



Richard Winslow &lt;diskwy@gmail.com&gt;

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**Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #80, 23 December 2018, Distribution 8**

1 message

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**Garrett Moore** <garrettmoore@verizon.net>

Mon, Dec 24, 2018 at 2:38 PM

To: "garrettmoore@verizon.com" &lt;garrettmoore@verizon.com&gt;

***Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!***

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Our best to you for all the December Holidays!***

This newsletter is just a postscript to my earlier newsletter in December, so it will be short. But first a happy announcement for those of you who fondly recall your time in Cheyenne...

One of our own, **Mark 'Ty' Warner** (Doppler/IPS/Survey Reduction/Logistics, FEW, 1978-92), recently announced on Facebook that his band's song, *Cheyenne Anthem*, has been adopted by the Cheyenne City Council! For those of us who have "lived the legend" or just visited there, the song celebrates all the things we love about the "Magic City of the Plains." Here it is being announced by Cheyenne Mayor, Marian Orr, and sung by the songwriters Amy Smith, Annie Smith, Todd Dereemer, Ty and the All-City Children's Chorus of Cheyenne. Ty is the guitarist on the far left in the video. <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfCheyenne/videos/357778831651397/UzpfSTewMDAwOTM0MjAwOTgzNzoyMjEwMjE3MTE5Mjk5NjY3/?id=100009342009837>

***"Live the Legend---Cheyenne!"***

***Congratulations, Ty, to you and all your singer/songwriter colleagues!***

**Update on the GSS/GSG Commemorative Coins and Pendants:**

I am still playing telephone tag with the vendor to see if I can reorder small numbers of the sold-out items. I should have better information to pass on to you after the holiday break.

There are still plenty of coins of design A, B and D available, but the only pendants left are for coin D. I am completely out of coins and pendants for version C. However, please hold off making any requests for coins or fobs until I get a definitive word from the vendor in January.

**News from the Field**

A few days ago, we were pleased to hear from **Mike Szyhowski** (Survey & Gravity, FEW, 1972-73; Survey, 1973-78; Techniques, Operations, FEW, 1979-81). He said that he finally tracked down another GSS veteran he has been trying to find for a long time. Says Mike:

"Hi Garrett!

I managed to locate former squadron member **Bobby J. Laymon**. I first met Bobby in 1971 when he came to Howard AFB, Canal Zone. Along with **Bill Barron** and then **Bill DeCostanza** we were the surveyor contingent responsible for operating the bombing range (Balboa West) in the Canal Zone interior. I headed to Cheyenne in March 72 and Bobby followed several months later. Located Bobby at the Lackland AFB Chapel, where he is an almost daily volunteer. Bobby and I spoke yesterday and caught up on our lives. He is 78 now and a retired SMSgt. Following his GSS tour, he cross-trained to Safety, and spent another 14 years in that field. He even had a second tour in Panama.

Pleasant as always, Bobby can be contacted most afternoons at 210-671-4208.

Hope you and Bonnie have a Merry Christmas."

Mike

Thanks, Mike! We have feelers out to get Bobby onto our roster and newsletter mailing list.

We also heard from **Allan Barliss** (Survey & Astro; Orlando, Minot and Grand Forks Detachments; 1961-65), who had this to say:

"Garrett, thanks so much for the newsletter. A lot of the people you mention in the newsletter, I didn't know, having served in the 1381st from 1961-65 at Orlando and TDY all over, doing surveys on Atlas, Titan, and most of all Minuteman in South Dakota, Wyoming, and most of my time was spent in North Dakota, at Minot and Grand Forks, when North Dakota had 300 minuteman missiles. I am now 80 and still in good health, thank God. Still play golf 3 or 4 times a week and still enjoy a libation each evening. Only regret is when I finished my degree in Education, is that I didn't go back in the Air Force and make a Career of it. But things work out. I spent 30 yrs. in education teaching math and science and being an elementary principal. If there are any members from the 1381st. that served with me in Minot or at Orlando, I sure would appreciate hearing from them. Take care, God Bless, and Merry Christmas."

**You may reach Allan at [allanannie1@gmail.com](mailto:allanannie1@gmail.com).**

There was only one reply to **Walt "Blackie" Blackmer's** request for information on a monument in the Philippines commemorating members of the US Army 29<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Topo). It came from **Boe Borchardt**, but the information was not really relevant to Blackie's specific request. To repeat, in case you missed it last time:

"Garrett - Some years after I left the Philippine Islands (1952) I saw a photo of the monument erected at Cavite and a listing of personnel who had lost their lives while serving in the 29<sup>th</sup> named on the monument. I wonder whether anybody still has that material and, if so, would they share it with me. I surfed the net and found nothing and I don't know where to ask in Belvoir or DC. Seems like there were 29 names on it. Thought maybe you might be of help to me. ...". - Walt (Blackie) Blackmer."

