BUSMVA

OBSERVER

Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association
A Non-Profit Veterans Association
www.berlinveterans.com

Issue 79

JUNE, 2018

The Outpost of Freedom Reunion

Berlin U. S. Military Veterans Association Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift

2018 REUNION REGISTRATION FORMS DUE JULY 5

REUNION MEMORY BOOK

The 2018 Reunion will include a remembrance of several historic events including the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and the signing of the Potsdam Agreement. Additionally, for some of us it may be the last time we participate in a BUSMVA reunion in Berlin. Thus, we have decided to produce a Special Memory Book for the Berlin Reunion. Pictures will be taken with members at various locations (McNair, Andrews, Brandenburg Gate, Airlift Memorial Monument, etc.) around Berlin.

We will also make arrangements to take pictures as usual for the member pictorial directory section of the memory book, so you may want to take a suit, or your military dress uniform (both are optional).

2017-2018 BUSMVA Officers

Vern Gibson
1866 Frederiksen ST
Fremont, NE 68025
402-721-4066
vern@duganinc.com

Vice-President
Lee Hicks
453 Dune DR STE 310
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
251-200-0112
leehicks1069@aol.com

Treasurer
Richard Dietrich
19 Emerson DR
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
856-829-7923
rldietrich@msn.com

Secretary/Editor

To be filled by Election in Berlin

Director-Sales
Joe Morrison
107 Remington Circle
Houston, MO 65483
Home: 417-967-0027
Email: *josephmorrison@centurytel.net*

Director-Membership
Jerry Bryson
269 Club Trail
Chatsworth, GA 30705
Phone: 706-695-9233
Email: *jerry@jerrybryson.com*

Director-Reunion Coordinator
Berry Williams
1117 Manchester DR
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-781-4649
berrywms@mindspring.com

Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of BUSMVA or its Officers and Directors

Reunion Director's Message — Berry Williams

We are looking forward to a great reunion in Berlin. About 200 are expected at the Welcome Dinner on Monday evening.

Lutz Ammann and I continue to work on the Memorial Service and Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift at Tempelhof.

District Mayor Angelika Schöttler of the Borough of Tempelhof-Schöneberg has been a key partner supporting the Airlift Memorial Service and will deliver the Welcome speech at the ceremony.

After more than 30-years of absence from Berlin, former members of the 298th US Army Band will return to open the Airlift Ceremony with a concert. They will perform under the direction of Dave Ratliff, Chief Warrant Officer Five, US Army Retired. The 298th lifted the spirits of the Brigade and Berliners and was the longest, continuous serving Allied unit in Berlin.

During the ceremony at Tempelhof we plan to recognize BUSMVA and Berlin Airlift Veterans Association members who served in Berlin during the period June 26, 1948 to October 6, 1949. Also to be recognized are our Berlin wives and their husbands. Additionally, we have invited some of those who were children during the airlift and caught candy dropped by Lt. Gail Halvorsen and others from US aircraft delivering supplies to Berlin.

As you requested in the 2017 survey, we will tour Potsdam and take a boat tour on the Wannsee. The Potsdam Tour will include a visit to the Castle Cecilienhof, location of the 1945 Potsdam Conference; and the Dutch Quarter where you can visit the small shops, cafés and bars built in the 1730s.

The Seven Lake Boat Tour on the Wannsee will generally follow the route of the “MP Surveillance Tour”. The tour will take us past the Truman House; under the Glienicke Bridge, now commonly referred to as the “Bridge of Spies”; and past other attractions.

Saturday we will travel by bus to the Steglitz-Zehlendorf City Hall for a reception being given by District Mayor Karen Richter-Kotowski to honor the service of BUSMVA Members. The BUSMVA Business meeting and Farewell Dinner will also be held on Saturday.

When telling the “Story of Freedom”, Berlin holds a special place in history. The blockade crisis, one of the first tests of the new Cold War era, is a reminder of the foundations upon which the cooperation of Germany and America have been built and nurtured over many years. The 2018 BUSMVA reunion will celebrate those victories and your service that made them possible.

