

TIGER TRACKS

The Newsletter of the Steel Tigers 77th Armor Association

Reunion 2013: Bozeman, Montana

Summer 2013



Reunion Dates:

August 22-25, 2013

Airports:

Bozeman Yellowstone - 10 miles

Billings Logan - 142 miles

Great Lakes - 200 miles

RV Parks:

KOA Kampground

406-587-3030

20 minutes to the hotel

Sunrise Campground

406-587-4797

10 minutes to the hotel

Bear Canyon Campground

406-587-1575

15 minutes to the hotel



Accommodations:

Best Western Plus

GranTree Inn

1325 N 7th Avenue

Bozeman, MT 59715

Reservations: 800-624-5865



Be sure to mention

"STEEL TIGERS"

When making your reservation to receive our discounted rate and make your reservations early to help in the planning.

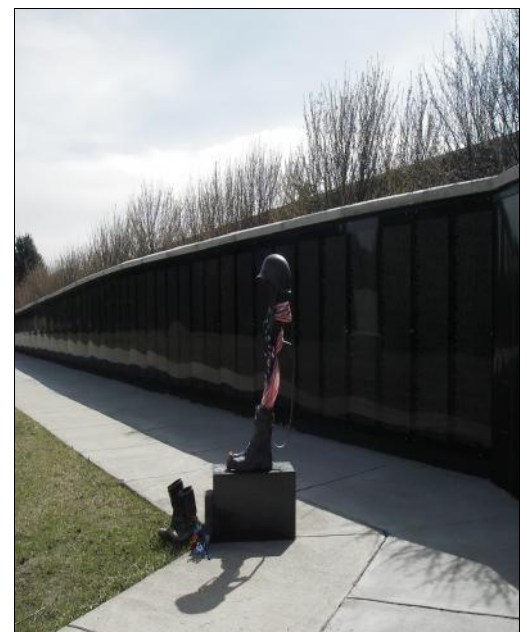
RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEMS
WANTED

Last year we had things homemade or brought from your home state. Our raffle/auction is always a lot of fun. The more items we have the more fun there will be, so please join us.

Bozeman's Vietnam Memorial Wall

In 2007 the Bozeman community bought a half scale traveling Vietnam Memorial that was being retired from service from the Vietnam Veterans memorial Fund. The community raised \$70,000.00 in cash and another \$30,000.00 in donated services and materials to meet the estimated \$100,000.00 needed to purchase, refurbish, and install the Wall in one week. They did this because the retiring Memorials were being offered, "first come, first served." The Memorial is located adjacent to the Veteran's Section of Sunset Hills, Bozeman's city cemetery.

A visit to this site is one of the scheduled events during our reunion this year.



77th Armor Association Board Members

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment,
COL Richard Meyer (Ret)

Honorary Sergeant Major of the
Regiment
CSM Joe D. Offutt (Ret)

President, Kevin Dunne
Bandit3310@comcast.net

Vice President, Jocko Button
Jocko-Beverly@insightbb.com

Secretary, Michael O'Bryen
Aircav8@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Bob Basner
hobnconnie2@aol.com

Chaplain, Jerry Brown
JBLoveisaChoice@aol.com

Quartermaster, Kevin Dunne
Bandit3310@comcast.net

Historian, Don Cummings
doncvmi65@aol.com

Membership, Bob Basner
hobnconnie2@aol.com

Sergeant At Arms,
CSM Joe D. Offutt (Ret)
Joe.Offutt@ATT.net

Judge Advocate,
Charles "Hap" Trainer
cwtesq@aol.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Chairman Kevin Dunne

Gerry Dubois Joe D. Offutt
Walter Evans Tom Rosser
Bruce Goldsmith Robin Marriott
Tom Miller Jim Stafford

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE
REGIMENT
Nicole Dubois
Jean Offutt
Connie Basner

Message from our President

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and that you have made your plans or are in the process of making them for the 1-77 Armor Association reunion this August 22-25 in Bozeman, Montana. Please visit the Association web site at www.steeltigers.org for all the info you need for the reunion. If you are a new member and have not yet attended one, please consider coming, I promise you will not be disappointed!! I have attended every one except the first one in 2000, as I had not been "found" at that time. I was a little hesitant to go to the 2001 reunion but did attend and have made contact with many comrades I had trained and served with across the big pond back in 1968. My wife Sue has made many friends through our organization, which would not have happened if it were not for the reunions. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact me through email (Bandit3310@comcast.net) or by phone (630-663-0702).

