

# OPHSA



## OP Harry Survivors Association Newsletter

July 2004

Issue 34

# 2004 REUNION REPORT

The OP Harry Survivors Association's thirteenth reunion was held at the Holiday Inn Mission Bay in San Diego, California on the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the battles for that beleaguered outpost in Korea.

On Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup> we managed, at the beginning, to surmount some problems with the shuttle services from the airport to the hotel. From there the registration packages were distributed to arriving members. The welcome reception that evening, with a briefing on coming activities by **Jerry Cunningham** was a great time for members, new and old, to greet one another while enjoying Hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshment.

The hospitality room was opened and many gathered to chat and view our website on a computer setup brought by our webmaster, **Freeman Bradford**. Our many books of memorabilia, as well as enlarged photographs of OP Harry and related areas were on display.

The next morning we filled up two buses for a City Tour of San Diego. The drivers were excellent, as were the tour guides. The weather was cooperating with mild temperatures. The sky was overcast in the morning changing to lots of sun peeking between beautiful clouds against a deep blue.

We spent some time at a picturesque shopping center called Seaport Village and had another stop to view the aircraft carrier Midway. The Midway has just been opened as a museum. Moving on we went through Coronado, Balboa Park and the 'Gaslight

Quarter', a favorite area for shore leave starved navy men for generations.

Then on to Shelter Island along the North Shore of San Diego Bay and the Bali Hai restaurant for a buffet lunch overlooking the Bay. Upon return to the hotel the rest of the day was free time.

Some members had the opportunity to attend a graduation ceremony at the Marine Corps Recruit Center. (*More on that elsewhere in this issue. Ed.*) Some members and family went to SeaWorld. Others did the shopping bit and still others visited the Midway Museum that had just opened to the public early that week. Many others kept the conversations going in the hospitality room.

The following morning all attended the Memorial Service introduced by **President Francis Riley** and **Chaplain Ed Hanrahan**. **Jerry Cunningham** called representatives of the various units participating in the battle to light a candle in memory of our fallen comrades and those survivors who have passed on since. Mrs. Pat Bradford read a touching poem, "Absence", written by Don Chase our Poet Laureate. Special mention was made of member **Wayne Carlson** who passed away in San Diego on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

New members were asked to speak of their experiences related to OP Harry. **Ron Flahive** spoke of the time his company (C Co, 15<sup>th</sup> IR) was called upon to reinforce K Co, (15<sup>th</sup> IR) on June 10<sup>th</sup>. **Jim Nichols** spoke of his experiences in the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Co and the effects he suffered for many years after from PTSD.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

After a short break the ladies departed for the hospitality room while the old soldiers attended the business meeting. Details of the meeting will be in our **Secretary Doug Jones'** minutes published elsewhere in this issue.

We gathered in the Aztec Ballroom for the traditional banquet. Our scheduled speaker, **COL Stephen Twitty** was not able to attend because of the illness of his wife. Our speaker was **Major Tom Whitaker**, who was with the 3ID during their slashing advance to Baghdad last year. He is currently expecting to return to Iraq sometime after Thanksgiving of this year. His work was primarily with the civilian population to expedite aid and services being restored after the battle lines moved north. There is much to do in Iraq and we are grateful we have men like Major Whitaker ready and able to do it!

**Major Whitaker** was presented with an OP Harry cap and Memorial Medal. He was then enlisted by **Martin Markley** to present two awards. One plaque went to **Chaplain Ed Hanrahan** for his service to OPHSA over the years. The other went to **Editor Jim Jarboe** for his work for the Association with photography and the Newsletter.

The 50:50 raffle and raffle of other gifts contributed by members was ably conducted by **Jim Evans** and **Richard Martinet**. With the aid of **Freeman Bradford** in making the prints, we were able to raffle three large color pictures of OP Harry. In addition there were some framed sheets of the Korean War postage stamp issued at the 50-year anniversary of the beginning of the War. **John Ferrara**, who included several First Covers postmarked with the first date of issue, presented these framed items to the Association. **Jim Jarboe** won the 50:50.

