



Brotherhood of Dak To Defenders Inc. Presents the:

# Combat Warrior Times

## President's Message

Hello Brothers! It's getting close to the countdown for our reunion this year in Seattle, WA. All arrangements are final, speakers lined up and menus selected. Again, I want to thank Dave Swanson & Jay Gearhart for their tireless efforts to make all this happen. The amount of details that go into this endeavor are mind boggling and endless. Without these 2 guys doing all the heavy lifting it would be unlikely that we would be enjoying the quality level we do.

Now let's talk about something that's a necessity.

**Dues**, we can only exist as a viable entity with the income from dues and donations. Most of you are pretty good about getting your dues paid in a timely fashion but some need a little jump start. Please, if it's at all possible, pay your dues before getting to Seattle. I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about this, we're all adults, we all know that the dues need to be paid so cowboy up and let's get that taken care of.

Banquet tickets can be paid through the Dak To Reunion website using PayPal, a very safe way for conducting business online. If you prefer, a check can be sent to Jay Gearhart. As with the dues, PLEASE get this done as soon as possible.

Make your hotel reservation now. It doesn't cost a penny to sign up and it really helps us get a more accurate count on the number of attendees. The phone numbers are also available on the web site.

We will be holding a general election this year so if you are interested in holding a position or if you have someone you would like to nominate for a position please notify anyone on the Board of Directors. It would be nice to see some level of participation so please give this some thought.

If anyone has a special need in the area of food or rooms please contact Dave Swanson NOW so arrangements can be made. Speaking of special needs, if anyone needs help with transportation or hotel costs in order to come to the reunion please notify John Marcoulier, Director of Member in Need Committee. We will do everything possible to assist any member in good standing. Any and all requests are held in utmost confidentiality and are known only to the members of the committee. We still have each other's back!

Please try to bring an item for our silent auction. No item is too small. If something sells for only \$1 it's still \$1 we didn't have before. Andrea Goldman runs the auction every year so if you'd like to get some ideas about an item to bring contact her.

There's really going to be a lot of things to do in Seattle so come a few days early or stay a few days after. The great thing is that several of our members are residents of the Seattle area and will be able to offer a lot of suggestions.

We're hoping to see a lot of the A Company guys that have been missing for several years. The previous rift has been addressed and resolved. We have missed you guys and want you back. We are Brothers in the strongest sense of the word. We all went through hell in Nam, we always had each other's back and knew we could rely on each other even in the worst of times. The 299th was the most famous battalion in the US Army and all of us contributed to that reputation. Share that camaraderie again, share the brotherhood again, come to Seattle and see for yourself.

Well, I've prattled on long enough. I want to close by saying that I've always been proud to be associated with the men of the 299th, each man being brave and true! I am privileged to be able to call you friend and brother.  
Doc Zimmer



General Bryan Watson

Mike Zimmer

## Commander's Message

By all accounts, our president, Mike Zimmer was a huge success at Fort Leonard Wood ENFORCE conference. I am certain Mike will give a complete update and a few war stories at the reunion. Although General Watson and his group are behind the 299th and there is recognition for the performance of the battalion during the entire Vietnam War, it appears the siege of Dak To has received little recognition in the official records. It is academic as to how significant Dak To may be in the overall history of the unit.

However, MACV hid the situation so well at the time it was happening, it looks like the only notable but unofficial recognition has come from Vietnam magazine, Wikipedia and Life magazine. Officially the unit does have the Valorous Unit Citation of which you can all be proud.

Joan and I are both under the weather and have temporarily grounded all travel plans, but hope to be up and running full speed before reunion time. Joan had an unfortunate medical emergency in Buenos Aires and has not fully recovered, but things are looking a little better.

It is somewhat scary when someone develops an unusual medical condition in a hotel in a strange country on a Saturday evening and a doctor arrives, who can only say hello, yes and no in English. Fortunately, the people in Argentina are friendly and did everything necessary to provide the assistance required. Other than that one instance, the trip was great.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Seattle.

Newman Howard Col. Ret.

