



Dear 716th Reunion Members,

To our delight, we're still hearing from many of you about how much you enjoyed our last reunion in Branson. It took a lot of people to help pull it all together & many "thank yous" and acknowledgments went out but in case there is anyone we overlooked please know it wasn't intentional in any way! We truly appreciated everyone's help and donations. We're sorry that despite our efforts we couldn't put together a "memory book" from that reunion, but hopefully we can find a "good" photographer to help us do that before the next reunion.

PLEASE remember to check your old orders, pictures or letters you may have tucked away from service time for names & addresses of fellow Vietnam MPs you served with and forward them on to us; it's one of the greatest leads for us to locate lost MPs for our roster. Many times they may have moved but their family may still be in the same area and put us in touch with the Vietnam Veteran we're trying to locate.

We are happy to announce that Mike Young has volunteered to help with setting up the bi-annual reunions for our group. He has already been busy since our last meeting in August 2010 at Branson; we have selected St. Louis, MO. as the site for 2012 and Mike picked late August or September as when it will be held. A committee has a site visit planned to review several hotels Mike has been in touch with to make the final decision and the information will be posted on the 716th website very soon (and then followed up in the newsletter later this year). Our own guru webmaster Bill Fecht does amazing things to keep us up to date & on top of everything! Please visit the website www.716mpvietnam.org often to be in the know! It's the first place we put anything you need to know~ such as the reunion & medical news that may be important to you. We also post on there when fellow members are ill or have passed away when it isn't possible to contact everyone by email; and it also gives you a chance to keep in touch and attempt to contact a fellow MP vet you have lost contact with- it is so surprising how many veterans & their families read our website "just looking". You may find someone looking for you!! So be sure to sign the guestbook when you visit the website. **Another interesting website www.rokfv.com (ROK Vietnam War Veterans website) we have been invited to visit by Jae-sung Chung, the English language webmaster at that website. He learned of our "esteemed" site (as he called it, a very nice compliment to us!) You may enjoy looking at this site in your spare time.**

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If you have not already done so, there is one other website you may want to check out if you have or are near retiring. <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>. What it boils down to is this: you qualify for a higher social security monthly payment because of your military service, for active duty any time between 1940 thru 2001 (the program ended in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application-which can make a BIG difference in your monthly payments! **THIS IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC BENEFIT you MUST ask for it!** and you must bring your DD214 to the Social Security office when you apply for your retirement!





MEDICAL ISSUES OF INTEREST:

I am going to take liberal license to condense a story for you from the Vietnam Veterans of America paper in which a Vietnam veteran who serves on the council in New York State has written about his own experience recently. Through some simple blood tests to do nothing but increase his life insurance policy, this veteran discovered that despite NO SYMPTOMS he had Hepatitis C! After 1 year of taking Interferon, the hepatitis C became inactive & he was told by VA and private physicians that after 5 years of no signs of activity of Hep C, it could not return. After a long stretch of feeling well, a chronic cough got to be too much, a trip to the ER & a CT Scan showed a spot on his liver which was diagnosed as cancer caused by Hepatitis C causing him to lose 1/3 of his liver & directly after his gall bladder was removed due to cancer- caused by Hepatitis C. Lesson shared? Hepatitis C may show up a very long time after Vets return home, if it does INSIST on being checked for cancer of the liver- they go together! There are few symptoms or warning signs of it and it is dangerous & life threatening. If there is any chance you were exposed during your time in country- get tested- get informed. The longer you wait, the more difficult it is to treat. Check it out at www.veteranshealth.org

We always try to include a short article about the continuing work of David and Sharon Sand in their efforts to send packages to 716th MPs stationed anywhere around the world (or other MP BN if they contact Sharon or David). For those who are new to our newsletters~ I will repeat that they send packages year round to our soldiers using donations & rather than exchange birthday or any other gifts between themselves, all that money goes into “goodies” to pack and shipping fees. Below are some examples of email received by Sharon recently; I thought you might enjoy reading it as we again acknowledge their time & efforts. The following came from the 194th Military Police Co. ~ Iraq Centcom



“Dear Mrs. Sand,

Let me start by thanking you and your husband for all your support! I would also like to thank your husband for his service during the Vietnam War. To us older soldiers, it can be somewhat awkward how we are treated and supported by Americans these days compared to how all the Vietnam vets were treated during and after that conflict. Thank you for your service back then and your continued service now. It is truly appreciated.”

E mail #2 ~ also short & to the point comes from Jeremiah currently stationed in Afghanistan~

To Sharon Sand, I would first like to thank you for the support you have shown in this time of war.

You know we could not be doing what we do without the support of loved ones on the home front. People tell me that I am their hero- but even we have heroes! To me- those who served during the Vietnam War are the true heroes! Doing a job they were told they HAD to do without the support like we have today. My father was a Marine during Vietnam & luckily came home alive & in one piece. As for me, this is my 4th deployment. I served 1 yr. in Iraq in 2003, then 2006-07 with the 561st MP Co. (716th MP BN), again in 2009 with the 163rd MP Det (716th MP BN).” Limited space prevents me from putting the entire email in from here on- but I believe it is on our website also!! He did end the email saying no matter what- it is so good to return to base & find a “package ya’ll put together sitting on my bed”. THANK YOU!

