



9th Engineer's Newsletter

The Association has much to be thankful for, new members, old friends, a healthy scholarship balance, a great 2007 reunion in San Diego and another one in the planning for 2008. I hope that many of you will decide to come to the reunion, details are in this newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the 9th Engineer Battalion Association a success. We have over 700 members and keep growing, our spirit and will are strong. We have had changes this past year and we grieve for members who have died in 2007. Among those is our vice president, James "Doc" Finch, please keep his family and all our families in your prayers and thoughts. Doc will be missed.

Many of us have had health issues, we often think like 20 year olds, but our bodies tell us we are not 20 anymore. I wish that we all have a healthy new year and wish for a speedy recovery to our ailing members.

Herb Shaw has been working behind the scenes to make our 2008 reunion a memorable one. We will be together from May 28-June 1, 2008, at Westin Hotel in Tyson's Corner, VA. Herb has lined up buses to take us to the new Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA. This is a must see for all, we will also have the opportunity to see the USMC evening parade at 8th and I on Friday. It is always an experience to view this parade. He also has a bus tour set for Saturday, this will include the memorials in DC, etc. Herb promises us a great time. Attached is the registration form for the reunion.

I hope that you can make the reunion, if you can't make it for the 5 days, you certainly can come for a day or evening or for the banquet. We hope that we will have 2 families of our KIA in attendance, Friddle and Dines family. In 2002, the family of Howard Savare was in attendance at our banquet and we were able to voice our thanks and memories to them.

The PX is well stocked, t-shirts, pins, hats, stickers, patches, You can order various items at any time by contacting Terry Porter, 395 So. Eureka Dr. P.O. Box 623, Big Bear lake, CA 92315 .

His email is rftwskipper@sprintmail.com.

Also, the deadline for scholarship applications is 4/1/08. Please review the rules on our web site.

Our association is a brotherhood and I like this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, which to me is what we are all about, " what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us".

Wishing all of you a Happy New Year and hope to see all of you in May.

Semper Fi: Larry "Frenchy" Roberge

DC - Quantico Reunion

MAY 28 – JUNE 1, 2008

The Westin Hotel Tysons Corner, Va

800-937-8461 Reservation Code (USMC 2008 Reunion)

2008 Reunion Registration Form

_____ Full Registration (All Bus Trips and Banquet) \$130 pp

_____ Number of Bus tickets to Quantico on May 29th @ \$30.00 pp

_____ Number of Bus tickets to 8th & I on May 30th @ \$25.00

_____ Number of Bus tickets for Trips on May 31st @ 30.00 pp

_____ Number of Banquet Tickets (June 30th) @ \$65.00 pp

_____ Total Amount Enclosed for registrations and dues

(checks payable to 9th Engineer Association)

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send this form with your check to:

Eric Kenney

Treasurer, 9th Engineer Bn. Assoc.

613 Sunrise Dr.

Sullivan, IL 61951



IN MEMORY OF JIM "DOC" FINCH ON LEFT
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION



The 2007 Reunion in San Diego was a wonderful location site. The weather was perfect, the surroundings were lush and comfortable, the local cuisine was very good and the three swimming pools and four restaurants in the complex were, unbelievable. Our guest speaker, Lt. Col. Menotti arrived from Okinawa and reported on the current battalions duty in Iraq and unfortunately their casualty summaries. It made everyone proud to learn that the battalion performed brilliantly. Former Battalion Commander, Col. Hearnberger was in attendance as well, and all told there were three Commanding Officers on deck. Bus trips to Camp Pendleton, MCRD and the Miramar Marine Air Museum were enjoyed by all. (57) old and worn Marines, plus wives attended. During the reunion (4) education Scholarships were awarded to children of the battalion.

It's been trying times since the last newsletter, but with the help and support of our friends, families and fellow Marines we are still working hard and holding our own at maintaining our Association with new finds and more info coming in on a regular basis.

It was my sad choice, due to health reasons, to resign as your President in December of 2007, and hand the reigns over to Larry "Frenchy" Roberge to carry on the leadership role within the organization.

We suffered the loss of our V.P. Jim "Dinky Dau" Finch to cancer shortly before Christmas. Doc was a very special person and will be missed and remembered by all who knew him.

Terry Porter, a long time member and one of the founders of the "Run for the Wall" suffered a severe hospitalization and was touch and go for some time. Terry made a spectacular recovery and is still acting as the storekeeper at our PX.

In addition to "Doc" Finch, we have had the misfortune to lose these additional brothers during the past year. Jack Gravatt passed away and his wife is working with our treasurer on donations in Jack's name to the scholarship fund. Also we have lost Raymond Bland, and J. C. Floyd.

Herb Shaw, Frenchy, Bob Nillson, and Eric Kenney, along with other worker bees are finalizing all the arrangements for our '08 reunion in Quantico and it looks to top our previous ones. We keep outdoing ourselves.

I'd like to thank our Association chaplain "Mickey" Ryan for the outstanding work he has been doing in our name for our members. Mickey sends cards and flowers to those of us who are under the weather and for the families of our brothers who have passed on. I've asked for a few special prayers from Mickey on occasion and I honestly think he really and truly does have Gods home number. I think we all are appreciative of the work Mickey does to minister and console our members in need. Not a finer person could have been placed in this important position. Mickey met our call two years ago and we'd just like to let him know that his flock is extremely appreciative.

I'd also like to thank our founder and current Association treasurer, Eric Kenney, for the untiring work he has put into his position as treasurer. Our funds are meticulously maintained and our scholarship fund is solid and is creating enough interest at present to self sustain one scholarship per year. As the fund grows it will hopefully become self sustaining for the future education of our children and their children. Our new breed membership is growing and it is evident that the Association will endure.

I would hope that those of you who have some time on your hands and can put forth a little effort can jump on board during the next reunion to fill positions as officers and board members.

Again, thank you for allowing me to do what little I could to help the Association organize and get back on track. We're in great hands with "Frenchy" at the helm, if he gets off course, Sue will keep him straight! God bless you and thanks for all the support. See you in Quantico!

Mike Cummins Sr.

Semper FI

Former President

9th Engineer Bn. Assoc.



Eric Kenny's Treasure Report:

\$3161.48 Regular checking account

> \$1177.00 9th Engineer Scholarship checking account

> \$4500.00 Scholarship CD @ 5 1/2 % interest

> \$4177.00 value of Merchandise

> Total \$13,015.48