

Winter 2019

84th Railsplitters Association

Bugler



Happy Holidays Fellow 84th Railsplitters!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season. May 2020 be a healthy and happy year for everyone.

As 2019 comes to a close we are already in planning for 2020. I'd like to thank everyone for making 2019 a very successful year for our association. The Valentine's Dinner and Dining Out were well attended, the entertainment was exceptional, and a good time was had by all. At our annual meeting in June new members were brought onto the board with new officers elected. The Steak Fry is our annual fundraiser. With the funds raised, contributions were made in calendar year 2019 to various Veterans' organizations such as the Milwaukee County War Memorial POW/MIA exhibit, Camp Hometown Heroes, and the Highground Veterans Memorial Park. The Steak Fry in September 2019 was the highlight of events. We had record setting numbers, attendance was up 20%; more monies were collected from memorabilia and door prize tickets sales than previous years; and the silent auction items brought in \$1,538. This was made possible through your generosity and helping spread the word. I want to thank everyone for supporting our Association throughout the year and particularly at the Steak Fry.

- We have started on our 2020 event schedule so mark your calendar to attend the Valentine's Dinner, which will be held on February 15, 2020 at the Western Racquet Club. A buffet dinner will be served with entertainment provided. Your invitation is enclosed with this edition of the Bugler. We are looking forward to you joining us.

The Dining Out will be held on May 16, 2020 at the Western Racquet Club. Again, entertainment will be provided on that evening. Invitations will come out after the start of the new year. We have locked a date for the annual meeting on June 18, 2020 at the American Legion Post #449.

In closing, I'd like to enlist your help in getting the word out on our Association. Word of mouth is the best form of marketing. We are always looking for new members. If you are unsure of someone's membership status, feel free to ask any member of our board or send an email to railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.

Have a happy and safe New Year. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Goldie M. Schuh
MSG, USA Retired
President, 84th Railsplitters Association LTD



Goldie Schuh, President

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Upcoming Special Events

- Valentine's Dinner * 15 Feb 2020
- Dining Out * 16 May 2020
- Annual Meeting * 18 Jun 2020

Please Join Us!

NEW: A Milwaukee RAD (Retiree Appreciation Day) is being planned for 1 May 2020 at the Milwaukee War Memorial. More information to follow.

84th Railsplitters' Charitable Giving

One of the aspects of the 84th Railsplitters Association LTC's mission is to support charitable organizations which benefit current or former members of the United States military. With that in mind, one of our latest donations went to the Highground Veterans memorial Park located west of Neillsville, Wisconsin.

THE HIGHGROUND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

The history of the Highground is described best by the man who started it all, Tom Miller.

"I really began this project many years ago, in 1964, while serving in the 2nd Bn/7th Marines in California. This is where I met my partner, Jack Swender. Jack was from Kansas City, Kansas.

We landed in Qui Nhon, Vietnam on the 7th of July 1965. We soon set up our battalion's headquarters. It was located 15 miles west of that beautiful city in what was once an old French artillery base during the early 1950's. Set off the road, there were huge pits dug into the ground about 5 feet deep. These pits ended up being internment camps for suspected Vietcong.

The final day came as many came in Vietnam: gray, overcast, heavy-aired, with drizzle, but very quiet. If you want an in depth writing on what happened that day, see Solid Contact for 2/7. We had slept in dirty water, 5" deep, just a few nights before and we were soaked to the bones. We smelled and we were tired to say the least. Some small contact was made during the morning. We had just finished lunch in a hut and were moving through a small market hamlet named Ky Phu, when the 80th Battalion of hard-core Vietcong hit us. We were cut into two groups with Jack and I being at the end of the first group.

We didn't have to communicate to each other than the fact that we had to hold the town from being overrun by the Vietcong as they were trying to move a .50 caliber machine-gun into the middle of it. We held them off for I would say 15 – 20 minutes before a recoilless rifle shell blew apart the rear wall of the house we were in. I like to think and I do believe that our action saved many Marines' lives that day, although it did cost Jack his.

