BLUE SPADER Newsletter

PALMAM QUI MERUIT FERAT

"LET HIM BEAR THE PALM WHO HAS WON IT"

Hello Blue Spader Family,

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season as the crazy, challenging 2020 comes to an end. We are very prayerful that the COVID 19 pandemic will come to an end with the arrival of vaccines on the horizon. Everyone has had to endure limited social interactions and travel, but we will come out of this difficult environment stronger and more grateful for our Nation and our Blue Spader family.

Spader Days have become a great time to connect with Blue Spaders in your local area or to reach out and connect by phone or virtually. We had an enjoyable Spader Day in September that included a marriage retreat for the active duty families and the 26th Infantry Regiment Association business meeting via Zoom. Thank you for all that were able to participate. We plan to conduct Spader Day Zoom sessions for association members each month in 2021 to continue the camaraderie.

CSM(R) Steve McClaflin, CSM(R) Matt Bartel and I were honored to welcome CSM Cantu as the new battalion CSM where LTC Starz honored CSM Dobol and emphasized the importance of our proud heritage and strong ties with past and present Blue Spaders. We were also given the honor of addressing the battalion on the focus of the 26 Infantry Regiment Association, the importance of membership, and sponsored PVT Sabian McEuen and his battle buddy PFC Parker Patching, and CSM Cantu with an annual membership, and presented PVT McEuen with a check from the 26th Infantry Regiment Association for $126.00.

LTC Starz shares the focus of the Blue Spaders along with some of the successes the battalion achieved. He also is planning numerous events to commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the forming of the Blue Spaders with encouraged participation of Spader alumni. These are still in the planning phase for 25-27 February 2021 and they include an update of common areas, events and speakers, along with the dedication of a Pavilion and fire pit in honor of Blue Spaders of the past. We are planning on matching the battalion's fundraiser to help make these improvements happen. I encourage any Spaders that feel the desire to make a donation, to give according to the instructions shared by the Adjutant later in this newsletter.

The planning for our 2021 Reunion is ongoing and we look forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas! The details are covered on pages 9 - 11.

We hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and we look forward to bringing in 2021 with the exciting events in this newsletter.

All the best!

Once a Blue Spader, Always a Blue Spader!

Bob Scurlock

HCOR

From the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment

This has been a challenging year and although you have endured the hardships brought on by the pandemic I hope that you and your family have learned to thrive in this new environment as you prepare to spend time together for the holidays.

Even with the constraints established to protect the force from COVID19 our active duty Soldiers have continued to thrive in uncertainty and trained hard so they are prepared to answer the call in support on their wartime mission and contingency operations. They introduced the 26th of each month as Spader Day with an emphasis on the history of the Regiment and a means of bringing the Soldiers and Families together. On 20 October we bade farewell to CSM Michael Manley and welcomed CSM Raul Cantu and his family.

Like many organizations, the Association is developing new methods of communication. In doing so, this year on September 26th we conducted the annual business meeting virtually. Four important things came out of that meeting:

- First, as a means of keeping everyone informed and to provide a way for Association members to stay connected, we are initiating a monthly Zoom meeting on the 26th (Spader Day) of each month beginning in 2021. We will provide more information on how to join the zoom meeting after the holidays, so please stay tuned and join us when you can.
- In addition to revenue generated from the silent auction and supply room, the association relies on the introduction of new members and/or annual renewals. To ensure the future of the association, the cost of an annual membership will increase from $15 to $26 in January 2021. Life members are encouraged to make a contribution or sponsor someone's annual membership.
- The Association and 1st BN 26th Infantry Regiment initiated a pay it forward program designed to change lives and connect individual Blue Spaders and their families with the Association. More information on the pay it forward program is also contained in this newsletter.
- Finally, LTC Starz and CSM Cantu invite Blue Spaders who want to be a positive role model to connect with their old company and tell their story, provide lessons learned and share pictures and memorabilia.

We hope to see you on Zoom and at our 2021 reunion in Vegas!

Once a Blue Spader…

Steve McClaflin

HSGMOR

History Corner this months features CSM Ted Dobol, the first person in the Army to hold that rank.

