

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION



December 2013

cover page

From the TC

hatch

By: Jim Seagers

President's Corner

Hello, fellow members,

I hope you had a great Veteran's Day. Among other events, I enjoyed the Grandparents'/Veterans' Day celebration at my grandchildren's school. Also, the wife of one of our battalion's KIAs spoke at the 40th Year Vietnam Commemoration at Veterans' Park in Cullman, Alabama. Carolyn Herr attended our building dedication and memorial ceremonies this past spring at Ft. Benning. Her first husband lost his life at An Bao. The park was impressive with displays of Vietnam era vehicles, uniforms, weapons, etc. I met several veterans from northern Alabama at the event.

My wife and I plus eight others from our association will be laying wreaths for four of our deceased men at Arlington National Cemetery this December 14. We will also be giving bandanas and thank-you booklets to wounded warriors and other soldiers at the USO at Ft. Belvoir, located about 30 minutes from Arlington. Mark your calendar now to attend this event next year. The experience is well worth the trip.

We have some exciting news for other activities that our association can be involved in. First on March 14, there will be a dedication of a new exhibit to the National Infantry Museum, a replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC. This is a tentative date, and I will let everyone know if it changes. For questions, e-mail me at [segars-jim-lor@charter.net](mailto:segars-jim-lor@charter.net). The museum is selling pavers for this memorial. If you would like to purchase one, google the National Infantry Museum for an application and fee.

The House of Heroes project provides assistance to our military veterans and/or their spouses by making repairs, improvements, and maintenance to their homes at no charge to them. Talk about a great way to make yourself and others feel better, volunteer or donate to this worthy cause.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LORENE BURCH, EDITOR

From the TC Hatch	1
Ladies Home Front	2
Chaplain's Corner	2
French Thank You	3
From the Editor	3
Water, Medical and Educational Project	4
Historians Report	5

Helping those who have helped us is important and a privilege. You can send a donation to our treasurer Chuck McAleer at 24714 Ellesmere, San Antonio, Texas 78257. There is also an individual Run for the Heroes--a 260- Mile Run across Georgia and Relay from May 22-May 26th. The Race lasts five days: 2 marathons a day for five days, one 100K a day for four days, or 87 miles a day for three days. The Relay is a 2-day adventure across the countryside of southern Georgia. A team of 8 can participate.

I want to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. We are all fortunate for all the blessings we have. Let us continue to support each other, our families, our country, the soldiers who serve so valiantly that we may enjoy all that we do, and above all remember Who gives us all these blessings. While others fight abroad for our freedom, may we hold the home front. Merry Christmas!

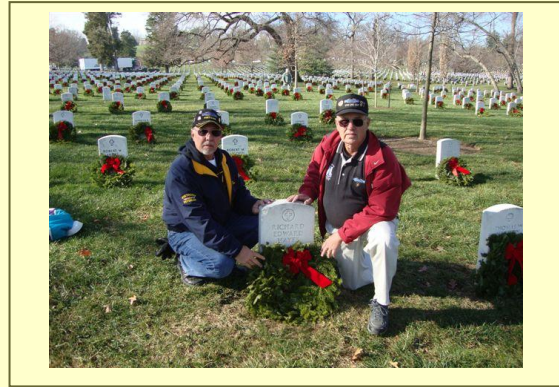
Play the Game



## Ladies Home Front

By: Loretta Segars

Rather than repeat the information in the President's Corner, I refer you to that article. I am looking forward to representing our association at the annual Wreaths Across America event. I also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gallant for donating wreaths to our monument at the 1/50 Battalion again this year. I encourage you ladies to send in donations to the Homes for Heroes project. Also, we cannot send care packages to deployed troops unless some donations come in. I have not emphasized this opportunity in recent newsletters, but we need to continue to remember our deployed troops in a tangible way. It's not too late to send funds if you do so shortly after you receive this newsletter. Finally, we have some cookbooks left. They are \$15 plus \$5 for postage. If you want one or more, please contact me at [segars-jim-lor@charter.net](mailto:segars-jim-lor@charter.net).



*Wreaths across America 2012*

I hope all of you have a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. I agree with all that Jimmy said about our support.

## Chaplains Corner

By: Toby Lawrence

### Our Rights While We Still Have Them

I hope that when this news letter is published that each one that reads it is well and enjoying life as much as I am. I've had the privilege in the past couple of months of being with my grand children, all seven of them, three girls and four boys. When I have a moment or two by myself of quiet time I can't help but to think of them and their future. Which brings me to the subject of this article which is; are you ready for this?

To be or not to be, Politically Correct? And I find it very hard, if not impossible to do and stay true to my beliefs. It saddens me very much to think, we as Americans can turn our backs on God just to please a few people that we've allowed to take over and run this country. I've heard that the Chaplains in our Armed forces are being asked to omit God from their service. What a shame if we allow it to happen. And what about our currency, are we going to change it to get GOD off of it? And finally there that old pledge of Allegiance to the flag we have taken it out of our schools so why not out

of public life? It is my prayer that this doesn't happen in our association. And as long as I'm Chaplain it won't!

So I'll close by saying that there is only one GOD. May GOD Bless and remember he loves you. Your Chaplain and brother in arms, Toby.



*"May GOD Bless and remember  
he loves you."*

## French Thank You

By: Birchpond, Submitted by: Dick Guthrie

9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day  
September 25, 2013

Our politicians can close the Memorials to WWII but the French in Normandy can still pay tribute to those who gave their lives for Freedom.