This year's reunion (2013) is election year for 1-77 Armor Assn. Board Members, to include these positions that need to be filled: President, Vice President, and Secretary. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving, please contact me directly. These volunteer jobs need members who have the time and energy to keep our organization moving forward. The following is a short text of duties dictated by the Steel Tigers 1-77 Armor Association Constitution, so that anyone interested has an understanding of the duties he must perform.

President-Shall be responsible for the administration of the Assn. in all functions and undertakings, in accordance with the policies established by the Executive Board or the membership in meeting assembled. He shall be the Chairman of the Executive Board.

Vice President: Shall perform the duties of the President in his absence and shall serve in any capacity designated by the President. ***He shall lead, plan, and execute the Association's periodic reunions. He may create a committee to assist him.***

Secretary: Shall be the Statistical Officer of the Assn, being responsible for keeping names, address former military organizations of members of the Assn. He shall be responsible for keeping minutes of all meetings of the Assn. He shall be responsible for publishing a periodic newsletter.

I hope to see all, old friends as well as new members this coming August. Until we meet again, stay well and God Speed

Security Force Advise and Assist Team comes to an end

For the many of you wondering about the status of the active 1-77, I have the following information as of May 2, 2013. The 1st Battalion 77th Armored Regiment uncased their colors at Fort Bliss, TX on April 26, 2013 marking the official end of the Security Force Advise and Assist Team mission in Afghanistan. In the picture, LTC Collin T. Hunton (BN Commander) with his back to the camera uncasing the colors.



LTC Hunton had taken command of the 1-77 Armor in July 2012 from LTC Lance Moore. Also at present SGM Galen Thomas is LTC Hunton's ranking NCO.

Some of you might recognize where the picture was taken. It was at the 1st Armored Division Museum at Fort Bliss, TX where many of us visited at a reunion held in El Paso, TX. That too was an extraordinary reunion due to the hard work of CSM Joe D. Offutt (RET) and his lovely wife Jean, our hosts for two different reunions held in their hometown.

BOTA, Bandit (Kevin)

Reunion 2013: Act of Uniting Again.

The definition of union is the act of uniting two or more things into one. Reunion is defined as an act of uniting again. The most common groups that hold reunions are families, military and academic organizations. A unit is a union of a few to thousands of soldiers who work together towards a single purpose-to serve our nation and defend it against tyranny. 45 years ago, the men of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor were united in a noble common cause to free other men from tyranny. Out of that great conflict, special life long relationships were forged in the heat of the jungles of South Vietnam.

We re-unite as members of a tank crew, maintenance team, support platoon, engineers, and mortar crew. We went into the 77th Armor as individuals, but we came out as brothers. **Proverbs 17:17** ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Brothers, we are older and for some of us, our bodies are beginning to wear out and it will become more and more difficult for some of us to travel. Some of you have lived with much pain because of your wounds received 45 years ago and yet you are still a fighter and a brother. For those of you, who believe in the power of prayer, please pray for those who are ill and most of us now have some illness. If you are not a praying man, you can remember them in other ways such as in your thoughts, a note, email, or telephone call.

In a few years, we few men of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor will be long forgotten just as our forefathers before us have been forgotten, but just as their deeds have not been forgotten, neither will ours. Regardless whether anyone remembers us or not, God has blessed me with a full life and everyday that I have is a blessing. I am also a blessed man to have served with such honorable men.

Our unit, the 77th Armor will re-unite August 22-25, 2013 in Billings, MT. Rick Benson and wife have worked hard to put together a great fun filled time. The area is beautiful and near by is the historic Battlefield of the Little Big Horn where many of our comrades of the 7th Cavalry fell in battle.

Psalms 111:7-10 says “⁷ The works of his hands *are* verity and judgment; all his commandments *are* sure. ⁸ They stand fast (**Insiste Firmiter**) forever and ever, *and are* done in truth and uprightness. ⁹ He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend *is* his name. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth forever.

God Bless and I hope to see all of you at the Reunion in August.

