



## **80<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Blue Ridge Post 50 Members,

Greetings all. Summer has certainly arrived and with the 90+ weather here in Virginia, a heat wave of activity has kept us all moving forward at a very fast pace. We are now well into the PCS season and will have a few retirements pending as well so faces are changing behind the busy desks of the 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command on Strathmore Road. I personally have moved on to a new job and am leaving my Inspector General duties at the 80th behind. I will go on to serve as the G-1 for First Army Division East at Fort Meade, Maryland. I have thoroughly enjoyed my second tour of duty at the 80<sup>th</sup> and look forward to continued serve with the Blue Ridge Association.

Just to highlight a few items below, Blue Ridge Vice President SGM Doris Wollett is edging closer to her final days as both a Sergeant Major and as the Resource Management Director in the G-8 section. We wish Doris a happy retirement this month and look forward to the Retirement party her daughter Margie is hosting in July, (see "future events" article). Meanwhile, we have continued to be blessed with the presence of MG John McLaren as his command has been extended into August, with a change of command and retirement dinner rescheduled to September, (also featured in the "future events" below). We still are guessing as to who will become the next Commanding General but we will let you all know as soon as we find out. Stay tuned for future updates!

Please be sure to check our website for the latest feature which includes the "Meeting Minutes" of our quarterly conference calls with our Board of Directors for more details about decisions being made in support of the organization.

LTC Grant Porter  
President

## RECENT EVENTS

### **Funeral Service for 80<sup>th</sup> Medal of Honor Awardee, MSG Paul J. Wiedorfer:**

It is with deep sympathy that we mourn the loss of one of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division's greatest heroes, MSG Paul Wiedorfer who died on 25 May 2011. At the time of this writing we are anticipating his funeral to take place on 7 June at 1000 at St. Thomas More Church in Baltimore with a funeral procession following to Mooreland Memorial Cemetery and a wake following immediately thereafter at the American Legion Post 183 in Parkville (Baltimore). We are hoping to see a good turnout from our veteran Blue Ridgers. A Visitation is planned for 5-6 June at the Leonard J. Ruck Funeral Home. An obituary can be found at [http://www.ruckfuneralhomes.com/fh/home/home.cfm?&fh\\_id=12022](http://www.ruckfuneralhomes.com/fh/home/home.cfm?&fh_id=12022). MG McLaren has prepared remarks that he will deliver at the funeral.

### **Wall of Honor Ceremony:**

The Wall of Honor Ceremony took place on 26 May at 10:00 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. Blue Ridge members MG John McLaren, LTC Anthony Taylor, LTC Terence Singleton and LTC Cynthia Norwood all supported the event.

### **Blue Ridge Luncheons:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Blue Ridge Luncheon took place on 23 March at Pino's Pizza Italian Family Restaurant. This was the first in a series of informal luncheons that is intended to bring together current local members on a more frequent basis and attract new members to the organization. All are welcome to attend. We are not planning to have any formal guest speakers, just fun and camaraderie. If interested, please RSVP by 22 March 2011 to either MSG(R) Pete Herbert at [edmond.herbert@usar.army.mil](mailto:edmond.herbert@usar.army.mil) or CSM Doris Wollett at [doris.wollett@usar.army.mil](mailto:doris.wollett@usar.army.mil).

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## FUTURE EVENTS

### **Blue Ridge Quarterly Luncheon:**

The next Blue Ridge Association quarterly luncheon will be held on either 29 June at Uno's on Jeff Davis. The event is open to all members and potential members. While only locals would be expected to come, everyone is welcome to attend.

### **CSM Doris Wollett Retirement Party:**

On 9 July at 1800, Blue Ridgers and friends will celebrate the retirement and honor the 34 years of faithful service SGM Doris Wollett has given to the US Army. Please join Doris's daughter, Margie Harrison and fellow Blue Ridgers at VFW Post 9808 Battlefield Post, 7168 Flag Lane in Mechanicsville, VA 23111 to wish her the best as she commences into a new beginning. Margie asks that you RSVP to her by 14 June 2011 at 804-690-9990.

**80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion:**

Come join us 24-28 August 2011 at the Sheraton West Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike in Richmond. Registration forms have been sent out to all members in the last Blue Ridge Service magazine. If you need another registration form, please contact Pete Herbert. A special provision has been made to encourage participation at the Reunion dinner by waiving the conference registration fee for those who are only able to attend the Saturday dinner only, the main event of the five day period. For those attending the Saturday dinner only, they are also required to pay in advance, register and write "waived" for the registration fee.

**80<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Breakfast and Annual Meeting:**

Make a special highlight on your calendars for Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 0800 as the Blue Ridge Association will host it's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast and Business Meeting at the Sheraton hotel at 0800 at the Sheraton West Hotel following the 80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans events. It is our hope that we have a maximum turnout for the combined dinner Saturday night and the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Sunday morning. Though we fully encourage participation at all the events, we understand that many of our members are working Monday thru Friday and may not be able to attend all of the events.

**80<sup>th</sup> Training Command Change of Command:**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Training Command (TASS) change of command ceremony originally scheduled for May has been postponed until 24 September 2011 and will take place at 1000 hours at William stadium at Fort Lee, VA. MG McLaren's Farewell/Retirement Dinner has also been rescheduled and will take place Friday, 23 September 2011 at 1830 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23235. MG John McLaren will pass the Command of the 80<sup>th</sup> to his successor, (TBD). We salute MG McLaren for his many years of great service to the 80<sup>th</sup> and are grateful for his continued service to the Blue Ridge Association and 80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association. The point of contact for this event is LTC Anthony Taylor, at 804-271-5807 or [anthony.taylor@usar.army.mil](mailto:anthony.taylor@usar.army.mil).

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Thanks again to everyone who contributed. Please let me know if you had any significant events that I can share with other Blue Ridge members for input in the next edition.

Please review the association's website to keep yourself abreast of future activities at: [www.blueridge.us/](http://www.blueridge.us/). We are also featured on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation) and on the Flickr website at [www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation). For those of you who tweet, you can find us at [www.twitter.com/80thBlueRidge](http://www.twitter.com/80thBlueRidge). Thanks to Andy Adkins for maintaining our website! We will be making an effort to keep it updated with information about members and highlights of the organization. Please send suggestions for website updates or newsletter articles to [edmond.herbert@us.army.mil](mailto:edmond.herbert@us.army.mil).

**“STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAINS”**