

# ALWAYS FIRST!!

**No Mission Too Difficult! No Sacrifice Too Great! Duty First!**



Photos courtesy of the US Army

## **Diehard Reunion 2022**

Washington D.C.

September 16-19 2022



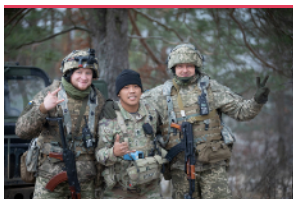
Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion Association will hold the 2022 Reunion in the Washington DC area from Friday, September 16 to Monday, September 19, 2022. Highlight of the Reunion will be a visit to the new National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir – Please join us!

For more information on our reunion and registration page see p. 10

### **Silver Oak Leaf Cluster**

First Engineer Battalion  
Japanese American Veterans Association  
Merrifield Community Association Foundation  
National Society Daughters of the American Colonists

National Museum US Army Veterans' Hall Donor Wall Inscription



Current Diehards  
in action.  
p. 3



Past Diehards in  
action.  
p. 5

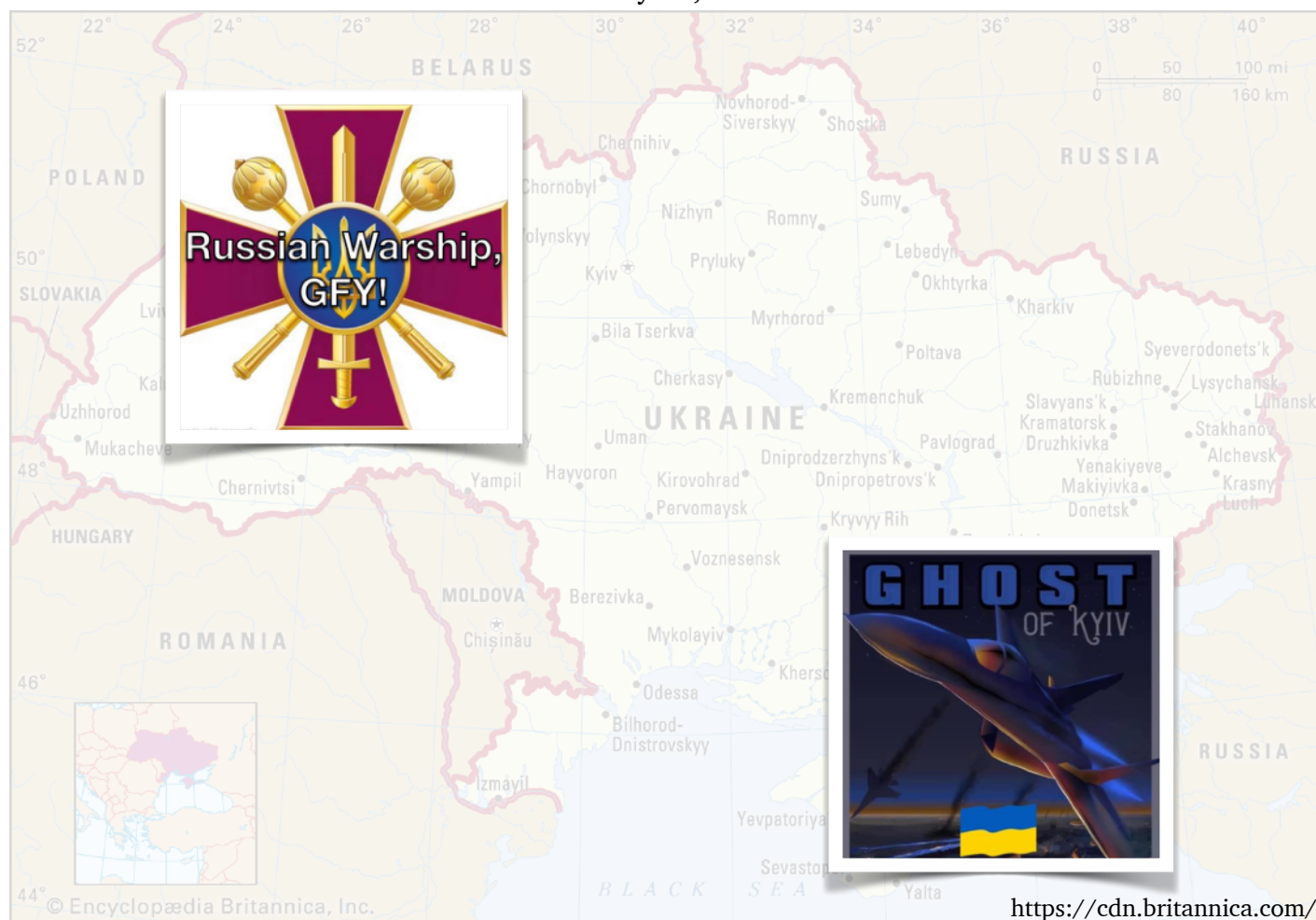


Our Chaplain's  
Corner  
p. 8

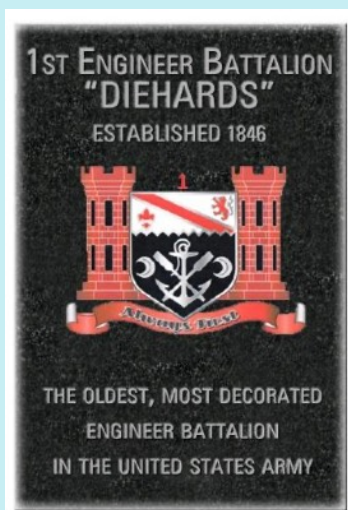


# Russia invades Ukraine

February 24, 2022