Copyright © 2018 by BUSMVA
All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter may be used without the written permission of the publisher.

Membership Director's Report
By Jerry Bryson – Membership Director

Thanks to all who renewed their membership for 2018 and to those coming on board for the first time. Our web page www.berlinveterans.com continues to be one of our best sources for new members.

Two things on our horizon in the coming months. The first one being the August 2018 Berlin Reunion. It has been thought out and well-planned. Those who will be attending for the first time should enjoy the hotel and the surrounding Steglitz area. Take advantage of the free time planned into the schedule. Get out, eat a currywurst, ride the U-Bahn, S-Bahn and buses. Go, see, do and make the most of your return to the city you once called home.

This is also election time for three directors. Those running for the various positons, their bios and photos, are in this edition of The Observer. At the membership meeting on Saturday the results of the election will be announced. In order to have an election there will be ballots, and soon after you receive this newsletter those ballots will be in the mail. According to Article VII, Sec. 2, of our bylaws only regular members with currently paid dues may vote, and therefore receive a ballot. Please mark your choices and return it in the envelope provided, ASAP!

Unfortunately, I will not be at the registration table or with you during this reunion. I will miss the fun and excitement that always goes along with our quadrennial Berlin get together. This time it came down to making a choice between two events…and both of them in Berlin. I had applied for, and was chosen to attend the 2018 Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung Welcome Home Tour in September.

Have fun, take lots of photos and make good memories.

RICHARD L. DIETRICH FOR TREASURER

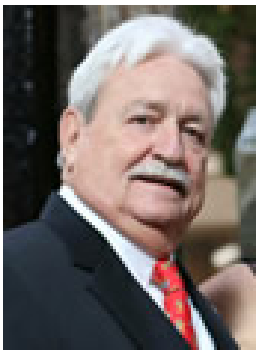
I was appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as BUSMVA's interim treasurer in May of 2017. A vacancy in the treasurer's position occurred with the early resignation of the former treasurer. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve BUSMVA members as interim treasurer and would appreciate your vote for a full term as treasurer.

Now serving in my fifth, three year term, as Commissioner of our local Fire District; I have been the treasurer of the Fire district for the last eight years.

My Fire District service also includes two years as Deputy Chairperson and two years as Chairperson. During this period the Fire District achieved a Class 2 fire insurance rating from the Insurance Service Office, making it one of the best Fire Districts in the country. Being in the top 2.75% of all fire departments means our homeowners and commercial properties pay significantly lower fire insurance rates.

If elected to a full term as treasurer I will work to bring the same experience to help BUSMVA develop and maintain cost effective programs; ensure direct and indirect cost are monitored; prepare financial reports that are accurate, easy to understand, and timely; and prepare budgets that contain realistic projections of revenue and expenses.

LEE HICKS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT



It has been my pleasure to serve you as Vice President for the last two years. The board appointed me when Vern Gibson was elected President in Colorado Springs.

I will not bore you with assignments and medals earned but will tell you that I'll work hard and long to keep our great organization strong and growing.

I would appreciate your vote for the position of Vice President.

ROSE M. MILLER FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

I am interested in serving our association to help lead us to a sustainable future in meeting our objectives to preserve our Berlin memories and to connect comrades.

I served in Berlin in the 287th MP Co from 1981-1983. I previously served as the BUSMVA Reunion Coordinator and have volunteered for various tasks during reunions. I have been an active member since 2001 and have attended over 10 reunions since 2002.

I believe our future is to attract members from all decades through 1994 and to offer opportunities for more members to serve on committees and to contribute their time and talent to the association. I will do my best in the role of Vice President to assist the President and other members of the board.

ALLEN LAWLESS FOR SECRETARY

I am interested in running for the position of Secretary/Editor. My qualifications:

> Active member of BUSMVA (#1171) since 1999.

> Current Webmaster of the Association of Military Musicians (AMM), a fraternal organization for current and former military musicians, since 1990. Web URL: http://milmusicians.com

> Served in Berlin with the 298th Army Band from January 1983 - September 1991.

> Former AMM Newsletter Editor *Sound Off!* from 2000-2001 and again from 2009-2013.

