

GEEIA-MDA-EI “CAN-DO”

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

September 13-16, 2007

FOURTEENTH BIENNIAL WORLDWIDE GEEIA-MDA-EI ASSOCIATION REUNION

We had a few glitches, but with the true “Can-Do” attitude from all concerned, it was one of our best reunions ever, even if far from being our largest.

We had attendees from 24 states (AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, KY, LA, MA, MI, MO, MS, NC, NE, NV, NY, OH, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA). One member (Roy Finuf) came all the way from Tachikawa, Japan!

We kicked the reunion off on Thursday evening with a complimentary wine and cheese party. Approximately 75 reunion attendees participated. All enjoyed the event and the camaraderie of telling “War (Installer) Stories”.

Friday morning, the 29 attendees who boarded busses and visited Bricktown in OKC, enjoyed a Water Taxi ride, lunch at Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar and Grill and shopping at the Bass Pro Shop.

Saturday morning, 17 attendees visited the 45th Infantry Division Museum. This trip was enjoyed by all. Most wished that they had more time --- two hours wasn’t enough time to see it all.

We had approximately 120 attendees, (not everyone signed in at the reunion), with 92 eating at the banquet. Most of our diners thought the prime rib, Cornish hen, and a vegetarian platter was fabulous.

Our guest speaker was Major General (Retired) Gerald L. Prather, former commander of Air Force Communications Command, located at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. General Prather’s message was so inspiring that the majority of the veterans in attendance wanted to rush out and reenlist. General Prather was presented with a certificate from the Reunion Committee making him an “Honorary EI Team Chief.” Colonel (Retired) Bill Hartsell presented a very emotional rendition of the POW-MIA Ceremony. He also honored the wives for their unending support to all our military and civilians.

The assistance of Morris Moradi, Banquet Manager for the hotel, was invaluable. To a large part, the success of this reunion can be attributed to his dedication to detail and full support of all our requirements. The Reunion Committee presented Morris with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts. In addition, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Michelle Kudron and Bandi Bishop of the hotel Sales and Catering staff, for their help in coordinating the reunion.

A big "Thanks" goes to all those who volunteered to tend bar, assist with registration and the selling of hats, patches, directories, etc.

We received two large donations at the banquet. Tom Crawford of The CLR Group, Belleville, Illinois, donated \$200.00 on behalf of his company. Richard Wangler, Jr., donated \$600.00 on behalf of his father Richard Wangler, Sr., of Monticello, Illinois. We certainly appreciate the thoughtfulness of Tom and Richard. Certificates of Appreciation were sent to both individuals along with our thanks.

Some attendees asked what we do with the revenue received from the raffle. Attendees and reunion committee members donated all the raffled items. Receipts from this year's raffle was \$305.00. This helped pay for rental of the two hospitality rooms for three days, the banquet room and printing and mailing costs. Printing and mailing costs for this reunion, thus far, have been \$552.66. This does not include the costs of printing and mailing this newsletter.

As many of you know, we have developed a web site for the association. James Badgett, of Azle, Texas is our webmaster. James asks for help from all our members in constructing the web site. He wants your ideas, history, TDY stories, photos of jobs, reunions, etc. If you know or hear of any of our brothers or sisters who have passed on, please provide that information also.

We will also post information on our remaining merchandise for you to purchase. We have a Forum page on the web site that you can use to communicate with all of the association membership. Remember, it's your site. Let's build it and use it.
www.geeia-mdai.org

In the meantime, if anyone desires copies of our 2007 Personnel Listing, hats, GEEIA patches, tote bags, magnetic discs of the "EI Dog" or "GEEIA Fred", please contact Jim Street (405) 733-5041 or streetjfc@aol.com.