



BUSMVA

# OBSERVER



Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association

A Non-Profit Veterans Association

<https://berlinveterans.com>

Issue 83

June 2019

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## 2019 Election Results

The offices of President, Membership Director, Reunion Director, and Sales Director reached their three-year term at the conclusion of the 2019 Reunion in Columbus, GA.

The three Directorships had candidates who ran unopposed and all three, not surprisingly, were voted into office.

The office of President, however, had two candidates. Incumbent Vern Gibson sought another term and long-time Membership Director Jerry Bryson ran against him. Jerry had announced his retirement as Membership Director after 12 years of service to BUSMVA and expressed his wish to keep serving as President.

Long-time founding member Joe Morrison retired as your Sales Director.

To support the election process, 634 absentee ballots were prepared, itemized by control number, and

mailed to eligible members. Members living in Germany were sent their absentee ballot through email.

The response rate to the mailed absentee ballot was 51.7%. Those voting at the reunion brought the final response rate to 55.5%.

Jerry Bryson defeated incumbent Vern Gibson (217 to 131). Your new Membership Director is Douglas Brockway, who secured 335 votes. Your new Sales Director is Chris Tureaud, who garnered 24 votes as a write-in candidate. Berry Williams remains your Reunion Director with 333 votes.

The offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were not in this election cycle. There are two years remaining for the Vice President and Secretary and one year remaining for Treasurer.

Each officer serves a three-year term.

###



## 2019 Reunion Report—Columbus, GA and Ft. Benning

By Berry Williams

One more time we successfully crossed the Chattahoochee River and arrived at the "Benning School for Boys" otherwise known as the Army Infantry School. Greeted by tanks near the entrance we soon discovered Benning has undergone many changes. With the integration of the Armor School from Fort Knox, Benning is now known as the Maneuver Center of Excellence.



To ensure the Army's Maneuver Force remains the world's premier combat force, today's training program uses virtual training platforms to prepare soldiers before going to the field. On Tuesday we visited one of the Simulations Centers and used Virtual simulation (training devices) to get the experience of firing the main gun of a tank and with maneuvering troops on the battlefield to close with and destroy the enemy.

We also visited the Armor Restoration Facility to see how the Armor Museum examines tanks from other nations to determine their capabilities and weaknesses. This allows the Maneuver Center to develop and teach techniques and strategies for our soldiers to use on the battlefield.

We soon learned that today's Post Dining Facility is not the "Mess Hall" of yesterday. The Dining Facility offered more options for service members to eat including more entrees, salads and vegetables, and desserts – even an ice cream machine! But, we were still

left wondering if today's MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) are better than the C-rations and MREs of the 50s, 60's and 70's. Guess that is a test we will save for our next trip to Benning.

We held our Memorial Service at the Vietnam War Memorial on the grounds of the National Infantry Museum. The service included the reading of the names of BUSMVA members who passed away since the last reunion. Taps and a flag ceremony were performed by service members from Fort Benning.

At the statue of "Iron Mike" the National Infantry Museum presented a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to 67 BUSMVA members who served during the period November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975.

Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during this period regardless of location, are eligible to receive and wear the pin. It serves as a lasting memento of the nation's thanks.

Congress Adopted the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 and authorized the pin to ensure the sacrifices of the 9 million heroes who served during this difficult chapter of our country's history are remembered for generations to come.



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin (Front)

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## 2019 BUSMVA Board

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

## President's Corner

**Jerry Bryson**

Trying to write something for the *Observer* has always been a joy and a challenge. For the past 40 issues it has been about membership issues, and as Membership Director. Well folks, it's still about membership even though my musings are now as president.

The question I ask now is why you are a member of BUSMVA. What made you want to join in the first place, and what keeps you coming back year after year? I ask because our membership has three potential components. First are those who have never been a member, and may not be aware of BUSMVA, and second are those who may have only been a member one year, or possibly 5 or more years. Recruiting and retaining the active members of our group is necessary in keeping BUSMVA alive.

We've had over 2,800 pass through the association since it began in 1996. We lost some when the original group split in two and naturally the effects of an aging membership is a

factor. Our potential for new members gets limited each year. The available pool dries up after 1994. Unlike other veterans' organizations there are no new prospects, so we must continue to mine what is already out there.

Then there are the nearly 700 of you, the active group. We especially need everyone to continue answering that yearly membership renewal campaign...for one more year. What is it we, the officers and directors, need to focus on to make you want to maintain your camaraderie with others of BUSMVA?

I don't want to get in the way of your new Membership Director, Doug Brockway. I welcome him and his forthcoming efforts to this team. I also want to make this as smooth a transition as possible as he assumes his new role in BUSMVA.

These, and other topics, are my focus and will be my goals, as we continue forth.

## Membership Notes

**Douglas Brockway**

2020 Membership renewals kicked off at the end of our business meeting in Columbus. As usual we had a good response, with over half of those in attendance renewing their BUSMVA Membership for the coming year. Our regular annual membership campaign begins prior to our next newsletter.

That's when we mail a reminder of dues for the coming year. During the transition of membership directors, you may continue to send your dues to: Membership, 269 Club Trail, Chatsworth, GA 30705. Annual dues remain at \$25 - Make your checks payable to BUSMVA.

## Secretary's Desk

**Allen Lawless**

Since the March issue of *The Observer* went to press, my primary function was to proctor the recent election. The results are reported elsewhere, but I do want to state that the practice of mailing out absentee ballots to all eligible members of BUSMVA can be improved.

There should be two opportunities for members to vote in 2020. The first occasion will be the Bylaws, which are currently being reviewed by the Board. More on that from our Vice President. Secondly, we should have an election for Treasurer. Richard Dietrich's 3-year term expires next year.