Father Jerry Brown
Chaplain -77th Armor Association

For those of you planning to drive to Bozeman for the reunion, the following is some regional information, in no particular order, that you might find useful as you approach our reunion site.

Little Big Horn National Monument: Operated by the National Park Service, the site of "Custer's Last Stand", or as we used to refer to it when I was in the 10th Cavalry, the "Deactivation of the 7th Cavalry." Located near Crow Agency, MT, and adjacent to I-90, you can see it from the highway. About four hours from Bozeman, you can do a decent visit in two hours and a thorough one in three.

Grant - Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site: Located in Deer Lodge, MT, this historic site is minutes from I-90 and is worth a visit. It's a form of living history, which illustrates life on a ranch in the time of open range cattle raising. Little known, but worth it.

Butte: It's hard to describe this town. It has a unique place in western, mining, and labor history. You could easily spend a day, but if you have an hour, get off I - 90 and visit the infamous Berkeley Pit. If you'd like to know more, rent the PBS documentary "Butte America."

The Reservations: Montana has seven Indian reservations. Glacier Park is bordered on both sides by the Flathead (Salish-Kootenai) on the west, and the Blackfeet Reservation on the east, and the Little Bighorn National Monument is inside the Crow Reservation. One of the unintended results of the American Indian Movement, and other civil rights activity on the reservations is that the residents can display an "attitude" ranging from sullen to hostile toward Non-Indians. I'm not suggesting any level of physical threat, but things can get unpleasant. There is one other issue; all the reservations have rampant alcoholism with its attendant DUI challenges. I avoid driving on the reservations at night when I can.

Scenic Drives: Two especially worth mentioning. The Bear Tooth Highway which runs between Red Lodge, MT and Cooke City, MT (with a dip into Wyoming) regularly makes the top ten lists of most spectacular in North America. The other is the Chief Joseph Highway, which connects Cooke City with Cody, WY and takes you through the Sunlight Basin. If you are driving an RV, both drives contain stretches of virtually continuous hairpin turns. There is a third, Going To The Sun, already mentioned.

Cody, WY: The Buffalo Bill Museum complex is world famous, and deservedly so. The arms collection alone is worth a day, and there is a lot more than that. Don't go to Cody's commercial nightly rodeo, every creature involved is tired.

Driving Montana Highways: Speed limits are 75MPH on the Interstates, and 70 MPH on the secondary highways. Traffic is light, and the distances are long. People tend to drive fast. You may remember that Montana refused to establish a numerical speed limit after the national 55MPH limit was lifted, and didn't have one until the Federal Government beat the state legislature into submission with threats to withhold all highway funding. Anyway, the de facto limit is the posted one, plus five. Law enforcement tolerates this, but at plus seven they lose all sense of humor. After WWII, the Montana American Legion established a program of placing small white crosses at the sites of highway traffic fatalities as a safety program. Today you'll see them along all the highways and byways; many converted into informal memorials by families or friends. On the reservations you can see them in bunches.

Well, enough of this. I have not mentioned many other attractions, including some of the most famous, but tried to tell you of a few that get overlooked as well as some information known for the most part only locally.

Rick Benson
Reunion Coordinator



Association 2013 Reunion
Tentative Schedule

<u>Day and Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
10 AM - completion 1 PM - 6PM	Annual Association Business Meeting Hospitality Room
Afternoon	Free time, local activities
6:30PM 9PM - 11PM	Association Banquet Hospitality Room
Sunday 10AM	Memorial Service



1-77 Armor (Steel Tigers) Association

Reunion Registration Form - Please return by July 22, 2013

Thursday - Reunion registration	\$20	_____	_____
Friday - Bus Trip Virginia City	\$25	_____	_____
Saturday - Evening Banquet	\$35	_____	_____
Total Amount Due			_____

To register, please complete this form and send with your check payable to The 1-77
Mailing Address: _____ E-mail _____

