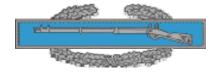
## ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association







**April 2012** 

**Cover Page** 

## FROM THE TC HATCH

#### Jimmy Segars, President

I hope all of you are well and having a good year. The Segars Bunch salutes you. I want to take a few minutes to pay tribute to each of you for being soldiers. Though retired, we carry the name soldier proudly. In today's political climate in our country, sometimes it is easy to think about who we are not rather than to think about who we are. Remember The Soldier's Creed.

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

As soldiers of one era to another we ought to encourage those who are fighting today more and more every day. I read and hear over the news daily, as do you, how our men are reacting to continual combat duty. Those who are deployed tour after tour are fighting the longest war in our country's history and doing so with the greatest ability of any fighting force we have ever seen. And as happens in any situation whether or not in the military, people break under the stress. However, the press seems to have a field day when it happens in the military. Men, soldiers do a great service for all of us, and we need to do our part in standing up for them. We do not condone what is an occasional wrong doing, but a few should not

label the rest who are fine and upstanding men and women who are protecting us every day and doing so without complaint. They are real heroes. So when the opportunity arises, we should praise our men. And always remember them in prayer and their families.

This past December 10 Lorretta and I along with Gladys Grubb and friend and Larry and Jean Curtis and family got a chance to do just that and to represent the 1/50th in the most magnificent setting—Arlington National Cemetery. As you know, the Ladies Support Team planned a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Wreaths Across America event. We got up early on the morning of December 10 and walked from our hotel to the cemetery. To see so many people walking down the streets to gather at a well-known national monument for one common purpose made us proud to be Americans. The day before we had visited the cemetery to find the resting place of Lawrence D. Green, a 1LT in HH CO 40 BN USA, a 1/50th armored officer who died on January 30, 1968. We did not find the grave but later learned that we were looking in the wrong area. At the next wreath laying, this coming December 15, we will correct our logistics and definitely find it. We wanted to be sure to put a wreath on his grave

When we all dispersed from the arena in the cemetery, we headed to different areas of Arlington where large semi trucks filled with wreaths donated by people and firms from across America awaited. We each took a wreath and laid it gently against the brilliant white stone marker of one of America's finest who gave his all. Then we returned to the semi trucks several times and loaded up as many wreaths as we could carry and continued to decorate as many graves as we could along with many others. When we all finished a few hours later, we looked back over the ridge filled with red, green, and white markers. The sight was breathtaking. As far as the eye could see, wreaths showed the departed dead that we care. Unfortunately, not every grave in the entire cemetery got a wreath because there were not enough wreaths to go around. The Wreaths Across America program sends thousands of wreaths (this year 105,000) (as many as are donated) to military cemeteries all across America (500+ sites). So if you will, please check the Wreaths Across America website and be sure to view the powerful video there and also find out how to sponsor a wreath. I hope all of you get a chance to go this coming year. It is quite a moving and happy experience. The Ladies Support Team's column will give you more details.

On another note, Col. Burns has been sending several of us very informative e-mails from Iraq. Please remember him every day because he is among a small contingent of American soldiers remaining there. To say that conditions there are still very dangerous is an understatement.

I am thankful to be associated with all of you.

P.S. Men, please share the newsletters with your wives, too. Thanks.

#### Fellers.

There has been a change to the schedule for the 1/50 change of command ceremony. It has moved from the 22d to the 21st at 0900 - still Kannell Field. I understand the post change of command is taking place the same week - I assume the 22nd, but don't know that for sure. I have asked for a date and will let you know for certain. If the opportunity presents to attend it, that might be worth a stay over. Let me know if you have questions. Hope to see you in June - until then, Play the Game!

John A Topper Army Reserve Ambassador, Indiana

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

#### Lorene Burch, Editor

Things are a little better here than the last time we sent out a newsletter. Monica is healed and mom is gradually loosing the center vision, but is managing to read and work around it. Roger spent 5 days at the VA as well as 5 days at the hospital here in Salina. He seems to be doing much better after this last stay. He has one more procedure and then it will be watching to keep him from getting more stones or so many before they manage to get anything done.