> Author of the book *298th Army Band - A History*. Self-published through CreateSpace.

As perhaps one of the younger BUSMVA members at age 61, I am in a unique position to offer the perspective of an U.S. Army soldier/musician who served in Berlin while the Wall was present, during its demise, and during Reunification.

I retired from the Army in 1995 and continue to work in regulated industry as a Quality Assurance Manager. I expect to retire in March 2019 and look forward to becoming much more active in BUSMVA and in other groups in which I am a member (VFW - Lifetime; AMM - Lifetime).

REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT TO JERRY BRYSON

OUTPOST OF FREEDOM REUNION		
SUNDAY - AUGUST 5, 2018	**BOARD MEETING AND EARLY REGISTRATION**	
	13:30 - 17:00	**Reunion Registration**
MONDAY - AUGUST 6, 2018	**REGISTRATION AND WELCOME DINNER**	
	9:00 - 16:30	**Reunion Registration**
	16:30	Reunion Orientation - What is happening this week?
	18:00 - 21:00	Cocktail Hour and Welcome Dinner
TUESDAY - AUGUST 7, 2018	**BERLIN AIRLIFT 70th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE**	
	9:15	Depart by Bus for Tempelhof
	10:00	**298th Army Band - Opening Concert**
	10:30	**Airlift Memorial Service - 70th Anniversary**
	12:15 - 15:00	**Lunch - Former Army Chapel**
	14:15 - 16:00	**Visit Allied Museum**
	1600 - 1800	**Bus Tour Former Military Facilities**
	1800	Return to Steglitz Hotel
		Dinner on your own
	1900 - 2200	Dancing Bear Club Open
WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 8, 2018	**DAY ON YOUR OWN**	
	9:00 - 22:00	Dancing Bear Club Open
THURSDAY - AUGUST 9, 2018	**POTSDAM TOUR**	
	8:45	Depart Hotel by bus for Potsdam
		Visit Cecilienhof Castle and other points of interest.
		Lunch - on-Your Own - Dutch Quarter
		Seven Lakes Boar Tour
	18:00	Return to Hotel Steglitz
		Dinner on your own
	1900 - 2200	Dancing Bear Club Open
FRIDAY - AUGUST 10, 2018	**DAY ON YOUR OWN**	
	9:00 - 22:00	Dancing Bear Club Open

OUTPOST OF FREEDOM REUNION – CONTINUED

SATURDAY - AUGUST 11, 2018	STEGLITZ-ZEHLENDORF DISTRICT MAYOR'S RECEPTION, BUSINESS MEETING AND FAREWELL DINNER	
	10:00 - 12:00	**District Mayor Karin Richter-Kotowski's Reception to Honor BUSMVA Members and Guest**
	14:00 - 15:00	**BUSMVA Business Meeting**
	15:00 - 17:00	Photos for Memory Book
	18:00	Cocktails
	19:00	**Farewell Dinner**

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEDICARE DOESN'T COVER YOUR MEDICAL EXPENSES WHILE IN EUROPE

On recent trips to Europe some of our members have discovered the importance of travel insurance. Just as you cover your investment in your home or car through the purchase of insurance, travel insurance provides protection for the investment you make in travel plans. Travel insurance can protect your financial investment (up to the amount of your policy limits) should your trip be cancelled or interrupted for a covered reason, as well as provide additional benefits like baggage protection and emergency medical and dental coverage.

Travel insurance can provide benefits for a number of situations that may occur before or during your trip, including:

- Trip Cancellation Protection
- Trip Interruption Protection
- Personal injury and damage to property
- Patient Repatriation Transportation
- Emergency Medical Transportation
- Emergency Medical / Dental Coverage
- Lost / Stolen / Delayed Baggage Coverage
- Travel Delay Coverage
- Missed Connection Coverage
- Rental Car Damage Protection

Our After-Reunion Travel Agent Klaus Menges with Lagraff Reisen offers travel insurance through Allianz. The cost for persons Age 66 + are: € 47 for a 10 day trip; and € 126 for a 30 day trip. For more information on the coverage and price contact Klaus at klaus.menges@lagraff.de. Your price will vary based on how long you will be traveling.