**Ray Anderson** presented a special award to **Jerry Cunningham** in recognition of Jerry's outstanding reunion planning for the Association. **John Ferrara** had sent it to Ray who decided not to open it until the banquet. The award was opened and unpacked before the whole group. When all the packing material was removed Jerry held up a beautiful leather bound book of the history of the US Army, which was greeted by a long round of applause.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fellow Survivors:

I deemed it a great honor to have been elected your President for the ensuing year. I hope I can do as great a job as Francis X, Riley has done.

First off, an 18 gun Salute with 155s to Jerry for the fine job he did in planning this year's site and tour. I think a fine time was had by all. Congratulations to Del Tolen on his election to the office of Vice President of the Association.

Our guest speaker Major Tom Whitaker gave us a very informative talk about the War in Iraq and in the question and answer session gave straight answers except for a couple where you had to read between the lines. Congratulations to Paul Gregory on Receiving the National Infantry Association's Medal of St. Maurice. Congratulations also to Ed Hanrahan and James Jarboe on receiving award plaques for the fine work they have done for the Association these past years. We were happy to see several first time members there and missed the old members who did not make it for one reason or another. I told the membership at the meeting that I was a man of few words so I have just said my few words, except for this proverb: "A fool gives full vent to his anger but a wise man keeps himself under control."

*(Floyd wrote the above column before we received the bad news that we had lost our Vice President, Del Tolen to a heart attack)*

### APPENDIX TO THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was a shock to realize that my first official duty was to appoint a replacement for our newly elected Vice President Del Tolen. As you will see in the minutes of the meeting we had two nominees who accepted the nomination, Dan Carson and Del Tolen. I contacted Dan via email to ask if he would accept the appointment to which he agreed. Therefor, according to Section V, Vacancies, of the Association By-Laws I appoint **Dan Carson** to complete the term of our late lamented comrade, Del Tolen.

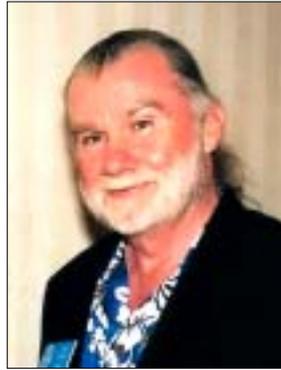
WE HELD!

*Floyd Deiwert Jr.*

## DAN CARSON APPOINTED VP

In his President's Corner Column, **President Floyd Deiwert** announced the appointment of **Dan Carson** as the Vice President of the OP Harry Survivors Association.

With the untimely death of our newly elected Vice President Del Tolen it became necessary to appoint a replacement according to the By-Laws of the Association.



**Dan Carson**

Of four nominees during the business meeting both Dan and Del accepted the nomination whereas the two others nominated declined. The election was held by a count of hands for the two candidates, who were asked to leave the room while the votes were counted. Del won the majority and became our Vice President only to succumb to a heart attack on June 25 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Dan accepted Floyd's appointment to the office and will serve as VP until the regular election at next year's reunion business meeting.

Dan lives in Kaneohe, Hawaii. In the Korean War he first served with the 304th Signal Bn. as a motion picture photographer, where he found himself in harms way making pictures of action at Pork Chop Hill. Out of the frying pan and into the fire, he was ordered to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Signal Company as Photo Section officer.

He became a frequent flyer over a place called OP Harry, shooting recon pictures over enemy territory. The enemy was shooting too, and definitely not with cameras. Dan is a Survivor in the truest meaning of the word.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

OPHSA does not levy dues. We do have expenses and must ask for contributions. Please make your checks payable to OP Harry Survivors Association.

Mail to:

