

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS, 5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129
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 284th FA BN WEBSITE: [HTTP://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML](http://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML)

Greetings, All,

It's Mardi Gras time, and Easter is just a day or so away. Time sure flies.

I got a few particulars from Ray about the reunion location, and I believe we will be getting a great deal. The Tahitian Village has changed hands, and at last visit, room rates were a lot higher. It is a good spot, the weather should be grand, and it shouldn't be crowded at that time. The Snowbirds can combine the date with their annual trip south, and all will be right with the world.

We just suffered a family tragedy yesterday. My daughter-in-law, Linda, suddenly found that a favorite relative, her aunt, was found dead in her apartment. She had just been at Linda's and Johns' daughter's bridal shower, and had not been in touch with any of the family for a week or so. Neighbors wondered why they had not seen her, and finally had to get the police, who found her lifeless. She had been dead for several days, so we will have to have it treated as a suspicious death. She had just retired from her position a month or so ago, and was to start some new projects in her retirement. You never know. I do hope that there were no signs of a criminal nature. More later.

I received a note from Harve and Ann Smith on the 23rd. They are getting well settled in their new surroundings, and like it very much. Their complex was purchased by another group which owns or operates over 100 similar projects. The new people are more used to being in charge of assisted living facilities, so it will be a while before they learn to handle a retirement unit. Smitty tells me that they will shape them up.

They are having more snow there than the facilities can remove. They have small amounts

of the white stuff, and this time they got about 4 inches.

Harve and Ann are apparently in good health. He had a prostate procedure just before Xmas with a new freezing process. He will find out shortly if it is gone, or if it needs to be lived with. Good luck, Harve. They do so many good things in this area now.

The Smiths will be having their first grandchild in the near future. Daughter living in Eugene, Oregon, is producing #1, and they are really excited.

Herb Smith was at Hilton Head at the time Harve wrote. Herb will not fly, and they have been unable to induce him to make the long trip out west.

Harvey enclosed some kitty fodder in his letter, and that is much appreciated.

Keep in touch, Harvey and Ann.

Two days later I received a note from Les Lenker. He is feeling pretty well, and bowls twice a week. He is suffering from the absence of the good cooking which Alzene put on the table. He goes to all of the senior meals which he can find, and that keeps him alive.

Spends some time playing his electric organ. Says he doesn't play good, but he plays loud. It is enjoyable for him, and no one else need listen.

He also sent a picture of his cat, Buffy. It looked well fed.

They had a lot of snow this year. Some time back, Les fell backwards into the snow bank, and had a hard time getting up. He had a sore hip for a while, but seems OK now. Be careful, Les.

He says that he is looking for an Indian squaw who can cook a decent buffalo tongue. I wonder what he would do with that.

Les enclosed some more kitty fodder, and it sure helps the postage budget.

Thanks a lot for the note, Les. Do keep in touch.

I received a long letter from Jim and Mildred Carney. They are spending a winter in Fort Myers, FL, as sort of a trial, and are enjoying it very much. The spot in which they are staying has a very good club house, and most of the folks there stay very active. Some are in their high 80's, and even 90's, and it is great to see them doing the activities offered.

Don Haaning and his wife visited them one afternoon recently. It was so good to see the faces of "greeting friends" and they had a fine time visiting.

Jim sounds like me, a lot. He will go into the water of the gulf when the water temp gets up to 90, and not before. But Mildred enjoys the gulf, and spends a lot of time there. Jim is getting enough sun to change his Irish color to more of a beach tan color.

The Carneys also send some kitty litter for my postage fund, and it was surely appreciated. By the way, their current winter address is:

3001 Estero Blvd. Lot E2
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

I received the Bulletin send to Leo Sullivan back with notification that it was a bad address. If anyone out there is in touch with Leo, ask him to send a corrected address to me.

I had sent Lloyd Lage's Bulletin to his winter address in Arizona, and it was returned. I sent him one to Aurora, and will see if he has changed spots in Arizona, or if he did not go out there this year.

And I heard from the old steady, Clair Schneider. We really got the world straightened out this time. We discussed the two books which he suggested for my reading, and we still agree to disagree on "The Children's Crusade", which was written by an author who gave examples of the worst scenario of military occurrences, none of which were seen where we were.

Clair is giving Holiday some very serious thought. I sure hope he makes the reunion. His health is good, and the family is well at this time, as well. He went by the Polson's the other

day, and not seeing Jerri's car, went on by. She works only a few days of the week.

It is always good to hear from the woods north of Chicago. Keep in touch, Clair. I enjoy Hearing from you. Hi to Carol.

Just got back from my gambling trip to the casinos of Tunica. I had fairly good luck there, no really good luck, and only left about 60 bucks for them. That is quite unusual, but I am glad for this good fortune. Of course, I ate too much, lost too much sleep, and got upset when my fortune went sour. But I will go back, I am sure.

