

From the
Magazine Editor ae.editor@mac.com

an independent view

I could fill hundreds of pages with stories about Army Engineer veterans, but that's obviously not feasible for a publication like ours. What I have done for the annual "veterans" issue, is to once again focus upon those who devote a large amount of their personal time and experience to help promote the contribution of engineer veterans, and do all they can to help preserve the history and traditions of the units involved.

Few things mean as much to a veteran as does the history and lineage of the unit(s) in which they served. Hundreds of red-color battalion flags, or company guidons with numeric designation and/or insignia hang with honor in homes of veterans. Corps of Engineer flags with the white castle fly on poles worldwide for all to see. And, veteran reunion groups and organizations continue to flourish as they always have, with more and more new members taking the place of those who ultimately are laid to rest.

Sadly, that's not the case with our "greatest generation" ...veterans of the Second World War. However, as you will read in this issue's two feature articles, family members of those who served during that momentous time have moved to the head of the column to keep the legacy of "their" veterans always in the spotlight.

For whatever reasons, my path has crossed that of two proud daughters of men who served as Army Engineers during WWII. Mari Ippolito from New Jersey and Marion Chard of Michigan. You will read in this issue about what each of these two great ladies have been doing; and you might remember they both have contributed magazine materials before, which were well received.

I'm continually impressed at the amount of time, resources and energy both Mari and Marion are devoting to their common cause to perpetuate the memory of not only their own family member, but ALL veterans of the military. They are truly grateful for what those in uniform have done and are doing for them in defense of freedom, and by their actions they demonstrate daily their gratitude in ways too numerous to mention here. We need more like Marion and Mari.

Just like what they are doing primarily for WWII veterans, I believe it's very important for all of us to think about the large number of men and women presently in uniform who are deployed overseas doing the sorts of things only they can do. Those who responded to a call to serve during dangerous times fighting in Afghanistan and/or Iraq deserve the respect and gratitude of every American, regardless of how one might feel about the war itself. Vietnam veterans remember all too well the hostile reception received from an ungrateful nation when they returned home. Soldiers don't make policy that guides our country, they just willingly respond to what they are asked to do. Some outside the military too often forget that point.

June is a special month for the United States Army. We celebrate its birth, along with that of the Corps of Engineers. Also, June 6th is a special day for all veterans of World War Two who have a connection to the invasion at Normandy. So, what can we do during June to demonstrate OUR feelings?

Do something special to honor those who have served or are now serving. Fly a flag, perform a ceremony, write a letter to your local newspaper, go visit an older veteran, or just say "thanks" to as many in the military as you can. It's not hard to do, just take the time to do it.

Until next time...Michael Morgan, Editor

