



# 9th Engineers

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2006

## **Make your Reservations for the 2007 Reunion In San Diego, California**

We now have dates and the location of the 2007 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association reunion:

**WHEN:** June 27 thru July 1, 2007

**WHERE:** **TOWN AND COUNTRY RESORT**

**9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association**

500 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: 800-772-8527

**Special points of interest:**

Reunion 2007, San Diego, CA

Reservation form for San Diego

Reunion 2006, Savannah, GA

Treasurers Report

Veterans Request DD-214

Statistics regarding Vets

President's Message

The Hotel is located a short distance from the Airport, and is adjacent to the Fashion Valley Mall, and The San Diego Light Rail Trolley is on the property. We can take the trolley from the hotel to the downtown Gas Lamp District where numerous restaurants are located. Those that wish can walk across the street to the Mall and eat and shop there or eat at the hotel.



We were able to get a later date at this hotel. The Hotel is contacting Mike to set up reservations on line or one can call in reservations at 1-800-772-8527.

We plan to visit Camp Pendleton on Thursday, MCRD on Friday, , and MCAS Miramar on Friday afternoon. After our meeting on Saturday you will be on your own until the banquet.

## JUNE 27 - JULY1, 2007

### 2007 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

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MCRD San Diego



*Molly*

Mascot at MCRD



**TABLE FOR — MIA**  
JAMES RODNEY MOORE

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Banquet Tickets (June 30th) @ \$50.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Bus tickets to Camp Pendleton on June 28<sup>th</sup> @ \$20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Bus tickets to MCRD San Diego June 29<sup>th</sup> @ \$20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed for reservations and dues

(Write your checks payable to 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Association)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with your check to: **Eric Kenney**

**Treasurer, 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Assoc.**

**613 Sunrise Drive**

**Sullivan, Il 61951**

**SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION AND MEET OLD BUDDIES,  
ATTEND THE 2007 - 9<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BN.  
REUNION IN SAN DIEGO, CA**



**Greetings Marines!** News from the Savannah, Georgia Reunion front.

Those attending the August 2006 reunion agree that it was **OUTSTANDING**. The early arrivals got to go to Fort Stuart, others were greeted in the hospitality room and all attended the free Shrimp Boil dinner on the riverfront park. New and old friendships were made and renewed at the social. Thanks, to Herb Shaw and lovely Sheila and his daughter and granddaughter who helped cook. We received Southern hospitality first hand.

We then walked to the Vietnam Memorial and had a ceremony led by the local VVA. Allen Briggs did the honor of playing the bagpipe which was a fitting tribute to the fallen soldiers.

On Friday morning, we gathered in the lobby and boarded buses to Parris Island.. We saw a graduation ceremony, toured the base, swimming area, rifle range and at the 3rd battalion mess hall. One of the highlights was being able to do the rifle simulator and shoot an M16...Also visited the PX and Parris Island Museum. It brought back many memories of our time spent at PI and how it changed our lives.

Friday evening was spent with friends at dinner and much talking and reminiscing.

We held our business meeting Saturday morning and the afternoon was spent sightseeing and shopping in the beautiful city of Savannah.

We met for the social hour prior to the banquet...The banquet facilities were great, we had an ROTC Color Guard bring in the Colors, Bob Nilsson did a power point presentation on the care and rehab that is being done at Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals for our wounded soldiers.

A special presentation was made to Col. Hank Perea and his wife for all that he has done to help support and promote the 9th Engineers. The plaque reads: "There's a destiny that makes us brothers, none goes his way alone. All that we put into the lives of others comes back unto our own", by Edwin Markham. It also said, with heartfelt thanks and appreciation from your men who were once your boys.

Herb Shaw and Sheila were given a big thank you for all their had work in the planning of the reunion..Mike Cummins accepted a plaque on behalf of his son who is the 9th Engineer webmaster. The web site was created by him and continues to be updated. Our "Honor Roll" of the KIAs and MIA's was read by Eric Kenney and mention was made of the marines who have passed since we were last together. Allen Briggs played the bagpipes again in a moving tribute.



*Old Savannah*



**Chef Herb Shaw**



Col. Hank Perea & Wife receiving appreciation award



Banquet



Steven S. Roberge

**Steven Roberge graduates from UNH**

BERLIN — Steven S. Roberge graduated magna cum laude from the University of NH on May 23. He received a bachelor of science degree in forestry. Steven will be attending graduate school in August 2003 at Yale University, New Haven, CT.  
Steven is the son of Larry and Sue Roberge, 22 Jasper Street, Berlin.



