



# *The Hard Charger*

September 2010

## **Comments from the President**

**John Dynes**

I am deeply honored to address the membership of the 30th Artillery Association as your newly elected president. I little thought that when I rotated back to the US in November of 1966 that my three years of service with the 1st of the 30th would be continued in a new century in this capacity!

I want to acknowledge that I have big shoes to fill. Pat Little did an outstanding job as your leader over the last four years, and we can look back with pride at what was accomplished during his tenure. Not only did he bring direction and purpose to the Association, but also specific results, such as the review and updating of the Constitution and By-Laws and most memorably, the gift of the statue of St. Barbara to Fort Sill, which will stand as a reminder of our unit for years to come. More on the dedication of the statue can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

In introducing the new slate of officers, there are familiar faces in different places. Jim Harris is the new 1st Vice President, and Dan Gillotti is the new secretary. Our former president is still giving to the organization — Pat is the new treasurer. Bob Waldron has joined the Board as the 2nd Vice President. Anthony Puckett is the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, and John Hoetker's outstanding service to the Association has been recognized through his selection as Honorary SGM of the Regiment.

Thankfully, all of the appointed positions of Association have retained their incumbents. These positions, so vital to our on-going success, are Chuck Causey, Quartermaster; Ron Carter, Chaplain; Woody Alexander, Membership Chairman; Saverio Grimaldi, Webmaster; and Dan Gillotti as Historian and Veterans Affairs Officer. I will continue as editor of the newsletter for

**Don't forget to check the web site!**



the time being.

Our 2011 reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri, in the heart of the Ozarks. With all due respect to Fort Sill, there are without question far more activities to spark your interest and attendance than exist at the home of the Field Artillery. Ron Curry and Ron Carter have just completed a recon of the area, and more details will be available as to the date, lodging options and so on very soon.

I will close by quoting Pat's words in the last newsletter, as he remarked "It's not corny to say that any organization will only be as strong as the members want it to be. I encourage you to continue your support and interest with the new officers..."

My sentiments exactly!



*John*

Then

Now



[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 2010 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 4238

Greenville, DE 19807



## In Memoriam

### SGT. Milton "Mickey" Cooper

The following letter was received from Ms May Page, the mother of Mickey Cooper. It contains information regarding the memorial service for this former battery mate, as well as a thank you from Ms Page to all those who contacted the family to express condolences.

*John:*

*If you have room in your Sept. issue, would you please put this "Thank You" in. I do not have addresses for all the men who called me when Mick passed away, and I feel Hard Chargers will reach all.*

*Thanks You and Blessings, May (Cooper) Page*

Dear Hard Chargers:

I just want to say "Thank You" to all of you for your telephone calls, prayers and the special prayer at your June Reunion by Ron Carter in Fort Sill for my son Mick Cooper.

It is very hard to realize he has been gone 2 months.

For your information, Mick's military memorial service will be Saturday, November 13th, 2010, at 4:30 PM at St Albans Episcopal Church, Wickenburg, AZ. The service will be outside in the Church Memorial Garden. Following his service we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and talking about Mick and visiting.

If anyone is in this area and can attend please call me at 928-684-5100. I do not have email — sorry.

Thanks again for your prayers, support and caring for Mick and me.

Sincerely, May (Cooper) Page

PS: Have a great reunion in Branson next year.

## Highlights of the 2010 Annual Reunion June 23 to 26

The 2010 Reunion found us once more in the “Friendly Confines” of Fort Sill, OK, a familiar setting for most of us. Things do change, however – the Holiday Inn system now runs the former BOQ’s at Allyn and Altman Halls, and there was much reconstruction and modernization going on during our visit. Those fortunate enough to get rooms already remodeled had nice accommodations – those of us in the yet-to-be upgraded rooms could relate to our student days at Sill with no difficulty...

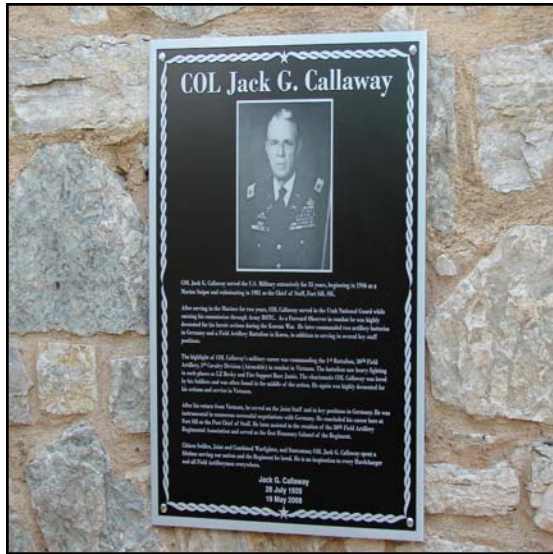
Other changes were very apparent with our visit to the firing range on the first morning of the reunion. Not only were the howitzers much more futuristic and computer-driven than our VN era versions (see page 2), but the cannoneers were under camouflage nets with sleeves rolled down and ear plugs in place. All these forms of protection from the sun and the noise were scorned by our generation, half deaf and bothered by skin lesions as we are! A range fire had put a halt to firing, so we were able to discuss our experiences and memories with the students manning the guns, many of whom were veterans of Iran and Afghanistan. Subsequently, we got an even closer look at the new weaponry, courtesy of Chris Atkinson’s access to the motor pool location.