Roger and I attended an organizational meeting for the Veterans Advocacy Council for Mental Health that is being formed to help the veterans returning from war and seeking help. This organization was started in this area two years ago and has just reached the point to reach out and seek others who would like to assist those in need. With the help of Dr. Crosby and his staff, this group has been able to make it so if a solider is in a crisis situation when contacting the VA there is someone who can help them without going to several people. For more information, on the Heartland West Wichita Kansas Veterans Advocacy Council, go to hearland.west@gmx.com. This is an independent counsel working with the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center. They are working on providing more care for the families of veterans as well, so that the spouses/significant others will be more educated on how to handle the sudden changes in their love one's mood.

Proud wife, sister and mother of those who have served.

## CHAPLAIN'S

#### Parker Pierce

() D I pray that all has been well with each of you and your family members. It's hard to believe but 2012 is already one quarter completed! The year 2011 ended with excitement and joy in our family. We had our fifth granddaughter and sixth grandchild born in December! She is a little bundle of love and energy and another gift from God for our family. We are humbly grateful and thankful to our Heavenly Father for our new addition.

N E The coming year will be another very serious and critical time in the history of America. The upcoming presidential election is a very important one. One of my prayers is that a larger percentage of legal voters will vote in this year's election, which definitely wasn't the case in 2008! I do know that whatever the outcome of this presidential election God is still in control and Jesus is still the only HOPE!

R

In a couple of weeks we will, as a nation, observe Easter. We are so blest in America to be able to live, practice, and openly share the total significance of that most blessed three days in history. So, I pray each of you the most wonderful and blessed Easter ever with your families!

I know we all have continued to pray for our members and their loved ones who have been ill. Some are much better now than they were in recent months-thanks be to God for those individuals that are so much improved in their health! I know all of us will continue to pray for our military troops and their families, each other, our President and our still great Nation! May our Lord continue to bless each of you.

#### **WELCOME NEW 2011 ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

Fred Bantle	LIFE	Delta	09/67-07/68
William Schussler		Charlie	12/69-10/70
Dwaine Blumenstock	LIFE	No information	
Michael McCardell	LIFE	Bn S-3	2011
Michael Hastings	LIFE	Bn Co.	2011
Steve W. Bower	LIFE	Bn CSM	2011
Claude Newby	LIFE	Chaplin 1/5 Cav.	
Richard E. Scott	LIFE	Charlie	12/67-08/68
John Parkinson		No information	
David K. Pope		H&H Scouts	69-70
Gary E. Erxleben		Delta	01/68-05/68
Marvin L. Brophy	LIFE	HHC-Scouts	06/68-05/69
Ernest J. Milit	LIFE	Delta	11/67-

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## 1/50<sup>th</sup> Ladies Support Team

#### **Lorretta Segars**

I am so happy that you are taking an active role in what is an important part of the lives of our men—supporting our soldiers. They are still soldiers, whether on active duty or not.

I know that you want to know how our two projects turned out. The Operation Home Front in which we gather materials to send to deployed troops is a success. So far we have sent two shipments to soldiers in Iraq: one at Christmas and one in February. We sent Christmas items and basic necessities in December and bound Thank-you Books from our church and Operation Bandanas' camo bandanas with the soldiers' Psalm on them—Psalm 91. Thousands of soldiers have received these bandanas from people who have donated them over the years. If you would like to be a part of these on-going projects, our team asks that you send monetary donations to me (Loretta Segars, 2323 Half-Sectionline Road, Albertville, Alabama 35950). I will purchase and mail the items at designated times throughout the year as we accumulate enough to send. Both of these projects are ways that we can show our currently deployed soldiers that we care. Check out the Operation Bandanas website and while you are at it remember that Wreaths Across America also has a website that I hope you check out as well.

As Jim noted, the Wreaths Across America project was an awesome experience. We arrived at the Crystal City Marriott at the Ronald Reagan Airport on Friday. Gladys and her friend arrived a couple of days earlier. We will stay at this same hotel the next trip, since it is so conveniently located and a nice hotel as well.

We walked to Bethesda Hospital to present wounded warriors with some Thank-you Booklets and the bandanas mentioned above. We were allowed to leave some bandanas with the chaplain but because we had our church's name on the booklets were not allowed to leave them. We did not understand that because the letters were letters of appreciation from young and old alike that would definitely cheer up the soldiers there. We later learned from military personnel and others who were connected with military service in hospitals how to get better results. We met those people in Arlington the next day. They were there to put wreaths on the tombstones as well. So this being our first trip to Bethesda was a learning experience.

