



612th Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter November 2003

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The Big 50 – Reunion Wrap-up

By Frances C. Hayes

I am sure that everyone is real proud of the way our 50th Reunion turned out. Certainly we are justly proud of the way the finished product turned out. From the beginning 'til the final product, it was a joint effort by a lot of people that made it a real success. Our thoughts were that this is the "Big Five-O", the one that comes once in a lifetime. With this in mind we went all out. Our main problem was that we have always had special reunions. Something extra was always added to make it above the average. With this in mind, from the beginning it was a real task to produce that Special Event that would make our 50th Reunion long remembered.

We felt that for this special time we needed a small memento as a keepsake for everyone to have, to commemorate our 50th Reunion. Our resources were limited, but we wanted something real nice.

Susie was the answer to our prayers when she found the key ring. It fit the bill perfectly. It was within the price range we could afford, was classy looking, durable and something you could use everyday. Bless her for finding it and we are most grateful to her.

She and Rick figured out the packing and mailing with a lot of class and it contributed a lot to the overall success of the anniversary mailing. Thank you both for your efforts. God Bless.

We knew from the first that George and Verona would do it up fine, with the planning, the program, the food, the motel



accommodations, and a taste of Greek Culture and especially a taste of Greek cooking.

The Friday night meal was a real barbeque buffet with all of the trimmings. It was wonderful and was most appreciated. All this led up to the seated banquet on Saturday evening, a fitting climax to a wonderful week of festivities.

Everyone had a wonderful time. It was also a very serious time especially for those of us who are older, with the ever present thought that "This may be my last one." I'm sure everyone in attendance felt most fortunate to be one of the ones who have made it to the "Big Five-O".

Thank you God Father for letting me associate with these fine people for so many years and I respectfully ask for as much more time as you can spare me.

The Flower Fund was a real success once again. Not only does it give us money to distribute to the survivors of our men as a fitting memorial to their many years of service, but in doing so we offer pleasure to the raffle winners and to the people who sold the tickets and to the loving hands that make and distribute the raffle prizes. We don't have to ask if it is a successful venture, you only have to look at the way people contribute their time and efforts and the way everyone looks forward to the raffle each year. It is a wonderful feeling to be a part of a successful project for so many years.

This has been one of the best attended reunions! This is spite of the fact that we have less people to draw on each year due to illness, death and our advancing years. Thankfully the widows, children and other relatives have taken up the slack and we have been able to keep our

attendance up to a good operating level.

We are blessed with a group of people who have been helpful in every way. Some of our people have never been able to attend a reunion, but look forward to receiving all the information on the battalion and to reading it all and doing anything that is asked of them.

Our financial situation had remained sound, because you have been most generous with your financial support and extra contributions.

As for next year's reunion we feel it will be necessary to go north, to give those men and their families a chance to attend. Hopefully by switching locations from north to south every year we can accommodate as many of our members as possible. Prior to this year's reunion we were in the process of making arrangements to return to Lexington, KY., in 2004. We were in contact with the Continental Inn and Ms Deb Reddy had worked up a proposal to submit to you for your approval.

The Continental was sold very unexpectedly and her job was terminated. Up until ten days prior to the reunion when we found out about this we felt we would have a proposal to give to you at the reunion in Tarpon Springs..

I finally got someone on the phone from the Continental Inn and they promised to send me a proposal to present to you at the business meeting. When it did not come, I called back and was told it was in the mail. I did not receive it so we did not have a firm proposal to present to you in Tarpon. Lining up a hotel may sound easy but "it don't work that way".

First of all, the price of hotel rates has really gone up.

Second, the way we operate our hospitality room doesn't agree with most hotel procedures. We like to buy our own drinks and food and control the serving at a small cover charge as part of registration. Most hotels won't go for that because they make a good profit on the hospitality room.

We have to give a guaranteed number and sometimes it is too high for us.

