



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - JULY 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. Thanks to all of you for protecting our nation and enabling us to celebrate our 242nd birthday. Thank you for all your service.

It is difficult to believe that our reunion is now over. Whether you were at the reunion or not, I hope the you felt a part of our celebration of 100 years of excellence. Dan Gillotti brought a lot of those early days at Camp Funston to life with photos of the soldiers, weapons systems and over-crowded hospitals from the influenza epidemic. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, it is difficult to contemplate that the young recruits that formed the 30th Field Artillery in 1981 at Camp Funston, now part of Fort Riley, KS, could imagine that we would be celebrating the forming of their unit some 100 years later. They were concerned with training for the trench warfare of Europe during the Great War and thinking about their own weaknesses, possibly succumbing to disease or enemy fire. And here we are 100 years later. None of the WWI doughboys are with us anymore, but we acknowledged their service and sacrifice as well as that of all HARD CHARGERS at our reunion. It was a little bit of a surprise to see how small our soldiers were 100 years ago! Our mannikin had to be shaved down so that the WWI uniform would fit!

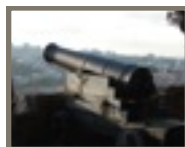
A quick summary of the reunion -

Tuesday - The Icebreaker that afternoon featured an address by a representative of the Chamber of Commerce. The active duty battalion members showed up in force to interact with our members.

Wednesday - Our meetings were in the morning and we decided that the 2019 reunion will be in Cleveland, OH. Dan Gillotti will take the lead. We voted on new officers. I, Dan Gillotti, and Dan Mitchell will continue in the same positions as president, first VP, and second VP respectively.

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DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

www.hardchargers.com

Joe Fleming and Jim Harris will step down as secretary and treasurer - they did a fantastic job for us. Bob Waldron and John Dynes will replace them. Comma Causey will continue as QM, Darrell Comer as Membership Chair, and Dynes and Saverio Grimaldi will stay at their posts as newsletter editor and webmaster, respectively. Roger Edwards has agreed to be the chaplain for the Association. Thanks to all for their past performances and those that agreed to continue to lead the Association. Dan Gillotti did a great job with CPT Washington updating the Regimental Room and will continue as unit historian. He also shared the HARD CHARGER history with the membership and other attendees on Wednesday. Over one hundred students enjoyed a BBQ lunch with us, and there were many shared stories of Vietnam and the more recent experiences of these young soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other war zones. We visited the ranges in the afternoon, fired historical weapons (courtesy of our Colonel of the Regiment COL (R) Frank Siltman) and observed our newest 13 Bravos learn the intricacies of live fire (courtesy of 1-78 FA).

Thursday - We traveled to Hobart, OK, to visit the General Franks Museum. The museum was full of interesting scenes, photos and remembrances from Gen Franks' childhood and his career as an enlisted soldier, OCS graduate and his ascent to four-star general in charge of CENTCOM and OIF. I believe that he had four different displays of challenge coins. We enjoyed another Oklahoma BBQ in Hobart with the museum staff.

Friday - LTC James Egan's award ceremony and the Change of Command ceremony marked the morning hours, followed by a reception at the Polo Club for LTC Terry Hilt. Members had the opportunity to shoot on the Engagement Skills Trainer or observe JFO simulation training. Our annual banquet and the world-famous auction were held at the Patriot Club that evening. I acknowledged several letters from the Governor, our local Congressman, and a note from our recently deceased WW2 veteran, Joe Brown. I also recognized our VIP's - BG (R) Bill Bilo, COL (R) Jack Kloke, and CSM (R) Skip Wilfong.

Thanks to so many who made the reunion a success. Dan Mitchell was the POC at Fort Sill/Lawton and he was assisted by Bob Roshell, the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, the Homewood Suites staff, the Gen. Franks museum staff, the Patriot Club staff, and of course, CPT Washington and the entire 1-30 Battalion. The Battalion made many of our good ideas come to fruition and made this reunion the best ever. The Executive Board and the entire 30th FA Association did a great job of reaching out to former HARD CHARGERS to increase our ranks to over 320 members! Thank you!

God Bless You All, and I look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in 2019.

HARD CHARGERS!

TED JANOSKO

A Reunion Befitting 100 Years of Excellence

The 30th FAR reunion at Fort Sill celebrating our first 100 years of service, long anticipated and prepared for, is now part of the long and storied history of the Regiment. Well-attended, planned effectively and thoroughly, and marked by entertaining and educational experiences, it was in the opinion of the editor one of our best gatherings. While the temperatures were toasty, Mother Nature cooperated by withholding any “cloudbursts” during our stay.

