

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2016

Cover Page

From the TC Hatch

By Jim Seagers

Hello, 1/50th Members, I hope all of you are doing well and that you had a blessed Easter. We are planning to have a house full if it is the way it has been in previous years. We are very thankful for our blessings of family and friends and the real meaning of Easter for all of us!

Speaking of family and friends, the 1/50th is also our family; and I am looking forward to seeing all of you next year at our very special reunion, celebrating 50 years since our deployment to Vietnam and 100 years since the formation of our battalion. You don't want to miss this one, So make sure to mark your calendars, as soon as the dates are released and plan to come to the 2017 reunion.

Last Christmas we attended Wreaths Across America again to honor 1/50th members buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Along with Jean and Susie Curtis, We made sure that wreaths were

placed on 7 of our comrades. Next year we will have 9 to honor. It is quiet something to be a part of this activity. We need more of you to go. It is an experience of a lifetime. Bring your family with you. It will mean a lot to them as well. Also, remember to honor your deceased veterans at your local cemeteries

We will soon be attending a military ball and change of command. Thank you to the soldiers at the 1/50th at Ft. Benning for allowing us to be a part of your celebrations.

We will be remembering our military past and present as Memorial Day approaches. Send our editor photos and articles depicting how you spent the day in your community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Segars, Play the Game.

Lorene Burch, Editor

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(Below) Constituted 15 May 1917 in the Regular Army as the 50th Infantry. Below is a photo of the original 50th Infantry at Syracuse, taken October 16th, 1917. Our Association Archives has the only known original copy of this photo.





From the Editor: Lorene Burch



Greetings:

As I have encouraged each of you to become more involved in the organizations that help our vets, I have also challenged myself to become more involved.

This year I was able to place flags on the veterans graves along with our DAVA chapter. It was an interesting experience as we went to a cemetery I didn't even know existed. It was good to be able to honor those who served in our country so many years ago.

We were able to wrap gifts for over 100 veterans in the nursing homes in Salina, Kansas, and where it was permitted we handed them personally to the veterans and was able to visit with them for a few minutes.

Our local DAVA has established a fund to help the homeless veterans in this area to find jobs and homes. We are working with a VA funded organization in order to help the veterans set up house keeping and to give them the needed support to ready themselves for interviews. We do not count this as a hand out, but a 'Help up' as it gives them just enough to be able to succeed, if they choose to. A follow up is done on each of the veterans by a VA case worker, to ensure their success. We have no contact with the veterans directly, unless they desire to make themselves known.

We are working on finding more ways to serve our vets. Please send in your stories and let us know what is happening.



Provided needed items for veterans to be able to set up housekeeping.

Need Articles

We need to hear from you. This is your news letter and we would like to know what it is you are doing. Please send in your articles in one of the following ways.

Email: thelmaburch@gmail.com

Lorene Burch

126 S. Ohio Apt. I (that is an I as in Irene)

Salina, Kansas 67401



Chaplain



The following verses seem to be appropriate from what I am hearing from our 1/50th family. Remember to support one another in your thoughts and prayers.

2 Corinthians 1:1-7 The Message (MSG)

¹⁻² I, Paul, have been sent on a special mission by the Messiah, Jesus, planned by God himself. I write this to God's congregation in Corinth, and to believers all over Achaia province. May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our Father and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours! Timothy, someone you know and trust, joins me in this greeting.

The Rescue

³⁻⁵ All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort—we get a full measure of that, too.

⁶⁻⁷ When we suffer for Jesus, it works out for your healing and salvation. If we are treated well, given a helping hand and encouraging word, that also works to your benefit, spurring you on, face forward, unflinching. Your hard times are also our hard times. When we see that you're just as willing to endure the hard times as to enjoy the good times, we know you're going to make it, no doubt about it.



Mary Jane
Smith

Mary Jane Smith, RIP

Randy Smith, past President of our association lost his wife on December 23, 2015. Please continue to pray for Randy and his family as they continue to adjust to the loss of such a wonderful lady.

One of the things I remember about Mary was her sweet spirit. She had a wonderful laugh and a contagious smile. Even though we only got to be together for a couple of short visits. I will miss her. Rest in peace Mary,



Change of Command for the I/50th Infantry Battalion

On June 8th we will have a new commander for our group at Ft. Benning. Lt. Col. Franklin Baltazar will be installed. Those planning to attend are Jim and Loretta Segars Dick Guthrie, John Topper and Jim Shephard.