**Sam Buck**

**1514 West Court Ave**

**Winterset, IA 50273-1789**

## REUNION ATTENDEES

San Diego, CA June 10-13,2004

Ray and Frances Anderson  
John and Judy Beechler  
Bert and Billie Beierschmitt  
Freeman and Pat Bradford  
Sam and Enolia Buck  
Dan Carson  
Richard and Joanne Cramer  
Jerry and Lillie Cunningham  
Jim Davis  
Leonard and Ruth DeBord  
Floyd and Iris Deiwert and granddaughters  
Jessi and Chassidee Stringer  
Don and Anita Dingee and guests Garry and Juanita(Johnson) Mendez  
Robert and Maragaret Dornfried  
Jim and Anne Evans  
Henry and Dorothy Flaack  
Ronald and Joyce Flahive  
Edward and Mary Freitas  
Chester and Mary Fudala  
Leonard Godmaire and Hazel Greeby  
Paul and Adalene Gregory  
Bob and Jane Grillo  
David Gulbraa  
Ed Hanrahan  
Harold Harrison  
Bob Hooker and brother, George  
Jim and Lydia Jarboe, daughter Claire and Robert Vorhis, children Sarah and Michael son Daniel and his daughter, Emily  
Doug and Marge Jones  
Jerry and Joan Lang  
Jack and Betsy Lenz  
Brock Lippitt  
Gordon Lowery  
Bill Maddox and son Michael  
Ed and Janet Marion  
Martin and Margaret Markley  
David and Edith Martin  
Richard and Shirley Martinet  
Jim Nichols and daughter Deborah Hoet  
John and Mildred Pate  
Francis Riley  
Verlin and Nadine Rogers  
Frank and Amy Scarcella  
Fred Schernig  
Ralph and Alice Smith  
Del and Alice Tolen  
Emory and Carolyn Walker  
Mark and Lavonne Woods

# TAPS

## R. Wayne Carlson 1930-2004

R. Wayne Carlson, 74, of Ottawa, died Wednesday, June 9, in San Diego, Calif.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Mueller Funeral Home with the Rev. James Crone of Epworth United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Memorial Park with full military rites. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. Carlson was born Jan. 9, 1930, in Ottawa, to Hugo and Esther (Klein) Carlson. He married Shirley Anne Christiansen on Oct. 14, 1951, at Grand Ridge United Methodist Church.

He was a 1948 graduate of Ottawa Township High School. He was an Army veteran of Korea and graduated from

Rockford School of Business. He was president of Carlson Motor Sales until 1972 and retired from the auto business in 1996.

He was a member of Epworth United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 33, Ottawa VFW, Outpost Harry Survivors Association, Society of the 3rd Division, Infantrymen's Association and Ottawa Elks Club.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, David Wayne (Rebecca) of Marseilles and Gary Lee (Diana) of Ottawa; and a sister, Beverly Hinkey of Los Angeles, Calif.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jeffrey, in infancy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library, P.O. Box 16, Tuscola, Ill. 61953.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Cavanaugh, Ralph Schiffgens, Earl Taylor, Gordon Lowery, Bill Zellers and Bill Modesitt.



Carlson

### A DEBT

Sometimes in a person's life another individual will have a lasting effect on that person's future. I attribute my being alive today to the medical attention given to me by Wayne Carlson and other medical personnel. Wayne, a medic in the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, was one of the first to tend my wounds. While the battalion surgeon was removing shrapnel from my extremities Wayne made certain that pressure was maintained on my head wound. He did not relinquish the task until I was placed in a helicopter for evacuation to our M.A.S.H. A few years ago, during a reunion, I was fortunate to meet Wayne and Gordon Lowery, another medic who was in the aid station at that time. It was the first we had met since that eventful June in 1953. It has been a great pleasure for me to learn more about Wayne and to have the opportunity to personally thank him. I will never forget.

*Martin Markley*

### Rocky Mountain News

#### TOLEN, DELBERT F.

Delbert F. Tolen died in Grand Junction on June 25, 2004. He was born October 20, 1930 to Elmer Tolen and Minnie Etta Kiohne Tolen in Peru, Indiana where he grew up. Delbert moved to Montezuma, Colorado in 1948, where he worked at Climax and other smaller mines, and he considered Colorado home from then on. He joined the Army in 1951 and served in the Korean War in the 5th Regimental Combat Team. He received both the Purple Heart and Silver Star while serving at Outpost Harry.



After being discharged he returned to Colorado where he met and married Alice Mae Berg in 1954. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1957 with a professional degree in Petroleum Refining Engineering. He worked at various refineries throughout his career in Colorado and other states. Delbert and Alice returned to Colorado where they lived in Golden and finally settled in Grand Junction.

Delbert was a member of the Breckenridge Masons Lodge # 47, the Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association, and the Elks Lodge. He recently attended reunions of two Korean War Veterans organizations: the Fifth Regiment and the Outpost Harry Survivors

Group, and was awarded the St. Maurice Medal for Valor for his actions at Outpost Harry in Korea.

