



AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 6

January thru June 2007

From the AMTA President.....

The time is getting closer for the fourth AMTA Reunion. Three months and we will meet in Dallas, Texas, October 3rd through the 5th. If you have not made your reservations and plans to attend the reunion you may want to do that shortly as time is becoming a factor. If you play golf do not forget to sign up for the golf outing at Tenison Park Golf Course in Dallas. The AMTA website has the details concerning the reunion. The reunion Chairman, Bill Wilson has done a great job putting everything together and the hotel staff has been superb.

A lot has happened since the last AMTA reunion in Omaha (Council Bluffs, IA). Mostly good and exciting, but some sad times as well. The AMTA continues to grow presently with 129 members. The AMTA has six new members in 2007 but we are only six months into this year. We lost fellow AMT and friend Andy Barneycastle in April 2007, but the good thing is he will suffer no more. We welcome Andy's wife Betty Barneycastle to the AMTA as an Associate Member. On the other hand we had two old friends from many years past who met again at the 2006 reunion and were married March 17, 2007 at Randolph AFB, San Antonio. The two newly weds are Re-

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Dallas 2007 AMTA Reunion...



THE Site of the Dallas 2007 AMTA Reunion, the newly remodel Regency Hotel.

I hope everyone is making their travel plans for the 2007 reunion as October is just around the corner. I visited the reunion hotel and the upgrades are going well. As you may know, we have established the menus for the banquet which can be accessed from our website. The Tenison Park golf course has been selected and I think everyone will be pleased with the course and fee. Range balls and food will be furnished as part of the deal.

We are hoping to have our best attendance ever, so please inform any AMTs that may not be members and would like to attend. As a reminder, you do not have to be a member to attend, just eligible to be a member. Everyone who plans to join us for the banquet will need to make the arrangements (\$\$\$) with Mike McLaughlin. Eligible attendees are welcome to bring guests. We have estimated that 100 to 110 members and guests will attend the banquet. The banquet room will seat 200 so we have some additional space available if needed.

*Bill Wilson
Reunion Chairman*

Remember those that have gone before us and those that are suffering today. Keep them in your prayers.

*Jim Hargrove
AMTA Newsletter Editor*

Something About Possible Benefits?....

Do you need money or what is normally called cash. Some of you retirees out there must not care because you may have passed up the chance to collect under CRDP, CRSC, VA compensation, or some other program however it is not too late.

I have read in several publications that thousands of retirees have not applied for CRSC even though they are eligible. I have spoken to a lot of retirees in the past 6 to 12 months and have discovered that many of them are not or have not properly applied for their just due. Do you remember when the VA gave you the VA compensation that they deducted it from your retirement check and called it VA waiver. In short you had to pay for your own disability compensation. The only advantage was it was tax free, now under certain conditions you can get your full retirement and the VA compensation under CDRP.

You may be asking what the acronyms mean. Here are the definitions:

- CRDP Concurrent Retired Disability Pay
- CRSC Combat Related Special Compensation.

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Airborne Maintenance Technicians, 907 Names! Where Are They???



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tired CMSGT Taylor J. Greene and the former Ms. Dolores Durnwald. They have made each other very happy and we congratulate them and appreciate their support for the AMTA. Some of us traveled to San Antonio for the wedding and I it was a very nice and fun filled time.

The AMTA has had two proxy votes in accordance with the AMTA Articles and Bylaws and while things have not gone perfect they have gone very well. We learn each time from our mistakes and hope to have the process perfect in the not too distant future. The response by the members with the voting process for choosing AMTA board members has been outstanding. We have had more AMTs vote in this election than all previous elections combined. Whitey Gross, Jim Hargrove and myself were re-elected as AMTA board members. Thanks to all those who took the time to vote. Start thinking about nominations for 2009 as we have many AMTs who can bring a lot to the association.

I encourage everyone to attend the 2007 reunion as the next one is not until 2009 and that reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

Thanks to the loyal members of the AMTA as you are the ones who have made this an outstanding organization. God bless each and everyone.

*Johnnie Estes
President AMTA*

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

From the AMTA Secretary...

Time has really flown since the last reunion—we are quickly approaching the 2007 reunion in the Dallas area. It is always great to see old friends, especially when in some cases twenty years or more have gone by. In May, the AMTA conducted its first election using the internet. As in most things, there were a few glitches but all in all it went pretty well. Ballots were mailed to those without internet access. Bill Wilson is heading up the 2007 reunion planning and has a great location lined up. I encourage all to try to make it to the reunion as it may well be the best one we have had. As always, there will be a silent auction and donations of items for the auction are always welcome. If the golfers are luckier than last year, the golf tournament won't get rained out. By the way, we will have trophies. Hope all have a safe summer and will see you in October.

