

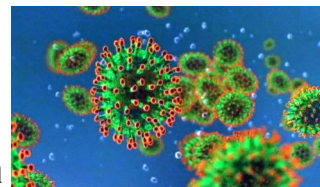
In this issue:

- ⇒ COVID-19 Derails Reunion, Election, Bylaws
- ⇒ US Occupation of Berlin—WWI
- ⇒ President’s Corner
- ⇒ VP’s Dispatch
- ⇒ Welcome Home Tour Update
- ⇒ Berlin—Then and Now (Selected Photos)
- ⇒ Article—Now It Can be Told
- ⇒ Roosevelt Barracks
- ⇒ Member Spotlight—Jim Terlizzi
- ⇒ BUSMVA Store/Mr. C’s Caps Order Forms
- ⇒ New Members
- ⇒ Taps

COVID-19 Derails Billings Reunion, Election, Bylaws Vote

BUSMVA sustained a triple whammy due to the pandemic we’ve heard so much about. This is the outcome of two conference calls (30 April and 15 May) with the BUSMVA Board. (Minutes to those conference calls are posted on the BUSMVA website’s “Members Only” page):

- Billings, Montana reunion is canceled for 2020. Given the difficulty of adhering to a measure of social distancing requirements and the obvious issues with the virus itself and its transmissibility, the Board opted to cancel.
- Election of Treasurer. Richard Dietrich, BUSMVA’s current Treasurer is postponed to the New Orleans reunion in May 2021. BUSMVA President Jerry Bryson has appointed



ed Rich to serve beyond his term, which would have expired at the end of the Billings reunion, to the conclusion of the New Orleans reunion. Rich is still a candidate for this important position in the 2021 elections which will take place in New Orleans.

- BUSMVA Secretary Allen Lawless had prepared the absentee ballots for the 2020 election and Bylaws presentation to eligible voters. Those ballots and supporting documents went out via email as planned, but the hard copy ballots and documents did not go out due to the decision to cancel Billings. The Bylaws presentation will be completed in early 2021 in time for the New Orleans reunion. No changes to the draft approved by the BUSMVA Board are foreseen at this time.

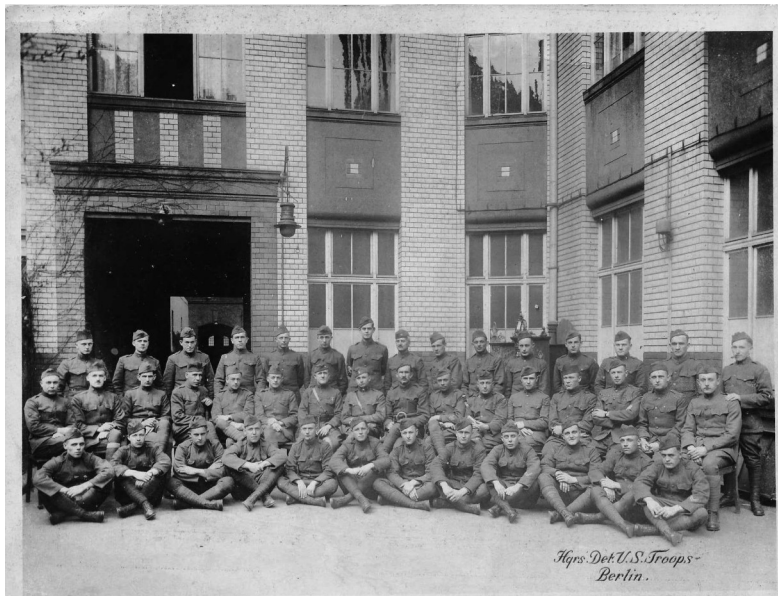
U.S. Occupation of Berlin—After World War I

Ed. Note: Much is known and chronicled about the allied occupation of Berlin in the aftermath of World War II, but what is not well known is how U.S. forces occupied Berlin following World War I.

General John J. Pershing ordered the formation of the U.S. Third Army just a few days prior to the armistice signed on 11 November 1918, which ended combat in World War I. The purpose of forming this Army was to occupy the German Rhineland (area west of the Rhine) within certain boundaries. Occupation forces were to ensure that combat operations between the combatants had ceased, to prevent re-occupation of that area by German forces who were withdrawing east of the Rhine, and to

guarantee reparations obligations.