At the business meeting it was agreed upon to hold all future reunions the first full weekend in August. It was also voted on to hold the 2004 reunion somewhere in the vicinity of Lexington, KY. We will contact the Continental Inn if the quote arrives or call about it if it doesn't come. Hopefully we can finalize the arrangements and get together with Susie so she can publish them. We'll also check with Tena and George to get the final figures we spent in Tarpon and determine what is left in the bank. (Tena reports that we have \$1,973 in the operating fund. George reports that the Flower Fund is at \$4,515)

Since our meeting in Tarpon Springs we have been able to make arrangements for the 51st Reunion to be held at the Continental Inn in Lexington, KY. The dates for the reunion are August 4-8, 2004. We were able to get about the same setup as we had for the 49th. We have settled all the important details and we will sign a contract in the near future. When all the details are finalized we will pass it along. The only thing we were unable to get was airport pickup which the Continental Inn does not provide. Excellent taxi and limo service is available at the airport.

I think we were extremely lucky to get what we wanted and still be able to hold the cost down to what we paid in 2002. We are not buying a pig in a sack because we have had quite a few reunions there and the accommodations have always been very satisfactory.

I would be derelict if I failed to tell you that taking care of your needs has been a rare privilege and a great honor for which I will be eternally grateful. I do not have the words to express my feelings about this and it will always be "right up front" in my thinking. Let me hear from you and maybe we can improve a bit. Let me know if you would like the newsletter different. Thanks again and God Bless.





“Tele-Talk”
with Francis C. Hayes

While at the Reunion I enjoyed visiting with all my dear old friends as well as some new folks. Prior to the Reunion and during the few quiet moments available at the Reunion I tried to call as many of you as possible. While we were all having a great time those of you who were not present were foremost in our thoughts.

In hopes of catching you all up with what is happening with the members of our 612th family the following is the latest news from my “Tele Talk” plus some reunion reminiscing.

- **Foy Peavy**, Jacksonville, FL - was able to come this time. His wife is now in a nursing home and he is able to leave her for brief periods. He really enjoyed seeing all the fellows again.
- **Ben Hardy**, Washington, GA - was able to come for a couple of days. He missed seeing his friend Hutto who came after Ben left. Hope they can get together on the phone and visit.
- **Bill Hawkins**, Atoka, TN - did not feel like coming. Called him from here and he was real glad to hear from me. Hawkins sees a great improvement in his hand. For those who don't know, he cut off three of his fingers. They were able to reattach them and the doctor feels good about them and said that if all goes well he will have limited use of the hand, which will be just fine.
- **Fayne Haynes**, Murfreesboro, TN - came with his wife, Beatrice. She is in a wheelchair but she got along fine. His daughters and granddaughter drove them down. They had a fine time.
- **Charles Huttoe**, Ft. Pierce, FL - came with his wife Nancy and we were glad to see them again. His last reunion was in Tarpon Springs. He is doing fine.
- Called **Devers Bryant**, Newnan, GA - he was real pleased we thought about him and

enjoyed the call. He is not feeling well.

- **James “Frank” Boatright**, Whitesburg, GA - his wife fell and broke her hip and Chuck Harper's wife had twins so he was unable to drive them, so they all had to miss coming. They were all pleased to hear from us.
- **Hartwin Magnuson**, Manor, Texas - he was tickled to hear from us and said he wanted to be with us but his health would not permit a trip that far from home.
- **Bill Leininger**, Mishawaka, IN – talked to Elnora. They had planned to come but things didn't work out, so they had to miss this year. They hope it will be closer to home next year.
- **Talmadge C. Riley**, Benton, KY - The Riley's came Friday and brought their son and his wife. They are regulars and hardly ever miss coming to a reunion.
- **Dick Leininger**, Elkhart, IN - Dick and his family were unable to come but their thoughts were with us. They hope for a closer location next year.
- **Dean Ousley**, Kokomo, IN – talked to Dean to let her know we were thinking of her during the reunion. She was happy to talk to us and hoped we had a successful reunion.
- **A.Z. Lauderdale**, Stuart, FL - he and his son came Friday afternoon. We were glad to have them back this year.
- **Mike Papendick**, Highland, IN – Spoke with Mike and Helen. They have improved greatly and look forward to coming next year because it will be much closer. If push comes to shove they can drive themselves. All right “Pap” we will expect you both.
- **Frank Bertrand**, Eunice, LA - had worked it out to be able to come but he had a fall and that upset their plans. We will put things on hold for #51 and see you all then. I wish I had kept my big mouth shut and not mentioned the Cajun roast. When you told me it was ready you really made me sick.
- **Ansel Dreggors**, Astor, FL - felt he was not up to driving to Tarpon Springs so he very reluctantly gave up the trip.
- **Charlie Pettis**, Bonifay, FL - is not doing well right now. His wife is taking him to the VA in Pensacola. By changing doctors they have great hopes that he will greatly

improve. Our prayers are with you Charlie for a great improvement.

- **Ruby Anfonson**, Hesperia, CA – Had a visit with Ruby. She is a joy to talk to and you just feel better after a visit on the phone. I only hope that the good Lord lets me have her memory and sharpness.
- **Earl Sain**, Memphis, TN - his wife Glyn and sister-in-law Dorothy attended the whole reunion and we enjoyed visiting with them very much.
- **Isabel Kemp**, Lawrenceville, GA - talked to her at length. She could not attend on account of her health. Says she is happy with the way things are operating and to keep up the good work.
- **Ed Winslow**, Bartlett, TN – Ed says he was happy to be able to attend. Hopes to be there for #51.
- **Rufus Noland**, Tuscaloosa, AL – Was happy to see Rufus and Pearl. So glad to have them back this year.
- **Miss Amelia Harding** and **Miss Clara Harding**, Olmsted Falls, OH – I talked with Amelia and Clara at home. They were real thrilled and pleased that we remembered them. I wanted to wish them well and to let them know they were greatly missed and we hope to see them next year. And that we also missed the Amish cheese they always brought.
- **Mrs. Margaret Johnson (Dessie)**, Jacksonville, FL - have been in touch. We miss you all and you are in our thoughts and prayers.
- On a final note we were saddened to hear of the passing of our pal **Howard Estes** of Memphis, TN. Howard was in assisted living in Memphis. I talked to him several months ago and he was doing fine. Our condolences to the Estes Family.

Well that wraps up “Tele Talk” for this newsletter. Let me hear from you! I look forward to talking with you all again soon!



Do You Recognize This Couple?

(Hint: He served as a Medic in “B” Company).



The answer is on page 9.

Tidings from Tena

Tena would like to say “thank you” and acknowledge everyone who has sent in dues since the last newsletter. Special thanks to:

- Frank and Frances Bertrand
- Iona Nix
- Don and Clara Smart
- David and Alyce Barto
- William and Mildred Redifer
- Thor Ronningen
- William and Elnora Leininger
- Claudine Uhles
- Charley and Annie Pettis
- Fares and Anne Cordova
- Rick and Susie Pidsosny
- Evelyn Debro
- Ruby Anfonson
- John and Elvy O’Brien
- Robert E. Rieghard
- Melvin Barr
- Carson Spencer
- Earl and Glyn Sain
- Maxine Hartwick
- Carol Filipponi
- George and Verona Karaphillis
- Dorothy Tomlinson
- Iris Morris

- Mary Ann Wesoly
- Tena Phillips
- Stanley and Kay Zabetakis
- Judy Ramhoff
- Ed Winslow
- Jewel and Ouida Raulins
- Donn Fischer
- Foy Peavy
- Avery and Sara Sanders
- Herbert Williams
- Gert Flanagan
- Geneva Smith
- Fayne Haynes
- Talmadge and Ruth Riley
- Rufus and Pearl Noland
- AZ Lauderdale
- Ben Hardy
- Bill Townsend

If we have accidentally left your name off of our dues list please forgive us. We will be pleased to list you in the next newsletter.

If you have not yet mailed in your dues for this year there is still time. Dues are \$5. per year. Dues should be mailed to Tena Phillips, 11606 O'Donnell Drive, Houston, Texas 77076-1008

Please make checks payable to: Katherine "Tena" Phillips. In the memo box please write "612th dues". Thank you!

Susie's Reunion Ramblings

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of the 2003 Reunion Committee I would like to thank the following people for their help and support:

Glenda Millar as usual stepped right in and got to work. If she's not helping in the hospitality room she's making endless trips to the airport to pick people up or drop them off. If anything needs to be done you can count on Glenda to do it.

Glyn Sain (our official tomato peeler) and **Dorothy Tomlinson** for their help in the

Hospitality Room.

