

**In this issue:**

- ⇒ 2020 Election/Bylaws Vote & Absentee Ballots
- ⇒ 30th Anniversary of the Wall's Demise
- ⇒ President's Message
- ⇒ Vice President's Dispatch
- ⇒ Secretary's Desk
- ⇒ Welcome Home Tour Update
- ⇒ U.S. Constabulary, 1946-1952
- ⇒ 2020 Reunion Update
- ⇒ Bylaws Committee Review Update
- ⇒ TBD
- ⇒ BUSMVA Store/Mr. C's Caps Order Forms
- ⇒ New Members
- ⇒ Taps

## Upcoming Absentee Ballots in 2020

Upcoming decisions by the BUSMVA membership in 2020 consist of two important areas. First, the term of Treasurer, currently held by Richard Dietrich, expires in September 2020, concurrent with the Billings reunion. Second, the Bylaws Committee, led by Vice President Rose Miller, has concluded its work and presented their recommendations to the BUSMVA Board.

The BUSMVA Board has reviewed those recommendations and will be presenting that information to eligible members early next year via absentee ballot.

Treasurer Richard Dietrich has indicated his desire to run again. Other eligible members may announce their interest in this highly important office and are encouraged to contact the Secretary by 31 March 2020, at which time the absentee ballots for that election will be prepared.



Absentee ballots for both the election of Treasurer and the revised Bylaws are intended for those who do not plan to attend the Billings reunion. If you plan on attending the reunion, you may discard the absentee ballots and vote at the reunion if you prefer.

The absentee ballots will be within the same mailing (whether email or hard copy) and, in addition to the Treasurer election, will also outline in detail the proposed changes to the Bylaws.

Please ensure your email/home address is up to date! Contact the Membership Director to update your contact information.

Absentee ballots for both decisions are expected to go out in April of next year. This will give ample

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 30th Anniversary of the Wall's Demise

Thirty years ago last month, the Berlin Wall came down. The events of the late 1980s leading up to the Wall's demise occurred with dramatic speed. Like the small trickle in a leaky dam that becomes a torrent, GDR policies, miscommunication, and Soviet refusal to intervene resulted in more than 133,000 East German citizens moving to the West in 1989. More than anything, a persistent call for freedom to travel by hundreds of thousands of people eventually helped bring down the Wall.

*November 1-10, 1989*

Egon Krenz, the communist head of state of East Germany (GDR), visited Moscow on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He had been presented with unmistakable and irrefutable evidence, largely ignored by his predecessor Erich Honecker, of an economically dying nation. Honecker's blind denial of absolute fact led to his removal from his position the previous month, replaced by Krenz. Krenz appealed to Mikhail Gorbachev for Soviet economic assistance. Gorbachev explained quite firmly that the Soviet Union was not in a position to provide that assistance and the discussion turned to other matters. Gorbachev also de-



murred on any discussion concerning a possible reunification between the two Germanys as it was not an item on the Soviet Union's political agenda. This effectively shut the door on any Soviet interference to address the increasing numbers of East German citizens moving to the West and as a result of this meeting and popular pressure, the travel requirements by GDR citizens to Czechoslovakia were eased again. GDR citizens would no longer need a visa and a passport to travel there. <sup>[i]</sup>

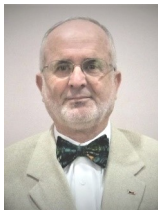
On November 3, officials in Czechoslovakia (CSSR) informed the GDR ambassador that no effort to establish refugee camps for the flood of GDR citizens arriving in the CSSR would be taken. Officials told the ambassador that GDR had two choices: one, "introduce measures to end the influx of 'political refugees' [into the CSSR] or two, organize a clearance procedure so that 'as many former GDR citizens can leave the CSSR for West Germany (FRG) every day as arrive daily in the FRG embassy in Prague'". <sup>[ii]</sup> Czech

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2019 BUSMVA Board

### President

Jerry Bryson  
269 Club Trail  
Chatsworth, GA  
30705-5663  
706-695-9233  
jerry@jerrybryson.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

Chris Tureaud  
310 Laurel Hill  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-757-6876  
sales@  
berlinveterans.com



### Director-Membership

Douglas Brockway  
1509 Thorny  
Meadow Lane  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46825  
260-226-1720  
membership@  
berlinveterans.com



### Director-Reunion Coordinator

Berry Williams  
1117 Manchester Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-395-5085  
berrywms@  
mindspring.com



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

## President's Corner

**Jerry Bryson**

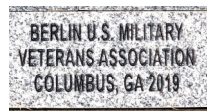
Since our last newsletter it has been a busy time, as it normally will be in the closing months of the year. Most important has been the annual campaign for 2020 membership renewals. The BUSMVA membership campaign always kicks off during our reunion week, which it did this year with great results. Reminders to all who needed one went out in the mail before Thanksgiving, and the response has kept me busy. I have tried to assist Doug Brockway, our new membership director, with the 2020 renewals. Doug has been doing a fantastic job, has hit the ground running in taking over this important task.