<https://cdn.britannica.com/>



1EN BN Tribute

## DIEHARD 38TH REUNION!!!

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2022

HERNDON, VA

(WASHINGTON DC/FT. BELVOIR)

Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel,  
Herndon, Va.

ALL "DIEHARDS" LOST  
WHILE SERVING IN THE  
FIRST ENGINEERS  
THE MOST DECORATED  
ENGINEER BATTALION  
IN THE ARMY

1EN BN Commemorative  
Brick



# Diehard Current Operations



Sappers from Assassin Company, [1st Engineer Battalion](#) and Bushmaster Company conducted Bangalore and Urban Explosive Breaching Techniques in order to train expedient wire obstacle reduction at NSTA, Bulgaria in preparation for future culminating Live Fire Exercises.

Photos by Spc. Osvaldo Fuentes and Sgt. Adam



Dale Greenfield giving CPT Catherine Antoniou, the rear detachment commander for 1st Engineer Battalion a check for \$200.00 for the Family Readiness Group.

This monetary gift was donated by Marilyn Gilbert in memory of Woody Gilbert.

# WINNING *after* LOSING: Building Resilient Teams

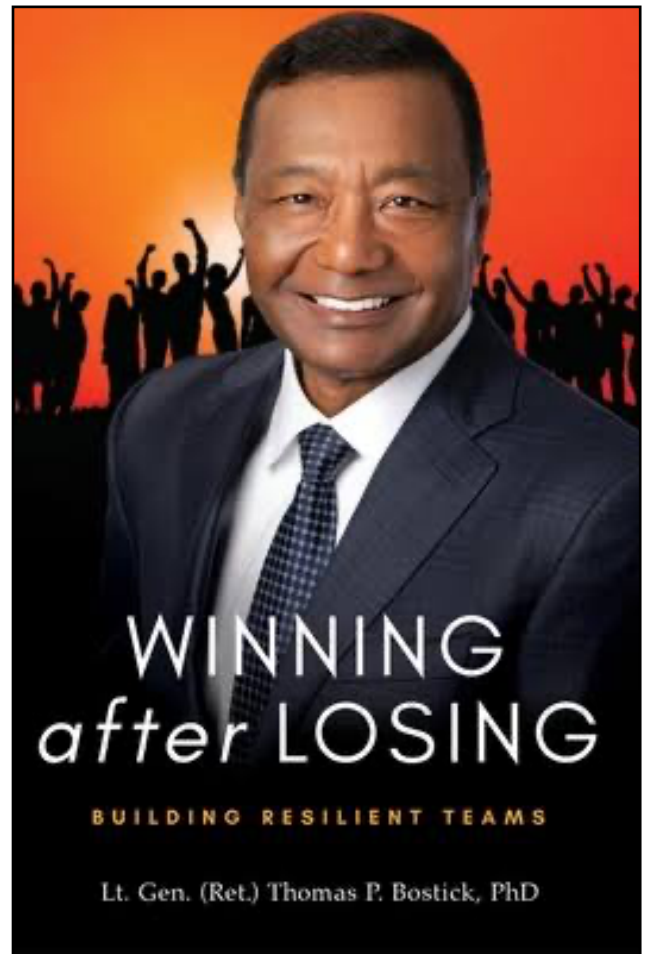
By Lt. Gen (Ret) Thomas P. Bostick (Author)

Hardcover-Kindle-Audio Book (amazon.com)

Individuals, teams, and organizations must become more resilient in today's complex world, and each one will experience failure at some point. Successful individuals, teams, and organizations bounce back. *Winning After Losing, Building Resilient Teams* offers a collection of lessons on leadership and resilience, of winning teams. I am writing this book as a retired U.S. Army three-star General, and as the former Chief Operating Officer of a public biotechnology company. Each leadership role taught me valuable lessons, whether serving with tactical units, at the corporate level in The Pentagon, or in seemingly impossible global missions. After transitioning into the business environment, many of these lessons of leadership and teamwork continued to make a significant positive impact. All businesses experience failure at some point in their growth, and they can bounce back through great leadership and teamwork. Whether in the military, government, or business, it is possible to build winning resilient teams.

Resilience is the capacity to recover. It is the effort expended to bend but not break despite trauma, tragedy, adversity, or crisis. Ultimately resilience is adapting based on lessons learned, to bounce back stronger than before. If you like winning, learn as much as possible from the experience of losing...that is what resilient teams do so well.

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick

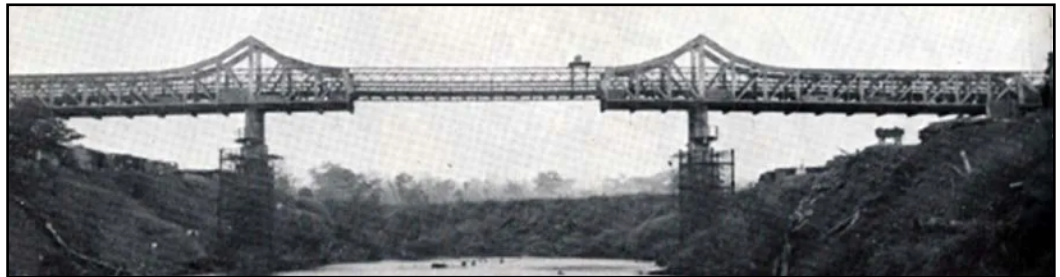


*Thank you, LTG Bostick and Renee, for sharing your experiences! Most people only get this perspective serving under great leaders like you and now it is shared in this book. Each chapter shows how struggles turn into opportunities and subsequently wins. You provide a great perspective on the value of teamwork, innovation and trust to build world class teams. This will absolutely be a reference as I continue to work on the art of leadership for myself and other leaders in my organization. Thank you! -Matt P (Diehard Soldier)*

V  
I  
E  
T  
N  
A  
M

On May 2, 1965, the battalion deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam as part of the 1st Infantry Division. For five years the battalion cleared obstacles, built roads, airfields, base camps, and bridges in support of numerous combat operations including Junction City I and II and the TET Offensive of 1968. The battalion became famous for the Diehard Tunnel Rat section that bravely cleared the extensive Vietcong tunnel systems with little more than small arms and demolitions. The battalion received four Meritorious Unit Citations for actions during the Vietnam War.

<https://www.firstengineerbattalionveterans.org>



Some history of this bridge. The French military government built this reinforced concrete bridge when they controlled the country. The Viet Men, who were fighting the French at that time, blew the center span out and the French put in a steel section to cover the gap. This steel section was too narrow for our self-propelled guns to cross. So what we did was to use explosives to drop the steel section into the river and build a modified Double Double Bailey Bridge. This was the longest Double

Double Bailey built in combat conditions. This was the only operation that I was on that A Company worked on with all three platoons. I worked on setting the explosives. This was not an easy operation, both sides of the road were mined so we could not get off on the sides of the road. All of our bridge parts and equipment had to stay on the road and be brought up to the bridge a piece at a time.



Content provided by [firstengineerbattalionveterans.org](https://www.firstengineerbattalionveterans.org) and specifically Bob Roby.





In September 2003, the battalion deployed to the Ar Ramadi area of Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. During its time in Iraq, the battalion was active in fixed-site security, route clearance, cache searches, cordon and searches, raids, Traffic Control Points, force protection, and construction projects. The battalion's efforts succeeded in destroying large quantities of enemy supplies and ammunition and assisted in to capture of numerous insurgents. The

battalion's hard work and perseverance served to greatly curtail the activities of insurgents in Al Anbar province, assisting in the security and well-being of the citizens of that area and enabling them to move forward on the path to a stable, democratic Iraq. The battalion returned in late 2004 and received the Valorous Unit Award for actions during OIF II.

