



BUSMVA

# OBSERVER



Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association

A Non-Profit Veterans Association

[www.berlinveterans.com](http://www.berlinveterans.com)

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## 2018 "Welcome Home" Tour Report

By *Kenneth Atkinson*

From September 22th-29th, 2018, the Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung (Foundation) hosted

this year's "Welcome Home Berlin" tour for past members of the American forces in West Berlin. Ten former U.S. Army (Kenneth Atkinson, 1984-1987; Aaron Bell, 1986-1988; Douglass Brockway, 1981-1983; Jerry Bryson, 1965-1968; Joan Evans, 1985-1987; Thomas Stricker, 1971-1972) and U.S. Air Force (Robert "Bob" Grieco, 1981-1985;



Kenneth Henze, 1982-1984; Robert "Mike" McMullen, 1974-1976; Mark Ullberg, 1983-1987) personnel from six states (CO; GA [3 veterans]; IA [2 veterans]; IN; TX; WA [2 veterans])

were selected to participate in this year's tour. We stayed at the Air in Berlin Hotel in the heart of the former West Berlin, on Ansbacher Straße. Located near the

KaDeWe department store, the Kurfürstendamm Boulevard (Ku'damm), and the Wittenberg and Zoo train stations, our accommodation was conveniently situated

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## Web Site Update

By *Allen Lawless, BUSMVA Secretary*

BUSMVA's web site at <http://berlinveterans.com> is a haven for many Berlin veterans, and it's a place where the U.S. military history in the occupation of the city, and the aftermath following Reunification, can be reviewed by the general public. Setting that site up was the culmination of very noble efforts by former BUSMVA President Cal Korf and Colonel and Ph.D Historian Stephen Bowman, and others, at the time. There is much to be learned there.

Unfortunately, the site is badly out of date. It has not been revised in a substantial way since its implementation in 1998. In this day and age of rapid technological advances, 20 years is an eternity.

One of the projects I embarked upon in after being elected as your Secretary was to use my admittedly limited skills in developing a new web site that takes advantage of some of today's technological advances since those earlier days of 1998. So here's the deal, at least so far, as this is a work in progress:



Home

Welcome to the web site of the Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association! We glad you dropped in and invite you to check our pages.

This web site is for and about the U.S. military, U.S. and host nation (allies, and interested persons relating to the occupation by U.S. and Allied forces of the assigned portions of Berlin, Germany, from 1945-89 Reunification in 1990. Service continued for many until disestablishment of the various units and the Berlin Brigade in 1994.

History abounds with accounts of what transpired during those years, from the occupation of the associated sectors stemming from the Potsdam Agreement of August 1945; to the history and amazing Berlin Airlift in 1948 which fed, clothed, and fueled the populace of West Berlin. We saw the refugee influx throughout the 1950s, the initial construction of the Berlin Wall and dangerous standoff at Checkpoint Charlie in 1961, and we experienced the various Cold War events through the years culminating with the sudden and stunning opening of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and eventual Reunification of East and West Germany in October 1990.

Thousands of U.S. and Allied military, along with their U.S. and host nation brethren, served to protect the city and keep the populace free. To this idea and principle is this site dedicated. Please check us out!

Reunions - these are a popular and enjoyable annual event held in the Eastern U.S., the Midwest, and the Western U.S., celebrating with the reunion held back in the city that we all defended - Berlin - on a cyclical basis. The most recent reunion in 2018 was held in Berlin the next reunion in 2019 will be held in Columbus, GA. Please check our Reunions page for more information!



- The new site goes live in early January. The current hosting service, SunCoast, will relinquish the URL and domain name *berlinveterans.com* at that time, as BUSMVA owns that domain name. This means nothing changes when you want to visit the site—just plug in *berlinveterans.com* into your browser. Only the appearance changes on the site itself, along

with updated information.

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## 2018-2019 BUSMVA Officers

### President

Vern Gibson  
1866 Frederiksen St.  
Fremont, NE 68025  
402-721-4066  
vern@duganinc.com



### Vice-President

Rose M. Miller  
11719 Meetinghouse Dr.  
Cornelius, NC 28031  
980-231-5479  
rmiller748@aol.com



### Treasurer

Richard L. Dietrich  
19 Emerson Dr.  
Cinnaminson, NJ  
08077  
856-829-7923  
rldietrich@msn.com



### Secretary/Editor

Allen Lawless  
123 Antler Way Dr.  
Sherwood, AR 72120  
660-998-4590  
ar\_lawless@  
yahoo.com



### Director-Sales

Joe Morrison  
107 Remington Cir.  
Houston, MO 65483  
417-967-0027  
josephmorrison@  
centurytel.net



### Director-Membership

Jerry Bryson  
269 Club Trail  
Chatsworth, GA 30705  
-5663  
Phone: 706-695-9233  
membership@  
busmva.com



### Director-Reunion Coordinator

Berry Williams  
1117 Manchester Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-781-4649  
berrywms@  
mindspring.com



*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of BUSMVA or its Officers and Board*

## President's Corner

**Vern Gibson**

I first want to thank all our members that renewed their membership for the 2019 year. We are staying pretty even with some new members and the ones we lose. Unfortunately, we can't do anything about the latter, "it's tough to get old."

I have received nothing but great comments on our Berlin Reunion, especially regarding the Hershey Candy Bars. I hope we all get a chance to go back in 2022. Now we are getting ready for our 2019 reunion in the Ft. Benning area. I know a lot of our members

probably did their basic training there, but I know things have probably improved over the years. Berry is working hard to get the best rate for rooms, and planning some great tours. He may have things in this issue or the next with all the information. I check the website daily to see if any comments need to be addressed, both positive and negative. Please do not hesitate to comment on anything....except politics....Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Vern (Sgt Gus) Gibson, BUSMVA President*

## Membership Notes

**Jerry Bryson**

It is that time once again... Membership Renewal. Check your cards and see if you need to send in your dues for 2019. The annual membership fee remains at \$25. That keeps you on the active list of members. We can only maintain our unique presence among the many

veterans groups with your participation. Regardless of where you are from, or where you live now, "Ich bin ein Berliner".

*Jerry Bryson, BUSMVA Membership Director*

## OFFICIAL ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

See Page 9 for information on elections in 2019 for the offices of President, Membership Director, Reunion Director, and Director of Sales.

