

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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



**From the TC Hatch**  
**By Jim Seagers**

## Hello, 1/50<sup>th</sup> Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

It's hard to believe one more year has passed, but it is coming to a close quickly. There have been many challenges in our country this year, and I pray for all our military all the time. I know we all remember each other not only at Veteran's Day but all year long. We all stand for the values we hold dear and continue to pray for our nation to return to morality, integrity, and sanity in its leadership. I know soldiers hold high standards, and I am proud to have been one and try always to do my part as do all of our members.

On November 13, the 1/50th honored an outstanding chaplain, Cpt. Robert A. Elkowitz, who is being transferred to Ft. Hood, Texas. Captain Elkowitz has shown outstanding leadership and compassion by helping the soldiers of the 1/50th for several years. He has gone above and beyond what most chaplains do to help our soldiers, and he will be greatly missed. He is now a lifetime member, so we look forward to seeing him as well as former officers who have so capably and sincerely served the 1/50th at our next reunion next April.

Our new leader is Lt. Col. William Kahmann. He and his wife Mandy have already welcomed our association very warmly. You will enjoy getting to know them at the reunion.

I am also very pleased to announce to you that the 1/50th now has a permanent APC that was given to us by the Regiment. It will be in place at headquarters by the reunion. You will also see the Vietnam Wall at the museum and an addition to our memorial.

Once again God bless each of you and your families with a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a very good 2015.

P.S. Dave Knechtel and his family will represent the 1/50th at the Wreaths Across America event this year. Since there have been a record number of donations this year, for the first time all the graves at Arlington will perhaps get a wreath. That is huge! Arlington is now 150 years old. It is a great thing that we always remember to honor our dead in this way. Check out the Wreaths Across America website. You will be surprised by the enormity of this undertaking. We will be taking registrations at the reunion for this event for 2015. Start thinking now about registering. You will be glad you did.



### Inside This Issue

Lorene Burch, Editor

From the TC Hatch	1
Ladies Home front	2
Chaplain's Corner	2
Executive Meeting Report	3
Letter from Editor	3
Reunion information/form	4
John Mogan	5

## ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Ladies Home Front  
By Loretta Segars

Hello, ladies,  
I hope all of you are doing well. Here are a couple of reminders. We are in need of funds to send care packages to soldiers either deployed or in need of help at home. Also, we need funds to send bandanas to soldiers. Please send these donations as soon as possible since Christmas is rapidly approaching. Also, please consider being prepared to register to go to Wreaths Across America at the reunion in April. Thanks.  
Pray for our nation and its future. Stand up for what is right and for the future of our children and grandchildren.  
I join Jimmy in wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a very good 2015.  
Sincerely,

Lorretta Segars  
2323 Half-Sectionline Road  
Abertville, Alabama  
35950



### CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Lawrence Jordan

Let me start this off by saying, I can't believe it is time for another article.

Time has certainly flown by this summer and now it is late fall. The crops are about all harvested and the holidays are drawing near.

As we prepare for the holidays let us be thankful for the many blessings we have, first for our health, for our family, and for this great country of ours where we can still worship without persecution. So many people in other countries have to hide to worship. Which brings me to the first holiday we will celebrate which is Thanksgiving, let us not only give thanks for our freedoms but remember those less fortunate in countries that suppress this freedom we take so lightly.

And the last holiday of the year and one of the most important, Christmas. The birth of the Savior. Let us also remember in our prayers to include our country's leaders.

In conclusion I hope to see you at the next reunion, may God bless. Toby

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK



Executive Meeting May 1, 2013,

8:30 am

Submitted by Gary Quint

In attendance are Jim Sheppard, John Topper, Jay Copley, Parker Pierce, Gary Quint, Charles McAleer, Richard Guthrie, Harry Wilson, President James Segars.

President Segars brought the meeting to order and announced that Chaplain Parker Pierce wishes to step down and indicated that Toby Jordan was being approached to assume the position of Chaplain.

President Segars then recognized John Topper who discussed the budget for the reunion. The dinner at the National Infantry Museum is getting too expensive and other options will have to be explored for the next reunion.

He also introduced the illustrations specifically made for our reunion, outlining the cost of producing the illustrations for sale.

President Segars then recognized Treasurer Charles McAleer who gave the Treasurer's report.

Jim Sheppard was recognized and stated that he has produced a new CD, which details our activity for the first three months in Country. He also named a number of family members of casualties attending the reunion and associated activities.

Harry Wilson and Jay Copley indicated that we would have a M113, on loan, which would be displayed at Battalion Headquarters. Negotiations are being made to have an M113 permanently placed at the Battalion.

John Topper announced that General Carmen Cavezza, Ret. would be the guest speaker at the Memorial Service on Thursday, May 2, 2013. He also indicated that there would be building dedications to five former 1/50 Soldiers who became casualties in war.

Company A Building will be dedicated to 1Stg. Malcom Dulac, Vietnam. Company B will be named in honor of Sgt. Drew Shipley, Vietnam, Company C named in honor of PFC Thomas Wilson, Afghanistan, Company E SSG Johnston Dunlop, Vietnam, Company F Sgt. Adam

Kennedy, Iraq, Head Quarters is dedicated to 1Stg. Kenneth Elwell, Afghanistan and the Battalion Athletic Field named in honor of Cpl. Donald Lowe, Vietnam. Plaques would be presented to the families in attendance to recognize these honors.

