



# 761ST NEWSLETTER

June 10, 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
761ST TANK BATTALION & ALLIED  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>62nd Annual Reunion August 2010 Oak Lawn, Illinois</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>63rd (2011) Reunion</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TAPS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Publications that Men- tion or are About the 761st</b>	<b>8</b>



### Special points of interest:

◆ 2011 Reunion

◆ Tampa, Florida August  
18—21 2011



**ROSEVELT (BUD) HARRIS AND WIFE FANNIE LEAD THE WAY TO THE ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY VISITOR BRIEFING ROOM. JUST BEHIND THEM IS ELENORA BAKER, HER DAUGHTER DEBORA CHANG, EDRIS DADE AND MARK VAZ**

**T**he 2010 reunion was held at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois, one of the south-western suburbs of Chicago. It was a good turn out,

giving lots of old friends the opportunity to reconnect.

On Friday, we spent the day at Argonne National Laboratory, one of the US Department of



**ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY EMPLOYS ABOUT 3,200 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING ABOUT 1,000 SCIENTIST AND ENGINEERS, THREE-QUARTERS OF WHOM HOLD DOCTORIAL DEGREES. THE LARGE ROUND BUILDING IN THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH HOUSES THE ADVANCED PHOTON SOURCE.**

Energy's oldest and largest national laboratories for science and engineering research, located in Argonne, Illinois.

The mission of Argonne is to create new knowledge addressing the most important scientific and societal needs of our nation. They have nothing to do with developing military weapons systems; rather, their research is to improve our lives in every way possi-

### National Officers

Mr. John S. Weston — National President

Mr. Roscoe Strozier — First Vice President

Mrs. Edris Dade — Second Vice President

Mr. Ivan Harrison, Jr. — Secretary

Mr. Keith G. Harrison — Treasurer

Mr. Edward Walker — Chaplain

Mr. Wayne Robinson — Historian

Mr. William D. Smith — Webmaster

Vacant — Chairman, T.G. Hill Fund Committee

**761ST TANK BATTALION AND ALLIED VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



**ARGONNE INFORMATION CENTER – L/R – JOHN WESTON, LEJUNE FANTROY, FANNIE HARRIS, BUD HARRIS, DEBORA CHUNG, ELENORA BAKER, KEITH HARRISON, EDRIS DADE MARK VAZ, SHAUNA DADE, SHAWN SIAH AND OUR TOUR GUIDE RICHARD. BEFORE THE TOUR, WE WENT THROUGH AN ORIENTATION AND WATCHED A SAFETY FILM.**

ble.

For example, the lithium-ion battery in the 2011 Chevrolet Volt is an example technology developed at Argonne.

They also demonstrated a process to recover plastics and steel from end-of-life vehicles. Recycled steel from end-of-life vehicles, home appliances, electronic devices and demolition debris provide enough steel to make 13 million new vehicles every year. Their new process helps keep 5 million tons of plastic out of landfills every year.

We visited Argonne's Nuclear Engineering Exhibit to get a historical perspective of their role in shaping our lives. Extensive research has been done at Argonne to develop nuclear reactors including the CP-1 (the world's first nuclear reactor), the first reactor on a nuclear submarine and new reactor designs we could build today (in the United States no new reactors have been built in the last 40 years).

After the nuclear exhibit we toured Argonne's Advanced Photon Source—a giant ring of light that attracts thousands of scientists from around the world, who use its x-ray beams

to search for knowledge in areas that you would find hard to imagine. The DVD, cell phones, MP3 players, fighting anthrax or getting a new drug to market in a fraction of previous times—the research here has had its impact. There are about 40 stations around the photon source that allow experiments in different scientific disciplines to occur simultaneously.

We concluded our tour with lunch at Argonne's Guest House, a building with 157 apartments where scientists from around the world stay while doing research. Argonne

was a very impressive facility and everything we saw offered hope for better lives in both our near and distant future.

Friday evening we went to the Beverly Arts Center of Chicago for a lively concert by *The Original Wailers*. Bob Marley died in 1981 at the age of 36 but not before Bob and the Wailers brought the music of Jamaica to the rest of the world. From Norway to Zimbabwe, Japan to New Zealand songs such as *Jammin'*, *No Women No Cry* or *Stir it Up* are instantly recognized. In fact, they were heard at our concert!

On Saturday, Father Robert Miller, Pastor of St Dorothy Church in Chicago, guided our memorial service for the third year in a row. Father Bob has a very strong interest in history, especially the Civil War, and in 2007 he was able to fulfill a long sought-after goal in publishing a book on the Civil War from a perspective that few consider – the influence of religion on the bloodiest conflict in the history of this country.



**MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FATHER ROBERT MILLER, JOHN WESTON,  
ROOSEVELT HARRIS AND JAMES YOUNG**



**IVAN HARRISON, JR, PETER KESSEL,  
ELENORA BAKER, DORA AND BARON BATES**

(<http://robertjmiller.net/Author.html>) Even the title is intriguing, *Both Prayed to the Same God – Religion and Faith in the American Civil War*.

Saturday evening at our annual banquet we enjoyed two excellent speakers.

Thomas V. Barnes; Attorney-at-Law, retired army colonel, former Mayor of Gary, Indiana and an active member of Brother's Keeper, a homeless shelter for needy men. Colonel Barnes has been an active member of our Association as a member of the Chicago Chapter.

We were also honored to have Peter Kessel, a Jewish child of Holocaust survivors whose parents were liberated by the English April 15, 1945 at Bergen-Belsen Camp Complex. Mr. Kessel is a volunteer speaker at the Kean University Holocaust Resource Center

at Kean University in Union, New Jersey.

Hopefully we will see them both at our next reunion.

Entertainment that evening was provided by Soulvation ([rgrady123@yahoo.com](mailto:rgrady123@yahoo.com)). Their smooth jazz was quite a contrast from The Original Wailers.

At the banquet the association presented our president, John S. Weston, with the "Man of the Year award." The last several years have been especially challenging for the association and John Weston's leadership has been greatly appreciated.

We did not announce the T.G. Hill Educational Assistance Awards at this year's banquet. On a conference call

attended by the association officers after the reunion we selected three recipients to receive \$500 each. They are:

- Deontre Preyer: (Detroit, Michigan) Cass Technical High School. Deontre is attending Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan and majoring in Criminal Justice.
- Victoria Hill: (San Francisco, California) Mercy High School San Francisco. Victoria is attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and majoring in business administration with a minor in psychology.
- Drew Baker: (Clovis, Cali-

fornia) Clovis East High School. Drew is attending Willow International Community College where he wants to explore as many fields as possible to find out his personal passion.

We congratulate them all and wish them a good start in this new beginning.

Finally, Sunday morning it was an early breakfast and fond farewells – until next year.



**IVAN HARRISON PRESENTED JOHN WESTON WITH THE 2010 "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD**



**TJ MANN AND PETER KESSEL—A SPECIAL GIFT – AN ENLARGED COPY OF THE 761ST PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION**

## 63rd Annual Reunion

Our 63rd Annual reunion will be in Tampa, Florida Thursday, August 18 to Sunday morning August 21, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Tampa—Airport/Westshore hotel.

There will be a registration form in the mail shortly after you receive this newsletter.

**Hotel Information:** The hotel is the Embassy Suites Tampa (Airport/Westshore), selected because it is convenient to several different forms of transportation, is at 555 North Westshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609.

To make hotel reservations call **1-800-EMBASSY** or **1-813-875-1555** and ask for the 761<sup>st</sup> Tank battalion & Allied Veterans Association rate.

The room rate will be \$100 plus taxes for a one bedroom suite with two queen Beds. The room rate also includes a cooked to order breakfast every morning and a two hour manager's reception every evening. The cutoff date for our negotiated room rate is Monday July 25, 2011 so make your reservations by then.

A reservation may be canceled without penalty if it is canceled at least 24 hours prior to your arrival date. If you are not sure about whether you will be able to attend, you can make the reservation to lock in the room rate but remember to cancel by two days prior to

your arrival date, just to be safe.

If you choose to arrive early or stay late, the negotiated room rate is available three days prior to and three days after the reunion.

Self-parking is available and is \$8 for overnight guest however for our group the parking fee has been waived. If you drive or rent a car while here, don't forget your parking is free.

**Air Travel:** The Embassy Suites Tampa is located three (3) miles from the Tampa International Airport (**Airport code is TPA**) and the hotel provides a free shuttle between the hotel and airport. The hotel shuttle will also take you anywhere within a three mile radius for shopping or "tourist stuff."

There are almost 20 airlines that fly in and out of the Tampa airport and you may find several that have direct flights from your point of departure.

The airport is considered very user friendly and one of the best mid-sized airports in the country. Even so, there will be a place on the registration form for you to indicate you want extra assistance when you arrive – we will make it happen for you. We will also provide needed assistance for your trip home.

**Automobile:** Drive safely and allow plenty of time. If you do

not have a GPS have someone print directions for you from MapQuest or a similar program. Don't forget your parking will be free.

**Bus:** The Greyhound Bus terminal in Tampa is located at 610 Polk Street, Tampa, Florida 33602 and is located slightly less than five (5) miles from the Embassy Suites Hotel. Driving time is estimated at about ten (10) minutes. Two telephone numbers at the Tampa location are **Main:** (813) 229-2174 and **Customer Service:** (813) 229-2174. The 800 number for ticket information is 1-(800)-231-2222. ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)).

