

After Action Report San Antonio Reunion Dec 2018

Members, spouses, and guests gathered in San Antonio for our annual 2018 reunion on Tuesday Dec 4th. After checking in at the La Quinta Inn and Suites on Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., we adjourned to our meeting room to chat and catch up on activities since our last reunion. Later in the evening we met at Mi Tierra restaurant in nearby Market Square for dinner and more socializing.

On Wednesday Dec 5th members of the B 2/8 Chapter of the 4th ID Association held our annual business meeting. After some discussion, it was decided to remain an active chapter within the 4th ID Association. Next, Indianapolis was selected as our next reunion site in early Sept of 2019. George Hosso was then elected and accepted the role of event coordinator for that reunion with assistance from Roy and Janet Pline and John Shaeffer. Finally the present slate of officers, namely John Shaeffer as President, George Hosso as Vice President, Art Cuellar as Treasurer, and Tom Saumur as Secretary, were re-elected to serve for 2019.

After our meeting was adjourned, we boarded the double decker sight seeing buses for a tour of San Antonio and its many historic sites. The tour included many stop-offs including the Alamo, the Menger Hotel (where Teddy Roosevelt recruited his Rough Riders in the hotel bar and fired two shots into the bar wall in a fit of anger), and the famous Market Square with its many shops and restaurants. Later that evening we took the Riverwalk boat tour, where we learned more of the history of San Antonio and saw the many beautiful Christmas decorations and lighting along the River. Finally, we enjoyed dinner at the County Line BBQ restaurant on the Riverwalk. After emerging from the Riverwalk onto the street above, we were treated to the spectacularly decorated horse drawn carriages providing rides throughout the downtown area.

On Thurs, after enjoying breakfast and more comradery, we carpoled to Ft Sam Houston and toured the Intrepid Center at Ft Sam Houston. This is where wounded warriors from all branches of our Armed Forces who have lost limbs, suffered burns or other traumatic injuries, are provided with prosthetics and rehabilitative treatment to allow them to re-enter active service or otherwise lead productive lives in the civilian sector. Finally, we were given an excellent tour of the adjacent Fisher House, which provides free housing for patients of the Intrepid Center and their families. The B 2/8 Chapter was privileged to present a donation of \$500 to support the Fisher House Foundation. An additional \$100 was donated by our special guests Anneliese Griffiths and Heidi Brusitus. That evening we dined on seafood at the Sea Island restaurant.

Friday morning, those remaining at the La Quinta Inn travelled to the nearby Guenther House historic flour mill and restaurant (housed within the historic Guenther home) for an excellent breakfast before parting for home.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to our guests Anneliese Griffiths, widow of our beloved Six and her friend Heidi Brusitus. They were great sports and joined in all of our activities. A special thank you is also extended to first time reunion attendees Clifford "Andy" Anderson and his lovely daughter Sara Herrell and medic Steve "Doc" Vogt. Finally, another mortarman to join our lone 4th platoon member Chuck Emery. Last, we would like to welcome Jay Braden into our family. Jay's now deceased father was a member of B 2/8, and Jay was able to learn much of what his father went through, something he would never share with family. All told this was a very successful reunion, enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who were unable to attend due to illness and to those still grappling with the effects of PTSD. Hope to see you all in Sept 2019 in Indianapolis.

John Shaeffer "5"