## Secretary's Desk

**Allen Lawless**

As your new Secretary, I've been pretty busy! A couple of topics:

First, I've been hard at work on developing a new web site. The web site (still under the old URL <http://berlinveterans.com>) will go live in early January. A full report is included elsewhere within this newsletter, but those who frequent the web site—especially in participating in the bulletin board—your experience will be changing some, and we hope for the better. Things will be different, and there is a mild learning curve involved. But if you frequent other forums or bulletin boards, you won't have a problem at all.

Second, and regarding the document you're reading, we'd like your input, and frankly, your help—without digging in your pocket.

The cost of printing, collating, and mailing *The Observer* climbs ever higher. Depending on certain attributes, *i.e.*, color or black and white, BUSMVA spends anywhere from \$750 to over \$1,800 for each quarterly newsletter to be printed and mailed to about 73% of BUSMVA members. This is expensive no matter how you slice it.

About 190 of our approximately 750 members receive *The Observer* through email. In the

interest of saving money and allocating it elsewhere besides administration expenses, BUSMVA would like to increase this number substantially.

If you are currently receiving *The Observer* through hard copy and you have an email address, please consider having the newsletter sent to you via email. For one thing, the electronic PDF file will come to you in color. Those receiving the newsletter via hard copy will receive it in black and white, unless previous arrangements have been made and authorized due to the substantial increased expense for color printing. And of course, you may print the document out or read it online at your convenience.

If you absolutely, positively *must* have a hard copy of the newsletter, we will, of course, honor your wishes. But if you have no preference and would like to see the money used elsewhere, please notify the Secretary. Contact information is on this page. You'll receive the same newsletter as everyone else, but in electronic format, in color, and faster than through snail mail.

Thanks for your consideration, and best to you in the Christmas and New Year Seasons!

*Allen Lawless, BUSMVA Secretary*

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The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF) of Berlin has sponsored a "Welcome Home to Berlin" tour for the last several years for U.S. military veterans who served in Berlin. We are pleased to announce they will again sponsor this tour in 2019. The tour is tentatively scheduled for May 11-17, 2019. Veterans participating must arrive in Berlin by Friday, May 10 and may depart on Saturday, May 18. There is opportunity for twelve (12) veterans to participate in the 2019 tour. More information on the program can be found at: <http://www.cc-stiftung.de/index.php/welcome-home/>.

The BUSMVA Board authorized the "Welcome Home" Program Policy, Roles, and Procedures on November 18, 2018. The following are the requirements for Veterans applying for participation:

- Provide either a DD214 or Discharge Certificate indicating an Honorable discharge. Please redact your SSN if it is shown on the document.
- Be a current BUSMVA member in good standing (dues paid for 2019).
- Sign a waiver relinquishing BUSMVA of all financial liability.

Applicant's dates of last active service in Berlin followed by the date of his/her last visit to Berlin will be considered in the selection process. Applicants with the oldest service dates will be given first priority. Applicants then will be prioritized based on last date of visit to Berlin. The BUSMVA Policy for selected applicants:

- Must meet all application requirements and timeline established by CCF.
- Must agree to participate in each and every event on the schedule established by the CCF for the "Welcome Home" tour. As CCF funds all events on the tour, it is neither appropriate nor permitted to forego the scheduled tours, unless a medical or family emergency arises and excused by CCF staff.
- Must be willing and able to personally fund all transpor-

tation expenses to/from Berlin, all charges for any additional accommodation beyond the duration of the program and any other incidental charges not covered by the program (phone calls etc.).

- Must be physically able to walk reasonable distances at a moderate pace and climb stairs.
- Selected applicants are encouraged to go to Berlin by themselves to ensure they have more time with the rest of the group to bond over shared experiences as they are going through the program. Applicants must agree to not schedule personal events until after all official tour events are completed. Spouses and family members are not included in CCF funded lodging or in any "Welcome Home" tour events.
- Applicant's previous or final rank, branch, or component of military service will not be considerations for selection for the "Welcome Home" tour.
- As required for all international travel, participants must have a valid U.S. passport with an expiration date at least 6 months after completion of travel. *It is also strongly suggested that selected applicants obtain travel insurance which would cover applicable expenses in the event of the applicant's cancellation.*

How to apply: Contact the BUSMVA Administrative Coordinator:

Vern Pike  
15001 Searstone Drive, #410  
Cary, NC 27513.  
Tel: 919-378-9462 or email [vernpike@nc.rr.com](mailto:vernpike@nc.rr.com)

All applications must be completed NLT February 20, 2019. Vern Pike will be contacting those who expressed an interest to the previous Administrative Coordinator.

This is a short timeline so if you are interested, please review all the requirements and prepare your documentation soon! Contact Vern Pike with any questions.

*Rose Miller, BUSMVA Vice President*

**BUSMVA Gear—A Short Announcement and Thanks**

*By Allen Lawless*

I recently visited BUSMVA Sales Director Joe Morrison and his wife Pat in their home, for the express purpose of photographing the various articles available for sale through Joe and through an authorized third party vendor, Mr. C's Caps.

Joe and Pat were exceptionally gracious during my visit, and I and my dog Maya were able to visit both them and their hundreds, even thousands of frogs (Joe and Pat are ardent and avid collectors of all things frog-related).

Therefore, we have some representative photos of some of the articles offered for sale. T-shirts are not depicted, and



*Joe Morrison, BUSMVA Sales Director*

there are a few things here and there that Joe didn't have available for photographing. However, we hope that adding a few photos of the major items for sale will help you know what is available and what it looks like before ordering same. Please take a closer look at the TWO pages of gear—and Joe was adamant in explaining that the two types of items cannot be mixed in an order: Joe offers patches, pins, unit crests, and other types of items while Mr. C's Caps offers primarily clothing items—jackets, T-shirts, caps, polo shirts. Please use the right form for the right stuff!

I want to express my personal thanks to Joe and Pat for hosting me and Maya during our stay. He makes a great, hearty beef and vegetable soup!