He had a lifelong love of the outdoors and the Colorado mountains, and an abiding interest in mining and geology. He also had a love of history, particularly of the civil war. He loved to read and he thought deeply on many things and loved vigorous discussion.

Delbert is survived by his wife Alice Mae (Berg) Tolen; five sons and their wives David and Lee of Aspen, Peter and Chris of Castle Rock, Stuart and Stephanie of Olathe, Edward and Tracey of Fruita, and Malcolm and Cathy of Golden; two brothers Wayne and Leon, a sister Vivian (Tolen) Stanton, thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Delbert was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Jim Tolen and a sister Miriam Tolen Townsend.

Nothing was more important to Delbert than his family, and he will be deeply missed. Services will be held in Grand Junction at 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 1 at the Masonic Lodge, 2400 Consistory Court (off of 1st and Rockcliff).

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association at the following address: Western Colorado Section, Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association, P.O. Box 40, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

Delbert Franklin Tolen enlisted in the Army in 1950. Lt. Tolen was assigned to Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> RCT in Korea, March, 1953. On May 2, 1953, he was wounded in the right arm by Chinese Communist (CCF) actions. He continued to serve as an Infantry Platoon Leader until May 28, 1953 when he was appointed Executive Officer, Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> RCT.

During the defense of Outpost Harry by Company A, Lt. Tolen was responsible for leading the counter attack platoon up the trenches to repel the enemy in the event the CCF breached the main fortifications. The outpost's restricted size provided positions for only two plus infantry platoons. Lt. Tolen organized the remaining members of the company at a medical bunker located at the bottom of the outpost. In the early morning of June 13, 1953, Lt. Tolen received word that the situation on the outpost was critical. He organized his men into assault groups and led them through devastating mortar, artillery and small arms fire. He engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. Lt. Tolen succeeded in leading his men and repulsed the attacking enemy forces.

Among his awards are the CIB, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal and the National Defense Medal. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. He was also awarded the Parachute Badge and the Republic of Korea Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal. Del Tolen was awarded the National Infantry Association Order of St. Maurice in June, 2002.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued)*

**Del Tolen's** military information was sent to us by **Jim Evans**, and the obituary of **Del Tolen** was sent by **Jim Steffan**. The obituary of **Wayne Carlson** was sent by **Gordon Lowery**.

*We thank them all for passing the word, so their brothers may know! (Ed.)*

President **Floyd Deiwert** sent this note to the editor: "I ask the Triple Nickel to give **Jim Steffan** an 18 gun salute for representing OPHSA and the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT and speaking at the memorial services for Delbert F. Tolen, our late Vice President. I don't think we could have had a more knowledgeable person representing us."

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm greeting to eight new members of the Association who have joined since the publication of the last Newsletter

**Frank C. Basford II, 5<sup>th</sup> RCT, B Co.**

Frank lives in Marion, OH.

**Robert E. Cole, 5<sup>th</sup> RCT, A Co.**

Robert lives in Ft. Myers, FL.

**Bobby G. Deaver, 15<sup>th</sup> Inf., I Co.**

Bobby and wife, Myrt, live in West Jefferson, NC.

**Eugene C. Forsberg, 39<sup>th</sup> FA, Hq Btry, 3ID.**

Gene and his wife Katherine live in Hibbing, MN.

**Joseph Kolgat Jr., C Btry. 9<sup>th</sup> FA, 3ID**

Joseph lives in Milwaukee, WI.

**Joseph E. Manley, C Co. 10<sup>th</sup> Engr. Bn., 3ID**

Joseph and wife Bonnie live in Lancaster, PA

**Michael J. Maddox, Associate member**, son of member Willie Maddox.

Michael and his wife Suzy live in Wallace, CA

**Archie E. Stanley, B Co. 10<sup>th</sup> Engr. BN., 3ID**

Archie lives in Garrison, KY.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Letters, Sympathy cards and OP Harry prayer cards were mailed to the families of Wayne Carlson and Delbert Tolen.



Del and Wayne were highly honorable, solid citizens and exceptional soldiers. They will be missed greatly.

