



9th Engineer Battalion Association USMC 2011 NEWSLETTER

Over 80 Marines and family members gathered in Charleston, South Carolina for the 2011 Reunion, June 12th to the 16th. It was good to see family of KIA SSgt Kenneth Fiddle with us again, especially his son, Tim Fiddle, who has been doing well since his retirement from the Coast Guard. He, his sister, Debbie Ray, and their mother, Betty, are truly members of the 9th Engineer family. Another special guest was Janet Gurganus, the wife of Major General Mark Gurganus, Don's cousin. The General could not be with us because of his change of command from Korea to the Middle East.



The association welcomed two new members for their first reunion with us, Alan Farmer from Oklahoma City and Gale Morgan from Macon, Georgia. Both were with Delta Company from 68 to 69 and did not know the association existed until finding us on the Internet. It was heartwarming to see these two Marines after 42 years.

Most of us gathered on Sunday the 12th at the Holiday Inn Riverview, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. Dr. Jack Hawkins and his "Third Herd" gathered for dinner at the hotel restaurant and then joined everyone in the Sumter Room on the 14th floor. The hospitality room is a great place to swap war stories, laugh about the good times we had, toast the ones didn't make it back, and in general catch-up with each other's lives.

Monday found most of us sightseeing in downtown Charleston. The farmers market was very popular with plenty of opportunities close by for dining or just enjoying the historical architecture. The shuttle van was indeed busy taking us around town and then helping get all of us to and from Bessingers Restaurant for some damn good Bar-B-Que. I don't know how Herb manages to find places like this everywhere we go but, he does. During the meal, our Chaplin Mickey Ryan led us in a memorial service for all those on the Wall and those that have passed since the association was founded.

On Tuesday morning we held our annual business meeting (SEE ATTACHED), while the ladies went to town for some serious shopping. The afternoon was busy with more sightseeing and then on to American Legion Post 147. The 14th being Flag Day, we were able to catch the ceremony out front as we arrived for the evening meal. Out back in the picnic pavilion, Herb and his team cooked us a low country boil with more shrimp that we could possibly eat.

When we returned to the hospitality room at the hotel we had an auction for the scholarship fund. At the last reunion in New York, the ladies got together and planned this. They all put together baskets with various themes and started displaying them on Sunday. A great many other hand made products were also donated. Diane DuPont and Pat Uderitz did a great job of selling the tickets all day and, with Shelia Bates and Janet Gurganus pulling and calling the ticket numbers, over \$1100 was raised for the Scholarship Fund. Way to go, girls!!

Fred DuPont
Secretary



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2011 Reunion Financial Statement

Registrations -----	\$2785.00
Leftover from 2010 Reunion -----	\$1423.72
Total Expenses -----	\$3431.98
Total Checks Written -----	\$3431.98
Account Balance -----	\$ 776.74
Shirts / Hats --- To be remitted to Treasurer -----	\$638.00
Dues collected and to be remitted to Treasurer	\$40.00

Reunion Financial Statement reviewed by Board and Audit Committee

MINUTES OF 2011 BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting of 9th Engineer Battalion Association, USMC was called to order by President Herb Shaw at 0900 in the hospitality room at the Holiday Inn Riverview in Charleston, South Carolina on June 14, 2011.

Approximately 40 members were present.

Officers present were: President Herb Shaw
Vice President Jim Harris
Secretary Fred DuPont
Chaplain Mickey Ryan
Trustee Rob Uderitz
Trustee Terry Porter
Trustee Don Gurganus
Trustee Ray Pekovitch

The invocation was given by Chaplain Mickey Ryan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Malinowski.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was waved due to their posting in the last newsletter.

Under old business, Bob Nilsson gave us a report on the National Medical Centers:

- On behalf of the wounded veterans, he thanked us for the ten computers we donated to them
- He stated that there are currently 1500 amputees from Iraq and Afghanistan in the nation's hospitals
- There is currently a program at Bethesda called "100 Entrepreneurs" to assist the wounded in making the transition to civilian life
- There is another program started by Lt. Col Tim Maxwell to provide a retreat for the wounded in Lunenburg, Virginia and invited us to check it out at www.sempermax.com
- Other concerns were discussed about TBI, family support, the VA and drugs

Under new business:

- Herb Shaw presented Bob Nilsson a plaque from us for all the work he is doing with the Wounded Warriors
- A copy of the Treasurer's Report was given to all members. This was submitted by Eric Kenny via email with regrets that he could not attend the reunion
 - o A motion was made by Don Gurganus to accept the report, seconded by George Ingalls and accepted by a unanimous vote
- The scholarship program was discussed, pointing out that, to date, no applications were received
- The next reunion was discussed with Herb Shaw pointing out that we haven't been to the west coast in several years
 - o A motion to have the 2012 reunion in Las Vegas and the 2013 reunion at Camp Lejune was made by Frank Cooper, seconded by George Ingalls, and passed by a unanimous vote
- Herb Shaw solicited a committee to audit the reunion financial report with Joe Malinowski, Frank Cooper, and George Ingalls volunteering
- Membership cards were discussed with Fred DuPont pointing out that it is cost prohibitive due to the 50 cents it would cost to mail each one
- Life membership was discussed with no resolution as to cost and dues were left at \$20 per year

