



80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

September 2nd, 2011

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Blue Ridge Post 50 Members,

It may have taken the "strength of the mountains" but we all appear to have endured our share of natural disasters during the last week of August. Despite a 5.8 earthquake that shook us up along the Blue Ridge on the 23rd and an angry attack by Hurricane Irene along the coastline on the 27th that threw trees into some of our houses and driveways, the 80th Blue Ridge Association only moved forward. Though Irene did put a damper on our 3rd Annual Blue Ridge Golf Tournament plan, she didn't stop us from having our tenth annual Blue Ridge Breakfast and Business Meeting on August 28th as that event followed smoothly without interruption on the heels of the 80th Division Veterans Associations Reunion. Hopefully, everyone is all right from the earthquake and storm damage. We will try and tee off on another date for the Golf Tournament in the near future. Meanwhile, in case you missed out, below are some highlights of our recent events, as well as a few member highlights, and an overview of events to follow in the near future.

RECENT EVENTS

80th Division Veterans Association's 92nd Annual Reunion:

Several Blue Ridge members were present to celebrate the 92nd Reunion held from 24-28 August 2011 at the Sheraton West Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike in Richmond. Post 50 President Grant Porter presented remarks at the dinner and received the Post 50 Charter document that listed all the members at the time the charter was adopted, effective April 1st 2010. The Charter was distinctively framed and presented by outgoing Secretary Andy Adkins. During the Business meeting, Vice President Doris Wollett was

elected to become the Secretary of the Association replacing Andy who is coming out of retirement to take on a full-time job in a prominent law firm in West Virginia. Blue Ridge Secretary Pete Herbert was elected to the Executive Council of the Division Veterans Association. LTC Porter became the Vice Commander and announced his plans to hold the 93rd Reunion in Baltimore MD in August 2012. Likewise, MG John McLaren advanced to 2nd Vice Commander and announced his intention of holding the 94th Reunion in Virginia Beach or Richmond in 2013. Dr. Lee Anthony assumed duties as Commander after doing a fine job as Vice Commander and Reunion Chairman with the steadfast assistance of Cecilia Smith.

80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Breakfast and Annual Meeting:

The Blue Ridge Association held its 10th annual Breakfast and Business Meeting at the Sheraton hotel on Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 0800. One of our newest lifetime members, AGR Chaplain (LTC) William J. Manning delivered the opening prayer and several announcements were made about future plans of the Association:

a. The Scholarship Fund: Pete Herbert reported that the Board of Directors had voted to authorize a \$500 college scholarship to be awarded on behalf of the Blue Ridge Association during the 26 April 2011 teleconference call. It was suggested that a committee be chosen to come up with a criteria, eligibility, etc., for awarding the Scholarship. Committee volunteers include George Croughwell as Chairman, and members, Paul Linkenhoker, James Brown, Buddy Deverell and Mike Bland. They will report back at the next quarterly teleconference meeting in October.

b. A 5K Fun Run: Pete Herbert reported that the Board of Directors voted to authorize \$250.00 as seed money to hold a 5K Fun Run to benefit our scholarship fund or a similar cause or charity. No definite date or time of year was determined. Anthony Taylor agreed to check the command calendar for upcoming events and to report some possible dates for the run at the next teleconference in October.

c. Election of Officers: The following Officers were nominated and unanimously elected for two-year terms from October 2011 to October 2013:

Treasurer: Ed Polonitza; Board of Directors (Thanks Ed!): Erik Imajo, Terry Singleton, Colleen Watson were all re-elected to the Board of Directors and James "J.R." White was voted in as a new director.

d. Annual Meeting 2012: For the past two years, the Blue Ridge Post 50 Annual Meeting has been held in conjunction with the 80th Veterans Reunion. Next year's 80th Veterans Reunion is tentatively scheduled to be held in Baltimore, MD, in August 2012. It was decided that we would discuss the possibility of either holding our Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Veterans next year in Baltimore, or to hold a separate meeting at a date and time to be determined. It was also suggested that we may want

to poll our members by email to determine a preference for the annual meeting. Discussion will continue at the next teleconference in October.

