

Winter 2024-25

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Season's Greetings to my 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Family!

As we close out 2024, and welcome 2025, I want to take a few moments to thank you for a successful Steak Fry/Fundraiser. This year's event was at the Hoepfner-Horn Bros VFW Post 5716, New Berlin on September 14th. I am pleased to say the attendance far exceeded our expectations. Even better were the donations/contributions received. We raised over \$2,600 from the silent auction, door prizes and 50-50. Thank you so much! If you have an organization for consideration of a donation from the Railsplitters, please get your submission into a board member.

Looking into 2025, we will be hosting ~

The Annual Valentine's Dinner on 8 February 2025, at Meyer's Restaurant, 4260 S. 76<sup>th</sup> St. Greenfield, WI. Attached is the invitation. Be sure to come wearing your finest red apparel. Reply early!

The Annual Meeting/Elections will be on Thursday, June 12th, and the Steak Fry on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Post 5716, New Berlin. Be sure to mark your calendar!

We conducted a survey at the Annual Meeting and Steak Fry on hosting the Dining Out. The results were inconclusive. The Board of Directors decided not to host the dinner in 2025. Further discussions will be taking place at upcoming meetings.

We are in critical need of your help! As I have previously stated, declining membership is something our association is experiencing. We have a referral program in place, where for each signed member you get one (1) year free added to your membership term. Additionally, we are planning a recruiting challenge. Be sure to check your mail/email in the next coming weeks. We need everyone's help for this program to be a success! You got this Soldier!

Before I close, 2025 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official founding of the 84th as an Association. In 2000, the organization formed as the 84<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association. In June 2015, at the Annual Meeting the name officially changed to 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association to dispel the idea the organization was only for retirees. Do you have any ideas how we could celebrate this milestone?

Lastly, it is a long time coming, but the paperwork is almost complete for the stand up of the Fort Knox charter. They are working to resolve minor issues, but otherwise all is looking good.

Thank you for all your support! Look forward to seeing you soon, until then ...stay safe...stay healthy and STRIKE HARD!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)  
President, 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD

## Reaching out to the 84th

Another story about someone reaching out to the 84th for assistance: John van Wijk met a former 84th Infantry soldier last year in Belgium. Private David Marshall sent him a photo of him in his uniform. Mr. van Wijk decided to collect the regalia on Private Marshall's uniform and contacted the 84th Railsplitters for assistance.

Goldie Schuh sent him a couple patches and unit crest. He was thrilled! "These patches are the nicest I have ever received. I will place them in my collection with care and honor."



## Time For a Celebration

In the late 1970s, Col (Ret) John Horter proposed the formation of an alumni association within the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (Training). Originally called the **84<sup>th</sup> Division Alumni Association**, it functioned as an informal organization (holding meetings, picnics, parties, etc.) until it became a non-profit tax-exempt 501C3 corporation in the year 2000. At its Annual Meeting on June 11, 2015, the Association changed its name to the **84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD**. That meant you didn't have to be retired to join.

Today, our mission is:

- To promote fellowship among its members.

- 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 84<sup>th</sup> Division (Training).

Next year, the **84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD** will be celebrating 25 years of existence. At their January meeting, the Board of Directors will be formulating a way to celebrate this event for the enjoyment and participation of all members. We'll keep you posted on all the details.



## Band Presentation

On 13 October 2024 MSG (Ret) Goldie Schuh on behalf of Mrs. Jan Berzowski, wife of the late MG (Ret) Michael Berzowski made a presentation to the 484<sup>th</sup> Army Band at their Headquarters on West Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The model of the Band was hand crafted by SFC Douglas Gruehn and presented to MG Berzowski upon his retirement as Commanding General on 27 March 1994.



Presented to  
Major General Michael Berzowski  
By the soldiers  
Of the  
84th Division Band  
Upon the Occasion of his  
Departure from the Division  
27 March 1994  
Happy Trails, Sir!

## Sunshine Club

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

1sg (Ret) John Recklies

Get Well Wishes for:

CSM (Ret) Clarence Brunner and SSG (Ret) Stephen Sandberg

And our thoughts and prayers to:

CSM (Ret) Kim & Yolanda Michalowski on the passing of his mother

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





Carol Ridgely made this beautiful quilt which ended up to be the top seller!



This year's Steak Fry ended up to be a huge hit! With so many smiling faces, it takes multiple pages to show you the fun!















And **THANK YOU** to  
all of our donors!

THE MILWAUKEE WAVE  
PAT AND PHIL ANDERSON JIM SCHULER  
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## Honoring some of the Railsplitters who have taken the Honor Flight.



**Ed Marynik and his oldest son, Brian** had a memorable and wonderful time on our Honor Flight. It is hard to pick out the most memorable part of the day, but I would say passing through both airports and seeing the large amount of people of all ages cheering us on, brought on many tears. Secondly, on the flight home the Mail Call receiving the letters from all the people who I touched over the years, more tears.

Stars and Stripes Honor Flight is the south-eastern (Milwaukee) Wisconsin based hub of the national Honor Flight Network. The Honor Flight Network, an organization founded in 2005, has 129 hubs in 45 states, having flown almost 300,000 vets to Washington D.C., all at no cost to the veterans. The Honor Flight got its start with WWII veterans, and has since added Korean and Vietnam War veterans, and veterans from any war/conflict that are terminally ill. See their website (<https://www.starsandstripeshonorflight.org/>) for more details on the founding of the national network, it really is an awesome story.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Veterans that served active duty (beyond basic training), honorably, in ANY BRANCH, ANYWHERE, IN ANY CAPACITY between December 1941- June 1975
- Would like to fly out of Milwaukee's Mitchell Int'l Airport



**Mark Matheus** Honor Flight #66 5 Nov 22. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington was great. And all the people that greet you both in Washington DC and coming back to Milwaukee was unbelievable, something I won't forget.



**Skip Pochowski** was on the Board for the Honor Flights for a few years and when he left, the board had a farewell party for him. Here is the photo they took that night. All the troops who took a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight owe that experience to these ladies who arranged everything from flight schedules, to plane rental, to meals, buses, bands, etc. They were really organized, dedicated, and committed. It was like working with Railsplitters once again!



**Robert Kaminski**





**Dave Farrington** The team of volunteers and prior service personnel putting this together are pure Angels, and honoring you is their only goal. I highly recommend the Honor Flight to every eligible veteran. Especially those who experienced the horrors of Vietnam, take the flight to resolve your terrible war memories! The most eventful thing of my day was that I was with my son for the entire day knowing that he may also be able to have his son take him on the Honor Flight, remembering his service as a Marine who went both to Iraq and Afghanistan during his term of service with the USMC.



**Bill Ridgely**



**Dennis Olczak**



**Dave Gramins** with his escort Ed Marynik



**Kim Michalowski**



**Mike Simmons** Awesome day visiting 10 memorials! The most memorable event to me was Mail Call on the flight back to Milwaukee. Reading cards from the Governor, family, friends, and school children who I've never met. It was special to have my daughter, Laura to be my guardian and experience the day with me.



Other Railsplitters that have taken an Honor Flight:

**Allen Cottrell**  
**Chuck Rotramel**  
**Tim Vanderboom**

There are probably many more, but thank you to each and every one!

If you'd like to share a photo of you on the trip and a fond memory, we'll put it in a future issue !+

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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*.



**If spouses wrote fitness reports**