**2019 BUSMVA Reunion  
Fort Benning - Columbus, Georgia  
May 12 – 17, 2019  
Reunion “At a Glance”**



<b>Sunday, May 12</b>	First Day “Early” Registration; Welcome reception
<b>Monday, May 13</b>	Registration; Reception and Welcome Dinner
<b>Tuesday, May 14</b>	Tour Fort Benning Maneuver Center of Excellence; visit the Clarke Simulation Center to rotate through the Abrams, Bradley, and Stryker armored vehicle simulators; tour the Armor Restoration Facility to see Armor Museum tanks.
<b>Wednesday, May 15</b>	Select one of two tour options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 1—Visit Warm Springs and tour the “Little White House”</li> <li>• Option 2—Visit the Andersonville National Historic Site and the National Prisoner of War Museum (limited to 50 persons)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, May 16</b>	Annual Business Meeting; Farewell Dinner at the National Infantry Museum
<b>Friday, May 17</b>	Farewell, Depart Columbus

“Far across the Chattahoochee to the Upatoi stands our loyal alma mater Benning School for Boys.” Yes! For those fortunate to have been stationed at Benning we return to the Army Infantry School and Columbus, Georgia for the 2019 BUSMVA Reunion.



Join us as we visit the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park. This is the Nation’s only museum built to honor the Infantry. This world-class museum tells the story of our ground soldiers from the Colonial Period to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Sunday** – many members arrive early and participate in early registration. This year we have added a new activity. Following early registration the Board will hold a reception for those who came early to renew friendships and make new friends. The reception will be held in the Empire Room near the registration desk. We will share a drink with heavy hors d’oeuvres and stories of the old times as told by you. One drink ticket will be provided for each adult registered for the reunion. Additional drinks may be purchased at the cash bar. **Dress Code: Casual.**

Later the Dancing Bear Club will be open in the Chattahoochee Room.

**Monday** – for those who arrived early, start your morning with a buffet breakfast at Houlihan’s on the first floor of the Marriott. It is included in your hotel bill of \$115 per night plus taxes. Monday is the first official day of registration. We will also have information sessions on “What is happening this week?”

Monday evening we will hold a reception and Welcome Dinner across the street from the hotel at the Iron Works in the Foundry Room. **Dress Code: Business Casual (collared shirts, long pants for the gentlemen and dresses or pantsuits for the ladies).**

After dinner the Dancing Bear Club will be open in the Chattahoochee Room.

**Tuesday** – after our buffet breakfast we tour Fort Benning. For those stationed at Benning during the 40’s through the 80s you will discover things have changed as the Armor Center at Ft. Knox has been moved to Fort Benning. Today Benning is more than the Infantry School, it is now the Maneuver Center of Excellence. Many changes have taken place at Benning over the past 15-years. Since 2015, women now serve in the Infantry and Armor branches. Airborne and Ranger training have been combined. Simulators are used extensively to improve combat situation awareness and skills. **Dress code: Casual. (Good time to wear your BUSMVA shirt).**

We will visit the Clarke Simulation Center to rotate through the Abrams, Bradley and Stryker simulators. At the Armor Museum Restoration Shop on Fort Benning’s Sand Hill we will see where tanks, armored vehicles and weapons from antiquity to modern times are displayed and restored. This will be followed by a lunch at a Post Dining Facility.



A “special ceremony” for BUSMVA service members (All Branches of Service) will be held at the National Infantry Museum. Please make sure we get all of your military service dates as requested elsewhere in the newsletter.

The ceremony will be followed by a guided tour of the National Infantry Museum where we will experience “the last

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100 yards”, which is the museum’s signature exhibit. Life-like scenes from eight conflicts in Infantry history dot a 100-yard-long ramp, signifying the Infantry’s role in taking the last 100 yards of any battle. Trace the footsteps of the Infantryman from the Revolutionary War to events in the Persian Gulf and battles in between.

Visitors can see displays of weapons, uniforms, and vehicles of the U.S Infantry. While you’re here you can experience a movie in the IMAX Theater or have target practice in the virtual Rifle Range. The museum includes a gift shop and the Fife and Drum restaurant.

**Wednesday** – offers two tour options. Our member’s survey found many members who wanted to go to both Warm Springs and Andersonville. With only 2 days to schedule tours there isn’t enough time for all members to do everything members requested. Thus, on Wednesday we will send buses to each location. You choose the tour that interests you the most. **Dress code: Casual for both tours).**

**Option 1. Warm Springs and FDR’s “Little White House”.**



In the early 1800’s people flocked to Warm Springs for the warm mineral springs they thought provided “healing”. It was the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who first gave national recognition to Warm Springs when, in 1924, he visited the town’s naturally heated mineral springs as treatment for his polio related paralysis. In 1927 he would start the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation as a hospital for polio patients.

Our visit to the Little White House will give a glimpse into the life of our late president. Here you can see the Memorial Fountain, the Walk of the States, the Museum, a film in the auditorium, two of Roosevelt’s classic cars and other antiques.

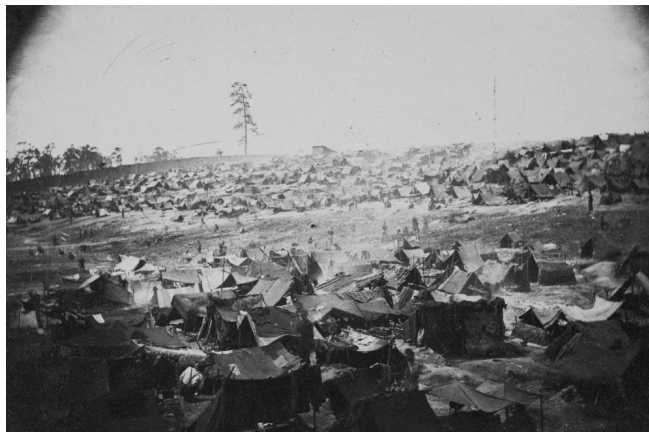
During our stay in Warm Springs we will have lunch at the Bulloch House Restaurant and Gift Shop. The Bulloch House features a country buffet with meats and southern style home-cooked vegetables. Their specialty is fried chicken and they are well known for their mouth-watering fried green tomatoes.

We will also make time for a stroll through the shops of Warm Springs before heading back to Columbus. And just in case you want to sit awhile, benches and rocking chairs

line the sheltered downtown streets, where specialty shops beckon.