Dear Mike:

I write this note concerning CSM Ted Dobol, not as a former member of the Blue Spaders or as a soldier that served with King Dobol, (nicked named as Master SGT K company). Rather this comes from a completely different viewpoint that I think is very common within the military ranks. I am the Grandson of a former CO of the 26th INF, Major General S.B. Mason (then Col Mason). CSM Dobol and my grandfather served together in the BRO throughout WWII. After the war, when my grandfather was given Command of the 26th, he was re-united with his old buddy and War Horse CSM Dobol and with MSG Woolridge (first Sergeant Major of the Army) and MSG Sheedy. My Grandfather retired in 1962 and settled in Birmingham, AL. Each summer, CSM Dobol would visit my grandfather for a week at his home and I would visit these veterans and be mesmerized by the discussions that were held daily. Many other soldiers (Officers and NCO's that served with them) would visit and come and go throughout the week and they would sit around and "chew the fat" as they called it. This week was always special growing up. My last visit with CSM Dobol occurred at Fort Riley Kansas for the 75th Anniversary of the Big Red One in 1992. My grandfather had passed away in Aug. 1990, and it was a wonderful re-union with CSM Dobol. I have had the opportunity to visit CSM Dobol's grave at Arlington Cemetery many times over the years and always pass on good words from the General to his ever faithful Friend and Command Sergeant Major "King" Dobol.

Attached is a picture of my Grandfather laying a wreath at MOH General Roosevelt's grave at the Normandy Cemetery in 1952. CSM Dobol is in the center. These soldiers all participated in the D-Day Normandy Landings.

Best Regards,

James Mason
Life member, Associate
P1035

I arrived in Germany June 1952 via USNS Gen Hodge. I was eventually assigned to the 26th Inf. Reg't. as 1st Platoon Sgt., Co "L"
26th Inf. Bamberg, Germany. I was recently out of Korea as a 20 1/2 year old Master Sergeant with 3 1/2 years service. I had the CIB and Purple Heart. Bear in mind that at this time MSG E-7 was the top enlisted grade. You could be a Plt Sgt, 1st Sgt or SGM. "L" Company had several WWII 1st Div Vet's—MSG's Hopkins, Dale, Henderson, John Baer and also MSG Bolden, Medal of Honor holder assigned as Plt Ldr wpn's plt. Shortly after my arrival the sirens sounded for an alert. I went to the field with my duffle bag and dressed in khakis. Received field gear and changed to fatigues at alert site. Soon I came up for duty as Regimental Sergeant of the Guard. The next morning at Reveille, the American flag was raised. The 26th Inf Regimental Flag was present, but I did not know it could be raised on the same flag pole under the American flag. SGM Dobol had observed and I was immediately told to report to his office. I received a good butt chewing and a prolonged history of the 26th Inf and it's flag. I found myself on weekend guard duty, Sat's & Sun's for 4 weekends.

In July 1953 I was ordered to the orderly room. 1st Sgt Dale Led me into the CO's Office. SGM Dobol and LTC Jordan were present. I was told that I was to be 1st Sgt Dale's replacement. I knew nothing about company administration! I was a pure Rifle Platoon Sergeant. I was also told that I was the youngest Rifle Company 1st Sgt in the Big Red One at 21/2 years old. It seemed like SGM Dobol lived in "L" co orderly room. He taught me so much about duty, honor and service. When I left the 26th Infantry I went to Ft Knox.

Some years later we met in RVN when I was Cpt. Egersdorfer's 1SG in Co "A" when CSM Dobol visited the battalion. He immediately recognized and remembered me. We wrote much after that. I was a 1st Sgt at Ft Dix when his son was in AIT and he asked me to monitor and guide him if needed.

The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust supports physical and psychological rehabilitation programs that provide direct service to ill, injured, or wounded veterans. Programs supported by the Trust target several groups of physically and psychologically injured veterans. Programs supported by the Trust typically include: providing food, shelter and other necessary items to homeless or at-risk veterans; accessibility or mobility items for veterans with vision or hearing impairments; therapeutic activities; physical and psychological activities for rehabilitation; and other forms of direct service for veterans and their families.

www.charitynavigator.org

Two good sources that can provide assistance for Gold Star Families.

Survivor Outreach Services

To find their nearest SOS Coordinator call: 855-707-2769

Email: usarmy.jbsa.imcom-hq.mbx.sos-survivor-advocate@mail.mil

Website: https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/personal-assistance/survivor-outreach

There is also helpful information here: https://dcsg9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos.html

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

Phone: 800-959-8277 (Gold Star Families can call 24 hours a day)

https://www.taps.org/ (They also have a chat feature on their website)

I suggest signing up for their emails.

Comms Corner

For members whose dues are up at the end of 2020, year 2021 is fast approaching. An email or letter reminder has been sent. Please renew now! If you renew your membership before 1 Jan 2021, it will remain $15 for the annual fee. Starting 1 Jan 2021 annual membership costs increases to $26. Lifetime membership cost remaining the same.

