



NEWSLETTER



707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com
Issue #18 September 2008

General



By Barney Fisher

As you've noticed this is about a month ahead of schedule but there is a very good reason for it. As I sit here over looking the valley, I realized that this is the first day of Fall and already the trees are changing. I'm sure the dry summer has a lot to do with it but it also shows that the cold days of winter aren't far off. When I think of cold weather, the days at the 707th creep back into mind. I'm sure all of us can remember those harsh winter days and nights, the bitter cold and the wishing for a warm spot to spend our time. This in turn made me aware that our annual Grace House Fund Drive started on 1 September, and to reach our goal of \$1,000.00 we'll need your help. We have until early November to reach that goal and if everyone does their part we shouldn't have a problem. To all those at the reunion that said "Let Me Know When" well here you go, consider yourself notified.

Since many folks were asking how to make a tax deductible donation, we have a different procedure for donating this year. All checks should be made out to *Grace House* and mailed to *Skip Brunetta at 728 NE 3rd Ave. Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744*. Skip will give the check to Grace House and he will maintain a list of the donors and amounts, then **at the Big Fund Raiser on 15 November it will be announced how much the 707th donated. Not only will you have the canceled check made out to Grace House but you will also receive a Thank You. According to our local tax expert this is all you'll need to take the deduction on your taxes. So far Skip informs me that 10 people have donated and it's a start. I checked back into the records and found that in 2006 we had 23 people donate, in 2007 we had 25 and so far in 2008 we have 10. I know times are hard but if they are hard for those with a roof over their head think of those that don't even have a place to seek shelter. I ask all of you to please try and send a donation. If you recall I asked everyone to put aside \$1.00 a month and then to send it when the appeal starts. I know this is a pain but believe me it works. We have envelopes for each cause we donate to and put in a little in each month. Then when we receive the appeal we have an amount and send it in early. Takes a little getting use to but it works for us. So please take the time to send in your donation today. Thanks. As soon as you've done that, get out an envelope and start saving a \$1.00 a month for next year's drive. We won't be posting names of the donors this year since a lot of people didn't think it was necessary, as always your wish is my command. See the enclosed flyer.**

Been a lot happening since the last letter and it seems I've been behind the power curve all the way. There have been so many storms and freaks of nature that I don't even have time to comment on one when the next is occurring. We took a short cruise up the New England coast into Canada and I've been running behind ever since. Hurricane Hanna caused us a little grief on the cruise and then when we got back I came down with a Sinus infection that laid me up for over a week. During that time, Hurricane Ike came ashore and on the 14th came right up the Ohio River Valley. It was a hurricane without rain just high winds. We had 80mph and higher gust with sub-stained winds of 47mph that lasted about 6 hours. The area ended up with a lot of damage and 1.2 million people without power. As of this writing (22nd) some 5,000 are still without power and it's going to be mid week before they think everyone will be back on line. Now I'm not comparing this to the poor folks in Texas but for this area that was a history making event. What really made it worst was our power company had sent 2/3 of it's crews to Texas and we didn't have enough people here. They finally brought in teams from the Carolinas and I think Louisiana to bail us out. Those mutual agreements sure do work nice but I'll bet they never thought this was going to happen. The forecast was for some high winds (40mph) around noon. Boy did they miss this one.

Not only did all this befall me at a time when I wasn't at my best but my computer also decided to take a break and it presented my son-in-law with a monumental task, but as usual he came through and I think I'm back up and running.

I sure wish I had some good news to report on but it just seems that no matter where you look in the paper, listen to on radio or watch on TV it's costing the American Taxpayer. I hate to say this but didn't we all sort of expect this to happen someplace along the line. The thing that really gets me going is when one of these big outfits has a problem the CEO still gets a fat bonus for his great leadership ability. B--- S---. If any of us made some of those lame brained moves we'd been without a job before the day was out. Sorry didn't mean to go off on a tangent.



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

Well there are many DVD's available from many sources of the 2008 Reunion. Now there is another one and that is from Gus. You can order his 37 minute presentation directly from him. This is the same show that he had at the reunion and also a bunch of pictures of the reunion. The cost is \$15.00 make your check out to Augustine Campana and send it to 8031 Old Town Dr Orlando, Florida 32819. Don't forget you can still order the DVD of the Memorial Dedication, Memorial Service and the Picnic from Judy Johnson, cost if \$10.00 and send it to Judy 723 NE 7th St. Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744. I think that either of these DVD's are better than the one offered by ICTV but which ever one you decide to buy it's a great piece of memorabilia. I have amassed quite a collection, over the years, of items from some great times with our extended 707th family.

