Francis M. Lamoureux,
102 Miller Street
Ludlow, MA 01056-3315
Phone (413) 583 2493

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508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

Newsletter

SPRING 2001 Issue 84

It is NOT TOO Late to REGISTER for our Tampa Reunion.

FOR THE GOLFERS: Tee OFF at 8:00 A.M., Thursday, August 30, at the ROCKY POINT Golf Course, which is only a few miles from OUR Hotel. The cost is **$23.00, including the GOLF CART. The Hotel Tampa Airport Westshore provides** a FREE **SHUTTLE to and from the GOLF COURSE.**

LET ERNIE LAMSON KNOW if you plan to golf and to use the shuttle.

FOR THE NON-GOLFERS:

.....

HISTORIC TOUR of TAMPA & ST. PETERSBURG, Thursday, August 30, Depart Hotel 9:00 A.M. – Return 4:00 P.M. Cost $30.00 per person. Tour includes Transportation, Tour Guide, Tour of a Cuban Bread Bakery, Admission to H.B. Plant Museum and Lunch at the Colonnade Restaurant.

Fill out Reservation Form and Choice of Luncheon Entrée and include payment in full: Please, Checks only. (NO CREDIT CARDS)

Name:_____ Number of persons:_____

Indicate number for each Entrée: Shrimp____ Salmon_____ Chicken breast_____

Clip on dotted line and Mail to : AROUND the TOWN; 3550 Buschwood Park #235 Tampa, FL 33619

Or call Toll-Free: 1-800-826-3546. Indicate that this is for the 508 Tour August 30, 2001

A Donation Hooks You Up

508 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

Paratrooper _____ Wife _____

Check one: Member ☐ Associate Member ☐

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Company _____ Rank _____ ___
ASN Dates Served

Make checks or money orders payable to 508th PIR:
Mail to: Ernie Lamson, 1135 Edgcumbe Road,
St. Paul, MN 55105-2831



The Officers of the 508 PIR Association wish you a Healthy and Enjoyable Summer Vacation.
We look forward to meeting with you in Tampa for our 27th Annual Reunion.
The Future of Our Association is in YOUR HANDS!

508th P.I.R. Association Officers

OFFICE	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	ALT. REP	PHONE
Chairman	O.B. Hill	Hq 1st	(760) 325-5118		
President	Bob Speers	Hq 2nd	(561)-575-3011		
Past President	Norb Studelska	D Co	(262)-377-4107		
Vice President	Walter Silver	C Co, HqHq	(225)-343-2037		
Treasurer	Ernie Lamson	A Co	(651)-699-7366		
Secretary	Francis Lamoureux	G Co	(413)-583-2493		
Parliamentarian	Rock Merritt	Hq 1st	(910)-425-5818		
Trustee	Tony Yablonski	I Co	(410)-665-5867		
Trustee	Paul Hamblin	C Co	(770)-451-5015		
Storekeeper	Ernie Lamson	A Co	(651)-699-7366		
Company Rep	Bob White	A Co	(304)-727-3641	William F. Bauman	(618)-392-4710
Company Rep	Nate Silverlieb	B Co	(413)-538-8828	Frank Novak	(440)-843-7923
Company Rep	Bill Traband	C Co	(610)-532-4609	John Coates	(410)-531-2475
Company Rep	Frank Haddy	D Co	(515)-357-4362	Walter Baker	(618)-452-3762
Company Rep	Fred Infanger	E Co	(631)-667-8081	Bob O'Connor	(503)-649-2394
Company Rep	Ted Lee	F Co	(307)-265-2277	Tom Toper	(907)-243-3227
Company Rep	Al Rosman	G Co	(520)-726-1991	Lane Lewis	(615)-890-3638
Company Rep	Harry Roll	H Co	(513)-922-0249	Warren Wilt	(316)-286-5469
Company Rep	Harold Botteon	I Co	(410)-288-5388	Ray Costanzo	(540)-338-9240
Company Rep	George Stoeckert	Hq 1st	(703)-451-4629	Rock Merritt	(910)-425-5818
Company Rep	Chet Graham	Hq 2nd	(925)-937-6839	Louis M. Manion	(502)-447-8250
Company Rep	Lawrence Jeffers	Hq 3rd	(614)-667-6558	Jack Schlegel	(914)-688-5772
Company Rep	Harry Kennedy	HqHq	(650-349-1998	Bob Abraham	(405)-789-2264
Company Rep	Heimer Swanson	Ser Co	(507)-825-3762	Dave Kuony	(402)-553-5324