Please continue to share stories and pictures with Blue Spaders on Social Media.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/5439761364/
Instagram: @Blue_Spaders
Twitter: @Blue_Spaders
Active Duty Spaders at Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/126Infantry/

Happy Holidays and continue to stay safe.

Relentless!

Matt
Communications Officer

From the Editor—

On Sat, Sep 12, 2020 at 11:10 AM Jean Lingg <bjwhitener1932@gmail.com> wrote:

I receive the Bluespader newsletter just fine, thank you for including me, keep it coming. Although my husband is now deceased, I enjoy keeping up with the Bluespaders that meant so much to him.
Jean Lingg
Widow of James T. Lingg (WW-II)

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Wm Kunkel WW II Blue Spader passed 23 March 2020

Hello from Fort Campbell, fellow Spaders!

The battalion remains focused on three key areas; the basics of physical fitness, individual and squad-level tactics, and preparing for the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB)/Expert Soldier Badge (ESB). Blue Spaders continue to train effectively while also mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

On the night of 26 August during the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's JRTC Rotation at Fort Polk, LA, PV2 Sabian McEuen from 3/C/1-26 destroyed the lead tank in the enemy's armored column entering Cherokee Company's engagement area. At the time, his platoon was the last remaining combat-effective unit defending this key terrain along the Battalion's eastern flank. PV2 McEuen singlehandedly disrupted Geronimo forces attempting to penetrate the Blue Spader Area of Operations, buying enough time for the Battalion to better defend against the enemy counterattack. PV2 McEuen's actions exemplified Screaming Eagle Culture and earned him the title of Blue Spader Hero of the Battle and first ever recipient of the Blue Spaders Association Pay-it-Forward Program. More on this story on page 4.

In August, Blue Spaders honored veterans of the Global War on Terror with historical photographs from the Battalion's deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan on display at Battalion Headquarters. These Blue Spaders included Soldiers both currently serving in the Battalion and in other units across the Army, as well as Veterans from the Screaming Eagle Community in the FCKY area and around the country.

On September 24-26, Spader families came together to strengthen relationships at the Strong Bonds marriage retreat led by Chaplain Steven Ruff. We were honored to be joined by COL(R) Bob Scurlock, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, who spoke to the challenges and triumphs of marriage in the military and how that has impacted both his career as well as his personal life. Strong family relationships are critical to the lasting success of our organization.

Blue Spaders continue to codify the lessons learned during the August JRTC rotation; we will do our part to make the Strike Brigade a more lethal fighting force. Blue Spaders participate in ranges for small arms and crew served weapons as well as heavy weapons ranges. Dagger Company hosted the first live TOW missile shoot for the Spaders since 2017. This was a rare opportunity to showcase the anti-tank capabilities of our weapons platoons to our gunners and Spader leaders across the formation.

In early October, Doc (R) Strusinski, a 50+ year Blue Spader, returned home to thank the medics and leaders that are continuously improving the unit where he once served.

Several new leaders joined the team since our JRTC rotation, eager to keep the Blue Spaders in the right direction: CPT David Butcher (Battalion S6), CPT Marcus Tate (Battalion AS3), CPT Michael Baker (Battalion S2), and SFC Barry Harris (S1 NCOIC). Additionally, the Battalion bid farewell to CSM Michael Manley.

In late February, we will celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Blue Spaders in the Nashville area with a battalion ball. Blue Spader Association members are encouraged to attend this event alongside our Soldiers. Additionally, in early 2021 we will celebrate our legacy at the First Division Museum at Cantigny, near Wheaton, IL if former Blue Spaders in the area would like to participate. Once a Spader, Always a Spader. We are RELENTLESS!

LTC Michael Starz
Commander, 1-26 Infantry, 2BCT, 101st Abn Div (Air Assault)

87th Regimental Commander, 26th Infantry Regiment

Private Sabian McEuen, originally from Jacksonville, IL, arrived at 3rd Platoon, Cherokee Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in April 2019 and found difficulty transitioning to the Army lifestyle. After taking a few missteps in his initial entry to the unit, he proved himself worthy of positively affecting the entire battalion's JRTC rotation.

"When I entered JRTC," McEuen stated, "I felt as though I needed to help my team perform to their highest potential."

During the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's JRTC Rotation at Fort Polk, LA, McEuen destroyed the lead tank in the enemy's armored column entering Cherokee Company's engagement area. At the time, his platoon was the last remaining combat-effective unit defending this key terrain along the Battalion's eastern flank.