## Headquarters Company

Greetings from the beach. Linda and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Seattle for the reunion.

Having lived in Washington State for most of my life, I can tell you that the weather in July should be perfect. The temperature in Seattle should be in the upper seventies with a nice breeze. Great weather for getting out and exploring. And there's plenty to do and see. Getting into Seattle from the hotel is easy. The light rail station is just across the street and it takes you into town by the stadiums. It's not long walk around town, but it's all up hill from the station. I would suggest taking a cab. It's about \$5 for a cab ride to any place in town.

In town there's lots to do. Go to the famous Pike Place Market and see the flying fish and all of the other of hundreds of vendors who sell just about anything you could want. Go down the hill and visit the waterfront. Some of the best seafood restaurants in the country are just a short walk along the piers. Visit the Seattle Aquarium and view the bottom of Puget Sound inside the glass observation area. Puget Sound is home to the largest

octopus' in the world. Or take one of the ferries to Bremerton on the Olympic Peninsula or one of the islands in the Sound.

In the north end of town you can visit the Seattle Center. Take an elevator ride up the Space Needle, the iconic symbol of Seattle built for the 1962 World's Fair. You get spectacular views of Seattle and the Sound or have a meal in the Space Needle Restaurant which has a revolving dining area.

If you have transportation or rent a car, Mount Rainier National Park is only a two hour drive away. The views of the mountain up close are spectacular. It's an easy days drive around the mountain, and you can see it up close from both Sunrise and Paradise viewing areas. If active volcanoes are what you want to see, Mount St. Helens is an easy drive from Seattle. You can see the mountain up close and see how it's coming back from the eruption that devastated the area.

If you're into antiques, the Northwest antique capital is only thirty miles north of Seattle in my hometown of Snohomish. You can antique to your heart's content and then eat or drink in one of many outstanding dining and drinking establishments in historical downtown.

The Pacific Coast is about a two and half hour drive from Seattle. Oceans Shores, where I live, is right on the Pacific Ocean. The beach is a state highway, so you can drive along the beach. Be careful, though, the speed limit is twenty five mph and is enforced. You can beach comb or wade in the surf.

As you can see we've got lots to do and a lot of it is free. The reunion committee did a great job of setting up the schedule to give people time to get out see the sights. If you just want to hang out and talk to your friends, the Sea Tac Marriott is a very nice hotel.

That's it from HHC. See you all in July.

Doug Thaut

## Please Remember

Please remember to bring a donated item or items for the silent auction. When looking for items to donate please keep in mind that, in most cases, the auctioned off item will be going home on an airplane. Items should comply with TSA regulations for items you can check in your baggage. Also the size of the item is very important. A nice new 52 inch plasma TV would be a great item to donate, but how will the winner of the auction get this item home? Thanks for your donations to the auction.

## Editors Note, Important: By-Laws Changes

From as far back as 2005, I know some of our members were not happy with some of the language pertaining to Regular Members and Associate Members. I also remember the meeting we had in St. Louis where we discussed ways to change the by-laws to better serve the membership as a whole. At this time one of the biggest complaints was regular and associate memberships. Some of our members who served at Dak To, but not between the dates of the 56-day period that marked the siege of Dak To 1969 did not feel it's fair that they are discriminated against because of dates served. Some say they feel like second class citizens. As we all know every company in the 299<sup>th</sup> CEB and attached 15<sup>th</sup> LE Company served at Dak To at some time or another, some in the early days were building the air strip and the fire base as we knew it when we pulled out for good in 1969. Others served and defended Dak To in November 1967, Battle of Dak To, one of the biggest battles of the war, while others were in Dak To during the big Tet offensive in 1968. These members, who are mostly life members in good standing of the Brotherhood of Dak To Defenders Inc. a *trade-marked* name, **are ALL** Dak To Defenders.

It was the first order of business for the new administration to ask for help from the charter members to change the by-laws to read, "All members of all companies of the 299<sup>th</sup> who served in Vietnam before July 20 1969 shall be a Dak To Defender". In doing this everyone who was in Vietnam before July 69 shall be called regular members and have the same rights in voting, holding office, and being on committees as any other regular member.