The Homewood Suites Hotel was an enlightened choice as “home base,” inasmuch as it was convenient with spacious rooms, and a varied food selection for both breakfast and dinner, making travel around Lawton unnecessary unless desired.

The Regimental Room in Snow Hall becomes more impressive at every visit. The efforts that have been made by a number of members to add items of significance to the Regiment to the growing collection have been truly impressive, and we can be truly proud

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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: John Dynes, 30th FAR Association Membership
5435 Cedar Valley Dr, Loveland, CO 80537

of this physical accolade to our unit.

Decisions made at the General Meeting included the selection of Cleveland, Ohio, as the site of the 2019 Reunion and the election of a new panel of officers, whom the President has identified in his remarks. During the meeting, wives and other guests attended a briefing (Growing Spouses Army Strong) on the preparation provided to the military spouses who arrive at Fort Sill, many of whom are experiencing Army life for the first time.

The Membership maintained its tradition of honoring the Fallen, the ceremony following the General Meeting.

The General Tommy Franks Museum in Hobart, OK was small but packed with memorabilia and artifacts of the General's life, focusing on his Afghanistan experiences. Most of us were long past active duty days during his leadership, but we were still mentally and emotionally involved the military activity, in some cases through the involvement of our sons and daughters. The museum was a wealth of information about those challenging days and demonstrated how the Army continued to move forward in technology and effectiveness during the two decades since the Vietnam War, often using lessons learned during our service.

The Change of Command ceremony on Friday morning was dignified and mindful of tradition as LTC James M. Egan transferred command of the Battalion to LTC Terry L. Hilt. LTC Hilt was later in the day presented with a replica of the Commemorative Brick that the Association had purchased for the National Museum of the U.S. Army. This took place at the well-attended banquet. The auction following featured a tremendous number of items for bidding and purchase and raised a nice sum for the coffers of the Association.

The first 100 years of our Regiment are now behind us, and while none of us will be available for the 200th Anniversary celebration, at least, just as those doughboys of 1918, we can say that we were there at the beginning...of a new century of service!



100th Anniversary Reunion Questionnaire

The Board is interested in the attending membership's evaluation of the recent reunion. Please view the following areas and return a copy of your observations to VP Dan Mitchell at one of the addresses listed below.

Fort Sill Sign-In: There is nothing the Association can do for the present but comply with the requirement to use Form 118a to get on post. But there may be away to make the process less cumbersome. If you needed to secure a form 118a, did the process go

Smoothly_____ Not at All Smoothly_____ Didn't need the form_____

Do you like the feature used at the last two reunions of providing "grab bags" of information and small gifts as well as commemorative T-Shirts, or could you do without these amenities?

Yes, like them_____ No, they're unnecessary_____

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Excellent OK Poor

Personal Room _____

Hotel amenities (Pool, Kitchen, Fitness Ctr)
did not use_____

Included Breakfast _____

Evening Light Meal
did not use_____

Hospitality room, arrangement _____

" " , Beverages and Snacks _____

ACTIVITIES

Snow Hall General Membership Meeting _____

" Memorial Service _____

" Lunch Food
Arrangements and Service _____

Range Activity	_____	_____	_____	N/A_____
General Franks Museum	_____	_____	_____	N/A_____
Simulations	_____	_____	_____	N/A_____
Banquet	_____	_____	_____	
Auction	_____	_____	_____	

Do you think it important that the Association continue to use the Change of Command Ceremony dates as the deciding factor for scheduling the bi-annual reunion at Fort Sill?

Yes, it's a highlight_____ No, let's go when Sill is cooler_____

Comments - please elaborate if necessary on any of the above, or anything else regarding the recent reunion that you would like to add.

Send responses to Dan Mitchell, 2nd VP 30 FARA, at countyhonorguard@yahoo.com or
171888 N. 2764 Road
Duncan, OK 73533

Association Donates Brick to Army Museum

Several members of the Association banded together to contribute the cost of a commemorative brick to the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, VA. The brick, which measures 8 inches by 8 inches, reads as follows:

