



NEWSLETTER



707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com

Issue #13 May 2007

General



By Barney Fisher

Gee aren't you lucky, Gene is sort of laid up right now from his surgery and I didn't want to impose on him so I'll try and fill this spot with some dribble about Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

So let's start with Life – One definition being, the time between birth and death. So when someone ask what have you done with your life? Let's hope you have a good answer for them. Somehow we got to talking about this the other night and it got me to thinking and you know what, I don't think I'd change a thing. Sure I've made some dumb and I mean real dumb decisions but hey it was one heck of a ride. I've raised a family to be proud of and hopefully have instilled them with all the common sense and fortitude they need to face this ever changing world of ours. I've served my country well and hope that I've paid back a portion of what she has given me. I've survived many an incident when by all rights I shouldn't have. I've lost loved ones and friends along the way but have grown stronger in having known them, if even for a short time. I've been blessed in so many ways that it truly has been a wonderful life.

Now for Liberty – There are many definitions but I like this one, A right to engage in certain actions without control or interference: the liberties protected by the Bill of Rights. Well now, do you remember them? Needless to say some of our elected and appointed officials don't.

Amendment I - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II - A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III - No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV - The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V - No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a

presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI - In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII - In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII - Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX - The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X - The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

And finally we come to Happiness – defined as the result of good luck. Well I’ve got a problem with this in that it insinuates you have to be lucky to be happy. I’ve encountered many a person that is happy and are far from being lucky, and on the other hand I’ve met all kinds of lucky people that are far from being happy. No, I think Happiness is being surrounded with good friends and associates, why else would we say “I’m lucky to have you for a friend” I think of that when the 707th get’s together and we are experiencing Happiness. That’s not luck, it’s because we have a great group of friends, a group that has faced all the world has thrown at us and still enjoy Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Thank a Veteran and I’ll See You At The 2008 Reunion.



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

Are you a supporter of Grace House? I’m sure that by now you’ve heard of it by word of mouth or have seen reference to it. Lot’s of folks didn’t get the word last August because of time constraints, and we’ve found quite a few people since last years drive. So let me give you a little back ground.

On 2 Aug 06 Dan Capece contacted me about a friend of his (the Mayor of Duluth) that was helping another friend (Pastor Lynn) in Grand Rapids start a shelter for homeless people.

It went a little like this:

Pastor Lynn Ronsberg of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Minnesota is holding a kickoff fundraiser on 24 Aug 06 for a new homeless shelter. The church has been opening its doors to homeless people for several months now and their six beds are filled nightly. The problem is, it is a church and they conduct daily business there and they must ask the guests to leave each day. We all know what its like here in northern Minnesota in the winter. How can the pastor ask people (especially children) to leave when the temperatures are below freezing in the dead of winter? The new Grace House shelter will allow the city of Grand Rapids to provide for the needs of the less fortunate in their area 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Well Dan and I thought it would be a nice gesture on the part of the 707th if we donated to this cause. I started the wheels turning and doing some logistical foot work to make this all come about, being as we only had 20 days to work with. In no time (5 Aug - 22 Aug) we had 23 people (named) donate a tidy sum

of \$1,400.00 actually this sum was larger as some folks donated directly and I don't know how many or the amount of their donation. On the 24th Dan, as the representative of the 707th, made the presentation to Pastor Lynn. **It was the largest single donation Grace House received.**

It was suggested on 15 Apr 07 that we make this an annual event. I checked with some folks at random and it was unanimous that we should accept this as a pet project and moved forward. So far we have had 7 pledges and I think 1 donation being sent direct to Grace House. I would like donations to be made through the 707th but if you do sent them direct please let me know the amount so I can include this in my report. Last year we did not publish those that donated but hopefully this year I'll have permission to do that. The presentation will be either at Thanksgiving or Christmas, when I'm sure the funds can be used to feed the less fortunate, or placed in the building fund. So how can you participate, it's easy:

Send your check, made out to either myself or the 707th Reunion - on the memo/for line write Grace House, if you would like your name posted as a supporter also put Yes on the memo/for line.

Mail to Barney Fisher - 5791 Valley Vista Way - Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Now I know someone is going to ask why make it out to me or the 707th Reunion?

