

June 28, 2011 - July 3, 2011

WASHINGTON D.C. REUNION 2011

Reunion Recollections:

My recollections start long before the actual reunion. Total credit for the success of our reunion goes to the fantastic team of Rick DeNomme, Dave DeMauro, Nick Dragon, and our never say die Host Ruben Barkley and his amazing wife Arlene. Speaking of amazing wives, I cannot leave out Carolyn who was there helping me through the whole process.

How can we ever duplicate the fabulous "Doubletree Hotel"? I cannot remember ever having the kind of service and co-operation that we had with them. And was that not the best hospitality room ever? As always it was heartwarming to see "Combat Brothers" reunite like no time had lapsed since their last meeting. Oh my, the stories that were being told.

After all of these years and reunions, we had eleven 1st timers. Steve Haines, Jim Mc Dermott, Charles Banks, Donny England, Bob Bessette, Gary Dunagan, Cristobal Abrego, Don Haramoto, Gary Kratky, Joe Mack, Ronnie Evans. Thank you guys, we hope you will join us in Orlando.

The wonderful and refreshing cruise on the Potomac was one of the reunion highlights and will not be forgotten anytime soon. The food was better than I ever expected and fun was had by all. (And I did not lose a hat).

Will anyone ever forget the visit to the "WALL"? Rick DeNomme's crosses made the ceremony so very special. (Thank you again Rick). Patti Schwindt led us in singing the National Anthem and Amazing Grace. You were great Patti, Thank You. Just as it was in '97, when we got down to the "WALL" many of us again found ourselves relying on our buddies (like we did in 'Nam) for support, be it physical or moral, or both. All in all, it was a very emotional time for those that were there.

The banquet on Saturday was the most well attended banquet we have ever had. Three Hundred and Forty one of you filled the beautiful Crystal Ballroom, led by the Fogarty Family 34 strong. How much fun was the surprise "Red Ant Award"? Thanks to Bill Schwindt for making it happen. And a special thanks to the Triple Duce for allowing us to use the award. Leading up to the "Red Ant Award" was one of the funniest comic routines I have heard in a long time. Dave Gehr had the room rolling off the chairs. Dave you truly have a second career chance as a standup comic. You were hilarious.

Many of us stayed over for the 4th of July festivities and fireworks, they were spectacular as usual. The view from the top of the Doubletree was unbelievable. An impromptu birthday party for Steve Yanes who turned 65 years young on the 4th made the party that much more special.

Look forward to seeing all of you in Orlando in 2013.

"Deeds Not Words"

Don Snyder C/3/22 65-67