## Reunion Committee

**NEWS FLASH: NEW HOTEL PHONE NUMBER, 1-206-241-2000 IS THE DIRECT LINE TO RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL; CALL BETWEEN 8AM AND 8PM PDT.**

The time has been flying by so fast, seems only the other day we were all in Branson boarding the busses for the trip to Ft. Leonard Wood. That was a great time!

This year's reunion will be a great time as well; we've been putting the final touches to a few things. After three years of work by Dan Morrill, he was finally able to get a firm commitment from Diane Carlson Evans to be our keynote speaker. She was a Nurse at the 71<sup>st</sup> Evac Hospital in Pleiku in 68-69. She was there when our wounded were flown in by Dust Off Choppers. She is also the Founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation in Washington DC. She is currently the President and CEO of the Board of Directors. Diane will be a wonderful touch to the Banquet Ceremonies; she is an excellent public speaker who has spoken all over the US. Also, Diane is the first woman in American history to spearhead a campaign to place a national monument in the nation's capital that recognizes the contributions of military women to their country, as well as civilian women's patriotic service. For anyone who was at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wall in DC, you will remember her great speech.

It looks like the attendance to this year's reunion is at about the same pace as past recent reunions, which is very good news. We hope to see a few faces we haven't seen in a few years - come on back guys - it'll be lots fun again! What's new this year? To honor our newly established Women's Auxiliary, we have purchased enough extra new polo shirts for the ladies; we also had iron-on rockers made to go over and under the Brotherhood patch. They say "I support" and "Women's Auxiliary". In the hospitality room this year we will have an ample supply of popular wines for everyone, and new this year for the ladies is the "Margarita Machine". Doc Zimmer will be turning out some fine tasting Margaritas.

Don't forget the Silent Auction; bring something to donate. Also new this year, we are going to have a raffle for two free rooms for the duration of next year's reunion in Washington DC. This is an awesome giveaway; this will mean two lucky people will walk away with a free hotel room worth \$600.00 for next year's reunion.

That's about all for now for new information or changes; please check the reunion web site often for updates as they come in. <http://www.daktoreunion.com>  
Dave Swanson

## Veterans Report

Hello friends and Welcome Back to the World. No matter how life spins those curve balls at us, everything is pure gravy compared to Vietnam.

The Agent Orange issue is proceeding as planned, SLOW, but that's the nature of the VA and with all the new claims from the ongoing wars, I guess it's expected. If you feel you are having ANY AO problems, get to the VA and first, get the diagnosis then, immediately, with the help of a VSO, file a claim. The Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD), will, and is affecting many of us now, so if you're not sure get it checked out ASAP! Remember the date you file is the retroactive date that your claim will go back to, no matter how long it takes, for a decision.

The Dependents Indemnity Compensation for widows of qualified veterans is about \$1400.00 per month for the rest of the widow's life. Qualifications for all of us Nam vets are to be totally disabled according to the VA. Total disability is a scheduler 100% or Individual Unemployability, with a Permanent and Total clause on your decision.

Jay Gearhart

## Secretary's Report

Hello Brothers!

Well, it has been a looong and snowy winter here in Wisconsin, with an unexpected April snow storm that dumped up to a foot of snow on some of us! I broke 2 snow blowers trying to dig out – very wet and heavy snow/slush!

Our VVA chapter has been going to several high schools in the area the last several months (and for the last 10+ years), and giving presentations on the Viet Nam War. The students are very receptive to our stories, and are usually in “shock” when they hear about the conditions at Dak To. When I tell about the “siege”, they shake their heads in disbelief and ask how we could have survived! I tell them that it was our excellent leadership and the common bond among all of us that kept us alive! We actually have another presentation to give this afternoon, and for this class, I gave them a copy of the Vietnam magazine with our story in it, ahead of time. It will be interesting to see how they react to reading about the siege, and then having a “survivor” stand before them!?

