

589TH ENGINEER BN ASSOCIATION VIETNAM

MOUNTAIN MOVER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME NO. 1

EDITION NO. 1

REUNION

Thanks to the efforts of Perry Blanchfield and others we gathered together at Ft Leonard Wood for our first reunion. We came from farms and fields, cities and towns, suburbs and urban centers, from across America much as we did 40 odd years ago when our country called us to war. This time we came to see our old friends, our comrades our band of brothers. We came to reminisce, look at pictures, watch videos (remember oxy acetylene). We broke bread and did shots of cognac. God willing, we will come together again next year. The 2010 reunion will beheld on the 1st and 2nd day of October 2010. There are two covered pavilions reserved for Friday and Saturday. Reserve your rooms at the Baymont Hotel again in 2010. Details on booking rooms and other information can be found at [http://www.site.589thengrnb.com/Reunion News.php](http://www.site.589thengrnb.com/Reunion%20News.php) . One of the items of business for discussion will be whether to hold the reunion every year or every other year.

VETERANS DAY

November the 11th brought another Veterans Day. Congratulations to all of you and to all of our veterans living and dead. The greatest tribute to us as veterans is that our country and families continue to be free. The sacrifices of veterans have been worth it. Let us pray for those troopers out there in harms way around the world. They follow in a long line of patriots that have preserved our nation and Constitution.

FT HOOD

As you all know, Ft Hood, our stateside home prior to Nam, was the scene of a murderous, terrorist act. Several of our brothers and sisters were killed and wounded by a Jihadist who betrayed the uniform of our country. Let us all offer up a special prayer to God for the fallen, the wounded, and those who displayed great courage in protecting their fellow soldiers. Let us offer a special prayer for those police officers who stood toe to toe with the Jihadist and took him down.

FROM THE EDITORS

We ask all of you to send us personal anecdotes about your lives or other Mountain Movers so that we can tell these stories to our readers. If you have any memories from the war you would like to share please send an email to Fletcher Sapp or Randy McNichols. We will be telling the stories of as many of our buddies as we can gather. Once we have as complete a list as possible, we will publish a salute to our comrades that fell in Nam. Our goal is to publish quarterly issues, so send in your stories.

POEM BY CAPTAIN AL COCHRAN WRITTEN AT WACO VAMC HOSPITAL SEP 2009

Yesterday I got rid of some ghosts from the past

Today I wonder how long that will last

Cause all the News about

Is Afghanistan and Iraq

I worry about our Young Soldiers

Returning from these Wars

Cause they're coming back

With bigger Wounds and Scars

I sense some may be worse than Ours

We read of Killings and Suicides

And how these Wars have changed their lives

But the Military insists all our troops have

Been debriefed

I Know that these Soldiers will be like

You and Me

And will never admit they Suffer from PTSD

And that War has changed their lives and belief

God bless these Soldiers who Suffered and died

For we know they paid the ultimate price

For us to live a free life

So I ask you America

Help those who Survive

For it may not be Long Before

We too die

We are attaching some thank you letters to those who gave special gifts and service to our association. The newsletter will go out by email to those who have email, and by mail to those who don't.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Years to you and your families.

**Fletcher Sapp
fletchersapp1011@hotmail.com**

**Randy McNichols
randeb1990@hotmail.com**

Send us your stories and leads.

THANK YOU LETTERS

**Betsy Thomson, Manager
BAYMONT Saint Robert
139 Carmel Valley Way
Saint Robert, Mo 65584**

Dear Ms. Thomson,

On behalf of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam) I want to thank you and your staff for the hospitality extended during the period 24-26 September, 2009.

As you may be aware, this was the first reunion for this group of Army Engineers who served with the 589 Engineer Battalion and attached units in Vietnam during the period 1967 through 1971. We had a wonderful experience renewing old acquaintances and making new ones.

The experience was enhanced by the friendliness, attentiveness and professionalism of you and your staff. Many of the attendees commented that they felt as though they were at home in your facility. The rooms were clean and comfortable. The meeting room provided an intimate gathering place for us to conduct business, relive old memories, and the morning breakfast was certainly well received by everyone. From all accounts I heard, reservations, check in and out were handled expeditiously by all involved staff.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and your staff for helping make this a most positive experience by attending to so many of the logistical details thus permitting us to focus on our mission of organizing the Reunion, forming an Association and enjoying the event.

Sincerely yours,

**/Perry Blanchfield/
President, 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam)**

**SGM Frank Leeder
510 Brookside Dr. Apt 30
Little Rock, AR 72205**

SGM Leeder

On behalf of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam) I want to thank you for donating the 589th Castle, which had been presented to you by the Battalion as a memento of your tour of duty, to the Association.

We understand the sentimental value this keepsake has for you and want to reassure you that it will be treasured and well taken care of as long as the Association exists. It will be used for Association activities and arrangements will be made for it to be presented the Engineer Museum when the Association no longer exists.

Thanks again for the wonderful keepsake.

Please feel free to contact me, any of the other officers or members if we can ever be of service.

ESSAYONS,

**/Perry Blanchfield/
President, 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam)**

**CSM Clifford Moore
206 Dublin Ln
Richland, Mo 65556**

CSM Moore,

On behalf of the members of the 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam) I want to thank you for the generous donation to the Association of the large 589th Castle and your copy of the 589 Engineer Plaque which is in the Engineer Museum at Fort Leonard Wood.

Please be assured that we understand the sentimental value you have for these keepsakes and that we will treasure and care for them as long as the Association exists. They will be used for Association activities and arrangements will be made for them to be presented to the Engineer Museum when the Association no longer exists.

Thank you again for the wonderful keepsake and for attending the Reunion. Everyone in attendance enjoyed your remarks and unique perspective on the unit's history after it was reorganized stateside.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the other Association officers or members if we can ever be of service.

ESSAYONS

**/Perry Blanchfield/
President, 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam)**