



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - DECEMBER 2018

Greetings, HARD CHARGERS! I will give you my usual greeting and thanks, and it continues to be heartfelt. On behalf of the executive board of the 30th FA Alumni Association, thank you for all you do, whether you are currently serving, a veteran or retiree, a family member or the survivor of a HARD CHARGER. Thanks to all of you for continuing to protect our nation.

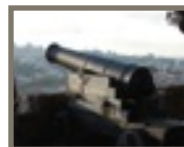
I definitely feel as though Christmas is here. Holiday activities around Fort Sill are in full swing as we have celebrated several Saint Barbara's Balls, Christmas parties and of course, Army's win over Navy. The 1-30 FA and the Association have participated in several events to include the unit's Organizational Day at the Lake Elmer Thomas Recreational Area (LETRA); the dedication of the new Cross Fit Physical Fitness Center in Summerall Hall on 16 November; the 428th St Barbara Ball on the same date; and the Battalion Christmas Party on 15 December. Some of these events are summarized elsewhere here in the newsletter and on the web site.

Dan Gillotti is very busy planning our 2019 reunion in Cleveland. Please save the dates of 10-15 June as the executive board works through the details. There is a lot to do in Cleveland and the surrounding area, and I hope that many of you can attend to renew old friendships and enjoy the comraderie.

I know that all of you are busy this time of year with holiday plans, neighborhood functions and religious celebrations. May you all have a blessed holiday season as we remember the true reason for the season. **Merry Christmas**, and I hope to see you in June!

HARD CHARGERS, *Ted Janosko*

DON'T FORGET TO



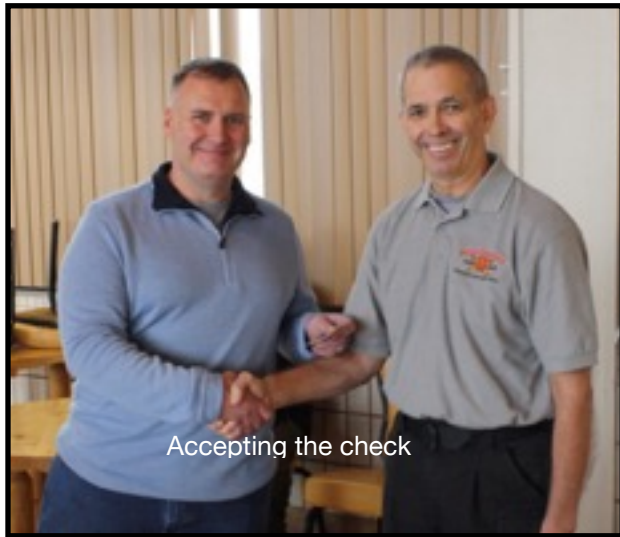
CHECK THE WEB SITE

www.hardcharger.com

1-30th Family Organizational Day

On Friday, 12 October, the soldiers, family and friends of the 1/30 Field Artillery Battalion participated in their annual Family Organizational Day at the Lake Elmer Thomas Recreational Area. Plenty of hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings were available to the approximately 150 people in attendance. Ted Janosko, Rob Roshell and Dan Mitchell were privileged to attend the function and represented the Association.

Dan manned the Association table and sold Hard Charger caps and T-Shirts as well as a couple of new memberships! Many soldiers of the active duty battalion visited with Ted and



Accepting the check

Dan and learned more about the HARD CHARGER association. There were also many new civil service employees of the battalion enjoying the festivities, and it was a good opportunity for our representatives to interact with them and tell them about the Association. Brook Turner, a retired warrant officer, is the new Battalion S4, and excited about his new assignment. The S4 is always a key liaison for the Association, as the maintenance of our regimental room, among other requirements, falls to that position.

The day ended with the Battalion Commander, LTC Terry Hilt, thanking the soldiers and families for their attendance. LTC Hilt took the time to recognize the Association and their important contributions to the regular Army unit. Ted was introduced, and thanked everyone for their assistance in making the 100th anniversary Reunion such a success. Ted presented the Battalion with a \$500 check which will assist with the expenses of the day as well as the Christmas party which will occur later in the year. LTC Hilt was very thankful to the Association, our support and the monetary contribution. He said that without the assistance provided, it would very difficult to host these important functions for the soldiers and their families.

It was a fun day for the men and women who are carrying on our tradition of service to our country!

Robert Roshell

1/30 Vietnam KIA Ligons Shares New Fitness Center Name with IRAQ War Casualty

An addition to the physical fitness facilities already on post is the new Ligons-Allton Fitness Center in Building 840 on Geronimo Road. This newly opened center will serve the students and cadre of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade and the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The building was formerly part of a motor pool, and the post has provided \$1.3 million to renovate and upgrade the existing framework to house the gym.

The center was named in honor of 1LT Daryl Lee Ligons and CPT Eric L. Allton. The two men died 37 years apart in Vietnam and Iraq, respectively. Both men trained at Fort Sill, after which Ligons served with the 30th and Allton with the 2/17 FA.

Ligons completed OCS at Fort Sill in 1966, and following a brief assignment on post, went to Vietnam in 1967. Following a notable period as an FO with the 2/8 Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, he was killed in a helicopter crash when the CH-47 in which he was riding suffered a malfunction, and all on board perished. His mother received the word of her son's death on Christmas Day, 1967.

