



# Sound Off!

## ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY MUSICIANS

### 2011/2012 OFFICERS

- Dave Ratliff—President
- Harry Booth—Vice President
- Mike Noland—Treasurer
- Deby Kidney—Secretary

### SERVING AMM:

- Bill Von Kamp—Entertainment Chairman
- Gary Hartman—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
- Frank Hill—Historian
- Glenn Moore—Webmaster
- Ann Secord—Special Projects Coordinator
- Allen Lawless—*Sound Off!* Editor

### Reunion Update—by *Bill von Kamp*



Things are looking good for this year's reunion with several registrations and reservations already booked.

There is one change to the information that was in the last newsletter. Please try to complete the hotel reservations by September 1, 2012 rather than September 10th. This was my mistake. After September 1st, the blocked rooms will be released and rooms at our special rate will be provided on a space available basis.

Once again, the reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn-Research Park. Telephone 256-830-0600 (local) or 800-845-7275 (toll-free). The room rate is \$92 plus tax per day. If you should experience any difficulties, ask

for Leslie Walker.

The registration fee is \$50 per person and is payable by check or money order to me, William E. von Kamp. My address is 4106 Toftoy Dr., Huntsville, AL 35805. Phone is 256-533-1674.

As your Librarian, I am replacing some of our music with some better pieces and am also adding a few. This should make our Saturday rehearsal a little more interesting. Don't forget to bring those horns! Also, try to bring a new member. They're out there—we just have to find them.

There will be a couple more reminders between now and September, but don't wait for that. Sign up early and be assured of getting a room. And it also makes my job of planning a little more predictable.

Bill

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### Editor's Note

We're sending out this mini-version of *Sound Off!* for a couple of reasons—first, because Bill von Kamp said to. Second, because of a small error in the December 2011 edition, we wanted to make sure to get that corrected before the May edition comes out. And finally, we wanted to kill a couple fewer trees this time around. Stay tuned for the next edition, which should contain stories to keep you advised of recent activities in military bands, and perhaps a cartoon or two. See you at the Reunion!

Third, Dave Smith (CW4, Ret.) provides us another story—this one of the Ft. Sheridan band around Easter 1983—it's humorous and will make you chuckle. Fourth, AMM Treasurer Mike Noland presents bank balance and T-shirt information.

Finally and more tragically, several well-known and respected Army bandsmen passed away, two of them unexpectedly in early March. Cleo Abel, the widow of Ralph Abel, passed on this past November. Let us take a moment and reflect on them and celebrate their service and their lives. Pages two and three of this issue contain appropriate information about them.

## Taps

SGM William "Dutch" Schultz and his wife Joann were killed in a car accident on March 4, in Polk City, FL.

Dutch Schultz served an active duty career that took him to many bands in Vietnam, Korea, and stateside including the TRA-DOC band.

He retired in 1994 to The Villages, FL and became a member of the Celebration Brass Band, playing EEb tuba, along with The Villages Wind Ensemble in which he also played tuba. An anecdote from Jeff Thomson reveals a little about Dutch:

"One of my favorite memories of him was when he was my 1SG in Korea in 1984. He came into the rehearsal hall one morning a

little bit disheveled and a little bit peeved. We had no idea why, until he announced in a big booming voice that there was no way of getting out of what he had been up all night doing. He had to write a march for the Eighth Army Special Troops Command Enlisted Wives' club....This was when the 8th Army Band belonged to Eighth Army Special Troops, (abbreviated EAST). So, OK, he hands out all of his handwritten parts and we start to play it. It sucks. Something's wrong with it. The first braveheart to raise his hand and say something about it was the snare drummer. He said, 'Top, this snare drum part doesn't make sense.' 1SG Schultz booms back, 'It's not

supposed to make sense, it's Morse code for EAST!' While chuckling to myself, I remember wondering if all E-8's know Morse code...We started playing again and while the melody was new, there was something familiar about that tune. Finally, he stopped conducting and said, 'So OK, look, I didn't have time to make up my own chord structure so I borrowed the chords to The House of the Rising Sun, OK?'"