e. Teleconference Schedule for 2012: Members approved the following dates for quarterly conference calls to be held on the 4th Tuesday of the first month of each quarter as follows: 25 October 2011, 24 January 2012, 24 April 2012 and 24 July 2012.

f. Awards for 2012: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to award six Soldier and Civilian awards to 80th Training Command members during the January 2012 Commander's Conference. The amount of awards would be increased from \$200 to \$250 for a total of \$1,500. (Note: The 80th Division Veterans Association voted to support the awards program with an annual donation of \$500!).

g. Army Ten-Miler: The Board of Directors authorized \$20.00 for each Blue Ridge Member who registers and participates in the Annual Army Ten-Miler in October. Members must furnish proof of registration and completion of the event to Secretary Herbert. Members will be reimbursed by check.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to SGM Sharon Campbell, Blue Ridge Member, who was recently hired as the Seniro Civilian Training Coordinator for the 80th Training Command Training Center at Camp Parks, CA.

Lifetime member George E. Croughwell, TTC Senior Civilian at Fort Pickett received his BS Degree in April from Bellevue University. MSG Croughwell is also a TPU Soldier at HQ, 94th Division at Fort Lee ,VA. Congratulations George!

Congratulations also go out to LT Floyd Lewis who was recently promoted to 1LT, with a date of rank of 10 June 2011. The 80th held a ceremony at the Reserve center with his wife and baby girl attending. Mike Bland, CXO and Blue Ridge Member, welcomed everyone with opening remarks and LTC Samuel Licorish, also a Blue Ridge Member, took part in the ceremony.

Congratulations also are extended to Blue Ridge Member Melissa Martinez as a newly hired Civilian employee in the 80th G7 Section. Melissa is now the Staff Operations and Training Specialist providing oversight of the 102nd Training Division for the 80th Training Command.

By the time this letter goes to print, MG John McLaren will have changed command with MG William Gerety and celebrated his retirement with a dinner on 23 September and a change of command ceremony on the 24th at Fort Lee. The new 80th Commander, MG

Gerety, comes from his last assignment as the Commanding General of the 81st RSC, Fort Jackson, SC.

Two of our AGR Members have PCS'd to new duty stations. LTC Curtis L. Muldrow and LTC Samuel E. Licorish have moved on and are now assigned to the 1st Mission Support Command at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. We wish them both the best of Luck!

Member LTC(R) Edward (Carroll) Shepherd an employee at DECA, Fort Lee will be retiring from civilian employment in September after 30 + years of service. We wish him and his family great happiness.

Congratulations once again to CSM(R) Doris Wollett. She retired from the Military in May 2011 with over 34 years of service and retired June 2011 from her civilian position as the 80th DRMO also with over 30 years of civilian service.

FUTURE EVENTS

Blue Ridge Quarterly Luncheon:

The next Blue Ridge Association quarterly luncheon will be held on
The next quarterly luncheon is tentative for 26 October at a location to be determined;
more information to follow by email notification.

Blue Ridge Annual Holiday Party:

We are planning our 2nd Annual Holiday Party, tentatively scheduled for 17 December 2011. One possible location being considered is the Club at the Defense Supply Center, Richmond (DSCR). Please check our website for updates and we will notify Post 50 members with an email notification.

SECRETARY NOTES

Just as a reminder your Annual Dues are due by January 1st. Anyone paying dues from 1 October 2011 will be counted toward a 2012 membership. Members have the option of paying as a Life-Time Member for \$250.00. \$150.00 of that would go to the 80th Division Veterans Association (DVA) for joint Membership in the Association. New Annual Members pay \$35.00 with \$20.00 going to the DVA, and a Renewing Member pays \$35.00 and \$10.00 in annual dues go to the DVA. Either way, members receive a two-for-one membership in both organizations. So far, in 2011 we have contributed over \$1,300.00 to the DVA in dues. As you can see, membership dues are an important source of revenue and we appreciate your support.

If any of you have any ideas for anything - future events, fund raisers, something you would like to see the Association involved in let us know. Please review the association website to keep yourself abreast of future activities at: www.80thblueridge.com. 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. We will be making an effort to keep the website 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”