

Summer 2019

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



### Changes at the Helm (or the flagpole, or whatever you call it)

Fellow Railsplitters,

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served as your president the last three years. The position I held on the Board has been personally fulfilling and has taught me more than I could have hoped. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to gain more insight into such a great organization, with a fantastic group of people.

I am proud of all we accomplished these past years and I have no doubt your Board will continue to be successful in the future. You can be proud of the strong Board you currently have and the support that is given by our membership.

I look forward to watching the organization continue to progress and grow in the years to come. I will continue to work with the board and participate as a member. See you at future events.

Dean P. Orley COL (USA Retired)

Past President 84th Railsplitters Association, LTD



### Summer Greetings Fellow Railsplitters!

Our summer was long in arriving; I'm hoping you have found it to be happy, fun filled and safe. I am truly honored and excited about being your new president and look forward to dealing with the challenges that will continue to make our organization successful and rewarding.

I have been presented with the difficult task of following in Dean's footsteps. During his tenure this organization has had many successes and that is attributed to the leadership he provided. I will do my very best to meet the challenges and to continue the outstanding traditions put in place by Dean and his predecessors. Thank you, Dean, for all you have done for this organization and the mentoring you provided me for many years.

For those that don't know me, I served 33 years, all but one in the 84th Division. I entered the 84th Training Division as a Private First Class in the Army Reserve Civilian Acquired Skills Program. With my degree in Food Service Management I was enlisted as a 94B (Cook). I worked my way up from the battalion level to division headquarters, retiring when the command made the move to Fort Knox, KY. Twenty-nine years I served as a Military Technician again serving at different echelons of command. My final assignment was at the division headquarters



### Inside this issue

Camp Hometown Heroes .....	2
Benefits .....	3
Memories .....	4 & 5
Sunshine Club .....	6
Jerry and Lisa's Travels .....	6
84th Board Changes .....	7
Golf Tournaments .....	8

### Upcoming Special Events

- RAD at Ft McCoy—6 Sep 2019
- War Memorial's Stone Golf Outing—7 Sep 2019
- Steak Cook Out—14 Sep 2019
- Bill McKeown Memorial Golf Outing—13 Oct 2019

## Please Join Us!



Continued from Page 1

as the Command Executive Officer (CXO). During my tenure as the CXO, I served under the direct leadership of six Commanding Generals.

The Board's next challenge will be our annual Steak and Chicken Fry that will be held at the Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith Legion Post #449 on Saturday, September 14th. The flyer for this event is included in this newsletter. We have put in a requisition for good weather. Our entertainment this year is back by popular demand. Come out and hear the hits from the Big Band Era. Initial planning has begun for our annual Valentine's Dinner and Dining Out. Details on those events will be coming soon. Don't forget the "Retiree Appreciation Day" at Fort McCoy on September 6, 2019.

Do you have a battle buddy that would enjoy the camaraderie and memory sharing that occurs at this annual event? We'd like to see this event's attendance surpass those of the past.

In closing I'd like to put a plug in for the "BUGLER", if you have any information that would be beneficial to the organization or photos of fellow comrades please share them with Mary Oppliger, editor at railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.

Goldie Schuh, MSG (USA Retired)

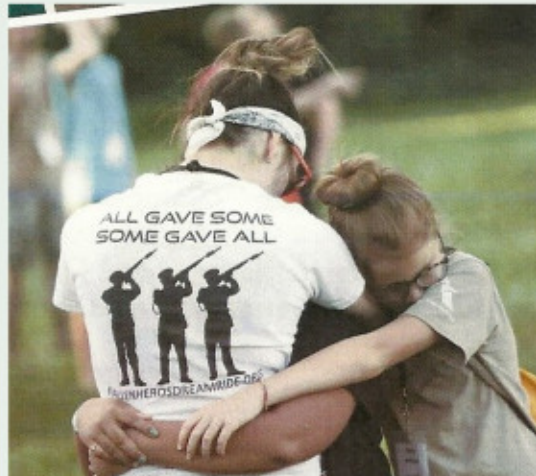
President, 84th Railsplitters Association LTD

## 84th Railsplitters' Charitable Giving



At this year's Annual Meeting, Sue Turowski presented information about Camp Hometown Heroes. This organization provides children of fallen US Military Heroes the chance to experience friendship, healing and growth at a traditional summer camp. But these children often face deep depression, anguish, isolation and even PTSD. While services existed for grieving adults—prior to Camp Hometown Heroes—there were few programs for the children of fallen heroes. This camp brings together children who can understand, support and bond with each other, creating life-long relationships. The organization helps campers learn skills to cope with their grief and build resilience in their lives.