(If your phone number is incorrect, please send the corrected number to the editor)

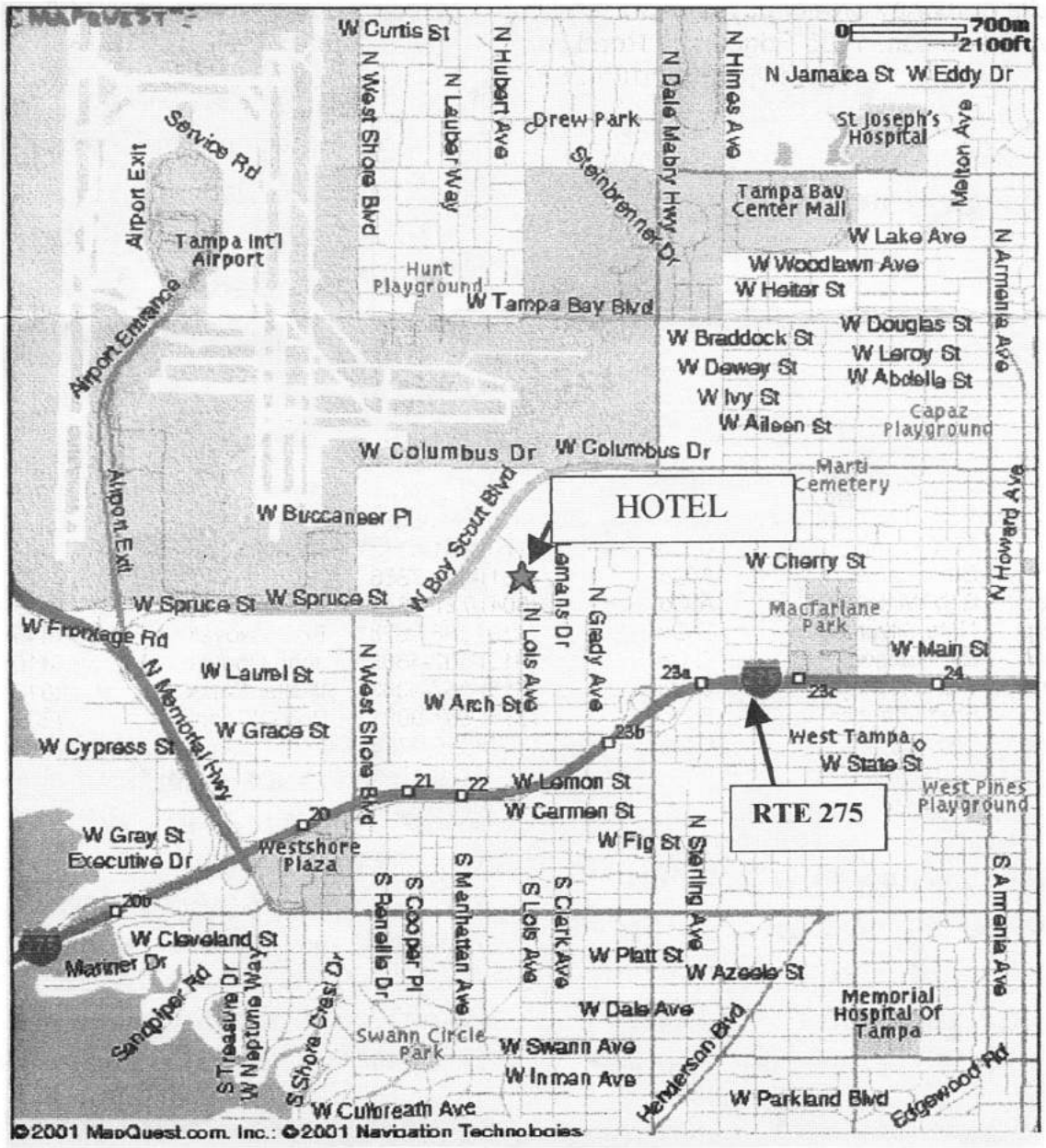
Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore

The site of the 508 PIR 27th Annual Reunion is located five minutes from **Tampa International Airport.**

A **Complimentary** hotel shuttle is available at the Airport. The Hotel on **225 North Lois Avenue, is four miles from downtown TAMPA.** A NEW International Plaza Mall is one block away. Upscale restaurants are across the street from the Hotel. The group rate will be available one week prior and one week after our reunion. **All reunion guests receive a 25% discount off the total bill in hotel restaurant and lounge.**

***NOTE: Room rates are $62.00/night.**
(Single or double, subject to 11.75% local tax, per room, per night)
Pay the hotel when you check out.

2225 N LOIS AVE, TAMPA, FL, 33607-2355, US



In Memoriam

Ruth Speers, wife of our President, Bob Speers died on May 22, 2001. in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bob and Ruth were both born in Michigan. They celebrated 55 years of marriage in March. Ruth was First Registrar of St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa for many years. They were the proud parents of four daughters and they were blessed with five grandchildren.
We all send our condolences to Bob and to the Speers family. The funeral service was held in Fort Smith, Arkansas where she was interred in the National Cemetery. A floral tribute was sent by the **Board of Directors** on behalf of the members of the 508 PIR Association..

President Bob Speers extends his thanks and appreciation to all those who sent expressions of sympathy.

From Bob Speers: NEW Address:
Robert W. Speers
18816 Loxahatchee River Rd.
Jupiter, FL 33458-2440
Ph. (561)-575-3011

Bob is getting back to "business as usual". He has appointed the **NOMINATING Committee which will present the slate of officers for 2001-2002 at the Business Meeting of the 508 PIR Association, Saturday, September 1, 2001 in Tampa, Florida –at 9:00 A.M.**

Chairman: Darrell Glass ("C")
Zig Boroughs (HqHq)
Harry Hudec (HqHq)
Dave Kuony (Service)
Bill Traband ("C")

After the slate is presented at the Business Meeting – further nominations may be submitted from the floor .

From our Vice President Walt Silver:
The Company Reps will meet Thursday, August 30, 2001 at 4:00 P.M. Meeting room will be posted at the **REGISTRATION Desk.**

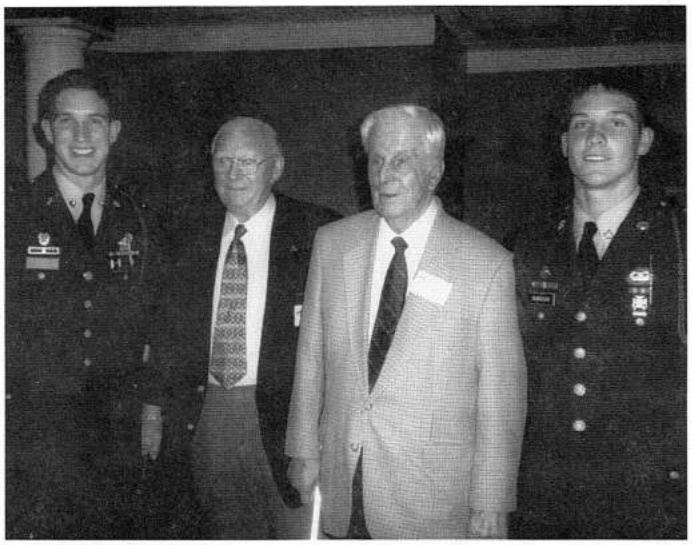
Company Photos will be taken immediately after Memorial Breakfast, Friday, August 31.

Norb Studelska will give a progress report of the Retirement of the 508 slated for Camp Blanding, FL in 2004.

From Ernie Lamson:
Advance REGISTRATION closes August 8.
After that date you should register with Ernie at the Hotel to obtain the 508 room rate.