I am planning to conduct this process whereby absentee/paper ballots will be mailed out only to those who **do not** have an email address on file with the BUSMVA Membership Director or who specifically request one. The primary

method of ballot submission and voting will be through email.

The reasons for this should be clear—sending an email (even an email blast) to hundreds of members costs BUSMVA nothing. Sending 634 ballots at 55 cents a copy, plus materials and cost of printing, set BUSMVA back \$350 in postage alone in the last election. We have tools at our disposal that we should use.

Of course, members without an email address on file will receive the appropriate documentation via U.S. mail.

In our continuing campaign to reduce costs and save time, please consider receiving your issue of *The Observer* via email. You'll receive it much faster, it will be in color, and you have the flexibility of printing all or part of the newsletter at your leisure. Please give this some

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As I have matured in years, I am mindful of a desire to preserve my legacy. That is one of the reasons I joined BUSMVA in 2001 and have been an active member ever since. Our Association has led several actions over our history to recognize, memorialize, and preserve our history and our legacy. Our BUSMVA plaque prominently displayed on the grounds of the Allied Museum in Berlin is a tribute to all those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and our supporting civilians. At our last reunion the Board voted to place a Berlin Brigade unit plaque along the Path of Remembrance at the National Museum of the U.S. Army (to be opened in 2020 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia), memorializing our legacy for generations of visitors born long after the Brigade was deactivated. In addition, we have been a consistent and generous donor to the Allied Museum, raising over \$1100 with our silent auction at our last reunion to support the Museum. We should be proud!

Donating memorabilia, buying bricks for walkways, and registering our personal military stories are just some of the ways we can preserve our individual legacies. I purchased a brick with my name and dates of service for the Military Police Memorial Grove at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. I also registered my biography with the Women In Military Service for America memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Locally, my name is on the wall of the Veterans Monument in Cornelius, North Carolina, where I currently reside. Finally, my biography is included in the recently published Military Police Regimental History Book.



What can you do to preserve your legacy and share your military history and the history of your service in Berlin for your family, comrades, and future generations?

U.S. Air Force Veterans

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. They accept donated items. Do you have unique uniform patches, equipment, or other items unique to your service in Berlin? You can also buy a legacy data plate for a custom message on the recognition wall near the entrance. The plates are searchable on the website. You can add a biography and embed a video to be displayed with your legacy data plate on the website. Check the website at [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil) to find out more.

U.S. Army Veterans

The National Museum of the U.S. Army is currently under construction and there are several options to include your personal history. You can purchase a brick to be placed on the Path of Remembrance. In addition, the museum is building three registries. You can register yourself, as a veteran, in the Registry of the American Soldier, your spouse and your children in the Registry of the Army Community, and your military working dog in the Registry of Animals in the Service to the Army. The Army Commu-

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**Secretary's Desk (continued)**

*(Continued from page 2)*

thought it and let the Membership Director know if you opt for e-copies.

BUSMVA's web site at <https://berlinveterans.com> is fully functional. Yes, the site is protected via SSL encryption. Photos of the reunion (provided by Jerry Bryson) have been uploaded to a new page. We can always add more photos, so if you believe you have a keeper, please forward it to me and I'll get it uploaded under your name.

I had the privilege of providing a bit of training at the reunion in how to navigate the site. I believe it was well-received, and appreciate having had the opportunity to do so. Please note there is PLENTY of room on the site for your thoughts, photos, inspiration. Just wing me a note!

One item—the Board decided that selling merchandise or soliciting for money/contributions on the web site beyond what BUSMVA already offers through our Sales Director is not permitted. A simple "Do's and Don't's" policy relating to requested activities on the forums has been drafted and is in review.

We currently have a system in place that will accept your online reunion registrations, and new member applications. A Paypal portal will be provided for those who wish to pay for

reunion registration and tours. We are exploring the feasibility of adding another Paypal portal for those who wish to renew your dues online rather than sending a paper check.

As explained in the presentation at the reunion, BUSMVA provides an online forum for those registered members to interact. The new forum is substantially different than the old bulletin board, but with a little study and effort, a member can quickly master the structure and organization of it. There are general categories, called forums, and under each of those forums the registered member can post Topics and Replies to Topics. The basic thread pattern is there.

The forums don't appear to be as popular as the old bulletin board, but perhaps with time things will gain a little more traction.

Just a few weeks ago, BUSMVA opened up a new Facebook page and corresponding group. To access this new page, just enter "BUSMVA" in the Facebook search field and you'll find us. This is an alternative to the web site's forum and uses the Facebook infrastructure to post stories, photos, and even videos.

Come check us out!



## Treasurer's Report

**Richard L. Dietrich**



It has indeed been my pleasure to serve as your Treasurer since my election at the Omaha Reunion in 2017. This newsletter presents a Balance Sheet of our financial condition as of December 31, 2018. I can assure you that our Financial Condition is strong and well positioned for the year 2019 and into the future. Before long our Secretary will publish this Balance Sheet and a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2018 on our website. The Revenues and Expenditures will clearly show that our operations are clearly in accordance with our association's primary tax exempt purpose.