**Option 2. Andersonville National Historic Site and the National Prisoner of War Museum.**

The Andersonville National Historic Site includes the National Prisoner of War Museum, the Prison Site and the An-



dersonville National Cemetery. The tour is limited to 50 participants due to space limitations.

The POW Museum describes both the Civil War prison camp and the hardships, experiences, and sacrifices of American POWs throughout history.

When it opened in February 1864 the Andersonville Prison was intended to hold 10,000 men; however, by August over 32,000 would be there struggling to survive in what the men called “hell on earth.”

Since the American Revolution soldiers have marched off to war, defending our country, families and liberties. Some have given their lives. Some have been captured and held as POWs, subjected to torture, starvation, inadequate medical care, and unspeakable conditions. Some have returned but have been changed forever.

Andersonville National Historic Site is the only national park serving as a memorial to all American prisoners of war. Andersonville now offers a place for remembrance and reflection. Here we remember POWs and honor their courage, service and sacrifice.

The bus trip is about 1½ hours. We plan to show two films on the way so you have some expectation of what you will experience.

We will have lunch at Yoder’s Deitsch Haus Restaurant and Bakery. Yoder’s features country cooking including meat-loaf, shredded roast beef, fried chicken, ham, fried shrimp, and country fried steak.

**Thursday** – will feature our annual business meeting and a Farewell Dinner at the National Infantry Museum. Your morning is free time for you and friends to visit places we didn’t get to as a group.

The business meeting will start at 1330 in the Empire Mills room.

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**BUSMVA Reunion—Ft. Benning/Columbus, GA  
May 12-17, 2019  
REGISTRATION FORM**




Activities and Options—please print clearly! <i>Registration Deadline: April 5, 2019</i>				
Day/Date	Activity	Cost per Person	No. Persons Attending	Total Cost
Sunday, May 12	BUSMVA Member & Guest Registration	\$85.00		\$
Monday, May 13	Welcome Dinner: Chicken Victoria _____ or Roast Pork Loin _____ (indicate number for each entrée; price included with registration)			
Tuesday, May 14	Ft. Benning Tour; Lunch at Post Dining Facility <i>*Special Ceremony* (see below)</i> and National Infantry Museum Guided Tour	\$50.00		\$
Wednesday, May 15	Option #1: Warm Springs, “Little White House” Guided Tour	\$55.00		\$
	Option #2: Andersonville Prison and Prisoner of War Museum Guided Tour (limited to 50)	\$55.00		\$
Thursday, May 16	Farewell Reception and Dinner at the National Infantry Museum Entrée Selection: Chicken Florentine _____ or Beef Burgundy _____ (indicate number for each entrée)	\$55.00		\$
		Total		\$

BUSMVA Member Contact Information				
Names of <u>All</u> Attendees (attach extra sheet if needed)				
Street Address				
City		State		Zip
Phone		Email		
Questions	Is this your first BUSMVA Reunion? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Need wheelchair accessible transportation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Special diet requirements? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please describe: _____			

<i>*Special Ceremony*</i> - You will NOT want to miss this service at the National Infantry Museum. Please indicate your military service dates for ALL your service, not just Berlin.	Active Service	Reserve Service	National Guard

Notes:

- Make your check payable to BUSMVA; mail to BUSMVA Treasurer along with a copy of this completed form (make one for yourself):  
Richard Dietrich  
19 Emerson Dr.  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
- Alternative payment option available on the new web site *berlinveterans.com* beginning in mid-January: 
- No refund after April 5, 2019!

My signature below constitutes authorization for Marriott to provide BUSMVA my hotel reservation information .

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2019 BUSMVA Reunion Hotel Information  
Columbus—Ft. Benning, GA 31901  
Columbus Marriott  
800 Front Ave.  
706.324.1800**

Room Rates: \$115 (single, double, triple, quadruple) per night

Tax rates: State and Local taxes—16%, which translates to:

$\$115 \times 1.16 = \$133.40$  per night.

Add also a \$5 per night Georgia Transportation Fee.



BUSMVA has blocked 100 rooms for the nights of Sunday, May 12 through Thursday, May 16. If you want to arrive earlier or stay longer, Marriott will honor the BUSMVA rates as long as rooms are available.

*To get these rates, reserve by April 10, 2019. After April 10, the remaining rooms will be released back to Marriott for sale to guests at their normal rates.*

**Making your room reservations:**

- Call 706.324.1800. *Make sure to quote the group name: Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association to get your group rate.*
- Online—go to [this link](#): You'll go directly to a page set-up by Marriott just for BUSMVA members to register at the hotel. Makes it real easy. If members are getting a paper copy of this newsletter your best option is to call the hotel directly. The link is too long and clumsy to publish in full here.
- *Make sure to quote the name of the event—BUSMVA Reunion May 2019.*
- **Last day to register in the BUSMVA block of rooms: April 10, 2019.**

**Hotel Amenities**

Breakfast	A buffet breakfast is included with the above room reservation. A breakfast buffet ticket will be provided for each registered guest in a room.
Parking	Self-parking is free with ample parking spaces at the hotel.
Airport Shuttle	Provided from Columbus International Airport. To make arrangements for this service, <i>use the Courtesy Phone in the Airport Lobby.</i>
Internet/WiFi	Free

Local Map of Columbus, GA, with hotel location:





## Spotlight on Berlin Military Leadership Major General Sidney Shachnow



Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow survived three years in a Nazi concentration camp; he deployed twice to the jungles of Vietnam and he was the top U.S. Army officer in Berlin at the end of the Cold War.

Along the way, the general became a legendary Special Forces officer, revered by many in the close-knit community of Green Berets.

Maj. Gen. Shachnow, 83, who lived in Southern Pines with his wife, Arlene, died Thursday, September 27, 2018. But his legacy, officials said, will live on.

Born in Lithuania in 1934, Maj. Gen. Shachnow faced oppression in his homeland and found his calling in the U.S. Army after immigrating to America in 1950.

He enlisted in the military in 1955 and served for more than 39 years, including 32 in the Special Forces community.

His top posts included leadership of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and U.S. Army Special Forces Command at Fort Bragg and U.S. Army-Berlin in Germany.

“Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow truly lived the American dream,” said officials at the Special Warfare Center and School, which the general commanded from 1991 until his retirement in 1994. “He came up through the ranks from private to major general through hard work and selfless service to this nation and the men and women under his command.”

