

MMATIMES

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MMA Annual Meeting 19 JAN '07 - 3 PM Pool Shooting Complex

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USAMU Reunion: A Terrific Event

Bruce Meredith



USAMU: Fifty
Years of
Excellence Eleven past and
present USAMU
Olympic medalists
pose for a rare
photo with
members of the
official party at
the USAMU 50th
Reunion Dinner.

Well, the United States Army Marksmanship Unit celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 18-21, 2006, and it was a great event. More than 630 individuals registered and attended the affair. Those who came, from all over the USA, plus Germany, Belgium and Mexico, were treated to a fine show by the soldiers of the Marksmanship Unit and the members of the Military Marksmanship Association – an organization of AMU, ex AMU shooters, veterans and widows. The October weather was nice each day. We dodged any rain interruptions. The large registration the first day, Wednesday, surprised everyone. The MMA volunteers did a fine job each day, meeting folks, issuing name tags, taking payments, giving out pins and hats, displaying the draft of the 50th Anniversary book. All registrants received a free 50th Anniversary MMA pin. Out Treasurer, Sam Hunter, did a fabulous job of handling the volumes of paperwork and cash management. Thanks, Sam!

The Round Robin shooting started the first day. All unit ranges and headquarters facilities were open for viewing. Visitors went to the Infantry Museum and greeted old friends. The evening meal was taken freely with old acquaintances. Dieter Anschutz came to our 50th. He is celebrating the 150th of his company in Germany.

Day two was a continuation of the registration, displays and friendly shooting on the Service Pistol, International Rifle and Shotgun ranges. The AMU range officials performed professionally in their duties. The meals were scheduled by section and were held on post or in a local restaurant. The Army Reserve came in and held their own reunion in conjunction with the affair at the AMU. Good to have them as guests and members.

Friday morning was the induction of the Section Halls of Fame, 23 members in all. Past AMUCommander, COL Lory "Mac" Johnson, was the speaker. Inducted into the Running Target Hall of Fame were 1LT Joe Deckert, LTC John Foster, SFC John Kingeter, LTC Harry Lucker, MAJ Willis Powell. Inducted into the Service Pistol Hall of Fame were LTC Sallie Carroll, SGM Emil Heugatter, SFC Barbara Hile and MSG Ralph Thompson. Carroll was also inducted into the International Pistol Hall of Fame. MSG Burl Branham was placed in to the Shotgun Hall of Fame.

See REUNION, Page 9

USAMU Commander's Report LTC Charles "Ty" Connett

A lot of great things have happened since our last writing. First of all, many thanks to the MMA members and staff for all of your hard work and untiring support for the USAMU 50th Anniversary Reunion. The reunion, which actually consisted of multiple major events, absolutely could not have been possible without the MMA support. All current USAMU members were truly inspired and personally "connected" to our unit's history and heritage as a result of all who attended. This intangible gift will have significant positive impact on us for some time to come – THANK YOU!

We have turned our sights on to serious training and preparation for near and long term competition. At this point USAMU shooters have earned seven (7) Olympic quota slots for the 2008 games in Beijing. These slots are: 3 x shotgun (2) men, 1 woman), 2 x men's pistol, and 2 x men's rifle. I fully expect that our shooters will earn that many more over the next year or so of competition. As I review our international shooters I see so much potential on the verge of realization. I am very excited to see what will happen throughout 2007 and onward to Beijing. Our service rifle, pistol and action shooting teams are likewise going to command attention throughout the upcoming competition season. These teams are manned with an outstanding crop of highly skilled champions, young and hungry champions, and tempered with absolutely solidperforming seasoned veteran champions. I believe 2007 will be an historical season!