Although I have seen a robust response to our membership renewals, I would add that there are still more of you who need to send in your dues right away. You know who you are, and if you received that mailed reminder and it is still laying around in your to-do stack of stuff, please return it today. We are ending 2019 with nearly 700 active members; so let's maintain our numbers as we enter 2020.

On November 9th and 11th I had the pleasure and honor in attending two events at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center in Columbus, Georgia. On Saturday the 9th of November I was

among a group that was treated to a program arranged by the National Infantry Museum called "The Day The Wall Fell". This was, of course, the 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The NIM displayed some artifacts from their vault that are familiar to those of us who served there in that era. The centerpiece to all of this was their slide and photo presentation of what that whole era was all about. Audience members were invited to share their experiences, which made the event all that more memorable. Then two days later, on November 11th, Veterans Day, The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center had a

Paver Dedication Ceremony. A paver is 4x8 inches and made of granite. Behind the names and dates and places engraved on each granite paver on Heritage Walk is the story of a Soldier, a veteran, a parent, a friend. The next time you happen to be in the Columbus, GA area, plan on visiting the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. Along their Heritage Walk, next to the center, you will notice pavers installed on both sides of that walk. Each section of that walk is numbered. Look for Section 16A and in Row 6 you will see a paver (shown here) engraved "BERLIN US MILITARY VETERANS ASSOCIATION".



## Secretary's Desk

**Allen Lawless**

Please confirm your contact information with the Membership Director! Each time a newsletter goes out, BUSMVA is notified of several (the September issue had five of these) that could be delivered due to changed addresses. BUSMVA is double-charged by USPS for each of these attempts as the hard copy newsletter is returned to me.

Same goes with email addresses. Please confirm this information with the Membership Director as well.

The web site has a new page that lists various Berlin-related publications that may be of interest. Some of these are even free to download! Please take a look on <https://berlinveterans.com/berlin-related-publications/> to access the page directly; or from the home page, hover your mouse or pointer over the "News" tab. Click on the "Berlin-Related Publications" link to display the table.

This listing is not restricted to books or other written media. Should you know of a documentary or movie that might be of interest, you can recommend that it be posted as well. Send me an email with the requested information and I'll do my best to put it up.

There is an additional page on the site that is available for you. The history of our service in Berlin is something we should keep in front of those who aren't fully

aware of what happened there. This information also is of interest to us, as there is always something to learn. There is plenty of room for expansion on the "History" tab on the web site. This is a place for your longer, written anecdotes or even properly-referenced materials (please be sure to seek permission from the publisher to present the information).

We've also added a new forum to the web site's Forums page. Entitled "My Berlin Stories," eligible members are invited to add comments or short stories about your time in the city.

On November 20, the BUSMVA Board met on a conference call to discuss various issues. A .pdf copy to the Minutes of that conference call is posted on the "Members Only" tab on the web site. Please note to access this page, you must be a current member of BUSMVA and you must be registered on the site. If you are a current member and would like to access this page or to otherwise register on the site, please send me an email after reviewing the "Forum Instructions" tab on the web site.

Once you're logged in on the Forums page, you should be able to see the "Members Only" tab and access archived copies of the newsletter, recent financial statements, and other documents that may be of interest to you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Copyright © 2019 by BUSMVA

All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter may be used without the written permission of the publisher.



Update on Fundraising for Berlin Brigade Plaque

I am excited to report that we have, to date, raised 42% or \$2,075 towards the total cost of \$5,000 for the Plaque. We are grateful and so proud of our generous donors. We are well on our way to fully fund the plaque in time for the opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army on June 4, 2020. A donation is a great idea as a memorial or Christmas or Birthday gift for a comrade or loved one who served with the Berlin Brigade. You can still donate online at <http://armyhistory.causevox.com/berlin-brigade-BUSMVA>. Or you can send a check to our treasurer with a designation for the plaque.

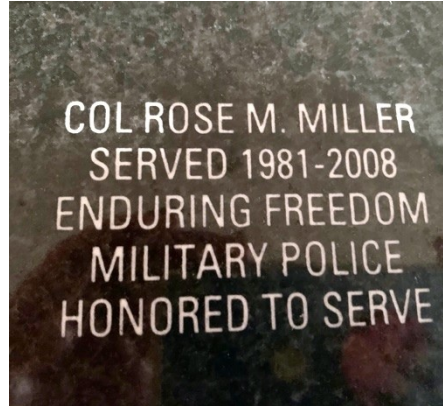
Celebrate the New Year by Cementing your Legacy

Another great idea for a memorial or gift for yourself or a loved one is to purchase a brick for emplacement on the walkway with your name and dates of service or that of a comrade or loved one. I gifted myself with a brick and a mini replica for my den.

