



TURNER TANKERS NEWSLETTER

April 2010



2010 Reunion

Sept 2 - 6, 2010

The reunion will be held at the Wingate Hotel in Streetsboro OH. The rate is \$78.93 per night which includes tax. This is a very upscale hotel with deluxe continental breakfast, pool/whirlpool and exercise area, comfortable dining area and large lobby with large overstuffed chairs and couches. RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY AUGUST 12TH TO GET THE REUNION RATE AND WE HAVE TO OCCUPY 20 ROOMS PER NIGHT TO GET THE RATE. OUR DISCOUNT CODE IS "TANK". The phone number is 330-422-9900 or www.wingatehotels.com. Cancellations can be made 24 hours in advance.

Rooms are double queens or single king, with a refrigerator and microwave. There are a limited number of rooms for guests using wheelchairs. Please mention any special needs when booking your room.

All rooms are NON-SMOKING and there is no smoking in the hotel anywhere. Sorry about that.

No official agenda has been determined but these are things to do in the area:

- Pro Football Hall of Fame and Museum
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
- Cleveland Indians (if in town)
- Aurora Farms Premium Outlet Mall
- The Nautica Queen and Good Times II dinner/dance cruise on Lake Erie

Cuyahoga Valley National Rec Area

Charter boat fishing

Amish Communities

There will be a \$15 registration fee collected at the reunion. This will help defray the cost of the snacks and drinks in the conference room.

A note from Mike Coss on the Reunion:

Hi Everyone,

So far we have 5 room reservations for the Sept. reunion. Assuming all are staying 5 nights, we are half way to fulfilling the contract for using the meeting room at no cost. It's still quite early so I'm not concerned. I haven't had as much feedback from the mid/late 70's group as I had at this time last year.

I have several solid suggestions for activities:

- 1) The Cuyahoga Scenic Railroad. A 3hr. scenic round trip ride through the heart of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. You can get off the train for sightseeing excursions at any of the stops. Fresh deli sandwiches, snacks, and souvenirs are available in the concession car. The price is \$15 round trip. The nearest depot is just 12mi away. Very little walking required.
- 2) Pro Football HOF in Canton. Only 45min away. Tickets are \$20 (\$16 for seniors (62+)). Lots of walking, but indoors.
- 3) Rock and Roll HOF in Cleveland. About an hour away. Tickets are \$22 (\$17 for seniors 65+). Lots of walking but indoors. The Football and Rock and Roll HOFs have a 2 for 1 ticket available at a discount, not sure of the price.
- 4) Cleveland Zoo, about an hour away, \$10. Lots of walking, indoors and outside.
- 5) The Nautica Queen Lunch and Dinner cruises on Lake Erie. About an hour away. Lunch cruises are \$28 Mon.-Fri.
Dinner cruises are \$46.80 Mon-Thurs., \$52.66 Fri & Sat. and \$37.50 Sunday Brunch. 10% senior discount Sun. - Thurs. The menu is available for viewing online.

Prices incl. tax, gratuity, beverages are extra. An 18% gratuity will be applied to all beverage sales for groups of 8 or more. Parking is not include but available at Nautica Queen dock.

I've done a dinner cruise and it's very nice. I'm sure lunch would be just as good. Reservations are strongly suggested.

Very little walking, inside accommodations with outside viewing deck. Limited wheelchair access, electric wheelchairs cannot be accommodated. Restrooms require using stairs.

I'll double check all the prices since everything I have came off brochures I picked up at The Wingate.

Here are websites for you to check out.

www.nauticaqueen.com <<http://www.nauticaqueen.com>>

www.cvsr.com <<http://www.cvsr.com>> for railroad trip

www.rockhall.com <<http://www.rockhall.com>>

www.clemetzoo.com <<http://www.clemetzoo.com>>

www.profootballhof.com <<http://www.profootballhof.com>>

www.premiumoutlets.com/aurora

There are also 2 golf courses within 5 miles, one is a 9 hole and one is 18 hole. If there is interest I can get prices. There is also a Prime Outlet Mall less than 15 min. away with 60+ stores.

That's about it for now. I'm thinking we can spend at least 1 evening at our (Mike and Jeans house) place. I've got a stack of firewood for a bonfire and we have a large lake behind our property. We'd grill dogs and burgers and have other finger foods and snacks. I'm looking forward to having the TT gang in town!

Any ??? or suggestions please let me know.

Mike



SOLDIERS LOST

AMMONS, DONALD, 08 PA

BENOLKEN, JOE, 09 MN

BRAY, BERLON, 04, AL

BARNHILL, GROVER, 05 AL

DICKERSON, ALBERT, 06, VA.