As far as competitions are concerned, the USAMU will be host to some major matches/competitions in the very near future. A list is below:

-Fort Benning 3-Gun Tactical Challenge	(1-3 DEC 06)
-Fort Benning Pistol Championship	(2-4 FEB 07)
-Fort Benning CG's Rifle Match	(23-25 FEB 07)
-US All Army Match	(2-13 MAR 07)

-USA Shooting World Cup

& Spring Selection (31 MAR-15 APR 07)
Also, beginning in 2007 the US Army (USAMU) will begin sponsorship of a Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Championship. The Civilian Marksmanship Program will also be involved for championship administrative support. This championship has two phases, a state championship postal phase and a national championship "shoulder-to-shoulder" phase. The intent is to give sporter and precision class position air rifle shooters of all levels of ability a unique opportunity to test their marksmanship skills. The USAMU will host the "shoulder-to-shoulder" National Championship.

We continue to support our Nation's Warfighters. The demand for our Squad Designated Marksman Course (SDM) and Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM) programs of instruction are increasing. Additionally, deploying units are recognizing the lethal effectiveness of the Squad Designated Marksman Rifle (SDMR). We will assist units of the 3rd Infantry division by converting some weapons to SDMR configuration for employment in Iraq. We intend to get our SDM program of instruction into US Army "mainstream" by inclusion as part of standard Drill Instructor training. Likewise, we will strive to incorporate our SDMR conversion specification Army wide.

Lots going on folks—stay tuned. Again, I thank you for your continued support. Also, the members of the USAMU wish all of you the best during this Holiday Season.

Reunion Prizewinners - Thanks to the Donors

Two Glock 17, 9mm pistols and presentation cases, from **Protective Apparel Corp. of America**, were won by AMU Shooters, SPC Nicole Allaire of International Rifle and PV2 Daniel Homer of Action Shooting. Both MMA members.

Two Model P 220 .45 ACP pistols from **SIGARMS**. One presented to MMA Life Member, Bill Krilling at the dedication of his new range on Fort Benning. One won by Steve Kern, MMA Member and USAR Rifle Shooter.

The **SIGARMS** gift of 2 hats, a golf shirt and a knife won by Robert Mitchell, MMA Member and CEO of USA shooting.

SIGARMS hats were presented to the third place team in the Round Robin Shoot. The second place team won SIGARMS golf shirts and hats. The first place team won wood plaques from the MMA and MMA caps.

Sturm Ruger & Co. provided a Ruger Mini 14 Rifle, cal .223, which was taken home by MMA member and former AMU pistol shooter, Ray Carpenter.

Automatic Pistol book from Bill Jenkins and MMA Life Member, Lewis Sharp, won by MMA member, Al Dunn. Autographed by Author, Bill Jenkins.

Cap and Mug from Henry Repeating Arms Company, plus a pair of protective gloves from Masley Enterprises won by MMA member/ Hall of Fame shooter, Charles Davis.

Two gift packages from the 2006 World Shooting Championships, Zagreb, Croatia, consisting of a poster, a commemorative coin, a bottle of spirits and other items, donated by **MMA President, Bruce Meredith**, won by MMA members, William Duncan and Terry Daugherty (New Service Rifle Hall of Fame inductee).

Olegario Vázquez Raña, President of the ISSF, presented a wrist watch and ISSF certificate to Bill Krilling, Margaret Murdock, and each of the six new Unit Hall of Fame Members.

Zanders Sporting Goods of Baldwin, Illinois donated a Match Director's Chair which was won by SFC Teresa Dewitt of the AMU Shotgun Team.

MMA Annual Meeting

Friday, January 19, 2007 3PM

Pool Indoor Shooting Complex Fort Benning, Georgia MMA TIMES Page 3

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamili

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Fort McClellan, Alabama. One odd looking young soldier was a good person who tried hard, but was not well coordinated. He wore Corporal Heath's patience thin while learning to march. He once poured hot sauce on his Salisbury steak and struggled to eat it. Corporal Heath made him eat every morsel. One good looking young soldier went to town and got drunk. He returned late and woke everyone in the sleeping bay by punching his reflection in the mirror and splintering the glass. The CQ had people escort him to the hospital, 400 yards away to be stitched up. The youngster faced Captain Winslow, the C.O. who arranged for him to pay for a new mirror which was hung within a couple of days. He caught the devil for this breach of conduct and also served plenty of extra duty details.