_____ Phone# _____

2013 PAID MEMBERS

	NAME		STATE	UNIT	YEARS
1	ADCOCK	JAMES		TX	
2	AMSTER	EDWARD	B	NJ	
3	ARDREY	EDWIN		NV	
4	BADDERS	DAN	A	OR	
5	BASNER	ROBERT	L	MI	HHC 69-70
6	BASNER	CONNIE	S	MI	
7	BECK	DAVID	K	WA	
8	BELTON	TAYLOR		AL	
9	BENSON	RICHARD		MT	HHC 68-69
10	BENSON	SHEILA		MT	
11	BERDICK	ARTHUR		TX	
12	BORLA	DANIEL	T	MI	B 69-70
13	BOWDEN	RAYMOND	D	GA	
14	BRADFORD	WALTER	H	VA	B
15	BROWN	DONALD	W	CA	
16	BROWN	KENDALL	L	WI	A 68-69
17	BROWN	LEONARD	R	UT	C
18	BROWN	JERRY	A	VA	A 68-69
19	BUTTON	JACK (JOCKO)		KY	A 68-69
20	BUTTON	BEVERLY		KY	
21	CHANEY	MICHAEL	L	NM	
22	CLARK	JAMES		TN	
23	CLOUSE	ALVIN		TN	
24	COLLINS	TERRY		MD	
25	CUMMINGS	KAROLYN		AZ	
26	CUMMINGS	DONALD	L	AZ	B 68-69
27	DALSTEAD	NORMAN	L	CO	
28	DAVIS	JOSEPH		TX	
29	DECKER	ANTHONY		TN	
30	DEYLING	NORMAN	H	OH	A 68-69
31	DUBOIS	GERRY		CA	A&HHC 68-69
32	DUBOIS	ELANA		CA	
33	DUBOIS	VIVIAN		CA	
34	DUNKLIN	GERALD	W	TX	HHC
35	DUNNE	SUSAN		IL	
36	DUNNE	KEVIN	P	IL	A 68-69
37	ELROD	ROBERT		CO	
38	EMERY	RICHARD	C	NJ	
39	EVANS	ARLENE		FL	
40	EVANS	WALTER		FL	HHC 68-69
41	FAUVER	TERRY		PA	B 69-70
42	FELLHAUER	CARL	M	CO	
43	FELSTOW	VERNE	C	MI	C 68-69
44	FLEURY	ROBERT	J	NC	
45	FORMAN	ROBERT	A	WA	B 68-69
46	FORTUNE	JOHN	W	GA	HHC 01-05
47	GASMAN	ROBERT		TX	
48	GLENZ	JAMES	R	NJ	C 68-69
49	GOLDSMITH	BRUCE	J	MO	
50	GRACE	JAMES		IL	HHC

2013 PAID MEMBERS

	NAME		STATE	UNIT	YEARS
51	GREER	TERRY		GA	A
52	HALLERAN	DENNIS		NJ	
53	HANNUM	JOHN	W	AZ	
54	HART	WILLIAM		FL	B & D 70-71
55	HATT	ABEL	L	MI	C 68-69
56	HEATHMAN	RODNEY	B	FL	
57	HOLMES	GUY		CA	
58	HORNER	JAMES		IL	
59	HOWELL	NEIL	T	KY	
60	HUBNER	DAVE		KY	
61	JACKSON	GARLON	D	MA	
62	JOHNSON	MICIOTTO		KS	
63	JOHNSTON	ALLAN		AL	
64	KOLAR	DAWN		IL	
65	KURKLIS	MICHAEL		WI	
66	LANG	THOMAS	J	FL	
67	LANGSTON	JOHN	W	MO	
68	LEARY	RICHARD	L	NC	
69	LEEPER	HENRY		MO	
70	LENZ	RAY		MI	HHC 69-70
71	LINK	PATRICA		HI	
72	LOUCK	MICHAEL	E	TN	
73	MCCLARY	DONALD		MD	
74	MCGEHEE	WILLIAM	C	MS	
75	MCDONALD	ANN MARIA		TX	
76	MEFFORD	ORVILLE	W	KY	
77	METCALF	JOHN	C	CA	
78	MEYER	RICHARD	M	CA	HHC 70-71
79	MILIA	CARMELO		MI	HHC 68-69
80	MILLER	JAKE		TX	
81	MILLER	KEAGAN		TX	
82	MILLER	NASH		TX	
83	MILLER	ELIZABETH		CA	
84	MILLER	ERIKA		VA	
85	MILLER	JOHN		TX	
86	MILLER	THOMAS		VA	HHC 69
87	MIZWA	ROBERT	J	PA	C & D 71
88	MOORE	JAMES	A	TX	
89	MURRAY	WALTER	A	WY	
90	NAGEL	EVERETT	H	MO	A 68
91	NAGEL	PATRICIA		MO	
92	NEWTON	VICTOR	M	TX	A 67-69
93	OFFUTT	JEAN		TX	
94	OFFUTT	JOE		TX	A 65-68
95	OFFUTT	MARK		TX	
96	OLDROYD	MARK		NY	
97	OVERTON	JAMES	E	OK	
98	PARKER	LEON		KY	
99	PARKER	JOYCE		KY	
100	ROBERTSON	FLOYD	A	TX	HHC 69-70

