

Gary Dunagan

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Subject: 2021 C/3/22 Association Reunion - Ft Benning - National Infantry Museum - Hilton Garden Inn 10-6-21 to 10-10-21

10-15-21 (1-5-22) Don Snyder & Gary Miller – Thanks for your help putting this re-union together. It had been (2) years in the making – and it happened very smoothly. Wow!! Some of the folks who helped along the way were Ashley Woitena at the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau - Gayla at the Hilton Garden Inn & the Staff at the National Infantry Museum – Freddie, VP Operations, Keisha, Jessica, & Ilene – who assisted with the Meal and passed out Flyers for Future Pavers. Great Job- not to mention the Command Staff and their wives – who were awesome.

- **Graduation Ceremony** – at the Parade Field
 - We were Guest of an Infantry Graduating class and learned that Basic Training & AIT – are now combined – 28 weeks and this was the culmination. What an introduction to this Class – Smoke Bombs - Machine Gun Fire – and to see the company coming toward the Bleachers through the Smoke! Hearing the Bombs and Machine Gun Fire reminded me of being in an Ambush – as many of you will also recall!! What an impressive Introduction & Welcome by the Battalion Co.
- **Memorial Service at the National Infantry Museum** –
 - Awesome Memorial Service – Gary Miller introduced the Color Guard – who presented the Colors. Don Snyder conducted the Pledge of Allegiance – with an opening prayer by Chaplain Willie Hunter. The names of 97 KIA's were read off one at a time – to a Solemn audience.
 - Remembrance Address – by General Richard Wilson – Deputy Adjutant General for the State of Georgia. –
 - Everyone will remember his address – which was directed to the Veterans – and Gold Star Families. At the end – he informed us that his Dad was killed in Vietnam in 1969 while operating with the Wolfhounds out of Tay Ninh Province - One of our Guests – Roland Hill from Macon, Ga – was also a Wolfhound - and connected with General Wilson. Thank you Sir – we failed to present a Special Gift – a token of our Appreciation – as you could see him sweating through his Uniform on that Hot Day in October – and then I believe left before the Food was served. Sorry for the Delay!
 - Luncheon there on the Patio – Great Meal – prepared by the NIM.
 - After lunch – the Group was allowed to tour the Museum – and many chose to take part in the Simulators – the Hum Vee, an Apache Helicopter and a Rifle Range. Others walked down the lane of Monuments & Pavers. What an impressive Facility!!
- **Ft Benning** – Willie Hunter – Thanks for your hard work – Boots on the Ground getting almost 30 of us on Post – where we were able to eat Lunch at the Warrior Cafeteria – (Mess Hall) - no soldiers on KP at this Mess hall – all Contract workers – and the meal was excellent – for only \$5.27. Side tour afterwards – included the Jump towers. We tried to get the entire Company on Post – and unable to – however Willie was able to get about 30 of us there – first come – first served – without a hitch. Thanks again Willie!!
- **Zip Lining** – The White Water Team were very special – and helped us zip line 1500 feet across the Chattahoochee River to the Alabama side – then 100 yards down the River – then back over - for those who participated in this –it was one of the Hi Lights of the reunion !!
- **Business Meeting** – Great Meeting – same officers reelected – Thank you for your willingness to serve again!!
 - Treasury Report given – and approved.
 - Next Reunion to be in San Antonio, Texas – looks like it will be sponsored by the Command Staff!! Thank you again!!
- **Banquet** – there at the Hilton Garden Inn. They did a Great job with the Chicken, Salmon & Beef & side dishes.

- I remember telling a **Funny Story** that occurred while we were pulling an Ambush one night – We were along a River – in a Bamboo thicket – and our Point Man – Jim Cunningham – had to take a Dump. After a few minutes – he came back and got me – and showed me what he had found. It was a Huge Ammo Cache – We patrolled around the area a couple of days – before calling in the find – and they sent Engineers in to Blow it up. Perhaps it saved the lives of many Civilians – as the next time they came looking for their Supplies & Ammo – it was nowhere to be found.
 - I believe the company got a (3) day Stand down which was like a Mini R & R – and it was reported in the Stars & Stripes.
- **Comments by Jenny Dunagan Jones** – My daughter was there with her family and when I asked her what most impressed her about the Reunion – **below are her comments:**
 - “I’d have to say I was most impressed with the **Infantry B-2-58 Graduation Ceremony**. I’ve never witnessed any military style graduation before and was pleasantly surprised. It was such a beautiful morning and Fort Benning made a beautiful backdrop for the ceremony. I was excited to see a woman awarded as the Drill Sergeant of the Cycle. Someone quoted the infantry as being “**the underdogs that wars cannot be won without**”.
That resonated in my brain and I now have a Greater understanding of what it means to be in the Infantry.
She attached the Infantryman’s Creed ---“ **I am the Infantry - FOLLOW ME!**” – which is not attached.

Thanks again to all those who helped make this Re Union a Success!

Gary Dunagan, Host

The Infantryman's Creed

I am the Infantry.

I am my country's strength in war, her deterrent in peace.

I am the heart of the fight... wherever, whenever.

I carry America's faith and honor against her enemies.

I am the Queen of Battle.

I am what my country expects me to be, the best trained Soldier
in the world.

In the race for victory, I am swift, determined, and courageous,
armed with a fierce will to win.

Never will I fail my country's trust.

Always I fight on...through the foe, to the objective, to triumph
overall.

If necessary, I will fight to my death.

By my steadfast courage, I have won more than 200 years of
freedom.

I yield not to weakness, to hunger, to cowardice, to fatigue, to
superior odds,

For I am mentally tough, physically strong, and morally straight.

I forsake not, my country, my mission, my comrades, my sacred
duty.

I am relentless.

I am always there, now and forever.

I AM THE INFANTRY!

FOLLOW ME!