Other insurance companies can also be contacted about their coverage and prices.

BUSMVA Berlin Reunion August 5 – 11, 2018
Steglitz International Hotel, Berlin, Germany

Please Print Clearly

REGISTRATION FORM

Show Activity Registration with numbers of attendees. Indicate total Cost $ for each activity.

Names of ALL attendees

Registration Deadline: July 5, 2018

_____

_____

_____

_____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is this your first BUSMVA Reunion?

Yes _____ No _____

Need wheelchair accessible transportation? _____ Yes _____ No

Special Diet Requirements?

Yes _____ No _____

Describe: _____

Make Checks Payable to BUSMVA

Mail to: Richard Dietrich
19 Emerson Drive
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

I authorize Steglitz International to give BUSMVA my hotel reservation information.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

NO Refund
After July 5, 2018

Activity	Cost per Person	Number Attending	Total Cost
Monday			
BUSMVA & BAVA Member and Family Member Registration, Welcome Dinner & Former 298th U. S. Army Band Concert	**$85.00**		**$**
Non-Member Registration – *guest*	**$100.00**		**$**
Welcome Dinner Entre Selection			
Number - Salmon		_____	
Number - Baked Chicken		_____	
Tuesday Tour			
Berlin Airlift Memorial Service, Allied Museum, Lunch and Tour of Former Military Installations	**$55.00**		**$**
Wednesday - Open			
Thursday			
Tour Potsdam, visit to Cecilienhof Castle, Dutch Quarter, Truman House, Seven Lakes Boat Tour	**$50.00**		**$**
Friday - Open			
Saturday – Farewell Dinner			
Farewell Dinner	**$50.00**		**$**
Number - Filet of Pike perch		_____	
Number - Escalope of Veal		_____	
		Total	**$**

BUSMVA 2018 REUNION

BERLIN, GERMANY AUGUST 5 – 11, 2018

Celebrating 70th Anniversary - Berlin Airlift

Hotel: Steglitz International (BUSMVA'S BASE HOTEL FOR 20-YEARS)

Prices: € 72 per single room per night
€ 84 per double or twin room per night

The rates include service, using of the Wireless Lan-connection throughout the entire hotel, VAT of 7% and City-Tax of 5%.
Please note, if VAT changes before the reunion, the prices will change accordingly.

The hotel offers these rates for pre-nights and extensions of the stay also as long as there is room availability.

Air-Condition: Rooms with air-condition can be booked for an additional € 5 per day per room.

Breakfast: A breakfast buffet is offered in the restaurant for a price of € 12 per person per day incl. service and VAT of 19%. *Guests can decide daily to take breakfast or not.*

Reservations: When making your reservation use the code **"BUSMVA"** so the room is in our allotment and you receive the lower hotel rates.

RESERVATIONS BY PHONE CALL: 011 49 30 79005 521; or

TO RESERVE A ROOM ONLINE:

- Use the hotel website: http://www.si-hotel.com/?lang=en
- At the top of the page, click Room Allotment.
- Under allotment code enter: **BUSMVA** and click "Login"
- Select the number of rooms and Room Type you want to reserve.
- Select your arrival and departure dates. (To arrive earlier or stay later, put your requested dates in the comments section)
- If you want an air conditioned room, make that selection.
- If you know, select the number of days you want the breakfast buffet – OR DECIDE EACH DAY DURING YOUR STAY.

ROOM ENHANCEMENTS – Check these as needed.
Gifts for your room?
Other request?

- ENTER PAYMENT INFORMATION
- CHECK BOXES FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- ACCEPT THAT DATA ARE STORED ELECTRONICALLY

Cancellations: A cancellation free of charge within this contract is possible **until 6 pm 3 days prior to arrival**. Afterwards the hotel will charge a fee of 80% of the booked total as cancellation fee paid by the guest directly.

