



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

July 2010/Reunion Edition

Reunion Numbers Are Setting New Records

With new registrations coming in almost daily, it appears that the estimates made by your Reunion Committee may have been a little bit short. SHORT-SIGHTED, that is! In actuality the number of troopers who have already returned their registration forms along with the required dollars have surpassed our estimates in nearly every category. When we compare those registrations to similar timeframes from previous reunions it is not hard to believe that this may be the best attended gathering we've ever experienced. Our room block now stands at 129 rooms, nearly twice the figure we were anticipating. We think that's just great on the planning side of the coin and it should psych you up with a promise of meeting one another again, maybe for the first time in 40-odd years.

Looking at the attendees and hotel rooms of the last three reunions in



Ft. Riley, Gettysburg and Branson; we are excited about the potential size of this firebase, the growing percentage of first-timers and our return to Washington, D.C. after a ten year hiatus. For returnees there are new monuments and ten years worth of changes to revisit. For the first timers there are all the same choices we had to make a decade ago. And for many

of the troopers and their families, this will be their first approach to "The Wall", the Vietnam Memorial. It may still be as difficult as you envisioned it to be ...for all of us. But it will be comforting, as well, to go to that polished, black stone, read the names and look at our own images mixed together once again; Brothers, families and friends.

Elections In Washington

What better spot than our nation's Capital to elect our new Officers? Yes Sir, that's the same question that I asked each of you to consider in a previous *Blackhawk Bulletin*. It's even more important that you give this topic some serious consideration because we have even more news coming from the election scene.

Since that newsletter reached you last August we have had a couple more additions. Jerry Barker will not be seeking re-election to his post as Vice-President or President and Rick Gray will be giving up his position of Secretary. Tom Schluchter has indicated that he will stay on as Treasurer and Registrar for another term to provide his experience.

I announced my decision to give up the office of Association President in the August '09 edition of the *Blackhawk Bulletin*. It has been my honor to serve as your President since 1998. But now, family and health matters must end this grand experience.

You will be choosing your new President, Vice-President and Secretary during our reunion. I know of no other persons who wish to be replaced at this time. You will be advised of the date, time and place for the casting of your ballots. Many of you are well qualified to do these jobs. Please give these positions serious thought and consideration. But you **MUST** be willing to leave the shadows of the 'group'. Step away from the 'safety' of being 'just one of the guys'. **MOVE** to the front of those Blackhawks assembled here. And **LEAD!** Serving them will be your satisfaction.

We Need Your Completed Registration Now!!!

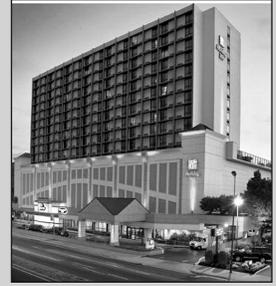
If you are planning to attend the 2010 Reunion in DC and have not returned your registration form, ***please take the time to fill it out, enclose the required fees and mail it today.*** You will find a copy of that form in this Newsletter. Be sure to fill out both sides of the form so we will have the information we need to complete all the tasks that need to be done in the short time remaining before the Reunion.

You may notice that we are asking for payment in advance for registrations, banquet meals and extra shirt and hat orders. This is because the 'good ole days of the handshake agreement' are lost to the ages, replaced by large corporations and their policies. Our contract calls for all of the Association's hotel related expenses to be paid 3 weeks before our Reunion. These costs include items such as Hospitality Room rental, banquet meals, audio/visual equipment, etc. Additionally, the bus company fees must be paid at the same time.

There are other reasons that we need to know about your attendance at the Reunion but two big ones are the shirt/hat orders and your nametags. We want to be sure that we have the shirts that you need in the sizes that you need and that we have a correctly printed nametag for you. However, those items don't magically appear as we wish they would and much work has to be completed in a few short weeks. Regarding the shirts and hats, your trooper registration includes one shirt and one hat but if you want additional items, you can fill out the "extras" portion of the form and remit the fees with your registration. We will have a very limited "extra" inventory at the Reunion and they will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. To guarantee that you have the items that you want, place your order now and remember, the deadline for ordering these products in time for the reunion is August 1, 2010.

We ask you on the form if you are planning to stay at the Holiday Inn/National Airport and we want to be sure that you know that this is information for the Association only and that you must make your own room reservations with the Hotel.

Lastly, we have had some requests to have pictures on nametags. We are still working on how this can be accomplished but if you can bring a ***very small*** (1.5" x 2") "IN COUNTRY" photo of yourself, we will try to have space on your nametag to accommodate the photo.



Holiday Inn/ National Airport is Headquarters Hotel

Located in Arlington, Virginia, our home-away-from-home is less than a mile from Reagan National Airport and just across the Potomac River from more monuments, museums and buildings than you could visit in three weeks, let alone our three-day reunion. The Holiday Inn offers a free airport shuttle every 30 minutes so if you are flying, just find the Ground Transportation area and wait for the Holiday Inn/National Airport van. Be sure you get in the right van as there is another Holiday Inn close by and they also offer a shuttle service.

Our Hotel offers all the usual amenities including HD TV, coffee makers, hair dryers and high-speed Internet access and free parking for Hotel guests. Check out their website at www.hinationalairport.com. The Holiday Inn is located at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA, 22202. You have all the information you need, yes? So **make that reservation** by calling the hotel directly at 703-684-7200 or by using their toll-free service at 1-800-465-4329. Whichever selection you choose, make it clear to them that you are part of the **2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association** room block and that your rate is \$89.00 per night, plus tax at 10.25%. But don't wait too long. This very favorable room rate **EXPIRES ON AUGUST 17, 2010** and will **not** be extended for reservations made beyond that date.