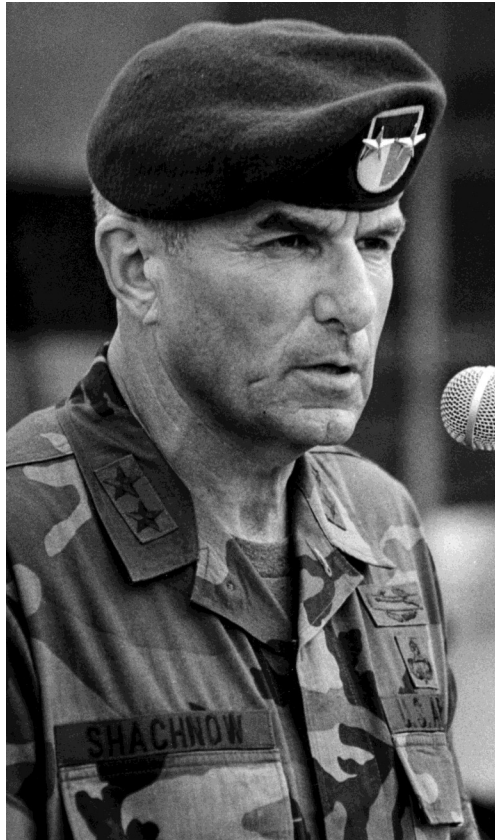
“Even in retirement, Maj. Gen. Shachnow remained committed to the Special Forces Regiment, serving in a variety of volunteer roles and serving on a number of boards,” officials said. “He continued to provide sage guidance and sound counsel to commanders throughout the enterprise, and specifically here at the Special Warfare Center and School. Maj. Gen. Shachnow cast a long shadow, and we will miss him dearly.”

Maj. Gen. Shachnow is survived by his wife, four daughters and more than a dozen grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 13 at Boles Funeral Home in Southern Pines.

As a 6-year-old boy, the general was among thousands of Jews held prisoner at the Kovno concentration camp near Kaunas, Lithuania. He lived in the camp for more than three years before being liberated.

In 1994, Maj. Gen. Shachnow told *The Fayetteville Observer* that the experience of the concentration camp left a deep mark on him.

“After I finished that experience, I was very cynical about people,” he said. “I didn’t trust people. I thought that there is a dark side to people. If you leave things to people, they’ll probably screw things up.”



The U.S. Army helped Maj. Gen. Shachnow regain his faith in his fellow man.

After moving to the United States, Maj. Gen. Shachnow began a new life with his family in Massachusetts, but dropped out of school to enlist in the Army, despite hardly being able to speak English.

He later attended Officer Candidate School as a sergeant first class and was commissioned in 1960 as an infantry officer, according to his military biography. He served with the 4th Armored Division until 1962, when he volunteered for Special Forces.

**Maj. Gen. Shachnow served with the 5th Special Forces Group and commanded the secretive “Detachment A,” a small team of Special Forces soldiers who operated in Berlin during the Cold War and prepared for possible war with the Soviet Union.**

**In 1990, Maj. Gen. Shachnow was the commander of all American forces in Berlin when the Berlin**

**Wall was toppled, near the end of the Soviet Union.**

**He told *The Fayetteville Observer* that the history of the moment was not lost on him.**

**“Here it is the very capital of fascism and the Third Reich. The very buildings and streets where they were goose-stepping and heil-Hitlering and the very system that put me in the camp and killed many people,” he said. “Here we are 40 some-odd years later, and I come back to be commander of American forces in that city and a Jew on top of that... It sort of adds insult to injury, doesn’t it?”**

While serving in infantry, airborne, airmobile and Special Forces units, Maj. Gen. Shachnow also earned degrees from the University of Nebraska and Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania. And he received an honorary doctorate from the Harvard Executive Management Program.

Maj. Gen. Shachnow was inducted as a Distinguished Mem-

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*(Continued from page 8 - MG Shachnow)*

ber of the Special Forces Regiment in 2007. During his military career, his awards and decorations included two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, among other honors.

He also was honored with the U.S. Special Operations medal for outstanding contributions to the special operations community and is included on the honor roll in the Infantry Officers' Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Following his retirement, Maj. Gen. Shachnow authored a best-selling autobiography, "Hope and Honor," which was published in 2004.

The late Col. Aaron Bank, known as the "father of the Green Berets," once called Maj. Gen. Shachnow a "determined, dedicated, dyed-in-the-wool Special Forces officer."

And Bob Charest, a veteran of Detachment A who twice served under Maj. Gen. Shachnow, said the general would be remembered as one of the greatest leaders in Special Forces history.

"He stood out throughout his career," Charest said. "He is quite an icon among Special Forces troops."

Military editor Drew Brooks can be reached at [dbrooks@fayobserver.com](mailto:dbrooks@fayobserver.com) or 910-486-3567.

<https://www.fayobserver.com/news/20181002/maj-gen-sidney-shachnow-special-forces-legend-holocaust-survivor-has-died>

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## BERLIN U.S. MILITARY VETERANS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

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In accordance with Articles VII and IX of the By-Laws of the Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association, an election of Board members (officers and directors) will take place during the annual business meeting of the Association on Thursday, May 16, 2019 in Columbus, GA. The offices of President, Membership Director, Reunion Director, and Director of Sales will be determined at that time (term of office—3 years). Elected Board members will take office at the conclusion of the reunion on May 16, 2019. Any member in good standing wishing to be placed on the ballot must submit a biography of 100 words or less, indicating which office they desire to seek. A member may be placed on the ballot for only one office. Due date for candidates submitting their biography and signed application to the BUSMVA Secretary is February 1, 2019 (short time line). No member may be placed on the ballot without his/her knowledge and consent.

Any proposed changes to the current By-Laws must be submitted to the Secretary by February 1, 2019. If desired, please request a copy for review by January 15, 2019. Proposed changes will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for approval. If approved for a vote, the proposed changes will be placed on the ballot. Absentee ballots will be furnished to all members of record by April 1, 2019. Absentee ballots must be marked, signed and returned to the Secretary as soon as possible. Ballots without signatures will be determined to be invalid. Submit applications, biographies and proposed By-Law changes to: Allen Lawless, BUSMVA Secretary, 123 Antler Way Dr., Sherwood, AR 72120 or via email at [ar\\_lawless@yahoo.com](mailto:ar_lawless@yahoo.com).