A memorial service for SGM Schultz and Joann is scheduled at 11:00 AM on March 27, 2012 at Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages, FL. The family requests that memorials be sent to The Wounded Warrior project at <http://woundedwarriorproject.org>.



MSG Tom Easley, USA Retired, a founding member of this organization, passed away on March 7. He was 70.

Tom served on active duty from 1959 and retired in 1979, capping his career as NCOIC of the Army Element Advanced Courses at the School of Music.

Tom continued serving as a personnel specialist at NAS Pensacola, FL and lived with his wife Judy and family in Silverhill,

AL. Tom continued his musical activities after retirement with his friends in the Wilcox Exit Bluegrass Association. Even after they disbanded, Tom continued his picking at bluegrass festivals and jam sessions.

Tom loved boating and fishing as well.

The family has schedule a celebration of life at "The Water House" on March 31, 2012.

Mrs. Cleopha (Cleo) Abel, widow of AMM member Ralph Abel who passed away several years ago, died on November 12, 2011 in the Richmond, VA area, of an undisclosed illness. Our sincere condolences to the family. This information was provided by Sue von Kamp.

Michael L. Carr, Sr., 69, USA Retired, died Mar. 2, 2012 in Shelby, NC of an undisclosed illness. Mike was an exceptional keyboard player whose career culminated at the TRA-DOC Band.

Mike hosted various radio programs in his area, was a published author, and continued to perform, record jingles, and do voiceovers in Virginia Beach and his local area following his Army service.

Mike is survived by his wife Diane "Rusty" Carr, one son, one daughter, and several stepchildren.



Thomas "Larry" Smelley, 65, died Dec. 5, 2011 at his home in Pennsylvania.

He was born in Chicago, IL and



married Catherine M. (Gailey) Borlie on May 31, 1995.

Surviving are his wife, three sons; five stepchildren; four grandchildren, several stepgrandchildren; and a sister, JoAnn.

Larry enjoyed guitars, music, riding motorcycles, radio-controlled model airplanes and amateur radio. He was a U.S. Army bandsman who served in Vietnam, 8th ID, and the Pennsylvania National Guard.

**Taps (continued)**

In addition to those mentioned on the previous page, through Facebook and other sources, we have learned that SGM Susan M. Schultz, 59, USA Retired, of the US Army Field Band passed away on March 9, 2012 in Columbia, MD with her family at her side.

SFC Ted "Tito" Montoya, 66, USA Retired, of Kempner, TX passed away on March 17, 2012 at his home. Tito was a veteran of several bands in Korea, Vietnam, Hawaii, and for many of those years served in the 1st Cavalry Band at Ft. Hood. Tito retired in 1985 and became a real estate agent.

**Band Stuff, by Dave Smith, CW4 (Ret.)**



via Facebook:

Easter 1983 or 1984 at Fort Sheridan with the 81st Army

Band:

The post chaplain was a full bird colonel with the unfortunate name of Peter S. Lent and that year he booked the band for not only the Easter Sunrise Service to be held on the post's beach along Lake Michigan, but also for the Lutheran Paschal Vigil to be held in the Post Chapel on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday...to begin like 10 hours before formation for the Sunrise Service.

I tried to duck the band out of the job, but had no luck in that regard. Since I had never played one of these and so asked Chaplain Lent more than the usual number of questions so I could see what his expectations were. He explained it was traditionally the first celebration of The Resurrection each year...

since ecclesiastical "days" always begin at sunset on the eve of the celebration, the service would kick after sundown. He simply wanted a few "thoughtful" hymns and the liturgical year's first "Alleluia" in the small chapel...we needn't bother with bringing the whole band to the tiny chapel plus he didn't expect a large turnout for what was a fairly obscure celebration. GREAT!!! Cut down band would work and I could cut the rest of the band a bit of slack.