McEuen singlehandedly disrupted Geronimo forces attempting to penetrate the Blue Spader Area of Operations, buying enough time for the Battalion to better defend against the enemy counterattack.

McEuen's actions at JRTC exemplified Screaming Eagle Culture, earned him the title of Blue Spader Hero of the Battle, and first ever recipient of the Blue Spaders Association Pay-it-Forward Program. The Blue Spaders Pay-It-Forward Program awarded McEeun a membership in the Honorary Spader Program and all all-paid trip to the annual Blue Spader Reunion in Las Vegas, NV in June 2021.

Col. (R) Bob Scurlock, Blue Spader Honorary Colonel, and Command Sgt. Maj. (R) Matt Bartel awarded McEeun with the Pay-It-Forward Program.

"Private McEuen proved to our squad that someone at the lowest echelon can impact everyone in such a large way." stated McEeun's squad leader, Staff Sgt. Austin Carder.

McEuen found new purpose in his service and realized that he can continue to make positive impacts on his team. His team and squad are a more cohesive unit, causing the squad to more effectively execute orders and accomplish the mission.

"Private McEuen demonstrated a willingness to overcome adversity and his peers have taken notice." Cherokee Company Commander Cpt. Mike Benoit stated, "This speaks to his potential as a soldier."

Blue Spaders

The 26th Infantry Regiment Association

'Pay It Forward' Award

Is Presented To

PVT Sabian Mceuen, C/1-26 IN

PVT Mceuen struggled in transitioning into a Soldier during his first year in the Army. At JRTC Rotation 20-09, he proved his true calling as a Blue Spader by maintaining fire discipline to not engage the approaching first enemy forces in his defensive position. This enabled him to destroy an OPFOR T-90 tank and then support his squad's destruction of the remaining lead forces.

The 26th Infantry Regimental Association's 'Pay It Forward' Award recognizes an exceptional action by a currently serving 1-26 Infantry Soldier. The purpose of the award is to enhance the sacred relationship between the Association and the unit in our shared mindset of 'Relentless Pursuit!' This award supports the Association Objective "to enable Soldiers serving in the 26th Infantry to know and appreciate their predecessors in order to enhance combat effectiveness, develop loyalty and commitment, foster an extended sense of belonging, improve unit esprit and institutionalize the war fighting ethos."

COL (R) Robert E. Scurlock JR.
Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

CSM (R) Steven W. McClaflin
Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment

"Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat"

26th Infantry Association Annual Business Meeting

Association annual business meeting was held via internet application ZOOM on Saturday, September 26th, 2020.

WELCOME
HONORARY COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
HONORARY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE REGIMENT
1-26 INFANTRY BATTALION UPDATE
COMMANDER
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP—Total Members: 1023 (652 current—371 delinquent)

FINANCE—General Fund: $6821.11; $896/month avg spending; $187/mont shortfall

“SPADER DAYS”

REUNION UPDATES
- 2020: LAS VEGAS (POSTPONED)
- 2021: LAS VEGAS
- 2022: WASHINGTON, D.C.

OTHER BUSINESS

HISTORY PROCESS

GOLD STAR FAMILY DISCUSSION

PAYING IT FORWARD

VA PROCESS

KOSOVO AWARDS UPDATE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

2021 REUNION INFORMATION PAGE

WHEN: Wednesday, June 23rd through Saturday, June 26th, 2021

WHERE: The Luxor Hotel, 3900 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89119
To make hotel reservations, book online at: https://book.passkey.com/go/GBLU0621LX
OR call the hotel directly at (702) 262-4450 or toll free at (800) 926-4737 and identify yourself as being with the 26th Infantry Regiment Association and group code GBLU0621LX to get the group rate. The guest room rate for those attending the reunion varies by night according to the following schedule (this includes a discounted resort fee and state taxes).

Sun, Jun 20th	Mon, Jun 21st	Tue, Jun 22nd	Wed, Jun 23rd	Thu, Jun 24th	Fri, Jun 25th	Sat, Jun 26th
$114.51	$125.85	$114.51	$114.51	$125.85	$137.19	$171.20

Rooms at these discounted rates are first come first serve so please book your rooms early as we only have a limited quantity.

The Luxor is part of MGM Resorts and they offer active duty military, veterans and their spouses exclusive benefits and offers, including:

- Automatic upgrade to M Life Rewards Pearl status, which includes FREE SELF-PARKING and retail discounts at participating outlets
- 25% off services at participating spas
- 20% off cabana rentals
- 10% off at participating bars and restaurants
- Entertainment discounts.