Friday, 25 June, was a very full day! The always impressive change of command ceremony took place on the Polo Field under a broiling hot sun, which certainly brought back memories of Junes past for many of us. While it scarcely seemed as though two years had passed since we watched LTC Christopher Talcott take over the Battalion, here he was passing the baton to LTC Nick Mauldin. LTC Mauldin had just completed a tour of duty in Norway, where it’s fair to assume that he didn’t have to deal with the near 100 degree temperatures on the reviewing field.



The membership moved on from that ceremony to another honoring former Battalion Commander Jack Callaway through the renaming of Building #758 as Callaway Hall. We gathered under tentage in front of the building for remarks from LTC Mauldin and COL (Ret) Ted Janosko, prior to the unveiling of the plaque bearing COL Callaway’s likeness and a brief history of his military career. A large photograph of COL Callaway also hangs in the entrance to the building, truly a wonderful tribute to a strong, charismatic leader and commander.

Then it was across the street to Snow Hall for the Dedication of the statue of Saint Barbara, an event long in planning, effort, coordination and accomplishment. The statue had actually been completed and delivered to Fort Sill by the sculptress, Mari Bolen,



several months earlier, as readers of the last newsletter will be aware. A semicircle of chairs faced the statue, covered in a red cloth, squarely in the middle of the main corridor of Snow Hall. Association President Pat Little began the ceremony with appropriate remarks before unveiling the nearly seven foot tall (with base) bronze statue. There was spontaneous applause as the heroic figure with its several different patinas was seen for the first time. BG Ross Ridge accepted the gift for the Post, and as the official activities concluded, virtually all in attendance vied for the opportunity to have his or her picture taken with “Barbie.” It was a fitting conclusion to a campaign which began with the generous donations from the E.V. Ellison estate, Jack Kloke, and many others to make the sculpture a reality.

The annual HARD CHARGERS Memorial Service was also held in Snow Hall. The 17<sup>th</sup> time that this solemn occasion has taken place, it continues to remind us that “No one is forgotten, and no one is left behind.”

Saturday morning saw the annual General Membership Meeting, which if there were still such an environment as a “smoke filled room,” this would certainly have qualified. Forced by construction and other events to be held in the hospitality suite, we were pretty much elbow to elbow. The normal business of the Association was taken care of; Branson, MO, was confirmed as the site for the 2011 Reunion; and the new officers identified on page one of the newsletter were elected.



The capstone of the reunion, the banquet for the membership and the “World-Famous and Never-To-Be-Forgotten” auction was held at the Patriot’s Club on post on Saturday evening. After the transition of presidents, we heard remarks from LTC Mauldin on the current activities of the battalion in its training role. The Order of St. Barbara was bestowed on Woody Alexander, Saverio Grimaldi, and Richard Braly. The Molly Pitcher Award went to five deserving women – Sharon Braly, Lindy Causey, Barbara Harris, Sandy Keith and Florence Nelson. Recognized as Distinguished Members of the Regiment were Jack Kloke, Dick Jennings, Jack Love, and Skip Wilfong. Special recognition was given to Christopher Atkinson for his work on behalf of the Association. Recognition was extended to Tony Puckett and John Hoetker for their selections.

