



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - JANUARY 2018

Greetings, HARD CHARGERS! On behalf of the Executive Board of the 30th FA Alumni Association, I'd like to extend our warmest greetings to you and your family, whether you are currently serving, a veteran or retiree, a family member, or a survivor of a HARD CHARGER. One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to show our gratitude. Thank you all for your service.

As we turn the calendar to 2018, I pray that everyone had a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to a wonderful year. I hope to see all of you at the 30th FA Reunion in June as we celebrate 100 years of excellence. It is doubtful that the young recruits who formed the 30th Artillery in 1918 at Camp Funston, KS, (now part of Fort Riley) imagined that we would be celebrating the creation of the unit some 100 years later. They were concerned about training for the trench warfare of Europe during the Great War and were thinking about their own weaknesses, possibly succumbing to disease or enemy fire. And here we are a century later. None of those WWI doughboys are with us anymore, but you can help us acknowledge their service and sacrifice as well as that of all HARD CHARGERS at our reunion. Unfortunately, we have lost several more Association members recently, and I recommend that you come and celebrate with us and renew old friendships and make new ones.

The Executive Board and the 1-30 FA have been busy planning the reunion. The battalion requested a change of command date of 15 JUN 18, so we are planning for the reunion dates to be 12-16 JUN. Dan Mitchell and I have visited several hotels this fall and recommended the Homewood Suites to the board. The Suites will give us the Fort Sill per diem rate of \$93/night, and have a great breakfast as well as an evening meal (Monday through Thursday) with beer and wine. They will provide their ground floor meeting room for our headquarters/hospitality room, and the rear doors open up to a small patio with grills. If you find the price a little steep, we have also secured the Sleep Inn next door for overflow or for a less expensive room option (\$79/night).

Our meetings will be on Wednesday morning and we'll share the HARD CHARGER history with the students and the battalion in the afternoon. We will visit the General Franks Museum on Thursday. The Change of Command will be on Friday, followed in the evening by our annual banquet and the World Famous Auction! We are working with the battalion to see if there is time for us to attend

DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

or participate in some live fire and/or simulations exercises. I talked to several HARD CHARGERS who would have liked to see more of the training that the field artillery officers and men are now receiving. If you have any other ideas, please let us know, and we'll see if we can make it happen. Registration material is contained in this newsletter with more details. Look forward to seeing you in June!

Ted Janosko

Association Member Jim Valinoti forwarded the following story....

A few weeks ago I attended the 17th Annual Tribute to Our Veterans, a luncheon honoring America's veterans put on by the five Rotary Clubs and three Kiwanis Clubs of Santa Rosa, and it takes place in the Santa Rosa Veterans' Hall. All of the Armed Services were represented by veterans of all the wars, conflicts, police actions, and so forth. There were over 500 of us there to gather, have a bite, re-acquaint, and listen to a good speaker. There were all of the normal preliminaries that usually precede the guest speaker, including:

The Welcome and Call to Order

The Presentation of Colors

The Pledge of Allegiance

The National Anthem

The Invocation

And a High School marching band's musical salute to each of the branches of the Service

And then after all that, we had a very nice introduction of our guest speaker, Major General Gary A. Medvigg, U.S. Army, who retired after 33 years of active and reserve service. The General, who is also a retired Sonoma County Superior Court Judge, then took the podium. He looked out at us, paused, smiled and then told us all that even if none of us were in uniform or were decked out with any military regalia, he would still have known that we were Veterans...and that was because that during all of those preliminaries, and especially during the National Anthem, not one of us took a knee.

The place broke up.



Additional Notes about the Reunion Registration and Activities

This year reunion attendees may choose from two hotels for lodging for the duration of the gathering. The Homewood Suites and the Sleep Inn are side-by-side on SE Interstate Drive. Homewood Suites will charge \$93 per night for a variety of room arrangements, and will have available both complementary breakfasts and complementary hors-d'oeuvres with beer and wine in the evenings. The Sleep Inn rates are \$79 for a standard room and \$82 for an executive suite. They too will provide a complementary breakfast. All activities and departures will be in or from the Homewood Suites.

The Board and the planning committee are still working on additional possibilities for further group activities on Wednesday afternoon and potentially even Friday. The challenges of working around the demands of the Change of Command ceremony have prevented closure with regard to many of the ideas.

Fort Sill still requires an access pass if you do not have a DOD ID card. Go on line to "Fort Sill access pass 118a" to download and complete the form in advance. You will have to stop by the visitor center off Sheridan Road with your completed form to get the required authorization.

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 2018 dues ()

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ()

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: Jim Harris, 30th FAR Association Membership
212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

**30th Field Artillery Regiment's 25th Annual Reunion
12 to 16 June 2018**

Fort Sill, OK

Registration Form

Homewood Suites
415 SE Interstate Drive
Lawton, OK 73501
1 580 357 9800

Sleep Inn
421 SE Interstate Drive
Lawton, OK 73501
1 580 353 5555

NAME(S) and TOTAL _____

(Name all attending. This is how your name will appear on your name tag. Add additional sheet if necessary.)

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I will contact one of the hotels at the number(s) above before 11 May 2018 to make my room reservations and identify myself as an attendee of the 30th Field Artillery Reunion. (See page three for room rates.) Both hotels serve a complementary breakfast. The Homewood Suites also features light hors-d'oeuvres in the evening.