*(Continued from page 5 - 2019 Reunion Plans)*

Buses will start boarding at 1730 for our trip back to the National Infantry Museum for our Farewell Dinner. The dinner will be preceded by a Reception at the Museum. One drink ticket will be provided for each adult registered for the reunion. Additional drinks may be purchased at the cash bar.

**Dress Code: Semi Formal (Service Uniform, Suit and**

**Tie, Cocktail or Dressy Sunday Dress/Pantsuit).**

**Friday** — check out day for those departing Columbus. We wish you safe travels.

## 2018 "Welcome Home" Tour Report (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

and quite comfortable. The ample breakfast in the lobby served as each morning's meeting point, and the hotel's adjacent Berlin-Bar the site of many after-hour libations and conversations about our experiences in Berlin, both past and present.

Day One: Arrival (Saturday, September 22th)

We arrived from the United States and Europe to the hotel, where we became acquainted with one another in the building's historic foyer. Our adventure began in the evening with a welcome dinner at the Kartoffelkiste restaurant in the nearby Europa Center. Executive Director Ina Frost, and our daily chaperones, Tatjana Schell and Claudia Eule, from the Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung welcomed us back "home" to Berlin and described the week's activities.



Claudia Eule (left) and Tatjana Schell

Day Two (Sunday, September 23rd)



Our tour began with a bus trip to the famed Glienicke Brücke ("Freedom Bridge") featured in the 2015 film "Bridge of Spies" and the location of several im-

portant Cold War era exchanges of captured spies. Walking across this expanse into former East German territory was a moving experience for us all. After transiting through Potsdam's historic downtown, we visited the Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam Conference of 1945 where Truman, Churchill (later replaced by Atlee), and Stalin decided Germany's fate after VE day (May 8, 1945). We especially enjoyed walking through the villa's palatial grounds; many of us found the red star of flowers representing the old Soviet flag there quite interesting. Our next stop was Sanssouci, summer palace of Friedrich Wilhelm III, King of Prussia (1740-1786). After touring its extensive gardens, we enjoyed a traditional German lunch at the Stadtwächter restaurant. Housed in a former guardhouse in Potsdam's old city wall, the restaurant's historic atmosphere proved a fitting conclusion to the day. After a heavy meal, and a sampling of local libations, we returned exhausted by mid-afternoon to the hotel for a free evening. During the ride back, many of us were pleasantly surprised to see the remains of buildings from Checkpoint Bravo, the former entry point for the Duty Train and the Autobahn into East Germany, now commemorated with a historical marker.

Day Three (Monday, September 24th)



Sunday was a nostalgic day for many of us as we travelled by bus to the Allied Museum in the Dahlem quarter of the former American Sector. Housed in the "Outpost Theater, its extensive collection of artifacts largely

focuses on the American presence in Berlin. We took numerous photographs of the open-air exhibit that included a section of the Berlin Wall with a guard tower, the last guardhouse from Checkpoint Charlie, and a Hastings TG 503 aircraft that transported coal during the Berlin Airlift. Our guided sightseeing tour of "Little America" included a walk through Clay Compound, McNair Barracks, Andrews Barracks, and a bus ride past the Free University, Harnack House, and the former parade ground ("4-Ring"). Those of us who lived at these facilities were surprised at the extensive changes to some of the buildings and the neighborhood; however, the visit brought happy memories to us all of our past lives at our former duty stations. We enjoyed a large lunch in the

Ratskeller Schöneberg, site of President J. F. Kennedy's famous 1963 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. We then took a scenic drive past the Charlottenburg Palace and Theodor Heuss Platz to the Olympic Stadium, where the infamous 1936 Olympic Games occurred. From the Stadium's bell tower we enjoyed a panoramic view of a united Berlin. Those who served at Field Station Berlin were excited by the dramatic view of Teufelsberg ("Devil's Mountain") from atop the tower. Our tour ended with a guided visit to the Reichstag building that is now the seat of the German Bundestag (Federal Parliament) of a united Germany. We had the opportunity to climb the new dome for another fantastic view of the city. Free for the evening, many of us dined at restaurants near the hotel.



Day Four (Tuesday, September 25th)

The German Bundeswehr (Unified Armed Forces of Germany) hosted us at their command center (Einsatzführungskommando der Bundeswehr) in Geltow, near Potsdam, for day four of our adventure. After a group photo, we received an extensive briefing from an officer covering the structure of the German military, its work with N.A.T.O., and its activities around the world. We then took a guided tour of the Wald der Erinnerung ("Forest of Memory"), a memorial forest with monuments commemorating those who died during their service in the German military at home and abroad. We enjoyed a traditional German lunch of currywurst in the officer's mess. After an after-

(Continued on page 11)

## Welcome Home Tour Report (continued)

(Continued from page 10)

noon's rest, we navigated Berlin's extensively expanded public transportation system to attend "Circa's Peep Show," an acrobatic performance on a rather small stage in the historical ballroom of the Hackesche Höfe. The 1920's style small table cabaret seating, and our prime location in the front row very close to the action, made this a memorable evening.

### Day Five (Wednesday, September 26th)

We departed separately in three previously arranged groups to speak with high school students about our military experiences in Cold War Berlin at the Berlin Kolleg, the John F. Kennedy School, and the Wilma Rudolf Oberschule. Afterwards, we met at the Piazza Rossa in the Alexanderplatz area of the former East Berlin where we shared our experiences. The consensus was that the students enjoyed our visits as much as we appreciated their interest in our service. The Air Force veterans among us found the lengthy afternoon walking tour of Tempelhof Airport exciting for all the memories it evoked of life and work there, and of its role in the Berlin Air Lift. We visited many rooms in the complex, including the former U.S. Air Force dining, leisure, and working complexes and posed for a dramatic photo atop the building. Our guide took us four floors beneath the facility through its tunnel system to visit the bunkers and cellar vaults, as well as and the ruins of the so-called film bunker. Several members of our group had a friendly debate with our guide over the number of underground levels at Tempelhof and if any are still flooded. Perhaps members of the BUSMVA who served there can shed some light on this interesting debate. As several members reported that their various electronic devices showed they had walked between 4 to 6 miles that day, we were all happy to be free that evening for dinner and a welcome nap.