I have one account and I'm running 3 funds out of it. #1 Website and Newsletter

#2 2008 Reunion Registration #3 Grace House so PLEASE put on the memo line which fund you want the money to be directed to. Thanks. Below is Pastor Lynn's latest update on Grace House.

Hi Barney!

Thanks for your email. It was good to hear from you again. Thank you so much for your interest in GRACE House! GRACE House has now been open nearly a year - it will be a year on May 21. Much has been done during that time - most significantly, people who are homeless now have an option of a place to stay.

Here are some GRACE House statistics as of the end of March:

We have had (as of mid-March) 183 referrals and 123 guests who have stayed at GRACE House.

We have offered accommodations to 53 single men, 16 single women, 9 couples, and 12 families (20 children).

Our youngest guest was 10 months old, and our eldest guest was 67 years old.

More than 450 volunteers have attended training, and over 250 regularly volunteer at GRACE House.

76% of our guests have been Itasca County residents. More than 50% have obtained jobs, benefits, schooling, and/or apartments upon leaving GRACE House.

As far as getting a permanent place, that has been going a bit slower than I had hoped, but there again, we have made progress. There are two options - one is to renovate the old catholic church. That could be a bit of work, since it is a large building and has been sitting empty now for some time - but a possibility. The other possibility is that my congregation voted in January to lease GRACE House land for \$1/year to build on. Herb got an architect to do some initial drawings for us as to what it could look like. The board has been going through it's process to figure out what is best, and I am hoping that soon - by early May - to know what they decide. At that point, when the decision is announce, it's time to do some heavy duty fund raising and work.

We've been doing some little fund raising things through the year, and at this point have about \$12,000, I believe. We'll need much more than that, but grants will also be written which will pick up a bunch of the costs.

Hopefully that gives you something, Barney. Thank you again for your support, and if there is any other way I can help you, please let me know!

In Christ,
Pastor Lynn



Day Room — by Barney Fisher

Ferd's Words of Wisdom:

If you had purchased \$1000.00 of Nortel stock year's ago, it would now be worth \$49.00.

With Enron, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000.00

With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.

With Lucent, you would have \$3.50 left of the original \$1000.00

But, if you had purchased \$1,000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND you would have had \$214.00.

Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle.

It's called the 401-Keg Plan.

Smile often - it's contagious!



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

Changes to the Master Roster: There have been so many changes to the Master Roster I could never begin to post them all. Members found in the last month, Bob Ackerman, Larry Allard, Bob Blackledge, Dale Beaubien, Fred Doswell, Wallace Flagg, Dick George, Eino Heikkila, and Billy Rich.

I urge you to find someone with a computer that can print the roster out for you. I'm hoping to mail out an updated Master Roster around the middle of the year.

All of us owe thanks to the following folks for answering the appeal to continue the Website and Newsletter for the year's 2007 & 2008. There were also 7 that did not want their name posted. My personal thanks to all those named and unnamed: Ron Anderson – Romus Broadway – Skip Brunetta – Dan Capece – Dick Chapman – Donald Couch – Larry Czeskleba – Barnaby Dennie – James Felps – Bob Ferdinand – Barney Fisher – Bruno Gaizauskas – Gus Campana – Jim Gardner – Doc Goodin – Jerry Guite – Bill Hamblen – Jerry Hedberg – Ronald Hegwood – Bill Lee – Dave Lehnerr – Curt Macfarland – John Madigan – Mark McFarland – Jose Mila – Dewitt Mitchell – Tom Nielson – Bob Nipper – Jerry Pierce – Len Place – Dee Proctor – Larry Rickard – Don Risdon – Ray Roberts – Fred Rosenbaum – Ron Schumacher – John Sewell – Ken Shouop – Don Sroka – Dino Tata – Bob Tolonen – Short Troisi – Del Turner – Herb Turner – Don VonBank – Bob Watkins – Joyce Williams

Just a quick note: Donations are accepted throughout the year so if you didn't have a chance to get on board, now's your chance. If by chance any funds are left over they will be carried over to the 2009 appeal.