One soldier, the same rank as Coats Brown was a very heavy snorer. Coats, unable to sleep got up and had the CQ, a friend get him a teaspoon of baking soda. He placed the baking soda in the snorers wide open mouth. When it melted and started to go down the mans throat, the taste woke him and he hollered, cussed and finally got up to rinse his mouth at the drinking fountain in the hall. Baking soda in water was the rural Alabama Alka Seltzer during Coats' younger days.

Private First Class Pop Simpson was from South Carolina. He was working on 30 years in the Army. He was a PFC and that's all he wanted. He did not want responsibility. He did not smoke or drink. He did his duty and stayed out of trouble. You could count on him to be alert on guard duty. Pop would occasionally get chewed out by a sergeant when he was in the way, but he didn't mind a butt chewing. For the most part, he did what he wanted and knew how much he could get away with. One time, Lieutenant Parham filled in for the Company Commander and conducted the Saturday morning inspection. The lieutenant checked each soldier in ranks, sometimes commenting or asking questions. The lieutenant faced Pop and asked why he had not shaved. Pop Simpson responded "I'm letting my face rest, Sir". Soldiers within earshot remained at rigid attention without making a sound. They shared the story and a big laugh with everyone after the inspection was completed and the Lieutenant had left the area. Coats penned the discharge certificate for Pop in 1936 when he retired with 30 years. There was no bad time listed on Pop's discharge.

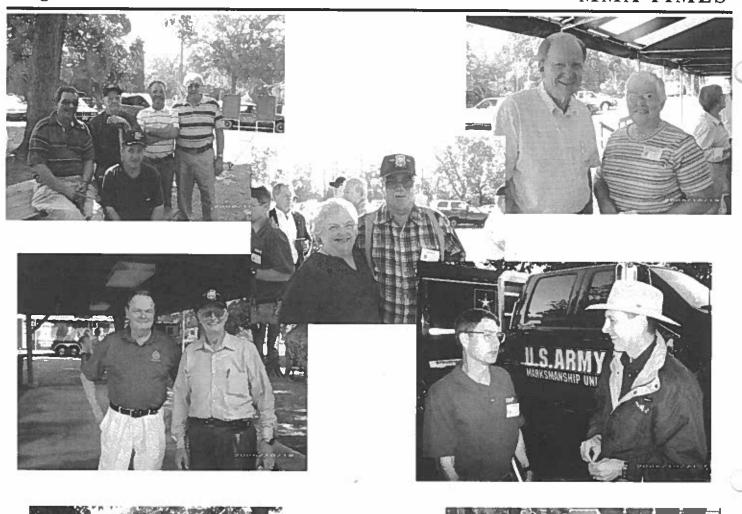
The best cook in Headquarters Company was not from the local geographical area, he was brought up in the northeastern part of the U.S. The story goes that this man had been a chef in a New York City restaurant. A serious argument with a co-worker in the kitchen of the New York restaurant turned physical. He was charged with hitting that coworker with a meat cleaver. The judge gave him a choice, go in the Army or go to jail. He made the right choice and became a good soldier and demonstrated his cooking excellence in the mess hall of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Fort McClellan, Alabama.

A minor Fort McClellan scandal at the time involved the Regimental Commander's daughter and a soldier assigned to I Company. They were both around 18 years old. He was a decent and handsome young man. She was beautiful, friendly and normally a correct young woman. The Post Chaplain caught them in delicate embrace on a table in the basement of the Post Chapel. He was transferred to Hawaii. She was sent to a women's college. Sergeant Von Selle was the Platoon Sergeant of 3rd Platoon. He was white haired and retired in 1936. Sergeant Hand of Headquarters Company was transferred to King Company and became Platoon Sergeant of 3rd Platoon.