In reading these, I hope you can appreciate the feelings & true appreciation these soldiers are trying to express to the Sand’s & our group for caring enough to continue to support fellow MPs over 40 years after our own MPs have come home. Sharon has a personal connection with MANY commanders stationed throughout the world , so she gets first hand feedback as to what is needed by our service people to help make their deployment more comfortable wherever they are away from their home here in the USA. If you feel so inclined, you can contact them to offer support or a donation to help the cause. Anytime a package goes out with your help in any way, a note is included with all of your information. To contact David & Sharon, please use their email address davids@716mpvietnam.org or call them at 513-229-0873. Or feel free to contact any of your officers listed on the first page of this newsletter.

SICK CALL

We wish to send out our best wishes to All of our members that are not feeling well at this time. Two that we know of are Donald Roush & Bill Purnell who have both made far too many trips to the doctor’s offices and the VA hospitals. Please keep them in your thoughts.

At the Branson reunion, there was an author present, Ted Pannell, selling his book “ Vietnam Stories-Dreams to Nightmares”. He sold many copies and is still getting requests for the book. If you would like to preview or purchase a copy please visit the following website <http://vietnamstories.tateauthor.com>



Before we go any further, please let me remind you ANY and ALL checks you write to this reunion for any reason, (we're sorry, but we can not accept credit cards,) MUST be made out to **716th MILITARY POLICE BN VIETNAM REUNION**. Please mail your checks to **Duane Hursey at 520 550th Street in Shelby, IA 51570**. The Hursey's phone number etc. are on the first page of this newsletter if you need anyother information or help. This information may come in handy if you haven't paid your dues which were due in January- same \$15 as it has always been. Your \$\$\$ help us with mailings, researching out more MPs, phone bills (OUCH!), tax filing fees and other costs of running a business. We appreciate any support in our efforts ~ all dues and donations help tremendously to keep your reunion going.



SHOP THE 716TH STORE



Again, visit our website to see the exciting items you can still get on line or by calling Duane Hursey (their information is listed on the first page of the newsletter). There are t-shirts, jackets, pins, bumper stickers, patches and so much more! It's not as much fun as "shopping" at the reunions but the online store shows you up close pictures and descriptions of each item and Duane or Jan can tell you how many of what sizes are available. PLEASE do not ever send in an order and a check without talking to them first- either by phone or email to be sure your items are available! It will save problems and heartaches for everyone involved. The store is open year round for gift giving- though some items are not replaced when sold out. If you a have "favorite" item you may want to get a spare before it goes out of supply forever. Gift giving goes on around the year so remember that website www.716.vietnam.org for that MP in your life!

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IN MEMORY 2011

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AVONT, MASSENBURG 70,71 DIED 2010
 BAKER, DONALD W. CO B: 68 DIED 2-2010
 CLAYTON, GREG R. CO C 69 DIED 12-12-2010
 COBB, ROBERT L. CO.C 66,67 DIED 10-8-2010
 ELLIOTT, OREACLE E., 67 & 68 DIED 6-10-2007
 GUARRE, JOHN Co. A 65-66 DIED 8-30-2010
 GRAU, WILLIAM F. Co. A 63,64, 65 DIED 1-20-2011
 GREEN, RICHARD CO C 66, 67 DIED 2-2010
 HANNAH, ORVAL G. CO A. 71 DIED 2-25-2009

MARINO, NICK CO C. 65,66 DIED 11-5-2010
 O'BRENSKI, JOEL CO. B 67,68 DIED 3- 16-2011
 ONDECK, ANDREW E. CO. A 67,68 DIED 2-28-2009
 OSWALD, TED F. CO C. 68,69 DIED 7-4-2010
 RICHARDS, PAUL ED CO A,C 68,69
 RUTLEDGE, ODISE. CO A. 65 DIED 11-18-2008
 THOMPSON, ROY HQ 67,68 DIED 11-12-2010
 TOWNSEND, ROOSEVELT CO B 71 DIED 5-21-2010

As we bring this letter to a close for now, we have one final request of you~ PLEASE let us know if you move or change emails etc. After a mailing like this one, we get returns with a notice "forwarding has expired" and forwarding lasts for 6-9 months! So we then have to try and track you down and re-mail your newsletters. Besides the time involved, the cost is very high to a small non-profit group like ours. If you move, PLEASE let us know of your changes. We truly appreciate your help in this matter. Our last mailing went out well before Christmas and we got what we "hope" will be our last returned envelope about 3 weeks ago. Doesn't say much for our postal system either does it? Thanks for giving us a hand~

We, the officers and all of the board members want to again thank all of the members for your continued support throughout our many years of being in operation. It's been 25 years since our first reunion in 1986. As the years roll on, we continue to enjoy finding more 716th MPs and helping them find their way to our reunions to be with all of you. As always, take care ~ be safe ~ and keep in touch with each other and with us.

LEX ET ORDO

DUANE & JAN HURSEY

TOM & EDNA MALOTKE