I encourage you view these reports on the website when available. Should you have any questions or comments, I encourage you to email me and I will respond. *[Ed. Note: Reports are published on the web site on the "Members Only" page.]*

### ASSETS

Current Assets		
BB&T Checking	1,792.59	
BB&T Money Market	<u>140,216.32</u>	142,008.91
Other Current Assets		
Merchandise Inventory	689.70	
2019 Reunion Prepaid Expenses	<u>565.00</u>	<u>1,254.70</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>143,263.61</u>

### Total Assets

143,263.61

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue-		
Future Years Dues	3,605.00	
2019 Reunion De-	<u>2,355.00</u>	
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>5,960.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>5,960.00</u>

### Total Liabilities

5,960.00

### EQUITY

Opening Balance: Unrestricted	117,741.09	
Less: Berlin Reunion Surplus	-9,220.14	108,520.95
Prior Period Adjustment		962.00
2018 Net Revenue		<u>18,590.52</u>
Unrestricted Reserves Dec. 31,		128,073.47
Restrictive Reserves		<u>9,220.14</u>

### Total Equity Reserves

137,293.61

### Total Liabilities and Equity

143,253.61



# The General Lucius Clay Language, Culture, and Education Building Dedication



By MAJ (USA, Ret.) Timothy F. Fitzpatrick  
(BUSMVA member, Berlin Brigade 1980-83)

The United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School recently dedicated its new Language, Culture and Education building in honor of General Lucius D. Clay. This facility not only pays tribute to General Clay's



Dr. Lucius D. Clay III unveiling Clay Hall Memorial Plaque with COL William Rice, Commander Special Warfare Education Group (Photo courtesy of USAJFKSWCS PAO)

work in civil-military governance at the end of World War II in Europe, but also provides an historic role model to the Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, and Special Forces Soldiers in training at the facility. Like Clay, the students will become proficient in language and culture of their assigned groups, which will allow them to successfully work with and among the people, of their assigned region.

It is fitting to memorialize General Clay in this way because he blazed the trail for the Civil Affairs mission of governance during the Occupation of Germany and Berlin. His mastery of political warfare in dealing with the Soviet Union and its Berlin Blockade demonstrated the political will of the United States and our allies as well as our mastery of logistics and military flexibility. This also had an incredibly uplifting psychological effect on the morale of West Berliners, and of our Western allies. He understood the impact of Soviet-controlled radio in Berlin and countered with the initiation of operations of the German-led radio in the American Sector (that stayed on the air until after German reunification. General Clay later directed Radio Free Europe. As President Kennedy's representative in Berlin, he orchestrated United States response to the building of the Wall and maintaining open access by the Allies to Berlin.

At the Clay Building dedication, the Berlin United States Military Veteran's Association was fortunate to have representation by COL (USA Ret.) Vern Pike. Colonel Pike personally interacted with then Ambassador Clay, who



LT Pike and driver PFC Jacobs at CP Charlie (Photo courtesy of Vern Pike)

was at the time President Kennedy's senior representative in Berlin. Colonel Pike was then a Military Police lieutenant who was responsible for Checkpoint Charlie during the Berlin Wall crisis, clearly formative to him as a Military Police Platoon Leader, serving at a critical moment in history. Every action and decision by LT Pike was on global display, and under Clay's watchful eye.

Attending the dedication was Dr. Lucius D. Clay III, General Clay's grandson and former Special Forces Officer, as well as other grandchildren and members of the Clay family. Dr. Clay spoke eloquently of his Grandfather and his legacy, which not only includes saving West Germany and West Berlin, but also supplying the Army in World War II as chief of the logistical effort in the United States, his impact on the National Defense Highway System during initial planning in the Eisenhower administration, and of course the impact on all of his children and grandchildren.



Author with COL Pike at memorial to GEN Clay in Clay Hall (Photo courtesy of USAJFKSWCS PAO)

Colonel Olaf Manhenke (German Army Liaison to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command), spoke on behalf of the German government. Colonel Manhenke's speech was a deeply moving recognition of what General Clay had accomplished on behalf of European reconstruction, the rebuilding of Germany, the salvation of West Berlin and the foundation for a peaceful, reunited, and flourishing democracy of Germany.

After naming General Clay "The Airlift Guy", Colonel Manhenke went on to describe what GEN Clay still means to Germany.

"I must say that without a doubt that by naming this building after Lucius D. Clay, it is indeed a very fitting tribute to honor what he's done for the German people..... of the transatlantic friendship and



Tim Fitzpatrick, Colonel Manhenke, Vern Pike at GEN Clay Memorial Plaque

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## General Clay Building Dedication (continued)



*(Continued from page 5)*

your bonds to Europe, especially Germany.

Manhenke went on: "This year we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. This is the story of 'candy bombers' that defended the freedom of West Berlin and laid the foundation for the transatlantic friendship and thereby for a re-united Germany.

"As Germany's newly appointed deputy governor, General Lucius D. Clay took little time to secure the permission of President Harry S. Truman to airlift supplies into the city at a feverish pace. Clay declared, 'They can't drive us out short of war.'"

General Clay directed some 277,800 flights, carrying 2.3 million tons of food and fuel to West Berlin. On May 12, 1949, after nearly a year, the Soviets loosened their stubborn clutch on West Berlin.

General Clay was declared a hero in West Germany and in the United States. Berliners renamed the "Kronprinzenallee," a street in front of the former U.S. Headquarters in Berlin-Zehlendorf, into "Clayallee".

Enemies became friends. The Berlin Airlift gave rise to close ties between Germany and the USA. Wartime enemies became saviors, partners and friends. This special relationship continues to shape the transatlantic partnership between Germany and the USA to this day.

Colonel Manhenke concluded, "We are honored to recognize the inspiring example of Lucius D. Clay, as we dedicate this building in his name. A humble tribute to a great man is

found at the foot of General Clay's grave. It is a plaque lying flush with the ground, placed there by the citizens of Berlin, the city he and his airmen rescued from starvation or communism. The plaque bears a few bracing words:

"We are friends –not just partners! We are grateful for all the USA has done over the last 70 years. Without the USA support – Germany wouldn't be one of the worlds' most successful economies today."

