. Don't let yourselves be deluded by what some are saying over in France. As long as men are men there will be wars, and you will be called upon again. Unless that day comes quickly, I won't be here to lead you. I hope you will give to your new leader the same faith and Loyalty you have given to me."

COL PARSONS' FAREWELL TO THE 11th ENGINEER REGIMENT

New York, 1 May 1919



"There are two things about the regiment that I can tell you that have not been in the newspapers. A year ago last March, when the Germans began their great offensive to break through between the French and British, a call was sent to General Pershing for help. He was asked for two regiments of engineers. There was no question about the first that should answer this call. It was the 11th. The second they had to think about, but for the first they called for the 11th at once.

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11th Engineer Battalion Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ----- Norm Fagge
1st Vice President ----- Jeff Corker
2nd Vice President ----- Roger Sweet

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Secretary ----- Vacant
Treasurer ----- John Booth
Asst Treasurer----- Phil Loftis
Chaplain ----- Vacant
Newsletter Editor ----- Phil Loftis
Multi-Media Master ---- Bill Davis
11th Engr Bn Liaison --- Bob Diehl
Historian ----- Joe Papapietro
Photographer ----- Jeff Corker

EMERITUS

Rev. Allan Eubank ---- Chaplain
Joe Papapietro----- President
Jim Rock----- Chaplain
Fred Boehle----- President
Phil Loftis----- President

11th Engineer Battalion Association website:

<https://www.11thengineerbattalionassociation.com/>

11th Engineer Battalion Association, US Army Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/107887945902152>



Yep, you want 'em and I got

'em....with NO price increase!

**But HURRY, when these three are gone it will take 90 days
to order another batch!**

**IMPORTANT: You know your spouse or grandkid wants one.
Get it now before they're gone
and have it in time to put under the tree.**

**ONLY \$25 + \$9 shipping = \$34 ea.
(NO TAX, WHAT A DEAL!)**

**Send your payment to John Booth, Association Treasurer,
and I'll ship it out ASAP!**

**Mail your check to: JOHN BOOTH
319 Victory Gallup Ct
Havre de Grace, MD 21078**

**NOTE: Want a different color or color combo? Email me, Joe
Papa (myoldarmy@gmail.com) and I'll get a price and
availability.**

11th Engineer's Association T-shirt Order Form

2017 Design



2012 Design



Available in S - XL

SIZE	QUANTITY	STYLE	COST	COST
			INCLUDING TAX	IF MAILED
		Grey/Blk Ringer Tshirt	\$17.00	\$23.00
TOTALS				

Available in XXL

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
 Address _____
 : _____ Email: _____

Please send your order form and your payment made payable to 11th Engineer Battalion Association

to: John Booth
 319 Victory Gallop Ct., Havre de Grace, Md 21078

If you have any questions please contact Jeff Corker - corker94csm@gmail.com

256-776-0877



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
319 Victory Gallop Court
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

Once I receive and process your 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. **NEW - We are prepared to accept dues via Check, ZELLE and Venmo. If you use ZELLE or VENMO, use John Booth's cell phone number below to make the payment.**

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 **908-309-5586** or email: boothjl@aol.com or Norm Fagge, President, at 1-404-538-2902 or email at faggenorman@comcast.net.

11th Engineer Battalion Association Membership as of Mar 7, 2026

ACTIVE MEMBERS paid 2026 dues

(* paid for 2027)

Anderson, Larry (***) **New Mbr**
Boehle, Fred F. *
Booth, John L., COL (ret) *
Brady, Ramond *
Brown, Wm. David COL (ret) *
Corker, Jeffery, CSM (ret) *
Coulter, Robert E. CSM (ret) *
Davis, William R. (Bill),
CSM (ret) *
Delleo, Michael F., Jr. *
Diehl, Robert A. *
Durkin, John A., COL (ret) *
Dykes, Steven W. *
Fagge, Norman D. *
Forget, Stephen *
Goring, Richard H., COL (ret) *
Hagedorn, Zach Jr., COL (ret) *
Harper, Ronald A. *
Hawkins, Larry *
Houck, Boyd D. (Doug) *
Keiser, Michael D, LTC *
Lantz, Fr Rev Gary L. *
Loftis, Philip G, COL (ret) *
Mehl, Steven J., CW3 (ret) *
McLendon, Robert *
Murphy, Jeffery B. *
Papapietro, Joe G., COL (ret) *
Pluciennik, Edward P. *
Rock, James G. LTC (ret) *
Scala, John J. *
Smith, Thomas P. *
Struble, Roy *
Sweet, Roger P. *
Thomas, Gary, COL (ret) *

Trott, Phillip W., CSM (Ret) *
Verplogen, David L. LTC (ret) *
Way, Walter N. *

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

Jesse R Beck – passed Feb 7,
2022
Noel O Teague passed
Jan 7, 2021
Peterson, Donald (Pete)
Passed Nov 6, 2025

MEMBERS paid in 2025 and AWOL and NOT Current 2026

Atkins, Matthew S.
Ellegood, Michael S.
Gallagher, Patrick J.
Iwanyk, Eugene
Kelly, Jason E. COL
Layde, William A.
Mather, Dana
Schumacher, Thomas J.
Throop, William H, COL (ret)

MEMBERS AWOL and NOT Current

Alexander, Charles J.
Arroyo, Pedro A., CW5
(ret)
Bankowski, Leo
Berger, Richard P.
Binetti, Micael R.
Bowler, William E. COL (ret)
Bradley, Edmund C.
Dimon, Charles E.

Donnelly, Thomas F.
Dorton, James R, MSG (ret)
Downs, George M.
Eubank, Rev L Allan
Fahey, Kenneth
Ferguson, Dennis E.
Gardner, Roger R.
Gioiosa, Thomas E. LTC (ret)
Grimaldi, Gennaro, J. Sr.
Hamilton, Barry, K., CSM
(ret)
Herkert, August J. (Gus)
Henderson, Delbert
Home, Garth M.
Hussin, Chris, COL (ret)
Joyce, Michael, N.
King, Billy J.
Lindsey, Denver, L. CW3
(ret)
Loose, F. James (Jim)
Lundquist, Lawrence R.
Marks, Russell
Marques, Edward D.
McNichols, Thomas R.
Mogren, Eric T.
Nichols, Bobby R.
Owen, Paul E., BG (ret)
Peterson, Harold A., III
Raines, Brian
Ray, Lynn W., COL
Robishaw, Paul A.
Rosario, Erick R
Sayles, Andre H. BG (ret)
Shellenbarger, Robert T.
Sperry, Rev Loy G.
Still, Quenten G.
Vinczi, Bela L