

Newsletter for October & November 2011

Society News

First of all please accept my apologies for falling so far behind with Society Newsletters. As most of us I have been very busy with family and work. I will work to try to get back on track and get a newsletter out at least once every two months.

The Officers of the Society hope that everyone's summer was a good one. As always they seem to get shorter and shorter as we get older.

I will try to bring the members up to speed on Society business from the past summer. On Memorial Day weekend Society members made the usual stops to honor our war dead. Thanks to all who participated in these visits. Several of us had the honor of attending the Father Judge Memorial Day ceremony held in Ocean City NJ. The Father Judge alum have asked if the Cardinal Dougherty alumni would like to present a wreath for the ceremony in 2012. Speaking for the C/D alum we would be honored. I may have covered this before; if I have it is still worth repeating. In June we participated in the Annual Dragon Boat Regatta held down on the river. We joined up with our heroes from the 104th Cav. Between the 2 groups we had plenty of people to put in the water to compete. For a bunch of old guys we held our own. As in past years those of us who attended had a great time and are looking forward to next years event. I would love to see more members come out next year. Not sure if the 104th will be able to participate as they are slated to go back to the "sand-box" for another tour (#4) more on that later.

Speaking of the 104th Cav deploying right after the first of the New Year I have question and a request from the membership. The Family readiness Unit of the 104th Cav would like to hold a “send – off and Christmas party for the Troops and their families. Donna Berrios has been trying to find a place to hold the event. What she found out is to hold the 500 people coming she will need to hold the party at the Armory building. What she is looking for is a place to cook the turkeys and hams. She is looking into having a caterer do that part of the event. Where we are really short is on “cash” This event will cost more than the Family readiness group has on hand. If anyone has any ideas on how to raise the needed funds please let Eric or Donna Berrios know. They can use the help big time.

In August the Society held our annual “Tuition Aid” ceremony. We awarded 15 grants to the college student children of our members. We sincerely hope this grant helps our students attain a good education. The ceremony was held at the Hooch due to the horrible weather we were having in August. Special thanks to the committee who worked very hard to put this together. As always they make it look easy.

As we have always done we have made many donations to various Veteran causes and some folks that may need a little help in life. Please visit our website www.pvms646.org and hit the “Thank you note” tab to view the thank you note we receive. The weekend of Sept 23, 24, and the 25th the Society members participated in the “Irish Festival” held in Wildwood New Jersey. As we have in the past the Society had a “booth”. We sold t-shirts to the visitors at the event. The sale of these t-shirts is a fund-raiser we use to support our “Packing for the Troops”. Special thanks to Jack Crussard and the members who showed up to help raise funds. It was worth the trip (to Wildwood) to watch Tom Roberts, Len Law, Kathy Coughlin and our pal “Vern” sell t-shirts. Lets just say the Wildwood P/D made a stop over to speak with our “sales

team. Once again I feel the need to point the extreme bravery of some of our members. Again this year due to the vigilance of Bomber Kane , Jerry Murphy and Jerry Founds guarding the beaches and Bars in Wildwood we have attained another year of no North Vietnamese “frogmen’ making it up the river after landing in Wildwoods. Great job to all. Keep up the good work.

Speaking of “packing for the Troops” I have approached the BOG for permission to start planning for a packing. I am looking to do this maybe early November. I don’t want to go to far into the month because we will run into the Thanksgiving packing time of the year. I just like to pack when the Troops supplies are low. If you’re interested in helping feel free to jump in. Let me know at the meeting or via email @ williamcrean@comcast.net If you have anyone in harms way can you let me know his or her address etc. Please make sure they will still be “deployed” at the time we ship the boxes.

If anyone is interested Ally Bank in Ft Washington will be packing for the Troops in November I believe the tentative date is the 17th. If you are interested in helping pack let me know. We had a group from the Society come out for the last packing. It was a good time for both groups to do something nice.

At the November meeting we will have book signing by Mr. John Siegfried. John has written a book with the title of **“SIX DEGREES OF THE BRACLET: VIETNAMS CONTINUING GRIP.”** Mr. Siegfried has worked long and hard on this book and does his best to describe the Vietnam War and it’s effects on the Warrior and their families. He will be selling his book at the Hooch “book signing” If you cannot attend the meeting and would like a copy please me know. I’m sure John would be glad to get one out to you. I would be happy to help him with the mailing. John is also a member of the Society and a Veteran supporter.

Please NOTE; If you want to put in a request for a family in for the annual Christmas Basket packing there is a form that **MUST** be **filled out beforehand**. We cannot promise a basket without this form. You need to pick the form up at the OCT or NOV meeting and get into the committee before the Basket packing. We are trying to get better control of the packing and avoid any confusion and missing baskets this year. Please contact any member of the Basket Committee or Len Law for more info.

The calendars for 2012 are in John will separate them and get them ready to deliver to the membership.

We have t-shirts left over from the Irish Festival Jack will have them at the meeting for sale. Or if you would like we will mail you one. Let me know at williamcrean@comcast.net or call me at 856-461-6637. Looks like \$20 will cover it all.

Our friends at the 82nd Airborne also have shirts for sale. They have a variety left over from Irish weekend. I promised John Everly I would help him sell the shirts. Use the same info from above or stop by the next meeting and see John or Tom Kelly for info.

REMEMBER "BUY AMERICAN" IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.