Also, please take the time to register yourself, your spouse, and children on the registry. Honor your service and sacrifice as members of the U.S. Army and celebrate the support of your families. There is no charge to register. <https://armyhistory.org>

**DONATIONS TOWARDS THE PLAQUE AND COST OF THE BRICKS ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Annual Reunions – We Need your Time and Talents



How many annual reunions have you attended? I have attended 14 and have great memories of each one and more importantly, made new friends at each reunion. The 2020 reunion is our 25<sup>th</sup>! Do you have photos or favorite stories from reunions? Share them on our Facebook page and group, and on our website. Let's relive the good times of the past as we plan our good times of the future. Who were the members that planned and organized the reunions and worked tirelessly to create good times and memories? Who were the members who welcomed you at your first reunion? Who were the comrades you re-connected with, only made possible by the BUSMVA reunions? We start planning at least two years out for reunions. We need your help. We need your time and talents. First, please respond promptly to all surveys and questionnaires about reunion activities. We want your input.

Second, do you have time to give back to our Association? Is now the right time for you to volunteer? What can your experience, skills, background, and talents bring to ensure the success of our reunions and sustain our Association? I made many of my lifelong friends through volunteering my time. I have really enjoyed myself at our reunions and decided it was my turn to help. As you contemplate the new year, please seriously consider stepping up and giving back to BUSMVA. Everyone is welcome and every effort makes a difference.

**Welcome Home Tour Update**

**Vern Pike**

Each year the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF), an organization sponsored by the Berlin city government, hosts up to 12 Berlin veterans for a week-long adventure in the Divided City.

The next "Welcome Home" tour will be conducted 3-10 October 2020. Please note that these dates do not conflict with the Billings reunion, which is scheduled for 20-25 September 2020.

Currently, over 32 veterans have provided an email address indicating an interest in being selected to return to Berlin in 2020. This is a substantial number, but please don't let that prevent you from applying. There is a selection process to be undertaken and all applicants will be considered based on those selection criteria.

Those who served in Berlin from 1945-1994 and are interested in returning to Berlin, are encouraged to provide their email address/phone number to Vern Pike ([vernpike@nc.rr.com](mailto:vernpike@nc.rr.com)), the BUSMVA Coordinator by 31 December 2019.

The current BUSMVA policy that lists applicant requirements will be published to those on the applicant list in January 2020, and include the following requirements:

- Must be Honorably Discharged and provide a DD Form 214
- Must be a current BUSMVA member in good standing.
- Must meet all application requirements and timelines established by CCF.
- Must agree to participate in all events established by CCF for the "Welcome Home" tour.
- Must be willing and able to personally fund ALL transportation expenses to/from Berlin.
- Must be physically able to walk reasonable distances at a moderate pace and climb stairs.
- Must be prepared to give a short presentation of your tour in Berlin to school children.





## Absentee Ballots and Upcoming Decisions, continued



*(Continued from page 1*

time for eligible members to carefully consider the issues and extend a vote.

Please note that the proposed Bylaws will be presented as a "package." The document has been significantly overhauled and a large number of changes occur throughout. These changes are both major and minor. The eligible membership will be asked to consider the "package" as one and vote yea or nay on that package. In other words, no "line item vetoes" will be considered.

A summary of the Bylaws changes approved by the BUSMVA Board is listed elsewhere in this issue.

Per the current Bylaws, the final voting and tallying of absentee ballots for both the Bylaws revision and office of Treasurer will occur at the Billings reunion.

The Secretary will prepare the absentee ballots and accompanying documentation and also proctor the process, ensuring that each eligible member has a voice in the process.



## The United States Constabulary Squadrons 1946-1952

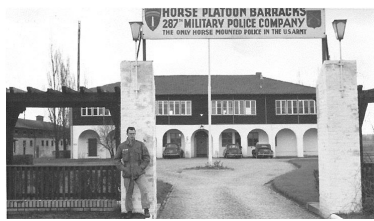
When World War II in Europe ended in 1945, the U.S. Army was faced with the difficult task of providing an occupation force to enforce military government in Germany while the American public clamored for the quick demobilization of the armed forces since hostilities had ended. A large traditional occupation force was out of the question; the solution became the United States Constabulary, an elite mechanized police force which possessed a significant combat capability.