Then we walked to the Washington Monument and on to Arlington Cemetery to witness the Changing of the Guard and to find, as Jimmy has already said, the grave of Lawrence D. Greene. We also took time to walk around parts of Washington. Returning to the hotel, we got ready to go out to eat after meeting with the Curtis's, who had arrived that evening. We all enjoyed seeing each other. This next year we hope more of you come. I will post info in this newsletter and the next on how to get on board. Thanks.

As Jim said, the wreath laying was very moving. Every year the Wreaths Across America organization has as its goal to provide enough wreaths to have one on every military grave across America, however even the 105,000 donated this year was not enough. Not to be outdone with not being able to give out all that we had planned to at Bethesda Hospital, Jimmy loaded up his backpack with as many booklets and bandanas as he could. I was so proud of him as he approached soldier after soldier who were also there to participate in the event and handed them these gifts of appreciation and shook their hand. He was in his element: smiling and laughing and thoroughly enjoying himself. I thank God for my soldier!

Then we went to The Wall, where wreaths had also been laid. We had visited The Wall the day before as well to once again find the names of two of our own that are listed there.

So the day ended, and we were all grateful for a chance to be a part of recognizing our soldiers of the past and present. Once again, ladies and husbands consider making plans now to go this year. Thank you for your support. We need all of you to help us in Operation Home Front. Jim and I will be going to a Change of Command ceremony this June. Perhaps we will see some of you there. Take care and God bless you. HOOAH

The registration form for participation in the 2012 Wreaths Across America Program is on Page 7.

#### On thy grave the rain shall fall from the eyes of a mighty nation!

Thomas William Parsons
August 18, 1819, Boston – September 3, 1892
Scituate, Massachusetts
American dentist & poet
Be sure to teach a young person the true history & meaning of Memorial Day.

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### VIETNAM IMMIGRANT

Quang Nguyen

Creative Director/Founder, Caddis Advertising, LLC

On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Mr. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his personal experience of coming to America and what it means to him. The following was dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans. Please note that Mr. Nguyen refers to himself as an American, not a Vietnamese-American. Wouldn't it be nice if all immigrants took this same respectful approach to our country, in fact, wouldn't it nice if every person born in America showed the same pride of country as this man?

Thirty-five years ago, if you had told me that I was going to stand up and speak to a couple of thousand patriots, in English, I would have laughed at you. Every morning I wake up thanking God for putting my family and me in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese- American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American. If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people. I am a proud United States citizen. It took me eight years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf. Thirty-five years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I want to tell you that now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I couldn't make it to college because of my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see all you had to do was to give the little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am before you today.

The person standing tonight in before you could not have existed under a socialist/communist environment. And, by the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And for those who don't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That has been my experience

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life. Fast forward and somehow I finished high school, college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten exactly how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over to him and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said, "Yes." I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see, America is not just a place on the map; it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing here before you now.

Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for the boy I once was. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all.

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#### HISTORIAN REPORT: MARCH/APRIL 2012

JIM SHEPPARD, Charlie Company, 12/1965 to 06/ 1968

Your Historian has several items of note on the front burner for this report. Of interest are two works being completed by individuals who were not actually members of our Battalion...but have endeavored to put our history in writing, specifically books about the Battles of Tam Quan and An Bao.

Our own Tom McGovern's Brother Jim undertook the collecting of personal stories and went ahead with many hours of interviews before finally finishing a draft that is being edited now. He will "Self Publish" in the near future. Also, a former Officer from the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry is beginning the writing process on a book about our Battle of Tam Quan. Tom Kjos (tom\_kjos@hotmail.com) has worked up maps and spreadsheets that show positioning for all forces for the entire length of the battle in December of 1967. If your have access to our website, you can find the link to his work on the Message Board, if you are not yet into computers, but would like to share with Tom, please contact your historian (me) and I will put you in contact with Tom. I will be accompanying Tom to the National Archives in May as we will see what documentation exists for the various units involved.