A small contingent of U.S. military was assigned to Berlin. Member Tom Fosnacht has researched this and other units assigned to Berlin in the months following World War I.



Hqrs Det. U.S. Troops - Berlin.

Tom reports, with accompanying photos:

Headquarters Detachment, US Troops Berlin - these were probably the first US troops to be stationed in Berlin, ca. 1919. There’s no additional information on the photo other than the name of the studio which took the shot (W. Gircke, Kochstrasse 4). The only information I could locate concerning US troops in post-WWI Berlin is bio-

(Continued on page 3)

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

President's Corner

Jerry Bryson

We are at mid-year, which so far has been challenging for everyone in many areas of our daily living. Let us hope and pray that life gets back on track and these worrisome events of late clear up and disappear. In our March newsletter, as we were beginning to learn more of Covid-19, it already was becoming evident that disruptions in many areas were taking shape. For BUSMVA, our concern was the annual reunion, scheduled for September in Billings, MT. We decided at the end of March to take a wait and see approach and decide sooner rather than later. The BUSMVA board conducted a video conference call in April to discuss what we knew at that time and whether it would be advisable to cancel our reunion this year. It was a tough call to make since we had never found it necessary to call off a reunion in prior years. Our primary consideration was the health and well-being of our members and guests. With this, however, we had to maintain distances and observe almost constant sanitation requirements. As our reunions are typically about enjoying each other's company in various events and in group transportation, we ultimately concluded that

having to do it at arm's length just would not work for our group.

Here, at mid-year I see another challenge facing BUSMVA. It is one that other veterans' organizations must deal with each year. That is maintaining and even growing the active membership or at least trying to maintain what you have. I find the BUSMVA active membership number at 586 here in June. At the end of 2019 there were 700 on our active rolls, therefore we have had over 100 who did not renew their membership for 2020. Our attempt is to convince those who did not renew to reconsider and mail in their dues right away. This is also a call to you, the active member, to contact friends who are also BUSMVA members. Remind them that if they have not renewed for 2020, please do so right away. Since the VFW and American Legion are logical choices to discover some new members, I have information brochures which you may leave off at local posts, with their permission of course. Send me an email and I will see to it that you have brochures. Please stay healthy and safe and keep one another in mind, and in your prayers.

VP's Dispatch

Rose Miller

We did it! Berlin Brigade Plaque fully funded!

Great news! We did it and in less than one year! Thanks to our generous donors and continued active membership, we have fully funded the Berlin Brigade plaque to be emplaced at the National Museum of the U.S. Army. The plaque was funded by individual donors (70%) and the BUSMVA Treasury (30%). The plaque will be 12"×18" on polished mesabi black granite. It will be emplaced on the Wall of Remembrance along the entrance to the museum. The plaque is being fabricated at this time. See the neighboring graphic image for a representation of the plaque.

We will announce when the plaque is in place. My friend is a docent at the museum and will verify for us. The opening

of the museum has been delayed due to the pandemic. Stay tuned for more.

Thanks to your generosity we were able

to also purchase a 4"×8" brick for BUSMVA, so our Association also will have a place at the museum. The many visitors from across our nation and the world will witness how we honor our history and comrades. If you still wish to donate, suggest you consider a brick honoring your service or that of a family member or comrade. Cost is

\$250 for a 4"×8" brick or \$500 for an 8"×8" brick. Order on line at <https://frsengraving.com/armymuseum/#/>

Donations are 100% tax deductible. Remember it is **FREE** to register your

(Continued on page 8)

BERLIN BRIGADE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM



BERLIN, GERMANY

1945-1994

ARMY OF OCCUPATION
BERLIN AIRLIFT
STANDOFF AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE
COLD WAR
OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT II
OPERATION ABLE SENTRY

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Welcome Home Tour Update

Vern Pike



Despite the pandemic that we've heard so much about, the planned Welcome Home tour scheduled for 3 through 10 October 2020 is still on. As you know, up to 12 applicants are selected via predetermined criteria to attend a number of events scheduled in Berlin. These events include tours, conducting presentations for interested persons including children, and similar activities. The Checkpoint Charlie Stiftung packs a lot of activity throughout that week, but there is sufficient down time to enjoy each other's company.

