

OPHSA



OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

July 2001

Issue 22

2001 REUNION REPORT

This issue contains an account of the 10th annual reunion, held in Ft. Mitchell, KY, June 7th through June 10th at the Drawbridge Inn. Included are the minutes of the business meeting held June 9th and the full text of the Constitution and by-laws of the Association as modified during the meeting.

There were 87 members, spouses and guests who attended the reunion. A large but (mostly) well behaved group.

Those in Attendance were:

Ray and Francis Anderson
John and Judy Beechler,
Sam and Enolia Buck,
Rankin and Rella Burchfield plus Jim and Diane
Regnard (RAB) Burgess
Patrick and Maxine Burke
Ronald and Arlene Caswell
Don Chase
Tom Chilcot
Jerry and Lillie Cunningham and Miriam Richardson
COL Addison Davis
James Davis
Floyd and Iris Deiwert
James and Anne Evans
John and Carolyn Ferrara
Robert and Jane Grillo
Ralph and Phyllis Gupstill
Edward Hanrahan Jr
Gerald and Isabell Harbach
Harold Harrison
Ruth Heeger
James and Lydia Jarboe
Douglas and Marge Jones

Richard Kilgen
Fredric Knepper and Joyce Bookheimer
Gerald and Joan Lang
John and Betsy Lenz
Gordon and Dorothy Lowery
Martin and Margaret Markley
Richard and Shirley Martinet
Rhonda and Robert Gloodt plus David and Elizabeth McAuliffe, Marrison Barrett and Dustin Tiller
Dean and Joan Mulligan
Americo Pellegrini
Francis Riley
Verlin and Nadine Rogers
John Rohig
John and Jean Ross
Charles and Ardis Seeman
Warren Sessler and Karla Wei
Norville Shields
James and Minnie Steffan
Walden and Cora Storie
Carl and Ann Topie
LTC Mike Slater
Harvey and Shirley Walton
Claude and Billie Williams
John G. Vandermark

The excellent detailed planning done by our reunion Chairman, Jerry Cunningham, became obvious as members and guests began arriving by plane and car on June 7th.

The Northern Kentucky Convention Bureau had prepared name badges for us and aided in issuing them to all attendees.

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An informal reception was held in the hospitality room that evening. The volume rose as new friends and old friends got into the swing of things.

June 8th

We gathered at the London Lobby area of the Inn to board our buses. Driving north from the hotel on I 75 we passed through Covington, KY and crossed the Ohio River into Cincinnati, OH. Our guide gave us a good rundown of local history. Not a monument or landmark was missed as we went through downtown to Mount Adams with some spectacular views of the city and the riverfront. We made a short stop at the old passenger railroad station, which has been converted, into a beautiful modern museum

Coming back across the river into Covington we got a look at old homes and some of the commerce that moves on the river.

We stopped for lunch at the Old Country Buffet, where we parted company with our tour guide. As we reboarded the buses to return to our hotel someone (who shall remain nameless) talked our driver into making just one unscheduled stop. A nearby Sam's Club was the target with the objective being the Liquor Department. One of the conspirators was disappointed that Sam's had no Irish Whisky in stock! Didn't he know that we were in the heart of Bourbon Country??

A very good time was had by all who visited the hospitality room. Our historian Dick Martinet had brought along many books of documents and photos related to OP Harry. Our President, Warren Sessler donated several large photographs of OP Harry, which were on display.

June 9th

The day began with a solemn Memorial Service for those who were lost on OP Harry and members of the Association who have passed on since. Our President Warren Sessler called upon Chaplain Ed Hanrahan and Jerry Cunningham to conduct the service.

Members representing each of the units engaged in the battle for OP Harry came forward to light a candle and take part in a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades.

After a short intermission the members were called to order for the business meeting. The minutes of that meeting are published elsewhere in this Newsletter. Verlin Rogers was elected President and F. Walden Storie Vice President.

After the meeting the hospitality room was humming, with many conversations going on in various parts of the room. Some ladies went shopping while others enjoyed a game of cards.

Gerry Harbach brought a projector and color slides he had made when he was with 15th Infantry, G Company on OP Harry and on the MLR. Many others brought memorabilia to share. It was impossible to get around to join all of the circles of conversations.