I also want to expand on my December report on the call for photos by the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund... as well as my own efforts to obtain photos of all our men killed in action. You will find published here all the names for which we need a photo, along with the name of their hometown at the time of their death. I am hoping you might live near one of these towns and help us retrieve a photo. I can work with you on providing leads, and you can do the legwork visiting possible relatives and/or High Schools and colleges where these men attended. We have had good success contacting the librarians at these institutions for Yearbook photos. Following is a list of men assigned or attached to the 1st Bn (M), 50th Infantry whose photos we seek:

Arlentino, Dudney Nelson, Coolidge, AZ Ayers, Johnnie Marvin, Elkview, WV Belinge, Richard Lewis, Springfield, MO Beverford, Timothy Wayne, Los Angeles, CA

Blair, Donald D (Have poor quality photo), Belton, TX

Carpenter, Tommy Lee, Anderson, IN Cast, Thomas Edward, Detroit, MI Chenoweth, Austin Ray, Dove Creek, CO Collins, Jerome Liston, Magnolia Springs, AL

Craig, Roger Gene, Clear Fork, WV
Crull, Raymond H., Marshall, MI
Denkins, Fred, Jr, Cincinnati, OH
Feldmann, Barry Edward, St Louis, MO

Filippelli, Alfred A., Woodside, NY Fleetwood, Donald L, Davenport, IA Gentry, Bobby Lee, Winchester, KY Givens, Roy N, Newport News, VA Grayson, Ramon L., Dixon's Mills, AL

Gutierrez, Albert R., Jr., San Antonio, TX Haas, Russell C., LaCrosse, WI

Hinton, Dennis E. (Have poor quality photo), Englewood, CO

Hoskins, Danny, Trenton, OH

Hubbard, Roger Lee (Have poor quality photo), Wynne, AR

Jennings, Lawrence M., Utica, NY Johnson, Gary R., Silverton, OR Leska, Robert, Trumbull, CT Lowe, Jere Rone, Tallapoosa, GA Lukes, Thomas B., Pontiac, MI McMillin, Robert A., Spartanburg, SC Null, Ricky L., Lemoyne, PA

Owens, Robert L., Beaufort, SC Pangelinan, Gregorio L., Guam Perez, Joseph E., San Francisco, CA Pettis, Lorenzo R., West Palm Beach, FL

Pillow, Ronald E., Hughes, AR

Pipkin, Thomas D., Jr., Farmington, MO

Ramey, Thomas R. (Have poor quality photo), Tomahawk, KY

Roberts, Claude, Delray Beach, FL Sachaschik, James H., Dolton, IL Sims, William A., Fort Worth, TX Smith, Thomas T., Demopolis, AL Snelson, John W., Cleveland, OH

Stainer, William E (Have poor quality photo), Columbus, OH

Strouse, Gary Lee, Vestal, NY
Thomas, Allen W., San Marcos, TX
Thomas, Charles E., Tampa, FL
Thomas, Kenneth B., Ontario, CA
Velilla, William, New York, NY
Wadlington, Louis W., Salem, KY
Walker, Michael E., Fredericksburg, OH
Ward, Johnny L., Cambridge, ID
Williams, Melvin J., Birmingham, AL

As you may know, there are others we have memorialized who we once believed were members of the 50th Infantry...and subsequently learned they were not. I still need some photos for these men, as well as photos for other 50th Infantry designations killed in action, but these assigned and attached men will be my top priority for now...and I will work of photos for the others at a later date.

Photos are still coming to us...but far and few between. This past Week our volunteer Barbara Daniels was able to work with our James "Doc" Fitzgerald in finding the family of Richard Wells. The family has provided a photo and Richard's Memorial page has been updated. "Doc" got to spend some time on the phone with Wells' mother detailing his part in the battle and interaction with her son just moments before his death. A month back, Barbara found another man's father...still living, in Kentucky. A photo has been promised, but not yet received. I had planned on stopping to see this man on a return trip from Florida, but had to rearrange my trip at the last minute. If anyone knew Bobby Gentry or lives anywhere near Winchester Kentucky and would like to visit our man's father, please contact your historian.

I am looking forward to a small gathering that will take place in June for the Change of Command at the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry. Specifics of where we will likely be staying will be posted on the website message board after we are sure the date, time and place are "firm". In just a little over a year, we will be preparing to gather for our next Reunion! I am looking forward to seeing so many of my 50th Infantry friends...old and new! Until then, "Play The Game"!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association Page 6

## Dove in the Bamboo

**Harley Mick** 

#### **Hawkins**

While in the military I was with D company 1/50 Infantry Weapons Platoon. For some reason, I always wondered just what they were thinking when our platoon was formed. It was as if they thought, "now that we have this platoon, what the heck do we do with them?"

I received basic training with A company and was then moved over to HHC and was installed in a platoon called "heavy weapons". We were to have been trained in the 4.2 mortar, as well as the recoilless rile, or so I was told. We never did receive training for the recoilless rifle, but in hindsight I can see how this weapon would have been helpful at Tam Quan when the NVA were dug deep in their bunkers.