The Constabulary became operational on July 1, 1946 and the command was active until 1950, with some individual Constabulary units remaining active until the end of 1952.

Troopers were selected for their military efficiency, intelligence and exemplary conduct, and the Constabulary maintained those standards in obtaining replacements for personnel who departed the organization through discharge and reassignment.

The backbone of the Constabulary was the Squadron. As initially organized, each squadron was authorized a headquarters, three mechanized troops and two motorized troops. The mechanized troops were designed to conduct mounted patrols and were equipped with M8 armored cars and 1/4 ton Jeeps with or without mounted .30 caliber machine guns. The motorized troops had a limited amount of transport and were used to conduct dismounted patrols in urban areas and to man static positions.

Another operation of the Mounted Platoons was the colorful Horse Platoon. This was believed to be the only mounted group in the U.S. Army and was a feature of numerous military ceremonies since its activation on 1 October 1945. Mounted platoons each



*Horse Platoon stables*

had a complement of thirty horses. The Horse Platoon in Berlin became part of the 16th Constabulary Squadron on 1 May 1946, the day the 16th was activated and was later transferred to the 759th MP Battalion.

Maj. Gen. Frank A. Keating, Commanding General, Berlin District, presented the squadron with the National Standard on 6 May 1946 at Patton Barracks, a kaserne in Lankwitz. However, there was already a Patton Barracks in Heidelberg so the kaserne's name in Lankwitz was changed to Oliver Barracks.

The squadrons were assigned to the Constabulary Regiments, on a basis of three per regiment. Nine Constabulary Regiments were stationed in Germany and comprised the U.S. Zone Constabulary. These regiments were organized into three Constabu-

lary Brigades which reported directly to Constabulary Headquarters.

A separate regiment, the 4th, was headquartered in Austria and had its subordinate units in Austria and West Berlin.

The United States Zone Constabulary began a one month test period on 1 June 1946 and became fully operational on 1 July. The Constabulary units in Austria and Berlin also became operational at about the same time.

The biggest problem faced by the Constabulary was the shortage of personnel and the high rate of turnover. By early 1947, the personnel shortage had forced a reorganization which included a deactivation of one "line" Troop per Constabulary squadron. In Spring 1947, the European Theater experienced a troop cut and as a result, the Constabulary was greatly affected by the reorganization, which began on 1 July 1947. In addition, all motorized troops within the squadrons were eliminated and each squadron reorganized to consist of a headquarters and headquarters troop and four mechanized troops. When the reorganization was complete, 11 of the 32 Constabulary Squadrons had been eliminated.

During 1947, the 16th Squadron operated the Autobahn Patrols on the Autobahn and the Nahmitz Outpost which led through the Russian Zone.

On 10 February 1948, the 16th Squadron was reorganized as Headquarters and Headquarters Service Troop and A, B, C, and D Troops. As a result of this reorganization, E Troop was deactivated.

On 16 June 1948, the Soviet Union closed Berlin to the outside world by blocking the city from resupply except through the air. The impact to the city was significant, but the officers and men of the 16th Squadron still performed their duties professionally. The Berlin Airlift progressed to become one of the most successful events in America's strive for freedom throughout the world.

The 16th Constabulary Squadron assumed a special commitment in the airlift for blockaded Berlin. This commitment required 312 enlisted men and 12 officers every 48 hours. This duty was rotated every month with the 3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment.

In 1948, the final reorganization of the Constabulary took place. Up to this point, the Constabulary had been strictly an internal security force. However, by early 1948, the threat posed by the Soviet Union meant a change to the mission of the Constabulary. In April 1948, the Constabulary troops began to reorganize as tactical units equipped with the M8 armored car; the

*(Continued on page 7)*



## 30th Anniversary of the Wall's Demise (continued)



(Continued from page 1)

officials and the people had found it noteworthy that the GDR allowed the West German embassy in Prague to handle the influx of East German citizens, some 6,000 at the time, rather than centrally control the process in East Berlin.

The East German SED Politburo, the seat of power in East Germany, met in an afternoon session on November 3 to allow those 6,000 GDR citizens staying on the West German embassy grounds in Prague to depart for West Germany without returning first to East Germany. This decision also guaranteed their citizenship status and allowed them unequivocal access back into the GDR. Krenz gave a television and radio broadcast that night that promised quick release of an accompanying draft new travel bill, but gave no specifics. In his speech he declared “no going back” for political reform and implored GDR citizens to remain in the country. Krenz then made preparations to handle the next day’s massive demonstrations on East Berlin’s Alexanderplatz at which up to 500,000 people were expected. Some 40 other towns and cities across the GDR also had protest rallies scheduled. In light of the increasing vocal and physical protests, up to and including booing Politburo member Günter Schabowski off the stage with shouts of “Abtreten!” (get off the stage!), the Volkspolizei was ordered to move to the background, but other “social forces” were made ready at the Brandenburg Gate to prevent any overt effort to break through to the border.<sup>[iii]</sup> The GDR government hadn’t quite given up on themselves.