Chaplin Mickey Ryan

**PRAYER FOR THOSE IN SERVICE**

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers of military life. Keep them close to You and help them live the Commandments.

Lord Jesus, give them the courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger: strengthen them when they face hardships.

Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul.



Amen

Our treasurer, Paul Roy and his lovely wife, Alice continue to keep us abreast of the finances and Ray Alston and his wife, pat; were very adept at selling and promoting the hats, pins, tote bags, sweatshirts and T-shirts that were on sale. They also, handled the beautiful banquet centerpieces. If you failed to get an item, you can still order and receive it. I will include address at the end of newsletter. Also, Thanks to Jim Couch, who once again helped us with the reunion mugs.

Business Meeting: Election results are as follows: Mike Cummins, President; Jim "Doc" Finch, Vice-President; "Frenchy" Roberge, Secretary; Paul Roy, treasurer. Board of Directors: Bob Nilsson, Allen Briggs, Eric Kenney, Victor Korechoff. Mickey Ryan is our Chaplain. Herb Shaw will take on the next reunion planning/coordinator. Ray Alston will continue to handle sales. Eric Kenney will chair membership and Mike Cummins will chair the scholarship committee.

It was voted to have a reunion every year, the 2007 reunion will be in San Diego, CA and specific dates will be on the web site soon. The 2008 reunion will return to the East Coast and be in Quantico, VA.

It is important for the members who have a change in e-mail address or street address to let Mike know..We want to assure that every 9th Engineer receives a letter updating him on changes and events of the Association.

Scholarship News: A \$500.00 scholarship was voted upon and Steven Roberge of Berlin, N.H. was the 2004 recipient. Steve attended Yale University for his graduate work in forestry and graduated in 2005. He is "Frenchy's " son. New guidelines were adopted at the business meeting and an on line application for future scholars will soon be available on our web site.

The scholarship fund benefited from the monies raised when the banquet centerpieces were auctioned, Mike Cummins did a fantastic job as auctioneer. Good job, MIKE!!!! Many thanks to those of you who so generously gave.

As you can see, we are thriving and motivated to find other 9th engineers and to bring them into our Association. If you know of any who would like to join this band of brothers, have them go to [www.9thenginerr.com](http://www.9thenginerr.com) and/or write to our membership chairman, Eric Kenney, 613 Sunrise Drive, Sullivan, IL 61951 or call 1-217-728-7409 or e-mail to [elk9theg@one-eleven.com](mailto:elk9theg@one-eleven.com).

Sales / apparels can be ordered from Ray Alston, 837E.15th N; Newton, Iowa 50208 call 1-515-792-0215 or e-mail [para@pcpartner.net](mailto:para@pcpartner.net).

Association dues are \$20.00 and payable to 9th Engineer Association; c/o Eric Kenney.

We hope to hear from many of you soon...keep your eyes posted on the web site.

*Semper Fi; Frenchy*

**TREASURERS REPORT**

FROM ERIC KENNEY

Starting Balance from Paul	\$5114.00	Expense:	\$ 500 cups given away @ reunion
Dues received	60.00	sent to Frenchy	\$ 500 Newsletter to Secretary
Sale of two hats	36.00	sent to Ray Alston	\$ 300 Mailing Money PX
Interest Income	.15	sent to Mickey Ryan	\$ 300 for Flowers

**Total = \$3610.15 in regular account**  
**Total = \$1646.00 in Scholarship fun**  
**Grand Total = \$ 5256.15**

## Veterans can request DD-214s Online



ST. LOUIS— The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis has a new electronic method for Veterans to obtain copies of their discharge papers. Official known as DD Form 214 or DD-214s, the documents can be requested at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. NPRC designed the new online system to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mail-room processing time.

Individuals other than veterans or their next-of-kin must complete Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, which also can be downloaded from the Web site.

NPRC archives millions of military personnel, health records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. Records prior to National Archives in Washington, D.C.

NPRC also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependents and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law.



Doc and Frenchy

## Some Statistics Regarding Vietnam Veterans

Confusion resins when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures from VFW Magazine that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports.

Of the 2.6 million, between 1 & 1.6 million (40-60 %) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300 percent higher than in WWII and 70 percent higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4 % compared to 5.7 % in WWII.

Missing in Action: 2,338  
Prisoners of War: 766 (1145 died in captivity)

### Draftees vs Volunteers

25 % (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. 66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII  
Draftees accounted for 30.4 % (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam

Reservists killed: 5,977  
National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died

### Race and Ethnic Background

88.4 % of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races  
86.3 percent of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5 percent (7,241) were black: 1.2 percent belonged to other races.

