



8th Battalion 4th Artillery Association

<http://www.8th-4th-arty.com>

News from the Battalion

July 25, 2009



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Notes from the President - Carl Lanier

Since year 2000 the 8th Battalion 4th Field Artillery Association has held a reunion on even years. For those who have just recently found us, here is a summary of those reunions:

Year 2000	Lawton, Oklahoma
Year 2002	Lawton, Oklahoma
Year 2004	Branson, Missouri
Year 2006	Lawton, Oklahoma (when we dedicated our memorial to our men lost in action)
Year 2008	Washington, D.C.

Each year we find more (or they find us) of our veterans who have lost touch with us since Vietnam. Finding one of our missing is always an exciting moment. We hope that all eventually will join us at our reunions. We will be looking forward to seeing all of you in May of next year. See Gene Ghio's report below.

In the meanwhile, we encourage all of our veterans to join the association, and pay any dues that are owing. However, if you are behind on dues, please do not avoid us. We do not want to lose contact with anyone.

Report on Reunion 2008 by Gerald F. Mazur

In May 2008, the 8th Battalion 4th Artillery Association held its reunion in Washington, D. C. Approximately 130 persons attended. The accommodations, food, and staff at our 4-Star Sheraton hotel were excellent. Our reunion registrations were handled by an outside agency, Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. This arrangement left more time for your Reunion Committee to socialize and enjoy themselves. Many men brought their photo albums to our spacious First Floor Hospitality Room. These mementoes were well received by all who attended and partook of the beverages and snacks. (I personally made sure that hotel security locked this room at midnight - to insure the safety of our personal items.)

After an excellent buffet breakfast, the reunion started Friday morning with a "Get Acquainted" bus tour of the various sights of D. C. This was highlighted by a stop-for-lunch and later a stop at the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) where we posed for a group photo.

A large buffet breakfast (with individually-ordered "made-on-the-spot" omelets) was included in the registration fee for every morning. Afterward, one could sightsee or socialize at our Hospitality Room (which we had every day from early morning until midnight because Saturday, Sunday, and Monday were "free" days). Many took the [recommended] Tourmobile tour-buses which went all over D. C.. These tours included Arlington Cemetery, The National Mall, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, National Archives, Library of Congress, etc. What was nice about these tours is that they were the cheapest and gave us the option of stopping and staying at whatever sight one chose for as long as he desired. All we had to do in order to resume sightseeing was to catch the next bus, because they all followed a similar route. The hotel provided complimentary shuttle service to the nearest stop.

We had our sit-down banquet on Monday evening in the hotel's 16th floor ballroom, which in addition to having plenty of room for everyone, had large picture windows with panoramic views of Washington. Larry Martin was the master of ceremonies. He did a fine job - handling the distribution of our raffle items and keeping the evening moving along.

A number of new faces attended the reunion. MANY THANKS goes to ALL who "find" our men! A highlight for me and several other B Battery members was the attendance of Bill Curry. Bill was my primary section chief during my tour in Vietnam where Bill had been severely wounded. This was Bill's first Association reunion, and we hope to see him at many more. My thanks goes to the entire reunion committee for making the 2008 Reunion a success. Individually, my thanks goes to General Smith and Ed Rutherford for helping with planning the reunion; to Chris Cunningham who helped design our caps, made our poster-board signs, and helped make our battalion lapel pin design a reality; to Terry Johnson for backing me up; to Scott Stevenson who assisted in getting accommodations for Bill Curry; to Association President Carl Lanier and Millard (Smoke) Mack for "restocking" the goodies in our Hospitality Room; to banquet emcee Larry Martin; to Bill Kindt for banquet entertainment; to Terry Johnson and Gene Ghio at the first floor raffle table, and to other behind-the-scenes people.

Reunion 2010 by Gene Ghio - Reunion Chairman

Our 2010 reunion will be in Colorado Springs, Colorado, starting on Thursday, May 20, 2010 and ending with breakfast on Monday, May 24. Reunion headquarters will be at the Academy Best Western hotel in Colorado Springs.

The Academy Best Western has given us a great rate of \$89.00 per night, single or double occupancy, plus a charge of \$10.00 for each additional person per room for up to four guests per room. This rate includes a hot breakfast per paying guest per room per day. The hot breakfast was like the one served at our reunion in Washington, DC in 2008 with eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, ham and all other breakfast items. The hotel will give us the \$89.00 rate for anyone that registers up to three additional nights prior to the start of the reunion. So if you register for the reunion for Thursday through Sunday night, you could arrive as early as Monday, May 17 and enjoy the \$89.00 per night rate for your entire week stay! I have already registered for the week and as per their deal. I have the rate for all seven nights.