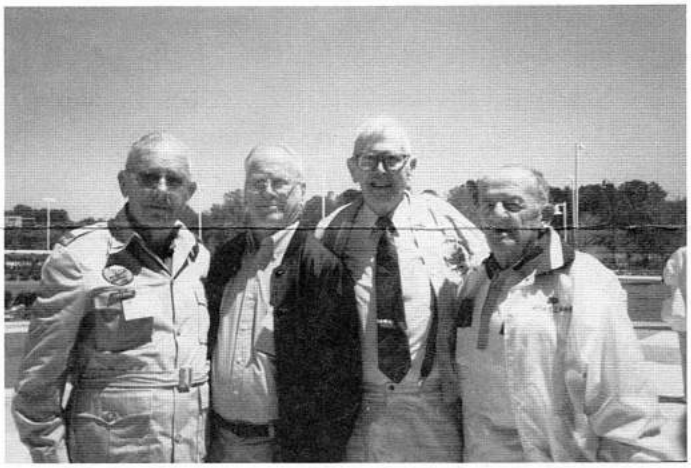
For Ladies Only:

Barbara Asher has arranged with the Hotel to sponsor a COMPLIMENTARY Continental BREAKFAST for all the ladies in attendance.
This is a FIRST for a 508 Reunion!
No longer will you have to rush for breakfast at an early hour on Saturday so that the men can get to their Business Meeting.
Barbara promises some surprises.
A special room in the Hotel is set aside for this event where you will be treated to real "Southern Hospitality".
Barbara and her committee will be there to Welcome you! Do come!



Tom Broderick, third from left, flanked by his two grandsons at the Hq 1st Mini-Reunion, Fayetteville, N.C. Paul Hamblin is second from left.

****



Hank LeFebvre, James Wynne, Francis Lamoureux and Michael Wargo
On the base at Fort Bragg, where Hank and Jim Wynne jumped from the 34 foot tower.

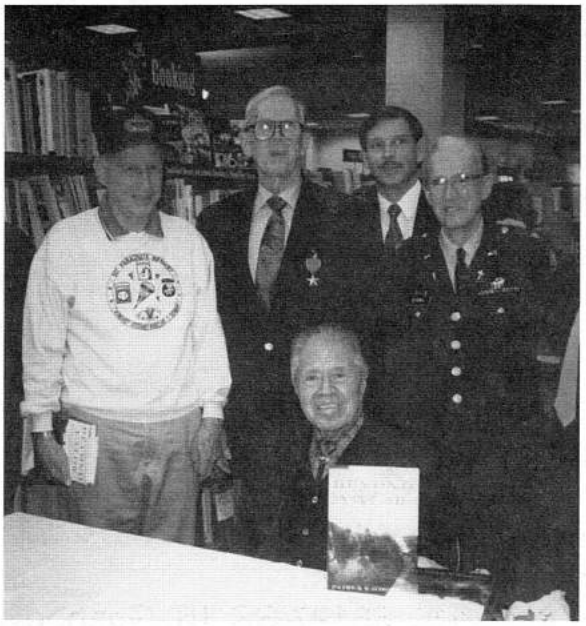
Hq 1st Battalion Mini-Reunion was hosted by **Rock and Sally Merritt**. at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux – April 25 thru April 29. **Company Rep.George Stoeckert** and wife, **Shirley** and daughter, **Maureen** kept things hopping! Well attended. **Hq 1st has provided us with a model to keep the spirit of the 508 alive after 2004. Keep It Simple and close to home!**



The Legend Continues in the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in the heart of downtown Fayetteville, North Carolina.
The spectacular architecture occupies a beautifully landscaped six-acre site. The center lobby is five stories high. Admission is FREE. A tour through the exhibits recreates sights and sounds of war-torn villages of Normandy. Bus loads of school children, Boy Scouts and teen-agers make educational tours of the Museum daily. Active duty troopers from Fort Bragg dressed as combat troopers of WW II circulate as guides talking to veterans of Normandy and Holland **This is a WORLD CLASS Museum – don't miss it!**



The 508 Memorial in the Garden, one of many at the rear of the Museum, is an inspiring tribute to Paaratroopers everywhere.



General Louis G. Mendez at Book-signing March 31, 2001.