On November 6, the GDR government released the new travel bill that Krenz had promised and a new storm of outrage erupted. The 30-day travel limit per year and the ill-defined reasons why application to travel could be denied were found unacceptable. A new round of protests occurred throughout the country. Meanwhile, in Bonn, one of Krenz’s representatives secretly appealed to West German officials for new loan guarantees, ostensibly to help pay for the GDR citizens now appearing in West Germany through the CSSR. The West Germans used noncommittal delaying tactics to the point that Krenz now understood his options had run out.<sup>[iv]</sup>

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl realized that his negotiating power had risen substantially and through discussions between officials, expressed the willingness of West Germany to provide financial and material help to the GDR in exchange for the GDR’s guarantee “that the formation of opposition groups will be permitted and affirm that it will hold free elections within a period yet to be announced. It should be noted that this path is possible only if the SED gives up its claim to absolute power.”<sup>[v]</sup>

On the next day, November 8, 1989, the entire GDR Politburo resigned in an effort to resolve the growing crisis of East Germans fleeing the country, which amounted to 350 per hour. Egon Krenz stayed in power, however, and continued working with the Central Committee of the SED.<sup>[vi]</sup> Finally bowing to reality, the Interior Minister then made a public announcement to confirm and recognize that the opposition group “*Neues Forum*” was a recognized association. The CSSR then increased the pressure on the GDR by detailing

complaints of CSSR citizens in Bohemia of their failure to understand why GDR citizens had been allowed to migrate to West Germany (BRD) through the BRD embassy. They then requested that the GDR allow their citizens to emigrate directly into West Germany without involving CSSR territory.

On Thursday, November 9, Gerhard Lauter, a colonel in the GDR’s interior ministry and three of his colleagues, met to discuss and write yet another new draft of travel regulations meant to address the torrent of opposition most recently voiced. Chronik der Mauer web site explains: “The [Lauter] group soon agrees that, in future, all restrictions regarding applications to leave the GDR permanently should be dropped. The officers consider it irresponsible, however, to force all those wanting to leave the country to take on the status of emigrants. They want to preserve the GDR. For this reason, they include regulations regarding the right to ‘private trips,’ i.e. visits, in the Council [of Minister’s] resolution, along with those concerning permanent departure. Applications are still to be made for permission to travel or leave the country. The State Security Service expects the general populace to react with a rush – but a rush on the relevant authorities (the *Volkspolizei* district offices), not a rush on the border.”<sup>[vii]</sup>

A key element in the document stipulated release of the information for the next day at 4:00 a.m. This was to allow for subordinate units and border control offices time to be notified. Lauter and his group had discussed the points expressed in the document heatedly during their session, but in the end, they discounted the guidance they had received from the Politburo’s Central Committee. Lauter had a staff member type the document; he signed and stamped it, then released it for courier delivery to Krenz and the Central Committee.

Krenz received the document and read it verbatim to the Central Committee, which was in session. Günter Schabowski was absent, however. No one objected to the language in the document and no discussion ensued. After the Central Committee’s meeting ended, Krenz located Schabowski and gave the document to him along with a press release. These papers were needed for the upcoming 6:00 p.m. press conference, which was only minutes away. Krenz failed to mention that the information within the document should not be released until the next day at 4 a.m.

While Schabowski had officially resigned from the Politburo, he was still appointed as SED (the East German communist party) spokesman. He would lead the upcoming press conference, accompanied by three of the Central Committee members. Some 200 international journalists, including NBC’s Tom Brokaw and his camera and sound crew, were scheduled to attend.

In a video interview<sup>[viii]</sup> after the news conference, Brokaw explained that he and his colleagues listened to the largely boring presentation and dozed somewhat in the process as they had just arrived from the U.S. that morning and were

(Continued on page 8)



**2020 BUSMVA Reunion  
Billings, Montana  
September 20 – 25, 2020**

**W**e hope you are making plans to join us in Billings, MT for the 2020 BUSMVA Reunion. BILLINGS HAS A LOT TO OFFER. It is after all, Montana’s Trailhead. Some of you have shared your plans to use the Billings Trip as an opportunity to also visit Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park, Mount Rushmore, and friends in Canada. Those are great ideas. If you are making similar plans please share them with me, or post them on our website.

