



Highway Patrol Communiqué - 25 May 2017

Greetings Highway Patrol Friends & Colleagues,

I sincerely hope that the ensuing period since my last email communiqué (3-13-17) has brought only good things to you and those that you hold dear. At this stage of my life, I am painfully aware of the trials and tribulations that age and health can bring.

My last search for details of members that were listed on our membership roster (December, 2016) revealed that a number of individuals had passed; and their names had to be added to the deceased list. Unfortunately, we most frequently never receive notice regarding many of our former members.

On a more positive note, I have heard from several 62 H.P. colleagues that I had not previous had contact with. I heard from Donald Skaggs (California). He was a Cpl, Augsburg, 1956-58. I also talked with Robert Parretti from Worcester, MA. Bob was a Cpl. assigned to Detachments C & I at Augsburg, and at Chiemsee (his primary duty station) during 1953 and 1954. Bob advised that he had a number of photos, and he was kind enough to send them to me to scan. I now have them on my computer and will soon move them to our web site where all may view them. I have also sent a CD to our faithful historian (Ed – Smitty) for his archives.

Both Don and Bob are on my current alphabetized master roster of members. If interested in having a copy of this updated contact list, just e-mail a request to me and I will send it out. Bob asked about one of his friends, Dominic Mosso from Latrobe, PA. Bob has tried to contact him at the phone number we had on file but found that the number was no longer valid. I have conducted several on-line searches for Dominic with negative results. If any of you have had any current contact info, please let me hear from you.

There are still many names (and contact info) on the members list (presently 128), however, many have not made any contact with the association for a very long time. There are another 166 names on the known deceased list. Obviously, we do not have pertinent information on many former members. To obfuscate the issue even further, I unfortunately have only 41 members listed with known good and valid email addresses. As a result, we only are able to reach a rather small percentage of our members when I email out a communiqué. This small number of possible participants is a good segue into

another area of business mentioned in the last email communiqué – a **Possible REUNION meeting for 2017.**

A few members contacted me with their choice of possible venues for a meeting, however, no one was planning on hosting, sponsoring, or arranging a reunion (or get-together). I did hear from a couple of members, unfortunately only a couple, that said they would be interested (*possibly*) in getting together at [The Bavarian Inn](#), located in historic [Shepherdstown, West Virginia](#). I did follow through and have had several conversations with the Bavarian Inn sales office

As mentioned earlier (3-13-17), this is a unique establishment with a traditional Bavarian atmosphere and cuisine. All rooms in the chalets, lodge, and hotel are usually fully booked way ahead of time – and more especially so in the Fall. I have received a tentative agreement from the Inn that would put a hold on up to ten (10) rooms for 3 days; arriving and checking in on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Staying through Wednesday, October 4, and Thursday, October 5, with Check out on Friday, October 6, 2017. You may view the accommodations at their [web site](#), (www.bavarianinnwv.com/index.php).

Each individual would be responsible for making their own reservations – directly with the Inn by calling 304-876-2551. You **MUST** advise them that you are with the 62nd Highway Patrol group. I am very surprised that they provided us with a discounted rate: \$148.50, per room, per night. There is also a 6% West Virginia Tax and 6% Local Tax Per Room Per Day. Obviously, each individual or couple is responsible for paying for their own room fees, meals, beverages, and any incidental charges. The Inn accepts only credit cards or cash. The following rules also apply:

- Rooms are for double occupancy. For each additional person over double occupancy per room, add \$10.00 per person plus taxes. There is a 3-person maximum per room.
- Check In_time is 3:00 pm. Check out time is 12:00 pm. All charges are to be paid by the individuals upon checkout.
- **Late Arrivals and Early Departures:** All room reservations must be guaranteed for their full length of stay. Late arrivals and early departures will be charged the contracted nightly rate per night.

- Individuals will have a 7-day (one week) cancellation policy. Reservations must be cancelled on that date prior to 3:00 pm, to receive a full refund on the deposit. Individuals will be responsible for one night's room and tax without proper cancellation notification.
- Any hotel room reservations made by individuals through outside booking agents (Such as Expedia, Booking.com, etc....) are subject to the rate shown by

that agent, not the rate specified in this contract. Individuals who make these hotel room reservations and want the contracted rate must cancel their reservations with the outside booking agent personally and make their reservation directly with the Bavarian Inn.