The Association had pledged to give \$500 plus up to \$500 to match any donations given the evening of our Annual Meeting. Our generous members donated \$1,040! Therefore, the total donation made was \$2,040!







## BENEFITS, BENEFITS, BENEFITS

• **Army & Air Force Exchange Service**— The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (the Exchange) has an enduring mission to provide quality merchandise and services to its customers at competitively low prices and to generate earnings that provide a dividend to support Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command (FMWRC) programs. Retired Reserve Service members and their ID card-holding Family members are eligible to purchase merchandise and services from the Exchange. Shop online at [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com)

**Military Retirement Pay**— Military retirement pay based on age or length of service is taxable and must be included as income for Federal income taxes. The amount a Retiree pays to participate in the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) is excluded from taxable income. For Social Security tax purposes, military retirement pay is not considered earned income and no Social Security payroll taxes (also known as Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes) are withheld from military retirement pay. All retirement payments received from the U.S. military retirement system (including payments from the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and the Survivor Benefit Plan) are exempt from Wisconsin income tax.

**Burial and Memorial Benefits**—Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and members of Reserve Components may be eligible for the following Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits: (1) burial in a VA national cemetery; (2) government-furnished headstone or marker; (3) Presidential Memorial Certificate; (4) burial flag; and in some cases, (5) Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances.

**Burial in Arlington National Cemetery**— Eligibility for Interment (Ground Burial of Casketed or Cremated Remains) Any Veteran who is retired from active military service with the Armed Forces. This includes any Veteran who is retired from the Reserves is eligible upon reaching age 60 and drawing retired pay; and who served a period of active duty (other than for training). If, at the time of death, a retired member of the Armed Forces is not entitled to receive retired pay stemming from his service in the Armed Forces until some future date (gray area retiree), the retired member will not be eligible for ground burial. However, most Veterans, who have at least one day of active service for other than training and an Honorable Discharge, are eligible for above-ground inurnment.

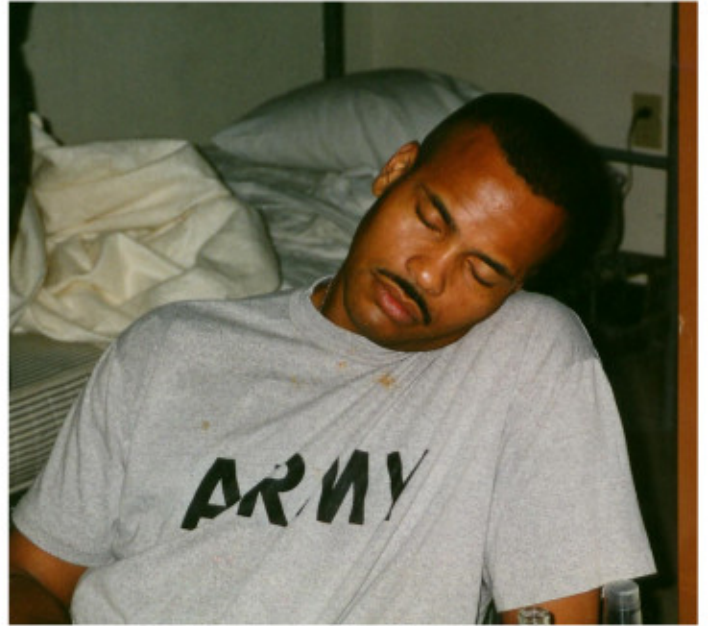
**Government Furnished Headstones or Markers** - Upon request, the VA furnishes (at no charge to the applicant) a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. Flat markers (granite, marble, or bronze) and upright headstones (granite or marble) are available. The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. For eligible Veterans that died on or after 1 Nov 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone.