Jim Sheppard and Charles McAleer recommended that the future reunions remain at Fort Benning and that this recommendation would be presented to the membership for a vote.

Jim Sheppard brought up for discussion our monument be updated. After investigation it has been determined that there are thirty names on the monument of persons not associated with 1/50. He wanted to explore the cost of updating the monument to more accurately reflect our casualties.

Jay Copley offered to research a local company to obtain the cost of updating.

The Executive meeting was closed at 9:00 am.



From the Editor

For the past couple months I have been searching for a new computer as not only one but both computers finally bid us adieu. I guess we should have expected it, they were both over 10 years old and I have been told by several that the life expectancy of a computer is two years.

So, as I have been trying to get adjusted to doing the newsletter and making several mistakes, I am praying this will be the last big change I have to make.

Thank you for bearing with me as I adjust to making sure the paper is done properly and am seeking to find a style that best suits, not only me, but all of you as well.

Please remember this is your newsletter and any and all ideas are welcome.

I pray each of you had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to spending time with family and friends during this holiday season.

Merry Christmas, God bless.

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Submitted by Topper

1st – Friday morning graduation ceremony.

The reunion dates are set: 28 April thru 1 May.  
 28th Tuesday evening – Reception  
 29th – Wednesday Annual meeting AM, TBD  
 afternoon, BBQ evening  
 30th – Thursday morning Turning Blue  
 ceremony and dedication of new memorial piece; TBD  
 afternoon, banquet evening

Will have exact times and complete events for next  
 newsletter. FYI, don't have bus fees yet and we are  
 incurring significant expense on the memorial addition.  
 As a result, we are increasing the registration fee to  
 ensure we at least break even.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association Reunion 28 April - 1 May 2015 Fort Benning, Georgia **Registration Form**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt  
 Size \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Use separate sheet for additional guests)

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Host Hotel is  
 Hampton Inn and Suites, Phenix City, AL)

**Host Hotel is the Hampton Inn, Phenix City (866)799-3642 for reservations). YOU MUST make your hotel reservations DIRECT with either the Hampton or other hotel of your choice. Submitting this registration form does NOT cover your hotel reservations. Ask for 1/50 rate of \$89 (27 Apr - 2 May) cutoff for this rate is 5 April. Hotel POC: Michelle Spivey, 706-615-2900.**

<b>Registration Procedure:</b>	<b>Registration Cutoff Dates:</b>	<b>Registration Costs:</b>
		(Per Person)
	<b>Early Registration: (Before 20 April, 2010)</b>	<b>\$225</b>
	<b>After 20 April: ... ..</b>	<b>..\$250</b>

**Mail this form along with check to:** Gary Quint, Secretary  
 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association  
 438 Fairway Lane  
 Kirkwood MO 63122

**Please make check payable to: 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association**

<b>Registration Fee Includes:</b>	28 Apr Evening Reception	1 May Buses	Dinner for Guests
	29 Apr Lunch, Dinner, Buses	Gifts for Hosts	Memorial Addition
	30 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses	Event Shirt	Door Prizes

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

John Edward Mogan

The following are excerpts taken from an email I received from Jim Shephard and an email he was sent by Chuck Spotts.

Jim Sheppard writes: Chuck Spotts was the driver for the APC of the 1st Quad, 3rd Platoon of our Alpha Company. On December 15th, 1967, during an assault on enemy positions in the southern Nui Mieu Mountain area, Chuck was badly wounded when his APC was struck by an enemy rocket propelled grenade. As the rest of the squad attempted to exit the APC...enemy fire rained in the exposed APC and John Mogan, Chucks good friend, was killed in action.

Chuck writes the following account of finding his dear friends gravesite: We arrived on a Sunday and there were no county offices open to check, as I had called the Penobscot County Office before heading to Maine, but never heard anything back as to where I might start. My wife and I chose the two smaller cemeteries and went up and down each row looking for Johns gravestone. The first smaller cemetery, closer to town, yielded nothing, but Maplewood Cemetery, further out in the woods of Maine, provided to be the correct place. Finding that grave brought significant closure for me. My parents had gone to John's funeral and drove up early Christmas Morning from Elmira, NY to Clifton, Maine, to arrive at the funeral home in time to pay respects for me. The funeral was held the next morning, December 26th. Can you imagine what Christmas meant to the surviving family and friends from that point on?

We are so blessed each year to be able to celebrate the holidays with friends and family. May this help us to remember and to reach out to those who have recently lost a loved one or who are in need of assistance.



To visit John's memorial page go to:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/images/photos/back/pages/back14.htm>



## Remember

This is your newsletter. Please feel free to send article ideas or articles to:

Lorene Burch  
126 S. Ohio, Apt. i  
Salina, Kansas 67401  
Email: [thelmaburch@gmail.com](mailto:thelmaburch@gmail.com)  
Phone: 785-452-2978 (please leave a message)

Blessings this Christmas Season.

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Gary Quint  
438 Fairway Lane  
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