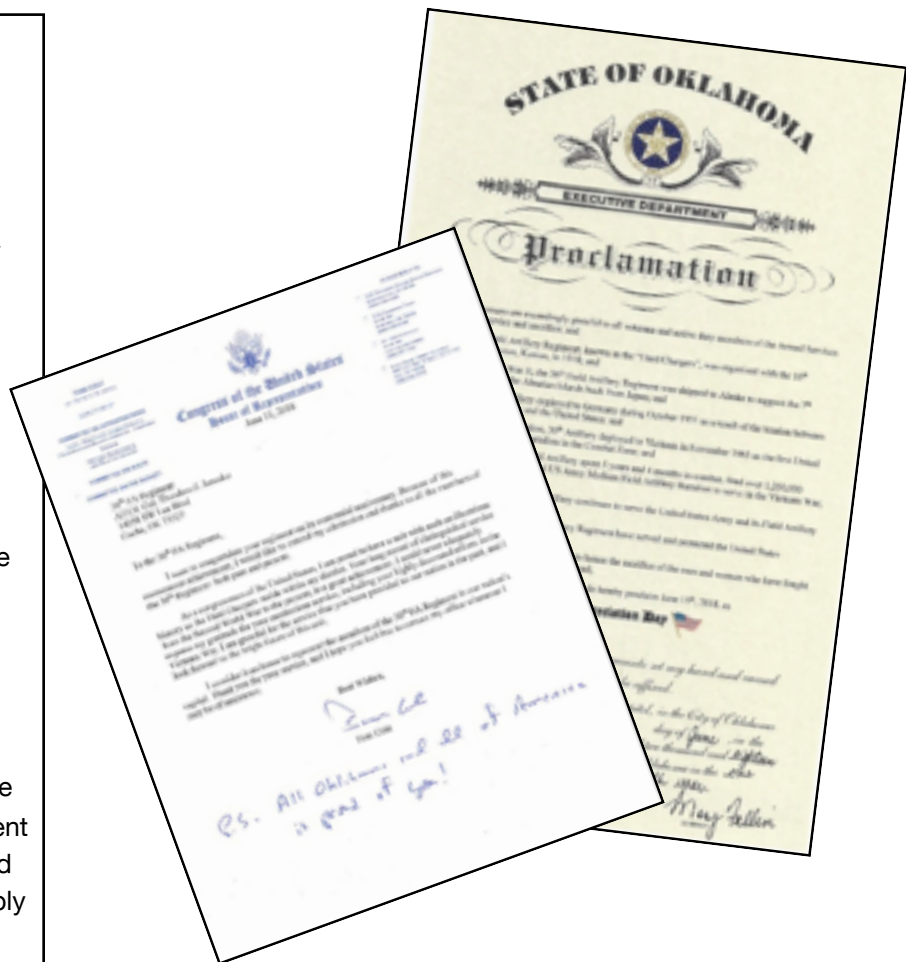


THE 'HARD CHARGERS'
30 FA REGT 1918 -2018
OUR FIRST CENTURY OF
SERVICE TO OUR FLAG
THE 30TH'S FUTURE IS
YET TO BE WRITTEN

The brick will join more than 5,000 others on the *Path of Remembrance* on the museum grounds. A replica of the brick was presented to LTC Terry Hilt at the reunion as he assumes command of the unit. More information can be found on-line at [Army Museum Brick Program](#).

Oklahoma Governor, Congressman recognize Regt. on Anniversary

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin and Congressman Tom Cole extended congratulations to the 30th for its service with a proclamation and a letter of appreciation. Ted Janosko read significant passages from each to the membership during the course of the reunion. Among a list of "Whereases" in the proclamation were the words: "The soldiers of the 30th Field Artillery Regiment have served and protected the United States honorably for 100 years..."



YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS



That's your Quartermaster's two bits, and worth every cent that you paid for it!

Charles "COMMA" Causey, OUT!

Thoughts on our Hundredth CSM (R) John Hoetker, HSGMOR

Attending the celebration of our centennial at Fort Sill has caused me to reflect some. My service with the 30th came during the Cold War in the early sixties, and I am sure that the soldiers who served in 1918 could not have imagined the army of WW2 nor the one of 1963 into which I enlisted. No more than I could have imagined then the army that I would leave in 1998. And the army of today is different yet, as will be the army of the future.

Our army in the past century has seen many changes - weapons, pay, equipment, uniforms, training, military education, the threats we face and the world we live in. HARD CHARGERS have this in common whatever their era: they have served. Each did their part in creating the Regiment's enviable reputation and have earned the boasting rights of being a HARD CHARGER.

There is a constant that runs through its history; the American Soldier. If you are upfront with the American Soldier, tell him what to expect and what is expected of him - he will never let you down.

HARD CHARGER, SIR!

The Reunion in Review

READY, FIRE, AIM!



What's a party without a cake?

A modest entrance to a fascinating collection



Whattamy bid?

Lunch in Hobart in a hall full of stuffed animals!



5435 Cedar Valley Drive

Loveland, CO 80537

Next Issue - September 2018

Deadline for submissions - Sept 7, 2018

jdynes5@comcast.net or address above