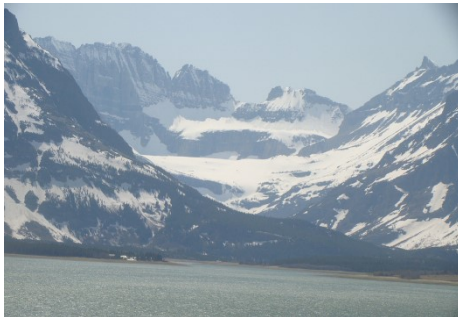
The March *Observer* will include a registration form for the reunion. However, below is a summary of our main events.

**Sunday, September 20, 2020.** Early registration and a Welcome reception at the hotel.

**Monday, September 21, 2020.** Registration, the Silent Auction, BUSMVA Sales, and a Welcome Dinner at the Billings Train Depot.

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020.**

Tour the Little Big Horn Battlefield Visitor’s Center, the Battlefield, the Reno-Benteen Memorial and the Trading Post. Learn about the role of the 6th U. S. Infantry Regiment.



**Wednesday, September 23, 2020.** Visit the Museums at the Bill Buffalo Center, and enjoy dinner and a Cowboy Musical Review at Irma’s Restaurant.

**Thursday, September 24, 2020.** The Dancing Bear Club, last bids for the Silent Auction, the BUSMVA Annual Business Meeting, and the Farewell Dinner.



**Friday, September 25, 2020.** Reunion ends. We wish you safe travels as you return home or enjoy other adventures in the West.

Billings Hotel and Convention Center will be our reunion hotel. The room rate including taxes and fees is \$123.22. This rate will be honored 2-days before and after the Reunion. The rate includes a full hot American breakfast for each person registered with the hotel. Onsite self-parking is included with each room reservation.

Reservations must be made by Friday, September 4, 2020. After that date rooms in the block that are not booked by BUSMVA members will be returned to the hotel general inventory for pick-up by other guests.

If you have special room requirements please call the hotel to make your reservation. The telephone number is (406) 867-248-7151.

For online booking:

- Go to [www.billingshotelmt.com](http://www.billingshotelmt.com)
- Click on "book now" (upper right corner of screen)
- Select the Check in and Check out dates (for most people, that will be check-in 20 Sep 20 and check-out 25 Sep 20). Use the arrows on the right and left to adjust the month display.
- Under the “Rate Options” tab, enter the Promotional/ Group Code “BERV20” (without quotes) and then click on “Apply”. You should see a green “Group Code Applied” notice.
- Click on “Check Availability” on the right side of your screen.
- Select your room option - One King Bed or Two Queen Beds.
- Confirm your room choice and dates and then click on “Book It!” in the bottom right corner of your screen.
- Enter in your personal contact and payment information in the next screens.







## Bylaws Revision Update

Rose Miller



The Bylaws Review Committee and BUSMVA board members have been working since January on the revision of our current Bylaws, last revised in 2005. A special note of gratitude to Ernie Barth, Merrell Ponder, Fred Willis and all Board members for their time and efforts on this monumental task.

We propose a total of 41 changes to the Bylaws. Twenty-one of these changes are administrative, such as reorganizing the Articles and rewording for clarification. We propose twenty substantive changes. The following summarizes the substantive changes:

### Article IV Membership

- Expands associate membership to include military members who regularly flew missions into Berlin in support of occupied Berlin
- Clarifies that associate members have no voting rights and cannot hold an elected position

### Article V Organization

- Identifies the seven board positions by title
- Expands description of the duties of the President
- Expands description of the duties of the Vice President
- Expands description of the duties of the Treasurer
- Adds description of duties of Membership, Reunion and Quartermaster (sales) directors

### Article VI Committees and Appointments

- Adds Financial Review standing committee and description of duties and procedures
- Adds Recruiting and Marketing standing committees

### Article VII Dues and Assessments

- Adds requirement for board to notify members of change in dues

- Identifies effective period of annual membership and delinquent date

### Article VIII Financial

- Specifies that reunion expenses will be paid out of Reunion Fund until 120 days after reunion
- Increases approval authority of President of up to \$2,500 for unbudgeted expenditures

### Article IX Voting, Elections, Meetings, and Quorum

- Clarifies one vote per member and adds appointment and duties of Election Proctor

### Article X Election of Officers

- Identifies election cycle for 7 board members
- Changes requirement for nominations for board members up to 30 days before election
- Adds schedule of board meetings
- Adds procedures for removal of a board member

### Article XI Berlin Observer

- Establishes the Berlin *Observer* as the official publication of the Association

### Article XII Revisions and Amendments

- Adds Bylaw review committee requirements

### Next Steps

Regular members will vote on the final revised Bylaws document at the Business Meeting in September. Absentee Ballots will be distributed in April. In accordance with **Article VII Voting, Meetings, Quorum, Section 2 Voting** of the current Bylaws, the revision of the Bylaws requires a 2/3 majority of the votes cast.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Bylaws Review Committee, Rose Miller.