Kami and I are looking forward to going to Seattle this summer – we went there after the last Reno reunion to visit her brother (he lives in Lynnwood, just outside of Seattle). There is so much to see and do in the Seattle area, so no one should be bored! Dave has done a fantastic job of planning this reunion and, hopefully, he and Doug can come up with some great side trips for all of us to enjoy! Riding the “Ducks”, going up the Space Needle, and Pike Place Market, are some the must see and do things in Seattle!

Now, for all the Board of Directors: I guess it is my job to take the minutes at the BOD meeting, so you all have to please remember: “speak----very----slowly” - because I am Polish and cannot write very fast! LOL! As always, I am looking forward to seeing you all in Seattle, and hopefully, some new faces from Headquarters Company!

Mike Berzinsky

[lerch@charter.net](mailto:lerch@charter.net) 920-794-8142

## Board members and Committee heads

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike (Doc) Zimmer</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>E Wayne Risner</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Newman Howard</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mike Berzinsky</b>
<b>Chaplin</b>	<b>Smokie Burgess</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jay Gearhart</b>
<b>A Company Director</b>	<b>Steve Johnson</b>
<b>D Company Director</b>	<b>Don Dixon</b>
<b>HHC Director</b>	<b>Doug Thaut</b>
<b>15 Engineer Co LE</b>	<b>Dan Morrill</b>
<b>Associate Director</b>	<b>Barry Avent</b>
<b>Member in Need</b>	<b>John Marcoulier</b>
<b>Women's Auxiliary</b>	<b>Andrea Goldman</b>
<b>Events Planner</b>	<b>Dave Swanson</b>
<b>Veterans Needs</b>	<b>Jay Gearhart</b>
<b>Elections</b>	<b>Newman Howard, Ernie Ullery, Dave Swanson</b>

## Chaplin's Corner!

There is a scripture in the Bible in Proverbs 18:24 that declares; ***A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a Brother.*** This is an unusual portion of scripture but certainly applies to the Dak To Defenders. This passage tells us that there are those who are friends with anyone. They are friends with the entire world. Like Jane Fonda during the Viet Nam war. Her own people were dying in jungles and on roads and in the air, while she basked in luxury and hedonism. When you want to be friends with the whole world and the folks in it, eventually you lose your character and your own purpose and morals. But this Word also tells us that “there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.!” This describes the 299<sup>th</sup> Dak To Defenders better than anything. Look at us (those who have been able to attend their many reunions). It is like a homecoming. My heart lights up every time I am reunited with all the Defenders. Our unity was forged in combat! One of the strongest unions there can be. It is amazing what one overlooks with those they have been on the battlefield with. Personally, I am so impressed by a retired colonel who is with us every year and in between. He has written letters for us, encouraged us, counseled us, led us, bragged about us, and even straightened us up at times. But it is also that way with all the rest of us. Forty some years we have been together defending not only Dak To but each other. We have stuck closer than brothers. It is what draws us together each year! As a minister I am touched to be called one of you, as a Psychologist I am honored to know what you have won over within yourselves. There really is a friend closer than a brother! It's You.

**Smokie Burgess**

## Alpha Company Report

Hello A Company Brothers...

Look forward to seeing everyone in Seattle...We are “light” on Company A members signing up for this year's reunion, so please go to [www.daktoreunion.com](http://www.daktoreunion.com) and sign up ASAP. Seattle is a great site for this year's reunion..I lived there in the late '80s and enjoyed every minute...July and August are especially beautiful.

I know your reunion committee has been working hard to provide another special experience.

I would like to remind those of you who have not registered for the VA Agent Orange registry to do so. All you need is to reference the number of gallons of the different agents that we were exposed to at Dak To and they will quickly qualify you for the registry.

If you Google “Operation Ranch Hand” it details the number of gallons of agent orange, white and blue, that were “dumped” in the An Khe, Camp Radcliff, Dak To, Kontum, Pleiku and Ben Het areas...

A special shout out to Doc Zimmer for stepping up and taking charge of the Brotherhood during this past year.

I am also looking forward to his report from his presentation at ENFORCE 2011 in April at Fort Leonard Wood.