I am enclosing a check payable to the "30th FAR Association" for the following expenses:

Registration Fee of \$20.00 per family (not required if only attending the banquet) _____

Catered lunch in the Regimental Room following Wednesday morning meetings - \$15.00 per person _____

Transportation to the Franks Museum and catered meal - \$25.00 per person _____

Banquet: \$20.00 per person, 1/2 price for children under twelve _____

Contribution to aiding a less fortunate Hard Charger to attend the reunion _____

TOTAL _____

Mail your check and the completed registration form to Jim Harris, 212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN (USA) 37027

**30th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION
12 to 16 JUNE 2018**

All activities and departures will be at/from

The HOMEWOOD SUITES

Lawton, OK

Tuesday, 12 June: Welcome and Sign In. The hospitality room is located in the hotel and will be well stocked and open. Stop in and enjoy a Guinness or even a lesser beverage, meet with your fellow Hard Chargers and recall how cold the winter was, especially compared to now. Get your annual commemorative pin and add to your coin collection with a newly minted one! Review the ever expanding volumes of our regiment's proud history, see our Quartermaster and get outfitted with new Hard Charger stuff!

Wednesday, 13 June: General Membership meeting, selection of the 2019 reunion site, and election of the president and vice presidents will take place in the morning. The Memorial Service will follow. Lunch will be catered in Snow Hall. The hospitality room will be open in the afternoon.

Thursday, 14 June: We will visit the General Tommy Franks Museum in Hobart, OK. Museum admittance is free, however there will be a charge for bus transportation and a catered meal. The evening meal will be on your own. The hospitality suite will open upon our return from the museum.

Friday, 15 June: The Change of Command ceremony will take place in the morning, followed by the usual reception. Lunch and the rest of the day are yours to enjoy. (See note on page three) Our Banquet will be held in the evening in the Patriot Club on post, followed by the World Famous Auction. The wearing of your uniform at the Banquet is encouraged but not mandatory. **Don't forget to bring an item or items for the Auction!**

Saturday, 16 June: Time to say our farewells to old and new friends and head home. CSMO!

YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all who read these words! I am starting to write this on 5 Dec 2017, and for the fourth straight year, my ALABAMA Crimson Tide is in the college football playoffs! Thanks to the Ohio State University Buckeyes for getting us in! (Yes, I am not above rubbing salt into the wounds.) In twenty-six days we will say hello to 2018. Please do not overlook that in June we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United States Army's 30th Field Artillery. The reunion dates are set. Please plan now to attend!

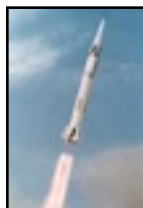
Talking about reunions, it was great at the 2017 reunion at Lake George to have three soldiers from the Regiment's Sergeant Missile days attending. What was even better - as for the active life of the missile system, John Hoetker was there at the start, Charles P. Maloney was there in the middle, and I was there at the end. I am working hard on social media to get more former Sergeant Missile personnel to attend the 2018 reunion. I just wish that I could find the rest of the eight cannon cockers who helped keep the unit alive the last year of its existence. I believe that we did a good job as missile jockeys. The 30th was deployed to Italy as part of SETAF (Southern European Task Force) from December 1963 until December 1975.



Within the next three months I will be contacting many of you with regard to the St. Barbara and the Molly Pitcher awards for the next reunion. I will email you first, and if no response, I will either call you, snail mail you, or both. Please respond to my request. Do not make me have to get Dan to contact you! Any information provided will be safeguarded throughout the process. As always, if for whatever reason you do not want to receive the award, just tell me no.

So until I see you all in June, that's your Quartermaster's two bits, and worth everything that you paid for it!

Charles "Comma" Causey OUT!



REUNION 2018

At this year's reunion we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of our glorious regiment. And what a one hundred years it has been - honorable service in WWI, WWII, the Cold War and Vietnam, and in peace time, training artillery officers and warrant officers in the profession of arms. Their classroom training takes place in Vernor Auditorium in Snow Hall. Vernor Auditorium is also our regimental room, displaying numerous mementoes of our regiment's past.

HARD CHARGERS, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event that you truly should not miss. If you have never been to one of our reunions, this is the one you must attend. I would encourage veterans of the 5th and 2nd Battalions (Sergeant) to attend. We are also part of the regiment's history. See how Fort Sill's skyline has changed, visit with former comrades, meet new friends, and reflect on your service to regiment and country. Remember, we are only doing the one hundred year celebration this one time.

The noble courage that has its origins in love of country and sense of duty is not confined to the well-born; it is to be equally found in the uneducated private soldier. What can be finer than his love of regiment, his devotion to its reputation, and his determination to protect its honor! To him "the Regiment" is mother, sister and mistress. That its fame may live and flourish he is prepared to risk all and die without a murmur. What other cause calls forth greater enthusiasm? It is a high, an admirable phase of patriotism, for to the soldier, his regiment is his country.

Field Marshal the Viscount Wolseley

The Story of a Soldier's Life, 1903

HARD CHARGER, Sir!

CSM (Ret) John Hoetker

HSGMOR

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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Next Issue - April 2018

Deadline for submissions - March 31, 2018

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