Order Your Challenge Coin

The front is red and white with our crest

The back is green with a gold tank and sabers



Yes, I want _____ Coin(s) at a cost of \$12 each, (shipping and handling included).
Enclosed is my check made payable to: 2-1 CAV in the amount of \$_____
Mail my order to:

Where Do You Need To Be . . . When?

If you have attended any of the previous reunions, you will find that our daily agenda stays basically the same. From the excitement of Thursday's opening registrations to the quiet sadness of Sunday morning's farewells. As you may have noticed, we've tried to offer you a reunion that will give you something to do each day of your Washington, D.C. visit while still giving you adequate personal time to check out those places of importance to you. But, while this pattern continues to rule the days, each reunion has a schedule of its own as well. So, we will use this portion of the Bulletin to acquaint you with the details that may affect your plans on each of these morning wake-ups.

Thursday is registration day and once you have that accomplished your remaining hours are yours to spend, as you like almost. At 7:00 pm we would recommend that you are present in the Hospitality Room for our informational meeting. This gathering is offered to you as a means to answering any questions you may have following our more detailed review of each reunion day. One hour is dedicated to this meeting before the ladies are excused to enjoy some time together. All troopers are requested to remain in the Hospitality Room, however, to make the decisions required on matters that pertain to the Association. We will have agendas for all Blackhawks to preview and vote on, with the exception of nomination and election of officers. This agenda item will be tabled on Thursday for action Saturday morning. This delay in selecting our next leaders will provide us with an opportunity to find out who might be willing and capable of becoming our Association's President, Vice-President and Secretary. Troop Representatives are appointed by the line officers following their election. At the conclusion of the men's meeting the Hospitality Room will once more be OPEN FOR BUSINESS and our ladies may rejoin us at their leisure.

Friday's defining activity will find us at the Vietnam Memorial . . . the Wall . . . where we will remember and honor

the sacrifices of our brothers-in-arms. Buses will begin picking up our group at 9:00 am with the goal of transferring each of our members to the vicinity of the monument by 10:30 am. This Memorial Service will begin at 11:00 am. Gen. Daniel Zanini (Ret.) will offer comments and recollections of his time as one of our Platoon Leaders and his "life after Vietnam". Following his remembrances, the names of our KIA's will be read while our troopers construct a wreath to present at the 'Wall'.

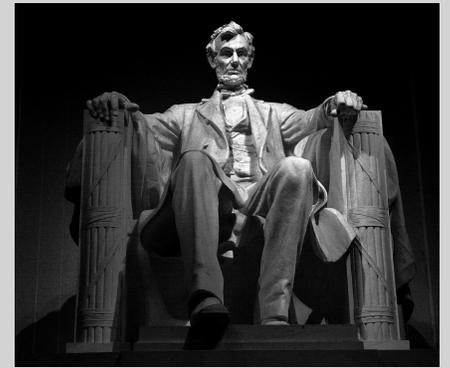
Saturday will allow some of us 'old timers' the luxury of sleeping in a little later than usual. But remember that we are going to table our unit elections on Thursday evening in favor of a Saturday

balloting. Our Business Meeting will reconvene at 9:00 am for nominations and balloting. The rest of your day will be free time until our evening banquet.

Happy Hour for our Banquet will run from 6:00 – 7:00pm and allow us a little wind-down time before our dinners are served. After 'mess' is finished we will have Gen. John Abrams (Ret.) share a few of his thoughts with us as our keynote speaker. The day will finish up with raffles and auctions (silent and robust). Our 2010 reunion will wind down and disappear over the next few hours and then. . .

SEE YOU SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00!! Bring your own tissue 'cuz I'll be needing mine. Scouts Out!

Getting The Most From Your Sightseeing \$\$\$\$\$



Our hotel offers free shuttle service to the two area Metro Train Stations, one located at Reagan International Airport and the other at the Crystal City underground mall area. With just these two kickoff sites, you will have access to anything that's worth seeing. And, just as importantly, these boarding docks give you control of 'where, when, how, what and who' you will visit to make the most of your free-time opportunities. If you are looking for a lift downtown, the Metro system can put the puzzle together for you, and make sure that you do get back to your pickup and drop off points as you would like.

If touring the National Mall and surrounding monuments is high on your priorities list, we recommend you check out the Tourmobile Sightseeing packages. These trams make continuous loops around the Mall area with stops at more than 40 historic places. They offer one-day rates, two-day packages and some evening tours. You can buy tickets at tickets stations on the Mall or just pay one of the drivers for your pass. Even better, the unlimited 'hop on, hop off' policy doesn't tie you to any kind of schedule and/or visits that may carry no special meaning for you. The Tourmobile is also capable of providing specific tours to many sites outside the 'Beltway' such as Mount Vernon or the Frederick Douglass National Historic Park. The Tourmobile is not the only way to see the sites but it is the one recommended by the National Parks Service.

We hope that you will do some of your own investigating before you get to DC, make a plan that allows you the best chance to see your high priority sites and make the most of your time in our Nation's Capital.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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Need a Hat or Shirt?
Look at the Order Form Inside!

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