Thanks Doc.....

SEE YOU ALL IN SEATTLE  
Steve Johnson A-Company Director

## The Power of a Reunion

**The Power of Reunion:** Reunions are emotionally uplifting experiences for everyone involved. You haven't seen them in decades, yet they greet you with open arms. You have shared something life-changing with them, and you share a bond that no one else does. This is the experience many veterans have when they attend reunions and see old comrades. However, some are reluctant to attend. Bo Senical, who recently attended his first military reunion after 30 years, described his fears. "I thought too much time had passed, and they wouldn't be the people I'd known in my youth. I was apprehensive that I wouldn't be remembered." This is a common feeling many veterans get when the reunion invitation arrives. Others don't want to allow bad memories to surface, or worry that they wouldn't remember people, so they avoid going.

**Advantages of Attending a Reunion:** Those that stay home as a result of these reservations can miss out on numerous benefits. For example, not only is it a chance to see old friends, it's an opportunity to interact in a different way. One group that recently attended a reunion is now in contact with each other on a weekly basis. They arrange business deals with one another, plan vacations and exchange pictures. This provides them with a way to develop a friendship under different circumstances. While the reunion gives closure, it also presents an opening for re-establishing friendships. Many veterans also are encouraged by the success of the other attendees. It gives them peace of mind as well as sense of pride to know that their fellow veterans have succeeded. For those who haven't done as well, there are still opportunities. Veterans can become a support group for one another and help those who are struggling deal with issues they may have faced themselves, including divorce and addictions. But it is only through going to a reunion that most people find out who really needs their assistance. In addition to benefits for veterans, there are advantages for family members who attend. Not only does it allow them an opportunity to meet people they've heard about for years, it gives them a better understanding of what their loved one went through. As Senical put it, "Part of the way I am is because of Viet Nam." Prior to attending his first reunion, another man told his son that he was going to see the man who saved his life. This type of conversation, along with attending reunions, can help family members appreciate an event that shaped their relative. Despite initial reservations, the majority of veterans who attend reunions are glad they did. They come away with a different outlook and an opportunity to form new memories with people they once cared about. Most say the first one is the hardest, but once they have gone they look forward to the next one. When asked if he would attend a future reunion, Senical said, "Not only do I plan to go to a future one, I plan to be involved in the organization of it". This is Testament to how powerful reunions can be. By: Cassie Fenoseff, VFW Magazine Jan. 2003

## Women's Auxiliary

Hi! I want to let everyone know that we have formed a Women's Auxiliary to show our support for the men in our lives. I welcome all the women who have joined and would appreciate any and all ideas you have. We have ordered shirts that will be for sale at the reunion. (You can order them early by going to the Dak To Reunion website.) They have the Brotherhood logo with two iron-on rockers that go over and under the logo. They say "I support" and "Women's Auxiliary". All you'll need to do is go back to your room and iron them on! How easy is that! We will be having our first annual meeting at 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 22nd. This has been scheduled for the same time the men will be having their Veterans Round Table discussion. I also want to remind everyone to bring your contributions (gift baskets worked well last year, but anything is fine) for the auction. Please remember that this silent auction is the best money-maker we have. It can only survive with good donations!! I look forward to seeing everyone in Seattle! Andrea Goldman

## 15th LE Company

Well it is reunion time already. The years are speeding along way too fast. Seattle will be a great place to visit. There is a lot to see and do. Some beautiful country, from the forest down to the ocean and the city itself. Hope all can attend and enjoy each other as well!! As always a time to reflect and remember what we lost or just forgot (hid). We have Diane Carlson Evans as our guest speaker this year. She is responsible for the Women's Memorial in DC. Some of us talked with her a couple years ago there. She was a nurse at 71<sup>st</sup> Evac in Plieku. She also helped us get last years speakers. Our schedules have always conflicted but I got her to commit to us this year. Look at our website for more info on her.

