



80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

November 1st, 2010

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Blue Ridge Members,

I am very proud to have been elected as President of the Blue Ridge Association this past August. On behalf of all of our newly elected Officers, to include CSM Doris Wollett as Vice-President, and MSG (R) Pete Herbert as Secretary, I would like to extend our appreciation to out-going President COL (R) Paul Hoppes, Vice-President COL (R) Rick Littleton, and Secretary LTC (R) Keith Brisson, for their fine work as officers and for their willingness to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. They have led us through many changes and strengthened the association through their leadership. Special thanks also go to COL (R) Ed Polonitza, who has served as Treasurer for the Association since its inception!

Since our last newsletter last August we have merged under the 80th Division Veteran's Association, held our 9th annual meeting, elected several new officers and board members, sponsored a Golf Tournament and are getting ready to hold our first annual Holiday Party on the night of December 18th. We have had quite a few new members join our ranks this year and are hoping to see a lot more new members come into the organization. 2010 has been a great year for both the association and the 80th Training Command, and also a very big year for many of our members. One of our goals this year is to reach out to everyone and spread awareness by highlighting the accomplishments of the Blue Ridge Association, the 80th Training Command and our members. We appreciate feedback from all of our members and welcome contributions to future newsletters. Best wishes to all as we end 2010 and begin a new year in 2011.

LTC Grant Porter
President

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

* The Blue Ridge Association became “Post 50” under the 80th Division Veterans Association, the 2nd oldest Army Veterans Association in the history of the U.S. Army.

* The Blue Ridge Association participated in the 91st Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Associations, (DVA), in Arlington last August. This was the first ever combined conference that brought together both organizations for their annual events. The Blue Ridge Association held its 9th Annual Meeting and MG McLaren hosted a Commander's Conference at the same time bringing together the three organizations for the first time.

* During the 9th Annual meeting, the voting body elected several new members. In addition to the three officer positions filled, the following members were elected to serve for the next two years on the Board of Directors: Dr. Lee Anthony, LTC (R) Keith Brisson, COL (R) Jim Brown, MSG George Croughwell, MG (R) Douglas Dollar, MG (R) John Henderson, COL (R) Paul Hoppes, COL (R) Rick Littleton and MG John McLaren. COL (R) Carolyn Deverell, LTC (R) Charles Elam, and COL (R) Paul Linkenhoker, were each re-elected. All other remaining Board member positions, currently held by MSG (R) Michael Atkins, LTC (R) Erik Imajo, LTC Terence Singleton and LTC Colleen Watson will be up for nomination/re-election in 2011.

* The 80th Training Command paid a special tribute to recognize the retirement of Command Executive Officer and former Blue Ridge Association President, CW4 James “Mac” McGuire who contributed immensely to the 80th over the past three decades of his career. A special ceremony and dinner that evening at the Omni Hotel in Richmond paid a fitting tribute to an outstanding Citizen-Soldier for his years of service. We wish Mac a happy retirement! We also give our best support to Michael Bland as the new CXO for the 80th Training Command.

* The Association continued to support the 80th Training Command Awards program by giving a total of \$1,000 to award recipients in 2010.

* The Association donated \$1,500 to buy a refrigerator for the new USO that opened out at the Richmond Airport.

* The Association helped to fund a monument dedicated to our fallen comrades at the 80th U.S. Army Reserve Center using membership funds as well as individual contributions from some of our gracious members.

* The 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Golf Tournament took place 9 OCT 2010 at the Crossings Golf Club in Glen Allen. We had 14 golfers participate and raised \$185. The money raised by the golf tournament will be used to support monetary awards for the 80th Training Command Award program to include the Soldier of the Year and other related competitions.

Special recognition to the winners of this year's events is given to George Croughwell, who was victorious for the second year in a row in the Monster Putt competition, MAJ Thomas Kochenauer, who came through with the Longest Drive, Mr. Rod Calhoun who had the Closest to the Pin shot and the team of SGM Mike Buddin, MG John McLaren, his son, John McLaren Jr., and Mr. Rod Calhoun, who led the pack with the Best Team score at Five under par. Additional participants included LTC Grant Porter, LTC Sam Gerson, LTC Glen Hence, CPT Corey Howard, MSG Wesley Garrett, SFC William Rhodd, Mr. Johnnie Wilson and Mr. Al, (a friend of Glen's).

2010 MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

* MSG (R) Michael Atkins retired and was selected for a civilian position as Operations Director for Federal Contracts at the Richmond ARC.

* LTC (P) Glen Hence and LTC (P) Erik Imajo were both selected for promotion to Colonel.

* Mr. Erik Imajo was selected to become the CXO for the 94th Division training at Fort Lee.

* SFC Coretta Lankford graduated from Columbia Southern University on 15 OCT 10 and received a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice.