9th ID Sniper Dolls Richard Rebidue

More than 600 MMA members attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Marksmanship Unit October 18th thru 21st. Almost all attendees were competition shooters or support personnel, past and present. Two MMA members who attended are not into competitive shooting as we think of it. Both are former members of the 9th Infantry Division sniper program in Vietnam during 1968-1969. Neil Korbas and wife Patty flew in from Spokane, Washington and Howard Kramer and wife Susie drove down from Schafferstown, Pennsylvania. Neil carried with him a G.I. Joe type figure put out by 21st Century Toys, Inc. This figure is outfitted with the standard 1968 sniper equipment, i.e. xm21 rifle, starlight scope and the daylight ART scope. The name on the sniper uniform is "Miller"; and Deano Miller, another MMA member, was a classmate of Korbas and Kramer in the Sniper Program. Neil has seen that all known former snipers and sniper/ instructors from the original 9th Division Sniper School have a Sniper Figure, autographed by all. Neil and Howard brought one of these figures with them and had it autographed by all former 9th Division Sniper Instructors. The figure was donated to the present active Sniper School at Fort Benning and is prominently displayed in their display case.

Howard owns his own computer software company and Neil is Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Spokane, Washington.











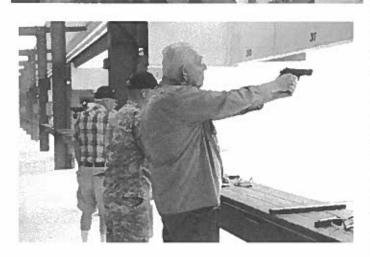








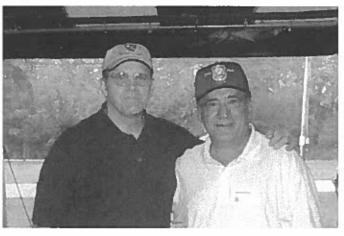




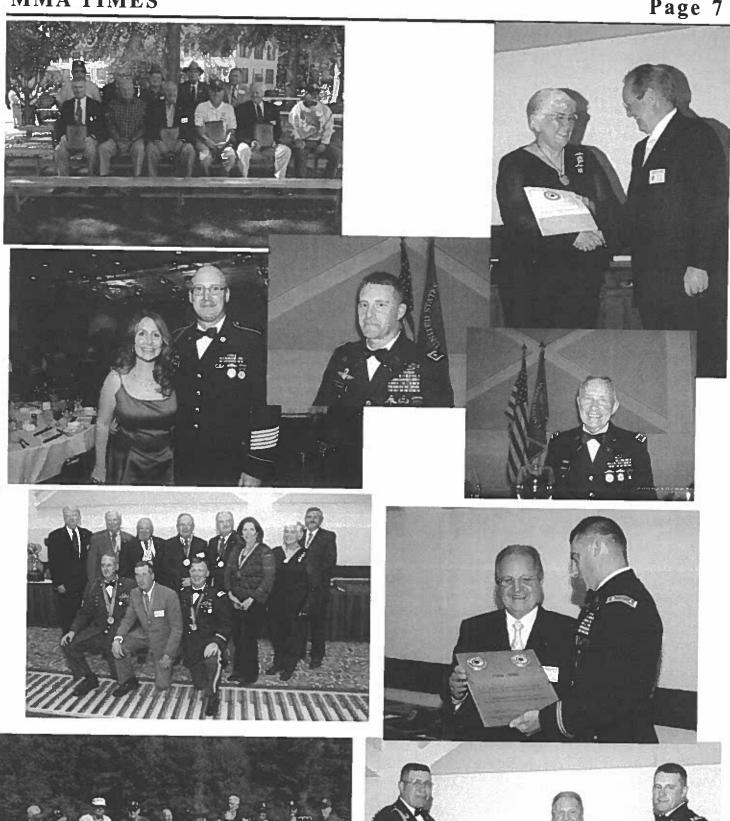
















New MMA Life Members

LaFayette F. Keaton Bill Jenkins Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr.
Dennis A. Dingman Thomas W. Moore Carl C. Jooss
John L. McClellan, Sr. Charles E. Orr, Jr.
Willis L. Powell Margaret T. Murdock Robert M. Bach
William E. Krilling Bonnie D. Harmon
Hershel L. Anderson Emil W. Heugatter
Stanley J. Parmentier Gloria K. Parmentier
Arpail J. Gapol William C. Pullum Nelson D. Dundas
Augustus B. Moore, Jr. Jose A. Valentin
Bruce E. O'Brien Robert L. Pruden Forest R. Smith
Lory M. Johnson, Jr. David B. Erickson
William B. Blankenship, Jr. David Ross III
James C. Hagearty II Robert K. Mitchell Donald L. Parrish