The ground work has been laid and even some of the final arrangements have been made for the 2010 Reunion. It was decided at the 2008 Reunion we'd best not be waiting 5 years to have them. So we are gathering in Grand Rapids in September 2010 at the Sawmill Inn. It will be a very informal gathering which is more in the liking for our size and age group. So mark your calendars and plan on attending. More information will be posted in the coming months.



Day Room by Barney Fisher

Ferd's Words of Wisdom:

You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

I've received a suggestion that should be put to a vote of the membership. It has been suggested that we have an annual dues, which would be used for operating expenses and to cover donations etc. This suggestion has fallen on deaf ears in the past but nothing ventured, nothing gained. The amount is yet to be determined but \$25.00 was the suggested fee. I was thinking more along the lines of \$15.00 a year and maybe 2 years for \$25.00

The only problem with this dues thing is that we would need everyone to sign up to make it viable. Let me give you an example - in Aug 2004 we ran an appeal and 48 people responded, in Oct 2005 we were just about broke so we appealed again and 16 people responded, in April 2006 when we asked for help again 8 people responded. Tired of this hand to mouth existence, in Jan 2007 I had an all out drive for participation and 64 people respond and we were funded until Jan 2009. Now you can look at the master roster and know that we have right at 300 members, in other words about 1/5 participation in the appeal's. Then comes the question what about those that don't join, what happens to our extended 707th family? In the mean time if you have any opinions, ideas or comments on this proposal I'd sure like to hear them. At the end of this newsletter there is a short poll relating to this proposal, please take the time to fill it out and send it back. Thanks.

With all the storms that have been going on we have had quite a few members affected. I'm sorry to say that I can't begin to list everyone that falls into this category. I think a few prayers for all the victims of these natural disasters is well in order. If anyone knows the status of members in those areas please let me know.

Sick Call: I'm sure it comes with age and eventually it'll catch up with all of us. We have many members that have been having medical problems or procedures over the past months. In many of the recoveries it has been noted that these folks really believe that our prayers have helped them. Please keep praying 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.



From Headquarters

by Barney Fisher

Judy says that she still see's folks stopping by the Memorial Marker and reading it. Judy lives right next to it and can give us a good report on how folks are reacting to it. Without a doubt it is something we can all be proud of, make sure when you're in the area that you stop by and check it out.

At the last monthly dinner Judy reports that 25 people were there and that Jose & Karum Carrillo have joined them as regulars. They might just as well call these mini reunions since they have so many folks attending. As I've said before this is without a doubt one of the best things that came out of all our efforts. I only wish other areas would start to do the same type thing. Check the master roster and see if you can get something going with the folks in your area.



Sound Off

by Barney Fisher

Photos from the reunion have been posted to the website. For those without computers you can go to the local library or a relative and check it out by going to www.af-acw.com Thanks to Gus for getting them posted.

I asked in the last newsletter for the names of any civilians that served with us. It's only right that they be included on the Master Roster and Taps but so far I haven't received any input. I was approached at the reunion and given a list of 4 names but alas I can't find it. Please if you have any information on these folks let me know. Thanks.

PICTURES: There have been some new photos 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. We haven't added anyone to taps since June 2008, lets keep it that way. 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!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

A \$25.00 a year membership dues has been proposed. This would cover all operating expenses of the website, quarterly newsletter and yearly donation to Grace House. At this rate we would need a minimum of 115 members to sign up.

Do you support the proposal of a Membership Dues? Yes _____ No _____

Would you pay a \$25.00 a year Membership Dues? Yes _____ No _____

If no, what amount would you pay? _____

Do you utilize the Website? Yes _____ No _____

Do you enjoy the Newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

Do you find the Website/Newsletter informative? Yes _____ No _____

What information would you like to see on the Website/Newsletter:

Other Comments:

IT'S



TIME

GRACE HOUSE Need's Our Help

This is our 3rd year of donating to this worthy cause and to date we have donated \$2,400.00. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.00 in the next 2 months. Folks have asked about making a tax deductible donation, and we heard you. **This year please make your check out to GRACE HOUSE and on the Memo line write 707th Member then mail it to Skip Brunetta.** He will give the check to Grace House and keep a record of who donated. This way the check can be cashed and you won't have an outstanding check in your book. The total amount donated will be announced at the annual fund raiser on 15 November. If you send your check directly to Grace House, please make sure the MEMO line states 707th Member, Grace House will keep track of that and give the name and amount to Skip. By doing this those donations will be added to our total.

So here's the procedure: Checks made out to - Grace House with Memo Line to read 707th member

Mail to - Skip Brunetta

728 NE 3rd Ave.

Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

Questions: 218-999-5731 rebr@paulbunyan.net

May God Bless You and We Thank You