On September 20, 2006, the battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 15 months the battalion had over 1800 IED events, and over 500,000 KM of desert roads were patrolled with over 500 CLP's conducted. The BN was diversified with 111th Sapper CO up at FOB Marez, 41 st MAC, and FSC at COB Speicher, HSC at LSAA Anaconda, 72nd MAC at FOB Warhorse. The battalion returned to Fort Riley in December of 2007 having successfully accomplished its Route Clearance mission in Iraq.

In July 2009 the 41st Clearance Company deployed to the RC-East Area of Operations in Afghanistan to provide route clearance assets for three separate brigade combat teams and the Polish Battle Group.

In November 2009 the 1st Engineer Battalion deployed in support of OIF IX-X. The 1st Engineer Battalion conducted engineer operations in United States Division – North (USD-N) in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion conducted route clearance along assigned Division routes while concurrently partnering with the 4th and 12th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiments in a modified Advise and Assist role in order to help these FERs become mission capable. For actions in Iraq, the battalion was awarded its fifth Meritorious Unit Citation.



O  
I  
F  
&  
O  
E  
F

## Guestbook - Veterans Of The First Engineer Battalion

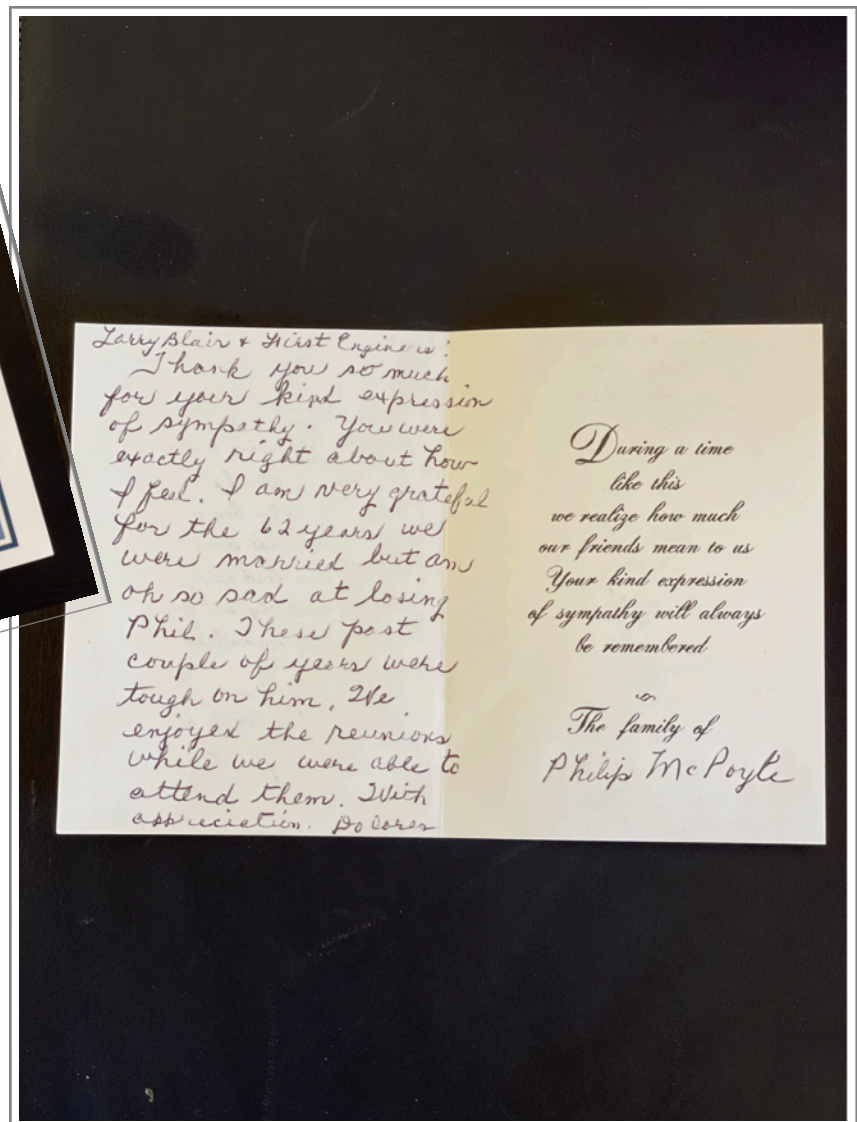
(<https://www.firstengineerbattalionveterans.org/guestbook/>)

