

President's Message by Glenn Snodgrass, Blackhorse Association President

The six months since the last newsletter have been very busy and hugely successful!

Last Patrol in Germany

On April 24, 2015, about 150 members of the Border Legion, veterans of the 14th and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiments, and family members, gathered at the former Observation Post Alpha, now Point Alpha, for a commemoration of the last border patrol conducted by U.S. forces on the former Inner German Border.

The event was a great celebration of freedom and unity, attended by a stellar cast of notables, to include the Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe, General Hodges; The U.S. Ambassador to Germany, John Emerson; the Minister President of Thüringen (formerly in East Germany), Bodo Ramelow; and the European Minister from Hesse, Lucia Puttrich. Three former Blackhorse Regimental Commanders were also in attendance: General (ret.) Crosbie Saint, Lieutenant General (ret.) Guy Swan, and Brigadier General (ret.) John Sherman Crow. The ceremony was ably supported by the U.S. Army Europe Band, Cadets from the Junior ROTC program, and vehicles and Soldiers of the 2nd Cavalry Stryker Brigade. The entire program was hosted and arranged by the Point Alpha Foundation led by Volker Bausch.

In addition to the ceremony itself, there were a number of squadron socials and a reception at the Goldener Karpfen, a well-known Fulda restaurant, hosted by the German American Business and Cultural Association, headed by former Blackhorse S-5, Renate Stieber.

Reunion in Las Vegas

Nearly 300 association members and family attended the 2015 Blackhorse Reunion in Las Vegas from June 11-14; it was a resounding success. The attendees included five regimental commanders and five regimental command sergeants major. The Venetian Hotel and Casino was included:

- A wonderful 2nd Annual Top Phillips/Trip Lemire motorcycle ride with 14 riders.
- The First Ernie Ford Memorial Golf Tournament.
- A hugely popular Thursday night social at Gus's church.
- A memorable trip to Fort Irwin on Friday where the Regiment heartily welcomed us with a red carpet that brought tears to several eyes.
- A casual and relaxing Friday evening short program with lots of time to meet with old friends and make new ones.
- A successful business/membership meeting.
- An excellent memorial service conducted by our new Chaplain Kirk Murray.

The highlight of the meeting was, as usual, a superb banquet on Saturday night that featured a first-class buffet. Colonel Kevin Jacobi, the 66th Colonel of the Regiment, presented the annual "State of the Regiment Update" and then inducted seven new Blackhorse veterans into the Honorary Rolls of the Regiment:

- Command Sergeant Major (ret.) Leonard Cooper
- Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Crystal Kruger
- Sergeant Major (ret.) Ernie Ford (posthumously)
- Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Ron Miranda (posthumously)
- Master Sergeant (ret.) Terry J. Sperry (posthumously)
- Colonel (ret.) Robert Hurt
- Ambassador Kingdon Gould (He served in the 11th Cavalry Group in World War II, where

he received a battlefield commission.)

- Colonel Jacobi also designated Mrs. Joanne Patton a "Lady of the Regiment".

We announced the 15 new recipients of Blackhorse Association Scholarships, including our first 6 "named" scholarships. (We will now "name" a scholarship for the person or Foundation that funds an entire \$3000 scholarship.)

The Blackhorse Store sold several thousand dollars worth of clothing and memorabilia, and in a fitting and well-deserved twist of irony, Gus Flangas won the cavalry pistol raffle. (Our reunion in 2016 will be in San Antonio - hope to see you there; please see all the information elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Memorial completion and dedication – August 20

On a hot and sultry morning along Fort Benning Road, just outside a main gate to Fort Benning and adjacent to the new Pattons' Park and the National Infantry Museum, several hundred Blackhorse veterans of all eras gathered to dedicate and unveil our new memorial. MG Austin Miller, the Commanding General of the Maneuver Center of Excellence headed up a large contingent of local dignitaries. CSM Carl Ashmead, the current RCSM of the active regiment at Fort Irwin, was there to help with the unveiling.

The centerpiece obelisk is a rock which was quarried in Vietnam and brought back to Fort Knox carrying the names of our KIA. Over time it has been enhanced with other obelisks to memorialize our KIA from our other conflicts. It is now a memorial for all of our eras of service. First of its kind. A benchmark for all other armor and cavalry regiments to try and emulate. A place where Blackhorse Troopers of all eras can connect with their past and their future (the new Home of Armor). A fitting memorial to the Blackhorse Troopers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice since 1901. A place to take your family and say: "This is who I am. I was part of the Eleventh United States Cavalry, the one and only Blackhorse Regiment."