The banquet began at 6:00 PM with the traditional reception line. Tickets were being sold for the 50:50 raffle as well as the special raffle of a Chinese made rifle of the Korean War Era and several decorative wooden clocks. Member John Ferrara donated the rifle. John made the clocks for the raffle as well as the wooden candelabra used in the memorial service. Special thanks to John.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Colonel Addison Davis, presently garrison commander at Ft Bragg, NC. In the recent past he was commander of the 1st battalion of the 15th Infantry at Ft Benning. He gave us an insight, sometimes humorous and sometimes serious, into the job of commanding a base that is engaged in training today's airborne forces.

For the Association, Colonel Davis made the presentation of an American flag that had flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. to Associate member Ruth Heeger whose husband Albert passed away last year.

Patrick Burke presented the Medal of St. Maurice to Floyd Deiwert on behalf of the National Infantry Association. (*See newspaper article elsewhere in this issue. Ed.*)

Jim Jarboe gave a slide talk showing pictures associated with the battle for OP Harry.

Robert Gloodt, husband of Associate member Rhonda McAuliffe Gloodt, won the 50/50-raffle prize. Fred Knepper won the raffle of the Chinese made rifle. Several other members won the decorative clocks and matted pictures of OP Harry.

June 10th

The reunion concluded with the farewell breakfast. Many good wishes for safe journeys were heard echoing through the room as comrades, families, and guests prepared to leave for home. Another phrase heard frequently was, "See you in New Orleans next year".

OPHSA honorary member LTC Mike Slater was present during the reunion. He is researching a book, as yet untitled, he intends to write about OP Harry. His first book is a history of the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea titled "Hills of Sacrifice". He conducted several interviews with members of the Association concerning their parts in the Battle for OP Harry in June of 1953.

Mike is an active duty Marine recently stationed on Okinawa. He has been assigned to a new duty station near Washington D.C. and is in the process of moving from Okinawa.

WE GET CALLS AND LETTERS

A letter to Doug Jones from Joan Hawk.

Dear Doug and OP Harry Survivors Association,

I was pleased to have received a special invitation to the OP Harry Survivors Association reunion in Kentucky in June and I thank you for this personal invitation. It is with deep regret that I will not be able to make the reunion.

I will be in Illinois during this time doing my own medical check ups and possible surgery. I do ask for your prayers and appreciate all the support you all have shown me during my most difficult time of my life.

This Survivors Association has been a wonderful experience for the two of us and I hope it will continue for many years to come.

God Bless.

Joan Hawk
1219 Granada Ct.
Lady Lake, FL 32159-5747

Your editor received a phone call from OPHSA member Charlie Scott in June after the reunion.

Charlie wants to express his appreciation for all the get well cards and notes he has received. He regrets that his illness prevented him and wife Mary from attending the reunion in Kentucky. He said that a recent change in medication appears to be helping. He is looking forward to New Orleans.



We just received a letter from new President Verlin Rogers. Here are a few quotes:

"Yes, I agree that we had a great reunion....Even though I don't like to change things a lot after they have been adopted I believe the membership issue turned out very good....Ones I visited with who were new felt that older members in the Association really reached out their arms to take in those outside the dates first adopted.....One new member, who was at the reunion last year for the first time, told his wife they would come one more time to see how the membership issue was settled. And if it didn't work out they would just give it up. He was very pleased.

He was an engineer and felt that had they not been there having the place made ready, we would have had a harder time performing our job. Really that is the way it is supposed to work, All together."

Chaplain, Ed Hanrahan, is recuperating from a knee replacement surgery. Drop him a line. His address is in the list of officers.

OP HARRY STORY TOLD IN RADIO INTERVIEW

OPHSA member and Association past President Dick Kilgen was interviewed in April on radio station WESS in East Stroudsburg, PA. A thank you letter to Dick after his appearance on the station follows. (Ed.)

Dear Mr. Kilgen:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to interview you about your experiences in the Korean War on my radio show. I had the most positive reactions from that show than any other show that I have ever had. Many people called the station and said they enjoyed listening to the show and appreciated you coming on and talking about the war.

I have to admit that it was a little hard to concentrate on the show, because I felt a little emotional listening to the experiences you and your fellow army brothers had gone through. I could never imagine the sacrifices you and the men who fought next to you made for the price of freedom in our world today. As I told you on the show I want to thank you and the men who fought next to you for the freedom that I have today. Never in my life will a day pass that I forget about the privilege of being an American. I have you and you're bothers of the war to thank for the air I breath, for the earth that I walk and the privilege of living in a free country.

