

84th Railsplitters Association

Bugler



Greetings Railsplitters Family & Friends!

We recently hosted our annual Valentine's Dinner. The food, venue and entertainment were great; however, the time spent with military friends is priceless. A great time was had by all! If you missed our February gathering other opportunities are forthcoming. The Annual Dining Out will be on Saturday, 16 May at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove, please mark your calendar. We will be monitoring the coronavirus pandemic. A decision will be made the closer we get to the date if the event will be cancelled.

On 18 June we will gather for the Annual Meeting of the 84th Railsplitters Association, LTD. Updates from the association and information relative to retirees will be provided. Election of board members will be conducted. Appetizers will be served.

We will close out the year with the Annual Steak/Chicken Fry. If you've never attended, please mark your calendar for 19 September. This event is very informal and is an opportunity for our members to demonstrate their generosity. Proceeds collected from the silent auction are donated throughout the year to deserving charities/organizations that support the military and their families.

Since my last writing, I'm saddened to say we lost some long serving Railsplitters and have others who are dealing with and overcoming illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families. If there is anything we can do for you, please reach out to a fellow Railsplitter. The loss of these members has opened my eyes. I always considered myself to be very organized and informed; this couldn't be further from the truth. Families have reached out for help in getting their loved ones the military honors they are due from their service time. I was ill-informed on what was needed and how to get it done. Within this publication is an article from a former Command Sergeant Major and employee of the Veterans Administration that will help your families and you through the paperwork.

Word of mouth is the best form of advertising! If you've attended any of our events, please invite past 84th Railsplitters to join you. Would they be interested in joining our organization?

Have you visited our webpage: 84thrailsplitters.com? If not, please do! Our webpage is a great source for the membership application; locating military events; registering for 84th functions; and we have a "Taps" page that is ever growing. If you are aware of the passing of 84th Railsplitters please let us know. We'd like to acknowledge them and their service on "Taps".

In closing, this has been a great year for the 84th Railsplitters Association and we'd like to see our organization grow! There are thousands of former 84th soldiers in the area. Only those that have served understand the connection the military has with their battle buddies. Spread the word!!! We're looking forward to seeing you at one or more of our events.

Goldie M. Schuh
MSG, USA Retired
President, 84th Railsplitters Association LTD



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Upcoming Special Events

- Dining Out * 16 May 2020 (TBD)
- Annual Meeting * 18 Jun 2020
- Steak Fry * 19 Sep 2020
- War Memorial Dinner * 2 Sep 2020

Please Join Us!

Milwaukee County War Memorial Commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII

On January 10, 2019, the Congress of the U.S. approved the "75th Anniversary of the End of World War Two Act." The bill directs the Department of Defense to thank the vets of the war, educate the public about the war, recognize the contributions of those at home and abroad, and to remember the Holocaust. The Milwaukee County War Memorial Center has been planning for this celebration for quite some time and we are excited to announce our calendar of events.

The luncheon scheduled for May 7, with Historian John Gurda, has been postponed.

On **May 8**, we will join countries the world over in ringing the church bells at 1:00PM local time commemorating the Victory in Europe (VE Day).

May 22 to 26, 2,500 miniature American Flags will be on display on the War Memorial grounds.

July 30, our Annual VetFest will go on as planned. Think of this as SummerFest with a heavy dose of patriotism. Lots of food and music available for all citizens, but special emphasis is on our vets.

September 1 to 3, we are honored to have the only exact replica of the Washington D.C. WWII Monument, and it will be on display that week on the Plaza overlooking Lake Michigan.

September 2 will be our signature event, the Victory Street Celebration Dinner.

You can get more information on the website at: warmemorialcenter.org. World War II has been called the most significant event in world history. Join us to celebrate this important milestone in our history.

Skip Pochowski



The National World War II Memorial, which honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million men and women who served overseas and the more than 400,000 that perished, opened to the public in April 2004. The memorial, built to celebrate the heroes of the Greatest Generation, remains one of the most visited sites on the National Mall, with more than 4.2 million visits in 2014. Each year, more than 300 Honor Flights bring World War II veterans, as well as those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars, to the memorials dedicated to their service.