* COL (R) Rick Littleton announced that he has been involved in support of the Roanoke Veterans Day Parade coming up soon on 6 November. He expects several 80th people to attend to include a convoy of HMMWVs from the Motor Pool that will be supporting the event. Rick said the contractor ITT has provided them with \$20K and other businesses have contributed an additional \$6,000 for the event.

* MG John McLaren was elected to serve as the 3rd Vice Commander for the 80th Division Veterans Association. As such, MG McLaren will lead the 94th Reunion in 2013 and serve as the National Commander in 2014.

* LTC Grant Porter graduated from the U.S. Army War College. He now has a little more time to do other things, such as serve as a Blue Ridge Officer. LTC Porter also serves as 2nd Vice Commander for the 80th Division Veterans Association and will lead the 94th Reunion in 2012 and serve as the National Commander in 2013.

* LTC Terry Singleton was selected for Battalion Command of the 8-98th, and was hired on at the 80th as a Program Analyst for the G-7 shop.

* One of our newest Life Members, MAJ Anthony Taylor, returned to the 80th following assignments in Hawaii and Korea. MAJ Taylor was assigned to the 80th in the early 90s and was recently selected for promotion to LTC.

* LTC Colleen Watson was selected as SOTO in the G-3 section.

FEATURED MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

* LTC (R) Keith Brisson announced that his Father, Vernon Brisson, will be turning 90 years old on 18 November, 2010. Mr. Brisson served in the Pacific in WWII and retired from the Navy in 1964. He then went to work for the State of Virginia until he retired in 1985. He then volunteered his time for just over a year at the 2079th RF School at the old Michelle Reserve Center in Richmond where Keith was a Unit Administrator. He also occasionally did some work at the 80th HQ where he did everything from filing to painting a door. Many of us remember him and the late Mrs. Brisson from their family readiness group support at the HQ during drill weekends. Keith reports that his dad is still in good health and does not take a single medication. For anyone who would like to send Vernon a Birthday card, his address is: 10300 Three Chopt Road, APT 237, Richmond, VA 23233.

VICE-PRESIDENTS REPORT ON FUTURE PLANS

* The next event on our schedule will be the Blue Ridge Association Holiday Party on 18 December 2010 at the Iron Bridge Sports Park Club House at 11400 Iron Bridge Road (Route 10), in Chester, VA. The event will start at 1800 hrs with a Cash Bar, (Beer and Wine), followed by Dinner at 1900.

The Menu includes Roast Beef w/ gravy, Sliced Turkey Breast w/stuffing & gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Twice-Baked Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Salad

w/ fixings and dressings, Rolls & butter, Ice-Tea & Coffee, Holiday Sheet Cake and an assorted Pastry Platter.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. Checks are due NLT 10 December 2010. Please send in checks payable to the "80th Blue Ridge Association" to:

CSM Doris Wollett
Dervishian USAR Center
6700 Strathmore Road
Richmond, VA 23237-1100

* In August 2011, we will celebrate our next annual meeting along with the 80th Division Veterans Association at the Sheraton Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike. Dr. Lee Anthony, now serving on our Board of Directors, will lead the Veterans 92nd Reunion as the Senior Vice-Commander of the 80th Division Veteran's Association. MG McLaren is considering the possibility of bringing back all of the 80th OIF veterans for the first time since their deployment as well so we look forward to another memorable event.

* Future Get Together Luncheons – We will soon be hosting quarterly luncheons that will be open to all members and potential members. While only locals would be expected to come, everyone is welcome to attend. More information will follow soon.

CSM Doris Wollett
Vice President

TREASURER'S REPORT

* At the present time, we have \$10,551.84 in the money market fund and \$1,914.84 in the checking for a total of \$13,880.74; which is less than we had last year at this time. The USO donation and dues to the 80th Division Veterans Association account for new expenditures this past year.

COL (R) Ed Polonitza
Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

* We currently have 56 lifetime members, and 28 annual members for a grand total of 84 members.

* During the last annual meeting, the voting body approved a motion for a change to the membership rates. Effective immediately, a new flat rate of \$35 for annual membership and \$250 for Life membership is in effect for 2011. This will simplify the fee structure and hopefully gain more revenue for the association. Also, the body approved funding for prizes in support of the 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Association Golf Tournament; which is designed to attract new members to the organization and add a social activity to the schedule of events. The event took place and proceeds from the event are being used to support the 80th Awards program.

MSG (R) Pete Herbert
Secretary

* Please review the association's website to keep yourself abreast of future activities at: www.blueridge.us/. We are also featured on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation and on the Flickr website at www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation. For those of you who tweet, you can find us at www.twitter.com/80thBlueRidge. Thanks to SGT Travis Edwards and Andy Adkins for maintaining these websites! We will be making an effort to keep the websites 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.

“STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAINS”