



# 80TH BLUE RIDGE ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION



## FALL NEWS LETTER

Greetings Members and future Members

On October 17th and 18th the Association held its 8th Annual Meeting in Richmond. The meeting location was the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel.

The morning of the 17th the Association held a golf tournament at The Crossings Golf Course in Glen Allen, Va and at the same time had tours of the Tredegar Iron Works , The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and the Virginia Holocaust Museum



LTC Erik Imajo, Col(R) Paul Hoppes, Col (R) Lee Anthony and MSG (R) Pete Herbert discussing the CSS Virginia at the American Civil War Center



From left to right are Col (R) Paul Linkenhoker, MSG George Croughwell, LTC Rod Calhoun, SGM Michael Buddin, LTC Glen Hence and MSG Mike Atkins. (not pictured LTC Grant Porter, photographer)

Saturday evening was the Association dinner with BG Leslie Purser, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Human Capital Core Enterprise from OCAR. She gave us an overview of how Human Capital is being reviewed and an insight into the direction it is taking in the Army Reserve. It was a great time to see all our friends in the 80th.



Above MG(R) John Henderson, MG John McLaren and COL(R) Paul Hoppes



LTC(R) and Mrs Charles Elam, COL(R) and Mrs Gallagher and LTC and Mrs Grant Porter

Sunday morning was the annual breakfast and business meeting, the secretary reported that we have the following membership;

- a. 103 Active Members (45 Life and 57 Annual)
- b. 112 Inactive Members to include one Board Member.

The treasurer reported that the Association currently has \$9,445.09 in a money market account and \$3,659.01 in the checking account.

A discuss was held in reference to developing a Strength of the Mountains Society this would be a society for past and future 80th soldiers and civilians that would reflect outstanding service to the 80th. A draft document has been developed and is being reviewed by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Association for content and qualifications.

It was outlined that the Association is sponsoring a memorial at Division Headquarters. The estimated cost is \$3,400.00. The members present voted to provide seed money for this memorial and it would be announced at the Commanders Conference (21 – 23 Jan 2010) at Virginia Beach that the Association would contribute \$500 to this fund. The memorial would have a Bronze Sponsorship Plaque with the names of individuals or Organizations who gave to the Memorial. We currently have \$1,500.00 in contribution from MG McLaren, Lee Anthony and the 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association.

It was announced that Mr. O'Neil the Commander of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association, had passed away and that the Board through a conference call had authorized \$100.00 be sent from the Association to the McBride Scholarship Fund in Mr. O'Neil's name. The Association sent a card to Mrs. O'Neil indicating we had made this donation.

The Blue Ridge Web Site has been transferred to Andy Adkins with the 80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association. Andy would only manage the site for us and add items as needed. He has done an excellent job on the site and we have reduced our cost to \$100.00 per year for this service which is over a 50% Savings. [www.80thblueridge.com](http://www.80thblueridge.com)

It was voted that Travis Edwards would be the Marketing committee Chairman of the website. He is looking for members to be part of this committee.

The major item was the report and comments on the meeting held in Carlisle, Pa. concerning the merger of the three organizations: 80<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association, Descendants of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division and the 80<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association.

The history of this subject was outlined and Grant Porter made a presentation to the members about the proposal. Grant outlined the following questions about the proposal and presented the proposal for review and approval of the membership present at the meeting

With us joining the 80th Veterans Association all life members will be accepted into the 80th Veterans Association at no charge, all other members will be charged a fee which will be paid by the Blue Ridge Association. Now would be the time to join the 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association and become a member of both organizations and continue the history of the 80th.

After discussion it was voted that the 80<sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Association would request to be a Post in the 80<sup>th</sup> Veterans Association National Organization. It was moved by COL (P) Linkenhoker and Seconded by Lee Anthony. The vote was 100% in favor. It was also noted that we would not do this until 15 February 2010 because this would allow us time to review our By-Laws and collect our dues for our Association

It was determined that the Associations By-Laws will be reviewed by 1 December 2009 and updated by January. The review will include dues and other issues that need updating.

The following people were nominated and elected to the Board of Directors

- MSG Michael Atkins (11)
- CSM Doris Wollett (11)
- LTC Colleen Watson (11)
- LTC Erik Imajo (11)
- LTC Terence Singleton (11)

Next year's meeting was proposed and agreed upon to have it in Arlington, Va along with the 80th Division Veterans Association annual meeting.

The members at the meeting approved the following awards that will be given out at the Commanders Conference in January;

- (1) NCO of the Year
- (2) Instructor of the Year
- (3) Soldier of the Year
- (4) AGR of the Year
- (5) Civilian of the year

The Association will award recipient with a check for \$200.00.

We need volunteers to man the Association's booth at VA Beach Conference in Jan 2010. Conference is 23-31 Jan 10. We need some familiar faces to sell the organization during the conference. If you have the time we need help.

Paul D. Hoppes  
President, 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association