

OC24-69, 50th Company, December, 2022 – AT EASE!

Hello 50th Company:

I trust that everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday. If you are like me, you ate too much, drank too much, and are now on a crash weight control program to get ready for more of the same around Christmas and New Year. Just kidding – I gave up on the weight control thing years ago when I retired from the Army. Anyway, Suzie and I had a great Thanksgiving with lots to be thankful for.

The Company's battle cry for the next ten months will be: "Kansas City or Bust!" Our Reunion Planning Group, after considering a number of cities, chose to hold our next reunion in Kansas City, Missouri in late September, 2023. If you follow the link above, "Goin' to Kansas City" you will find a short video (thanks to Scott Davis) on the city that we will be gathering in. Unlike our first three reunions which were held in the East, KC is smack-dab in the middle of the country. Its airport is close-by and user friendly. There are lots of sights to see and a number of fun things to do. More on this later.

We are negotiating with hotels now and will have precise dates and more information shortly. I might add that I came away from my brief visit to Kansas thinking that the state is populated by about the friendliest people that I have ever met. Please mark your calendars and plan on spending a few days with your OCS buddies. As I have guaranteed for the past three reunions, you will not regret the time you spend with your 50th Company comrades.

On the topic of reunions: Pictures and a video of our Gettysburg reunion will be coming out shortly. Scott Davis and Bob Hines are putting in a lot of hours to document our memories of the reunion. When they are ready, Bob will post the pictures and video on our website and will send them out via email. We all give thanks to both classmates for their diligence, creativity, and dedication. I am sure that they would appreciate feedback once you have seen the results.

One of the things I really enjoy about writing these newsletters is that they give me a vehicle to highlight accomplishments of our classmates. I am particularly proud (and, I admit, a little envious) of those of you who can write a novel, short story, or a poem. I have always wanted to write a novel, but if you could see one of these newsletters before Professor Flora performs his editorial legerdemain, you would understand why I haven't done so. Since we have several published authors from our class, we decided that there should be a section on our website to highlight their work. Webmeister Bob is working on doing just that.

This month I want to give special recognition to Brian Walrath. He has again captured the "heart and spirit" of our class, in toto and individually, in his latest poem which he sent out just before Thanksgiving. It is entitled "*The Lifer*" and honors military service. You can find it as the last entry on the **Welcome/Current Events** page of our website. Brian has been so good at converting thoughts and sentiments into beautiful words that the Reunion Planning Group has designated him as the **50th Company Poet Laureate**. Outstanding, Brian!

In last month's newsletter, I asked everyone whether they knew how to contact Terry and Wanda Hummel, who had disappeared from the Company's radar screen. I am happy to note

that Brian Flora managed to track them down. Turns out that Terry's computer (and email address) died and went to heaven, but they are very much alive and well in the cornfields of Iowa. They use Wanda's computer/email (wanda.hummel@gmail.com) and may be reached by phone at (402) 889-5040.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season, my wife, Suzie, and I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Happy and Joyful Merry Christmas (or Happy Hannukah), and a Happy New Year. The coming year 2023, as we age, will no doubt present us all with personal challenges, but nothing that the boys of Benning (and their wonderful spouses) can't handle.

Until next time, Stay Healthy, Stay Strong and above all else – Stay Positive.

Lou Lallo