

Dear 630th Members,

December 2011

We just wrapped up another great 630th Reunion in Branson. It was good to see our friends. We had 32 members present along with their wives and other family members and friends.

Thursday we had food trays and refreshments at noon. Thursday evening, Charlie Dubois and Otis Cooper cooked up some gumbo for us--it was delicious. Friday we had food trays at noon and our fish fry in the evening. Saturday, we had food trays at noon and deep fried turkeys and roasted Cornish game hens in the evening. After supper, John and Wendy Boles served ice cream with pure maple syrup. You can't get any better than that! Later in the evening, we had our annual auction. There were so many great items again this year and Steve Pappen did an outstanding job of auctioneering. He kept it lively and a lot of fun --especially when one couple unknowingly was bidding against each other!

At our annual meeting which was held on Friday after lunch, Jan Hazelhorst read the names of the 630th members killed in action and a moment of silence was observed. Jim Fitzgerald presented Jerry Quinn with the 630th Outstanding Member plaque; Jerry constructed the barbeque smoker and brings it every year to Branson.

Jim Fitzgerald and Cecil Brown are going to Ft. Leonard Wood (Missouri) in October for the 39th Combat Engineers Reunion. If there is enough to do there for one or two days, they will check into the possibility of going there the day before our reunion next year. Ft. Leonard Wood is about a two hour drive from Branson. They will check it out and report about it on our website (630thengrco.com) when they return.

At our meeting in Branson, it was brought up that the museum at Ft. Leonard Wood has an Engineer Brigade Hall where plaques are displayed on the walls that recognize the different Engineer outfits from the different wars. We thought it would be a good thing for the 630th LE to be recognized for what they had done in Viet Nam. Jim Fitzgerald, Cecil Brown and Ed Hitchcock went to Ft. Leonard Wood in early November and checked to see what was required to have a plaque made and displayed. It will cost \$2000+ to have the plaque made after it is designed.

These plaques are very nice. They are approximately 20" x 24". There are several pictures of the plaques on the 630th web site for anyone wanting to know what they look like. Any contributions anyone would like to make to help defray the cost would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to 630th Engineer Co. Send your check to Carol Fuller, 108 Meta Drive, Union SC 29379. If we do not purchase the plaque, all contributions will be returned to the contributors.

We are enclosing a questionnaire in this letter. Please fill it out and send it back to Jim Fitzgerald with your comments if you would like to do this or not. Return the questionnaire within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, contact Jim at 158 Lawrence 133 Rd., Powhatan, AR 72458. His e-mail is: proacc64@yahoo.com; his telephone number is 1-870-637-3236. You can also contact Cecil Brown at 742 David Street, McKenzie, TN 38201. His e-mail is: ceclinbrown@charter.net. His telephone number is 1-731-415-6460.

John and Cathy Cullor brought caps, T-shirts and decals with the 630th logo on them. Each year, their designs are awesome. Carol Fuller read our financial statement and added a note about our mailings. When members

move, we need you to notify us at proacc@yahoo.com. Each year more and more letters are returned as undeliverable.

This year, we had two new members who've never attended the Reunion before. Bobby Cranfield and wife Judy and Frank Taylor. Also Joe Michelli came with Charlie Dubois and Otis Cooper. Joe was with B and C Co., 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Vietnam.

One more thing--there will be a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration the last four days in March at Branson. Check the Branson Veterans website to make sure of the date and more details.

Thanks to everyone who comes to the Reunion, for all their donations and participation; this is how we fund our reunions. We always have a great time. Hope to see you again next year!

Sincerely,

Carl and Marianne Brown

P.S. Please keep all our servicemen and women in your thoughts and prayers.

A huge thanks to the following people for all their help at the reunion. I hope we haven't missed any names!

Carl Brown and Al Higgins - ordering and picking up the food trays and beverages and for frying the fish along with **George Phelps and Al Doedtman**

Charlie Dubois and Otis Cooper for the Gumbo and rice and have generously offered to cook again for us again next year

Gary Hermance, Jerry Quinn and Paul O'Bryan for deep frying the turkeys and roasting the Cornish hens

Helen Hermance for the great salad

Jerry and Joyce Hansen - for the homegrown sweet corn , watermelon and salsa

John and Wendy Boles for the ice cream and New Hampshire maple syrup

We have the best cooks--that's all there is to it!

Carmen Higgins for being our "Web Master" . If you have any pictures, please forward them to her so she can put them up on the website. If you know the date/place or person in the picture, it would help to put that on the picture.

Carol Fuller - our financial person and who also takes care of all of the mailings and keeps the mailing list updated

Jim and Sandra Fitzgerald and Cecil Brown - for their continued work on locating members of the 630th and thanks to **Sandra** for her beautiful quilts she has made for the reunions.

Steve Pappen - our auctioneer this year

John and Cathy Cullor - for their great support of the reunion by bringing the decals, caps and shirts for us

Cecil and Linda Brown for the hushpuppies

Linda Brown, Jan Haselhorst, Carmen Higgins, Wendy Boles and Carol Fuller for getting all the items together for the auctions, keeping tracks of all the bids, displaying all the great items

Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri -- Engineer Brigade Hall is a huge room and plaques are displayed on the walls. There is room for only twelve more plaques. When those spaces are taken, there will be no more plaques added. Please return this within 30 days from the date of this letter to Jim Fitzgerald. Thank you.

Are you in favor of purchasing the plaque? _____

Yes _____ No _____

Comments: _____

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