The weather has been terrible most everywhere this year. I hope none of you are affected by it. There are water and tornados and snowstorms where they shouldn't be. Again our website, thanks to Dave Swanson, is full of info and pictures and what to do for hotel and banquet tickets. I also hope that you and yours are OK. I will see YOU in Seattle!

Dan Morrill  
15<sup>th</sup> Eng LE

## Very Important Notice

**This year will be an election year. If you or anyone you know would like to step forward and run for office, please contact Mike Zimmer with your nominations.**

## Also Important

**In order to run for office or vote in the general election you must be current with your membership dues.**

## Treasurer's Report

Our Financial status is in a stable condition and solvent. Because of the shape of the economy (gas prices etc), it seems everything is taking money from our wallets (purses), including our reunion funds for general expenses (newsletters) and purchasing items including all of our new merchandise. I am hoping for a real good turnout at this years Seattle Reunion to replenish our coffers for the everyday operating expenses. Every year as the reunion approaches our operating monies decline, and every year, at the reunion, by the generosity of our members it is replenished. Thank you brothers. Our 501-C 19 has now been in effect for almost a year. A few of you have taken advantage of the 501-C 19's tax advantage. I thank each and everyone for your continued support and donations. If you donate any amount to the Brotherhood of Dak To Defenders, you can use it as a tax deduction. If you are going to make a donation, please let me know WHO you are so I have a record.

I am hoping for another banner year for our silent auction . It's a real boost for our coffers and last year we had the best auction turnout ever. Thank you, to all who helped out in Branson and especially the ladies for helping set up and take care of the merchandise sales and the silent auction, your help is a life saver. Please, if your yearly dues are now due, send them in. Looking forward to seeing you all in Seattle for a great reunion.

Jay Gearhart

## Associate's Report

Winter is over, and I don't know about yours but ours was rough. I spent 6 weeks of my winter going through the V.A.'s S.I.P.U. Program being treated for Chronic P.T.S.D. This treatment took place at the V.A. Hospital in Salisbury, North Carolina. The program, for all who don't know, helps veterans deal with the mental scars that occurred in battle. It gives you insight on how to deal with sleepiness, nightmares, flashbacks, trauma, intrusive thoughts, anger, depression and intermingling in and with crowds (strangers as well as family). The main thing that I got from the program was the worst place to be with P.T.S.D. is in YOUR OWN HEAD.

There were group sessions as well as one on one sessions with psychologist, medical evaluations, and the prescribing of medicines for your anxiety, sleep, and physical ailments such as Type 2 Diabetes. In week 5 we took a day trip to Washington, D.C. and visited the Vietnam Wall, the Korean War Memorial and we performed a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I found out that all this came about because we (Vietnam Veterans) raised the hell that needed to be raised to get the recognition and treatment that we (and now the Middle East Vets) deserve. Let's keep up the good fight for the defenders of America and remember FREEDOM IS NOT FREE....Barry Avent, Director of Associates .

[ibtank4612@yahoo.com](mailto:ibtank4612@yahoo.com)

## Delta Company Report

Well, spring has finally arrived although the weather is not cooperating too well with cool temperatures, rain, and plenty of tornadoes. I cannot believe that it is that time of the year where we have to start planning for the 2011 reunion.

According to the reports, Dave has the reunion under control, as usual. I have only been to Seattle twice: once to depart for Nam and another to return a year later. It is a beautiful area and all the brothers from that area have promised us pleasant weather instead of the hot weather we dealt with in Branson. A new event to this year's reunion will be a breakfast on Friday morning. This will take place of the Friday evening banquet from previous years. Everyone will have ample time to tour the great sites of the northwest area Friday evening then.

Also, thanks to Andrea Goldman for heading up the new Woman's Auxiliary. I am sure she will do a terrific job, just as she has taken care of the silent auction. Thanks again Andrea.

I would like to welcome our new Sergeant of Arms and Secretary, Mike Berzinsky and John Marcoulier who is heading up our Members in Need committee. I guess I should also welcome Doc Zimmer has our new president as well.

Well, I do not have anything more to report, so I hope everyone is doing well. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of new faces at the reunion. Until then, take care.