Marie Pellegrini asked to have Chic Pellegrini's Mass cards distributed to his OPHSA friends Ray Anderson, Francis X. Riley, Claude Williams, Ernie Kramer, and Pat Carbone. That has been done.

I had a nice chat with John Ferrara who wanted me to thank you all for signing his card at the reunion. "Hang in there, John" We missed you.

I heard that Dan Braucher, one of our founding members, lost his son Paul recently. May we offer our condolences to Dan. Maybe a card or note would be nice.

I called members of Wayne Carlson's medical company however I found that email is faster than my telephone. Dr. Harry Lee already knew about Wayne's passing. Dr Lee hopes to be in Hawaii 2005.

We salute Gordon Lowery for following through and finishing the reunion. That old saying, "Friends through thick and thin" certainly applies to Gordon. Bless you Gordon.

Again another great reunion was held. The tour and dinner were wonderful. Jerry must have a computer in his head. I have to write everything down and even then I forget it. Thanks Mr. Chairman for all you do. You are remarkable, the way you handle it all.

I received a call from President Floyd Deiwert suggesting that we have the Memorial Plaque Nameplates engraved with "Past President" or "Past vice-president" where appropriate. I personally like that idea.

Thank you for the award. It was quite a surprise. I consider it an honor and privilege to be your Chaplain. You are all my heroes.

Please remember our past members and all our service people and civilians in the Middle East and elsewhere in your prayers.

Stay Well!

*Ed Hanrahan*

## WE GET LETTERS

As a first year new member of OPHSA and attending my first reunion in San Diego this past June I feel compelled to write this letter. It was truly a heart warming and moving experience. Though we are many years older since June '53 in Korea, it was both emotional but yet exhilarating to hear from many of the survivors and others in support roles who continue to be young soldiers at heart. Those involved in any way have not forgotten the attempted siege of OP Harry by the Chinese in June '53.

The gathering, activities, accommodations and program put on by the Association's officers and committee were excellent. The greatest impression I came away with was that ALL survivors of OP Harry, whether attending the reunion, at home and not attending the reunion for many personal reasons, or those now deceased, along with our comrades in arms who were killed or missing in action – All Were Remembered. This remembrance was highlighted in a candle lighting ceremony recognizing and honoring the men in the many major units that participated in the battle, directly or indirectly.

All Were Remembered! We can reinforce this remembrance by supporting the Association with notes of our personal OP Harry experience and certainly pictures that are applicable to OP Harry for the Newsletter and for historical files. The memorabilia on display at the reunion accumulated from members was extensive and rich in memories creating a lasting historical file of OP Harry. We all can add more to this collection by just sharing our experience on OP Harry in mid June '53. Remember, "WE HELD".

*Ron Flahive*

oOo

We received a letter and sketch from member **John Szarpa** of Cheektowaga, NY describing his memories of his short time on OP Harry. John was a member of C Co, 5<sup>th</sup> RCT in June of 1953.

OP Harry had been attacked for three consecutive nights with the responsibility for the defense of the OP falling on 15<sup>th</sup> IR the first night and elements of the 5<sup>th</sup> RCT and the 15<sup>th</sup> IR on the next two nights. John's story starts here in the early morning hours of Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**"Late Friday night (Jun 12<sup>th</sup>) or the wee hours of Saturday Jun 13<sup>th</sup>, C Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 5<sup>th</sup> RCT went on this hill. There was heavy**

**incoming mortar fire all night. To the left there was an extremely heavy firefight. I do not remember if it was Star Hill or Christmas Hill. (Star Hill Ed.)**

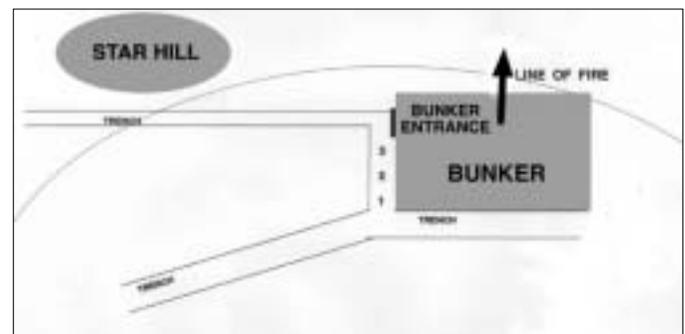
**At 1:00PM Saturday afternoon three of us were working to beef up our bunker with sandbags when the mortars started dropping on us and I blanked out. When I came to a few moments later I realized I had been wounded and crawled into the bunker. Two other buddies of my platoon were wounded by the same round and were being treated in the bunker by C Co. Medic Sgt. Leigh Morton. As I was the worst he attended to me immediately."**

