

12th Evac
SEPTEMBER 2006 REUNION IN HAWAII

The 12th Evacuers, families and friends who attended the 25th Infantry Division's reunion in Hawaii last fall enjoyed a number of exciting activities and special events under the tropical skies.

Some participants arrived in Hawaii as much as a week early to take advantage of pre-reunion tours and events. Choices included Oahu seaplane tours, island tours, glider and submarine rides skydiving, ranch adventures, dinner cruises, luaus, and a golf tournament.

The formal reunion, which started with Schofield Barracks Tropic Lightning Day on Friday, September 29, began with breakfast at the Neihani Club and a warm welcome by the commander, rear, Colonel Tim Ryan. Following the breakfast we attended the dedication of Phase II of the Schofield Memorial in front of Fernandez Hall, Division HQ. Speakers included President of the Association, MG Andy Anderson (Ret.), who had been a patient at the 12th Evac in October 1968, and Gen. Fred Weyand (Ret.), former commander of the 25th Infantry Division. For those of us who knew Fred Weyand back in 1966-67, he still looked and sounded terrific despite having just turned 91.

The dedication ceremonies culminated in the unveiling of sculptor Lynn Liverton's masterpiece *United By Sacrifice*, which features life-size statues of soldiers from each of the four combat periods in the 25th Division's history: WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the War On Terror. The four soldiers watch over the boots, rifle and helmet of a fallen comrade. Our own Annie Cunningham, who served as an operating room nurse at the 12th Evac in 1968 and later returned to Vietnam for a second tour, unveiled the Vietnam statue.

Dick Harder, arranged for the 12th Evac to purchase a brick paver which is on permanent display in the ceremonial courtyard located adjacent to the monument. The brick reads:

12th Evac Hospital
To Conserve Fighting
Strength 1966-70 RVN

12th Evac Reunion
MEMO

April 2007

To: Hawaii Alums 3524
From: R. Harder (210) 657-3526

1. We appreciate the recap written by Beth – and the pictures.
2. On 30 March, Jim Nelson returned our OR painting to San Antonio. We donated it to the AMEDD Museum at the Foundation's Board meeting. At the lunch for volunteers that followed, our ladies provided the desert.
3. Keep November 2008 open. We are working on hotel location and dates.
4. In current issue of 25 Division's journal, there are several references to the 12th Evac – including more thanks for our medical care. Also, Tim Manigan's remarks at our 2004 dinner is one of the lead articles – along with photo of our crest.
5. Again, we note need for money to pay for mailings and admin support. One of you sent an unspent travelers check which we appreciated.

R Harder

6/28
Laurie – to keep you
informed
BT
thx for
support

Your can support the memorial by purchasing a 4X8 inch paver with three lines of type for \$100. Bricks will be installed in the courtyard. You can also order mini-bricks for yourself. Forms are available at www.25thida.com/BrickForm.pdf

Other activities on Friday included a ceremony at Sills Field featuring soldiers dressed in the uniforms of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The Marine Corps Band performed in the absence of the deployed 25th Infantry Division Band.

After lunch with active-duty soldiers at the Consolidated Dining Facilities, we rotated between activities that included the Tropic Lighting Museum and Regimental History Rooms. There was even a mock-up of a Cu Chi tunnel, replete with models of snakes and spiders. The new battle simulation center gave us a chance to fire weapons in what appeared to be realistic, life-size video games. Visits with active duty soldiers allowed us to inspect the modern arms, equipment and vehicles being used in combat today.

Friday night's highlight was the 12th Evac luau at the hotel, arranged by Garth Holmes. MG (Ret) Andy Anderson spoke of the multiple injuries that landed him in the 12th Evac in October 1968. He offered his heartfelt thanks to the men and women of the 12th Evac, one of the goals of his administration.

Also, Bob Hysko, presented the unit guidon (flag) which he developed. He explained its purpose and the battle streamers attached.

The activities of Saturday, September 30, included memorable tours to Pearl Harbor and the USS Missouri. Both are unique and outstanding monuments filled with history. Did you know, for example, that Harry, Bess and Margaret Truman made a voyage on the USS Missouri and always ate with the enlisted men?

Saturday evening's event was the 25th Infantry Division's banquet. Dick Harder presented MG Anderson, outgoing president of the 25th Infantry Division Association, with a framed photograph of James Davis Nelson's oil painting, *12th Evac, Cu Chi, RVN, 1966-1970*. The General again told the story of his OR experience. Then explained why he invited us to the reunion. He invited us to stand so that we could be thanked by the group.

The reunion ended on Sunday, October 1, with an emotional ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the Honolulu Memorial. Known as "The Punchbowl," the cemetery is the final resting place of such luminaries as WWII correspondent Ernie Pyle and astronaut Ellison Onizuka.

Our sincere thanks go to "Butch" Sincock, the Association's Executive Director and reunion coordinator, who served as a company commander with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1968. We also thank Butch's able assistant, Glenda Ellis, for all her hard work in making sure everything went smoothly and that everyone had what they needed. They both did a terrific job.

Our own 12th Evac reunion is coming up in November 2008, and we know it will be a super event. Mark your calendars and join us!

Beth Parks
ANC, OR, 1966-67
(Written prior to trip to Africa!) March 16, 2007