*About the Author: MAJ (USA, Ret.) Timothy F. Fitzpatrick first visited Berlin in 1970 on a high school language immersion trip. He made the decision to join the U.S. Army near the Berlin Wall after seeing its evil and being bombarded with Communist propaganda. He served in Psychological Operations and the 82d Airborne Division before he and Karen were assigned to Berlin in 1980 to the Brigade staff and then 4th BN 6th Infantry. Karen and Tim's twin boys were born in Berlin in 1982. He then taught ROTC, served as ops officer in the Multinational Force and Observers. At XVIII Airborne Corps he helped plan and launch the JUST CAUSE Airborne assault into Panama and served as a brigade S3 in DESERT STORM. He finished active duty with USAJFKSWCS, training all Army PSYOPers and writing PSYOP Doctrine. He is currently a senior Department of the Army Civilian, serving as the Deputy PSYOP Commandant at USAJFKSWCS. He is a graduate of the College of Naval Warfare, and has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, and the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service*



## Welcome Home Tour Update

**Vern Pike**

*Contributions by Tim Fitzpatrick*

Nine BUSMVA members returned to Berlin under the auspices of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF). The Berlin trip took place during BUSMVA's reunion in Columbus, GA, 10-18 May 2019.

What made this year's "Welcome Home" tour so exciting was the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift celebrated at Tempelhof airfield. The 70th Anniversary reception in our old Outpost Theater, now Allied Museum, featured each of us being able to shake Colonel (USAF, Ret.) Gail Halvorsen's hand. The Original "Candy Bomber" is 98 and gave a great speech at the formal ceremonies at the Airlift Memorial at Tempelhof.

We were allotted 12 spaces, and had selected 12 BUSMVA members to attend. Age and infirmities reduced the actual attendance to 9 BUSMVA members. All survived the over 15,000 steps per day on most days!!! Lucky everyone trained up for this! So start walking now in prep for 2020 if you want to go!

We represented a good cross-section of America with residences from California to North Carolina and everything in between. Critically, our BUSMVA Veterans spanned service in Berlin from 1959-1993, greater than the life of the Berlin

Wall itself.

Our group stayed in the Hotel Air, not too far from the "KeDeWe" department store.

Receptions with Berlin government officials, visits with school kids, tours around the city, all made for a fast-paced, fun-filled week. The people of Berlin clearly keep what the United States and our Soldiers and Airmen did in Berlin close to their hearts. The legacy lives on through the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, The Airlift Gratitude Foundation (founded by Willy Brandt), and the Radio in the American Sector Commission, the Gail Halvorsen School, The John F. Kennedy School, the Allied Museum work to memorialize and celebrate Freedom (Freiheit) that we Defended in Berlin.

The 2020 "Welcome Home" tour will return to its usual September dates and we'll learn more by this Fall.

The September issue of the *Observer* will contain a complete report on this years tour by the BUSMVA Group Leader, Tim Fitzpatrick.

Members are encouraged to begin the application process now for next year's return to Berlin. [Ed. Note: As the CCF Tour takes place in September 2020, there could be a conflict with the BUSMVA reunion in Billings, MT. Stay tuned for the September *Observer* for more details.]



# 2019 Reunion Report (continued)



(Continued from page 1)

### Symbolism:

**Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.

**Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.

**Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.

**Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.

**Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.

**Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.



On Wednesday BUSMVA members took one of two tours. One tour traveled to Warm Springs, Georgia to visit President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Little White House". The visit gave a glimpse into the life of our late president. Here members saw the Memorial Fountain, the Walk of the States, the Museum, a film in the auditorium, two of Roosevelt's classic cars and other antiques.

The second tour went to the Andersonville National Historic Site which includes the National Prisoner of War Museum, the Civil War Prison Site and the Andersonville National Cemetery. Since the American Revolution soldiers have marched off to war, defend-

ing our country, families and liberties. Some have given their lives. The National Prisoner of War Museum illustrates how some have been captured and held as POWs, subjected to torture, starvation, inadequate medical care, and unspeakable conditions. As the Museum shows, some have returned but have been changed forever.

Our trip to the National Infantry Museum for our Farewell Dinner brought a special surprise, the award of the Cold War Lapel Pin by the National Infantry Museum Foundation Board. During the pre-Reunion site visit we asked if any Cold War medal, pin or other official recognition has been made by the U. S. government to those who served during that period. When the answer was NO, we suggested the Foundation Board might consider supporting such an effort. With that request



and follow-up correspondence, Tiffany Hoffmann, Assistant Director of Education and Tour Coordinator, and Vickie Benton, Director of Events approached the Infantry Museum Foundation Board who approved the idea. Staff responded with Peter Sauer, an Education

Department Assistant designing the lapel pin.

We are thankful for their initiative. Until then, some members felt their efforts to protect freedom and democracy, and ensure the safety of Berlin were forgotten, and not understood by our Country. The Cold War is not in most history books used by our schools. In Berlin we had many opportunities to fail in our mission, but we didn't! For 49 years the Berlin Brigade rose to meet new challenges. We didn't give up, though we were 110 miles into Soviet territory.



On Thursday evening Tiffany Hoffmann, Peter Sauer and COL. Robert Choppa, (Ret., Infantry) President of the National Infantry Association presented the Cold War Lapel Pin to 74 BUSMVA members. Peter Sauer's remarks for the presentation are found elsewhere in this edition of the OBSERVER. Members of the Berlin Brigade were the first to ever receive the Cold War pin. It will be awarded to future Cold War Units that hold reunions at the National Infantry Museum.

Thursday evening Members were blessed with a new moving presentation of the "Fallen Comrade/Missing Man" poem developed by Ernie Barth. Ernie's PowerPoint and video provide a unique experience for remembering the millions who have served, died, and been Prisoners of War to ensure our freedom.