### Day Six (Thursday, September 27th)

We spent day five on a bus tour of former East Berlin sites familiar to many BUSMVA members, including Stalin-Allee, the Soviet War Memorial, Treptower Park, Ernst-Thälmann-Park, Prenzlauer Berg, Alexanderplatz, Rotes Rathaus, Unter den Linden, and Friedrichstraße. Our group particularly enjoyed having its photo taken in front of the mural of Brezhnev and Honecker kissing at the "East Side Gallery," a series of paintings on an extensive section of the original Berlin Wall that is now a heritage-protected landmark. We enjoyed a cafeteria lunch at the nearby Kantine Bezirksamt Mitte on Karl-Marx-Allee in the former East Berlin. The convoy of the Turkish President Recep Erdogan, whose visit to Berlin was the subject of considerable controversy, delayed our return to the hotel. After a rest and dinner on our own, we gathered to visit the Ritter



Sport Chocolate Factory and Museum. There, we had a fun evening making our own unique blocks of chocolate and, for some of us, a sticky mess as well.

### Day Seven (Friday, September 28th)

Our final day began with mixed excitement and trepidation as President Erdogan's visit shut down much of downtown Berlin around the U.S. Embassy where we had a morning appointment. Our able hosts, Claudia and Tatjana, navigated us through the security cordons and secured a police escort to take us to the backdoor of the Embassy where we had been instructed to enter the building to avoid protesters. After a briefing by a staff member about the embassy's history and purpose, and a tour of some of its valuable collection of American art, we met with Deputy Chief of Mission Robin S. Quinville in the Ambassador's meeting room. There, we posed for a group photo and she took us to the rooftop platform for a dramatic view of the Brandenburg Gate. Our group found the map of Berlin in the room with the Allied facilities, formerly housed in Clay Compound, of special interest. Our scheduled "leisurely walk" from the U.S. Embassy to the Berlin House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus von Berlin) was hampered by German security protecting the area from demonstrators. Nevertheless, Claudia and Tatjana once again persevered and, despite numerous obstacles, found another route to our destination. There, we met with the body's president, Mr. Wieland, who spoke to us about the purpose and mission of the House of Representatives and hosted us for a gourmet lunch. Our experience concluded with a farewell dinner at the Restaurant Feinberg, a short walk from the hotel, where we enjoyed Israeli cuisine.

### Departure Day (Saturday, September 29th)

After our final breakfast together, the majority of our group departed for the airport while some stayed behind for further travels and adventures in Europe. Although everyone has their own unique impressions of our trip, all members of our group were happy to experience a united Berlin free from the Soviet threat, and were excited to travel to sites in the former East Germany. We all left Berlin with a great feeling of joy knowing that we, and all who had the honor and privilege of serving in the American forces in the former West Berlin, can proudly say that we accomplished our mission. We are



all thankful to Ina Frost, Tatjana Schell and Claudia Eule of the Check Point Charlie Stiftung and the BUSMVA, especially Ted Cimral, for making this literally once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.

## 2018 Berlin Reunion Notes

Berry A. Williams, Reunion Director

Many BUSMVA members have written to say Thank You for the 2018 Berlin Reunion. Two hundred members attended the reunion and over 350 participated in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the beginning of the Berlin Airlift.

The reunion was a success, in part, because of contribution from our friends in Berlin. People who remember your service to the City of Berlin and its citizens. Their contributions were a statement of “Thanks” that made it possible for the reunion to generate a surplus of revenues over expenses that came to \$9,000+.

The BUSMVA Board recognizes the windfall that has been realized. The Board therefore is currently reviewing options as to how best to use these funds in the service of our members. To that end, I have been working on plans for a special service for BUSMVA members at the National Infantry Museum.



This surplus is a result of negotiations with several groups and business vendors who agreed to pick-up our expenses or charge less than what we agreed to pay in our contracts for their service.

- The City of Berlin picked-up most of the security costs for the Airlift Memorial Service (over \$19,000 as they closed 5 streets with barriers and established 3 rings of security with 68 uniformed officers).
- The Borough of Steglitz-Zehlendorf provided a reception for BUSMVA members.
- The Borough of Tempelhof-Schöneberg provided planning and logistical assistance for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Airlift. They paid for the 12 tents, 300 chairs, a podium, sound system, permits, and water for each guest. The Mayor provided planning staff and staff at the event so BUSMVA members would not need

to be asked to do those tasks but could instead enjoy the celebration.

- We used two companies to print brochures, the agenda, and other materials. Each gave us 40% discounts.
- The Steglitz International Hotel reduced our bill by not charging for AV-equipment, a truck to transport band equipment, and other services.
- The Hershey Co. gave the Hershey Bars given out at the Airlift Memorial Service and to make the Dinner decorations.
- The 298<sup>th</sup> Army Band members contributed their time and talents at the Welcome Dinner, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Airlift celebration, and at the Mayor’s Reception.

• OBI Lumber Store at McNair (where the motor pool once stood) reduced their bill for lumber and cutting services by 25%.

- The International Red Cross provided Ambulance service on site, just in case a member or guest had a medical problem. They normally charge a fee for providing this service at an event.

*This surplus is a result of negotiations with several groups and business vendors who agreed to pick-up our expenses or charge less than what we agreed to pay in our contracts for their service.*



# BUSMVA Pins, Patches, Memorabilia Store



Order Form				
	Size	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Patches	S or L (BBde only)		\$3	
Pins & unit crests	N/A		\$3 except for 6th Inf, which is \$6	
Challenge Coin	N/A		\$10	
Stickers and Decals	N/A		BBde patch—\$1.50; BUSMVA decal \$2 (circle the item you're ordering)	
License Plate Frame	N/A		\$5	
Shipping & Handling \$3 for pins, patches, misc.; \$5 for license plate frame				
Total Enclosed				

Patches—BBde, Sm & Lg; Checkpoint Charlie; Berlin Bear; 6th Inf; 2nd BG/6th; 3 BG/6th, Special Troops; Air Force



Pins & unit crests—USAF, 6th Inf, BBDE, various U.S. Army



Challenge coin, front and rear



Stickers and Decals



License Plate Frame



**NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE CLOTHING ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**