KERSHAW, PALMER, 08, MI

REBMAN, WINBERN, 08, MO

LACOURSE, RICHARD, 03 NH

MELSON, HILTON, 05, VA

MERRILL, HARRY, 08, RI

RAGGIO, ROBERT, 04, CA

UNGLESBEE, TONY, 03, MD

ROBBINS, JEFFERSON, 09, OK

SOLDIERS FOUND

JUSTUS, THOMAS G. SP5, 71-73, 4TH PLT, F41-F42, A

BOSCHET, LEROY L, SGT, 83-84, 3D PLT, F33, AT

WANNER, TOBIAS W. PFC, 59-64, 1ST PLT F13, AT

MELLSTEAD, TIMOTHY J., SP4, 82, AT

PARRISH, RICHARD C. SP4, 72-74, 4TH PLT. F41

Contact Information

We would appreciate hearing from you regarding any subject matter you would like to see in the Newsletter. You can contact any of the officers at the following email addresses:

Officers

Jerry Tatman - lindakben@voyager.net

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Newsletter Volunteers

Pam and Mark Rutkowski - mpna3@sbcglobal.net or by snail mail

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Researcher and Archivist

George O'Brien
TurnerTankers@comcast.net

Have you paid your 2010 dues yet?

The 2010 dues are \$10.00 per year. Please send your check or money order made out to Turner Tankers to:

John Dahlin
4500 Applewood Ave.
Sioux City IA 51006-3605
712-276-2234



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Historical Notes

I believe at one time or another as "Turner Tankers" we must have wondered who exactly was Turner and what did he do to get a Kaserne in Berlin named after him. I have some recollection that he won a Congressional Medal of Honor in Korea and he was a tanker, but that was about it. So with some time on my hands as I waited for my foot to heal after some minor surgery, I did some research and came up with the following:



SFC CHARLES W. TURNER was born on May 28, 1921, in Boston Massachusetts and entered the Army at Boston. In Korea he was assigned as a section leader in the 2d Reconnaissance Company, 2d Infantry Division and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on 16 February 1951 for his actions near Yongsan, Korea, on 1 September 1950.

The Big Picture: In September 1950, US and South Korean forces had been pushed back to the Pusan Perimeter where LTG Walker was struggling to maintain the perimeter against persistent North Korean attacks. If the North Koreans broke the perimeter, the port of Pusan would have fallen and the US forces would have to abandon South Korea and the war would have ended in a communist victory. On September 1st, North Korean forces opened what they expected was to be the final push to destroy the US and South Korean Forces. In the west of the perimeter, along the Naktong River, the recently arrived 2nd Infantry Division has replaced the 24th ID and were preparing for an offensive operation against the communist; unfortunately, the North Korean 9th Division beat them to the punch and in short order had decimated the 9th Infantry Regiment, split the 2ID in two and were pushing hard for the town of Yongsan.

With the US lines breached and no other forces available the 2ID Commander, MG Keiser, ordered what forces he had up to plug the hole in his lines and to prevent the communists from taking Yongsan and exploiting their success. What he had was A, B and C Companies of the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, A and B Companies of the 72nd Armor and the 2nd Division Reconnaissance Company to which SFC Turner belong.

The US engineers were unable to stop the communists from taking Yongsan, so they fell back and took up blocking positions on a large hill south and overlooking Yongsan. There they dug in and awaited the next North Korean assault. It was during one of the communist assaults that a large North Korean force attempted to enter Yongsan from the south and were engaged by the tanks of the 72nd Armor and the 2nd Reconnaissance Company. It was in this attack during the afternoon of September 1st, that SFC Turner earned the Medal of Honor. Due to actions like SFC Turner's, the North Koreans were never able to move beyond Yongsan and in short order were thrown back to the Naktong.

The citation reads: SFC Turner distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. A large enemy force launched a mortar and automatic weapon supported assault against his platoon. SFC Turner quickly organized his unit for defense and then observed that the attack was directed at the tank section 100 yards away. Leaving his secured section he dashed through a hail of fire to the threatened position and, mounting a tank, manned the exposed turret machine gun. Disregarding the intense enemy fire he calmly held this position delivering deadly accurate fire and pointing out targets for the tank's 75mm. gun. His action resulted in the destruction of 7 enemy machine

gun nests. Although severely wounded he remained at the gun shouting encouragement to his comrades. During the action the tank received over 50 direct hits; the periscopes and antenna were shot away and 3 rounds hit the machine gun mount. Despite this fire he remained at his post until a burst of enemy fire cost him his life. This intrepid and heroic performance enabled the platoon to withdraw and later launch an attack which routed the enemy. SFC Turner's valor and example reflect the highest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the U. S. Army.



SFC Turner died of his wounds and his remains were returned to the U.S.. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Section 12, Lot 7762



I travel to DC quite often and have been to Arlington several times to see the Tomb of the Unknowns and the graves of the more well know internees. The next time I will take some time out of the schedule and visit SFC Turner and thank him for his sacrifice and courage, after all, there are generations of tankers that go by his name.

Mark Rutkowski

HQ and 4th Plt 1974-78

