



The Hard Charger

May 2011

Comments from the President

John Dynes

By the time this newsletter is published, there will be fewer than six weeks left before the 18th Annual Reunion in Branson, MO, gets underway. This is shaping up as one of our best-attended reunions, no doubt because of the accessibility and proximity of the location to a large number of our members and the long list of attractions in the city. The best part of the swelling attendance is that old buddies whom we haven't seen for some time, or perhaps maybe not at all since 'Nam, will be present and accounted for.

By now, those of you who are still "sitting on the fence" have had the opportunity to look over the attractions of Branson and the schedule of activities during the third week of June. Over 60% of those who have already registered have also signed up for the Lake Queen lunch cruise and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede. But perhaps you are finding the tremendous number of things to do in Branson just a little intimidating, and that is causing you to hold off. There are a number of vacation service organizations in Branson which are prepared to provide advice and guidance to the visitor — organizations which can furnish information on shows, attractions and activities that will fit your interests, available time and your budget! I've listed some of these, with their email addresses and phone numbers, at the end of these comments. If you are concerned about whether to take in the "Legends in Concert" show or ride one of the zip lines, these services may be able to help you out. And don't forget Ron Curry and Ron Carter as resources — they've checked the place out!

The membership has already reserved the 35 or so units in the Westgate Branson

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Don't forget to



check the web site!

Woods Resort that we contracted for, but Ron Curry has used his negotiation skills to get us some additional ones, and the group price is good until 20 May. Even if you are still debating how to spend your time, make your lodging reservations pronto! We want to all try to be together, and we are not the only folks who will be in Branson in June! We don't want you 18 miles away at the Turkey Knuckle Inn or some such place!

And one more observation — for the majority of us, our VN experience ended over 40 years ago. Most of us also had twenty years under our belts when we answered the call. "I'll do the reunion next year" is a comment I've already heard a couple of times. Time marches on. Do the math. Make this one your year!

Regards, *John*

Branson Country Tours 800-841-2376 bctours@aol.com

Branson Missouri.com 877 – ENTERTAIN info@bransonmissouri.com

Discover Branson 800-768-3914 info@discoverbranson.com

Regal Vacation Services 800-417-5253 contact@regalvacationservices.com

Use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete the following form and send it with a check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Email) _____

I am enclosing my check (money order) for \$15.00 to cover my 2011 dues _____

I am enclosing my check (money order) for \$150.00 for lifetime membership _____

I am enclosing a contribution of \$ _____ to the Association to help cover expenses.

Mail to: J Pat Little

30th Field Artillery Association, Membership

P.O. Box 4283

Greenville, DE 19807

30th Field Artillery Regiment Association Reunion

Branson, MO 20 to 23 June, 2011

The Westgate Branson Woods Resort 417-334-4944/877-502-7058

The Westgate Resort is located in 145 wooded acres just north of the primary activities area of Branson. We have 40 units set aside until the deadline date of 20 May. These include 35 rooms at the minimum rate and five upgrades of larger size at increased rates. The facility can be checked out at www.wgbransonwoods.com.

The minimum room rate is \$59.00 plus applicable taxes.

The Hospitality Suite will be located near the check-in building — inquire upon arrival.

Monday, June 20 Welcome and sign in. Renew old friendships, make new ones. Continue your interrupted conversations, have a Guinness or some milder beverage—visit the Quartermaster and get yourself outfitted for the occasion. Enjoy the ever-increasing volumes of the Regiment 's proud history assiduously compiled by Dan Gilloti. *The Hospitality Suite will be open.*

Tuesday, June 21 Discounted tickets will be available for a **lunch time cruise on the Lake Queen**. The cruise will depart at 1145 hours and last 1 1/2 hours. Otherwise, enjoy as many of Branson 's attractions as you can handle! Plan to attend the "Dinner Extravaganza" at the resort (time TBA , \$9 per adult, \$6 per child) *The Hospitality Suite will be open.*

Wednesday, June 22 The day will be yours to enjoy on your own. At 1615 hours, another discounted activity, **Dolly Parton 's Dixie Stampede**, will host our membership for dinner and the show. *The Hospitality Suite will be open.*

Thursday, June 23 We will hold our General Membership meeting in the morning, followed by the Memorial Service for the Regiment 's Fallen. (Time and Location TBA) The afternoon will yours to enjoy on your own. Our Annual Dinner will begin at 1800 hours at the Branson Woods Resort, followed by the highly acclaimed World Famous Auction. **Don' t forget to bring something for the auction!** *The Hospitality Suite will be open.*

Friday, June 24 Time to say our good-byes and head home to rest up for 2012 's reunion at Fort Sill, OK. *The Hospitality Suite will not be open.*

HARD CHARGER, SIR!

Ron Curry, 2011 Reunion Coordinator

30th Field Artillery Regiment Association's Eighteenth Annual Reunion

Branson, MO June 20—24, 2011

2011 Reunion Registration

Please do the Following

Contact the Westgate Branson Woods Resort at 1-877-502-7058 to make your room reservations. Rooms are reserved under the group code 24-520. *Be certain to mention this when calling in for reservations.* See the box on page 6 for information on rates and the breakfast vouchers included in the room price.

Send your check and the completed registration form (next page) indicating your activity choices during the reunion.

Please note that the lunch cruise on the Lake Queen and the dinner/show at the Dolly Parton Dixie Stampede are not “required ” activities — you may choose whether to participate or not. But you should also be aware that the prices shown are much reduced from those you will pay if you elect to do these things on your own!

Also note that the payment of the \$9 per person for the Westgate Resort 's “Dinner Extravaganza ” on Tuesday evening will be collected on site.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Reunion Coordinator, Ron Curry, at sretooh2001@aol.com or 816-294-2722. Please submit your queries as soon as possible to assist our planning for a successful reunion. Thanks. If any Hard Chargers are experiencing problems attending our reunion, please contact Pat Little, 610-268-1621, in confidence.

Westgate Branson Woods Room Availability

The Resort has set aside for our association the following rooms for the dates 20 to 24 June:

35 standard hotel rooms @ \$59
 2 (1 bedroom studio) @ \$109
 2 (2 bedroom studio) @\$159
 2 (2 bedroom cabin) @\$149

This block of rooms will be held at these rates until 20 May, 2011. But don't wait — we anticipate a good turnout for this reunion!

Each room will receive complimentary breakfast buffet vouchers. Standard rooms will receive 2 vouchers. All the rest will be 2 vouchers per bedroom.

The resort can be viewed on-line at www.wgbransonwoods.com

Miniatures Available

A year ago, the Association completed a two year long campaign and presented the statue of St. Barbara to an impressed audience in Snow Hall at Fort Sill. The effort and cooperation that went into the funding of and the creation of the statue was something of which all of the membership can be truly proud.



The artist who created the statue, Mari Bolen, is continuing to make available a smaller version of the statue. The accompanying picture shows the scale — the miniatures stand a little over 17 inches high, are cast in bronze as is the original, and are mounted on a walnut base. A plaque on the base identifies the saint. The cost will be determined by the number requested, but should be no more than \$1800, as the creation of the mold is the major expense. If interested, please contact the editor.

As we approach the first anniversary of this gift commemorating the past, present and future of the Field Artillery, this would be a good opportunity to add to your own memories of our



A Battery, early 1966 — Jack Dufur and the Angry Angel

Note Jack 's stateside fatigues, white name tag and all — A Battery did not get an issue of the jungle fatigues until April of '66, having been in country since the previous November. The heavy cotton uniform did not hold up well in Vietnam 's heat and humidity, and the A Battery CO got a thorough "reaming" from the CAV DivArty commander for the ragged condition of his troops in March '66. But perhaps the resulting brouhaha hastened the issue of the new uniforms.

Also in view is the "drive gear" of the self-propulsion unit characteristic of the M123A1.

Correction to the last issue

The trooper in the picture is not Jack Dufur, who supplied the photo, but Gary McKay. Sorry about the misidentification!

Another of Jack 's pictures showing the propulsion unit of the M123 -

PFC Marks at the "wheel," er...joystick



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NEXT ISSUE

August 2011

Deadline for submissions—August 12, 2011

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