

President's Message by Glenn Snodgrass, Blackhorse Association President

Thanks to great support from our membership, we have had a really successful year financially. We gave out \$60,000 in scholarships last year and are on track to be able to do something similar or better this year. Our 1901 Club annual fundraising effort has brought in enough money to pay for all of our routine annual expenses (newsletters, website, fees, etc). And - we have had an especially good response with our paver program to help pay for the move and enhancement of our new monument at Fort Benning - we received 244 paver orders, bringing in \$24,400. A special thanks to all of you who have contributed, and I know that some of you have contributed more than once.

This spring is an especially busy time for the Association - a celebration in Europe in April of 25 years since we stopped patrolling along the former Inter-German border; a new monument being constructed at Fort Benning near Pattons' Park, adjacent to the proposed site of a new cavalry/armor museum; an exciting reunion in Las Vegas (during which we will visit the active regiment); and the decoration of the new Blackhorse Classroom in Patton Hall at the new Armor School at Fort Benning.

The 25th Anniversary of the Last Patrol along the former Inter-German Border

Planning for attendance by Blackhorse veterans at the ceremony on the 24th of April at Observation Point Alpha near Fulda and Bad Hersfeld in Germany is nearly complete. Senior-level participation has increased over the past few months - the USAREUR Commanding General will be there, along with the USAREUR band, as well as a number of German (and U.S.) Government/State Dept officials. Festivities begin at 1100 hours and continue throughout the day. There will be squadron-level events planned on the 22nd and 23rd and a regimental level social event on the 23rd. If you plan to attend and have not contacted our Project lead, Dave Cowan, please contact him immediately at dave.cowan@acrpros.com or by phone at 479-750-3713 or 479-445-2720 so he and our squadron points of contact can make better plans.

New monument report

As this newsletter goes to press, the construction of our new monument is ongoing. The move from the Patton Museum at Fort Knox was completed in late summer of last year (with yeoman work done by Rondo Jackson and other volunteers), and the monument has been stored for several months at the Columbus Monument Company. The plan is for the concrete pads to be poured and then allowed proper curing time, after which the pavers will be carefully laid in four sections, and then the four obelisks put into place along with two new granite tablets. We anticipate having the total project done by sometime in June.

I must acknowledge the significant role played by the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Although we shared the total cost of movement and construction with the ACVVC, they have contributed far more than we have. Allen Hathaway, their President, has taken the lead with coordination with monument companies at both the Fort Knox end and the Fort Benning end, and he has done a remarkable job. Our plan is to dedicate our new monument in mid-August during the annual ACVVC reunion in Columbus, GA. Even if you are not a member of the 11th ACVVC, you may want to attend that ceremony. In our monthly electronic newsletters, we intend to give updates on the progress of the monument. [If you are able to receive our electronic newsletters, we ask that you tell us so that we can save money on these hardcopy newsletters.]

Las Vegas Reunion

Planning is well underway for 11-14 June in Las Vegas. Please see the flyer and registration form elsewhere in this newsletter, but I have a couple of recommendations. First - our very special room rate at the magnificent Venetian Hotel (\$125 a night including the mandatory resort fee) will only be available until the 11th of May, so be sure to make your plans early. Tom Smart and I reconnoitered the Venetian a month ago along with Gus Flangas, our reunion coordinator on site, and it is a fantastic venue. Second - you may want to come to Las Vegas on Wednesday, the 10th, if you want to play in the Ernie Ford golf event or participate in the motorcycle ride on Thursday morning. Early Friday we leave by bus to go to Fort Irwin to see the active regiment, which will be concluding a rotation the day we visit. We have plans for a great casual evening of Greek food and drink Thursday night with Gus at his nearby church, in addition to our regular Friday night Stable Your Mount and Saturday night banquet (with recently retired General JD Thurman planned to be our keynote speaker). As usual, we plan to have our silent auction with some special items offered. We urge you to make your plans early and register early so we can make better plans.

Patton Hall Blackhorse Classroom Update

Our other major project for the first part of this year is to decorate the walls of the 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 main contact at the Armor School is CSM (ret) George Desario, 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. We will soon be making the decisions on exactly what items we will put up and then begin to procure or copy or frame those items. Our self-imposed time limit to have this done is mid-summer, so that it will be ready for Blackhorse veterans to see when they visit Patton Hall during the 11th ACVVC reunion in mid-August.

Scholarships

You may have sons or daughters eligible for our annual \$3000 scholarships. The deadline to submit scholarship applications for the 2015-16 school year is fast approaching: April 1, 2015. Go to the Blackhorse web site <http://www.blackhorse.org/scholarships.cfm> for details and the application form.

The complete application must be postmarked not-later-than March 31, 2015 and mailed to:

Bob Hurt
75 E. Shadowpoint Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381

The application can also be emailed to bobhurt3@comcast.net. If you have any questions, call Bob at 281-298-8446. Last year's winners must reapply (that is, complete the full application as if it were the first time) to be eligible for the upcoming year's awards. 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 newsletters. He is supported by Randall Ponder, our professional editor, and Greg Hallmark, our website guru. He and I ask that you make us aware of things which you think would be of interest to the Association membership – just send either of us what you have in mind electronically at any time (see list of Directors on page XX), 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.

Fundraising

Our Association 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.

- (1) We have established the **Allons Club** category to grow the Scholarship Fund. Benefactors can be members or non-members who commit to donating \$1000 a year. The Association is looking for 100 or more benefactors to commit to this amount, which would ensure that we could continue to help fund educations for our sons and daughters for many years to come.

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) 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.

Blackhorse Memorabilia

Finish Line Awards (FLA), our memorabilia vendor, continues to do a superb job of offering quality merchandise - see their advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter. FLA's Blackhorse business continues to grow, and our share of the store's profits continues to grow. Once again, if you have any questions of any kind about memorabilia, do not hesitate to call or email me.

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