Judy Odom and **Mary Ann Wesoly** for selling a record number of raffle tickets for the Flower Fund.

Iris Morris for stepping in to make coffee when she realized I didn't know what I was doing!

Also special thanks to Iris and her friend Evelyn who made us all laugh till we cried with their tale about the blackout curtains. (After several sleepless nights in their well lit poolside room the ladies finally realized there were "black out curtains" behind the sheers.)

Mitchell Cladakis who prepared the excellent Friday night buffet.

Dayna Karaphillis for the delicious homemade brownies and cookies.

Geneva Smith for keeping us supplied with moon pies.

Tena Phillips who got every one signed in and registered and obtained the correct counts for the Friday night buffet and the Saturday night banquet. Not an easy job but she always does it with a smile!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Tena, our 612th Sunshine Lady. Tena always takes the time to send a card out to members who may be ill or just to keep them in touch. Tena your heart is as big as your beloved State of Texas! Your kindness and caring is deeply appreciated by us all.

Pearl Noland for the terrific cookies and pecans.

Nedelle Mitroff and the staff of the Holiday Inn for their outstanding support and service.

Keith Waldron, the manager of the Tarpon Springs Winn-Dixie who donated the food for our hospitality room.

Thanks also to everyone that pitched in and formed a car caravan to the Sponge Docks when the trolley got lost.

And last but not least the entire 612th family wants to extend our sincerest thanks to our reunion hosts. THANK YOU to **George**

and Verona Karaphillis and their family for a job well done!

Before I get to the Reunion news I would just like to take a moment to share some personal thoughts with you. . .

At each of the four reunions that I have been fortunate to attend I always think they just can't get any better than this. Well I just don't know if it's possible to do any better than we did in Tarpon Springs when we celebrated our 50th reunion. I personally look forward to these reunions and getting together with my "612th family" like a child looks forward to Christmas. While I look forward to seeing my old friends each year and meeting new ones, this year I met so many new (to me) faces it was like Christmas and Easter and every wonderful holiday rolled in to one. One of the highlights of this reunion for me was seeing **Gert Flanagan** again and finally getting to meet her wonderful family. Like all of us in the 612th, Jack Flanagan holds a very special place in my heart. It was Jack who invited me to my first reunion 4 years ago in Lexington, KY. Since my dad died when I was very young I never knew much about his military service. Several years ago when I was doing some genealogy research my mom gave me his discharge papers. That was the first time I had ever heard of the 612th. After some research and sheer luck Rick and I were given Jack's address. After receiving my letter requesting information Jack called me right away. I had no idea how much his invitation to attend the reunion would change and enhance my life. I remember on the drive down to Lexington I started getting cold feet. I couldn't imagine walking into a room full of strangers, let alone spending several days with them. But as luck would have it the first person I ran into was Jack Flanagan who greeted Rick and I like his long lost children. By the time I entered the hospitality room I felt like I was home and within minutes I had so many new family members I couldn't imagine not staying. Tena still teases me about not wanting the reunions to end. I am especially grateful to have attended that first reunion in Lexington as it was the only time I got to meet Jack face to face. Although we kept in contact with letters and phone calls the Lord called him home before we

were able to meet again. I never really had the chance to express to Jack or his family how much he meant to me. When I finally got to meet **Marty and Shelda and Diane and Colleen** this year in Tarpon Springs they overwhelmed me with their kind words. When they told me that their dad talked about me and Rick as if we were part of the family I couldn't have felt more proud. I just want you all to know how honored I feel to have known such a fine man as Jack Flanagan and that I am so proud to be a member of the 612th family.

NOW ON TO THE REUNION NEWS . . .

Because Jack was (and still is) so much a part of the 612th family it was only fitting that we dedicated our 50th Reunion to his memory.

Things started off Wednesday night with a good size crowd gathering in the Hospitality Room. **Tena Phillips** and **Glenda Millar** flew in a day early and were raring to go! Tena already had her registration book out and was working away. **Francis Hayes** arrived that afternoon and not to long after **Ben Hardy** and his family came in. After driving through torrential rains for most of the trip **Earl and Glyn Sain**, along with Glyn's sister **Dorothy Tomlinson** (who did all the driving) arrived from Memphis, later than planned but thankfully safe and sound. **Mary Ann Wesoly** beat everyone by flying in the Saturday before the reunion. Mary Ann, the consummate traveler, probably covered more of Florida's tourist destinations than most native Floridians before the reunion even began. Of course **George and Verona** and **Susie and Rick** were on hand. George was finally relaxing a bit after doing last minute errands all day with Susie and Rick. His hard work and dedication were clearly evident as everyone arrived and immediately felt welcome. **Ruby Anfenson** was unable to attend but she had sent along a nice letter with a photo of Ben Hardy. Ruby's late husband Omer was a very good friend of Ben Hardy. She wrote that Omer spoke of Ben often. When Ben Hardy and his son Len and family arrived Wednesday night Tena presented him with the photo and letter that Ruby had sent. Ben Hardy was very pleased and

happy to reminisce about his dear friend Omer. Ben's son Len was especially pleased to see the photo of his dad in uniform. The photo and letter were a big hit and the Hardy's are looking forward to contacting Ruby.

Thursday afternoon brought the arrival of **Jewel and Ouida Raulins**. Jewel is the only 612th member to have attended all 50 of the Battalion Reunions. We were pleased to present him with a special shirt with the battalion logo on it that said "Fifty Years, Fifty Reunions".

Iris Morris and her friend **Evelyn Tallman** came in on Thursday. Iris' brother made her a hanger for the beautiful 612th quilt she made so we got to work hanging the quilt up for all to see. I was so proud to see the addition of my dad, Willard Webb's name added to the quilt this year. I'm sure Mary Ann Wesoly was equally pleased to find her dad, Barney Wesoly listed as well. Thank you, Iris!

More members arrived throughout the day on Thursday. While the men sat around and reminisced several groups of ladies headed off to the Sponge Docks for some shopping and excellent Greek food. We got back from the Sponge Docks just in time to welcome the arrival of **Gert Flanagan** and her family. As could be expected there were lots of tears but also lots of laughter and smiles. Everyone was so happy to see Gert and her family again. I was thrilled to finally meet **Colleen and Diane** as well as **Marty and Shelda** and their girls, **Erin and Megan**.

Friday morning we had a good crowd lined up for a tour of Tarpon Springs on the Trolley. The trolley must have taken a wrong turn somewhere because it never arrived. But we didn't let that stop us, we all piled in to various cars and vans and George acted as our tour guide. Our first stop was the beautiful St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. From there we toured the Sponge Docks, St. Michael's Church and drove out to Fred Howard Park that leads to a beautiful beach along the Gulf of Mexico. The highlight of the beach was seeing all of the beautiful palm trees that were planted more than 60 years ago and watered daily by none other than our own **George Karaphillis** while he

was working as a life guard there.

We arrived back at the Holiday Inn with plenty of time to regroup in the hospitality room and greet the latest arrivals.

To back track a bit, on Thursday morning we had received two cases of Moon Pies from **Geneva Smith**. While we were all thrilled to receive the Moon Pies we were saddened to think that Geneva wouldn't be joining us this year. What a wonderful surprise it was to have Geneva walk into the hospitality room on Friday afternoon. (Since she was flying she thought it best to mail the Moon Pies.)

Now back to Friday afternoon . . . I had a chance to meet and visit with **Kay and Stanley Zabetakis**, some great folks from Land 'O Lakes, Florida. Kay is just the sweetest lady and Stanley was so helpful explaining to me the make-up of a tank destroyer battalion. I sure learned a lot from him and I appreciate that he took the time to explain it all to me.

Prior to the reunion I had received a real nice letter from **Imogene Williams**. She sent me a picture of her late husband James with his dear friend Wofford Battles. She was wondering if anyone might remember Wofford. Sure enough Stanley remembered Wofford and had us all laughing with his memories of Wofford as a "real chow hound". Stanley remembered that Wofford was a tank commander in "C" company and that he was always hungry. One day in Germany they bet Wofford that he couldn't eat 25 pancakes. Well Wofford won the bet and probably could have eaten more if they hadn't run out of pancakes!

Speaking of food . . . we had 66 people at our Friday night buffet. Our thanks to George's friend Mitchell Cladakis on the outstanding job he did in preparing and serving our meal. It was excellent. We had some wonderful entertainment by a local group of Greek dancers. Everyone had such a good time that no one wanted to call it a day. At 10 p.m. we still had quite a crowd in the hospitality room.

By Saturday morning we had such a big crowd we were beginning to worry where we were going to put everybody at the banquet! **The Riley's (Talmadge and Ruth** and their son

Ronnye and his wife Janice) had arrived safely although they had some pretty scary stories about their drive down from Kentucky. They drove through rain storms, around rock slides and got stopped in endless construction delays. They arrived later than they had hoped but they made it and we were all grateful for that. Saturday morning also brought the arrival of **Mr. Jackson Thettford**.

Jackson, if you remember from our last newsletter is the adorable great grandson of our Tena. We all soon learned why Great-Grandma is so proud of Jackson. What a cutie he is! Of course Jackson was accompanied by mom **Sara and dad Travis**. A lot of the regulars commented on remembering Travis when he was Jackson's age.

On Saturday morning we held the business meeting. There were 15 of our men present. It was voted on to hold next year's reunion and all future reunions on the first full weekend in August. Our dates for next year's reunion will be August 4-8, 2004. Although he was not present, **William "Bill" Hawkins** has agreed that he and his family will once again be our hosts. As Francis stated earlier in this newsletter at the time of the business meeting we did not have a confirmation from the Continental Inn in Lexington, Ky. But now everything is all set.

Saturday afternoon we had to vacate the Hospitality room so the hotel staff could set-up for the banquet that evening. When 6 o'clock rolled around we had a crowd of 83 people in attendance. The room was packed! What a great night we had. We had performances by a local dance and singing group that featured George's very talented grand-daughter Toni. Following the singing of our National Anthem, **Earl Sain** was gracious enough to lead us all in prayer with a special remembrance of those members who were not present and those who had passed on. Following a delicious meal prepared by the chef of the Holiday Inn we got right into the fun of our annual Flower Fund raffle. My goodness at the gifts we had to raffle off! Everyone was so generous and most brought two or more items to donate. There were so many beautiful gifts but I have to say that **Iris Morris** out did us all with her beautiful handmade 612th pillows. Thank

you Iris!

Thanks to everyone who helped us get organized for our annual group photo. I don't know how Rick managed to fit everyone in but he did and the photos came out great. The photos (one group and one of the men) were mailed out in early October. If you ordered one and haven't received it yet please let us know as soon as possible. Additional photos are available at \$10. for the set of two.

Sunday morning arrived much too soon! Over coffee, juice and donuts we said our goodbyes. The only thing that makes the goodbyes bearable is knowing we have next year to look forward to! So until next year in Lexington God Bless you all and keep you safe and well.

In attendance at our 50th Reunion

We were honored to have 17 of our original members present and 9 widows

HQ

- **Edward Winslow**, daughter Cheryl Swaim and grandsons Kirby and Jay
- Geneva Smith (Raymond)
- **A.Z. Lauderdale** and son Larry Lauderdale

RECON

- **Ben Hardy**, son Len Hardy and wife Joyce and Joshua Cosby
- **Donn Fischer**
- **Herbert Williams**, wife Charlyne and family members, John, Beth and Michael Douglas
- **Charles Huttoe**, wife Nancy

"A" COMPANY

- **George Karaphillis**, wife Verona and family members, Theo and Dayna Karaphillis, Irene and Bob Tharin and Toni Tharin
- Mary Ann Wesoly (Barney Wesoly)
- Susie and Rick Pidosny (Willard Webb)
- Gert Flanagan, (Jack) and family members, Diane and Colleen Flanagan, Marty and wife Shelda, their daughters Erin and Megan
- **Foy Peavy**