I believe it is needless to say that the day that Jack died in my arms was the saddest day in my life. One grows to love another when they are that close. In late 1983, I again picked up the drive to produce our memorial. The mood of America had changed and I had come in contact with a group of Vietnam veterans (Vietnam Veterans of America – Wisconsin delegation). Through them, the outstanding network needed to produce this project could be developed. It wasn't until late 1984 that people started to believe that I was really going to do something and then they slowly fell into place and supported the project.

So it began.

The Highground has evolved to be a memorial park that pays tribute to the dead, and honors the survivors, their service, and their sacrifices. It also pays tribute to the people who supported them when they were away and upon their return.

Today, The Highground has tributes to Vietnam Veterans, Women Veterans, the Native American Vietnam Veterans, WWI Veterans, WWII Veterans, Korean Veterans, and families that supported and lost loved ones through the Gold Star Tribute and Fountain of Tears. In addition, The Highground has a Dove Effigy Mound, A United In Service Tribute, a Meditation Garden, a developmental forest with 4 miles of hiking trails, a museum, and a Learning Center. We have now added a camp just 20 minutes north of The Highground, which will be used to host Veteran Retreats and other Highground events.

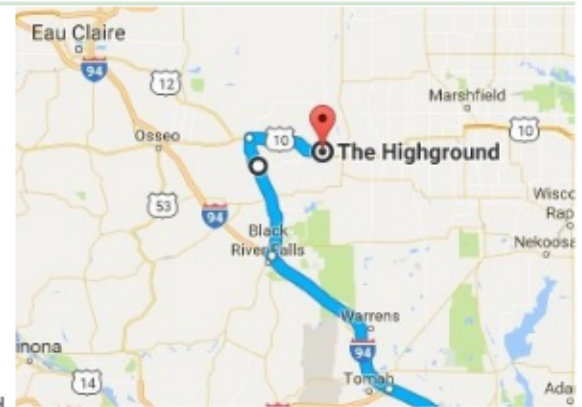
We will continue to pursue our mission of healing and education through added tours, Educational Days, and various expos.

The Highground, once a field with a beautiful view, has grown into a wonderful park encompassing that view, adding to the Spirit of The Highground.

<https://www.thehighground.us/>

Update on Camp Hometown Heroes!

Several members of the 84th Railsplitters Association gathered to help paint the buildings of the Camp Hometown Heroes in central Wisconsin this past November. Assisting were members of the MOAA, ROTC, etc. We will continue our work again soon so if you are willing to help out let us know. The Camp supports the children of U.S. Military personnel who were killed in the line of duty.



VETERANS' DAY, NOT IN WISCONSIN

In 1918, an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

On May 13, 1938, Congress made the 11th of November a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans," November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls, to preserve the historical significance of the date, and to focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

November 11 is a federal holiday and there is no mail delivery. Federal government offices close in honor of Veterans' Day; but state and local governments in Wisconsin do not recognize November 11 as a holiday. Wisconsin is an oddity in this regard. Wisconsin is the only state in the Nation that has not declared November 11, Veterans' Day, a legal holiday.

Eight years after the end of the First World War twenty-seven of 48 states had declared November 11 a legal state holiday. Now 101 years have passed and 49 of 50 states have made November 11 a state legal holiday. Embarrassingly, Wisconsin is the only state in the Nation that has failed to recognize veterans with a legal holiday on November 11. The 2015 state convention of The American Legion passed a resolution asking the legislature and governor to take action to rectify this failure. They have yet to do so.

Last legislative session bills were introduced in the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly to make November 11 a state legal holiday. The bill was approved in the Senate, but Speaker Robin Vos refused to bring the bill to a vote in the Assembly. When the legislature adjourned the bills were dead.

Rep. John Jagler has introduced Assembly Bill 351 in this new legislative session but has indicated that there is apathy or even reluctance of veterans' groups to back the bill. This needs to change

Different from Memorial Day, which is set aside to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty, the purpose of Veterans' Day is to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Let us all, governor and legislature included, resolve to do just that on November 11.

Bill Ridgely

COL, USA, Ret.