*Michael B. McLaughlin
AMTA Secretary*

AMTA Board of Directors:

Johnnie Estes - President and Director
Del Jolly - Vice-Pres and Director
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director
John Shaffer - Treasurer and Director
Bill Wilson - Director
Mervin Gross - Director
Jim Hargrove - Newsletter and Director

From the AMTA VSO...

AMTA members, do you know your state veteran's benefits? Well, if you don't now is the time to look into these special benefits. For example, many states give disabled veterans property tax breaks on their homes and vehicles. A lot of states provide free or reduced fee hunting and fishing licensed to veterans. How about nursing home care? Not all states have federal VA nursing homes, so there is often State operated homes at far less cost than commercial homes charge. Most states have state veterans cemetery's that provide free burial plots for the veteran and his spouse. These cemetery's are often more conveniently located than the nearest national cemetery. There are often education, home loan, and financial assistance benefits available to veterans and their family members. Every state has a state government website that can give you information on State veterans benefits through the Veterans Service Office page. If computer access isn't available call you county courthouse and ask to speak with a veteran's service officer. One federal benefit I'll mention is the Golden Access Pass available to any service-disabled veteran regardless of the percentage of disability. The veteran can pick up their pass by taking their disability award letter or VA healthcare ID card to any national park or monument. The cost of park entry has gotten high enough to make it worth your effort to take advantage of this federal benefit.

*John Hurst
AMTA Veterans' Service Officer*



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

3818 Sage Ridge

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247

AMTA 2007 Reunion, Regency Hotel, Dallas, Texas !!



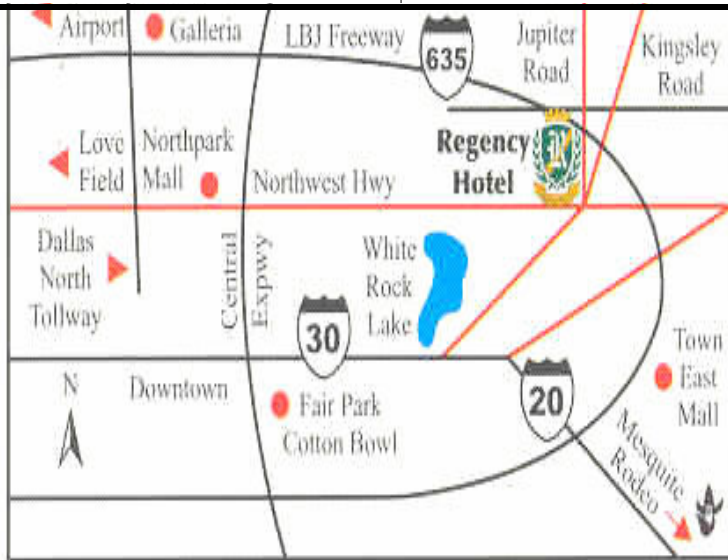
Typical room layout.



The Banquet room at the Regency Hotel



The Swimming pool., I'm sure this will be a popular area.



The Meeting room at the Regency Hotel

DIRECTIONS FROM D/FW AIRPORT

Take the north exit from the airport. Take I-635 (LBJ Freeway) east to Kingsley/Jupiter exit. Go through 1st light (Kingsley) to Jupiter Road. Take a right on Jupiter; the hotel entrance is on the right.

DIRECTIONS FROM LOVE FIELD AIRPORT

Turn left on Mockingbird Lane heading east. Travel down Mockingbird Lane to the Dallas Tollway. Enter the Tollway north, exit I-635 (LBJ Freeway) east. Exit Kingsley/Jupiter, go through the 1st light (Kingsley) to Jupiter. Turn right on Jupiter. The hotel entrance is on the right.

In Memory Of ...

M B E R D N A S K C I H C B M O C
 O I T I E E A R B A C U M I E P T
 B A S L L V N A W A D L E G H T S
 L C H E D W E A I O B E L L I N S
 B K D Y W L D T L M M O L H O E A
 U B R E L G A N S K E R O B Z P N
 R E Y O G K K W O K I Q A A E I O
 N C R Y E R T K N W N R R S H T S
 I E A N O A T C A R N O L N H A P
 N R B H R Z E M A E U E X E I T M
 G O I U G A L V Y L N D C G V O O
 C C D T E L Y C O E L I O R N K H
 A O R L N A A X R R R N O O U R T
 N R A T L S H I U I G S B T S U O
 D O N R T E E R N A V R E A R B N
 Y N R L L M W L D E E H A L L Q I
 E D E A V E R D R T T R I H O N O
 R C B K I Y L I A D B C D F O W I
 Y D N N I V A L R C M E R U S D C
 G S R A C P S T I I L L O O O R T
 X I S R E Y N E T S A S S M R B D
 A L F F Y L N E K C U R B I E W Z

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Ashton | 14. Slater |
| 2. Aylett | 15. Cryer |
| 3. Barneycastle | 16. George |
| 4. Myers | 17. Knox |
| 5. Nunn | 18. Mello |
| 6. Pike | 19. Agler |
| 7. Salazar | 20. Bernard |
| 8. Deaver | 21. Boudreaux |
| 9. Durnwald | 22. Brown |
| 10. Hargrove | 23. Cadwell |
| 11. Zborek | 24. Ellis |
| 12. Wilson | 25. Stever |
| 13. Thompson | 26. Riley |

See Answers on Page 4.

