

October 2012

Dear 630th Members,

We just finished another great reunion in Branson, MO at the Four Seasons Inn on September 18-19-20, 2012. Linda and the staff made us feel welcome and treated us great as usual. Many members arrived early in the week but most arrived on Wednesday or Thursday.

We had food trays at noon Thursday; Charlie Dubois and Otis Cooper cooked an excellent gumbo for Thursday evening--delicious!

Friday, we took a bus to Ft. Leonard Wood and toured the base, had lunch with the troops in the field, and went to the rifle range simulator and fired the rifles. (I hope the new recruits are better with the rifles than we were.) They took us through the recruits barracks--they are a lot different from what we had but it still looks like an awful lot of togetherness! After the tour, we went to the Engineer Hall and Museum where they unveiled the 630th plaque. It will hang in the hall along with all the other plaques of the Engineer Battalions and Companies. After the unveiling of the plaque we toured the Museum and then boarded the bus back to Branson. It was a very interesting and enlightening--well worth the trip. Be sure to take a look at the plaque on the website.

We have two additional plaques. They are identical but smaller in size than the one displayed in the Museum. One will stay with the 630th display at the reunions. This plaque is a part of the history of the 630th--we don't want to lose track of it. The other was one was voted on and approved that it remain with Jim Fitzgerald. Jim has continually worked on these reunions since they first started and continues to search for new members and work on the history of the 630th.

Saturday we had our food trays at noon and a short meeting was held after lunch. Jim Fitzgerald opened the meeting; Jan Haselhorst read the names of the KIA's followed by a moment of silence. Carl Brown read the names of others who died (non-hostile). If anyone has pictures of those deceased, we would like to make a picture board with their name/picture. Danny Klaus donated an POW/MIA flag which we can now display every year. Cecil Brown acquired detailed maps of Vietnam; from those he made enlarged maps of Vietnam showing all fire bases and airfields which he displayed.

Cecil Brown has copies of After Action Reports for the different battalions the 630th was assigned to in Vietnam. If any of the 630th members need help verifying where they served and what they did while serving for filing a claim, contact Cecil. He will be glad to send copies to anyone needing them. Contact him at 731-415-6460 or e-mail: [ceclinbrown@charter.net](mailto:ceclinbrown@charter.net). He also has a book showing the history of the 630th from WW II through Vietnam and up to the present time. Cecil has spent countless hours locating reports, contacting people, and verifying information

Saturday evening we had our fish fry instead of our barbeque. Our barbeque cook, Gary Hermance, was unable to attend the Reunion this year. (We hope you are feeling better, Gary.) For dessert, there was cake and ice cream with maple syrup (straight from New Hampshire). After supper, we held our annual auction--John Bowles was our auctioneer this year along with assistant Jim Fitzgerald--they did a great job.

This year, six new members joined us: Roger and Sharon Beverly, Ron and Laura Hooker, Ron and Cindy Watanabe, Robert and Mary Lou Lenhardt, Jimmy Walden and Michael Beatty. We're really glad you could attend this year and certainly hope to see you all again next year! A huge thank you to those of you who attended this year--you are what makes the reunion so great.

Special thanks goes out to the following people: John and Kathy Cullor for providing caps and T-shirts, Cecil Brown, Phyllis Hardin and Jim Fitzgerald for all their hard work in designing the plaque; Carol Fuller for the banking, all of the mailings, and for being our very own company photographer; Carmen Higgins our Webmaster, Joyce and Jerry Hansen for the fresh from their garden tomatoes, corn and watermelon; John and Wendy Bowles for the ice cream and maple syrup, Jerry Quinn for bringing the fish cooker, Allen Higgins, George Phelps, Al Doedtman, and Paul O'Bryan for the fish frying; Carl Brown and Al Higgins for ordering the food trays and taking care of the beverages; Edwin Palousek and Jim Fitzgerald for the hush puppies. Thanks also to our auction "staff" who set up all the items and get it all organized--Sandra Fitzgerald, Linda Brown and Vanessa O'Bryan. I hope we haven't missed anyone--it takes many people to host a reunion like this and we don't want to leave anyone out.

Reminder--every year, Carol Fuller mails out approximately 400 letters/postcards. A number of them come back marked undeliverable. Please help us save on the paper/postage--if you have a change of address, notify Jim Fitzgerald at 870-637-3236 or by e-mail: proacc64@yahoo.com.

Visit our website: [www.630thengrco.com](http://www.630thengrco.com). Visit our Facebook page on the website--add pictures and comments.

Our next reunion (by unanimous vote) will be at the Four Seasons Inn at Branson, MO. What other place would let us bring cookers, have a barbeque and a fish fry in their parking lot and let us use their hospitality room the entire weekend. This year the manager, Linda, donated two quilts for the auction and a decorated cake for Saturday evening's dinner. **The dates for the next reunion will be September 19, 20 and 21, 2013--mark your calendars right now!**

The new 630th Engineer group was re-activated in 2007 in New York and several members attended this ceremony. In the past, commanders were very cooperative in responding to our inquiries about what they were doing now. Currently, there has been no response but we hope to re-establish contact. We are interested in history and most of it comes from you--we would like for that history to continue. Please write down your Vietnam experiences--dates if possible, where you were, your assignment, etc. Document those experiences--let's let history know you were an important part of an historical era. Today's Army "looks back" and they learn from what happened to you.

Thanks again to everyone. We have such a fun time at the reunion--there is something for everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you again next September. Please remember to keep all our service men and women in our thoughts and prayers.

Carl and Marianne Brown

FYI--The 70th Engineers Reunion will be in Branson, MO on June 7-8-9, 2013. For more information, contact Roger Rock at 775-623-1029 or by e-mail: 70engrs@gmail.com