



NEWSLETTER



707th WEBSITE is: www.af-acw.com
Issue #22 November 2009

General



By Barney Fisher

I wanted to send this out early as we only have until the 4th of December to get our donations in to Grace House. On the 5th they will have the annual fund raiser dinner and will announce the total amount of the 707th donations. We will have donated over \$5,000.00 in the years we've taken on this project and we were hoping to set a record for a yearly donation this year. Things are rough all over and I'm sure, in some cases, rougher than others. Could be you were saving that \$1.00 a month I asked for and found another use for it. Could be all that change you were saving was needed for an emergency. You have a few days left to see if you can be of help to those that are even less fortunate. My THANKS to all that have donated and a premature THANKS to those that are now writing a check. Make them out to Grace House and send them to Skip Brunetta 728 NE 3rd Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Remember by putting Grace House on the check it's tax deductible. If you have any questions you can contact either Skip or myself.

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a **Bountiful Thanksgiving**, a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. Despite all the woes the past year has given us, we're still the most advanced nation in the world and still enjoy the freedoms our forefathers envisioned. Let's celebrate like we should but never forget those that have made this possible and never let our guard down. God Bless America.



Bulletin Board by Barney Fisher

Don't forget the 2010 Reunion will be 17 – 19 September at the Sawmill Inn. As of now I have the names of 30 folks that will be attending, maybe. I'd like to request everyone to let me know if they are going to attend. We'll need numbers to work with, so please let me know. HQ is going to start having organizational meetings in the near future so there will be more to report on in the next newsletter. I do appreciate all the work and effort that the HQ group does, but I'd be remiss if I didn't give individual accolades to Judy Johnson for all her time and dedication to the 707th. Thanks Judy I/we really appreciate it. If you have any questions in regards to the reunion you can contact Skip, Judy, or Mike. I've received some correspondence in regards to the event and sorry to hear that many don't think they'll be able to make it. Old age and medical problems seem to be the culprits. I hope that most will be able to attend. This could very well be the last one, but I hope not. The next one is in 2013, that's a way down the road.

I'd like to take a second to heap a little praise on our own Gus Campana seems his book "The Last Fairy" was named Award Winning Finalist in the National Best Books Awards for children's fiction in 2009. The award is sponsored by USA Book News. I've been saying all along how good it was, guess I knew what I was talking about. If you haven't read it yet this would be a good time to pick up a copy as a Christmas gift. The book is available at all major on-line book sellers as well as the web site, www.thelastfairy.com where you can get signed copies along with some extra goodies. Last I heard from Gus he was working on a picture book version for younger children and a sequel. Congratulations to Gus and Good Luck on his endeavors.



Day Room by Barney Fisher

Words of Wisdom:

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.



Inform and be Informed by Barney Fisher

Sick Call: Gene Walker had his back surgery and is coming along real good. He has some pain yet but the Doc's say its arthritis. All the prayers and well wishes helped and Gene/Joan Thank You. Yours truly has been having some neck problems and headaches but, the Docs say, it's also caused by arthritis. I'm hanging in there and holding my own.

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.



From Headquarters

by Barney Fisher

Word from HQ is that the Memorial Marker is holding up well. The landscaping looked real good and the Burning bushes are maturing. Skip sent me a picture toward the end of the season and it looked like they had turned red. I don't know about up there but the colors here were fantastic this year. Those bushes ought to really be something to behold in the future.



Sound Off by Barney Fisher

OK, it's that time of year when everyone is getting into the Holiday spirit. Well I'd like to ask all of you to help me in combating one of the things that goes wrong with this season. Please remind folks, by your actions, that it's **CHRISTMAS**. Each year I go around to stores and stands to remind the owner's/ managers that I will have folks boycott them if they don't use **CHRISTMAS** in their ad's or displays. I've even had managers go against corporate policy, so it does work.

Don't forget that we have thousands of pictures on the website. For those that don't have computers go to the library or have a relative check it out by going to www.af-acw.com We are always in need of photos, old or new. If you visit with someone from the 707th take a few pictures and share them with the rest of us.



Taps by Barney Fisher

On 31 Aug - Ray Sanders passed away. Ray was a great guy and always ready to help out with the reunions. He will be missed by family and friends. He was in radar maintenance and served at the 707th two times – 1958-1959 and 1961-1963 Please remember Ray, Esther and family in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to Tom and Sandy Nielson on the lost of Sandy's mother. She was a longtime resident of Grand Rapids. Tom's oldest brother is also having problems and prayers are requested.

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 in your contact information**, if you have any input on other members let me know. Thanks. PLEASE, I need help with the website and newsletter, 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!

A Different 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..

He glanced at 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS