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*John Hoetker, whose recent service to the Association as 1st Vice President resulted in, among other benefits, four extremely well-organized reunions, was selected by the membership and approved by the US Army as Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment at the June reunion. His response follows:*

**It has been my experience with the Army that there are good days, that there are bad days, and occasionally there are even great days. Well, Saturday, 26 June 2010, when I received my appointment as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment, was one of those great days. A day that I will never forget.**



**I am truly honored and humbled by this appointment and the opportunity to serve the regiment for a second time. The regiment serves as the repository for its history and traditions. Constituted in 1918, the many soldiers who served in our regiment before us are our past. Our service in the battalions of the regiment means that we are those soldiers' future. The soldiers serving in today's regiment are our future and we their past. Scattered throughout this great country, we Hard Chargers are bound by a common history and united by a common legacy of service.**

**Of the more than 70 Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery battalions serving in Vietnam, the regiment's 1st Battalion was the second most decorated. As many of you are members of the Association, I really don't need to tell any of you of the proud history of our regiment. You are the ones who wrote that chapter of its history.**

**Again, to be selected as the Honorary Sergeant Major of a regiment with as glorious a history as the "HARD CHARGERS" is truly an honor.**

**HARD CHARGER,SIR!**

**John Hoetker**

**Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment**

## COMMA's COMMENTS

Hello to all Hardchargers and their loved ones! What a great time that Comma, and his family, had at Fort Sill during our Hardcharger's Reunion 2010. If you missed it, you missed a lot!

### The Quartermaster Store:

**Shirts:** Reunion 2010 saw two clothing items added to our inventory. We now have a red golf shirt, which several of us wore to our Reunion banquet, and a red tee shirt imprinted with the 30<sup>th</sup> Crest and our Association's logo. Both will be available, by clicking on the STORE on the Hardcharger's website, in a few weeks. Certain sizes must be reordered before I can fill orders for the most popular sizes. Please keep checking the STORE to see when the items are ready for order. If you would like to preorder, I will fill your order as I can. The Red Golf Shirts are the same price, \$40.00, as the White and the Black Golf Shirts, and the Red Tee's are \$15.00. Please note that the Tees run a little small, so if you are on the border in sizes, order the next larger size.

**Pins:** All attendees of the Reunion received a 2010 Reunion Pin. The Pin was white in color, imprinted with the Hardcharger Bear, and the words, "ON THE WAY" Reunion 2010. This year's pin was brought to all by three generations of Hardchargers. Joe Brown, Hardcharger from World War II, had a copy of the Bear that was used as a logo by the 30<sup>th</sup> in Alaska, Dan Gillotti, Hardcharger from Vietnam, had sent the bear out to us, and the Comma, Hardcharger from the Cold War, had the bear, with approval of the Board, turned into a reunion pin. Will there be a Reunion 2011 Pin? Plan to attend Reunion 2011 to find out!

We also added two pins that are not for everyone. We now have a 'LIFE MEMBER' Pin, for all lifetime members, and a "DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT" Pin was awarded to those persons who have been appointed as DMORs. Two DMORs, who could not attend the Reunion, will receive their DMOR Pins by US Mail before this is published. If you were not at the Reunion, and would like to receive your 'LIFE MEMBER' Pin by mail, please either E-mail me at [Quartermaster@Hardchargers.com](mailto:Quartermaster@Hardchargers.com), snail mail me at : COMMA, 449 Circle Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043. If you can wait for your pin until Reunion 2011, please do so. It will save the Association the cost of mailing every pin.

**Awards:** This year we went back to awarding the Saint Barbara's and the Molly Pitcher to deserving Hardchargers, family members and supporters of our Association. This year we honored three deserving members with the Saint Barbara and five deserving ladies with the Molly Pitcher. Congratulations to those who received these awards.

What criteria do we use to select the persons that are awarded? There are really two main criteria, service to our Association and the physical wellness of the individual. One does not have to attend the reunion to be awarded either award. The Association will now continue to award these awards to deserving individuals.

Every member, every family member, and every supporter of our Association is a deserving person. I am, at this time, trying to secure a database for the Board to select awardees from. I ask every member to please send me the following information to the addresses given above: 1. Names of all members, family members, and supporters that you deserves to receive the award. 2. The address of every person listed. 3. The birth dates of all persons listed. 4. The current Email address for each person listed. 5. Is anyone listed retired from any branch of the United States Armed Forces? What was their highest rank? 6. Is the Hardcharger Member a member of the United States Field Artillery Association? If you are retired military, I will have to ask, at some time, for your Social Security Account Number. When I contact you, I will explain why your SSAN is required, how it will be used, and, most important, how it will be, and is, protected.

**CLOSING:** I became a member of the 30<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Association's Board on Saturday June 9, 2001, at our reunion at Lake Tahoe, when the membership voted me in to finish the term of First Vice President. With the election of the new Board, at the Association's Annual Membership Meeting, on Saturday June 26,

2010, I stepped down as a member of our Board. I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as an elected Board member.

If anyone wants your Hardcharger's Store to carry an item, please let me know. I will try to fill your request.

Until next time: 'NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN, NO ONE LEFT BEHIND!'

HARDCHARGERS SIR!

Charles 'COMMA' Causey

See what you miss by not attending the reunions!