### In Uniform and In Country

Vietnam Vets: 9.7 percent of their generation.

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964– May 7, 1975)

8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964—May 7, 1975)

3,403,100 (including 514,300 off-shore) personnel served in the SE Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters.

2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam Jan. 1, 1965—March 28, 1973

Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 & 1964

7,484 women (83.5 % were nurses) served in Vietnam.

Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969)

### Casualties:

Hostile deaths: 47,359  
Non-hostile deaths: 10,797  
Total: 58,156 (included men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). 27 other men have died off wounds, bringing the total to 58,183.

61 percent of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.  
Highest state death rate: West Virginia—84.1 (national average 58.9 for every 100,000 males in 1970)

Wounded: 303,704—153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured who required no hospital care.  
Severely disabled: 75,000—23,214; 100% disabled: 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.



Allen Briggs on Bagpipes



Casualty Quilt :

Designed by Sue Roberge

Made by Ann Lessard

As you can tell from "Frenchy" Roberage's newsletter on the '06 Reunion, it was a resounding success. During a meeting of the officers and board members at the reunion it was agreed upon that the next reunions will be held annually and shift from coast to coast to facilitate the ease of members to attend. Our 2007 reunion will be held in San Diego and the 2008 reunion to be held in Quantico Va. The length of the reunions has been increased by one day to better facilitate the great side trips planned. MCRD in San Diego and Camp Pendleton in Oceanside. The reunion in Quantico will include a trip to the new Marine Corps museum, which I know will be a highlight.

Due to illnesses and other issues, our scholarship awards were not attended to until the Savannah reunion itself. As we had only one application in 2005, it was voted on by the officers and board to retroactively award that scholarship to the applicant, Steven Roberge. It's obvious that the intelligence in that family comes from the maternal side. It is very understandable why Larry and Sue are so proud of their son for his outstanding scholastic achievements. We currently have two applicants for the '06 scholarship award's. Awards will be announced at the '07 reunion and the scholarship/s will be presented then. Hopefully by '08 we will be back in sync with our scholarship work and the application time frame and awards will be a little more organized. It is our hope that the fact that the scholarships will be up and running will create more interest and applications. The cost of schooling, as everyone knows, is prohibitive for a lot of families. This won't put them over the hump, but every little bit helps. If it changes the life of one of ours, it's worth the effort.

In reference to the scholarship fund, it is my hope that our membership become more actively involved in corporate solicitation for the fund itself. We have never solicited funds on the Association website (one exception for a Corpsman memorial). We try to keep fundraising, religion and politics away from the business end of the Association website. One of the great things about the Corps was the diversity of the backgrounds and opinions of the Marines themselves. We would recommend we keep it that way. That's one of the reasons that when some of you submit articles for the "announcements" section that we do not post them, we may enjoy them very much, but we just can't post the topics on a community site. Sorry. If you have gotten an e-mail address since the last posting, or have changed yours, or have gained access to a computer please advise us so that we can update your contact information. If you would like a free web based (can be accessed from any computer in the world) e-mail account, please advise us and we will set it up for you. As an example you could make it: [anyone@9thengineers.com](mailto:anyone@9thengineers.com). The name is your choice.

As far as fundraising is concerned, I would appreciate if, time permitting, that you donate one or two hours a month to serve on a committee or directly solicit funds from "Corporate" donors. We all know of at least one major business in town that might want to donate to the education of Marines children. If you make one or two blind calls a month, or drop a note to a business requesting a tax deductible donation, what is the worst that someone can say to you? No? Say thank you anyway and move on. Contact our treasurer for deduction information and rest assured that a thank you note will follow any donations received. If you can spend some time trying to track down former 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers, please contact Eric Kenny, treasurer and chairman of the membership committee. A reminder that if you have kids, grandkids or immediate family in school, don't forget to apply. We can't approve them all but we can surely try, depending upon our funding. Our Association is open to all current and former 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers. Contacts are being developed with the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Battalion in Okinawa to form better interaction with the "new breed".

# Presidents Message

As per their website the 9<sup>th</sup> ESB has lost seven Marines KIA in Iraq to date, including one female. Upon receiving permission from 9<sup>th</sup> ESB to post the Marines' bio's to our website it will go up immediately. Refer on the web to: <http://www.3mlg.usmc.mil/9THESB.html>.