2013 PAID MEMBERS

	NAME		STATE	UNIT	YEARS
101	ROSEVEAR	WILLIAM		PA	
102	SCHIFANO	SAVERIO (SAM)	G	NJ	
103	SCHNEIDER	TIMOTHY		MI	
104	SCHIRRMACHER	WILLIAM		GA	
105	SCHULZ	EDWARD		MI	C 69-70
106	SCHULZ	JACKIE		MI	
107	SCOTT	WESLEY		MO	
108	SEAY	JOSEPH	C	VA	
109	SHANNON	PAUL	H	MS	
110	SHEAFFER	RUSSELL	L	OH	
111	SMITH	JAMES	D	IN	
112	SPENCER	MELVIN		MI	A 68-69
113	SPILLER	JIMMIE	C	MD	
114	SPILLER	JOANN		MD	
115	SPRUILL	AULTON	D	TX	
116	STAFFORD	CHERYL		OK	
117	STAFFORD	JAMES	L	OK	HHC 68-69
118	STEWART	ED		IN	A 68-69
119	STEWART	PAUL	D	CA	
120	STRIMAITIS	ALGIS	P	IL	
121	SULLIVAN	PATRICK	L	CO	
122	SUTTON	ROBERT		OH	C 69-70
123	THOMAS	JERRY	A	MS	
124	THOMPSON	PAUL	E	NC	
125	THURSTON	ROBERT	E	AR	
126	TRAINOR	C.WARREN		PA	
127	TWIDDY	JAMES	E	CO	
128	VANDORPE	RON		MI	
129	WEIDNER	GORDON		WI	A 68-69
130	WHEELER	BUDDY		AR	
131	WHEELER	LANCE	E	MI	B 70-71
132	WILLIS	MICHAEL		NE	
133	WILLS	LAWRENCE	B	PA	B 68-69
134	WILSMANN	JAMES	A	WI	B 68-69
135	WINSLOW	CHARLES	H	AZ	
136	YURASKA	ROGER		FL	C&D&HHC 98-00
137	ZAK	KEVIN		OR	

Please help us fill in the blanks.

Send corrections and additional information to:

bobnconnie2@aol.com

We would like to know the unit and years served for each of you.

2013 Membership

New/Renewal Membership Donation

Select Membership Type

All Association members receive newsletter	Price
Membership period: Jan-Dec.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Charter Member	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____

Please send my newsletter to the email address below

I served with company _____
A B C D HHC

Method of Payment

- Check Please make checks payable to "Steel Tigers"
- Credit Card On line at www.steeltigers.org

Mail this form to:

Steel Tigers
PO Box 38
Birch Run, MI 48415

I WAS A
STEEL TIGER

I AM A
STEEL TIGER

I WILL ALWAYS BE
A
STEEL TIGER

Col (ret) Tom Miller

Membership Committee

Our membership committee is continuing to search for our buddies. We currently have 137 paid up members. If you have the name of someone you would like to find, we would like to help. Send any information you have to bobnconnie2@aol.com or call (989) 280-2387

Address Change

If you have a new address, phone number, or email address, please forward new information to bobnconnie2@aol.com. It is way too easy to lose contact with members if we don't have current information

Newsletters by Email

If you are interested in getting your newsletter by email please check the box on the membership form or email your request bobnconnie2@aol.com. This would save the association funds that could be used to continue searching for more of our buddies.

Reunion Host

We are looking for new places to have our reunions. If you are interest in hosting a reunion, please contact Kevin Dunne bandit3310@comcast.net



TIGER TRACKS

Steel Tigers 77th Armor Association
PO Box 38
Birch Run, 48415

**Standard Mail
US Postage
PAID
Birch Run, MI 48415
Permit No. 9**