Looking forward to meeting him at our 2017 reunion.



Those who attended the
“change of command” in 2014



Reunion 2017 Ft. Benning, Georgia



Ideas Needed

We will be marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the I/50th Infantry Battalion. It will also be 50 years since the first battalion was sent to Vietnam.

We are in need of suggestions for what you think may make a nice memento to be sold at the reunion. Last year we sold ear rings for the ladies and they went over really well.

Any suggestions will be welcomed.

Silent Auction



Each year we have an auction to help raise money for the association. The items are donated by members of the association and we would like to see you get involved. Is there an items that you think would be nice to acknowledge the beginning of the unit or to commemorate the memory of those who went to Vietnam 50 years ago?





Change of Command Ceremony takes place at Fort Benning

By [mercwrbl](#) Published: March 18, 2016, 6:14 pm Updated: March 21, 2016, 10:04

FT. BENNING, Ga. – There is a new Commanding major general at Fort Benning. Brigadier General Eric Wesley is now in Command of the post. Ft. Benning's new Commander talked to the media before the Change of Command Ceremony – he directly addressed a question like what he plans to do during the 'inter-war periods.'

Brig. Gen. Eric Wesley, Comm. Maneuver Ctr. Of Excellence, "If we're in that window of time that is the interwar years – this is a window to prepare for that next conflict."

Wesley says its his job is to think deep and far ****now**** so the Army is ready for the next conflict.

"So the opportunity to participate with our leadership in shaping the future of the Army is really what struck me and I'm really looking forward to that."

The new Commander says he does have a challenge down the road with gender integration.- and he says it will make the Army better.

"I'm excited about what that will bring for us because I think that will make us better."

Wesley's most recent assignment was at the Pentagon.

In the change of command ceremony – Eric Wesley assumed the position of Commander from Major General Scott Miller.

Wesley calls miller a friend and mentor.

The two made a point to honor each other after the ceremony.

Wesley said, "You are a gentleman, you are gracious, you are humble but you're also a phenomenal freakin' warrior."

Former Commander Major General Scott Miller said, "You can think big and make sure soldiers understand it. Ladies and gentlemen, Ft. Benning...you're in better hands and you're going to get better. "

Major General Scott Miller is currently waiting his reassignment.

Ft. Benning's new Commander – Brigadier General Eric Wesley is married to wife Cynthia and they have three children – Tyler, Austin, and Meredith.

From the December 1996 News Letter put out by our founder Ken Riley



Where Friends Meet

LETTERS AND NEWS FROM THE GUYS



Heard from several guys this month. Tim Culbertson of Ohio said he held a reunion back in 1989 and had 12 "Ichaboners" there, plus their girlfriends and wives. He didn't tell me how many of each the guys were allowed to bring.

Also heard from Dave Haag of Penna who said he was recovering from some surgery he underwent. He was wounded in "Nam" in December of 1969. If anyone would like to drop him a get well card, his address is: David E. Haag, RR 1, Box 159, Newmanstown, PA 17073-9718.

'Smitty' (Al Smith) of PA wrote to tell me about his new business venture he was involved in. GOOD LUCK SMITTY!!!

I put out several letters and calls looking for a good friend of mine from Bravo Company. Elliot Drescher. Anyone out there know where he might be? Give me a call if you do.

I hear Captain Randall (Charlie Co—Oct-67—Feb-68) has a house in Hawaii and is retired. Anyone have his address or phone number? Would like to get in touch with him.

Got another letter from Tom Knepp of Ohio. Tom has sent me so much stuff so far on our battalion. Thanks much!! Hope to see him at the Reunion in September.

Also got a letter from Larry Dossey, MD; who resides in Santa Fe NM. He was a battalion surgeon for 1/50th in 1968-1969. He is interested in the activities of the battalion.

For all you "Original Boat People" as I call the first group to go to "Nam," Norm Poage is still alive and kicking. Anyone that wants to contact him, give me a call; better yet, send a letter.

Glenn Dulsky, driver of "313" is doing well. Received a surprise visit from him 6 December, 1996 at my "surprise" birthday party in Hanover. He and I have been keeping in touch via fax almost every day now. He would like to know where all you people are and what you are doing?

Henry Rosner called to say he would drop by the reunion but couldn't stay overnight. I'll let any who want to know when he will be there so you can drop in and say HI!

I found these interesting and would like to see some updates. Lorene