Oh, by the way...could the band program "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Aaron Copland in place of a more traditional Alleluia? Chaplain Lent had structured his sermon around that idea. CRAP!!! But wait, that only takes a 12 piece of brass and percussion and that would even spring a couple of woodwind players from the additional gig. Okay Chappy, you got it.

Saturday night and other than 12 really pissed-off brass and percussion players, the congregants are all of the chaplains assistants and four little old ladies in pillbox hats with veils in the front pew. Grumbles and harrumphs from the band,

but really nice, even underplayed, thoughtful hymns...followed by the sermon and then it's time for the Copland...and a moderately-sized serving of band payback.

Fanfare for the Common Man begins with tympani and bass drum playing the rhythmic theme with a diminuendo to the first brass entrance. Even considering the tiny size of the chapel and how soothing the hymns had been and the gentle purring sound of Chaplain Lent's homily, nothing prepared me for the energy...literally the force of the sonic wave from that initial percussive attack...with which the drummers gleefully struck the drums. Japanese taiko players had nothing on these guys. I've never heard so few drums played so loudly. Apparently nothing prepared the little old ladies in their veiled hats either...they moved as one and were levitated off the pew seat without the use or aid of any of their various muscle groups... they un-assed the pew by about 14 inches, but we didn't kill anyone from the shock either. Needless to say, there were none of the obligatory "So nice having the band play for us tonight" or whatever. We just

stumbled back to the band hall so we could all get up for the next gig in a few hours.

Chicago can get really cold in early Spring...colder if you're near Lake Michigan...simply frigid if you're on the shoreline. We set up in the dark and the duty uniform was basically army band footlocker to stay warm. The sun came up...hymns and Alleluias were sung...and Chaplain Lent had a different sermon prepared.

He said something along the lines of, "It's so appropriate that we gather along the shores here as others did so many years ago by the shores of another body of water"...something like that...and then he paused to turn the page of his notes...which allowed his microphone to pick up one the French Horn player's not-too-sotto-voce aside to the effect that, "yes, but that was the Sea of Galilee, not Lake Michigan in the dead of night in the dead of winter."

I caught three shades of purple hell for that one from the post commander...just one of the joys of leading an Army band.

**Treasurer's Report by Mike Noland**

At present we have \$7,306.47 in the treasury.

I will be restocking T-shirts for the next reunion. If you have any additional color ideas, please either call or email me with a suggestion. We will also have a selection of pink shirts for the breast cancer awareness campaign. At last year's meeting it was decided that the price of the shirts will be \$15.00 this year. If you want to order shirts

via mail, please contact me.

When you send me your dues, please complete the member's application form so we may update any address, mail, or email changes. There are several members who have not paid their 2012 dues and you are reminded that your dues must be current to attend the reunion.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://A-M-M.US

## ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY MUSICIANS

### AMM's Mission

The Association of Military Musicians is a fraternal organization that strives to preserve the proud tradition of military music. Military musical ensembles don't just play marches and ceremonial music—today's audience demands much more than that, and with panache to boot!

Membership is open to any and all who have served in a military musical organization, whether a band, orchestra, fife & drum corps, or a vocal group.

### Contact Information:

- Dave Ratliff—President. Phone 803-865-0120, email cw5rat@aol.com. Address: 229 Steeple Dr., Columbia, SC 29229
- Harry Booth—Vice President. Phone 804-732-1865, email hbproshop@aol.com. Address: 1928 Walton St., Petersburg, VA 23805
- Bill Von Kamp—Entertainment Chairman and Librarian. Phone 256-533-1674. Address: 4106 Toftoy Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL 35805
- Gary Hartman—Chaplain. Phone 803-530-6081, email avguy45@hotmail.com. Address: 217 Ringwood Ln., Elgin, SC 29045
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