I wish every American could feel the way I do about the men who shed their blood and lost their lives for the price of freedom. I hope you and the men you served with have a happy reunion this summer. I would appreciate it if you could tell them thank you.

I think it would be great if you could come back and do a follow up show, so the listeners In our community could increase their education on the Korean War. Even though the Korean War is called the forgotten war, I have not forgotten the sacrifices of the men who put their lives on the line. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Ediz Laypan
Station Manager.

Our view 7-7-01

William Floyd Deiwert

On Memorial Day weekend, Floyd Deiwert Jr. related his Korean War Outpost Harry experience to a crowd of eager supporters as part of the downtown holiday event.

A few days later, a fellow member of the Outpost Harry Association delivered a memorable honor to Deiwert.

Ret. Lt. Col. Patrick Burke nominated Deiwert for the Order of St. Maurice, a medal presented by the National Infantry Association and the United States Army Infantry Association. On May 30, the historical Memorial Day, Deiwert was selected as a recipient of the Order of St. Maurice Legionnaire Award.

The award is given by the NIA and U.S. Army Infantry to a former serviceman who has "made conspicuous contributions to the Infantry and support of the Branch."

The Legionnaire is one of five levels of honors in the Order of St. Maurice. All winners must have "served the Infantry community with distinction and have demonstrated a significant conspicuous contribution in support of Infantry Branch; must represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and dedication to duty; and must be nominated for the award by an active NIA member.

The nominee does not have to be an NIA member, though Deiwert, eager to give back, will soon become one. He intends to submit his nominations.

The award is named for St. Maurice, Primicerius of the Theban Legion in 287 AD. He led a legion march in service of the Roman Empire, but balked at orders to offer pagan sacrifices and kill innocent citizens. That action led to the decimation of his troops by his superiors, and eventually his death.

"The legend of Saint Maurice giving his life for a principle, exemplifies the bravery, gallantry and commitment associated with the Infantry soldier," a description of the honor reads.

Deiwert's honor is not handed out to every soldier. In a letter informing him of his award, Burke suggested he might be the only person in Indiana to have received St. Maurice.

There are hundreds of men and women like Deiwert in Decatur County who served the country with distinction on the fields of battle. There are fewer who continue to serve in support of their military branch after they've left the service.

For his efforts, then and now, we thank him.

Editor's Note: Well Done is an editorial tip of the cap to an individual or groups of people in Decatur County whose accomplishments or efforts are worth celebrating. The feature will run Saturdays in this space. Nominations for well done may be submitted to the Daily News, attention Dan Markham.

**Well
Done**

The above clipping was published in the Daily News, Decatur County, Indiana, 7-7-2001.

MINUTES OPHSA

Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky
June 9th, 2001

President Warren Sessler opened the meeting and welcomed all to Ft. Mitchell... He immediately proceeded with a roll call of officers... He said he was apprehensive about conducting the meeting but it didn't take long for him to give orders... (I thought that I might have to salute)... He first called for the secretaries report... For once I was ready and willing to read the excellent minutes of the San Francisco meeting... Mainly because Sam took the minutes in my absence and they probably were more correct than anything in the past... However Martin made the motion that as the minutes had previously been published to forego the reading... Sam 2nd and carried...

Sam gave the treasurers report (using his new math) and after all bills were paid we had a balance of \$892.83... Sam was complimented on a good report and we moved on...

Ed Hanrahan gave his usually excellent invocation.

Jim Jarboe was thanked for producing a very informative newsletter...

Dick Martinet's work as the historian was also shown appreciation... Dick would like to have any member who has any material or memorabilia from Harry forwarded to him (R&R not included)....

Moved, 2nd and passed to authorize expenditures for Jerry for the next reunion... (wish some of you wouldn't talk so fast)....

Rab started to make a motion changing the definition of what time frames (6-10 thru 6-18 -53) were required for members to be a regular member of OPHSA... The motion was almost made and then was changed slightly and then slightly once more... and then with Martin's help he finalized the motion to read... "Anyone serving on or in support of OPH prior to 6-18-53 back to 1951 would be eligible for regular membership"... Francis Riley 2nd and passed with far more than the 2/3 needed...

John Ferrara... one of the few present who was directly affected by this change thanked the membership for their vote....