Not a bit of news came in during my absence. Come on, guys and gals, loosen up. It is difficult at best to write something worth putting out, so some raw material would not be unwelcome.

Again, 11 days later, still no mail. I guess I will have to go back to Florida and dig up some more to write. The lady who has been renting the condo in the winter has suddenly become seriously ill, and had to be taken to the hospital near her home for care. So the kids were left without a renter for 2 months. I may go down for several weeks after my taxes are computed, and just vegetate. Will see how this computes. I fear that our newsletter format is going to become a twice a year thing, and I surely hate that. It has been nice to keep up with the doings of our friends. Time will tell.

I just checked our battalion website, and there have been over 1000 hits on the location up to this time. We are very grateful to John Wasilewski for the time and dedication he has given for our website. I go to the location for information several times a month. It is interesting, informative, and important to us. Thanks, John, for your work on this project.

I am going to have my lodging painted in the near future. It really doesn't really need it, but I am tired of construction white. I may not have the ceilings painted yet, but may also do that. I will plan a trip to Florida while the painters do the work.

I just received a tragic letter from Jeep and Gerry Rafeld. On Feb/ 25. 2004 they learned of the death of their grandson in an Air Force accident. He was in Alaska, and was leading a 4 ship training exercise when his plane, (an

A-20 Warthog) crashed just after takeoff. The accident is still under investigation, but memorial services were held in Alaska, and in his Michigan Visitation and funeral services were held on March 7. He was interred in Colorado Springs on March 9 in the Air Force National Cemetery. He was posthumously given the rank of Major. The Air Force took care of all the details, which the family appreciated greatly.

Jeep and Gerry had their 60th wedding anniversary during this time, and was little noticed.

Our sympathy and our condolences surely go out to our Rafeld friends in their great loss.

Jeep recently had "Shingles" and he is not 100% over this plague. In late January, he was hospitalized for several days when his blood pressure tumbled to low limits. I will be down in Florida soon, and will visit Jeep and Gerry for sure. He has been hard to find lately, but what with all the problems he has developed, I am sure that we will be able to get together, hopefully at the China Jade.

Thank you for the note Jeep and Gerry. You know full well that the sympathy and condolences of all the members are with you, and

you will remain in our prayers during this downward turn of events.

I want to be able to get this off before I go to Florida, so I will be holding open the rest of this page for any new developments which may arise. I will be in New Smyrna Beach on the 5th, and plan to stay at least 2 weeks, possibly more. I will stay on the coast for 3 or 4 days, then will meander around the state for the rest of the time. Of course, I will have about 3 or 4 days in New Port Richey doing my favorite thing with my problem mortgagee. I may just give that instrument to a favorite charity, and ditch the responsibility of the trouble she gives me.

I got back the bulletin sent to James Thurman, and I have a new address for him:

415 Mt. Sequoia Ct.
Clayton, CA 95417-1611

Everyone stay healthy, really plan to attend the reunion, and keep in touch with this aging custodian with lots of news.

As Ever

JBS

TAHITIAN RESORT
2337 U. S. 19
HOLIDAY FL 34691
284th FIELD ARTILLERY BN. (HELPMATE)
PHONE 1 - 727 - 937- 4121

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____

ARRIVING: _____ DEPARTING _____

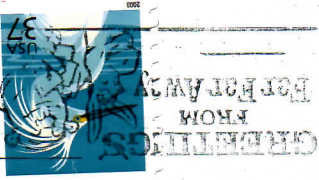
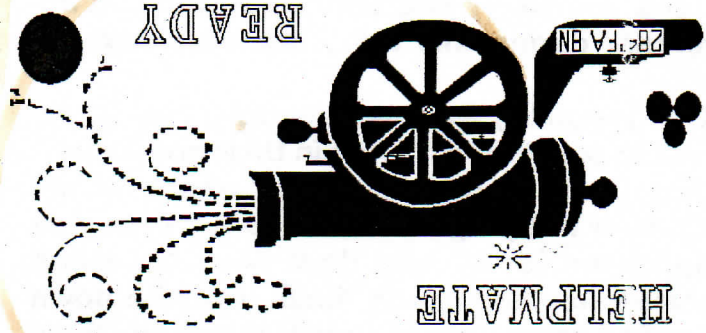
Payment by: Cash ___ Check ___ Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Special Requirements: _____ Pool Side Room _____

Room type: Double Queen _____ King _____ Single _____

JOHN A. WASILEWSKI
7534 W. POTTAWATOMI DR.
PALOS HEIGHTS IL 60463-2028

“HELPMATE”
284TH FA BN VII
2004 REUNION
HOLIDAY, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 12 - 15



RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER
JOHN B. SUMMERS, CUSTODIAN
5494 ABERDOUR LANE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63129

Upcoming reunion
HOLIDAY, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 12—15

| OCTOBER 2004 | | | | | | |
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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

AND

YOU

ARE EXPECTED