**Presidential Memorial Certificates** -The Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans.

**Burial Flags** - A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the Army. The flag is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to the United States of America. Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it. Just complete VA Form 27-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes .

**VA Burial Allowances:** Effective July 7, 2014, VA changed its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible Survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving Spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.



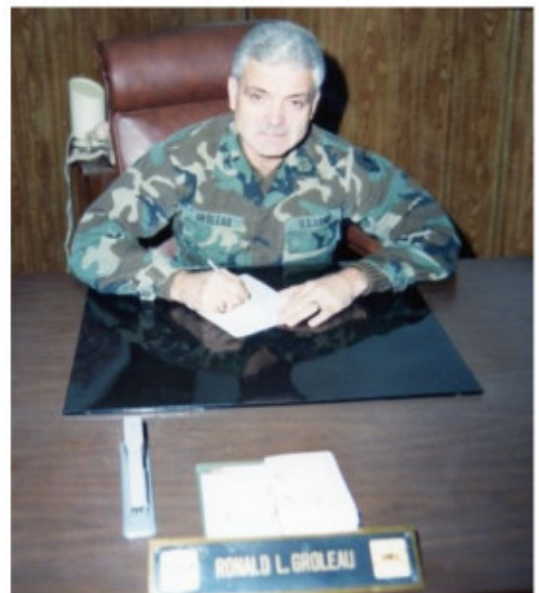




# Memories



*Please send your pictures to [railsplitters84th@yahoo.com](mailto:railsplitters84th@yahoo.com).*





## Traveling the World with Jerry and Lisa Wold

# New England Trip

The end of April saw us taking the toll road out to New England. Our nephew Ryan is assigned as the Command Chaplain at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Navy Chaplains also support Marine and Coast Guard units. His billet authorizes an O-6 Navy Captain, and we wanted to attend his promotion ceremony.

The Coast Guard Academy sits on the Thames River as it enters Long Island Sound. The Navy Submarine Base New London faces it on the other side of the river. Although it doesn't cover a large area, the campus is very picturesque. The sports teams participate in NCAA division II and III sports. While visiting, we stayed at the Army National Guard Base, Camp Nett (formerly Camp Niantic). The base sits on the Niantic River, as it enters Long Island Sound. The new main building, in which we stayed, houses Warrant Officer training. The nightly rate was very modest with a queen size bed. If you can't find a seafood restaurant, you are not trying!

Aside from the state of Connecticut, Lisa's bucket list included visiting Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, none in which I had ever set foot (she still needs Alaska to fill out the set of 50 states). We drove up to and stayed at Hanscom Air Force Base, between Lexington and Concord, MA. Just think, two minutes outside of the gate, and you are on the trail which started the Revolutionary War! The next day we drove down and took the subway into Boston to avoid trying to park downtown. The subway dropped us off at the Boston Commons, which is where the Freedom Trail starts. It passes many of the historic Boston sites, such as the USS Constitution, and you can either walk on your own as we did or take a guided trolley or walking tour.

To get to Maine from Massachusetts, you drive north through a strip of New Hampshire. We stopped at the Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard, which is on the Maine side across from the city of Portsmouth NH. It is closed now, but the Portsmouth Naval Prison still sits on the base. It was opened to house Spanish prisoners from the Spanish American War. It was not a place Marines and Sailors ever wished to be incarcerated (think of Edgar Allen Poe and Vincent Price movies)! On our way back home, we stuck our toe into Vermont to have lunch and check off another state.

I-90 runs all the way to Boston, with mostly toll roads. From Gary, IN, it takes you to Cleveland, OH, up to Buffalo, NY, across northern New York, and into Massachusetts. If you have an Illinois "IPass", it will work in all of these states which use the "EZ Pass".

Happy Traveling!