**Dave Berry** wrote on December 25, 2021 at 12:54 pm

I served as a combat medic with the 2/2nd Inf. (Mech) from April '67 to Sept. '67 and with the 2/28th Inf. Black Lions from Sept. '67-April '68. While I was with 2/2nd we worked with the engineers frequently doing jungle clearing. Operation Paul Bunyan was a lengthy operation in '67. I have some photos from that and other operations that I participated in on my photo gallery. The combat engineers that we worked with were brave and hard-working. They deserved a lot of respect.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Dave Berry



Larry Blair & First Engineer  
Thank you so much  
for your kind expression  
of sympathy. You were  
exactly right about how  
I feel. I am very grateful  
for the 62 years we  
were married but am  
oh so sad at losing  
Phil. These past  
couple of years were  
tough on him. He  
enjoyed the reunions  
while we were able to  
attend them. With  
appreciation. Doreen

During a time  
like this  
we realize how much  
our friends mean to us  
Your kind expression  
of sympathy will always  
be remembered

The family of  
Philip McPoyle

# Chaplain's Corner

**"Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one?" Bruce Lee**

*Philip McPoyle*

*August 2, 1931 - December 27, 2021*

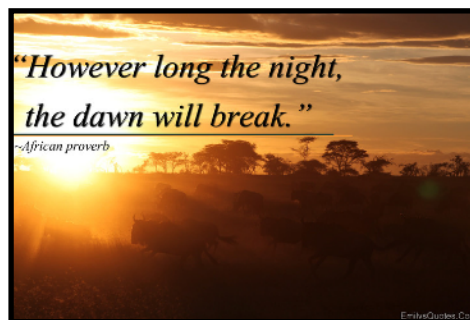
Philip McPoyle of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania died Monday, December 27, 2021 at Jeanes Hospital. He was 90 years old. Phil was born August 2, 1931 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of the late Philip McPoyle and the late Margaret McPoyle (nee - Maxwell). He is the beloved husband of Dolores McPoyle nee Pivnickas; father of Maureen O'Neill, Philip J. McPoyle, Irene Mahon and her husband Pearse, and Thomas McPoyle and his wife Kellie; grandfather of 11; great grandfather of 1.



Phil was born, raised, and educated in Philadelphia where he graduated from West Catholic High School for Boys in 1950. He served in the United States Army from November 24, 1953 until his full Honorable Discharge on December 21, 1961 at rank of SP4, CE. He was a member of The Big Red One, US Army First Infantry Division. After his service Phil and Dolores kept up their connections by engaging at BRO social functions. Phil spent many years working for the City of Philadelphia. He worked mainly at the Philadelphia Water Department and the Northeast Philadelphia Airport as part of the security detail.

Phil was a member of The Artisans Order of Mutual Protection for most of his life. He and Dolores were members at Presentation BVM parish in Cheltenham for more than 60 years. In his free time, Phil was an avid gardener, history buff, and loved reading.

RIP Brother



Please notify Chaplain Larry Blair if any member of the Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion passes away. Provide details, obituary, name and address of next of kin if possible. [blairylar@hotmail.com](mailto:blairylar@hotmail.com)



**Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion**  
Board of Directors for 2020-2021  
(September 9, 2020)

**Jerry Hunter**  
President (Term expires 2022)  
*Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom*  
4 Foxboro Court  
Troy, IL 62294  
573-855-1306  
[cw4jerry.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:cw4jerry.hunter@gmail.com)

**Joe Vargas**  
Vice President (Term expires 2022)  
Vietnam  
2582 E. 109th Avenue  
Northglenn, CO 80233  
303-430-4218  
[jxvarga@centurylink.net](mailto:jxvarga@centurylink.net)

**Jay Franz**  
Immediate Past President  
*Ft. Riley, Vietnam*  
10213 E. Sonoran Heights Place  
Tucson, AZ 85748  
520-751-9259  
[jayandcaren@gmail.com](mailto:jayandcaren@gmail.com)