The Welcome Home tour group will be staying at the Hotel Air near the Kurfürstendamm. Their hotel bill will be covered by the Berlin City government, as will the cost of tours, transportation within Berlin, and similar expenses. Transportation to and from Berlin must be paid for by the tour member.

We've had a number of changes to the approved list since March, so here is the latest list of those slated to go:

- BULLARD, Dennis
- CARRIGAN, Jim
- DAVIS, Macon

- EDINGER, Bill
- GALANTO, Wayne
- KISTLER, Ross
- LUNA, Mario
- PIKE, Vern
- SUMNERS, Allen
- VALENCIA, Al
- VAUGHAN, Bob
- WAAK, Don

BUSMVA received over 40 expressions of interest from Berlin veterans. Not all, unfortunately, could be selected to go. For those who applied and were not selected, please consider applying again in 2021. One of the 2020 selectees had applied in 2019 and was not selected that year, but tried again in 2020 and it worked!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Berlin veterans to see the enormous changes that have occurred in the former Divided city in which you served so long ago. Please consider reviewing the criteria (posted on BUSMVA's web site, berlinveterans.com) or reach out to me via email or phone if you'd like to participate.

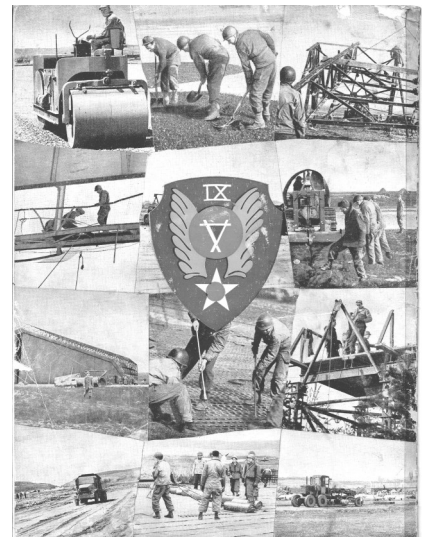
WWI Occupation of Berlin and Side Note from Tom Fosnacht—continued

graphical information on one Major Sidney Herkness, who was assigned to the "American Military Mission Berlin", 17 February to 19 August 1919. He was involved in repatriating German-held POWs, and so was sent to a camp for Russian POWs in Neuhammer, Silesia.

My assumption is that this military mission would have been involved in monitoring the demobilization and disarming of the German armed forces. The Paris Peace Conference, which worked out the surrender terms for Germany, ran from January 1919 to 21 October 1919. However, because the US Senate refused to ratify the resulting Treaty of Versailles due largely to the Senate's objections to the League of Nations, the US concluded a separate agreement known as the Treaty of Berlin, which was signed 21 August 1921.

The US occupation of post-WWI Germany, which centered around Koblenz in the Rhine-Mosel Valley, ran from 1918-1923.

Side note—852nd Engineer Aviation Battalion - This was the unit which restored Tempelhof Airport to operational status following WWII. They were among the first US troops into Berlin, arriving on 4 July 1945 along with elements of the 2nd Armored Division. Note that Tempelhof airfield was initially given the 9th Air Force's tactical designation, R-95.





Berlin—Then and Now



Photo acknowledgement—thelocal.de



Photo acknowledgement—pinterest.de



Photo acknowledgement—berlindividedcity.wordpress.com



Photo acknowledgement—thelocal.de





A NOTE ABOUT BILLINGS. *It was with much regret that we needed to cancel the 2020 BUSMVA Reunion in Billings, MT. It was a decision we had hoped would not be necessary; however, what we witnessed as events unfolded in the various states was not encouraging for a group planning to conduct events while requiring members to remain at a distance from one another. Although Montana has eased its COVID-19 restrictions, groups are limited to 50 persons with social distancing requirements. The Governor's Office, the hotel, restaurants, museums and others still cannot guarantee they can serve the number of BUSMVA members expected at the September Reunion. Thus, to protect the health of our members, remove the anxiety members would have over making travel plans, and reduce the financial exposure to BUSMVA it was deemed best to cancel the Billings Reunion. Special note—as the Billings organization fully cooperated with BUSMVA and proved to be willing partners throughout the reunion venue selection process, it is our plan to include Billings in a future reunion. That one is in the can!*

COVID-19 and REUNION PLANS. As the average daily new coronavirus cases are rising in more than 20 US states, some state officials are halting reopening plans while others are re-considering their reopening options. With states seeing more COVID-19 hospitalizations, it's a sign that the numbers are going the wrong direction. We will continue to monitor the situation, but are hopeful for a successful 2021 Reunion.