Items to be shipped to:	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	
<p><b>Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:</b></p> <p><b>BUSMVA</b></p> <p><b>Mail to:</b>  <b>Joe Morrisson</b>  <b>107 Remington Circle</b>  <b>Houston, MO 65483</b>  <b>417-967-0027</b></p> <p><b>NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!</b></p>	



## BUSMVA Merchandise Store through Mr. C's Caps



Order Form						
		Size	Qty	Total Cost		
T-shirt Ash Color (no pocket) Embroidered Checkpoint Charlie on front	S-XL	\$13.00				
	XXL	\$14.00				
	XXXL	\$17.50				
T-shirt Blue (with pocket) Embroidered Berlin Bear/BUSMVA	S-XL	\$13.00				
	XXL	\$14.00				
	XXXL	\$17.50				
Sweat Shirt Ash Color 9oz Heavyweight w/Checkpoint Charlie logo	S-XL	\$27.00				
	XXL	\$29.00				
	XXXL	\$31.00				
Sweat Shirt Same as above with Berlin Patch logo	S-XL	\$27.00				
	XXL	\$29.00				
	XXXL	\$31.00				
Official Jacket Royal Blue w/light lining; large Berlin logo on back and Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL	\$68.00				
	XXL	\$72.00				
	XXXL	\$77.00				
Golf Shirt Royal Blue with pocket; Checkpoint Charlie logo on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Ash color with pocket; Berlin Bear and BUSMVA on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Blue with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
Golf Shirt Red with pocket; Berlin patch on front	S-XL	\$23.00				
	XXL	\$24.50				
	XXXL	\$26.50				
<b>Embroidered name on shirts and jackets add for each:</b>		\$6.00	NAME: _____			
Golf Cap with Berlin logo, Blue or Red, mesh style or full material	One size	\$15.00				
Golf Cap with Berlin Bear logo, Blue or Red, mesh style or full material	One size	\$15.00				
Shipping & Handling (see side bar)						
Total Enclosed						

Items to be Shipped to:	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	
<p><b>NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE PATCHES, PINS, MEMORABILIA ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!</b></p> <p><b>Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. C's Caps 9042 Roubidoux Rd. Bucyrus, MO 65444 417-967-0261 417-967-3257 Email: mrccaps@centurytel.net</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!</b></p>	

Cost of Items	Shipping & Handling
\$10.01 to \$20.00	\$6
\$20.01 to \$30.00	\$8
\$30.01 to \$40.00	\$10
\$40.01 to \$50.00	\$12
\$50.01 and up	\$14

Samples!



Lined jacket



Back of jacket



Ball cap w/mesh



Golf shirt



Golf shirt red



Sweatshirt



Ball cap w/ material

## New Members to BUSMVA

Last Name	First Name	City	State	Service	Berlin Dates	Berlin Unit
Aalbers	Gerald R.	Manor	TX	Army	10/1974-11/1977	A Co USAINSCOM (USASAFSB)
Bradley	William J.	Concord	NH	Army	1965-1966	4th Bn, 18th Infantry
Brockway	Douglas	Ft. Wayne	IN	Army	1981-1983	Field Station Berlin
Fitzpatrick	Timothy F.	Fayetteville	NC	Army	1/1980-8/1983	HHC BBDE/HHC 4th Bn 6th Inf
Loomer	Gordon	Austin	TX	Army	1970-1971	42nd Engineer Company
Wimberley	Duane M.	Winnsbora	TX	Army	1/1982-12/1983	USA Signal Support Co.

## Web Site Update—continued

*(Continued from page 1) - Web Site Update*

- I will make an attempt to advise those via the Bulletin Board when the actual date will be when the old site goes down. Will attempt to make the new site appear as quickly as possible from the new hosting company, but I ask for your patience while we work through this significant transformation.

The new site will feature a completely revamped Bulletin Board/Forums, which will offer:

- Capability to post photos
- Capability to post active hyperlinks
- Capability to review nested threads (much like the current system, just structured differently)
- Requirement to have your own individual login and password. This will replace the current “community” login process, which invites all manner of security problems. NOTE: This will be a major adjustment for regular visitors to the bulletin board in that your login and password information will be associated with you. Spammers can’t capitalize on something they can’t access. Please make an effort to keep your login personal and not public.
- Unfortunately, all of the previously posted information on the old site will be lost, unless we are informed otherwise. It is strongly suggested that if you have a favorite thread or important bit of information you’d like to retain, select it, copy it, and paste it to a file.

The site also offers:

- The option to register for the 2019 Reunion registration and tour options via the online payment system Paypal. This is a significant update that should provide

BUSMVA members both peace of mind and convenience when registering for the 2019 Reunion in Columbus, GA. Making a payment through Paypal isolates your bank account information from BUSMVA, but it offers a quick and secure method by which to register for the reunion and any tours you might want to take. Paypal has been around for a number of years and their financial security systems are robust and unsurpassed.



*Personal Note: I have personally used Paypal in other veterans organizations in which I am Treasurer. I have never encountered a problem regarding security. Nevertheless, the Paypal option is just that – an Option. For those preferring to pay by more traditional means (paper check), you may, of course, continue in that manner. The updated web site continues to offer the*

*traditional payment option.*

- Updated historical information, not included in the current site. This is no indictment on the historical knowledge of the late and distinguished Dr. (COL) Stephen Bowman. It merely offers more information not previously mentioned, especially concerning the early days of the Occupation and also provides some information concerning Operation LONG THRUST.
- Restructured BUSMVA Gear purchasing options, though the requirement to pay for those items via personal check and not through online methods still remains. Photos and depictions of the offered items are shown.

We’re hopeful you find the new site attractive and helpful. There will no doubt be some “issues” along the way, but as I said previously, I stand ready to help you through them. My contact information is within this newsletter.

*Allen Lawless, BUSMVA Secretary*




**The BUSMVA Observer**  
 Berlin US Military Veterans Association  
 123 Antler Way Dr.  
 Sherwood, AR 72120  
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 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 ZIP CODE 59758  
 PERMIT NO 101



**Taps**

Photo (if Available)	Name	Date of Death	Berlin Service
	Charles Edward "Charlie Red" Bryan	3 Nov 18	Co. K, 3rd Bn, 6th Inf from 1956-1958.