The book, "BEYOND VALOR", by Historian, **Patrick K. O'Donnell** was praised by General Hugh Shelton..

Three men of the **508** are represented in the book, **Mendez, Lamoureux and John Hardie. Lou Mendez, Hq Co, 3rd Bn** relates his encounter with death in the fighting on **July 4, 1944 at la Haye- du- Puits.**

The **Bronze Star Medal** was presented by **Colonel Mendez** to **Francis M. Lamoureux, G Co, Pathfinder** nearly 57 years after jumping into **Normandy** with the **3rd Bn Pathfinder Team.**

Lamoureux's account of the **3rd Bn** attack on **Pretot** on **June 20, 1944** is in the book.

John Hardie recounts action in Holland with **"C" company** on **September 18, 1944.**

With 1st Sgt. Leonard Funk fearlessly leading the way they cleared the drop zone held by German troops to provide a secure landing for glider troops coming in with supplies.

The book-signing took place at Barnes & Noble, Springfield, Virginia. **George Stoeckert, Hq 1st** was on hand to assist **Lou Mendez.**

In photo above, seated – **Col. Mendez,** Standing, **L to R,** unidentified trooper, **Lamoureux** (wearing Bronze Star), **David Berry,** historian and author, and **Delbert Kuehl, chaplain** who made the crossing of the **Waal River** with the **504 in** canvas boats in broad daylight on **September 20, 1944** to capture the bridge at **Nijmegen.**

BEYOND VALOR, published by The Free Press, a division of **Simon & Schuster** is available in all bookstores.

Our own **508** author, **Zig Boroughs** is working on his latest book which relates unusual stories about men who served with us in the regiment. The title of his new book is **"The 508 Connection".** Publication date will be late 2001 or early 2002.

ZIG can say that he has something in common with **Mark Twain – 'recent accounts of his demise have been greatly exaggerated'.**

I talked recently to Zig and he is well and climbing up on roofs to nail shingles for Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife Mary are thoroughly enjoying life on his old Homestead in Pickens, South Carolina.

"E" company rep, Fred Infanger is home in Deer Park, NY after a three week stay in the Hospital to correct a heart problem. (*Fred has had a pace-maker for 10 years – way up on Dick Cheney!)*

His daughter, Dorothy reports that her father and mother are progressing nicely

Call or send a card to:
Fred Infanger, 41 Jessen Ave.,
Deer Park, NY 11729-5420
Tel. (631)-667-8081

Reunion Chairpersons, Bob and Barbara Asher and Ernie Lamson put out a LAST MINUTE CALL for *Volunteers* for our **TAMPA Reunion.,**
See page 8.

Taps

Frank Varelli, 82nd Airborne Association, friend of the 508. died July 6, 2001. Burial July 26 at Arlington Nat'l Cemetery, preceded by Mass in Fort Meyers Chapel at 10:45 A.M. Burial will be with full military honors.

Arnold Lundquist, (Lindy), died June 24, 2001 in West Gardiner, Maine. He was SSgt. demolition platoon, HqHq..Phone to Harry Hudec from son.

Melvin H. Beets, Hq 1st, died of cancer June 16, 2001 in Lompoc, CA. Mel was buried beside his wife, Ruth. Send condolences to his daughter: Mrs. Sharon Lewis, 317 Amherst Place, Lompoc,CA 93436.(**George Stoeckert.)**

Don Wright, F Co. died June 14, 2001. He is survived by his wife Norma Jean.. (From **Zig Boroughs**)

Mrs. Shirley Wilkinson died May 1, 2001 of heart failure. She was interred in Arlington National Cemetery May 17, 2001. Send condolences to her husband: **Garfield R. Wilkinson, Hq 1st** At P.O. Box 272, Hartly, DE 19953.

Merle Schildmeyer, HqHq died May 12, 2001. He was 89 years old. (From **Harry Hudec)**

Ernest Thomas, "G" Co. died May 7, 2001.Phone call from his wife, **Nora** to **Bob Kolterman.**

John Thornquist, HqHq, Medic died March 27, 2001. John a POW became a dentist. His last reunion was San Diego. (From **Ernie Lamson**)

Jim Baxter, died March 26, 2001.He was Captain of the football team in **Frankfurt/Main.** A phone call to Baxter by **Doug Loveday** was answered by **Mrs Baxter**.who informed Loveday that Jim had died. Doug played football with Baxter. He plans on attending the 508 reunion for the first time in Tampa. His phone # is 407-333-3953.