THE 2021 REUNION – May 9 - 14. We started planning the 2021 Reunion in early 2019. Proposals were received from five communities in four States. The proposal from the City of New Orleans and the National World War II Museum was selected. Information from 18 hotels was included in their proposal.

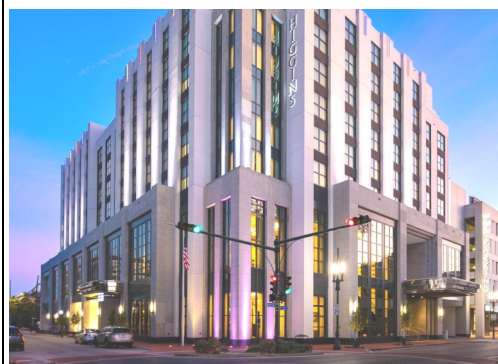
After a site visit the Higgins Hotel was selected as the official hotel for the 2021 BUSMVA Reunion. It is the official hotel of the National WWII Museum and provides the easiest access to the Museum. Our tickets to the Museum will allow members two-days to visit the five museums that make up the National WWII Museum site. Being across the street from the Museum will make it easier for members to access the 5 museums.

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations can understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. The five Museum buildings are:

LOUISIANA MEMORIAL PAVILION

Tells the story of the war experienced on the Home Front. The building also includes the Museum's original D-Day exhibit.

SOLOMON VICTORY THEATER



See, hear, and feel the epic story of World War II in the exclusive 4D experience *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated by Tom Hanks.



CAMPAIGNS OF COURAGE: EUROPEAN AND PACIFIC THEATERS

Follow in the footsteps of the citizen soldier in 360-degree displays that take visitors through key settings in World War II. The galleries serve as a timeline for the war and provide a service member's view of the war.



US FREEDOM PAVILION: THE BOEING CENTER

Stand beside ground-level tanks and trucks and view WWII air-planes—or brave sky-high catwalks for an up-close look. Exhibits describe the history and production of war machines and honor service in every branch of the military.

Exhibits describe the history and production of war machines and honor service in every branch of the military.

JOHN E. KUSHNER RESTORATION PAVILION

Get an up-close view at some of the Museum's extensive collection of macro-artifacts, and learn how STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) helped solve some of World War II's toughest problems.





Now It Can Be Told...



By Jim Terlizzi



The extra duties of a junior officer can be mindboggling at times. At least they were in the 1960s. I'm sure that a 2nd lieutenant today would be amazed that he/she would have to pay the troops by driving to a storage vault with a loaded .45 pistol. Collect the money, count the money and then drive back to the barracks to pay each soldier individually with cash.

All junior officers went through that regimen at that time. However, there were more duties I was to learn later. One day as I was preparing for another adventure in the Grunewald, I was approached by the company commander and told that I had the East Berlin bus duty on Saturday. What the hell was the East Berlin bus duty? Surprisingly, I could not get much information from anybody. It turned out that the US Army has a bus that takes GIs (from Berlin and those that have come up from the zone) on a bus tour of East Berlin. Actually that sounded interesting and I looked forward to going.

I arrived on Saturday afternoon to the PX area in my Class A uniform as was required. The bus driver explained to me that they would cross into the East Berlin sector and drive around the downtown area and then make the one stop at Treptower Park. That seemed simple to me and off we went. The trip around the main part of the city was interesting but the best was to come when we entered the Treptower Park parking lot, a small dirt lot across the street from Treptower Park itself. As I was counting our load of GI passengers to make sure I had the proper number for the return and explained that they had to be back to the bus by 1530 hrs, a second bus full of Soviet soldiers pulled up beside our bus. Both busses unloaded at the same time. It took less than two minutes before US and Soviet GIs were taking pictures of each other. Eventually it got to group pictures with their arms around each other. The GIs and the Soviets took off in separate groups to the park. I told the bus driver that I wanted to see the park and off I went.