New BUSMVA Members

Last Name	First Name	City	State	Berlin Dates	Berlin Units
Auwarter	Douglas D.	Kansas City	MO	12/15/70-1/28/1972	298th Army Band
Barnwell	Robert J.	Franklin	TN	9/68-12/1969	HHC, 3rd BN, 6th Infantry
Grace	James R.	San Antonio	TX	2/1976-2/1979	298th Army Band
Harvey	Lynda J.	Pataskala	OH	Dec 1980 - Jan 1983	287th MP Co (Sep)
Heron	Carol M.	Clarksville	TN	12/1981-2/1986	298th Army Band
Heron	Scott F.	Clarksville	TN	2/1981-2/1986	2nd Bn, 6th Infantry
Hillen	Karla J.	Richmond Hill	GA	1986-1989	298th Army Band
Hillen	Jamie L.	Richmond Hill	GA	1986-1989	298th Army Band
Ratliff	David A.	Columbia	SC	1974-76-1980-84	298th Army Band
Sackreiter	Gregory S.	Apple Valley	MN	8/1977-5/1980	298th Army Band
Sennett	William B.	Mantua	NJ	1/1964-6/1965	Co C, 3d BN, 6th Inf
St. Clair	Victor R.	Broken Arrow	OK	1962-66, 67-70, 71-76	C/2/6th Inf - 298th Army Band
Swihart	Timothy A.	Ft Wayne	IN	4/1973-10/1974	Co C, 2nd Bn, 6th Infantry

GETTING READY FOR THE BERLIN 2018 REUNION

1. Get a U. S. Passport if you don't have one.
2. If you have a passport, check the expiration date. Be sure that your passport has at least six months remaining at the end of your trip.
3. Make photo copies of the information pages of your passport and store them in your bag. Also, it is a good idea to register with the American Consulate in the countries you will be visiting. You can do that online at the US State Department website.
4. **Your Reunion Registration form should arrive at Richard Dietrich's mail box before July 5.**
5. Book your airline flight early to secure a lower price.
6. If you will participate in the After Reunion Tour make sure you book your return flight for a date after the completion of the tour.
7. Confirm your hotel reservation with a credit card.
8. **Obtain medical insurance coverage. Medicare doesn't cover medical expenses outside of the U. S.**
9. Contact your Cell Phone carrier for coverage overseas.
10. US Dollars are generally not accepted by retail establishments in Europe. The currency used there is the Euro or other country-specific currency. DO NOT bring traveler's checks. Most places will not accept them for conversion. If they do, the exchange rate will be high.

GETTING READY FOR THE BERLIN 2018 REUNION

11. ATM's are the cheapest source of obtaining local currency. ATMs are more easily found in Germany than in the States. Most of them will bring up an English menu when you insert your card. Bring at least one debit card tied to a checking account. It is a good idea to open up a second account with a backup debit card in case of card failure. The card should have a VISA or MasterCard logo. (PIN should be 4 digits.)
12. Determine how many EUROs you think you will need in Europe. Purchase at least some EUROs to have when you arrive in Europe. Additional EUROs can be purchased in Europe; however, you may want to check the cost of buying EUROs in the U. S. vs. Europe. Ask about foreign transaction fees, “inter-bank” rates, etc.
13. If you plan to use a credit card in Europe, check with your credit card company to see if they charge a fee for buying EUROs or for purchases. Notify credit/debit card companies which countries you will be in so your cards will not be blocked. Just call the customer service number on the back of the card and tell them the dates of your travel.
14. Purchase European adapters for cell phone, chargers, computers, etc.
15. Pack a camera and extra batteries for your charger and extra SD card.
16. Consider taking a neck pillow, ear plugs and eye shades to use on the plane. They may help with sleeping on the flights to and from Europe.
17. Most European hotels do not provide wash cloths - bring one and a zip lock bag to store it in if desired.
18. Bring a bar of soap - most hotels provide a liquid soap/shampoo dispenser in the shower.
19. Many doctors will prescribe antibiotics, anti-diarrhea pills and a sleep aid before your trip. It is a good idea to have these filled before leaving the States as you are away from your usual medical support.
20. In Germany, most of the bottled water is mineral water. Save the bottle and refill from the tap. Yes, in Western Europe, at least, the water in cities is just as safe as it is in the US.