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## So This is why we were in 'Nam...

### John Dynes

On a midsummer visit to the Pacific Northwest, my wife and I ran into a most unusual coincidence. We had just had lunch with my niece and her two young boys in the small town of Keyport, WA, and planned to take the ferry across Puget Sound to Seattle. As there are ferry departures from several points on the west of the Sound, we asked her which she would recommend. She suggested using the one that departed from Bremerton, which while longer, was "more scenic." It was only a short drive to the port, and upon arrival we found that we had just missed the ferry's departure and would have about an hour to kill before the next one. As we wandered down the waterfront, we discovered the Bremerton Naval Memorial, the centerpiece of which is the Navy destroyer, the *USS Turner Joy*. The *Turner Joy* was one of the two destroyers, the other being the *USS Maddox*, that participated in the fateful night action in August, 1964, that led to the United States' increased involvement in the Vietnam conflict. When attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats, the gunners on the *Turner Joy* returned fire and claimed to have sunk or damaged at least four of the attackers. President Johnson mobilized public opinion as a result of the incident and with the support of



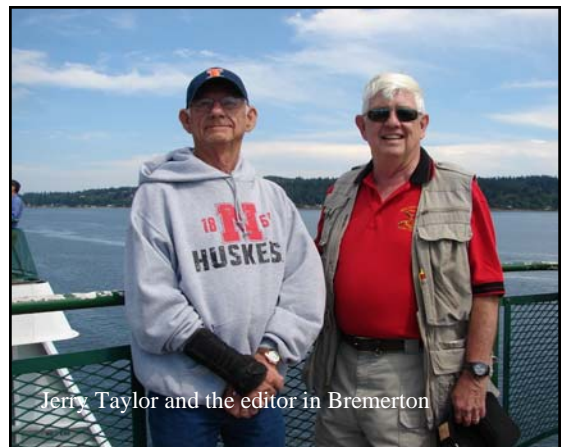
USS Turner Joy at the  
Bremerton Naval Memorial

Congress, dramatically increased the American combat presence in Vietnam.

As we walked into the museum/gift shop, one of the clerks pointed out to me a fellow about my age standing across the room and holding what appeared to be a folder of newspaper clippings. She said to me that he was “the guy who fired

the first shots of the Vietnam War.” While an exaggeration, as there had been many American advisors involved in combat prior to 1964, I was intrigued, and stepped over to speak to the man. It didn’t hurt that again by coincidence, I was wearing my 30th shirt...

I introduced myself as a Vietnam vet, and he replied that he was Jerry Taylor, the gunner on the *Turner Joy* on that night that the ships were attacked, and opened the file he was carrying to show me some of the clippings of the incident. I said, “ So you’re the guy who caused me to spend twenty-four months in Vietnam!” Taylor replied, “I sure am!”



Jerry Taylor and the editor in Bremerton

Many of the thousands of reports, articles, books and so on which have been written about the Gulf of Tonkin incident, as the confrontation has come to be known, have downplayed the torpedo boat participation, claiming instead that it was a school of fish, radar glitches or “shadows,” or vivid imaginations that initiated the firing. But Taylor was adamant that there were enemy boats out there. He said, “Don’t believe what you read — I was there, and I saw wreckage in the water.” This visit was for him the first time that he had been back to the *Turner Joy* since he left the Navy, and he was pretty emotional about seeing the ship for the first time in over three decades.

All in all, it was a pretty amazing day — to encounter a man who, with his shipmates, impacted our futures so directly, and all because it had been suggested to us that we take “a more scenic route.” The Lord moves in mysterious ways!

### Miniatures Available

Smaller versions of St. Barbara cast in bronze will be available if desired. The statue will stand approximately 16 inches high, include a small base, and can be displayed indoors or out. Contact the editor if interested. The eventual cost will be dependant on the number ordered, but should be no more than \$1800. The more requested, the lower the price, as creating the mold is the major expense.



The bronze statue of Saint Barbara, commissioned by the 30th Artillery Association and created by Mari Bolen, stands following the dedication ceremony in the main hall at Snow Hall, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The plaque on the statue's base dedicates the sculpture to the men and women of the Artillery Branch of the U. S. Army and to the memory of E.V. Ellison and Top Vernor.

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The auction, presided over as usual by Jim Harris and aided by Bob Waldron and Comma Causey, once again managed to move a great deal of merchandise in a limited amount of time for the benefit of the Association.

With the conclusion of the auction, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association was completed. We hope to see all the same faces, plus many new ones, in **Branson, MO**, next year!



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NEXT ISSUE

December 2010

Deadline for submissions — November 26, 2010

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