We invite everyone to go see the memorial at Fort Benning, and we believe you will be very proud of the final product. Our memorial has the names of all Blackhorse troopers who died in combat while in service to our regiment. It also has nearly 1600 granite pavers donated by hundreds of contributors who helped create it.

(If you have access to a computer, please check out all the pictures from these major events on our website at www.blackhorse.org)

Patton Hall Classroom update

We are in the final stages of our other major project of this year: to decorate the walls of the new Blackhorse Classroom in Patton Hall at the new Armor School. Jim Tankovich, the Project Lead, has collected several prints and other items donated by many of you. Don Snedeker, our historian, has come up with some storyboards to help us think through the many periods in our glorious history that we want to glamorize on those walls. Our Blackhorse team in Columbus, GA is headed up by Rocky Kmiecik, with help from his wife Sabine, Gary Galloway and Bruce Goble. Our main contact at the Armor School is CSM (ret.) George Desario, a Blackhorse vet who was the CSM of the Armor School and Center at Fort Knox, and who is now the senior civilian. MAJ Bob Underwood is our contact at the School Brigade. Our current plan is to put up at least half of the items on the walls before the end of September and complete by the end of the year. If you are ever near Fort Benning, you might plan to see this new mini-history of our regiment.

Financials

Thanks to another great year of support from our membership, we have had another really successful year financially; we are better off at this point in our history than we have ever been. We gave out \$45,000 in scholarships this year and are on track to be able to do something similar or better next year. Our 1901 Club annual fundraising effort brought in enough money to pay for all of our routine annual expenses (newsletters, website, fees, etc.).

Fundraising

Fundraising
The BHA maintains two basic income streams: one to fund the Blackhorse Association Scholarship Fund, our primary activity, and one to maintain the Blackhorse Association Operating Fund (to pay our bills).

- (1) We would be appreciative to receive any size donations to our Scholarship Fund. We have established the **Allons Club** category for benefactors who commit to donating \$1000 a year. If you are interested in supporting the Scholarship Fund at this level, or at any level, please call me at the numbers listed above under “Communications”, or email me at jgs525@verizon.net, or go to our website www.blackhorse.org and click on “Donate.”
- (2) This year we have added another donation option. For any person or Foundation or company who donates \$3000 for a full scholarship, we will name that scholarship for the person or Foundation or company. If interested, please contact me directly or Bob Hurt (see below).
- (3) The Blackhorse Association Operating Fund is essential to administering the scholarship program, publishing and mailing the hardcopy newsletter twice annually, maintaining our E-News email program, operating and maintaining our web presence at www.blackhorse.org and satisfying the several statutory filing requirements of a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization. The **1901 Club**, named for the year the 11th Cavalry Regiment was constituted and organized, is our annual mail-out fundraiser, headed by Don Wicks, our Fundraising Director, and is the fuel that permits our association to survive. Please contribute at whatever level is comfortable for you.

Scholarships

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients for this year!

Christian F. Vissers Memorial Scholarship - Lauren Victor

Point Alpha Foundation Scholarship - Morgan Craig

In Memory of Gary McCann on behalf of the Intermec Foundation Scholarship - Andrew Mayo

Don Blanton Scholarship - Cheyanne Slocum

Lance Gilman Real Estate Scholarship - Julia Rigsbee

Other recipients:

Niko Ambrose

Cekeithia Barnes

Taylor Brown

Daniel Byrne

John Hatcher

Jacob Maes

Michael Victor

Kayleigh Waters

Kelsey Waters

Kyle Waters

If you have any scholarship questions, call Bob Hurt at 281-364-7285 or email him at bobhurt3@comcast.net.

Communications

Clint Ancker, our Director of Communications, is working diligently to keep the membership informed about all the activities of the Association, primarily using this hardcopy newsletter as well as monthly electronic news by email. He is supported by Randall Ponder, our professional copy editor, and Greg Hallmark, our webmaster. Clint and I ask that you make us aware of things that you think would be of interest to our membership; just send either of us what you have in mind electronically at any time (see list of Officers on page 4), or mail it to us. (Glenn Snodgrass: 7830 South Valley Drive, Fairfax Station, VA 22039); (Clint Ancker: 17946 156th Terrace, Bonner Springs, KS 66012)

If you are reading this newsletter in hard copy, do not have electronic capability, and ever have any questions about anything regarding the Association, please do not hesitate to call me at 703-250-3064 (home) or 703-407-4038 (cell).

Website

If you have access to a computer, please check our website at www.blackhorse.org for a wealth of information about the Association and the active regiment, and give us your email address so that we can send you our monthly e-news items. Greg Hallmark has done a marvelous job over the last years making our website a state-of-the-art place to visit, but we are always looking for ways to make the website better.

ALLONS AND BLACKHORSE FOREVER