Visit mgmresorts.com/military or the M Life rewards desk at the Luxor when you check in to sign up and learn more. You can save some money if you take advantage of this upon arrival at the Luxor. Don't forget your military or VA issue ID or DD 214 for verification.

TRANSPORTATION: The closest airport is the McCarran International Airport (LAS). The hotel is approximately 3.0 miles from the airport. There is not a dedicated Luxor hotel shuttle but there are ample taxi and ride sharing services available.

REUNION CHECK-IN: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Wednesday through Friday. Check in will be in the CP which will be held in the "Egyptian 1,2,3" room at the Luxor.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Wed, Jun 23rd:
- Hospitality room (CP): 1pm–10pm (cash bar in the evening)

Thu, Jun 24th:
- Hospitality room (CP, Silent Auction, Supply Room): 9am–10pm (cash bar in the evening)
- Welcome reception w/ hors d'oeuvres (6–8pm)
- Have fun in Las Vegas

Fri, Jun 25th:
- Hospitality room (CP, Silent Auction, Supply Room): 9am–10pm (cash bar in the evening)
- Have fun in Las Vegas

Sat, Jun 26th:
- Hospitality room (CP, Silent Auction, Supply Room): 9am–10pm (cash bar in the evening)
- Annual Meeting: 10–11am (coffee)
- Have fun in Las Vegas
- Formal banquet at the Luxor: 7–9pm

TOURS: We do not have any formally planned group tours during the reunion to give people the maximum amount of flexibility to enjoy your trip and do what suits you. The following link provides information to help determine what you'd like to do while you're in Las Vegas. https://www.visitlasvegas.com. Please take advantage of your stay in this iconic city and enjoy. These are not 26th Infantry Regiment Association organized or sponsored activities.

BANQUET: The Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Luxor Hotel in the Egyptian Banquet Rooms. We will have a plated dinner to include entrée selections of a beef / chicken combo plate or a vegetarian plate.

COMMAND POST, SILENT AUCTION, SUPPLY ROOM: Wednesday through Saturday in the "Egyptian 1,2,3" room at the Luxor. Unlike previous years, we are not able to bring our own Association purchased drinks and snacks into the CP. Instead, we will be providing a cash bar along with several drink tickets to each registered attendee. The cash bar will be available during the evening hours. The Silent Auction and Supply Room will be in the same room as the CP throughout the reunion.

SILENT AUCTION: Please bring your items to the silent auction so we can raise money for the association. You can bring items with you or mail them ahead of time. We will provide the mailing address at a later date as we get closer to the reunion.

2021 REUNION REGISTRATION (JUNE 23-26, 2021)
(PRINT THIS PAGE)

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

EMAIL:_____ PHONE: _____

MEMBERSHIP #: _____ DUES STATUS (YEAR OR LIFE): _____

IS THIS YOUR 1ST BLUE SPADER REUNION? (YES OR NO) _____

WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU SERVE WITH THE BLUE SPADERS?

LOCATION_____ YEAR(S)_____COMPANY(S) ASSIGNED TO? _____

EVENT COST
Reunion registration for all members, non-members and guests:
($80 / person) x _____ people = $_____
Registration fee includes:

- Discounted room rates and special benefits at the Luxor (over $50 value)
- Command post w/2 x drink tickets per day ($60 value)
- Supply Room & Silent auction each day of the reunion
- Buffet at the welcome reception ($25 value)
- Coffee at the annual business meeting ($10 value)
- Reunion SWAG bag

Saturday - Banquet at the Luxor
($75 / person) x_____ people = $_____

# of Beef/Chicken Combo Plate(s)_____ # of Vegetarian Plate(s)_____

PRINT NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR REUNION BADGES

1_____ 2_____

3_____ 4_____

5_____ 6_____

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:
26TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
ATTN: MATT BARTEL
875 GIP MANNING ROAD
CLARKSVILLE, TN 37042

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 15TH, 2021

26th Infantry Regiment Association
1304 NE 10th St
Bentonville, AR 72712

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage
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Permit #632

The **Blue Spader Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the 26th Infantry Regiment Association, a non-profit organization (501.c.19). It is distributed as a service to members and friends of the Association. Issues are published quarterly. For membership details, contact BRYNT PARMETER, 26th Infantry Regiment Association, 1304 NE 10th St Bentonville, AR 72712 or call (502) 418-3457. Annual membership is $15. Association website: www.bluespader.org. The editor reserves the right to edit all articles for grammar, content, and length to ensure a quality newsletter.