



NEWSLETTER



**707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com
Issue #15 January 2008**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW
AND JOIN US AT THE
707th AC&W SQUADRON REUNION**



**It's the
45th ANNIVERSARY
of the Base Closing
GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA
18 - 22 June, 2008
SAWMILL INN
Call 1-800-235-6455 for Reservations**

General



By Barney Fisher

I know you're wondering why I'm writing this again, well there are 3 good reasons. 1- Gene is busy, 2- I can use the space and 3- I forgot to ask Gene to write his article. How this happen I don't know and I'm sorry Gene but I doubt if it'll make you too mad. So let's get on with this informative newsletter - but first let me say HAPPY NEW YEAR, I hope that it brings the very best to all of our extended 707th family.

The reason I need more space this letter is to bring you up to date on the 2008 Reunion and what has been accomplished in the past few months. A lot of this is going to be repetitive for the folks that have computers and access the website but for those without this is important information. In the last Newsletter I sent all of you the schedule of event's for the Reunion and also a registration form. I've only received a few of these back and hopefully now that the New Year is here more of you will be sending them in. If you misplaced the form or have any questions please call me at 513-574-7431 and I'll be glad to answer your questions or mail you another form. By sending in your registration you help us in 2 ways, it provides up front money needed to lay the ground work – deposit's etc. and gives us an idea of the number of attendees for planning and negotiating. So please **get your registration in as early as possible.**

Once again I received some questions about registration and reservation, so here we go again. These are 2 very distinct and different functions. **Registration is the fee you send to me for the reunion activities.** It is \$75.00 per person and this covers the Welcoming Reception (snacks, drinks – **not alcoholic beverages**) the Hospitality Suite (snacks, soft drinks, coffee – **not alcoholic beverages**) Picnic (food, drinks – **no alcoholic beverages allowed in the park**) Banquet (food, drinks – **not alcoholic beverages**) Farewell Gathering (continental breakfast, drinks – **not alcoholic beverages**) DJ, Door Prizes, Gratuities and what ever else I missed. Two things are evident from this report, 1 this is a good deal at the price and 2 that **Alcoholic Beverages are not going to be furnished.** Because of tighter laws and that we aren't able to secure insurance coverage, all Alcoholic Beverages will have to be bought at the hotel lounge or you'll have to bring your own. There will be a cash bar at the appropriate events. OK so that pretty well covers Registration.

Reservation is the securing of a room at the Sawmill or where ever else you want. Something new has been added at the Sawmill to help you out and that is a complimentary Hot Breakfast served from 0630 – 1000 Monday –Friday. I've been trying to stress this point but apparently I'm not making it clear enough. **Make your room reservation ASAP.** All you have to do is call **1-800-235-6455** and reserve the room, it will be held until the day of your arrival. **It doesn't cost you to reserve a room** and it ensures you have a place to lay your head. The reason I urge you to do this is because the town has many construction projects going on and hotel rooms are at a premium. If we book all the rooms we have blocked, early enough, we can have more rooms blocked. Right now we have 50 rooms blocked and 20 are taken. Being as we have 75 that are planning on attending and 33 that might, you see that 30 rooms aren't going to be enough. So as the saying goes "Don't Delay Do It Today."

The menu for the banquet has been finalized and I'm sure everyone will be able to find something to their liking. Roasted Round of Beef, Pineapple Stuffed Ham and Buttered Chicken with Mashed Potato's and Green Bean's Almandine, Salad and 3 Chef Salads, assorted breads and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be a cash bar. You'll notice on the Registration form I forgot to put a comments line. If you have a special dietary need other than Diabetic or Vegetarian, or just want to bring something to my attention please use the back of the form. Also please indicate in the block how many people require that need. For instance; 2 people registered and only 1 needs Diabetic. Thanks. **The hotel will accommodate any special needs or diets but make sure you let me know on your registration form.**

Another project that the committee has been working on is the Historical Marker. Thanks to their efforts my dream is going to come true. Skip told me in August that my Christmas present was going to be that they had raised the funds from the local community for the Marker. Well true to his word they were able to do just that and I couldn't have received a nicer gift. Now they are working on the positioning and landscaping portion. I will be placing the order for the Marker by the end of this month and the dedication will be at the Memorial Service on 20 June 2008. My sincere THANKS to all that have worked so hard on this project, I never could have done it without them.



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

Just about everything in this newsletter is going to deal with the Reunion in one sense or another and with that said:

We are looking for golfers and bowlers. The golf outing is set for 21 June 2008 at the Pokegama Golf Course. You don't have to be a pro to play in this outing, you could be like me and only golf once or twice a year. We had a great time in 2003 and some of my shots are talked about today. Actually it's the wild life, talking about my shots, because they figured I was out to get them. Anyway come join in the fun. Now bowling is an open venue and considering the bowlers we had at the 707th I'm sure we're going to have an outing. We figure if enough folks want to try their luck, it will be held during one of the free periods that are laced into the schedule of events. This can be a last minute decision or you can let me know on the back of the registration form.



Day Room by Barney Fisher

Ferd's Words of Wisdom:

4 rules to live by: Drink – Steal – Swear – Lie

1. Drink from the 'everlasting cup' every day.
2. Steal a moment to help someone that is in worse shape than you are.
3. Swear that you will be a better person today than yesterday.
4. Last, but not least, when you lie down at night thank God you live in America and have freedom.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

We now have 85 names on the deceased list – that is 3 more than we had at the posting of the last newsletter in November, there were 43 names in 2003, 75 in 2006 and 85 in 2007. If you have access to a computer, you can check the website at www.af-acw.com I think you would find it quite interesting.