**ACTION ITEM: If you can point us to any information on the 29<sup>th</sup> monument at Cavite or a detailed history of the 29<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Topo), please reply as soon as possible to me ([garrettmoore@verizon.net](mailto:garrettmoore@verizon.net)) and Walt ([cw6666@att.net](mailto:cw6666@att.net)).**

We also heard from **Bill Carter** (Astro Positioning, Orlando and FEW, 1961-63 and 1965-67), who is still busy publishing books and memoirs.

"Hi Garrett, I recently self-published my memoirs and a few other books I authored/co-authored, including a sci-fi on Amazon, in paper back and kindle formats. Some ex 1381st people may find my memoirs, which includes my work at the 1381st, interesting."

Regards, Bill Carter

Here's the link to Bill's books: [https://www.amazon.com/Bill-Carter/e/B001K8NUYE/ref=dp\\_byline\\_cont\\_book\\_1?fbclid=IwAR1hV2fSQpPmRfau55ccYCpsJd4\\_Jop0KFT7nHVby-7xypl4rlq\\_G8xaNW8](https://www.amazon.com/Bill-Carter/e/B001K8NUYE/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1?fbclid=IwAR1hV2fSQpPmRfau55ccYCpsJd4_Jop0KFT7nHVby-7xypl4rlq_G8xaNW8)

### **Gains and Losses**

We have one gain to our website roster to report this time. Please welcome **David Conner** (Survey, FEW, 1981-83). Says David:

"My time with DMA was a relatively brief but life changing couple of years beginning in 1981. The "trouble" began when I received a flyer describing career opportunities with the Geodetic Survey Squadron. I received it from one of my surveying professors at Penn State Univ, who had met with GSS technical director **Burt Sharpe** to tell him about the PSU survey program. According to the Prof, Burt told him he would like to hire every one of the qualified graduates and gave him a supply of these flyers to distribute. I'd never heard of this outfit but it sounded like just what I was looking for, probably even more interesting than anything I could have imagined. So I mailed in my application, interviewed, graduated, got the job, and was soon on my way to a series of great adventures working with the finest people and equipment in the world. The experience and training I received at GSS enabled me to soon land a job at NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. At NGS I began by doing fieldwork and outreach in their "mark maintenance" program which was soon converted to the State Advisor and then Regional Advisor Programs. I did that for the next 30+ years 'til I retired from NGS in 2017, all in all a very rewarding career!

I don't have many photos from my time at GSS; wish I had more, and none of them in digital form. Now that I'm retired, I may find time to look through them and see if any are worth scanning, then send them along. I've been receiving your GSS Newsletters for a few years now and occasionally browsing your website archives. Thank you for the effort you, Dick Winslow and others put into this ... greatly appreciated!" - David Conner

Thanks, David, for that great endorsement of your experience during your time with the Squadron! Many of us share that same feeling of that time being a life-changing experience. I have asked **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, to add that recruiting flyer to our Memento Documents section on the GSS/GSG Veterans website where you may all see it.

Regrettably, we also have another loss to report. I was saddened to learn this week that long-time GSS veteran **Robert "Bob" Weaver** (Data Reduction & Gravity, FEW, 1966-78) passed away just a few days ago. Bob was well known to

many of you as the Superintendent of the Data Reduction Division during his 12-year tenure with the Squadron. He remained in Cheyenne after retiring as a SMSgt and worked for Teledyne/Geotronics on the Africa project for 9 months, then later for Fassett-Nickel Ford in Cheyenne, retiring on Oct 8, 2001 as Fleet Manager. As of today, I have no information about funeral arrangements or an obituary, but we will include them in the net newsletter.

**Final Notes:**

That's all I have for now.

***Bonnie and I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

We hope your 2018 was wonderful and your 2019 is full of promise!

We mourn the loss of several of our comrades who passed away in 2018, including **Sam Bangaoil, Larry Hootman, Fred Krumm, Bob Millians, Michael Scott, Merlin Smith** and **Bob Weaver**. May they all rest in peace and their families be consoled...

Year 2019 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the 1381<sup>st</sup> Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile), July 1, 1959, at Orlando AFB, FL. Next month I will bring up, once again, the prospect of an off-cycle reunion in Florida to commemorate that anniversary, as proposed by **Werner Koslowski** (Computing, Orlando and FEW; Geodetic Technician (Gravity), and Geodesist, Data Reduction at FEW, 1967-91; DMA, St Louis, 1991-97, Det 4 Patrick AFB, 1997-2003). So far, we have a little over two dozen folks interested in doing this.

My January newsletter should finally include an update on whether or not we can have a resupply in small numbers of sold-out coins and keyfobs, and if so, I will provide directions on how to order your favorite ones.

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to "friend" me there. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10000934200983>

There is also a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron/>

**Garrett**

Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch

GSS/Cheyenne

April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

*Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes. – Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor and Philosopher*