On a sad note, it is my duty to announce the resignation of Paul Roy, our long time treasurer, from his position in the Association. Paul has cited personal reasons that he is unable to continue. We wish him all the best in the future and hope to see him at upcoming reunions. In an online business meeting held after we were notified by Paul, a vote was taken and Eric Kenney was unanimously elected as current treasurer until the next full membership meeting at the '07 reunion. Please see the attached treasurer's report submitted by Eric, upon the transfer of funds. Ray Alston was elected by unanimous vote to fill Eric's vacated board member position. These appointments and votes will be valid until the next full membership meeting.

Eric and Cathie Kenney have advised that membership cards and dues letters will be sent out in blocks of 50 at a time. Since I have "inside" connections, I have already gotten mine and they look great, Eric is back at his usual outstanding dedication to the Association. From Eric's treasurer's report you can see that we hold close to \$4,000 in inventory in our PX, physically maintained by Ray Alston.

In conversations with Ray and Eric, to improve the website and reduce our inventory to a more manageable level we will be offering online purchases of our "px" gear by credit card directly on the site. Not only will we be able to buy gear, we will be able to register and pay on line our reunion fees, dues and afford people the opportunity to donate to the scholarship fund directly. These sales will not affect our non-profit status, as any profits made from the sales are used 100% by the scholarship fund. Also any applicants to the scholarship awards will be able to fill out secure forms on line and have the data submitted via a secure and safe form.

"Doc" Finch was elected as Vice President and now we have the squids represented within the Association. Doc is a professional at helping with Veteran's affairs. God bless him, that's what he did for 30 years and has received numerous awards for his service with veterans and their families. "Doc" has graciously advised that if you have VA related problems and need help, please contact him. He is more than glad to help.

Larry "Frenchy" Roberge has run and was elected to office again this reunion. He now holds the position as secretary and is right back in the thick of helping the Association in numerous ways. The '06 reunion was virtually laid on his shoulders and with co-operation from others like Herb Shaw, pulled off one of the best yet. My hat goes off to Frenchy, always in there with a smile on his face. Ray Alston is another of the unsung heroes of the worker bees. Hats off to both of you.

Bob Nilsson continues to work with the wounded vets coming through Bethesda Naval Hospital. He presented a plaque that was purchased at the 2006 reunion by Bill Hocart, it now hangs in the combat wounded hallway, showing the support and thoughts of the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers Association to our wounded "Marine Family". Eric Kenney and I, along with any other Fl., Ga. or vacationing members we can put together will be visiting the VA Hospital in Tampa Fl. this January. We are working through contacts from "Frenchy" Roberge and Bob Nilsson to specifically contact patients known to them, as well as an overall visit to the wards. If anyone will be in the area in January, and would like to join us please contact Eric Kenney for specific dates and times.

As some of you may know, due to being shorthanded with postings to Iraq and other commitments globally, our local "Toys for Tots" has been drastically reduced in size and scope solely for lack of manpower. We have established a donation point at the Fort Lauderdale West Marine mega store and are collecting donated new unwrapped toys for the local Marines to distribute to needy children for the holidays. West Marine has posted a notice that the drop off point was established by the "9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association" and Association personnel will collect and deliver the toys collected to the main Marine Corps office in Hialeah, FL.

In closing, I'd like to say that a lot is being done in your name as a 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association member. I will try to keep everyone up to date as to what is going on as often as time permits. I appreciate the trust given to me and will do everything in my power to make this Association as open and transparent as humanly possible. If anyone at any time has a question or recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact me. If I don't have the answer, I'll get it for you. I hope to see you all at the next reunion.

*Semper Fi and God bless,*

*Mike Cummins,*

*President*

*9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association*

*Cell # 954-529-1949*

[mcummins@9thengineers.com](mailto:mcummins@9thengineers.com)



Sam Robinson General Manager of West Marine,  
& Mike Cummins 9th Engineers President accepting  
Donation For "Toys For Tots".



## Special Request:

Please send a Before and After photo of yourself either by E-mail or by Postal Service, to Mike Cummins.

These photos should be your \* BOOT CAMP GRADUATION\* photo and a similar pose of you now.

These photos will be used on our website and as a fun matching game at the re-union.

Thanking you in advance for your participation, those who are unable to attend our reunions will enjoy seeing what we look like today as they only remember us as we were back then.

*9th Engineer Battalion Association*

*c/o Eric Kenney, Treasurer*

*613 SUNRISE DR*

*SULLIVAN, IL 61951*