"A" and "B" COMPANY

- **Jewel Raulins**, wife Ouida

“B” COMPANY

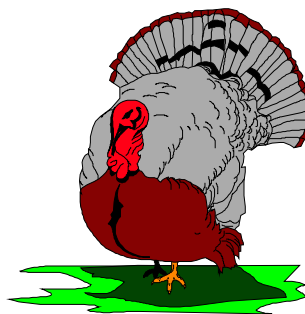
- **Francis Hayes**, daughter Martha Wood and her husband Wesley
- **Earl Sain**, wife Glyn and sister-in-law Dorothy Tomlinson
- **C.W. “Bill” Townsend**
- Maxine Hartwick (Casey), daughter Chris Colson
- Carol Filipponi, (Dante) daughter Catherine Say
- Iris Morris (Charles), guest Evelyn Tallman
- Tena Phillips (Travis), friend Glenda Millar, grandson Travis Thetford and his wife Sara and their son Jackson. Vivian and Al Ocrodowicz
- Judy Ramhoff
- Iona Nix, daughter Judy Odum
- **Talmadge Riley**, wife Ruth, son Ronnye and his wife Janice
- **Rufus Noland**, wife Pearl, family Gaile and James Phillips and Nancy Ewing
- **Elmer “Fayne” Haynes**, wife Beatrice, daughters Anita Stanley, Janice Belamy and granddaughter Julie

“C” COMPANY

- **Stanley Zabetakis**, wife Kay
- **Avery Sanders**, wife Sara. Family members Candice, Matt, Steve and Jessica Sanders and Jimmy and Diane Kelton

UNKNOWN

- Mary Mitts (Henry)



Happy Tha

Have you figured out who our Mystery Couple is?

They are Earl and Glyn Sain.



Regular attendees at our reunions Earl and Glyn celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on November 1st of 2002. They were surprised with a family gathering on November 2nd. Earl served proudly as a medic in "B" company. After being discharged Earl went to work at the V.A. Hospital. He worked there for 30 years until his retirement in 1977. Earl and Glyn are the proud parents of David and Michelle. They also have five grandchildren, Lauren, Russ, Melissa, Jonathan and Melanie that they adore. Our best wishes to Earl and Glyn on reaching this wonderful milestone in their marriage. God Bless you both.

December Newsletter

In our December newsletter we will be mailing out an updated membership roster. If you have any changes or corrections you would like made please send the updated information to Susie Pidosny no later than December 6th. Susie's address is: 42159 Briarcliff Court, Canton, Michigan 48187 E-mail address is: mousehouse@comcast.net

Roster Updates

Isabelle Kemp
2052 Oak Drive
Lawrenceville, GA
30044-5951
770-995-5249

Earl and Glyn Sain
1089 Oak Timber Circle
Collierville, TN 38017
901-850-7919.

Glenda Millar
1309 N. MacGregor Way
Houston, TX 77023-4007
713-921-1126

George W. Johnson Jr.
3558 Delancy Drive
Bensalem, PA 19020

Please Remember in Your Prayers

The family of **Howard Estes**. . . Our dear friend and comrade, Howard passed away this summer after a brief illness.

Devers Bryant. . . Devers who is a regular at our reunions was unable to attend this years reunion in Tarpon Springs due to illness. Our wishes for a full and speedy recovery go out to Devers.

Bill and Earlene Hawkins . . . Bill is still recovering from the accident that kept him from attending the reunion in Tarpon. Bill lost three fingers while doing some woodworking. Thankfully, the doctors were able to reattach the fingers. Earlene took a bad fall and injured some vertebrae in her back. Earlene says she and Bill are slowly recovering thanks to the kind ladies from their church who have been bringing in prepared meals. In spite of all this they are still looking forward to hosting our 2004 reunion in Lexington, KY.

Charley Pettis . . . Charley would have loved to attend this years reunion but was to sick to attend. Our best wishes to Charley and Anne.

Fares and Anne Cordova . . . I had a nice letter from Fares. He really enjoyed the key ring and ordered some extras. He writes that he and Anne are not in the best of health.

Mrs. Frank Boatright . . . Mrs. Boatright is recovering from a fall that broke her hip.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The dates for our 51st Reunion are

August 4-8, 2004

The 2004 Reunion will be held at the Continental Inn in Lexington, Kentucky

Congratulations to . . .

Jack and Elvie O'Brien of Brooklyn, Ohio.

On July 24th of this year they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

God's Blessings to you both!

A Tribute to Our Veterans . . .

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher,
Who has given us our freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the VETERAN,
Who salutes the Flag and
Who serves under the Flag.

We are very proud of our Veterans and our young men and women who serve our nation today.

God Bless Them.