## U.S. Constabulary, 1946-1952, continued.

*(Continued from page 4)*

2nd, 6th, and 14th Constabulary Regiments began to reorganize as armored cavalry regiments (ACRs). By the end of 1948 this reorganization was complete; the three ACRs were assigned to the Constabulary and provided the majority of its combat power. The ACRs were responsible for guarding the border and providing a mobile reserve while the remaining Constabulary squadrons continued the mission of internal security.

On 1 February 1949, the 16th Constabulary Squadron [Separate] was relieved from assignment to the 4th Constabulary Regiment and assigned to Berlin Military Post.

In Spring of 1949, the 4th Constabulary Regiment was deactivated and its 4th Squadron was redesignated as a reconnaissance unit. Other internal changes also took place. On 1 July 1949, three years after the Constabulary became operational, the command consisted of two brigade headquarters, three ACRs, a Field Artillery Group, several combat engineer, ordnance, transportation, and other support units, and only four Constabulary Squadrons. All of these units were assigned to



Headquarters, U.S. Constabulary. The Headquarters, US Constabulary was deactivated in November 1950 and provided personnel for the newly activated Headquarters, U.S. 7th Army.

On 10 November 1950, Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, U.S. Commander of Berlin, Col. Maurice W. Daniel, Commanding Officer, Berlin Military Post, and Lt. Col. Charlie Y. Talbott, the fifth and last Commanding Officer, 16th Constabulary Squadron passed the colors as the unit held its last parade at McNair Barracks. The 16th Squadron was reflagged that year to become the 1st Battalion of the newly formed 6th Infantry Regiment.

With this reorganization, U.S. Army Europe concluded its period as an occupation force and reoriented itself as a defensive army protecting its sector of West Germany. Two remaining Constabulary units remained in force until 1952, however, but concluded their service under their motto, "Mobility, Vigilance, Justice."

*Ed. Note: This article was obtained from <http://usconstabulary.com/squadrons.html> and edited.*



## 30th Anniversary of the Wall's Demise



exhausted. Shortly before 7 p.m., however, an Italian journalist asked Schabowski about the newest travel regulations. Schabowski had completely forgotten about discussing the points contained in the document that Krenz had given him earlier and after he had shuffled through his papers looking for it, eventually locating it with the help of a staffer, he began reading it verbatim. Again, Schabowski did not know that the information was to be withheld (Youtube).<sup>[ix]</sup>

The fact that a senior SED member would actually field questions from the press and answer those questions live and unfiltered was itself a remarkable event never before seen (Hertle, 1999).<sup>[x]</sup>

The question from the Italian journalist asked Schabowski if the previous set of travel regulations so vociferously denounced a few days before was a mistake. In a matter of only a few days, several sets of regulations had been drafted and announced, the most recent angrily rejected by the populace. Schabowski responded to the contrary, but was interrupted by another journalist who asked specifically when the new regulation would take effect. Another journalist asked the same question. Brokaw noted in his video interview that immediately, the journalists and others in the room perked up at Schabowski's words and the resulting questions from the floor. In response to the questions and the newer intensity within the room, Schabowski looked through his papers, seemed to find the answer to the question, "When?" and answered, "Immediately, without delay."<sup>[xi]</sup> This response had a stunning impact within the room. The journalists questioned themselves and each other if they had heard correctly, according to Brokaw. With that, the press conference ended at 7 p.m.

Brokaw said that he had previously scheduled an appointment with Schabowski, followed him upstairs, sat him down, and invited him to once again read from that piece of paper from which he had made that startling announcement. Schabowski confirmed what he had said, announced that the decision had been made, and assured that the borders, even to West Berlin, would be opened, responding to Brokaw's questions in English.<sup>[xii]</sup>

Meanwhile, at 7:05 p.m., the news broke around the world first with the Associated Press: "GDR Opens Borders."

While the Wall did not open immediately, GDR citizens began gathering at the crossover points at Invalidenstrasse and Bornholmerstrasse, among others. The Stasi told the border guards to defer people and send them back until the next day, but the crowds continued to gather. The problem became acute and absent orders from higher authority, the GDR State Security Service opted to allow a "valve" solution. This stopgap measure meant to allow the most vocal and insistent people through the border gradually upon presentation of a passport. Unbeknownst to these people, their identity papers were stamped alongside their photo. This stamp effectively removed their citizenship and prevented their return to East Germany. Absent instruction from senior GDR officials, who remained silent through the night, confusion and drama continued to build at the Wall's crossover points. By 10:00 p.m., the situation at Bornholmerstrasse

had become volatile as people continued to gather and press in toward the passport control officers; the "valve" solution proved to be an unworkable solution. Those who had gone through the border and returned were allowed back in.