Treptower Park has some beautiful Soviet sculptures that may not please everybody. Supposedly the Soviet soldiers that died in the Battle of Berlin were buried in the park. Rumors have it that there were so many deaths that they had to bury them standing up. I returned to the bus and all GIs returned on time and we traveled back to West Berlin.

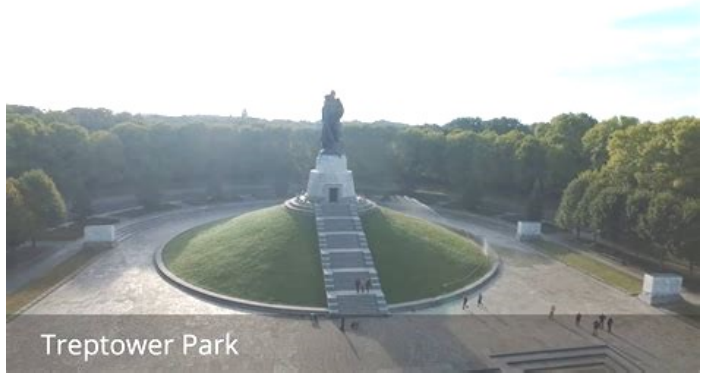
The following year I got another "Terlizzi you have the East Berlin bus on Saturday". I thought it can't be that bad since I know the routine. I arrived the afternoon of the trip and there were two busses there. Are there two officers? No, of course

not, Now I have double duty with about 70 GIs. The trip was essentially the same, even with a Soviet bus load pulling in just after we arrived. More pictures, hugs etc. This time I opted to stay with bus drivers in one bus and we all smoked (remember, this was the 60s). The GIs returned on time and we were off to West Berlin.

I thought that might be my last East Berlin tour but that did not happen. As I was in my third year, I was given a third East Berlin tour. As I got to the PX, I noticed that there were 3 buses parked full of GIs (around 100 total). This was getting ridiculous. We certainly needed more help. At any rate, off we went again, stopped at the park, made another count and sent them off. There were no Soviet soldiers this time. The 3 busses parked parallel to each other. The bus drivers and I gathered in the first bus and had our smokes. The GIs all returned and entered the proper bus that they were in when we arrived at the park and back to West Berlin we went.

That night, the 4th Bn 18th Infantry officers had been invited to the French Officers club for dinner in the French sector. The bus was to pick us up that evening at the PX. While we were waiting for the pick up, an NCO from the G2 office across the street in the Berlin Brigade headquarters said that the G2 wanted to see me. Immediate panic struck me. I must have left somebody in East Berlin. I'm probably a dead man.

I went to the G2 office and the first thing that the G2 said to me was "You brought an extra passenger with you." I said, "Sir I made the count and everybody was accounted for." I assumed that he meant I left somebody there. He repeated his words and I was completely confused. He finally realized that I had no idea what he was talking about. He explained that I had brought an East German back with the group. Again, I said that I made the count and there were no extra passengers. Apparently the East German passenger stowed away in the bus's luggage compartment.



It seems that at an earlier trip (not mine), the East German had noticed that the busses parked parallel and the bus drivers were all in one bus. He quietly went to one of the other busses and made a wax impression of the luggage compartment key hole. He made a key and crawled into the compartment on my trip. I never got to meet him, but I always felt good about it.

The last words that the G2 told me were "Do not tell anybody about this." I did my part and never told anybody. **NOW IT CAN BE TOLD.**

Just in case you're wondering, new rules were established for future East Berlin trips. There had to be an officer in each bus and the luggage compartment had to be checked before returning to West Berlin.



