

Summer 2021

84th Railsplitters Association

Bugler



Greetings Fellow Railsplitters!

We are entering the dog days of summer and we all know what comes after that! So, before we go there I'd like to take some time to fill you in on what has been happening in the 84th Railsplitters Association.

In May we hosted the Annual Dining Out at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove, WI. The food and entertainment was great, but, the best part of the evening was the camaraderie of being with our military Family and Friends.

The Annual Meeting in June was well attended; we had more attendees than expected. But, that's okay; they say "more the merrier"! A presentation was made by Mr. Rick Flowers, Veterans Service Officer for Milwaukee County on updates to Veteran Benefits; a quick update from Skip Pochowski on the association's initiative to create an End of Life Guide that is available on our website and Mike Simmons provided information on future Retiree Appreciation Days.

Elections were conducted that evening and I am honored to have been re-elected as the President of this great organization! I'd also like to welcome to the Board of Directors: LTC Thomas Abts; CSM Kim Michalowski; CSM William Paulin; and SFC Michelle Grabowski. I'm looking forward to working with you! The contributions you can make to the Association are endless!

Twenty years ago on September 11th, our homeland was attacked by terrorists. It is only fitting that on Saturday, September 11th, 2021 we will host the Annual Steak and Chicken Fry at the Cudworth-Stenz-Grissell-Smith American Legion Post #449 on North 124th Street in Brookfield, WI. The flyer is included with this edition of the Bugler. This is our annual fund raiser which helps our organization contribute to Veteran groups throughout the state. So, come out, enjoy the day bringing our military Family and Friends together after a year hiatus! Don't forget to bring your checkbook and donate to a worthwhile cause.

Mark your calendar and save Saturday, September 25th for the 2021 Colonel's Cup at Brighton Dale Links, Kansasville, WI.

In closing, I'm saddened to report that since my last update we have lost a few more great Railsplitters and have others who are struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Enjoy what is left of the summer and looking forward to seeing you in September!

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

Inside this issue:

<i>A Story 77 Years in the Making</i>	2&3
<i>Memories</i>	4&5
<i>New Board Members</i>	6&7
<i>Sunshine Club</i>	7
<i>Humor</i>	8

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **Steak/Chicken Fry**
11 September 2021

Please Join Us!

soldiers quickly got their things together and left.



After they left, the family found some items left behind. Unfortunately, no one in the village was able to read English to understand who owned these items. A soldier left his prayer book which had a steel cover and inside there was a handwritten note; the bible contained a four-leaf clover or flower between the pages; and aluminum dixie with the date Sept 30, 1944 scratched on the back.

Private Papa went on to Germany and had received three bronze stars for his service. Although he didn't talk about the war much, he did tell his only granddaughter, that he was in Italy and saw Mussolini get shot! As a young child, she asked him if he had to shoot anyone. He responded that he wasn't over there to make friends! And once during a snow storm, he had to drive his daughter and granddaughter somewhere. She asked if he could drive in the snow and he told her if he could drive



in the Battle of the Bulge, he could handle the snow. He was a family man, a proud veteran and was a member of the VFW. He died in 2016 and was survived by his

daughter and granddaughter. His wife and son preceded his death.

Frank had three sisters but they never called him Frank; they called him "Brother". The inscription in the bible reads, "To my only brother with love. From Sister GeGe Please use this Brother."

Leonie Cornet was disappointed not to have been able to return these belongings but she kept them safe, tucked away until she sold her home in 1993. At that time, she told her grandson, Christophe Martin, that it was only after many years that someone was able to translate the handwritten message in the bible. She asked him to see if they could send the items back to their rightful owner. Mr. Martin kept the items until

after her death in 1996 and then finally started the search to find the owner in 2010. He didn't know if Private Papa had survived the war or what fate had come of him.

He found another soldier from the same company who gave him details of the unit's activities and helped him track down where Frank R. Papa was living. He found Frank Jr. and his daughter, Marlane, who said his father was still alive but suffering from memory loss. But Mr. Martin lost contact with the family until he contacted the 84th Railsplitters Association once again in search of Private Papa.



As of this writing, the Papa family was in touch with Mr. Martin and the items were being shipped. The family hadn't known anything about him staying with a family in Belgium. They were so grateful that someone saved these items and were returning them. Marlane plans on contacting the local newspaper to see if they will publish the story. Stephanie Hosbeck, Frank's granddaughter, was especially touched. The two were extremely close since she didn't have a father growing up. Marlane took care of her father (and her brother, Frank Jr.) for the last years of their lives. She was very appreciative of the their local VA and all of the support she received from them.