## 2019 Reunion Photos—Many more on the web site!



## 2019 Reunion Silent Auction Raises \$1,190

*By Berry Williams*

Eleven BUSMVA Members contributed 32 items to the Silent Auction. Items included a BUSMVA Walking Cane; Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina baskets of goodies from each State; books about Berlin; a wooden plaque of the Berlin Patch; coffee mugs; a 12" Tall Glass Boot from the Eden Bar; a Berlin Brigade Challenge Coin, Tie Bar, 287th MP Insignia and a Berlin Brigade Commemorative Medal; locks including padlocks, dead bolt locks and closet locks; a tool box and other items.

Members contributing items for the auction included Jerry and Jan Bryson, Tom Fosnacht, Vern and Jane Gibson, Curtis and Hannah Lancaster, Rose Miller, Maurice and Betty Reagan, Brenda Rose, Christine Rose, Christine Schwartz, Richard and

Jeannie Schmidt and Berry and Charlotte Williams.

BUSMVA Members who made purchases included Dennis and Lydia Allbritton, Pat Boyden, Karen Hannah, Larry and Sue Imler, Michael Kaiser, Philip and Bette Kraus, Anne Love, Joe and Pat Morrison, Diane Nitz, Allan and Marge Okeson, Tom and Sally Jo Reasoner, Hac Reding, Max and Jutta Tankersley, John and Jean Wachter, Kirk Werner, and Berry and Charlotte Williams.

All of the money raised in the Silent Auction will go to the Allied Museum in Berlin which is in the process of moving to a hangar at Tempelhof. We are looking forward to meeting in the renovated Museum during our 2022 Berlin Reunion.

# # #



## 2020 Reunion Announcement



### 2020 BUSMVA Reunion Billings, Montana September 20 – 25, 2020



Our 2020 Reunion will be held in Billings, Montana. The Trailhead to Montana's adventures including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, the Buffalo Bill Center in Cody, Pompey's Pillar National Monument on the Lewis and Clark trail,

the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and other historic destinations.

The Billings Hotel and Convention Center will be our reunion hotel. The room rate including taxes and fees is \$122/night. The rate includes a full hot American breakfast for each person registered with the hotel. Reservations must be made by Friday, September 4, 2020. After that date rooms in the block that are not booked by BUSMVA members will be returned to the hotel general inventory for pick-up by other guests. Information on reunion and hotel registration will be in future issues of the BUSMVA *Observer*.

The hotel has 231 rooms on two floors served by a new elevator. It has an on-site restaurant, a lounge, casino, new gourmet coffee shop, an indoor pool with two amusement style waterslides (no charge), hot tub as well as new exercise room, business center and complimentary wireless (guest room and meeting rooms) internet. Renovations at the hotel are underway. They will be completed by December 2019.

On Sunday evening we are planning a Welcome Reception in the hotel's newly renovated outdoor courtyard.

Allegiant, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines and Delta fly into the Billings Logan International Airport. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is about 3 miles from the airport and provides free shuttle service to and from the airport. Just call the front desk to make arrangements. To reach the front desk dial (406) 248-7151.

We have just completed our site visit and negotiations are still underway with potential venues for tours. An update will

be in the next edition of the *Observer*. However, arrangements are almost complete for our trip to the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument.

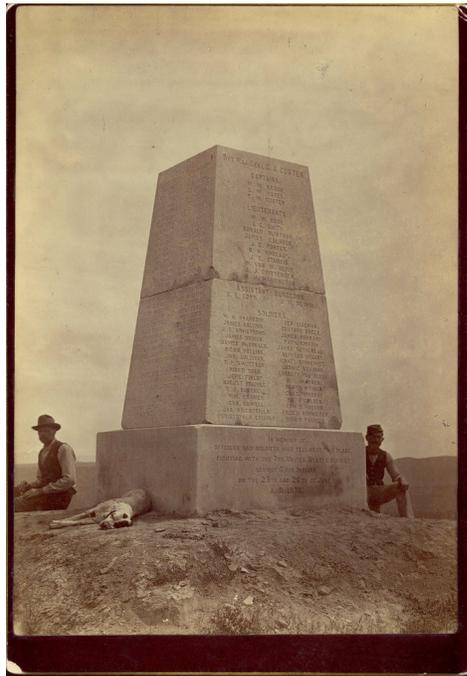


From our school days many of us remember the battle at Little Big Horn as the place where Col. Custer took his "Last Stand"; where "troops fought "until the last man was killed".

Did you know elements of the 6<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry Regiment

(Companies C, D, and I) were with Custer at the Little Big Horn? Join us and learn more about this encounter. We will shed some light on the true story of the Battle at Little Big Horn.

And, yes. It is the same 6<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry that later served in Berlin.



## BUSMVA Board Approves New Logo

Since BUSMVA's inception in 1996, the organization had not formally adopted a logo. Used in correspondence, business cards, web sites, and other communications, a logo presents the image of the organization in a short form.

For years, the Berlin patch and Berlin Bear were (and are) used to present that image. This logo, prepared by a professional graphic designer, will augment the traditional images we associate with BUSMVA.

As you can see, the National Colors are displayed alongside the German flag. The flaming sword joins the two nations in partnership. The clean, simple lines are attractive and fresh.





## Letter of Intent



*Gregg Porter*

In November 1989 I watched with the rest of the world as the Berlin Wall crumbled. With it crumbled the Cold War, the Soviet Empire, the Iron Curtain and other terms which were forever aligned to my generation. These terms would soon be relegated by future generations as historical artifacts.

I was not in Berlin on that day. It would be many months before I would be sent TDY to Berlin to work on a documentary for US Army Europe. This documentary highlighted the soldiers who quietly served across Europe and brought about the end of the Cold War (The Silent Heroes). On the evening the Wall fell, I was in my barracks room in Frankfurt, Germany wondering what the future held and if the Cold War were truly over.

