

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

Hello Comrades of 50th Company:

This month's AT EASE letter to the classmates will address the past, present and the future.

The Past: We have another classmate who has ties to the Civil War. **Bill Snodgrass** sent me the following about his great grandfather, whom Bill is named after:

“My Great Grandfather, William Snodgrass, was born in 1849 and joined the Union Army at the age of 14 in 1863. He served as a drummer boy for 100 days. He was wounded and suffered a broken leg. He said the doctor was drunk (which was common at the time as the doctors were under a lot of stress with all the war casualties) and did not set it properly. His mother went searching for him going from hospital to hospital, found him and took him home. She took him to the family doctor who said he would be a cripple the rest of his life unless he broke it again. He was able to live a normal life after the surgery. My father said he saw him as a child, and he still walked with a limp.”

Since we are going to tour the Civil War's most famous (and arguably most important) battlefield in September, please send me a brief synopsis of your relatives who fought in that war, especially any who were at Gettysburg.

Now for the present. Our classmate, Brian Flora, recently received commendations from the local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the Oak Park/River Forest Historical Society for his effort in continuing to organize annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies on the Oak Park village green, despite the aging-out of the local veterans' associations. Here's the announcement that went out for this Memorial Day:

“All veterans, their families and friends, and all area residents are invited to attend the annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 30 at the “Peace Triumphant” monument in Oak Park's Scoville Park. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Village President Vicki Scaman will give welcoming remarks. Chaplain Kerstin Hedlund, U.S. Army Reserve, will lead us in prayer. Officers from the Oak Park Police will post the Colors and offer a rifle salute. The History Singers will lead us in patriotic singing. Our bugler will play Taps as wreaths are laid. The remarks this year will honor the sacrifices made by our World War Two veterans, with a focus on the bravery and sacrifices of those who were brutalized on the infamous Bataan Death March, eighty years ago. More broadly, the ceremony will recognize and honor all of our veterans, especially those who have lost their lives in service to country.”

And looking to the future, as I keep reminding everyone, we have a reunion coming up on September 6-8, 2022 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. These three days will provide a wonderful opportunity to once again reconnect and catch up with each other's lives and plans. And it will be a fun, memorable event in our lives. In addition to a bus tour of the Battlefield with a certified guide and visits to the Gettysburg Battlefield Museum and Cyclorama, we will have a ceremonial banquet celebrating our friendship and plenty of time built in for just kicking back with 50th Company comrades.

We are now at the point where we need to collect reunion fees. Our per person fee is a very reasonable \$225, especially when you consider how much inflation is driving prices up. The fee covers the ceremonial banquet and drinks, the Battlefield tour and museum visit, breakfasts, two of the three lunches, happy hours, use of the hotel's common spaces, photos, and more. Please make out a check payable to Scott Davis and mail it to him at 94 S. La Senda Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. If you are still on the fence as to whether to attend, please consider it. With our advancing years this just might be the last big reunion we have. This is an opportunity that you don't want to miss.

The Planning Group has put a lot of work into making the reunion happen. While the list of classmates who have contributed to the effort is too long for this message, I just want them to all know how much I appreciate what they have done. It has been an honor to be associated with them all.

Finally, as the Fourth of July approaches, I know a number of our classmates were deployed to Vietnam on or around July 4, 1970. They must have special memories attached to that day. As you celebrate our nation's independence with your family and friends, give a little prayer of thanks that we are home and that our war is behind us.

As always, thanks to Brian Flora for his assistance on this message.

Until next time, stay healthy, stay strong and most of all stay positive.

Happy Fourth to all!!! Lou Lallo