When we first arrived in 'Nam (or some time just before the "bigwigs" decided to form the new D company), the companies had an 81 mortar for field artillery support and the 105 and 155 for fire-base artillery support and there was simply no need for the 4.2 mortar. It was decided that the 4.2 platoon could be best used as a line platoon, however, they did not have the foresight to give us line tracks (APC), so, we had tracks without the machine gun metal plates to protect the gunner. Ingenuity due to my concern for self-preservation kicked in and I used C-ration cases and would set the 60 down on this for protection. I was sure that the tracks were to go to the ARVN, however, the South Vietnam Army turned them down because the reverse wasn't fast enough for them and they didn't have C-rations.



But, I digress and got away from my story about the dove in the bamboo. So here we were being used as a line platoon, performing missions on foot for the first month or so. The choppers would fly us out and we would walk around Vietnam in search of the bad guys. One day we happened to find some of them and had us a little shoot-out. That night we set up in the same area and the "bigwigs" flew out an 81 mortar for us to use during the night for what they referred to as harassment fire. So, here we are – a heavy weapons platoon being used as a line platoon that has been sent an 81 mortar to use. We should have had a mortar squad. Can you see it – 4.2 mortar platoon with an 81 mortar squad?

The next day we set out on foot. Sgt. Ward informed me that I was to walk point. I was 19 years old and found myself leading a group of guys around Vietnam to search out and destroy the bad guys. We eventually came out of the hills toward a village and Sgt. Ward stopped me and told me that I should walk across the rice paddy dike toward the bamboo grove. When I got to my destination I was to wait for him to come up and tell me where to go from there. I was walking toward the bamboo grove and not feeling so good about this walking point situation I had found myself in at that time. I was about 10 feet from the bamboo grove when all of a sudden a dove flew out of the bamboo and, having been raised as a duck and quail hunter, I instinctively raised my shotgun and killed the dove. I turned around to see if anyone in the platoon was watching me, all the while feeling quite proud of myself for having made that shot with a sawed-off shotgun. When I noticed that nobody was up and looking, I fell down, concerned that they had seen NVA or perhaps something else, all the while thinking that Sgt Ward and the other guys are good to have seen whatever it was that they had seen and taken cover.

Before long I noticed that Sgt Ward was crawling toward me through the rice paddy water and I was very sure that he was on his way to tell me how we were to set about attacking the enemy. Do you remember what the native people used for fertilizer and just how disgusting that rice paddy water was? Yet there he was Sgt Ward, Korea Veteran 3/up and 3/down, crawling through that vile water, black slime smeared across his face. In a low sounding voice he asked, "What did you see?" I immediately saw the error of my ways and if Sgt Ward and I hadn't seen eye to eye before now, then this little situation wasn't about to improve our relationship a bit. I replied in a weak voice "I didn't see anything. What did you see?" All of a sudden his voice increased in volume and he shouted "What did you shoot at?" My voice broke when I told him it was a dove. At that point he jumped to his feet with the black slime running in rivulets down his face, his clothing soaked through and shouted "You shot at WHAT?" He then proceeded to use some very foul language, all directed at me. That night I had to endure some good-natured ribbing from the guys, but all in all it was a good day – I got the dove with one shot and Sgt. Ward never asked me to walk point again.



## MEMORIAL DAY

Never Forget Ever Honor

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA-2011



Loretta & Jimmy Segars honor veterans by laying wreaths during the Christmas season 2011.

Gladys Grubb & friend remember our heroes by the laying of wreaths by participating with the Wreaths Across America Program, 2011.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - 2012



# Yes,I am interested in participating in the Wreaths Across America event on December 15, 2012

 Name:

 Address:

 Telephone:

 E-mail:

No deposit is necessary at this time, but I have arranged for a group rate of \$89 per night. If you wish to go, you may contact the Crystal City Marriott directly to make reservations at 1-888-236-2427 or directly at 1-701-413-5500 and ask for a room in the 1/50th block. Make reservations for December 14 and 15 no later than a month before to get this rate. To keep this discounted rate we need a number of people to go. Activities will be similar to what we did on the first trip.

E-mail response to segars-jim-lor@charter.net or mail to: Loretta Segars, 2323 Half-Sectionline Road, Albertville, Alabama 35950. Also send your donations for Operation Home Front via the above address. Thanks.