



612th Tank Destroyer Battalion Newsletter November 2001

Good Bye Dear Friend

As I write this today it is a sad time because we are informing you of the death of our dear and loyal friend Jack Flanagan. During the past year Jack's health problems became steadily worse. In spite of the fact that he had the best medical care available and fought it real hard, he just didn't make it.



Not only have we lost a friend but also the creator and mover of the 612th Association. He loved the 612th dearly. It was his baby and he made it into what it is today. We were uniquely lucky that Jack was in the media business because he had access to so much of the printing and reproducing business that he was able to do such a fine job on news letters and articles that were made available to all of us. He was also a military historian and as such he was able to make things available to all of us.

Jack also had the full cooperation of his family and this made his job easier.

We will miss you Jack, and will be forever indebted to you, Gert and your family for what you have done for the organization. We love you all and wish you the best.

God Bless.

Francis Hayes

Moving Ahead

Since we do not meet again until reunion time in August, there are things that have to be done in order for our organization to carry on.

Several of us got together and decided we must choose and make some temporary plans to move forward. Here is what we came up with until we can get together.

George Karaphillis has agreed to take care of the administration of the Flower Fund and that will be transferred to him.

Tena has agreed to take care of receiving and keeping up with the dues and any other contributions we may receive for the reunion or other activities of the association.

I am going to do the best we can on the newsletter and anything else that is needed. Rick and Susie Pidsosny have agreed to get something sent sometime this month.

Before Jack got real sick he worked out with Bill Hawkins, some of the reunion details. That has gone forward and plans are in the works for the Lexington Reunion in August of next year.

We sincerely hope these plans meet with your approval. It is not a question of trying to take over but a necessity if we are to continue as an organization.

The dues are \$5.00 per year and we would appreciate your sending this in as soon as possible. If you feel you are able to pay more it will be much appreciated because we do not know what our financial condition will be.

We sincerely thank you for your help and consideration along with your prayers during this time of change. As Col. Hadden would say, "Hells Bells soldier, lets get moving".

Francis, Tena, George, Bill, Susie & Rick

A Greek Time Was Had By All

Our sincerest thanks to George Karaphillis and his wonderful family for the outstanding job they did as hosts of our 48th Annual Reunion this past August in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

As always George and his family made us all feel so welcome and right at home. Now we know why he is so proud of his hometown of Tarpon Springs and why Tarpon Springs is so proud of George!



One of the highlights of the reunion in Tarpon Springs was walking into the hospitality room and seeing the 612th memorial quilt. This quilt was lovingly handmade by Iris

Morris in memory of her husband Charles and in honor of all of our men of the 612th.

Iris had intended for the quilt to be raffled off to a 612th member during our



annual Saturday night raffle. Since she had left the finale decision up to our reunion committee it was unanimously agreed upon that we would not raffle off the quilt but would keep it as a part of the 612th family and display it at our future reunions. Thank you Iris for all the love and hard work you put into every stitch.

We would also like to thank the following members of the Reunion Committee who went out of their way to make this a most memorable event.

Mr. & Mrs. George Karaphillis

Mr. Mike Koulianos

Mrs. Mary Mitts

Mr. Francis Hayes

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Pidsosny

Mrs. Tena Phillips

Mrs. Glenda Millar

Mr. & Mrs. Jewel Raulins

Mr. & Mrs. Theo Karaphillis

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Tharin, Jr.

On a personal note we would like to congratulate George and Verona as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 22nd. May God bless you with many more happy years together.

AUGUST 2002 MARKS THE FORTY-NINTH 612TH REUNION

We will be returning to the Continental Inn in Lexington, Kentucky. The dates are August 7th thru 11th. **Please note that this is one week later than usual.** William "Bill" Hawkins and his family have once again kindly offered to serve as our hosts. Bill has once again come up with some excellent arrangements. The room rates are \$38 per night (one double bed) and \$48 per night (two double beds or one king). All rates plus tax. Look for more reunion information in the April / May Newsletter.

April / May Newsletter

We hope to publish three newsletters a year. Our next newsletter is planned for April / May. It will include all the information you will need for the 2002 reunion. The newsletter will also include an updated

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membership roster. If you have any name or address corrections please send them to Rick and Susie by April 1 (no April fools).

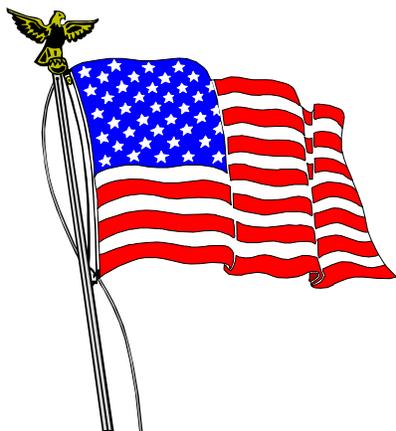
If you have any information that you would like published in the April / May newsletter please contact Susie or Rick Pidsosny no later than the 2nd week of April.

In Remembrance

It is with deep sympathy that we report the recent passing of 3 of our dear friends and comrades.

- **John Porter** from Austin, Texas passed away July 30, 2001.
- **Richard Showalter Sr.** from Muncie, Indiana passed away August 10, 2001.
- **Dessie Johnson** from Jacksonville, Florida passed away October 21, 2001.

Our prayers and thoughts are with their families. May they rest in peace. Also, please keep in your prayers those 612th members and families who are ill and infirmed.



Contacts

Here is the information you can use to contact any of us.

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251-867-3179 (after 8pm)

George Karaphillis
315 Pineapple Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
727-934-1409

Tena Phillips
11606 O'Donnell Drive
Houston, TX 77076
713-692-1894

Rick & Susie Pidsosny
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734-981-0668
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Reminder 

Once again please remember to send your \$5 membership dues to Tena Phillips

Happy Holidays