Your editor spoke to John by telephone to clear up some points. He told me that his armored vest saved his life. All three men were wounded by one mortar round. He was wounded in the neck arm and shoulder, but his vest was shredded on that side and back where he was not injured. He was evacuated down the hill, onto a tank or PC, treated at a battalion aid station and evacuated by helicopter to a MASH. He spent three months in Osaka Army hospital

John said he had no idea where he was at the time on OP Harry. Many of his comrades did not know where they were frequently during their times in Korea!

OPHSA member William Dannenmaier wrote a book about his time in Korea in the 15th I&R platoon called "We Were Innocents". A good title because we were innocent of many things about the terrain, place-names etc.

Considering the stress and injuries he sustained in his time on OP Harry, it is amazing that John Szarpa has a clear memory of any of it! The accompanying sketch he made with his computer would make you think that OP Harry had one bunker on it, but then he was wounded while working on that bunker, first treated by a medic in that bunker and it may have been the only one he saw



Sketch by John Szarpa

(Continued on next page)

We can derive some information from his sketch. The sketch is not to scale. The bunker has two trenches leading to it from the left and one along the south side. Star Hill is at the left so it is possible that this machine gun bunker was one on the lower (forward) trench of the 'loop'. John mentioned that he saw a big firefight going on to his left in the vicinity of Star Hill. This bunker then was probably toward the right flank of the OP.

Note the numbers 1,2,3 in the trench on the left side of the bunker. This is the location of the mortar round that wounded the three men, with John being number 1. This sketch has been modified to fit the page and notes that John had in the sketch have been included in the text.

*Thanks to John Szarpa for his letter and sketch. There are a lot of other stories out there that we would like to see. Send them and any related pictures you may have to share with other Survivors to the Editor. We will scan the original pictures or slides and return them to you quickly. (Ed.)*

oOo

Shortly after the reunion we received a note and some pictures from **Don Dingee** telling about a personal sidelight to the OPHSA reunion in San Diego.

“Hi Jim. Sending you some pictures for the Newsletter. **Hank Flaack, Robert Hooker, George Hooker** and I went to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) graduation exercises at the invitation from the **Commanding General John M. Paxton Jr.** on 6-11-04. The program they had for us was fantastic.



**George Hooker, Hank Flaack, Don Dingee, General Paxton and Robert Hooker.**

We had reserved front row seats, a S/Sgt. assigned to us all day, had our picture taken with the General, lunch, saw the Marine Museum, toured the base and in general (no pun intended) were treated like royalty.

It was really great that the Marines showed so much respect to 4 old Army guys. We were really impressed.”



**Showing off some status symbols here are Don Dingee and Hank Flaack.**

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be a member of this Association. Therefore it was quite an added blessing to have been presented an award for service to the Association at the annual banquet.

I have been a member since 1996 when I first received a letter from some one named **Martin Markley** and another from **James Evans**. They both had heard from another source that I had some pictures of a place in Korea called OP Harry. It turned out that Martin and I live about a 40 minutes drive apart in Southern California. He was **very** interested in looking at the photos I had. I didn't have to ask him twice, he was at my home the next day. I showed him all the pictures I had, and being Martin, he looked at them very quietly making comments about the content of the pictures and telling me that a group called OPHSA would like to see them. We made arrangements for him to take a selection to the OPHSA reunion that was coming up within a couple of weeks.

It was only the next day, when I received a letter from him that, I realized what an emotional impact those pictures had on him. I had relegated them to a part of my brain for things in the past that only had value to me. Boy! Was I wrong! I had a lot to learn!

*Jim Jarboe*

# ABSENCE

Every time we gather, from wherever we have roamed  
Thoughts will turn to absent comrades, who never came back home.  
Many years have passed and some memories may have dimmed  
But the pictures of those men, still cling and lie within.

