

OC24-69 50th Company June, 2025 – “AT EASE!”

Hello 50th Company:

I hope everyone is staying relatively cool this summer. I thought California was hot until I talked with several of you from the East Coast. At least where I am, the humidity is only around 30% with the 100-degree temps. I feel your pain.

Just a few things to report this month:

THE HUNTSVILLE REUNION IS CREEPING UP ON US: Because of the efforts of our contract and finance teams (Brian Flora and Scott Davis), the reunion fee of \$220 per person will also cover the entrance fees for the Space Center and the Planetarium show. This comes out to a \$29 savings per person. Well done, Scott and Brian.

If you have been watching your email in-box you have no doubt seen the videos of last year's reunion. The videos not only give the attendees at the Springfield reunion something to reminisce about, but we hope that they also motivate everyone to attend this year's reunion in Huntsville, Alabama. (October 5-7, with an optional extra night -- October 8).

The reunion fees for the 2025 gathering are the lowest they have ever been, and Huntsville promises to be the perfect gathering place: a small-city feel with plenty to see and do and topped with a large dose of Southern hospitality. Those of you who have attended previous reunions know what the experience is like and should be lining up at the door for Huntsville. If you have not yet attended one of our 50th Company gatherings, you are especially welcome. The four first-time reunionaires at Springfield (and their spouses) will tell you how much they enjoyed themselves.

I'm not sure what your take is on how the relentless march of time is affecting your life, but mine is that we are not getting any younger. How many more reunion arrows do we have left in our 50th Company quiver? My advice is: "Please don't miss the Huntsville opportunity. Registration info is on our website. Once again, I guarantee that you (and spouses and family members) will leave Huntsville in a "feel good" mindset. [Click Here for 50th Website](#)

Bottom Line: The reunion is three months out and it's time to commit. If you haven't already done so, register for your room at the Hilton Garden Inn/Redstone Arsenal. Instructions are on the Company website. Cancellation of room reservations without penalty is possible up to a day before the reunion

begins. Please mail your Reunion Fee (\$220 per person) to Scott Davis (94 S. La Senda Drive; Laguna Beach, CA 92651).

CANDIDATE OF THE MONTH: Those of you who subscribe to the VFW Magazine probably noticed that Brian Walrath's book, Citizen Soldier, was featured in last month's edition? Yes! Our very own Brian Walrath hit the big time with a review in a national magazine. If you haven't read his book, I encourage you to go online and order it. It will bring you back to the onset of your (actually our) common military experience: the pre-induction physical, Basic Training, AIT and six months of arduous and stressful OCS training. The book then takes you into Brian's experiences as a MATT team member in Vietnam. He tells me that, since the review came out, book sales have gone up about 1300 percent. Note, however, that he isn't yet willing to give up his Social Security check.

Now we need to get Brian to do two things – write a screenplay (I want Alan Ritchson to play me). And, write a poem about himself. Well done, Brian! We are proud of you!

LOOKING BACK: For those of you who keep track of such things, this coming week marks the 55-year anniversary for a lot of us who shipped out to Vietnam in early July, 1970. There are a couple of days in my past that are so etched in my mind that I will never forget. Leaving for Vietnam and coming home a year later are two of those days. So, Steve Porter, I will be raising my glass to you on the Fourth as I remember the day we got on the plane to Vietnam.

Suzie and I wish you and your families a fun and safe holiday.

Many thanks to Brian Flora for his suggested edits and comments.

Until next time, Stay Well, Stay Healthy, and above all else Stay Positive. I hope everyone is well and finally starting to enjoy some decent weather,