On Feb. 2, Military Officers Association of America members enjoyed lunch and a presentation on the WWII ties of WMC architect, Eero Saarinen, and mural artist, Edmund Lewandowski. Afterward, members were treated to exclusive balcony access to appreciate the Lewandowski mural up close.

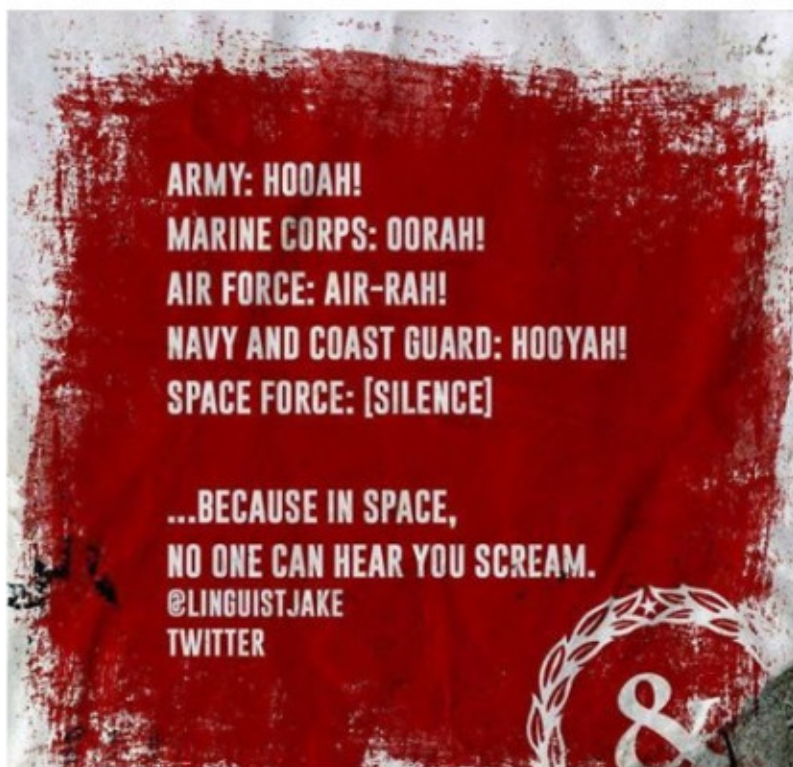


Fort McCoy-Milwaukee Wisconsin Area Military Retiree Council

It's official! In accordance with AR600-8-7 (Retirement Services Program), "garrison commanders will support the establishment of or alter a Retired Soldier council to voice the concerns of Retired Soldiers to the garrison commander, the senior commander, and the ASCC commander." The Fort McCoy Milwaukee, Wisconsin Area Military Retiree Council was established on November 21, 2019. CSM Michael Simmons is the Chairman, CSM David Gramins, the Vice Chairman, MSG Goldie Schuh, the secretary, and board members are COL Peter Pochowski, COL Dean Orley, COL Timothy Hyland, COL Rusty Armstrong, CSM James Bunce, CSM Kim Michalowski, MAJ Mary Oppliger and CW2 Scott Griffith.

Unfortunately, one of the first projects the council was working on, the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) here in Milwaukee has been cancelled due to the recent Coronavirus pandemic. But that just means that the council has more time to plan for next year.

So, a general is briefing the president in the Oval Office. "Oh and finally, sir, three Brazilian soldiers were killed in Iraq today." The president goes pale, his jaw hanging open in stunned disbelief. He buries his face in his hands, muttering "My God...My God". "Mr. President," says the general, "we lose soldiers all the time, and it's terrible. But I've never seen you so upset. What's the matter?" The president looks up and says..."How many is a Brazilian?"



84th Dining Out



Keep your calendar open for Saturday, May 16th. The Board is still applying the Army Decision Making Process to determine if we will hold the event, or cancel it due the pandemic.



We'll send out the notice as soon as the decision is made.



Dining
Out
2019



Valentine's Dinner
2020





Send your pictures to railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.

