

## 39<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION ALUMNI NEWS



October, 2017

www.39thengrbn.com

President	Bill Ray
Vice President	David Romans
Secretary	Jim Lewis
Treasurer	Jim Shamblen
Chaplain	Fr. Vasilios (Billy) Bassakyros
Sgt. at Arms	Mike Male

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

In approximately 1 month we will all be together once more and it will be good to see everyone again. This will be the final newsletter before the reunion and it is our hope that by reading this, some will decide that this is the year to attend. As I have said many times "if you haven't been to our reunion, you don't know what you are missing." It is always great to see everyone again; I don't believe I have ever heard any lies, but I am positive that the truth has been stretched to the limits.

This has been a devastating summer for so many what with the wildfires out west and hurricanes all along the Gulf of Mexico. It is our hope and prayers that all have come through this with their health and sanity.

In the last newsletter we gave you an article on the new 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion Commander. It is our pleasure to tell you that LTC Sawser is planning on making the D.C. reunion and we are hoping that he will be our guest speaker at the banquet.

Now for a big "Blue Bull Welcome" to our newest member. Welcome Home Brother; we look forward to seeing you at one of our future reunions.

#### **NEW MEMBER**

Daniel Crager 137LE 70-71

Please remember to send me any changes to your contact information so we are able to stay in touch.

There is more complete information about this year's reunion included in our newsletter. Please make your reservations today; we have already got quite a few reservations made. We have reserved

Webmaster	Walter Lester
Historian	Jerry Bright
Member at Large	Mike Shaw
Member at Large	Oly Guerra
Past President	Bruce Fonnest
Reunion Chair	Gale Helser

seats for 39ther's for the ceremony at the "Wall" on Veterans Day. Again this year we will be looking for volunteers to participate in the "Reading of Names on the Wall"; please contact Jerry Bright at jbrightone@comcast.net. Carolyn and I are looking forward to seeing you all.

BROTHERS THEN, BROTHERS NOW, BROTHERS FOREVER

Bill Ray 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt. C Co. 67-68 bill39th@sbcglobal.net 817-239-0787 (Cell)

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This year, we will nominate and elect new officers for the upcoming bi-annual term. Our 2-year term of our present officers is drawing to an end and we need to fill some positions with interested members. It could be you. This is your organization and we are looking for a few members to step up and grab the bull by the horns. Consider spending a little of your time to furthering the growth and progress of our fine organization. New faces often mean new ideas and new growth; all organizations need changes of officers to avoid becoming stagnant and to bring in a different perspective on how we operate and grow. If you are even slightly interested, just take a moment and talk to any officer to get an idea of what is involved. You will not be left out there all alone. All of our officers and past officers are your resource to help guide you through the transition.

# LAST CALL

We are down to the wire for Reunion 2017 reservations. On October 9th, our room block at the Dulles Hilton with our guaranteed \$99 rate will expire. If you have not made your reservation, please "git er done". We still have rooms available and are looking to have the biggest turnout this year than any reunion in the past. The Hilton has agreed to make the discounted rate available after Oct. 9th on a spaceavailable basis. If the hotel is getting close to being sold out, you could be able to get a room, but the cost could go as high as 3 times the contracted quote. So Book NOW.

The tentative itinerary for the reunion is subject to change depending on last minute adjustments that may have to be made, but here is the itinerary as it stands so far.

### **ITINERARY 2017 REUNION**

Thursday	6:00-9:00a Breakfast
November 9	12:00 Registration Red Fox Room
	4:00p General membership meeting
	& Election of Officers
	6:00p Hospitality room open & Pizza
	Party
Friday	6:00-9:00a Breakfast
November 10	9:00a Late registration & hospitality room open
	Open day to see the sites or enjoy the comradery
Saturday	6:00-9:00a Breakfast
November 11	1:00p Ceremony at "The Wall" with
Veterans Day	• •
	4:00-6:00p Hospitality room closed for banquet prep.
	6:00p Social hour cash bar and hors d'oeuvres
	7:00p Banquet
	8:00p Guest speakers,
	announcements, raffles
	9:00p Hospitality room open
Sunday	6:00-9:00a Breakfast
November 12	8:00a-12:00 Farewell in hospitality room and clean up

The hotel shuttle will be available all reunion days for airport runs to Dulles. The shuttle runs to and from the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Smithsonian Air & Space Center, Metro station round trips and local attractions and restaurants.

You will notice that there is ample time available for you to make plans for sightseeing on your own. We will be afforded seating at the ceremonies at "The Wall" on Veterans Day and you can still reserve your seats by contacting Jerry Bright at 865-690-0443 or jbrightone@comcast.net.

If you have not sent your registration form in yet, please mail it today. We need to get our head counts for the activities and for making name badges. Gale Helser, Reunion Chair HHQ, 67-68 bluebullvn@yahoo.com 956-367-0999 (cell)

# **GUEST SPEAKER**

Our Guest Speaker for our banquet will be LTC Brian D. Sawser, 39th BEB Commander. He is currently stationed in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

A native of Salem, Oregon, LTC Sawser graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1999. He has served in Schweinfurt, Germany, Kosovo, Grafenwoehr and Bamberg, Germany and Ramadi, Iraq as well as the Khost Province, Afghanistan.

LTC Sawser is married to the former Ms. Susanne Poetzl of Wuerzburg, Germany. They have three daughters and one son: Sophia (11), Helena (8), Johanna (6), and Jonathan (9 months).

His biography can be found in the July, 2017 newsletter.

Final Reservation Deadline: October 9th Call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) Reference the 39th Engineer Block to receive the \$99 rate

<u>39th ENG BN Reunion 2017 – Washington, DC – Nov 9-12</u> <u>Dulles Hilton, Herndon, VA</u>		
Name	for name badge	
Spouse/Guest name	for name badge	
Guest name	for name badge	
Guest name	for name badge	
Guest name	for name badge	
Unit & Years in VN E-mail address		
AddressCity	StateZip	
Home phone Cell phone		
Emergency contact & Phone		
Total enclosed (min. deposit \$100 – Balance due upon arrival or Pay in full.) Total \$   (Fully refundable prior to Nov. 1, 2017 if cancelation is necessary)		
If paying by credit card: Circle one: VISA MasterCard	Discover American Express	
# S-digit Code on Back of Card: or 4-digit Coded on Front of American Express		
Describe any special needs (i.e., room amenities, mobility issues, dietary considerations, etc.)		
Arriving via (check one)flying ( Dulles Reagan Nation (Dulles has free shuttle. Reagan National does not.)	al) driving	
Mail Reservation Form and payment to: Gale Helser 941 W. Rio Guaymas Green Valley, AZ 85614		
Make checks payable to: 39th Eng Bn		



**39th Engineer Battalion Alumni** 941 W. Rio Guaymas Green Valley, AZ 85614

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