Berlin—Then and Now



Photo acknowledgement—pinterest.com



Photo acknowledgement—pinterest.com



Photo acknowledgement—matadornetwork.com



Roosevelt Barracks—an Overview

Very few of the soldiers and airmen who served in Berlin had occasion to visit or otherwise have business at Roosevelt Barracks during their time in the city. This older kaserne, located in Lichterfelde about a mile northeast of Andrews Barracks, was located roughly between Gardeschützenweg and Viktoriastrasse, with the main entrance on Viktoriastrasse.

The kaserne was built in 1884 and originally housed a Royal Prussian Guards Regiment. After World War I, the kaserne was used by various Polizei units. Upon occupation by American forces in 1945, the kaserne was used by infantry units until about 1950, when the 6941st Guard Battalion was formed and began its service with Roosevelt Barracks as its headquarters. The 6941st shared Roosevelt Bar-



racks with Polizei and ancillary units.

The 6941st Guard Battalion's mission was to provide security for the various U.S. military installations throughout Berlin. Comprised of mostly Germans, this distinguished unit operated with little fanfare throughout its history. In 1991, the 6941st moved its operations to Andrews Barracks allowing space for the incoming Bundeswehr Regional Defense Command.

The kaserne was named Roosevelt Barracks in the memory of Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., who served with distinction in both world wars. BG Roosevelt

died of a heart attack in July 1944 while fighting in France. He later received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

VP's Dispatch (continued)

Rose Miller

(Continued from page 2)

service and the support of your family at the museum.

<https://armyhistory.org/the-registries/>

Preserving our legacy – We need you

We have permanently preserved our legacy at several notable locations: Allied Museum in Berlin; Former McNair Barracks in Berlin; U.S. Army Infantry Museum, Ft Benning, GA; Ft Jackson, SC, and soon the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Ft Belvoir, VA. Are there other places?

Please let us know so we can share with everyone on our website and Face Book page. Can you suggest other places/sites that would be appropriate to memorialize our history and leave a permanent legacy? Are you an amateur or professional historian? We really could use a volunteer to help research and inform the history of all military units which served in Berlin. Please let any board member know if you are interested in volunteering. This is an ideal way to pursue your passion for history and preserve our legacy.

Member Spotlight—Jim Terlizzi, 4th Battalion 18th Infantry



Jim Terlizzi grew up in Massachusetts and attended Norwich University in Vermont as a biology/chemistry major. At that time, Norwich was all male and all military, but not surprisingly it's different today. Jim received his commission and took assignment to Berlin. He served three years active duty (1963-65) and returned to civilian life.

Jim met his wife Marianne in Berlin. They were married in Berlin in the chapel on Hüttenweg in the BB area. They have two sons and five grandchildren and currently live in Marblehead, MA.

Jim taught sciences at Peabody, MA High School for 37 years eventually becoming the science department head and loved every minute of it. He retired in 2002 but is still active orienteering and playing ice hockey once a week. Jim admits the hockey is not getting any easier each year.

Ed. Note—Please see Jim's article "Now It Can Be Told" elsewhere in this issue.





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:

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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			
Embroidered name on shirts and jackets add for each:		\$6.00	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	
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Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	
NOTE! DO NOT MIX UP THE ITEMS ON THIS ORDER FORM WITH THE PATCHES, PINS, MEMORABILIA ITEMS LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!	
Make Checks and Money Orders Payable to:	
Mr. C's Caps 9042 Roubidoux Rd. Bucyrus, MO 65444 417-967-3257 Email: estenglehorn@gmail.com	
NO CREDIT CARDS, PLEASE!	

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





New Members to BUSMVA



Last Name	First Name	City	State	Berlin Dates	Berlin Unit
Bullard	Dennis	Sandy	UT	1978-79	CSC, 3rd Bn, 6th Inf
Reich	Edward	Livonia	NY	June 1964-May 1967	4th Bn, 18th Inf.; G4, Berlin Bde
Zinn	Charles	Tunnelton	WV	May 1957-May 1959	Svc Co., Berlin Command



Taps			
Photo (if Available)	Name	Date of Death	Berlin Service and Special Note
	John Bittle, Jr.	March 19, 2020	Member #1333, Service Company, Andrews Bks
	Matti Teder	December 15, 2019	Member #2119, JROC (B) 18th MI Bn



The BUSMVA Observer
Berlin US Military Veterans Association
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Sherwood, AR 72120
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