British artists Jamie Wardley and Andy Moss accompanied by numerous volunteers, took to the beaches of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people into the sand. Titled The Fallen 9000, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of the civilians, Germans and allied forces who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6, 1944 during WWII. The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help with the temporary installation that lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide.



**Articles needed!** We still need your help in order for this news letter to develop into all it can be.

To each of you who have contributed to this edition, I say Thank you and look forward to hearing from more of you in the future. This is your news letter, take ownership of it.

Submit them to: [thelmburch@gmail.com](mailto:thelmburch@gmail.com)

Questions: 785-452-2978, leave a message. Thanks, Lorene



Billie McGregor, Thank you for your years of service.

From the Editor



It is with a heavy heart that I write this. Billie has resigned as Editorial Assistant after many years of service to his organization. Her expertise on how to put a news letter together will be missed. To give you a little back ground, Billie started working with Ken Riley shortly after he started publishing the news letter. She did it for many years for no pay as she just wanted to do what she could for you all. A few years ago she had decided maybe it was time to quit and after Topper had given it a go, he contacted her with an offer of paying her a small token for her hard work. She accepted it as with the times the way they are she could use the money. But after several more years of dealing with several personal issues, she has resigned.

As a friend I will miss talking to her about the news letter, but am hoping we will continue to stay in touch. Thank you, Billie for your years of service.

Lorene Burch, Editor



## WATER, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN THE BATTALIONS OLD

### AO'S

By Terry Goodwin

In the late 1970's, Terry Goodwin (Bravo company) watched a network news cast of Cambodian refugees fleeing for their lives from the Khmer Rouge into refugee camps in Thailand. There a missionary nurse asked a young mother with a malnourished dying daughter if she had a duck egg to feed her child to save her life. The mothers answer was no she had nothing to give her child **...not even an egg**. You could see the despair on the nurse's and mothers face and the news cast ended.

This egg story became an inspiration to Terry and through prayer, God impressed on him to "do something". After a survey trip to Mali, West Africa, and witnessing firsthand the dire need for water, Terry's heart was stirred once more and in 1988 Our Mission Inc. was born digging village water wells, medical and educational projects in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea and Mali West Africa. The primary focus initially was on village water wells in West Africa but opportunity opened up that Our Mission was able to refurbish three rural medical clinics, fund the Smile project and purchased rice for flood victims in the northern part of Vietnam.

Terry focused on the possibility of funding projects in his battalions old AO's and in early 2011 contacted SOMEDCO and from this contact Our Mission has funded the following:

- **Dam Tra lake area** - 2 village biological sand water filters. In other provinces 4 filters. Cost: \$1200.00 each.
- **Bong Son, Phu My and AnKhe, Mobile Medical Clinic**. Cost: \$3000.00 for a 2 day clinic.
- **In and around Phu Phong** (half way on Hwy 19 between Quy Nhon and AnKhe), we have an Education sponsorship of 30 students. Cost: \$10.00 per month per student (\$120.00 year) we need 13 more sponsors.

- **Mountains SE of Da Nang (Montanyard) and in the Mekong Delta Sawyer water filter projects** implemented. Cost: \$65.00 per filter. Producing three hundred gallons plus of uncontaminated water daily from each filter.

In 2011 Our Mission Inc. became Our Mission, a ministry of the Christian Alliance Church, 1609 Conwell Ave. Willard, Ohio. **100% of all funds received go toward the projects and donations are tax deductible.** Please contact Terry at [tgoodwin@cmawillard.org](mailto:tgoodwin@cmawillard.org) or 567-224-1112 for information concerning Our Mission's life changing projects. The Our Mission web site <http://our-mission.org> is under construction and we trust it will be open to the public by the end of November. \*the relief arm of the Evangelistic Church of Vietnam (south)

THANK YOU



Dr. Tran

**HISTORIAN REPORT - NOVEMBER 2013**

SUBMITTED BY: JIM SHEPPARD

My historian effort continues to be centered on our memorial pages for all of our men killed in action.

For the past 3 years, I have been methodically updating these pages with Award orders obtained from the National Archives. Last summer I joined forces with Tom Kjos (Writing a book on the Battle of Tam Quan) once again and managed to obtain an additional 100 General Orders from the period between December, 1967, and the summer of 1968.

All these updates are nearly complete and I will then be concentrating my efforts on adding memorial pages for those men belonging to 50th Infantry units that were not a part of our Battalion. Some of these additions have already been completed, but there remains another 2 dozen or so to be completed.

**Robbie McMillin**

My efforts with these memorial pages have included acquisition of a photo for each man. We currently have photos of all but 21 of our men...although there are about 8 photos that are of a very poor quality. Most of the obvious sources for these photos have been visited countless times...particularly the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Find Website, which has a drive on it to obtain photos.

Last year, I traveled extensively through some of our Southeastern states in this quest. It seems that the best way to find these precious photos is to get right in where the man lived and find where he went to school...and locate his surviving family members.

Just this past weekend, I travelled to South Carolina to research our "B" Company man Robert McMillin. The trip was a success as I obtained his photo from a very helpful Boiling Springs High School Administrator, Debbie Saey. She also put me on the phone with her husband...who had known our ma. Later that same day, I spoke with our man's brother and will be sending his family our memorial information and invite them to our next wreath laying event in 2015. A visit to the cemetery where our man was buried ended the research for the day.

Gary Quint  
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