Jerry and Lisa



## Sunshine Club

Rest in Peace:



Max Oleson  
COL USA Retired  
Asst Div Cdr



Art Helmer  
SFC USA Retired  
2nd Bde,  
Beaver Dam



Lynda Krieger  
nee Kemintzer  
(Bill's wife)



SFC Robert  
Brautigam  
SFC USA Retired  
5091st

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, [maryo\\_44@yahoo.com](mailto:maryo_44@yahoo.com)



## BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Meeting, there were some changes made to the 84th Railsplitters Association board. Dave Gramins, Lori Kunstman, and Mike Simmons, were re-elected to serve three-year terms. In addition, Scott Griffith and Tim Vanderboom were newly-elected to three-year terms. Skip Pochowski and Jerry Wold were appointed to one-year terms. Dean Orley has stepped down as President and Goldie Schuh was elected to serve as the new President. Dean will continue to serve as Past President.

### TIM VANDERBOOM

Tim decided to join the board after Lori Kunstman asked him. He said he'd give it a try!

His favorite memory of being in the 84th is the time spent in the 5091st. Tim said it was the people he met and served with; Annual Trainings were always the highlight of the year—the hard work and of course lots of fun activities during the off duty time. Tim especially liked working with the lower ranking personnel, the ones that may have seemed to be in trouble. He would tell them stories of his time as a specialist 4th class (over 6 years). He could get in a lot of trouble back then. He says they got a new commander that knew that he could contribute to the unit which saved his career in the reserves and led him to becoming a full time employee of the 84th!

He keeps very active in retirement. He likes to travel and visit retired soldiers that he has worked with. He still plays basketball and plays in the WI Senior Games in June and the WI Senior Olympics in August. He goes to Brewer and Packer games and the State Fair where he attends 10 out of the 11 days that it runs! He takes nieces, nephews and grandkids or meets up with friends—some old 5091st members and friends from grade school.

Tim also takes care of his 7 year old great nephew with Autism for three days a week during the school year.



Rare picture of Tim at work!

### SCOTT GRIFFITH

CW2(Ret) Scott E. Griffith served in the 84th Division as a dual-status military technician. Most of his time was served in the 6th BDE(PD) in Waukegan, IL before moving up to the DIV HQ. Mr. Griffith served as the Deputy Director for Leadership Development and the Deputy G1. He also served as the HR Tech for the 6th BDE.

Scott is married to CMSG(Ret) USAF Kathy Griffith. They live in Waterford, WI. Scott serves as the Government Relations Director/ Treasurer for the Paralyzed Veterans of America-Wisconsin Chapter. Scott is the 8th generation in his family to be a combat veteran. Scott is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the DAV, PVA and a Wounded Warrior alumni.



### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Tell Someone! Contact any board member and ask how you can get involved in your Railsplitters Association.

## **84th Railsplitters Association, LTD**

1160 Apple Tree Lane

Brookfield, WI 53005-6804

Phone: 262.782.5645

Email: railsplitters84th@yahoo.com

Please support:

Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith

American Legion Post 449

Home of the 84th Railsplitters

Association

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### *President:*

Goldie Schuh, MSG USA Retired

#### *VP Events/Activities:*

Michael Simmons, CSM USA Retired

#### *VP Communications:*

Scott Griffith, CW2 USA Retired

#### *Secretary:*

Lori Kunstman, LTC USA Retired

#### *Treasurer:*

David Gramins, CSM USA Retired

#### *Past President:*

Dean Orley, COL USA Retired

#### *Board Members:*

Clarence F. Brunner, CSM USA Retired

Ronald DeVillers, CW4 USA Retired

William Krieger, SFC USA Retired

William Ridgely, COL USA Retired

James Schuler, MAJ USA Retired

Peter (Skip) Pochowski, COL USA Retired

Tim Vanderboom, SFC USA Retired

#### *Legal Advisor:*

Michael Berzowski, MG USA Retired

#### *Senior Advisor:*

John Horter, COL USA Retired

#### *Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Oppliger, MAJ USA Retired



### **Golf Tournaments**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "The Stone Golf Outing" will be held on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> with a 1:00pm shotgun start.



Benefitting the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

The Annual Bill McKeown Memorial Outing (for the Colonel's Cup) is set for Sunday, October 13th at Brighton Dale Links in Kansasville, WI. For more information contact Skip Pochowski: peterpochowski@gmail.com