Saint Patrick Burke (he likes to be called St... If Pat's a saint then I am related to the Pope) stated that Leonard Lassor wanted the "Last Man Bottle" that he donated be returned to him... The resounding NO vote was 110%....

Martin noted that we will now need a change in the By-laws and Constitution... Jim Evans moved that Martin make the necessary changes and publish same in the newsletter... 2nd by our dear friend Francis Riley...

Speaking of Francis it was duly noted that he even made a bigger splash than usual at this reunion....

Jerry wanted Fort Benning to be named as the OPHSA home base... Due in part that part of the 15th is stationed there, in part that the infantry museum has devoted space in their museum and lastly now that they have designated part of a new building in honor of the Battle for Outpost Harry... Dick Martinet so moved and Jim Evans 2nd and carried...

Jerry informed or stated or one might say, so firmly moved that the next reunion was to be held in New Orleans... For the record Jim Jarboe 2nd (Jerry would have if necessary)... Needless to say motion carried (who would dare otherwise)...

Warren moved that Mike Slater be designated an Honorary member... 2nd and carried...

New Slate of officers elected for the year 2001/02

President ...Verlin Rogers

V. Pres. F. Walden Storie

The rest of said officers were involuntarily re-upped... Rab so moved and Sam 2nd...

WHEW

Doug

CONSTITUTION
OUTPOST HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2001

ARTICLE I. DESIGNATION The Name of the organization is THE OUTPOST HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES The purpose of the association is to keep all men who were involved in the battles in Korea to hold Outpost Harry bonded together in common memory of that action and to honor the many sacrifices made by our comrades.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP Membership is open at all times to all persons who were involved in any way in the defense of Outpost Harry regardless of branch or unit and who comply with the Constitution and By - Laws of the Association.

3.1 Classes of membership are Regular, Associate and Honorary.

> 3.1. A REGULAR - Those participating directly in the defense of Outpost Harry.

3.1.B ASSOCIATE - Spouse, parents, children or siblings of a person eligible for regular membership.

3.1.C HONORARY - As granted by the executive committee.

ARTICLE IV. MANAGEMENT

5.1 **Government** The membership is the governing body of the Association. It meets once a year at which time officials are elected to carry out the day-to-day operations of the Association. Each regular member in good standing has one vote in these elections.

5.2 **Officers**

5.2.1 Elective officers of the Association are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

5.2.2 Appointed officers are Editor, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Judge Advocate and Chaplain.

5.3 **Term of Office** The term of office for all elected officials shall extend from the time of election to the next annual meeting or until their successors have been duly elected. The President may serve more than once but shall be limited to two consecutive terms.

>5.4 **Executive Committee** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President. Each member has one vote on matters considered by the Executive Committee. Majority vote determines the outcome of matters. Voting by mail is authorized.

5.5 **ELECTIONS** The Secretary shall call for nominations for all elective offices at least ninety days before the annual election. Members wanting to be considered for an office will notify the secretary in writing at least sixty days prior to the election. The secretary will prepare a ballot for use during the election. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those members who request them.

ARTICLE VI. PUBLICATIONS

6.1 "The Outpost Harry Survivors Association Newsletter", published four times a year and distributed by the Editor, is the official publication of the Association.

6.2 Association Roster, maintained by the Secretary, is published annually and will be distributed upon request.

>Indicates a change

ARTICLE VII. BY - LAWS

7.1 The Association shall have full power to adopt by - Laws which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution. By - Laws may be adopted, ratified, modified or repealed at the Association's annual meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose under Section VI of the By - Laws. . Absentee ballots will be mailed to those members who request them.

7.2 The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order as revised shall govern the Association in all cases where applicable and in which they are not inconsistent or conflicting with the Constitution or By - Laws of this Association

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS The constitution and by - laws may be amended, altered or repealed by a 2/3 vote of members present at a meeting. . Absentee ballots will be mailed to those members who request them.

ARTICLE IX DUES Annual membership dues are payable prior to July each year in amounts set fort in the by - laws.

BY - LAWS
OUTPOST HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

SECTION I. REUNIONS

1.1 Annual Reunion

An annual reunion of the Association will be held each year at a place and date determined at the prior reunion. Every other year, when possible, the reunion will be held in conjunction with a battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

1.2 Business Meeting

One or more business meetings will be held in conjunction with the annual reunion.

2.2 Quorum

A quorum, defined as two thirds (2/3) of the members at a reunion/meeting is required to conduct the business of the Association.