Memories



George Slavsky, Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood 1962



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those that passed away recently:

LTC (Ret) John Knuteson, 84th JAG Officer
MAJ (Ret) Robert Steffen, MilTech with the 2/334 and Tng Cmte
SFC (Ret) Arthur Froh, 1/334 and 3/334
MSG (Ret) Julie Bennett, MilTech with the Tng Spt Bde (7th Bde)
SFC (Ret) Karen Spitzer, MilTech with the 3/334
Thomas Carpenter, a former SPC with the 84th
Marion Majewski (wife of COL Tony Majewski)

Also, please remember in your prayers:

SGM Ray Franecki, Marion Brunner (wife of CSM Clarence Brunner), and Opal Simmons (wife of CSM Michael Simmons)

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, maryo_44@yahoo.com

Burial Flag Information

In response to recent untimely passing of two former soldiers and full time civilians of the 84th Division; I have been asked to provide information concerning the receipt of a burial flag for Army Reservists.

I have attached a Veterans Benefits Administration information sheet that provides information; however, there is some clarification needed; as the information sheet only states that eligibility is open to "Certain former members of the Selected Reserves".

What does this mean? Let me try to explain.

Someone who has completed at least one enlistment as a member of the Selected Reserve or in the case of an officer, completed the initial period of obligated service.

Was discharged before completion of the person's initial enlistment or period of initial obligation for a disability incurred in or aggravated in the line of duty.

Died while a member of the Selected Reserve

Was eligible for retirement and died before reaching age 60

The problem most face when asked is to provide proof of service when discharged from the Army Reserve since a DD214 is not usually issued.

A Reserve soldier will receive a DD214 for periods of Active Duty Training (ADT) or Active Duty for Training (ACDUTRA). Unfortunately these documents are not sufficient proof for completion of one enlistment or period of obligated service. Unless you were activated under Title 10 or enlisted on Active Duty (AD); you will not receive a DD214 that shows you qualify.

The National Guard receives a NGB Form 22 upon discharge that is not the case with an Army Reservist. Traditionally, Reservists are issued an order transferring them to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). When I retired, I was issued such an order; transferring me to the Retired Reserve. Upon turning age 60, I received a Certificate of Retirement (suitable for framing); but no DD214. Those were only issued for completion of Active Duty under Title 10 and for ADT over 180 days.

What does this mean? It is critical for you to maintain your military records if you are what is called a "traditional" reserve soldier. The transfer order for completion of service or retirement is your proof of service needed for the receipt of a burial flag. It is critical that documents are in order upon your death to ease the burden on those preparing for your burial.

Kim Thomas Michalowski
CSM (Ret) USAR, IN





Burial Flag

Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag?

A United States flag is provided to drape the casket of a deceased Veteran. The flag is provided at no cost. It is intended to honor the memory of a Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. VA furnishes a burial flag for the following Veterans who received other than dishonorable discharge:

- Veterans who served during wartime
- Veterans who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veterans who served after Jan. 31, 1955
- Peacetime Veterans who were discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- Certain people who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces o Must have died on or after April 25, 1951
- Certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?

After the funeral service, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will give the flag to a friend who requests it. For VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, you can donate the flag to be flown on patriotic holidays.

How Can You Apply?

Complete VA Form 27-2008, "Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes" to apply. You can find the form at <https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>. VA regional benefit offices and some post offices are the primary issuing points for burial flags. You can find your closest regional benefit office by visiting <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>. Please note, not all local post offices have burial flags on hand. Call and confirm with your local post office in advance.

Can a Burial Flag Be Replaced?

According to law, VA can issue only one flag for a Veteran's funeral. It cannot be replaced if lost, destroyed or stolen. However, some organizations or community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

How Should the Burial Flag Be Displayed?

This depends on whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 27-2009 (<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-27-2008-ARE.pdf>) provides the correct method for displaying and folding. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display. This is due to its size and fabric. The cotton can easily be damaged by weather.

Any questions can be directed to the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

84th Railsplitters Association, LTD

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Please support:

Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith

American Legion Post 449

Home of the 84th Railsplitters

Association

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

This issue of the newsletter is not being mailed. Some members of the Association do not wish to receive an email copy of the newsletter. Unfortunately, due to the stay-at-home order, trips to the printer and post office probably aren't essential.

If you know of someone that doesn't receive an email copy of the newsletter, please forward a copy to them.

The Editor

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Wash your hands to the Army Song!

Verse:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory
We're the Army and proud of our name
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

Chorus:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