**Train:** The Amtrak station in Tampa is located at 601 North Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33602 and it is located slightly more than five (5) miles from the Embassy Suites Hotel. Driving time is about 10 minutes from the station to the hotel. Amtrak's routes to Tampa are via the Silver Service/Palmetto. For more information you can call 1-(800)-USA-RAIL or 1-(800)-872-7245. For internet access go to [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

There will be more detailed information in the registration package. This will help you get started.



## TAPS

**THE 761ST NEWSLETTER HAS LEARNED OF THE FOLLOWING DEATHS. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE DECEASED.**

L Z ANDERSON	JANUARY 8, 2008
HARRY K. TYREE	FEBRUARY 15, 2008
SIDNEY A. DICKASON, SR.	MARCH 16, 2008
HERMAN TAYLOR	MARCH 8, 2008
BERNARD F. WITHERS	MAY 8, 2008
ROBERT COOPER	JULY 3, 2008
CHARLES W. WOMBLE	SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
RUFUS TAYLOR	NOVEMBER 25, 2008
PHILLIP LATIMER	FEBRUARY 13, 2009
RILEY RUSSELL	DECEMBER 16, 2009
BUDDY V. BRANCH	JANUARY 31, 2011



**ANYONE WHO KNOWS OF A MEMBER'S DEATH PLEASE NOTIFY THE NEWSLETTER SO THAT PERSON CAN BE LISTED IN TAPS AND ALSO ON THE HONOR ROLL AT THE NEXT REUNION**

## COME OUT FIGHTING

The Official Newsletter of the  
761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association

Organization Address  
761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association  
7518 Hamilton Ave  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Ivan Harrison, Jr. ~ National Secretary

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.761st.com](http://www.761st.com)  
(Facebook also)

**Interesting**

**Find Anything Anywhere!**



[www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

For Federal, State, Local and Tribal

## Statement of Publication

This is the official publication of the 761st Tank Battalion & Allied Veterans Association. It will be published on a tri-annual basis with publication dates of April 30, August 31, and December 31. All members and associates are encouraged to support the voice of the 761st. Reader response will ultimately determine the frequency of publication.

The news letter is intended to be a vehicle for the members and associates to express opinions, make suggestions, share experiences and especially to keep in touch.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication but they must be signed. Letters requesting that the writer's name be withheld will be honored and stated so in the printed article. Because the Association is a non-profit organization, letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Unless stated otherwise, the views printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association leadership or the editor of the newsletter.

The Association is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be impossible to check each story. Therefore we rely on the submitter to research each article.

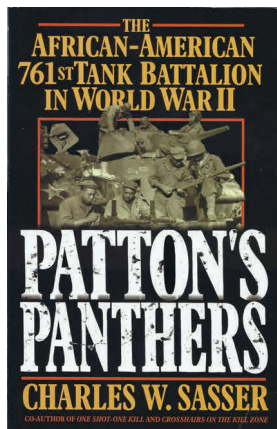
The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter by submitting your letters, stories, photographs and suggestions.

Letters may be submitted to:

Ivan H. Harrison, Jr.  
7518 Hamilton Ave  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-6923  
[ivanharrisonjr@hotmail.com](mailto:ivanharrisonjr@hotmail.com)

## Publications About the 761st or have 761st Contributors



### Patton's Panthers

The African-American 761st  
Tank battalion in World War II.

Author

Charles W. Sasser

Publisher

Pocket Books

A Division of Simon &  
Schuster, Inc.

ISBN-13:978-0-7434-8500-5

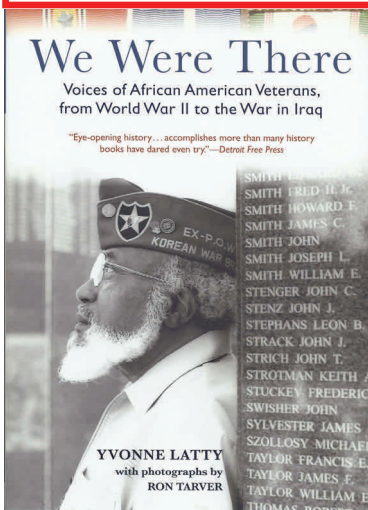
ISBN-10: 0-7434-8500-9

Both of these titles are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).  
As of June 10, 2011 the **Patton's Panthers** was listed at \$5.28 and **We Were There** was \$5.58 (both paperback ).

### We Were There

Voices of African American Veterans,  
from World War II to the War in Iraq

"Eye-opening history... accomplishes more than many history books have dared even try."—Detroit Free Press



### We Were There

Voices of African Americans,  
from World War II to the War  
in Iraq.

By Yvonne Latty with photo-  
graphs by Ron Tarver

Amistad/HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN 0-06-054217-9