They all have unlined faces, which never did grow old  
The shy, quiet, introverts and also those most bold  
Still heard is their youthful banter, brightening many dreary days  
Which hid the ever-present fear, for each one in different ways.

But when the skies were darkest and the shells began to fall  
They mustered to their stations and consequently gave their all  
These faces drifting past our eyes, from another place and time  
Project their ghostly images for they are etched upon the mind.

Also well remembered are their many hopes and dreams  
All which never came to be, because God called them from the scene  
So now, in the visible sense, no longer are they here  
Yet, a bonding that was forged in battle, always keeps them near.

Donald A. Chase



Photo by Jim Jarboe

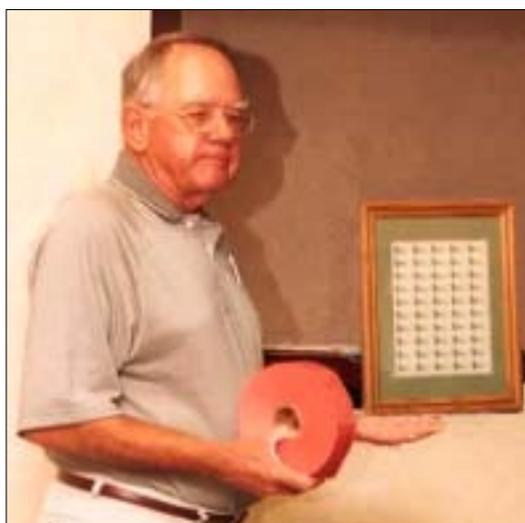
Pat Bradford reads the poem “Absence” by Don Chase at the memorial service of OPHSA in San Diego, June 12, 2004. The Memorial Service is held during the group’s annual reunion to honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives on the hill we called OP Harry. Pat Bradford is the wife of our webmaster Freeman Bradford. Don Chase has many poems to his credit. He is our unofficial ‘Poet Laureate’.

# REUNION SNAPS



Photo by Jim Jarboe

David and Edith Martin, Fred Schernig, Ron and Joyce Flahive, Dave Gulbraa, Leonard Debord, Deb Hoet with her father, Jim Nichols, Willie Maddox and MC Jerry Cunningham. These folks are all either new members or first time reunion attendees being introduced during the opening reception at the San Diego reunion.



Jim Evans is pitching raffle ticket sales for the beautiful framed set of Korea War stamps contributed by John Ferrara.



Leonard De Bord, one of our first-timers makes some self introductory remarks at the reception.



Pat Bradford, Margaret Markley, Dave Gulbraa, Lillie Cunningham, Frances Anderson and Lydia Jarboe face the Papparazzi.



Paul Gregory and Dave Gulbraa at the USNS Midway.

## More Photos.

All in their places and raring to go. (Clockwise from lower left) Dave Gulbraa, Adalene Gregory, Paul Gregory, Mildred Pate, John Pate, Iris Deiwert, Floyd Deiwert, Ron Flahive, Sam Buck, Enolia Buck, Emory Walker and Carolyn Walker.

*(Photo by Jim Jarboe).*

*(All others by F. Bradford)*



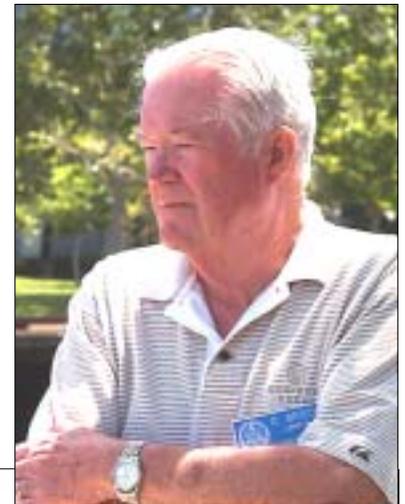
Gordon Lowery, Bob Dornfried, Bob Grillo, Ed Hanrahan and Verlin Rogers looking for the good angle to view the USNS Midway



Relaxing at Seaport Village.

Jim Nichols and Del Tolen

Brock Lippitt in a contemplative mood.



The view during lunch at the Bali Hai restaurant.