Don Dixon Director

[thedixon5@comcast.net](mailto:thedixon5@comcast.net)

## Bridge Builders (Member in Need)

I am honored to be back on board helping to honor and support our brothers as we can. And now, more than ever, continue to build bridges back to all our brothers that spent any time in Dak To. The recent changes bring new hope to getting us all back together on fair equal ground to maintain those bridges.

I would like to give my full support to our new President "Doc" Zimmer. He has always been fair and unbiased. I believe with everyone's involvement we can become an even greater organization for veterans.

Please drop me an email for any upcoming events you know of, other birthdays or anniversaries so we can honor them with a card from the brotherhood. On the other side as we age and break let me know when someone is down or broken so we may send an appropriate thought.

I am really looking forward to seeing all of you and more in Seattle. My southern Oregon hospitality is open to any Brothers that will be passing through.

Drop an email and say Hi or forward any information that we can act on. All information is kept confidential.

In Respect

John Marcoulier "Rogue" [myotouch@charter.net](mailto:myotouch@charter.net)

15<sup>th</sup> Engr Co (LE)

**2011 Reunion, Seattle, Washington**

**July 20-23 SeaTac Marriott**

**Just across the street from the Airport.**

**Room Rates are \$104.00 per night, come early, stay late. Rates good three days before and three days after the event.**

**Call 1-206-241-2000 between 8 am to 8 pm**

**Group rate code is 299<sup>th</sup> Engineers**

**The hotel is walking distance to the train station to go downtown Seattle. Round trip is \$5.00**

**Banquet tickets \$100.00 each**

**Make your check payable to Brotherhood of Dak To Defenders Inc. Send to Jay Gearhart  
9668 Woodys Run, Travers City, MI 49684**

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**As a special treat for everyone who served in Dak To, our guest of honor and Keynote Speaker this year will be Diane Carlson Evans. She worked at the 71 Evac in Pleiku in 1969.**

**Diane Carlson Evans, RN, is the Founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation (formerly the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project), and President and CEO of the Board of Directors. The Foundation is located in Washington, DC. She testified before every Congressional and federal agency hearing in Washington, D.C. regarding site and design approval for the Vietnam Women's Memorial, was instrumental in developing the design competition proforma for the Vietnam Women's Memorial and for conceptualizing the three-day Patriotism and Courage to commemorate the dedication in Washington, D.C. Ms. Evans currently volunteers for the VWMF and also serves as Board liaison with national veterans service organizations. Evans participates in educational activities throughout the United States, speaking at universities and schools and before civic and humanitarian organizations. Her work today focuses on readjustment services for veterans.**

**Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**1735 Connecticut Ave., NW. 3rd Floor**

**Washington DC 20009**

**[www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org)**

**As a former Captain in the Army Nurse Corps who served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969, Diane Carlson Evans had a profoundly personal interest in remedying the omission of recognition for women veterans. She says, "When I came home from Vietnam I felt like there was still more to do. I came home with unfinished business. I didn't know what that was until the fall of 1983, when I knew I had to tell the story of my sister veterans." Working in surgical and burn units, her first-hand knowledge of the casualties of the Vietnam war and the sacrifices of the women who volunteered to leave the comforts of home to support their fighting brothers in a foreign land, led her on a ten year mission during which she had to convince government agencies, Congress, journalists and the public that building a women's Vietnam memorial was a necessary part of the healing process for female war veterans.**

**Driven by an unwavering sense of duty, Ms. Evans efforts to acknowledge the valiant service of the "quiet heroes" who served during one of the country's most difficult eras were rewarded when a bronze monument, portraying three women and a wounded soldier, was dedicated on November 11, 1993, on the Mall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is an everlasting tribute to the 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam War.**

**Ms. Evans was the first woman in American history to spearhead a campaign to place a national monument in the nation's capital that recognized the contributions of military women to their country, as well as civilian women's patriotic service.**

**She lives today in Helena, Montana. Her husband, a Vietnam Era veteran of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, is a surgeon at the VA Medical Center, Ft. Harrison, Montana.**