ATTIRE – What to pack.

Comfortable walking shoes;

Casual summer clothing;

BUSMVA shirts, hats and jacket;

Business or Dressy Casual for Farewell Dinner;

Light jacket and umbrella

[Note: Average temperatures in August – high of 73 and low of 55F.]

MERCHANDISE CLOTHING ORDER FORM

As usual there will be no clothing sales in Berlin. YOU ARE URGED TO ORDER SHIRTS AND CAPS EARLY FROM OUR VENDOR.

ORDER FORM for BUSMVA Clothing

			SIZE	QTY	TOTAL COST
Tee Shirt	**S-XL**	**$13.00**			
Ash Color (No Pocket) Embroidered	**XXL**	**$14.00**			
Check Point Charlie Logo on Front	**XXXL**	**$17.50**			
Tee Shirt	**S-XL**	**$13.00**			
Blue (with pocket) Embroidered	**XXL**	**$14.00**			
Berlin Bear/BUSMVA	**XXXL**	**$17.50**			
Sweat Shirt	**S-XL**	**$27.00**			
Ash color 9 oz Heavyweight	**XXL**	**$29.00**			
W/Checkpoint Charlie Logo	**XXXL**	**$31.00**			
Sweat Shirt	**S-XL**	**$27.00**			
Same w/Berlin Patch Logo	**XXL**	**$29.00**			
	XXXL	**$31.00**			
Official Jacket	**S-XL**	**$68.00**			
Royal Blue w/light lining	**XXL**	**$72.00**			
Large Berlin Logo on Back **and**	**XXXL**	**$77.00**			
Checkpoint Charlie Logo on Front					
Golf Shirt	**S-XL**	**$23.00**			
Royal Blue with pocket	**XXL**	**$24.50**			
w/Checkpoint Charlie Logo on Front	**XXXL**	**$26.50**			
Golf Shirt	**S-XL**	**$23.00**			
Ash with pocket	**XXL**	**$24.50**			
w/Berlin Bear and BUSMVA on front	**XXXL**	**$26.50**			
Golf Shirt	**S-XL**	**$23.00**			
Blue with pocket	**XXL**	**$24.50**			
w/Berlin Patch on front	**XXXL**	**$26.50**			
Golf Shirt	**S-XL**	**$23.00**			
Red with pocket	**XXL**	**$24.50**			
w/Berlin Patch on front	**XXXL**	**$26.50**			

Embroidered name on shirts and jackets add, each $6.00 NAME: _____

Golf Cap w/Berlin Logo *BLUE*	**$15.00**
Golf Cap w/Berlin Logo *RED*	**$15.00**
(Specify mesh or solid back)	
Golf Cap w/Berlin Bear Logo *BLUE*	**$15.00**
Golf Cap w/Berlin Bear Logo *RED*	**$15.00**
(Specify mesh or solid back)	

PLUS Shipping & Handling, see side bar

Total Enclosed $ _____

SHIP TO:

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY _____**STATE**____

ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS_____

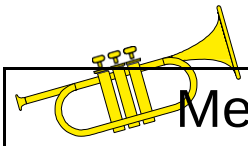
MAKE CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO AND SEND ORDER TO:
Mr. C's Caps
9042 Roubidoux Road
Bucyrus, MO 65444
Telephone: 877-205-4851 (toll free)
Email: mrccaps@centurytel.net

NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE

Shipping and Handling
$10.01 to $20.00 ---------$6.00
$20.01 to $30.00----------$8.00
$30.01 to $40.00---------$10.00
$40.01 to $50.00---------$12.00
$50.01 and up----------$14.00

The BUSMVA Observer
Berlin US Military Veterans Association
269 Club TR
Chatsworth, GA 30705
Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ZIP CODE 59758
PERMIT NO 101



Members For Whom Taps Has Sounded

Last Name	First Name	City of Residence	Dates of Berlin Service	Berlin Units of Assignment	Taps Date
Henderson	Richard A.	Marlette, MI	1964	42nd Engr. Co.	JAN 7, 2018