Sick Call: Please remember the following members that have been having medical problems over the past months: Lawrence Allard – Bill Allison – Ralph Briggs – Barney Fisher – Mike McKeever – Stanley Sakai – Ronald Sam – Ray Sanders – Ron Schumacher – Ken Shoup – Jerome Silver – Mel Townsend – Gene Walker – Don VonBank We have quite a few members that have family going through medical problems also, so please add them to your list.

I'm sorry if I missed anyone. Please, if you have any input on our members, let me know.



From Headquarters

by Barney Fisher

We are off and running with the 2008 Reunion and shortly we'll start advertising it more. There will be notices on the website, emails and snail mails along with telephone calls. There has been a great interest shown and we're looking for a good turn out. For those of you that haven't heard the reunion is going to be held 18 – 22 June 2008 at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Those are the same dates as the 2003 Reunion (it took a lot of work to make it come out that way – better known as luck)

Here is what is set in concrete so far:

Hotel reservations are to be made on an individual basis. When calling the hotel at 1-800-235-6455 make sure they know it's for the 707th Reunion. This will ensure that you receive our rate. Standard room is \$85 Deluxe away from pool \$90 Deluxe pool side \$95 plus 9.5% tax. A few smoking rooms are available. We have a block of 50 rooms but will be able to get more as needed. Price is good for 2 days before and 2 days after the event. You can make your reservations now, 5 rooms have already been reserved. Rooms not reserved by 28 May 2008 will be un-blocked and reservations made after that will be charged at the normal rate and subject to availability. A mailing will be made later this year with a registration form and a schedule of events. Barney has been volunteered to handle the money and registration again, more information to follow.

Joyce Williams went to visit family and friends in Grand Rapids and contacted me about the following. While there she took a walk on the Yellow Brick Road and saw the section allotted to the 707th. I think she said there were only 10 bricks, I was really surprised to hear that but then again I really haven't been making it a priority to bring it to everyone's attention. I called and talked to the Itasca County Historical Society and found out that they are going to be inscribing the bricks toward the end of May, so they can be in place for Judy Garland Days. They only inscribe them once a year so if your interested, in having your name added to the walk, now's the time to act. I have added the order form as the last page in case you are interested. I can't think of a better way to leave an impression on Grand Rapids than by doing this, well I have thought of one but that's another article for next issue. As I said before, just think someday your children or grandchildren might be in Grand Rapids and see your name listed there.



Sound Off

by Barney Fisher

You got a gripe, not happy about the way things are going. Here's your chance, let me know and it'll appear right here for all to see. You know trying to keep the site and newsletter going on my own is pretty hard. I hate to sound like a broken record, but how about some input from you all. Anyone have any ideas suggestions on how to make it more interesting. Anybody want to help, let me know. Any of you gals out there want to take on writing an article of interest to the ladies?

PICTURES: There have been some new photo's added to the Photo Gallery, take a look and stroll down memory lane. Don't forget we're always looking for pictures from the past or present.

Thanks.



Taps

by Barney Fisher

This spot reserved for reporting the passing of our brothers. Also, please visit the website and take a few minutes to reflect and say a prayer for a friend now gone ahead.

A full list of the deceased can be viewed on the website. If you know of anyone that has suffered a loss, or is ill, please keep us informed so we may acknowledge them, Thanks.



Dismissed

by Barney Fisher

While I have your attention there is another question I need your help on. At the 2003 Reunion we had long sleeve denim shirts, Polo shirts and hats with the 707th logo on them. Should we offer something like this again for the 2008 Reunion? We need to know far in advance as the lead time and up front money on this project is considerable. Please take the time to send me an email, letter or call with your comments. It doesn't have to be fancy, Yes or No will do. Thanks



Blue & Natural-denim



White Cap w/Logo Blue Bill



Polo Wht/slate collar or all Wht all Grey

In closing I'd like to ask everyone to keep me informed of any information regarding our members and yourself. PLEASE, send me stories/memories of the 707th. Pictures of your days with the 707th or after are always welcomed. My contact information:

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Till next issue, remember to Thank a Veteran, Pray for our Troops and **God Bless America**
Be safe and be happy!