Official AMTA Yahoo Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:

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Some of the ailments are:

- Type II diabetes
- Neuropathy ED
- Prostate cancer
- and many others
- VDAC Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
- VASO Veterans Affairs Service Officer
- VAIC Veterans Indemnity Compensation

I will attempt to give you some information on what you should do. If you were in Viet Nam you may qualify for CRSC Pay. The requirements are that you were on the ground in Viet Nam. It is presumptive that you would have been exposed to Agent Orange. The one hitch is that you can not receive both CRDP and CRSC at the same time but you can receive both full retirement and VA compensation. Many situations are in the compensation packages that you have to discuss each and everyone separately. Another situation is if you die from a combat related disability your survivor may qualify for Indemnity compensation from the VA which could be more than the SBP plan that you may be contributing to at present. Your survivors should contact the VAO or retiree activities office upon your death. If any of you have questions on your possible compensation please contact your VA office or your local VASO or if you think I can answer a question or two please give me a call. I have been able to help a couple of you or steered you in the correct direction.

Del Jolly
 AMTA Vice-President



AMTA Semi-Annual Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Jim Hargrove

Publisher: Jim Hargrove

"It's your newsletter for use to communicate with other members."

Chaplin's Corner...

The longer I live the more grateful I am that I am an American. I'm afraid that too many of us just take this for granted. We often forget that many of our comrades of the past and present have died to secure this privilege for us. Of course, we see so many who don't know or care the price that has been paid for their freedom, but that does not excuse the ones of us who know the cost and benefit from the sacrifice. This past week I had the privilege of speaking to a group of elementary school kids in central Georgia. I decided to teach them how to salute and why we salute each other. I had them stand at attention and recite the pledge of allegiance. As they raised their little hands and fingers to their brow, I checked the whole auditorium and I did not see one frown, nor did I see a single one of those kids that did not participate willingly and I might add with great exuberance. It blessed my heart to have had that privilege of being with ones so willing to explore patriotism and learn of those who have sacrificed their very lives to guarantee our next generations will have the same opportunity they had. I left there feeling good and very grateful that I am an American I hope that each of you will seize every opportunity to teach others about this great country and what it really means to be an American, especially children. The sacrifice paid by so many to secure and guarantee my personal freedom reminds me of a sacrifice many years ago that guarantees me my spiritual freedom. I pray that as we celebrate independence day and all that it represents we would pause and thank an awesome GOD for his love and mercy and the sacrifice HE made at Calvary for each of us that put our faith in HIM.....looking forward to seeing many of you in October.....In HIS Love.

Jeff Knisley
 AMTA Chaplain

Treasurer Report...

The AMTA financial status is still good. We normally make a small amount on the reunion banquet, but try to strike a good balance between the cost and what members are charged. The AMTA made its annual contribution to the Enlisted Widows Home in Shalimar, FL. The decision to make the Enlisted Widows Home an annual recipient was voted on and approved by the general membership at the 2006 reunion. The silent auction and memorabilia sales are primary sources of income. We are staying away from dated items, because if we don't sell all of it at the reunion, it will likely stay in the inventory till we come up with a way to move it. Know some people out there that could be a member of the AMTA? Urge them to check out the website and contact one of the Directors. Any Director would be glad to field questions from prospective members. Looking forward to a great reunion in October and seeing more new faces.

Michael B. McLaughlin
 Acting Treasurer

In Memory of....

Answers to Puzzle

Puzzle Something About the AMTA

M B E R D N A S K C I H C B M O C
 O I T I E E A R B A C U M I E P T
 B A S L L V N A W A D L E G H T S
 L C H E D W E A I O B E L L I N S
 B K E Y W L D T L M M O L H O E A
 U B R E L G A N S K E R O B Z P N
 R E Y O G K W O K I I A A E I O
 N C R Y E R T K N W N R R S H T S
 I E V N O A T C A R N O L N H A P
 N R B H R Z E M A E U E X E I T M
 G O I U G A L V Y L N D N G V O O
 C C D T E L Y C O E L I O T N K H
 A O R L N A A X M R R N T H U R T
 N R A K L S V I U M G S H S S U O
 D O N R T E E R N A K R S A R B N
 Y N R L L M W N D E H A L L A I
 E D E A V E R D R T T R I H O N O
 R C B K I Y L I A D B C D F O W I
 Y D N N I V A L R C M E R U S O C
 G S R A C P S T I R L I O O O R T
 X I S R E Y N E T S A T S M R B D
 D L F F Y L N E K C U R B I E W Z