The weather here has finally turned cold and it's actually looking like winter. Single digits, windy, snow on the ground and the furnace continually running. Thank the Lord we have heat, a home for shelter and something to eat. It's time like this I think of Grace House and the work they are doing for the less fortunate.

I'd like to give my personal THANKS to all those that donated to Grace House this past year. On 17 November 2007 Jim Nardone and Skip Brunetta presented the Director of Grace House with a check, on behalf of the 707th, in the amount of \$1,000.00 We received letters of thanks from the Director and Rev. Lynn. This year I'm asking each of our members to set aside \$1.00 a month to go toward our annual Grace House donation. We have been able to help this worthy project the past 2 years and hopefully this year we'll be able to increase our donation. With everyone contributing it shouldn't be a problem. Please join us this year. Thanks

Sick Call: We've heard of many members that have been having medical problems or procedures over the past months – Mark McFarland – Mike McKeever – Ray Sanders – Ken & Peggy Shoup – Bruno Gaizauskas – Gene Walker – Don & Luella VonBank – Pete Sessions – Barney Fisher – Bob & Rose Kennedy – Sherman Brown – Lawrence Allard – Ron Schumacher – Bill & Elda Thrope just to mention a few. I'm very sorry if I forgot someone just way too many. Please say a prayer for all our members and their families. If you have, or know of any other member with, a medical problem – and would like to be added to our prayer list, Please let me know.

These items went over very big at the 2003 Reunion and some folks have asked about them again. Dan Capece is working on a deal with the original supplier of these items and it won't be long before I have more information on pricing and ordering procedure. The general opinion was to offer them again with a vote of 30 to 2 in favor. Stand-by for details in an upcoming newsletter. I still wear my shirts and hat from 2003 and they aren't any the worse for wear, just one little un-solicited testimonial for them.



Long Sleeved in Blue and Natural

White Cap w/Logo Blue Bill

Polo Wht/slate collar or all Wht all Grey



From Headquarters

by **Barney Fisher**

NOTICE: Minnesota has a No Smoking Law. In essence what this means is, the reunion being held in a public hotel will be no smoking except in designated areas. Smoking is not permitted in the pool area, (that's where the hospital is located) restaurant, banquet hall and hotel hallways & restrooms.

No alcoholic beverages will be provided by the Reunion Committee. This doesn't mean you can't bring your own drinks you can buy them in the lounge and carry them out. We will make sure there are enough non-alcoholic beverages available at all the functions. By the way there is a strict enforcement of no alcohol in the park.



Sound Off

by **Barney Fisher?**

I'm glad to see that everyone is happy with the way things are going. I really like when there aren't any waves. I did receive a call from Bob Kennedy and he suggested that I list our reunion in the DAV magazine. Thanks Bob, and for your information I mailed in the announcement right after talking to you.

There have been many email and address changes since I mailed out the Master Roster, and a few new finds. I have many follow ups to do and try and verify them but once I get it all done I'll think of having another mailing. What ever you do, don't hold your breath as there are many factors that control doing that.

PICTURES: There have been some new photo's added to the Photo Gallery, 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. Please take a few minutes to reflect and say a prayer for a friend now gone ahead. A list of the deceased is on the last page of this Newsletter. 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

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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5791 Valley Vista Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
ffisher@cinci.rr.com
513-574-7431

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

All of our deceased brothers will be acknowledge at a very moving Memorial Service on 20 June 2008. Immediately following the service will be the dedication of a Historical Marker which will be a permanent and lasting tribute to the 707th I look forward to seeing you there.

OUR DECEASED BROTHERS

Ralph K. Berg	Buddy Blair	L. M. Blanchard
Richard Brooks	Raymond Burchardt	Nicholas Carino
Joseph H. Carmichael	Richard Carter	Robert M. Carter
Andrew Charney	Dale Cline	Ronald C. Crowe
Percy Dale	Albert Dubois	Robert Dubord
Franklin L. Eddy	Cranston Elder	Paul Felrath
Ralph Ferraro	Donald R. Frederick	Bernard Gaydosh
Cas Gilmore	Robert R. Glasheen	James A. Gordon
C. W. Ham	James W. Hargreaves	Beecher Harrison
Robert L. Harvey	Odell Head	Fred Heim
Lonnie Hotchkiss	Charles Hymes	Howard Dennis Ingle
Harley Jenson	Richard D. Jesse	James L. Johnson
Russell V. Johnson	Hugh Johnston	Bobby D. Jones
Percy D. Kale	Thomas Karst	John Karvunis
Charles R. Knippel	Benhard Koski	Robert Leitch
Sidney Leluan	Leonard L. Lutomierski	Stephen J. Maloney
Harlan E. Marrill	Stanley P. Martin	David H. McCall
Clarence A. McGillvray	William A. Nagy	Arthur G. Nielsen
Rickard Olson	James, Owens	Harry Parkes
Allison Penn	Merle Petersen	Joseph Proctor
Edward J. Puntin	Joseph E. Ralrick	Raymon A. Ritchie
Robert W. Roberts	Fred W. Ronnermann	Marvin Schaffer
Harry Secrist	Jack Shadeck	Randall T. Soli
Warren Speidel	Edward Stull	Robert E. Suda
Robert Sykes	Norman Thomas	Melbourne A. Townsend
George K. Trembly	Thomas Turley	Joseph Tyrell
William C. Uselton	Bernard Vanantwerp	Edwin Walker
Norman F. Wickstrom	Frederick H. Wingate	James F. Wodowski
James T. Zaronis		
