



NEWSLETTER



**707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com
Issue #19 December 2008**

General



By Barney Fisher

The 707th was represented at the Grace House Fund Raiser by the Skip & Ruth Brunetta, Jim & Colleen Nardone and Judy Johnson. When the time came for the announcement Skip was able to report that the total donation by the membership was \$1,227.00 My sincere appreciation to all that contributed to another successful drive. It's time to start saving \$1.00 a month so when I ask for your donation next year it doesn't present a hardship. Granted I don't think everyone is going to do this but if they did we'd sure blow the socks off of years past. A review shows we donated \$1,400.00 in 2006 - \$1,000.00 in 2007 and \$1,227.00 in 2008 or an average of \$1,209.00 a year. We're still going to set our goal at \$1,000.00 for 2009 and hopefully we'll surpass that. Just a quick note about those that donated this year, I'd like to say that everyone participated but that is far from correct. We had 32 donors this year, a little basic math and you see that they couldn't have possibly given just \$12.00 These are mostly folks that donate each year but there are 8 new ones that have joined the fold and I want to say welcome. You all can look at the master roster and see that if each person gave \$12.00 it would be a sizeable amount. Once again, my THANKS, to those 32 individuals.

I hope that everyone has a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. I've been out on my annual crusade to see that folks are selling Christmas Trees, saying Merry Christmas and just in general putting Christmas out front. I'm happy to report that our efforts last year had a lasting effect and now Christmas Trees are for sale on the West Side and that greeters at the big box stores are saying Merry Christmas. I hope that we continue and aren't offending anyone with a greeting of Merry Christmas.

With the economy, in the state it is, we see a lot of folks cutting back on decorations and their Christmas donations to food stores, heat centers and charitable organizations. I know it's going to be hard for some folks this year but others are trying hard to take up the slack. Seems like everywhere you go there are boxes and cans for food stuff donations. Many of the businesses are giving extra discount for can food donations, etc. It does my heart good to see all these folks coming together. Since before Thanksgiving our church has had children bring food stuff donations up at the offering. We've been able to collect over 2,000 lbs of can goods which is donated to the food store. Collections of warm clothing is also another project you see going on, one organization has collected over 5,000 warm coats to be distributed to those in need. At our church we've been doing the Christmas giving tree. Each ornament has the name of a family in need. We then adopt that family and provide them with a nice Christmas meal and presents for the children. Isn't that what the season is all about, Giving not Receiving!!!



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

It might seem early to some of you but the ground work has been laid for the 2010 Reunion. The gathering will be at the Sawmill Inn during September 2010. Just to remind you it will be an 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:

The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

In the last newsletter I mentioned the fact that it was suggested we have an annual dues. I put that to a vote of the membership and it was rejected. So it's back to business as normal and after the first of the year I'll have an appeal drive to fund the website and newsletter for 2009. I would hope it's as successful as the 2006 appeal which garnered enough to fund both for 2 years. So give some thought to this also and hopefully you won't hear from me again until 2011.

Now that things have calmed down some, I'm happy to report that I didn't receive word that anyone was affected by the fires in California. This sure has been a year with floods, hurricanes, wind storms, tornado's, fires and now the economy. I hope and pray that next year is easier on all of us.

Sick Call: We have many members, or members of their families, that have been having medical problems or procedures. If you have, or know of any member with, a medical problem let me know, and I'll add them to the prayer list. Please keep praying for all our members and their families. As stated last time many of the folks that have recovered from ailments have attributed it to our prayers. Thanks.

I've mentioned it on our website that there is a website that is very interesting to those that served in AC&W. If you get a chance sign onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USAFRadarSitesVeterans/> I'm sure you'll enjoy it. Give you something to do on those long cold winter days that lay ahead.



From Headquarters

by **Barney Fisher**

I haven't had a report from headquarters but I'm sure if anything happen we'd be the first to know. I'm always concerned about our folks up there and hope that the old adage of "No news is good news" holds true. The last I heard everyone was doing alright.

As stated in the opening, we did make the presentation to Grace House on the 15 September and they were Very Happy to receive it.



Sound Off

by **Barney Fisher**

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

Speaking of Gus he has a book that was published just in time for Christmas. Geri and I had the privilege of reading the draft and making suggestions. I just finished reading our complimentary copy of "The Last Fairy" and I mean to tell you it is well worth reading. Naturally we bought copies for the grandchildren and I've already perfected the voices I'm going to use in reading it to the younger ones. There are a number of sources on line to purchase it this is a great book for the wee ones but believe me all ages will enjoy it. It's a perfect book to read to your grandchildren. It has 19 chapters and only 184 pages so you can make it last as long or as short as you want. I've found it on line just by typing in "The Last Fairy" by Augustine Campana. It is available in paperback and if you have a Barnes & Noble or Target store nearby I'm sure you can get one.

If you order on line it might cost some shipping but here's where it's available:

www.thelastfairy.com (comes autographed and has extra bonus post card and no postage.)

www.iuniverse.com (the publisher -- search for either Augustine Campana or The Last Fairy)

www.bn.com (Barnes and Noble - search for either Augustine Campana or The Last Fairy)

www.amazon.com (Only the paperback shows so far - must search for Augustine Campana)

www.target.com (Target stores -- but it's difficult to find by searching)



Taps

by Barney Fisher

I hate to report this but it goes with the job. On 28 November Joe Arsenault passed away from cancer. Joe lived in Florida and moved back to Maine awhile back. We were in contact, then all of a sudden he stopped. I tried to contact him but emails came back and no one answered the phone. Jan Berg contacted me on 1 December with the news. Joe was with the 707th from 1957 – 1959. He and I tied on many a good one together. I'd relate our best practical joke but some of our members that were involved might not like to relive that episode. I know Joe and I are lucky to have survived. So I'm going to have a drink to him, as has become my custom to all our departed brothers, and then say a prayer.

Please take a few minutes to reflect and say a prayer for a friend now gone ahead. 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 change of contact information regarding our members and yourself. PLEASE, send me stories/memories of the 707th. I'm still asking for everyone to submit a BIO. If interested and don't know what to include, give me a call. Pictures of your days with the 707th or after, are always welcomed. My contact information:

Barney Fisher
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!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

A New Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the
Sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue.. An American flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall.."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."