## BANQUET HAPPENINGS...



Our reunion planner and MC for the evening, Jerry Cunningham



Chaplain Ed Hanrahan receives an OPHSA service award presented by Major Tom Whitaker.

Photo by J. Jarboe



Paul Gregory receives the Infantry Association's Medal of Saint Maurice from President Floyd Deiwert and Adalene Gregory looks on.

Photo by J. Jarboe



Editor Jim Jarboe receives an OPHSA service award presented by Major Tom Whitaker.

Photo by F. Bradford

# STROLLING CAMERA....

Photos by Freeman Bradford



Ruth and Leonard DeBord



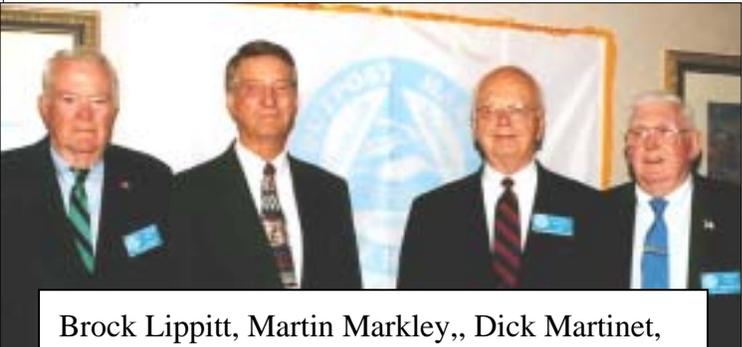
Lavonne and Mark Woods



Hazel Greeby, Lillie Cunningham, Betsy Lenz



Mary and Chester Fudala



Brock Lippitt, Martin Markley, Dick Martinet, Jerry Lang, K Co. 15<sup>th</sup> OP Harry 10/11, 1953

## VISITING THE MEDICS

Jerry Cunningham has had to have a surgical procedure this last week. He expects to be back home in a couple of weeks.

Our immediate past President, Francis Riley, is still facing more surgery on the bum knee he was hobbling around on at the reunion.

Charley Scott's wife Mary has been undergoing medical tests that delayed their usual return from Florida to New Jersey. Test results are looking good so she hopes to return home some.

John Ferrara has been undergoing treatments for a form of lymphoma. Current results have been encouraging. He is hoping to be well enough to go to Hawaii next year! Keep up the battle John. You've got a lot of OPHSA friends pulling for you.

It is our hope and prayer that all our medic patients will be able to just take an APC and even skip the call in the morning! Our best wishes to you all.

---

**Any one not wishing to remain on our mailing list please notify the Editor.**

---

## HAWAII CALLS!

Remember that radio program from the 30's? It was broadcast from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu. The orchestra was the Royal Hawaiians. After World War II the show was reincarnated as a TV show, broadcast in glorious black and white and featuring Harry Owens and his Royal Hawaiians with songs by Hilo Hattie.

We think they are all gone now but the tradition lingers on in Hawaii. The music, the dancing, the swaying grass skirts and food in sumptuous luaus, shopping and spectacular sightseeing.

OPHSA will be having its June 2005 reunion in Hawaii with all the trimmings, according to our reunion Chairman, Jerry Cunningham. He is already hot on the trail of good deals at hotels and group fares on the airlines.

He would like you all to send him the answers to the following questions to make the planning more efficient.

We are asking you to fill out the little form and pop it into an envelope addressed to Jerry. Please try to get your answers to him before the end of next month (Aug)

---

---

## QUICKIE HAWAII QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) Are you planning to attend the 2005 reunion in Hawaii? (YES) (NO) *Circle your answer.*
  - 2) How many family members and guests will attend with you? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) Would you rather fly as a group? (YES) (NO)
  - 4) Your remarks please \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Please mail the above form to:

**Jerry Cunningham**

**501 Chilhowie Road**

**Columbia, SC 29209-5506**

**Or call him at (803) 783-4491**

*The Enemy Wanted This Hill-----*



**With Courage, Tenacity and Faith.....  
WE HELD!**

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you have moved, send us the information below.

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to :James Jarboe  
903 Crestfield Drive  
Duarte, CA. 91010-2131**



OP HARRY SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION  
James F. Jarboe, Editor  
903 Crestfield Drive  
Duarte, CA 91010-2131