As the days and weeks progressed East Germans poured across the border. I was able to meet some of them and hear their stories. One of the stories I heard time and again that really impacted me was how they were taught that the Wall was erected to protect them from the violent US soldiers who had occupied and terrorized the citizens of West Germany since the end of WWII. These East Germans (and Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, the list goes on) had been prisoners in their own country for decades. They were ignorant of the West. They were excited and terrified of the new world.

The mission of Soldiers stationed in West Germany was easy compared to those who served in West Berlin. The constant pressure of living and working behind the Iron Curtain, cut off from reinforcements by 110 miles controlled by Soviet forces. The constant stress of knowing that a lower enlisted soldier working a checkpoint could make a simple mistake and spark an international incident or even worse, the next world war. The struggles of providing safety and security for the West German population while knowing that should the Soviets decide to attack, the consequences would be dire for the population of Berlin and the entire free world.

I want to capture the stories of the men and women who were selected to serve in this dangerous place at this amazing time in history. I want to hear about the down time, the hard times, the stress, the alerts, the exercises and the cama-

raderie shared between service members. I want to capture the fond memories and funny stories from the men and women who took the duty train, drove the lone autobahn and spent years behind the Iron Curtain. At the end of the day, I want to capture this history before it is lost. I have worked on a number of documentaries focusing on WWII and while I am grateful for the stories I was able to capture. I know there were hundreds more which were lost because I waited too long to begin. I don't want to make the same mistake again.



Finally, it is important to me that my children (who are young adults now) and their generation have an appreciation of the sacrifices American Soldiers made in the interest of democracy and security. While America has been in a state of near constant war for the past 17 years, the stakes are different, the rules are different, the world is different. I want to ensure that our kids, grandkids and great-grandkids know and understand the significance of East and West Berlin. East and

West Germany. The Iron Curtain and the many layers of propaganda which can be used to manipulate and terrify an entire generation of people who were the unfortunate victims of communism and a totalitarian regime. Germany wasn't my country. But, I believe Berlin was your city.



Please help me capture these stories. Your stories. I would like to speak with veterans who served in Berlin from the 1950s and 60's until the day we packed up and left Berlin in 1994. I would like to get a good cross section of MOS's, ages, ranks, and experiences. If you are willing to share your stories with me, please reach out.

My contact information is:  
gregg@developedovercoffee.com  
Phone (202)288-7626  
Address: 530 W 7th St #M102,

Los Angeles, CA 90014.

I appreciate your time. I thank you for your service and I look forward to meeting and speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Gregg Porter

Developed Over Coffee Productions



## Cold War Pin Presentation



It was called a war, but didn't fit the description of war as we knew it. It was four decades of repeated and often violent confrontation that did not erupt into full-scale armed conflict between the major powers. On several occasions the world came perilously close to mass destruction, being pulled back from the edge of the precipice by the narrowest of margins.

That period of world history is known as the Cold War, an era when the world was held hostage to the fear of nuclear annihilation and of subjugation to totalitarian regimes. Especially during the early years, in a world that had been devastated economically and militarily, the United States stood as a foundation for the defense of the Free World with the resources and the national will to stand against Soviet expansionism.

The defense of the Free World was made possible by the dedicated service, determination, and skill of the individual members of the U.S. military who held the line against aggression and kept the peace. Their willingness to endure long periods of isolation and harsh conditions sent a clear message to those powers threatening us: "Do not take one step further. If necessary, we will do our utmost to exact a toll too heavy and painful for you to bear, and are willing to lay down our lives to stop you."

In the past, we at the National Infantry Museum Foundation have given various awards to veterans in appreciation of their service during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. We had discussed the need for some form of recognition for those service members who had served during the Cold War, and who are often forgotten in the light of other conflicts.



The call was there to recognize the sacrifices made in service to the United States and to the Free World in maintaining and assuring peace.

The Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association visit was the catalyst for creation of the National Infantry Museum's Cold War Veteran lapel pin. This pin was created in appreciation of service by veterans who served in the Cold War from 1947 through 1989, regardless of location or duty station.

The Cold War Veterans lapel pin features in the center an American eagle confronting a Soviet bear. They are surrounded by twelve stars for the twelve original members of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, founded on April 4, 1948 to provide mutual defense against Soviet aggression.

The center of the pin is flanked on the left by oak leaves, a symbol of strength, and on the right by olive leaves, representing peace. Together they signify peace through strength, our national policy throughout the Cold War.

Your organization is the first to receive this award from the National Infantry Museum Foundation. Please accept this expression of appreciation and our hope is that you will wear it proudly. We thank all of you for your service in defense of the United States of America.

*Read by Peter A. Sauer, Education Department Assistant, National Infantry Museum Foundation on May 16, 2019 during the Cold War Pin presentation to the members of the Berlin U. S. Military Veterans Association.*

## National Infantry Association

Robert E. Choppa, Colonel of Infantry (Retired) and President, National Infantry Association, was one of the presenters of the Cold War Pin at the Thursday evening Farewell Dinner.

Several members expressed interested in joining the National Infantry Association (NIA) and some inquired about the Order of Saint Maurice (it was hanging around his neck). If you are wondering how to join the National Infantry Association, receive the Order of Saint Maurice (OSM) and nominate your spouse for the Shield of Sparta (SOS) visit the website [www.infantryassn.com](http://www.infantryassn.com).

The National Infantry Association has four missions:

1. Support the Chief of Infantry (currently BG David M. Hodne)

and promote membership (corporate and individual).

2. Publish the Infantry Bugler Magazine quarterly.
3. Award deserving past and present Infantrymen (Order of Saint Maurice) and to those that support the Infantry including spouses the (Shield of Sparta).
4. Support the National Infantry Museum.



## VP's Dispatch (continued)

*(Continued from page 3)*

nity registry will also include Department of the Army civilians, defense contractors, and Red Cross and USO employees. Registries are searchable. Check the website at [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org) to find out more.