*Wisconsin is the only state
in the Nation that has not
declared November 11,
Veterans' Day, a legal
holiday*



WE
DID
HAVE
FUN!

Basic Training Photos

Dig deep in the closet and find your basic training photo, then send it in for the next edition of the newsletter. Let's see if we can recognize you in your youth!

*Send your pictures to
railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.*



PFC Oppliger, Ft Jackson, SC 1983

Memories





San Antonio, Here We Come!

In October, my older brother's son was married in San Antonio, TX. We decided to try out my brand new ride and took a long road trip.

Our first stop was Galveston, TX, to see the WWII submarine in which Lisa's uncle served. The USS Cavalla SSK-244, is located in Seawolf Park, along with the USS Stewart DE-238, a Destroyer Escort. Seawolf Park is dedicated to Texans who died in WWII.

The USS Cavalla sunk the Japanese aircraft carrier Shokaku, which had launched planes that attacked Hawaii. There are six surviving Gato Class submarines that are open to the public. Those are in Galveston TX, Manitowoc WI, Cleveland OH, Buffalo, NY, Mobile AL, and Muskegon MI. The USS Stewart, which performed convoy escort duties in the Atlantic, is the last surviving Destroyer Escort from WWII. When you tour the sub and escort, you begin to realize how cramped and dangerous it was for those sailors, who worked in all kinds of weather.

San Antonio, TX, has many sightseeing venues, such as the Alamo and Seaworld. The city has always had a large military presence. The overall command is now called Joint Base San Antonio, which is spread around the city. The Air Force is represented at Lackland AFB, Kelley Field, and Randolph AFB. Fort Sam Houston houses Brooks Army Medical Center, which trains medical personnel from all services. Camp Bullis is a large training facility for the Texas National Guard.

If you like staying at military lodging facilities, San Antonio offers many options. Air Force Inns are on all of the Air Force sites. Fort Sam Houston has many International Hotel Group (IHG) facilities. IHG military hotels typically offer discounts to retirees. Also, Camp Bullis has lodging. If you have free memberships from Choice Hotels, Wyndham, and other chains, you can find reasonable commercial lodging in the area.

Happy Traveling!

Jerry and Lisa



Thoughts and prayers go to Opal Simmons, Dean Orley, Jim Kasun, and Ann Armstrong

COL Ron Groleau, former Chief of Staff and Command Executive Officer of the 84th, passed away.

MSG Holger "Mac" Machwitz passed away. He was an operations NCO at the 84th Training Command.

1SG Charles Hallingstad, from the 5091st and HHC, has passed away

SFC Janice Wendlick, former UA at 3-84, 4th Bde, passed away

SGT Allan Howerton, a member of the 84th Inf Div during WW II, has passed away

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

News from the Board

Your 84th Railsplitters Association Board approved changing our mission statement to more accurately reflect why we do what we do.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote fellowship among members (past, present and future) of the former 84th Division (Training) and/or its successor commands.

To support charitable organizations which benefit current or former members of the United States military.

To hold in patriotic reverence the memory and spirit of those who served in the 84th Division (Training) and/or its successor commands.

Fun at the Chicken and Steak Fry



Music by Ron DeVillers and Joe Magnino



Spouses: cooking by Art Gerschwiler and supervision by Gerard Schuh



Ron DeVillers selling hats or playing three-card Monty?

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Please support:

Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith

American Legion Post 449

Home of the 84th Railsplitters

Association

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PLACE
STAMP
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Another new Board Member!

Welcome to Julie Koss

Hi, I am Julie Koss, you may know me as MSG Julie McPhail USA Ret. I started my Army career in 1985 with the 5091 RECBN and ended it 28 years later with the 75th Division. A majority of the years in between I was in one of the many units of the 84th Division. These days I live in Germantown Wisconsin with my husband, Russ. I have been working for the Department of Veterans Affairs as an IT Specialist and am planning for retirement in the next couple of years. I enjoy spending time with my kids and their families. I look forward to serving on this board. Happy New Year!



Remember: if you are interested in becoming more involved in our association, contact any board member for information.