**Harold Kent Austin**  
Acting Secretary  
Vietnam  
2301 Spring Lane  
Marion, IL 62959  
618-997-3466  
[skylion1945@gmail.com](mailto:skylion1945@gmail.com)

**Dale Greenfield**  
Treasurer  
*Desert Storm*  
20539 401st Ave  
Huron SD 57350  
605-350-2319  
[dale.greenfield@yahoo.com](mailto:dale.greenfield@yahoo.com)

**F.C. "Chuck" Humphrey**  
Website Coordinator  
Vietnam  
852 Brookside Lane  
Pocatello, ID 83204  
208-238-3584  
[humpflow@isu.edu](mailto:humpflow@isu.edu)

**Alan Simmons**  
Director (Term expires 2022)  
Vietnam  
1612 N. Stillwood Drive  
Leland, NC 28451  
910-399-7057  
[bandaid125@gmail.com](mailto:bandaid125@gmail.com)

**Blair Smoulder**  
Director (Term expires 2022)  
Vietnam  
56 Kamp Street  
Warren, PA 16365  
814-688-2487  
[btsmoulder@yahoo.com](mailto:btsmoulder@yahoo.com)

**Larry Blair**  
Chaplain  
Vietnam  
7309 Luella Anne Dr NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505-249-1035  
[blairylar@hotmail.com](mailto:blairylar@hotmail.com)

**Chad Covey**  
Director (Term expires 2021)  
Vietnam  
1843 Hidden Pointe Drive  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-328-1843  
[chadcovey1@gmail.com](mailto:chadcovey1@gmail.com)

**Tom Jennings**  
2021 Reunion Coordinator  
Vietnam  
27 Hampton Court  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
732-618-1683  
[tomandgeri07@gmail.com](mailto:tomandgeri07@gmail.com)

**Joe Coppolo**  
Director (Term expires 2022)  
Vietnam  
2201 Wildwind Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88007  
575-649-6011  
[gunsmithjoe40@gmail.com](mailto:gunsmithjoe40@gmail.com)

**Kate Guttormsen**  
Newsletter Publisher  
OIF  
17563 Colonial Park Dr.  
Monument, CO 80132  
808-349-2556  
[kpguttormsen@gmail.com](mailto:kpguttormsen@gmail.com)

**Tom Jennings**  
Director (Term expires 2021)  
Vietnam  
27 Hampton Court  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
732-618-1683  
[tomandgeri07@gmail.com](mailto:tomandgeri07@gmail.com)

**Dale Greenfield**  
2022 Reunion Coordinator  
*Desert Storm*  
20539 401st Ave  
Huron SD 57350  
605-350-2319  
[dale.greenfield@yahoo.com](mailto:dale.greenfield@yahoo.com)

**Robert (Bob) Roby**  
Liaison to the First Engineer Battalion and to the Society of  
the First Infantry Division  
Vietnam  
12 Oak Valley Drive  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
785-806-8038  
[robby1351@gmail.com](mailto:robby1351@gmail.com)

## **38th REUNION NEWS !!!**

**SEPTEMBER 16 -19, 2022**

**HERNDON VA (WASHINGTON DC/FT. BELVOIR)**

**THE REUNION VENUE AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS REMAIN UNCHANGED**

**Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, Herndon, Va.**

Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion Association will hold the 2022 Reunion in the Washington DC area from Friday, September 16 to Monday, September 19, 2022. The schedule of events remains unchanged from last year. Highlight of the Reunion will be a visit to the new National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir – The Museum our Association helped build with our Museum fundraiser and which prominently displays The First Engineer Battalion name in the Veterans' Hall, on the Memorial Brick and The Unit Tribute Plaque.

**WE MISSED OUT LAST YEAR AND IN JUNCTION CITY 2020. DON'T LET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY SLIP AWAY IN 2022! CALL THE MATES YOU SERVED WITH! IT'S GREAT FUN IF YOU GET A GROUP TOGETHER AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS! MAKE RESERVATIONS AND MAKE 2022 THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET UP WITH OLD FRIENDS!!**

We negotiated a great room rate with the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport – which the hotel agreed to honor for 2022. Rooms for two with breakfast are \$109 (\$122, including all fees and taxes). The dedicated registration Web Page address is:  
[\(https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/iadahhf-1eb22-4a8f4930-b707-4d80-b0f7-fe7bb36b17bc/\)](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/iadahhf-1eb22-4a8f4930-b707-4d80-b0f7-fe7bb36b17bc/).  
**(DON'T USE THE 2021 REGISTRATION LINK!!)**

For those wishing to spend more time in Washington the hotel will give the Reunion rate for up to eight nights between September 13 and 20 on a space available basis, so act early. Parking is complementary for cars and motor homes. Complimentary airport and local area shuttle is also available. Since we are all concerned about travel during these uncertain times hotel reservations may be cancelled without penalty up to 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival. **PLEASE NOTE! THE HOTEL WILL NOT CANCEL RESERVATIONS MADE THROUGH A THIRD PARTY BOOKING SITE!**

The full Reunion schedule and registration form are attached.

**PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM AND SEND YOUR REGISTRATION EARLY!**



**VETERANS OF THE FIRST ENGINEER BATTALION  
ANNUAL REUNION, 16-19 SEPTEMBER, 2022  
US ARMY MUSEUM, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA**

**LODGING: HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES, 13869 Park Center Rd, Herndon VA 20171**

**Room Block: veterans of the First Engineer Battalion 2022 Reunion**

**The dedicated registration Web Page address (DON'T USE THE 2021 REGISTRATION LINK!!):**  
[\(https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/iadahf-1eb22-4a8f4930-b707-4d80-b0f7-fe7bb36b17bc/\)](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/iadahf-1eb22-4a8f4930-b707-4d80-b0f7-fe7bb36b17bc/).

**Check-in:** 16 Sep 2022 **(A limited number of rooms at the reunion rate are available between**  
**Check-out:** 19 Sep 2022 **13 and 20 Sep for those wishing to extend their stay.)**  
**ROOM RATE: \$109 PER NIGHT (\$122.06 INCLUSIVE)**  
**INCLUDES: Breakfast for two; free Parking; FREE CANCELLATION 24 HRS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL**

**YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR ROOM WITH THE HOTEL BY AUGUST 15 TO GET THIS RATE!!**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b>SEP 13/14/15</b>	<b>EARLY ARRIVALS</b>	<b>ON YOUR OWN</b>
<b>FRIDAY SEP 16</b>	1200-1800 1200-1600 1600-1800 1800-1930 1930-????	REGISTRATION. HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN OPEN – SHUTTLE TO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM BOARD MEETING DINNER ON YOUR OWN HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
<b>SATURDAY SEP 17</b>	0900-1100 1100-1230 1230-1300 1300-1700 1800-1900 1830-2000 2000-????	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LUNCHEON YOUR OWN MEET IN LOBBY – BUS TO MUSEUM TOUR US ARMY MUSEUM HOSPITALITY MEETING ROOM OPEN ITALIAN BUFFET (\$27PP) HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
<b>SUNDAY SEP 18</b>	AM 1145-1200 1200-1600  1730-1900 1900-2030 2030-????	OPEN MEET IN LOBBY – BOARD BUS TO MEMORIALS WASHINGTON MALL MEMORIALS. WREATH LAYING AT FIRST DIV MEMORIAL HOSPITALITY ROOM – COCKTAILS & PICTURES BANQUET – 3 COURSE PLATED DINNER HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN
<b>MONDAY Sep 19</b>	AM	<b>FAREWELL &amp; DEPARTURE</b>
<b>TUESDAY SEP 20</b>		<b>LATE DEPARTURES ON YOUR OWN</b>

**VETERANS OF THE FIRST ENGINEER BATTALION  
ANNUAL REUNION, 16-19 SEPTEMBER, 2022  
HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES, HERNDON VA 20171-1224  
US ARMY MUSEUM, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA**

**REUNION REGISTRATION**

**You must submit your Reunion Registration and payment by June 15**

**Mail this form with your check made payable to "Veterans of the First Engineer Battalion" to**

**Tom Jennings  
27 Hampton Court  
Red Bank, NJ 07701**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**COST:**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$20.00PP MEMBER \$\_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**BUS TO MUSEUM: \$36.00PP MEMBER \$\_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**SATURDAY BUFFET: \$27.00PP MEMBER \$\_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**BUS TO MEMORIALS: \$36.00PP MEMBER \$\_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**BANQUET DINNER: \$49.00PP MEMBER \$\_\_\_\_\_ GUEST(S) \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**GRAND TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Registration fee is per adult (16 years and older) and is required.**

**Bus trips require a minimum of 36 passengers to cover costs.**

**You must take the bus to the Memorials. POV parking is unavailable on the Mall.**