

8th & I Reunion Association
Ceremonial Guard Company
Washington, D.C.

2005 Reunion

The 2005 Reunion was a tremendous success!

The reunion was held at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va., August 1-7, 2005. It began Monday evening with hospitality night. It was announced that the hospitality room would be formerly known as Tun Tavern for the rest of the reunion. Tun Tavern was used as a meeting place for food, soft drink, water, beer, wine, social gathering and picture album viewing.

Various tours were available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. They included the Air/Space Museum, The Bureau of Printing/Engraving, WWII, Korean, and Viet Nam Memorials, Henderson Hall and 8th & I PX Runs, Arlington Cemetery Tour, Mt. Vernon Tour, and Pentagon City Shopping Spree. Free shuttle from the Hotel to the metro center was provided, as were free Metro tickets. The hotel provided free car washes on Friday for 8th & I folks.

Excellent front row seating for the Tuesday parade at Iwo Jima was provided by Gary Wait and Bill Jeffries, who arranged the location and setting up of chairs prior to the parade.

The Slide and Glide presentation on Wednesday evening by Steve Debock was a most memorable event. Ray Hechler, our Pearl Harbor survivor, gave a very informative account of Dec. 7th, 1941. Then the sea stories began, Steve read some of them, and members stepped up to the mike to give some. For those present – remember those famous words said by Mike Hill- “Don’t shoot your sister!” We were all in stitches with laughter. This hour is a must for the next reunion.

Then Wendy LeBeau and the Beau's played two hours of very enjoyable Rock-a-Billy music that got all toes tapping.

Thursday we had the fund raiser auction which netted \$900.00. Sandy Alderson provided us with a dozen tickets to the Washington Nationals vs. L.A. Dodgers ballgame at RFK stadium. A 7-0 win for the Nationals.

At the business meeting on Thursday John DesJarlais was presented the flag that was flown over the Capitol on Feb 19, 2005 in commemoration of his service for fighting on Iwo Jima Feb 19, 1945. Ray Hechler was given a nice Polo Golf shirt with his name inscribed on it and the USMC emblem and the 8th & I Marines inscribed on the right pocket.

Amendments to the Bylaws were adapted, the new officers were elected (with the same board being re-elected) and several new members being elected. The amended Bylaws will be published on the web-site.

The Friday evening parade was attended by over 200 members and guests.

On Saturday we held our Wreath Laying Ceremony at Iwo Jima War Memorial. A flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol on flag day June 14, 2005 was presented to the Josie and Robyn Sulanowski, widow and daughter of Gerry Sulanowski. The USMC provided the Color Guard, Firing Party, and Bugler. The firing party had 3 perfect volleys. 12 doves were released in reverence to our courageous troops defending our country in Iraq and the middle east.

The Saturday banquet seated 170 members, wives, and guests. Special guests included the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace, MOH recipient, Retired Colonel Wesley Fox, and guest speaker, Mr. Sandy Alderson, the CO and XO of Marine

Barracks Washington, D.C., Molly Sheckter, proprietor of Dobkins Bar on 8th Street from 1956-66 (Molly helped our members with aid and comfort whenever she could), GySgt. Josh Brown, D&B bugler who played taps at our wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, and retired Sgt Major Dan Farrell, Steve Holton's drill instructor in 1965. Steve had not had contact with Sgt Farrell for 40 yrs.

Colonel Fox, General Pace, and Sandy Alderson each spoke to the audience, and were very inspiring in their words of wisdom. Ray Hechler repeated as our cake cutter for 2005. Richie DelVecchio was the 50-50 winner of \$350.

Sunday morning breakfast at Henderson Hall Mess rounded off a perfect reunion.

For those of you who would like to purchase a copy of the Slide and Glide (sea story hour) , you can do so by sending a \$15 check made payable to 8th & I Reunion Association and send it to Steve Holton, 3160 Green Meadows Dr. Indian Head, Md. 20640. Steve DeBock is collecting accounts of events that happened during your tour at the Barracks. They can be funny or serious, write them down and send them to : Steve DeBock, 1815 Scarlet Oak Ave. Toms River, N.J. 08755.

The 2005 Yearbook is being put together for distribution this fall. If you took pictures at the reunion send your pictures to Steve Holton and I will forward them to Classic Reunion for the book. If you have not already ordered a copy and want a copy the cost is \$24.00 per book. If you weren't at the reunion and want a copy you can also get a copy for \$24.00.

I wish to thank all of you for attending and supporting the 8th & I Reunion Association. It is my honor and privilege to be able to set these reunions up for you the membership. To enjoy, relax, and get

time to meet old acquaintances and make some new ones. I believe our Association's mission was a most successful one in 2005.

Semper Fidelis and may God Bless you all,
Steve Holton