

MCB 53 Alumni Association
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MCB 53
Beeline
Fall 2013

MCB 53 Alumni Association

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Gregory Bernard
"Bernie"
I swear girls can be so ungrateful sometimes. I made her breakfast in bed, and instead of saying "thank you", she's all like... "how did you get in my house?"



Bette and Neil Jensen were on top of it all and put on a terrific reunion at Council Bluffs, thank-you from all that attended. Photos are on the web.

There are a few highlights from the Saturday meeting. If not a life member please stay current on your dues to maintain the sound financial status of our organization. This Beeline letter has a **dues form for 2014** if you are not a life member or need to update info. The next reunion will be at Niagara Falls in September 2014. That reunion will be hosted by Ed Madson assisted by Les Green. Mitch Dunbar is our newly elected Chaplin. Tom Shannon has volunteered to host a reunion in Mn.

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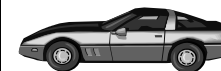
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When the going gets tough, the tough look forward to a reunion. And what a great reunion we had at Council Bluffs, Iowa. I have to admit there were a few moments of concern when the plane landed in Nebraska. Turns out it was just a 15 min. ride to where the event of 2013 was held. It was all good. The hotel had a shuttle that would pick you up or take you wherever you wanted to go (in the area, refused to drive to Fl., Pa., Ca. etc.) The rooms were sweet, dial on the bed adjusted it however you wanted. I'm thinking the boys and girls enjoyed that. The hotel staff was fantastic, even though they wouldn't help test the beds. Most critical, the hostage room was well stocked. We even had the beverage of Al Capone, "the good stuff" - Templeton Rye. Tasty.



Those that arrived Tuesday spent that evening stoking the boiler in the hostage room, hitting the casino, getting a bite to eat. An awesome pit stop we made was to Quaker Steak and Lube. They were having a classic car display with a DJ outside and the DJ served up "We Gotta Get out of This Place" dedicated to the Bees of MCB 53.

Wednesday we went in to town and started with the UP Railroad Museum, Squirrel Cage Jail, and Veterans Plaza. The Plaza had a very accurate bronze statue of a Vietnam in Country serviceman with M-16, web gear, could have been one of us. Lunch was at a cool throwback café and then on to the General Dodge House and other assorted sites. Of course, when back at the hotel, the hostage room was rocking. In fact, it never closed. Nice.

Thursday it was the bus for us. We started with the Lewis and Clarke Monument scenic overlook which was, scenic. Then to the Eagles of Honor memorial. One of a series in the Eagles of Honor Project dedicated to Veterans. Each site having a large, custom made bronze eagle created by Russell Christensen.

After visiting a large, private creation of Iowa 50 years ago, built and maintained by a private family, it was lunch time. Then we headed over to the Watson Steam Train & Depot. They feature restored miniature steam and diesel trains from the 40's and 50's that you can ride. Ride we did. Totally maintained and built by volunteers. We met five of the volunteers. Wouldn't you know it, of those we met, one was a former Seabee and three were the sons of WW II Seabees.

Next it was over to the Museum of Religious Arts. A few of our group were afraid to go in for fear of bursting into flames. However the cordial staff followed those miscreants with a ready fire extinguisher. Then to smooth out the day we headed to the Wisecup Farm Museum. Lots of buildings displaying items that were commonly used over the past century in houses, offices, medical offices and farms. The scary thing is we remembered most of these "antiques." They also had military gear from Vietnam, WW I, II, and Korea. Towards the end, free wine tasting, and tasting, and tasting.

Friday it was independent time to take in Old Town and the sites. That evening, in the hostage room, we that were drinking Bud and Coors got that Alamo feeling, we were down to our last "Silver Bullets." In THE nick of time the MCB 53 Beer Angel came through. Bette rolled in with a couple of cases – apocalypse averted.

Saturday morning was the always entertaining business meeting. Although this year we were a bit disappointed because some of the faces we had hoped to see were unable to make it. What can you do?

That night the Farewell Dinner was superb. The DJ was superb. Our guest speaker was Larry Spencer. A former RIO on a F-4 that was shot down over N. Vietnam. He spent seven years as a POW and shared some of his experiences and life thoughts. One of a kind.

I don't know how they did it but Bette and Neil arranged for perfect weather. And they busted their butts to keep things running smooth. It was a fantastic gathering of we select few. From all, thank-you to "Can Do" Bette & Neil.



Keith	Harley	VIETNAM
Edward J.	Gaillard	VIETNAM
Gilbert S.	Harrington	VIETNAM
Gary L.	Eberle	VIETNAM
Phillip D.	Bottenfield	VIETNAM
Keith J.	Kusch	VIETNAM
W. Glen	Martin	VIETNAM
John J.	Koza	VIETNAM
Bruce R.	Tremmel	VIETNAM
Dale M.	Berg	VIETNAM
Stephen C.	Wilson	VIETNAM
Leonard W.	Pettitt, Jr.	VIETNAM
Francis P.	Pappas	VIETNAM
Clarence E.	Harris, Jr.	VIETNAM
Orin D.	Nelon	VIETNAM
David L.	White	VIETNAM
Ralph J.	Storti	VIETNAM
Roney J.	Steele	VIETNAM
Barry L.	Wren	VIETNAM
Nelson L.	Stants	VIETNAM
Thomas N.	Earp, Jr.	WW II
Paul A.	Sprayburry	VIETNAM
Michael Y.	Sandborn	VIETNAM
John A.	Haynie	VIETNAM
William E.	Johnson	VIETNAM
Donald E.	Butler	VIETNAM
Neil L.	Jensen	VIETNAM
Robert E.	Barnhart	VIETNAM



David S.	Ramirez	VIETNAM
Harrison P.	Barton	VIETNAM
Charles P.	Schmainda	VIETNAM
Cary L.	Snow	VIETNAM
Harper P.	Duelly	VIETNAM
John M.	Dienst	VIETNAM
Robert D.	Tansley	VIETNAM
Clifford L.	Thorburn	VIETNAM
Howard R.	Vanscoy	VIETNAM
Orval F.	Hoenike	VIETNAM
William P.	Kalbach	VIETNAM
Cap L.	Jeannerett	VIETNAM
Wayne G.	Schwetje	VIETNAM
Joseph R.	Hayden	WW II
Gerald L.	Hayward	VIETNAM
Lyle W.	Beckman, Sr.	VIETNAM
Stephen W.	Garrett	VIETNAM
Joseph G.	Bilak	VIETNAM
Richard H.	Gallagher	VIETNAM
John E.	O'Daniel	VIETNAM
Willis L.	Walker	VIETNAM
Charles R.	Markley	VIETNAM
Cpt. Bruce L	Runberg, Ret'd	VIETNAM
Donald G.	Fernandez	VIETNAM
Ronald J.	Bush, Sr.	VIETNAM
Carmine M.	Serapiglia	VIETNAM
Robert W.	Kinsman	VIETNAM
Clifford W.	Keener	VIETNAM
Lester W.	Garden	VIETNAM
William G.	Rydalch	VIETNAM
Larry D.	Whitely	VIETNAM

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Signature: _____ Phone: () _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____

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