Looking for gifts for the special people in your life who served and supported those who served? Most of us mature veterans have enough "stuff". I smile when I think of my great nieces and nephews

visiting one of the museums or monuments or memorials and proudly seeing Aunt Rose's name and history preserved.

What are the opportunities in your local city or state to preserve our history in Berlin? Do you know of other national and international forums? Please share on our Members Forum on the BUSMVA website. Please also share your photos of bricks or plaques where you are memorialized on our Facebook page. Be proud, tell your story, tell our story!



## The Bridge Article Divided—The Story of Berlin



[Ed. Note—this article was published in *The Bridge*, a newsletter by the *Atlantik-Brücke*, an organization dedicated to fostering German-American relations. Published in *Hamburg*, Vol 6, No. 8, August 1962. This article was clipped and saved by BUSMVA Member Doug Meyer.]

On August 13th, one year will have passed since the erection of the notorious Berlin Wall. It might be appropriate on this occasion to remind ourselves of the events that led to the present situation of Berlin.

When World War II was drawing to its end, the nations fighting against Germany fixed certain agreements to provide for the situation after the military conquest and the unconditional surrender of Germany.

Provision was made for Germany to be divided, “for the the purposes of occupation,” into four Zones (which were “to be considered as an economic unity”); and for the area of “Greater Berlin” to be divided into four parts and *jointly administered*. Thus Berlin received four-power status. An Inter-Allied Commandatura made up of the four Commandants was to administer the city. According to a statement by General Lucius D. Clay, at the time deputy to the US Supreme Commander in Germany, at an Allied conference in June, 1945, it was “agreed that all traffic—air, road and rail—shall be free from frontier controls or controls by customs officials or military authorities.”

Very soon it became clear, however, that the Soviets’ prime concern was not the democratization of German life on conventional Western lines but the penetration of all spheres with Communist ideology and ultimately the integration of all Berlin into the surrounding territory of the Soviet Zone of Occupation.

Tension and suspicion between the Allies, showing up even during the war, now became evident in Berlin and were decisive in the further development of the city. Gradually the Western Powers had to realize that the Soviets spoke a completely different language from theirs, that hitherto unequivocal terms like democracy, freedom, national sovereignty, meant something quite different to the Soviets than what they meant to the West.

The Berliners, living right in the center of growing tensions, very soon made it clear where their sympathies lay: at the first free elections in Berlin (they were also the last in East Berlin) in October, 1946—and ever since in West Berlin—the Soviet-sponsored Communist Party (SED) was overwhelmingly defeated.

The greatest test of the Berliners’ power of democratic resistance came on June 23, 1948, when the Soviets began the total blockage of Berlin’s western sectors. Officially the Soviets quoted “technical difficulties” on road and railway between West Berlin and the Federal Republic as the reason for this step. In fact, the blockade was a reply to the Western Powers’ refusal to accept the Soviet currency reform also for the western sectors. The unique airlift between West Germany and West Berlin then enabled the population and the Allied troops to live on the island of West Berlin for almost a year, until at least on May 12, 1949, the blockade was raised, after Four-Power talks, and the previous state of affairs restored.

After the blockade had failed, the Kremlin sought first of all to consolidate the East sector and gradually aggravate the situation of the West sectors. A second clear example of the Soviet-Communist interest in “normalizing” the situation in Berlin, as they called it, was now provided.

### Communists Stormed the City Hall

The political division of Berlin was brought about on November 30, 1948, when a separate Communist municipal authority was set up in

East Berlin, after the Democratic City Authority and City Parliament of all-Berlin were driven out of the City Hall in the Soviet sector on September 6th. Squads were rounded up and brought in lorries to the City Hall, forced their way in and by creating tumult forced the city deputies to abandon their work. Mayor Friedenburg was prevented from entering his office, and the legitimately elected City Authorities had to move to West Berlin. Thus the Communists finally achieved by political terror what they had failed to achieve by legal methods—the splitting of the German city administration.

But they did not win over the population of their sector and their zone of occupation. On June 17, 1953, the dramatic revolt against Communist suppression flared up in East Berlin, from there spreading all over the “Zone”, only to be squelched by Soviet tanks and even more brutal oppression.

### The Cleft is Deepened

Step by step—it is impossible here to describe all the details—the corporate life of the city of Berlin, which had taken centuries to grow, was mutilated by the Communists at countless points, the private, political, economic and cultural bonds violently lacerated.



Since 1948, Berlin has a double coinage with different purchasing powers. In West Berlin food rationing ended on October 1, 1949, while in East Berlin food cards were used until May 18, 1958 (and rationing for certain foods is still known today). Since the blockade, West Berlin has its own electric, water and gas supplies. Trams and omnibus lines end at the sector boundaries; only the S-Bahn (elevated railway), under East Berlin administration, and the U-Bahn (subway), separately controlled by East and West, travel across sector boundaries (since August last year

western U-Bahn lines do not stop at eastern stations and the S-Bahn is boycotted by West Berliners). Since May 27, 1952, telephone communication between West and East Berlin has been cut off by the East Berlin Post Office.

Yet up to August 13, 1951, personal contacts between East and West Berliners still remained relatively unhindered. Many thousands of East Berliners worked in West Berlin and vice versa, and visits between the two parts of the city, though complicated by Communist border controls, were still possible. Thus Berlin became the last escape hatch for millions of refugees from the Soviet Sector and the Soviet Zone and the last links between the two parts of Germany, which since 1945 had developed in so very different ways.

Then on August 13, 1961, the Communists ruling East Berlin suddenly sealed off their sector from the western sectors by building a heavily guarded wall, about 30 miles long, to bring the flood of refugees to a halt. There are only two openings left for West Germans and a third (Checkpoint Charlie) for foreigners to enter East Berlin. West Berliners can no longer see their East Berlin relatives and friends. A few desperate refugees still reach West Berlin in spite of walls, barbed wire, and mines; but they escape at the risk of their lives, for Communist border guards ruthlessly shoot at unarmed refugees. Thus the situation has become very tense.