CPT Allton also was a product of the OCS system. He had prior service as an enlisted man, working in military intelligence in Germany. Following his commissioning, he was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, where he was killed by mortar fire in 2004.

At the ceremony naming the Center, Ted Janosko commented:

As I look around the facility, I would have loved to use something like this when I was here at Fort Sill preparing for Ranger School some 43 years ago. The Army has definitely changed from the daily dozen, the airborne shuffle, and the five-event PT test...

The emphasis on cross-fit and military occupational specialty-specific training by both the Army and the commanding general, MG Shoffner, is great. I'm sure that the Basic Officer and Career Course students will enjoy this facility for years to come...



Dan Mitchell, Ted Janosko, and LTC Terry Hilt with the plaque honoring 1LT Ligons and CPT Allton

use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete this form and send it in with check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First name _____ MI _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ W/M _____ Email _____

\$15.00 check enclosed for 2019 dues ()

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ()

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: John Dynes, Treasurer 30 FARA

5435 Cedar Valley Drive, Loveland, CO

Our Own Marilyn is Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year

On 6 October, Marilyn D. Janosko, the wife of our President, was honored at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Women Veterans as the Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the Year for 2018. Among the many reasons for her recognition was an incredible and extensive array of services to her country, to veterans, to her church, to philanthropic organizations, and to the community at large.

After five years active duty and five more in the reserves, which included tours in Korea and Fort Lewis, WA, she embarked on a career of service that is truly remarkable. A characteristic of her participation is the emphasis on assisting veterans, widows, gold star families, the disadvantaged and those in need. From animal activism to the ASYMCA, she has taken not only an active role but has also served in leadership positions in a majority of the organizations with which she has been involved.

Congratulations, Marilyn, for a much deserved reward and the recognition for your unselfish and enthusiastic life of service!



Save the Dates - 10 June to 15 June, 2019

Our host location in 2019 will be Cleveland, Ohio, on the shores of Lake Erie. The Association has visited the city before, and there is much to see and do in the area. Dan Gillotti will be our go-to guy for this first reunion of our second century as a Field Artillery unit. Keep the dates in mind while you are planning your late spring activities so as to ensure your availability! See you then!

Regimental Room Sees Different Kind of Activity

For three hours on 15 December, the Vernor auditorium, our regimental room, took on a very different aspect from that which the collection of battle memorabilia and war mementos would suggest, as the members of the active duty Battalion and their families enjoyed a Christmas party within the history laden walls.

Approximately eighty to eighty-five members of the unit and their families attended the festivities. A brief social time led to a welcome from the Battalion Commander, LTC Terry Hilt, who thanked all the soldiers, civilian personnel and instructors for their dedication and hard work in training and preparing the young men and women who will be the future of the Army and of the Field Artillery in their duties and responsibilities. After wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, he directed the eager attendees to the chow line, a catered affair from the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. The meal was a holiday feast of traditional fare that was enjoyed by all, some of whom no doubt recalled Christmas meals eaten under much different and more difficult situations!

After enjoying the fine meal, the attendees were greeted by a joyful and jolly Santa Claus, who made his appearance to the complete delight of the children, and to many of the older “kids” as well! He distributed gifts and posed for pictures, as many of the participants wanted their pictures taken with the rotund elf in the red suit!

After Old St. Nick had made his exit, a child’s bike, donated by the 30th FAR Association, was raffled to a young lady from the many entries that had been received. She had a very big smile on her face as she pushed her new bike down the aisle!

As the party ended, many members of the Battalion expressed appreciation for all of the volunteers and the leadership for the time of joy and fellowship at this joyous season of the year.

Dan Mitchell

Our webmaster, Saverio Grimaldi, has sent the following to the newsletter:

“From the www.hardchargers.com Guest Book we have some of the most interesting posts lately. Here are a few of them. I’ve added the email of the sender. #183 has published a book “The Living Ghost,” referencing his experiences at LZ Grant. I have purchased the book and am currently reading it. Very, very interesting!”

#183 11/28/2018 12:55PM,EST Howard Fisher Service Time 1968-1969

This is to the soldiers who fought with me at LZ Grant www.thelivingghostsbook.com

hfwynola@gmail.com

#178 3/30/2018 2:20PM, EST Edwin J. Hill Service Time August 1960

I was in RVN as a 1LT Platoon Leader. I was on LZ Becky on the night of 11/12 August 1969. Guns from A/1/30 were there. Your men, firing directly “over the berm” were a big part of our survival that night. My platoon, manning the bunkers, was decimated, as well. LZ Becky was destroyed and abandoned the followig day. Do you have access to more information concerning that attack? I would appreciate any information you might have. Thank you for your service!

ed@ehill-intl.com

#181 11/11/2018 10:10 AM, EST Terry Meinke

Today is Veteran’s Day 2018. Let me take a minute to say thank you to all the Veterans out there and especially to the men who served with my cousin Frankie Coulthart who was a Hard Charger who was killed in Vietnam. And also to those who served with my dad, John Meinke, who was a lifer and passed away in 2011.

meinket@yahoo.com

ED NOTE: These are but a few of the fascinating posts that our website is gathering. You are urged to check out the website’s material - there’s a good chance that you will come across a long forgotten contact who shared your experiences. The news letter will print others in the future as space permits.

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Loveland, CO 80537

Next Issue - Winter, 2019

Deadline for submissions - 31 January, 2019

jdynes5@comcast.net or address above