There is so much to do in the Denver/Colorado Springs/Pueblo area we suggest that you come early and enjoy the area. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot guarantee the rate following the reunion, as that is the week of the Air Force Academy graduation. However, we have managed to get them to reserve 12 rooms for us for Monday night. Those rooms will go to the first 12 members to register and request a Monday night stay-over.

I was in Colorado Springs this June, and stayed two nights at the Academy Best Western, and found them to be not only military and veteran friendly as they advertise, but also, family friendly. If you have any special request let them know when you make your room reservation; especially if you are requesting a handicapped room. The Academy started taking our reservations on May 24, 2009. Please make your own reservation by calling the Academy on their reservation number (800) 766 8524 or (719) 598-5770. Please be sure to tell them you are making your reservation under the 8th Battalion 4th Artillery.

Our reunion will start at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday May 20, 2010, and will end with the breakfast on Monday, May 24, 2010. The cost of the registration has yet to be determined but we are trying to hold it to what it has been in the past. Many activities have been planned. These include -

- A day of festivities in Pueblo on Friday, with “Little Sister” Ava DeHerrera as our guide;
- A great “Colorado Mex” meal catered at the airplane museum;
- The Saturday Colorado Springs highlight tour; and
- The Saturday night buffet; and
- The Sunday banquet.

Ava DeHerrera and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce has made a substantial donation to help cover some of the costs of our day of frolic in Pueblo. A special thanks to Ava and the Chamber. There are many things to do there and I am sure that Ava has a great day planned for us. On Saturday, we are planning on a highlight tour of the Colorado Springs area. This will be followed by our banquet at the Academy hotel.

Sunday we are on our own to visit in the hospitality room or tour the Colorado Springs area; and of course our banquet. As usual we will have our business meeting prior to the banquet. Also, I hear that Jerry Mazur (“Igor”) is organizing a train ride to the top of Pikes Peak (impressive at 14,110 ft) for Sunday. The banquet is our last “official” reunion function, but hotel guests will have breakfast coupons for Monday morning.

If possible please bring your family and friends. As you will see when you get there, the hotel has a great setup for our hospitality room located near an outside smoking area and inside swimming pool only a few feet away.

STAND BY - Additional details and the reunion registration form will be mailed to you toward the end of 2009 or early 2010.

***Treasurer's Report by Charles Adams
From April 1, 2008 to March 2, 2009***

Cash on hand as of April 1, 2008		\$19,401.85
Deposits received from April 1, 2008 through March 2, 2009		<u>4,208.50</u>
Subtotal		\$23,610.35
Expense Reimbursements -		
Charles White - postage and web site expense	\$371.56	
Terry Johnson - Reunion 2008 expenses	15.00	
Millard Mack - Reunion 2008 expenses	148.74	
Carl Lanier - Reunion 2008 expenses	166.08	
Gerald F. Mazur - postage	41.02	
Armed Forces Reunion Expenses	3,835.16	
Battalion office supplies	19.25	
Gragg Monument - more work on 8/4th Monument	<u>225.00</u>	
Subtotal		<u>\$ 7,155.70</u>
Balance on hand as of March 2, 2009		<u>\$16,454.65</u>

NOTE: Of the battalion's 851 living Vietnam veterans, 208 were dues-paying members in 2008. This includes 72 members who have paid up lifetime memberships, and an additional 60 members who have paid dues for years beyond 2009. This means that a substantial portion of the balance on hand represents prepaid dues for future years.

Taps - Our Men Who Have Died Since Our Last Publication by Charles White

<u>Name</u>	<u>Battery</u>	<u>Years</u>
Brown, Harry E.	C	70-71
Easom, James R.	Svc	70-71
King, Harry J.,	HQ	68-69
Lieske, Eugene A.	C	67-68
Slaydon, Kenny	Svc	70-71
Wells, Blick C.	HQ	67-68
White, John D.	B	67-68

Association Officers and Board of Trustees

At the last meeting of the Association in Washington, D.C. the following members of the Board of Trustees and Officers were wlected:

Officers

Carl Lanier, President
Brian O'Neill, Vice-President
Bill Prichard, Secretary
Charles Adams, Treasurer

Members of Board of Trustees

Charles Adams	Gene Ghio	Fred James
Bill Kindt	Terry Johnson	Carl Lanier
Larry Martin	Gerald Mazur	Brian O'Neill
Bill Prichard	Charles White	Ken Zahn

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