



# 589<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Assn. (Vietnam)

## 589<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association Business Meeting, September 11, 2014

President Nick Kallas called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplin Randy Joyner gave the Invocation.

President Kallas made the roll call of officers. All were present. President Kallas thanked all the officers and encouraged our members to seek the Board's help to resolve any questions they might have during the year.

### Minutes of 2013 Meeting

Secretary Hester was asked to present the minutes of the 2013 meeting, copies of which were distributed among the tables. Rich Comiso moved that the minutes be approved by acclamation without reading. Motion seconded by John Hunt. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report

The audit committee (Tim Cameron, Bill Carter and John Mayes) reviewed and approved the financial report. Bob Spencer gave an in-depth and complete reading of the finances of the association. Bob discussed in detail how the proposed By-Law changes would affect the Treasurer's position. He discussed the responsibilities and duties of the treasurer's position. He discussed the checks and balances that are in place. The floor was open for questions. Rich Comiso moved that the treasury report be accepted. David Goodrow seconded the motion and the membership approved. The president thanked the audit committee. Copy of financial report attached.

### President's Opening Comments

President Kallas stated that the membership continues to grow, with the membership currently standing at 686. That is an addition of 51 new members since our last business meeting. The president thanked Rich Comiso for his publicity efforts on behalf of the 589<sup>th</sup>

The President thanked the membership committee members for all their efforts:

<b>Sterling Hester, Dennis Kotke</b>	<b>HHC</b>
<b>Luigi Bersani, Richard Radko, Robert Hickox</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>Charles Begley, Bill Fraundorfer</b>	<b>B CO</b>
<b>Larry Jinkins, John Van Zelf, Chuck Schueddig</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>John Miller, Jerry Nichols, John Ryan</b>	<b>D CO</b>

President Kallas stated that several new members saw the reunion in either the American Legion or VFW magazines. He again thanked Richard Comiso for his publicity efforts.

President Kallas thanked the reunion committee for their efforts:

<b>Sterling Hester</b>	<b>HHC</b>
<b>Randy Joyner</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>Roger Collis</b>	<b>B CO</b>
<b>Dennis Cluth</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Terry Holland</b>	<b>D CO</b>

President Kallas welcomed the 14 new 1<sup>st</sup> time reunion attendees:

<b>Tom Ball</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Stanley Bradley</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Bennett Bryant</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>Richard Carpenter</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>George Gomes</b>	<b>C Co</b>
<b>Mark Harbert</b>	<b>D CO</b>
<b>Rufus Hill</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Roy Johnson</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>James Johnson</b>	<b>HHC</b>
<b>Terry Johnson</b>	<b>HHC</b>
<b>Wendell Teal</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Ted Tinker</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>Bernie Williams</b>	<b>A CO</b>

President Kallas thanked Jim Swick for putting together what we hope is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 589<sup>th</sup> Golf Scramble. Jim gave a short review and indicated that he would be willing to put together another one for next year.

President Kallas thanked John and Marti Miller for providing the Karaoke entertainment Friday night after the raffle/auction.

### **589<sup>th</sup> Old Business**

The President reported that last year we tabled discussion on obtaining a memorial bayonet style letter opener for the families of members who pass away. An option found was a common letter opener, which could be engraved with whatever we want on it. This process is still being researched for the proper item to use and will be reported on at our next reunion.

President Kallas stated that the Stone Castle provides us with 1 free room and 1 free upgrade per 20 rooms booked. This year we have 4 of each. By random drawing, the upgrades went to: **Bill Carter, Jerry Best, Mark Harbert, and Donald Gothard**. The free rooms, 3 nights each which were drawn during the Business Meeting, went to: **George Gomes, Stanley Bradley, Clyde Hutson and Larry Dorough**.

The President reported that a phone contact program to keep in touch with our members was discussed last year and despite our best efforts we were not able to get this started. We discussed issues such as how best to maintain contact with 680+ members. The membership indicated that we should continue our best efforts in trying to stay in contact with our members.

President Kallas talked about donation of 589<sup>th</sup> funds to worthy causes: Vietnam Wall, Army Engineer Museum, and the Museum in Branson.

A motion was made by Bernie Williams and seconded by Dennis Kotke to buy 1 brick for the museum at Branson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jerry Best and seconded by Charles Begley to look into buying a brick at the Vietnam Wall. After discussion, it was decided to table the motion and revive next year.

### **PX items**

Discussed the need for a permanent design for shirts.

Motion by Jim Swick and seconded by Tommy McLein to make PX items standard designs. Motion passed.

Motion by Don Baux to make coffee cups and stainless steel mugs authorized PX items. Seconded by John Hunt. Motion passed.

Discussed the Challenge coin that was given to our attendees (anonymously). Motion by Don Baux and seconded by Dennis Kotke to continue researching a 589<sup>th</sup> Challenge Coin.

### **589<sup>th</sup> New Business**

President Kallas thanked co-authors Dennie Pendergrass and Larry Jinkins for their exceptional work on the history book "589<sup>th</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION), ENGINEERS AT WAR IN VIETNAM". Dennie's list of book donations to historical and museum venues was approved. Dennie explained how planks and Beacons from the USNS General John Pope (the ship that took the 589<sup>th</sup> to Vietnam) were obtained by himself and John Ryan. A meeting of "Boat People" was to be held to determine what to do with the planks. A commemorative plank will be presented to the Association at the Farewell Banquet Saturday evening.

### **By-Law changes**

With copies in member's hands, the changes were discussed at length and a Motion by Tim Cameron, seconded by Don Baux to accept changes as written by the board. Motion passed.

### **Plan for 2015 Reunion**

President Kallas reminded everyone that the second week of September in 2015 would make our reunion the same week as Labor Day week (9-10-2015 thru 9-13-2015). Motion by Rich Comiso and seconded by Sam Lamey to keep reunion as scheduled. Motion passed.

### **What type of entertainment do we want?**

Discussed organized or on your own entertainment. A motion by Mark Harbert and seconded by Elroy Randall to have reunion committee come up with entertainment ideas for next year. Motion passed.

There was a discussion about creating a video of our time in Vietnam for viewing at various times during the reunion. It was mentioned that considerable video was on the 589<sup>th</sup> web site. Perry Blanchfield indicated that maybe he could put together something for next year.

### **Open Microphone**

Discussed the auction and thanks to the ladies for the undertaking.

There was discussion on a 589<sup>th</sup> patch for sewing on garments. Discussed trying to figure a design and bring to the membership.

### **Read past years member losses by Randy Joyner**

<b>Kenneth V. Bossaller</b>	<b>09/20/2013</b>	<b>A CO</b>
<b>Richard L. Vernon</b>	<b>11/12/2013</b>	<b>C CO</b>
<b>Jerry L. Golden</b>	<b>03/19/2014</b>	<b>A CO</b>

Toast to our Fallen Brothers by Dennis Kotke-HHC "To our Absent Brothers".

Closing prayer by Randy Joyner

President Kallas adjourned the meeting at 1330 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted



Sterling H. Hester, Secretary