Mr. Martin was happy to finally have found the family! He had done so much research, but just couldn't make the last connection until he contacted the 84th Railsplitters Association.



Pvt Papa is on the left

84th Railsplitters'

Annual STEAK & CHICKEN FRY!

Saturday, September 11, 2021



Remember: Donations for Auction and Door Prizes accepted even if you can't attend; contact railsplitters84th@yahoo.com





84th Dining Out 2021





5091st Reunion, circa?



*Send your pictures to
railsplitters84th@yahoo.com*

This was the last M1 tank to leave the 84th motor pool and be returned to Fort McCoy after our status was changed from Armor. It had to have a military escort between the two locations. Ed Maynik and his son, Tom Marynik, were the escorts.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The 84th Railspitters Association LTD held it's Annual Meeting on June 17th. We heard the treasurer's report from Mike Simmons in David Gramins' absence. Veteran's Service Officer, Rick Flowers, told us about the services his office offers—he even brought tickets to the Military and Veterans Family Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo. President Goldie Schuh gave a state of the organization address. Then we held the nominations and elections of officers. We have four new board members! LTC Tom Abts, CSM Kim Michalowski, CSM William Paulin, and SFC Michelle Grabowski are all new board members. They have shared some info about themselves below:



Tom Abts

graduated from the University of Wisconsin ROTC, and then attended basic at Ft Benning and spent 3 years at Ft Carson, Colorado. The photo to the left was taken at his first active duty assignment with a 5th Army Signal unit. Upon release from active duty, he was assigned to the 3/339, in Pewaukee and then to the 1/351, at the Logan Street Armory, where he was a Training Officer, Drill Sergeant School OIC and Company Commander. Then he was assigned to be the Division PAO, located at Division Headquarters. He was part of a top notch public affairs team and their paper "The Railsplitter" won several top Reserve newspaper awards, called the "4th Estate Award" and other individual members won awards for writing, editing and photography. His final Division assignment was the Commander of the 3/84, 4th Brigade.

Besides being a previous member of the Railsplitter Association Board, he commanded a large veterans club and co-founded/commanded another club, both in Florida.

Kim Michalowski

is an Air Force Vietnam Vet; where he served as a K 9 handler. Kim entered the Army Reserve and 84th DIV in 1977 and stayed until he retired in 2006 as a CSM. He served in many different capacities but was most proud of being a Drill SGT, the NCOIC of the first mission the 84th conducted at West Point and the last Commandant of the 84th DIV Drill SGT School before consolidation with the 100th DIV.

Kim has served on the boards of Fisher House WI as the VP and President during the capital campaign that built the first house in Milwaukee. He had also been on the board of SALS Recovery.

He retired as a civilian with the Veteran's Administration in 2012 after 29 years of service. He continues to be active in the veteran community and loves reading, spending time with his dog, taking trips with his wife and golfing; along with a good cigar!



William (Bill) Paulin

is a retired CSM with 36 years of service. He entered service in May of 1979 USASMA Academy Class 58 and retired in June of 2015. He served in Iraq/Kuwait in 2004-2005. He retired as a Fire Captain with 30 years of service in the Milwaukee Fire Department. He likes to play handball and has been playing for over 45 years. He and his wife, Colleen, have four grandchildren that live in North Carolina.



Michelle Grabowski

enlisted in the United States Army Reserve right out of high school in 1976. She was assigned to the 5091st US Army Reception Station where she remained for approximately 17 years and was transferred to 84th Division Headquarters until she retired.

Michelle says that serving in the 84th Division was her greatest joy in life.



COLONEL'S CUP

Join the McKeown family and friends
at Brighton Dale Links in Kansasville, WI on
Saturday, September 25, 2021

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. with a Shotgun start at 8:00 (dependent on the number of golfers). The \$60 registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental and fabulous prizes. Please register by 9/17.

For more information, email
colonelscupmckeown@gmail.com
or call/text Brigid McKeown
at (414) 218-9593

Sunshine Club

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who passed away recently:

COL Daniel Wiken, an artillery commander with the 84th Tng Cmd

CW4 Thomas Drefahl, 5091st RecSta and 84th Div (Tng)

MSG Gerald Brettschneider, former AGR 84th G1

Please remember the following Railsplitters in your prayers:

LTC Pat MacGillis

CW4 Ron DeVillers

CSM Dave Gramins

CSM Bill Paulin

Lynn Parker

Barbara Brinza

Arlene Dennett

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

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Please support:
Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith
American Legion Post 449
Home of the 84th Railsplitters
Association

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Humor noun

hu·mor| \ 'hyü-mər, 'yü- \

Definition of *humor*

1a: that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous : a funny or amusing quality // Try to appreciate the *humor* of the situation.