The decisions made by the lieutenant colonel in charge of the Bornholmerstrasse control point had a cascading effect. At midnight, all Wall crossover points were opened. The border guards no longer told GDR citizens that they should go home and wait till the next day and for those that returned in short order, they were allowed back in. The press of humanity had become untenable.<sup>[xiii]</sup>

Finally, after 28 years, the Berlin Wall was gone. While it would be several years before the Wall's physical presence was removed, the barrier itself was now just a speed bump. The people of eastern Europe had spoken over the past year. Little by little, their voices were heard. Eventually, their expressed wishes were granted by a political system that permitted freedom only on the state's terms.

[i] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/754539>

[ii] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/754544>

[iii] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/754545>

[iv] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652129>

[v] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652131>

[vi] <http://articles.latimes.com/keyword/egon-krenz>

[vii] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652138>

[viii] [http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Media/VideoPopup/field/audio\\_video/id/40225/oldAction/Index/oldId/652138/oldModule/Start/page/0](http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Media/VideoPopup/field/audio_video/id/40225/oldAction/Index/oldId/652138/oldModule/Start/page/0)

[ix] Documentary in Four parts, "Schabowski's Note," The History Channel. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA14hAuQuLc>

[x] Hertle, Hans-Hermann 9. November 1989, 18.00 Uhr: Schabowskis Auftritt; <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652138>

[xi] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652138>

[xii] [http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Media/VideoPopup/field/audio\\_video/id/40225/oldAction/Index/oldId/652138/oldModule/Start/page/0](http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Media/VideoPopup/field/audio_video/id/40225/oldAction/Index/oldId/652138/oldModule/Start/page/0)

[xiii] <http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/652138>

*Excerpted from the book, 298th Army Band – A History, self-published by Allen Lawless in 2014 through CreateSpace.com, now available on Amazon.com. Edited by Harry Reinert. Used by permission.*





# 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	

**Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:**

**BUSMVA**

**Mail to:  
Chris Tureaud  
310 Laurel Hill  
San Marcos, TX 78666**

**NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!**



## 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>		<b>\$6.00</b>	NAME: _____			
Ball Cap with Berlin patch. <i>Blue or Red</i> (circle your choice); <i>mesh style or full cloth</i> <i>material</i> (circle your choice)	One size	\$15.00				
Ball Cap with Berlin Bear patch. <i>Blue or</i> <i>Red</i> (circle your choice); <i>mesh style or full</i> <i>cloth material</i> (circle your choice)	One size	\$15.00				
Shipping & Handling (see side bar)						
Total Enclosed						

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

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



Golf shirt, red



Sweatshirt



Ball cap w/mesh



Golf shirt



Ball cap w/ material



Last Name	First Name	City	State	Berlin Dates	Berlin Unit
Winfree	Latham	Los Lunas	NM	1969	A Co., 4th Bn 18th Inf.



### Taps

Photo (if Available)	Name	Date of Death	Berlin Service and Special Note
	Jack Alwine	21 Nov 19	Member #989. B, C, D Companies, 2nd Bn 6th Inf. Jan 57-Dec 58
	John Bigolski	28 Jul 18	Member #1451. 7781st Signal Co. Nov 68-Jan 70
	Visvaldis Klasons	27 Apr 19	Member #1451. 7781st Signal Co. Nov 53-May 55
	Edward Koczvara	28 Sep 19	Member #1684. USAF Fighter Transport. Aug 46-Dec 47
	Richard Kopecky	3 Jul 18	Non-member of BUSMVA. HHC, 2nd Battle Group, 6th Inf. 1959-1961
	James Lindsay	31 Oct 19	Member #2292. 592nd Signal Co. Feb 61-Feb 63
	Bruce Thomas	1 Oct 19	Member #2313. K Co., 3rd Bn 6th Inf. Nov 57-Dec 58
	Allen Thompson	17 Nov 19	Member #1176. 298th Army Band. Oct 54-Feb 56
	Leslie Leon Faurie	10 Oct 19	Member #1646. 16th Infantry; L Co., 3rd Bn 6th Inf. Jan 50-Nov 52





**The BUSMVA Observer**  
Berlin US Military Veterans Association  
123 Antler Way Dr.  
Sherwood, AR 72120  
**Return Service Requested**

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
ZIP CODE 72114  
PERMIT NO 105