Naturally the Soviets want by all means to drive the Western troops out of Berlin so that they can integrate West Berlin into their bloc, thus finally consolidating their Central-European satellite, the Soviet Zone regime. But the West has made it clear that it will not surrender, the freedom of over two million people, who again and again have overwhelmingly voted for democracy. Thus the unnatural and absurd division of the city—and of the country—will probably continue until such a time as a genuine, world-wide easing of East-West tensions can be achieved.



# BUSMVA Pins, Patches, Memorabilia Store



Order Form				
	Size	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Cost
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Stickers and Decals	N/A		BBde patch—\$1.50; BUSMVA decal \$2 (circle the item you're ordering)	
License Plate Frame	N/A		\$5	
Shipping & Handling \$3 for pins, patches, misc.; \$5 for license plate frame				
Total Enclosed				

Patches—BBde, Sm & Lg; Checkpoint Charlie; Berlin Bear; 6th Inf; 2nd BG/6th; 3 BG/6th, Special Troops; Air Force



Pins & unit crests—USAF, 6th Inf, BBDE, various U.S. Army



Challenge coin, front and rear



Stickers and Decals



License Plate Frame



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**NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!**



## BUSMVA Merchandise Store through Mr. C's Caps



Order Form			Size	Qty	Total Cost
T-shirt Ash Color (no pocket) Embroidered Checkpoint Charlie on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$13.00 \$14.00 \$17.50			
T-shirt Blue (with pocket) Embroidered Berlin Bear/BUSMVA	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$13.00 \$14.00 \$17.50			
Sweat Shirt Ash Color 9oz Heavyweight w/Checkpoint Charlie logo	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$27.00 \$29.00 \$31.00			
Sweat Shirt Same as above with Berlin Patch logo	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$27.00 \$29.00 \$31.00			
Official Jacket Royal Blue w/light lining; large Berlin logo on back and Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$68.00 \$72.00 \$77.00			
Golf Shirt Royal Blue with pocket; Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$23.00 \$24.50 \$26.50			
Golf Shirt Ash color with pocket; Berlin Bear and BUSMVA on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$23.00 \$24.50 \$26.50			
Golf Shirt Blue with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$23.00 \$24.50 \$26.50			
Golf Shirt Red with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL XXL XXXL	\$23.00 \$24.50 \$26.50			
<b>Embroidered name on shirts and jackets add for each:</b>		<b>\$6.00</b>	NAME: _____		
Golf Cap with Berlin logo, Blue or Red, mesh style or full material	One size	\$15.00			
Golf Cap with Berlin Bear logo, Blue or Red, mesh style or full material	One size	\$15.00			
Shipping & Handling (see side bar)					
Total Enclosed					

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<p><b>NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE PATCHES, PINS, MEMORABILIA ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!</b></p> <p><b>Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. C's Caps</b>  <b>9042 Roubidoux Rd.</b>  <b>Bucyrus, MO 65444</b>  <b>417-967-0261</b>  <b>417-967-3257</b>  <b>Email: mrccaps@centurytel.net</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!</b></p>	

Cost of Items	Shipping & Handling
\$10.01 to \$20.00	\$6
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\$50.01 and up	\$14

Samples!



Lined jacket



Back of jacket



Ball cap w/mesh



Golf shirt



Golf shirt red



Sweatshirt



Ball cap w/ material



**New Members to BUSMVA**



Last Name	First Name	City	State	Berlin Dates	Berlin Unit
Barber	Eli B.	Columbus	GA	7/1985-7-1988	Combat Support Bn
Bebo	Roger L.	Spring Hill	FL	6/1963-12/1965	HHC, 3rd Bn, 6th Infantry
Colavita	Henry "Rocky"	Haymarket	VA	1977-1980	PMO & USCOB Staff
Fosnacht	Thomas C.	Palmyra	PA	7/1978-8/1982	USCOB Staff, Berlin Det, 3766 MI
Galanto	Anthony W.	Vero Beach	FL	9/1972-1/1974	287th MP Co (Sep)
Holder	Lawrence M.	Oxford	GA	1/10/1960-8/14/1962	Co. D, 2nd BG, 6th Infantry
Kropaczewski	Gerald	Columbus	GA	1966	HHC, 4th Bn, 18th Inf
Lunde	Roger L.	Forman	ND	9/1969-3/1971	Co A, 2nd Bn, 6th Infantry
Osborn	Dain E.	Woodford	VA	2/1989-12/1990	C Co, 4th Bn, 502nd Infantry
Owens	Irving	Warwick	RI	12/1960-5/1962	Transportation Co/Berlin Convoys
Rials	Lee	Midland	GA	9/21/1974-9/21/1978	4th Bn, 6th Inf/Berlin Bde Hqs
Richardson	Blake	Woodbridge	VA	4/1983-9/1985	5th Bn 502nd Infantry
Robinson	Rex R.	Fruita	CO	1973-1977	40th Armor
Stone	Malcolm E.	Lehigh Acres	FL	1956-1958	Co B, 6th Infantry Rgt



<b>Taps</b>			
Photo (if Available)	Name	Date of Death	Berlin Service
	Thomas Ables	17 May 2019	1961-63, 570th MP Railway Guard
	Roben Pellington	1 June 2019	11/62—12/64, 78th USASA
	George Wepfer	13 March 2019	2/52—6/53, 7826 Engr, 7880 MID
	John H. McGary	14 June 2019	78th ASA SOU



**The BUSMVA Observer**

Berlin US Military Veterans Association  
123 Antler Way Dr.  
Sherwood, AR 72120

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