Robert F. Harper, C Co. died December 16, 2000 in the VAMC, Biloxi, MS, (Letter from his wife, Esble I.Harper, 500 Jade Ave., Metairie, LA 70003-6621)

Joseph E. Weddell, "F", "I", died December 1, 2000 at age 77. He is survived by his wife, **Hilde** who met him in Frankfurt-am-Main. Hilde Weddell, 66197 SR 15, Goshen, IN 46526.

Lost but Now Found : (Through the power of the Internet!)

John E. Sternesky, "I" Company.

Your Editor received e-mail from Ken and Vivian Switzer who were friends of Sternesky. Often they heard him tell stories of how he had jumped into Normandy on D-Day as a Pathfinder. He wondered whether any of the men who jumped with him were still alive. He mentioned a "Lamoureux" who jumped with him. The Switzers searched the internet and eventually found my address and wrote to me in April. Since then I have talked to "STERNO" on the phone and he plans on attending the reunion in Tampa this year. WELCOME BACK to John Sternesky – good paratrooper and good 508 buddy! His address: **John E. Sternesky, 3650 Bonita Springs Rd., Bonita Springs, FL 34134.** His telephone: **(941)-495-7441**

NOTE: As our ranks thin out, our roster continues to grow. WHY?

Wives of our departed comrades are automatically retained on our roster. An increasing number of friends, sons and daughters ask to join the 508 PIR.

508th P.I.R. ASSOCIATION
27th Annual Reunion
HILTON Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, Florida
August 30 - September 2, 2001

NAME: Mr----------Wife: ----------

ADDRESS:----------Telephone:----------

CITY: ----------STATE .....ZIP .....

List your company in the 508: _____

I WILL HAVE ..... GUESTS. NAMES FOR THEIR ID'S ARE LISTED BELOW:

1. 2. 3. 4.

The fee per person is $65.00.

ENCLOSED IS: $_____ registration FEE for _____ PEOPLE.

Send whole page (or XEROX copy) in with your check and HOTEL RESERVATION.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Registration (Wednesday)		**8/29**
Golf (Thursday)	**8A.M.**	**8/30**
Company Rep Meeting (Thurs)	**4P.M.**	**8/30**
Memorial Breakfast (Friday)	**9A.M.**	**8/31**
Pictures (Friday)	**11A.M**	**8/31**
Business Meeting (Saturday)	**9A.M.**	**9/01**
Banquet (Saturday)	**7P.M.**	**9/01**
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday)	**9A.M.**	**9/02**

☐ **King-size Bed**
☐ **2 Double Beds**
☐ **Non-Smoking Room**

Arrival date will be _____
Time_____A.M._____P.M.
Checkout DATE _____

Please make all checks or money orders payable to: 508th P.I.R. Association.
Send this pre-registration form with hotel reservation information and check or money order to:
Ernie Lamson, 1135 Edgcumbe Rd., St. Paul, MN 55105 Ph (651) 699-7366

**** No money is required at this time for Hotel Reservations. **A down payment of $62.00 reserves your room, but, it is needed only if you will arrive after 6:00 P.M.**
When you receive confirmation from the Hotel, your credit card number insures your room.
If you have questions you may contact the Hotel at: **Hilton Hotel, 2225 North Lois Ave., Tampa, FL 33607 or Phone: (813) 877-6688**

Please Note: To set up a room for a Company CP, contact Ernie Lamson to obtain group rate.

PLEASE CHECK OFF HOW YOU CAN HELP AT THE REUNION

☐ **Registration Desk** ☐ **Regimental CP** ☐ **Table Decorations**

I need a wheel chair: ☐ YES **I need a refrigerator for insulin: ☐ YES**

Pre-registration STOPS 3 weeks before the REUNION. Late reservations made at the HOTEL
ALL Changes must be made through ERNIE to avoid FALSE BILLING! And MIX-UPS!