SECTION II. VOTING PRIVILEGE

Regular Members in good standing are entitled to one vote each.

SECTION III. GOVERNANCE BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS

2.1 Between annual reunions/meetings legislative authority for the Association is vested in the Executive Committee. Its decisions have immediate effect and remain in force until ratified, modified or repealed at the next annual reunion/meeting.

SECTION IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4.1 **President**: The President is the chief executive officer of the Association. He has the leadership role in proposing, formulating and guiding the Executive Committee's actions and implements its decisions. He will coordinate all association activities and preside at all meetings.

4.2 **Vice President**: Will be the next in line of succession to the presidency, will assist the president as requested and preside at meetings if the president is absent or declines to preside.

4.3 **Secretary**: Acts for the Executive Committee in announcing meetings, maintains Association records, making reports. Will record the minutes of meetings, coordinate with the Editor in maintaining an up to date roster.

4.4 **Treasurer** will be answerable for all funds and bills accrued and Will submit a preliminary budget to the executive committee thirty days prior to the annual meeting or as requested by the president.

4.5 **Editor**: Has the responsibility for timely publication of the Association's Newsletter. He shall establish deadlines, solicit submission of news from members and keep the membership informed of related association activities. The newsletter will inform members of the times, dates and places of future meetings. He will coordinate with the Secretary to ensure current membership information.

4.6 **Chaplain**: Shall direct religious observations of the association, including opening and closing prayers at each meeting, deliver blessings whenever the occasion demands, correspond with the sick and relatives of deceased members, inform members of any member who is ill and appoint a member to act in his place if he is unable to attend a meeting.

4.7 **Judge Advocate**: Shall act as parliamentarian at all meetings, shall provide opinion(s) on legal matters referred to him by association officers and will be responsible for coordination of recommended changes to the Constitution and By - Laws.

4.8 **Sergeant-at Arms**: Shall be responsible for the discipline at meetings. Will report and announce guests and visitors and will be the Escort when required.

4.9 **Historian**: Will develop and maintain a history of the association and develop and maintain the history of actions in Korea relating to the battles of Outpost Harry.

SECTION V, VACANCIES

Vacancies in any office other than the Presidency shall be filled by a presidential appointee who shall hold the office until the next reunion/meeting. Vacancy in the President office will be filled by the vice president who shall hold the office until the next reunion/meeting.

SECTION VI DUES

Annual dues are payable in amounts specified and approved by the membership. The amount of dues is to be determined by budget needs from recommendations by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership.

SECTION VII. AMENDMENTS TO BY - LAWS

Any of the By - Laws of the Association Contained herein may be amended, repealed or changed by affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at any annual meeting of the Association. Proposals for changes to the By - Laws must be made to the President. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those members who request them.

A STRETCH IN HELL

Author unknown

It's just across the parallel,
Korea is the spot,
Where we are doomed to serve our time,
In this land that God forgot,

Down here with the bullets and the shells,
Where a man gets blue,
Right in the middle of nowhere,
Nine thousand miles from you.

We sweat, we freeze, we shiver,
It's more than we can stand,
No folks, we are not convicts,
Just defenders of our land.

We are the soldiers of the "Fighting 3rd"
Earning our measly pay
Guarding folks with millions,
For about 3 dollars a day.

Living with our memories,
Hoping with our pals,
Praying while we are fighting,
No one marries our gals.

Nobody knows we are living,
And nobody gives a damn,
So we are soon forgotten,
Except by Uncle Sam.

The time we have spent in the Army,
Is the time of our lives we missed,
Boy don't let that draft board get you,
And for God's sake don't enlist.

So when we pass the Pearly Gates,
You'll hear St. Peter yell,
Fall in you boys from Korea,
You've spent your stretch in hell.

This poem was given to the Newsletter at the reunion by member Jerry Lang who served with 15th Infantry, K Co. The original is on yellow lined paper, folded many times, taped together and stained with age. Jerry says he does not know who the author was. These words from the past have the ring of truth about them for those who were there. (Ed.)

Editor's Goof

In an article in the January, 2001 issue of this Newsletter it was incorrectly stated that Richard Martinet was the editor for the history of OPHSA. In fact Dan Braucher was the first editor, followed by Richard Kilgen, Ernie Kramer and Richard Martinet beginning in 1995.

Apologies to all. (Ed.)