

# 167TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**TO : ALL FORMER MEMBERS AND THEIR LADIES  
167TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**

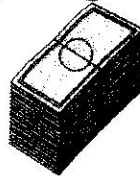
**FROM : JESSE L. HICKS**

**SUBJECT: Y2K NEWSLETTER NO. 1**

## **REUNION IN LAS VEGAS**

**Our reunion in Las Vegas is scheduled for October 8th to 11th, 2000.**

So, mark your calendar now and plan on being with us for a great get-together !! Sam Brown and his arrangements committee have already started working out the details for us. It looks like the **Imperial Palace Hotel** will give us the most reasonable rates for our rooms, a meeting room, and a banquet. The **Imperial Place** is located on "the strip" in Las Vegas and will be right in the heart of all the many other things to see and do in that town. The toll free number to call for reservations is 1-800/ 800-2981. Mailing address is 3535 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109. Room reservations must be made by September 8th, so make your plans soon. When making reservations, just tell them that you are with the 167th Engineer Combat Battalion Association in order to get the group rate.



We would invite suggestions from all of you as to what you would like to do and see while at the reunion, places to visit, topics to discuss, etc. Sam Brown will be contacting the **Directors** of our group for ideas and input very soon. In case you have forgotten the members of our new **Board of Directors**, who were named at our last meeting, they are:

**Bill Stefanu  
Paul Long  
Bob Tykol  
Bill Cotter  
Alan Hurd**

**Francis Michael  
O.T. Ziegler  
Bob Schepis  
Howard MacCord  
Bill Heim**

**FROM OUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

I just talked with **Grover Smith**, the **President** of our **Association**. He says that he and Barbara are looking forward to seeing everyone again and having a good time in Las Vegas.

It was good to hear from Grover, and it surely is good news to hear that his treatments are going well. ***We will all look forward to seeing them at the reunion.***

**SEND US NEWS**

We were glad to have cards and letters from the following comrades over the holidays:

**Alvin Baker  
Robert Butler  
James Donnelly  
Dick Cain  
John Scott  
Grover Smith**

**Frank Baranek  
George Buckles  
Alan Hurd  
Ray Olson  
William Stefanu  
Jay Welch**

**Sam Brown  
Dean Graves  
James Hegarty  
Don Schrader  
Bob Tykol**

**We appreciate hearing from each of you !** We hope all of you will continue to keep in touch with us, even though you have been unable to attend some of our past reunions. We would like to receive news about yourself and your family for the *Newsletter*. We have about 60 former members of the 167th on our mailing list now. We have "updated" our mailing list again and will be glad to send you a copy upon request.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**We were saddened to learn of the passing of Leroy Friedrich, (H&S Company), Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 10th. We received a telephone call and a letter from his daughter, Karen, informing us of this. I remember him well. He was a good soldier and a good man. I am sure Mrs. Friedrich and Karen would appreciate hearing from you, especially those of you in H&S Company who knew him. The address is: 3024 W. Valanna Ct., Milwaukee, WI 53209**

**DO YOU REMEMBER?**

How good is your memory? Do you remember the following activities about 55 years ago when you were a soldier in the 167th Engineer Combat Battalion ??

- **On 23 Feb 1945, the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the Seventh Army and the XV Corps and assigned to the Ninth Army. The Battalion left Alsace for the 9th Army area, arriving at Nuth, Holland on Feb 24th after traveling about 285 miles. While in the vicinity of Nuth, Holland, the battalion performed general engineering maintenance tasks on roads.**

- On March 4th, the Battalion moved from Nuth, Holland to Wassenberg, Germany and then on March 17th, moved to Kemper Germany, a distance of about 35 miles.
- On March 17, 1945, 1st Lt Post, Sgt Knight, and Pfc Garnass were killed, and Sgt Parcels and Cpl Velestin were wounded (all from Company C) while engaged in removing mines and booby traps in vicinity of Roermond, Holland.
- On March 19, Pfc's John Roberts, Robert Schepis, and Warren Schwartz were wounded in action. (Robert Schepis along with the others was awarded the Purple Heart.) We are proud of you, Bob !! Bob has attended every one of our reunions to date.

We will test your memory again in our next Newsletter.

### MILITARY HONORS NOW ENTITLEMENT FOR VETS

The Department of Defense (DoD) has implemented a new program, "Honoring Those Who Served", which provides dignified military funeral honors to veterans. DoD's new program, which became effective Jan 1, 2000, was signed into law by the President on Oct. 5, 1999. The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 mandates that DoD must provide, at minimum, an honor guard detail consisting of at least two members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the service in which the deceased veteran served, a presentation of the flag and the playing of "Taps". This is, of course, in addition to any ceremony provided by a local voluntary honor guard such as the American Legion, VFW Post or other organization.

### THE GREATEST GENERATION

I mentioned in one of my newsletters a few months ago that I had finished reading Tom Brokaw's new book entitled "The Greatest Generation." I hope some of you have had a chance to read it. I enjoyed reading it very much. In this book he tells true stories of individual men and women who "came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War, and went on to build modern America--men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today". Now Brokaw has another book out. It is entitled "The Greatest Generation Speaks." I have just finished reading it. It is another great book. Read it if you have a chance.

### THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

- You don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop laughing.
- Life not only begins at forty; it begins to show.
- Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

- There is always death and taxes; however death doesn't get worse every year.
- Talk is cheap because the supply exceeds the demand.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

**DUES ARE DUE**

The Y2K Membership Dues are due. Thanks again to all of you who paid your 1999 Dues. And thanks to all of you who paid your Year 2000 Dues at the reunion. We appreciate you !! For those of you who have not paid we need your help. The Dues are \$20.00 and you may send your payment to me at the above address.

**PLEASE NOTE**

We will be sending out another *Newsletter* about June 1. The next *Newsletter* will contain more details about the reunion in Las Vegas along with some other goodies. If you have something that you would like to share with your friends and comrades in our group, please send it to me and I will include it in the next *Newsletter*. In the meantime don't forget to mark your calendar for the next reunion !!

So long for this time until next time.

Best Regards,



**JESSE L. HICKS**  
Secretary/ Treasurer