Okay, that's enough of the lawyer-eze or "gobbledygook" for now. I face a bit of a dilemma as we, "the Association" decided several years ago, NOT to do contracts, agreements, etc. We no longer have a treasury, bank account, or tax-exempt status. The Bavarian Inn does require a signed agreement before their "tentative" hold on this block of rooms will expire.

In addition, any unreserved rooms not booked by members of the 62nd HP by September 3 will automatically revert back to the hotel. At almost every HP reunion our members have not "booked" early or made commitments to attend. Most seem to prefer to wait and see, not knowing how we will be feeling, what ailments may surface in the coming months, what the weather will be like, wondering if it is going to be a good time, or what the Good Lord may have in store for us. I know, I am the same way, and grow more so every day. So, the bottom line is this, will we have another get-together – or is it just too much trouble and fuss?

If you can see your way clear – then plan on attending AND make reservations early! You can cancel up to 7 days before the event. If you plan on going, please let me know at the soonest you can – and keep me informed. If the response is not immediately sufficient – I need to drop the event at the soonest possible moment.

Remember, you must make your reservations quickly, by calling 304-876-2551 and telling them that you are with the 62nd Highway Patrol group. Check the HP website >> [reunion page](#) for more information and details. I will get the material posted within the next day or so, and I will keep it updated.

Memorial Day will soon be here. Please remember those still serving, as well as all of our comrades. Far too many of our generation have already left us. I am proud to have served, and I feel very fortunate that some of my time was with such a great and unique organization as the Highway Patrol. For a number of years, the reverse side of my business card had carried the following saying. The original author is unknown and I have paraphrased it a bit.

A veteran is someone that at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of up to and including their life. That is Honor and Integrity. Unfortunately, there are far too many

individuals in this country today who no longer understand that concept or belief. I served my country, and I proudly salute all Veterans!

As I was leaving my low vision doctor in Alexandria the other day, I noticed a new van painted in patriotic colors. The legend on the side stated, "All gave some, some gave All". It belongs to a local veteran organization.

Our association president, Gene Klompus, was privileged to be accepted for a recent Honor Flight from Chicago to Washington, DC and a whirlwind tour of Veteran's memorials, as well as an outpouring of thanks from many people along the way. The [Honor Flight Network](#) honor veterans, many that have served in the various war and conflict eras that have occurred. Gene sent some information regarding the event to some of you.

Gene feels that members of the 62nd could qualify for the Honor Flight and urges all to apply to be a participant. I have included Gene's Honor Flight interview into a story on our web site [Stories](#) page ([#85](#)). The [story](#) also has links to the organization, activities, and applications. Don't miss this story. One of 86 that are now on-line for your perusal.

Gene states, "The Honor Flight experience is a major "thank you" for veterans. The many events included visits to the Korean Memorial, The Nam Wall, the WWII Museum, the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum (near Dulles airport) and numerous ceremonies. It was a surreal and whirlwind 24 hours!!! ... including a "welcome back" from thousands of cheering people."

"Please make our members aware of the Honor Flight program. I believe they are all eligible. It is a tribute to their service and an opportunity to spread the word about the 62nd MP Highway Patrol. They can make application through the Honor Flight website or their state's Governor's office. And, anyone wanting more information can phone me at (847) 816-0075."

Frank Fruth, was my partner from my early days on the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC, and his wife Corrine were my guests at three of our HP reunions. 2009 in Mt. Airy, NC; 2011 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; and 2013 in Williamsburg, VA. Several of you have met them and may remember them. Frank served four years in the Air Force in Turkey at about the same time that I served my three years in the Army (Fort Myer, VA & Germany. Corrine just succumbed to stage 4 pancreatic cancer and Frank is now dealing with Alzheimer's disease. Corrine was a gracious and kind person and Frank was a great partner and police official.

Lastly, do any of you have any experience with transferring 35mm slides to computer or to CD, or some other program or method that I can use to get my rather extensive slide collection into photo files that I can put on the computer? I have been working with several different pieces of hardware, made a number of trial runs, wasting far too much time, and have been trying several different photo programs. I am still seeking advice and ideas. Can anyone offer any suggestions, please?

Until next time, stay safe, and watch your six (back).

Larry



[Webmaster - 62HP.org](http://62HP.org)

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