Under other business:

- Rob Uderitz discussed:
 - o The 2012 Troy University trip to Vietnam
 - o An invite to attend Troy University in November 2012 when Troy plays the U.S. Naval Academy with a heavy emphasis on the Marine Corps
 - o Birthday Cards for the mother of our MIA James Moore were passed around for signature
- A standing ovation was given to Herb Shaw for the work he put into making the reunion a success

Meeting adjourned at 10 am

Semper Fi,
Fred DuPont

9th Engineer Battalion Association
USMC
2011 Treasurer's Report
(as read at the 2011 Annual Meeting)

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

9 TH Engineer Association -----	\$3,206.32
Scholarship Account -----	<u>1,023.81</u>
	\$4,230.23

INTEREST BEARING CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

9 TH Engineer Association -----	\$6,582.06
Scholarship -----	<u>5,474.79</u>
	\$12,056.85

GRAND TOTAL \$16,287.08

BOTH CD'S MATURE ON 7/11/2011 AT 0.9 PERCENT INTEREST

THE TREASURER'S SURETY BOND HAS BEEN RENEWED UNTIL 6/12/2012

POST REUNION TREASURER'S REPORT

Association Checking Account	\$4255.15
Scholarship Checking Account	\$2135.05
Scholarship CD @.35%	\$6641.50
Association CD @.35%	\$5524.36
Grand Total all accounts	\$18556.06

Semper FI

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217-728-7409

NOTE: Annual dues are \$20: If you have not paid your dues this year, please make check payable to 9th Engineers Association and send it to Eric at the above address.

Notes from Association President Herb Shaw

The 2011 Reunion was a huge success. I believe everyone that attended had a great time.

We had new attendees this year, some renewed old friendships some made new ones. Each year we get together we learn new things about our time in Nam. I realize that everyone cannot attend each year but, I hope as many as possibly can do so. It is a rewarding experience.

One of our goals of the association should be to search out those families of our KIA's so we can reassure them their loved ones are not forgotten. We must always be ready to give support to those that served with us in Viet Nam. We are finding new people that served with the 9th Engineers or 1st Shore Party almost daily.

We will have our 2012 Reunion in Las Vegas, NV. The Las Vegas Reunion is scheduled for May 6th - 9th, 2012 at the Palace Station Hotel/Casino. Registration information is included in this mailing. The Palace Hotel is a smaller hotel off the strip where you don't have to fight the Las Vegas crowds or pay the high prices. The hotel has airport and strip shuttle which is unusual for Las Vegas. The hotel's rooms are as nice as most hotels in Vegas just not as pricey. Rooms are **\$35** or if you wish a Petite Suite it will be **\$65** plus \$4.99 resort fee; (this fee is normal in Vegas anymore). Food prices are very reasonable and the food is excellent: \$4.99 Breakfast, \$7.99 Lunch, & \$9.99 Dinner at the buffet. If you want to hit the strip just take the shuttle, 5 minutes you're in front of the Wynn Hotel. There is so much to do in Las Vegas there is no way I could have chosen activities I feel everyone would enjoy equally. So you will be on your own except for the Banquet on Wednesday night at the Hotel. I look forward to seeing you in LAS VEGAS.

***The 2012 Business Meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M. May 9, 2012 at the Palace Station Hotel in the Hospitality Room. Bi-Annual Elections will be held at that meeting. If you want to be an officer or remain officer of the association please let me know before the annual meeting.**

**** 2013 Reunion Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

*****Scholarship applications are due by May 15, 2012**

**Thanks for supporting the 9th Engineer Bn.
Association**



9th Engineer Association
2012 Reunion Las Vegas, Nevada
May 6th - 9th, 2012
Palace Station Hotel

Room Rate \$ 35 Tower Room \$65 Petite Suite

Rate Code ** 9th Engineer Bn. Association ** Hotel Telephone # 1-800-634-3101

Reservations must be made by April 14, 2012 to get this rate

Hotel has Airport and Las Vegas Strip Shuttle

2012 Reunion Registration Form

_____ **Number of Tickets for Reunion & Banquet \$75pp**

_____ **Total Amount enclosed for registrations**

(Please make checks payable to 9th Engineer Association 2012 Reunion)

Name _____ **Spouse** _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send this form and registration fee to:

Herb Shaw

9th Engineer Bn. Assoc.

752 Harper Street

Jesup, Georgia 31546

SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION; ATTEND THE 2012 9TH ENGINEER BN. REUNION IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO IN LAS VEGAS WE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE FUNCTION, THE BANQUET ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT. ALL OTHER TIMES WILL BE ON YOUR OWN OR THE HOSPITALITY ROOM, WHICH WILL BE OPEN THE ENTIRE REUNION.

2012 BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE HELD 9:00 AM, MAY 9, 2012
AT THE PALACE STATION HOTEL
IN HOSPITALITY ROOM