

2023 B 2/8 Dayton, Ohio Reunion

B Company 2nd of the 8th, 4th Inf Division held their annual reunion on Sept 18, 19, 20, and 21st in Dayton, Ohio. 21 members of the Company along with 9 spouses were in attendance. Our lodging was at the Homewood Suites in nearby Miamisburg, Ohio, which graciously provided our group a hospitality room for the entire week. We were able to secure two 15 passenger vans for transport to several of our venues.

On Tuesday Sept 19th we visited the National United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. Most of our group had never visited this site, and were treated to a spectacular display of the evolution of flight throughout history, particularly within our U.S. Air Corp and Air Force.

On Wednesday we were treated to a guided tour of Wright Patterson Air Force Base. This is a huge base, housing a squadron of the massive C17 transport planes. The tour included a demonstration of specially trained dogs used for security, and detection of explosives or drugs. Next, we visited the Air Force Honor Guard stationed on Wright Patterson AFB. They did a reenactment of a Honor Guard presentation at the funeral of a Veteran. This Honor Guard provides services for Veteran's funerals within Ohio and parts of four other neighboring states. Our next stop was a laboratory for the development of new or improved materials and devices for military applications. We were told they have been able to save the U.S. Government over \$600,000,000 to date. After dining at the consolidated dining facility, we were given a bus tour of the entire base, including the famous Huffman Prairie Field, where Wilbur and Orrville Wright developed their first-generation flying machines. Our final stop was at the Fisher House, located adjacent to the military hospital on base. Members of B 2/8 donated over \$1,400 in support of this Fisher House, which provides free housing for the

families of present and former military Veterans being treated at this hospital for wounds, injuries, or other serious medical conditions.

Our final day was free to visit any other venue in the Dayton area, including a fantastic Packard Automobile Museum, the Carillon Park which houses the second aircraft built by the Wright Brothers, and the Wright Brothers Museum and bicycle shop in downtown Dayton. Finally, a number of our group dined at the famous Golden Lamb Restaurant and Hotel established in 1803 in nearby Lebanon, Ohio. No less than 12 U.S. Presidents, along with such notables have as Mark Twain and Charles Dickens Have stayed in this hotel.

A meeting of the B 2/8 Chapter of the 4th Infantry Association was held to honor those who fell in service for our country in service with the 4th Infantry Division. We elected officers for the coming year, and selected the site for our 2024 reunion. The 2024 reunion will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Special thanks to Allison Popadyn and Sonya Harchaoui of the Dayton Convention and Visitors Bureau , Gena Hargraves at Homewood Suites, Sara Amado and Ric Rosado, Public Affairs Specialist at Wright Patterson AFB, and Mike Whitley at A-1 Van Rentals for all their assistance in support of our reunion.

John Shaeffer

President, B 2/8 Chapter, 4th Inf Division Association