★ We now have 63 Life Members. An anonymous donor appreciated the shooting performances of Bonnie Harmon, Hershel Anderson and Emil Heugatter and bestowed upon them their Life Memberships. Seven Olympians, all students of Coach Bill Pullum, rewarded him with the honor.

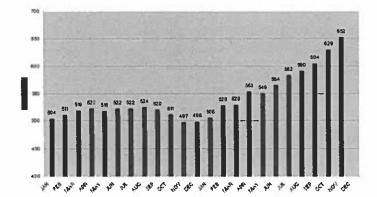
★ All plaques have been handed out or mailed. If you did not get yours, please contact the MMA President.

Life Membership is only \$300

Welcome New Members

Albrecht, William R. Baker, Troy C Banks, Thurston Barrows, Jim R. Beer, Joachim F. Bogle, Jr.Edwin D. Burkhalter, Samuel C. Crosson, Allen Crouse, Raymond C. Deplante, Lance E. Eusebio, Kamille C. Farro, Elliott J. Gasser, Michael S. Hagearty, II James C.Hart, Ernest D. Hocking, Edward H. Horner, Daniel J. Horst, Kenneth D. Hudson, Joel Hunkapiller, Robert D. Johnson, Neal G. Johnson, Robby D. Jones, Christopher J. Jooss, Carl C. Kesler, John C. Klimas, Diane L. Lamon, James H. Luke, David A. Manchester, Arthur S. Morgan, John M. Morley, Obed A. Morris, Timothy J. Norenberg, Curtis D. Olson, Joshua J. Raphael, Jr. Francis E. Reynolds, Jesse E. Roller, Ronald J. Stark, Christopher J. Stawowczyk, Edward J. Tennelly, Elbert T. Walter, Howard J.

MEMBERSHIP 2005-2006



Taps, Present Arms

Master Sergeant Bonnie D. Harmon

Master Sergeant (Retired) Bonnie D. Harmon, 72, died at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Tuskegee, Alabama, on November 21, 2006.

MSG Harmon served 30 years in the Army, including three tours in Germany, one tour in Vietnam as a sniper instructor, and one tour in Korea as a First Sergeant.

MSG Harmon is a four-time National Pistol Champion, fivetime Interservice Pistol Champion, and the 1968 President's Hundred Pistol Champion. MSG Harmon was awarded the U. S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 115 in 1963 and the United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge in 1967. He was a pioneer in using the optic sight in national pistol competition.

MSG Harmon also won two medals at the 1974 World Shooting Championships and is a two-time champion at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire Shooting Championships (CISM).

He was employed as the USAMU Service Pistol Coach after his retirement from competitive shooting and was inducted into the Unites States Army Marksmanship Unit Hall of Fame in 2002.

Colonel Gail N. Liberty

One of the all-time great Air Force pistol shooters passed away September 18, 2006 after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. Colonel Liberty, a First Lieutenant at the time, earned United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge number 22 in 1962 when she won a silver medal in the women's 25-meter pistol event at the World Shooting Championships in Cairo, Egypt. Her score of 570 tied with the winner.

Liberty was a pioneer participant in the earliest ISSF World Championship women's events that ultimately resulted in women's shooting events being added to the Olympic program in 1984 and 1988. Her shooting career produced many national and international medals including silver and bronze medals in the first Pan American Games women's pistol events. She was twice recognized as the Air Force athlete of the year.

Liberty completed a distinguished 25-year military career as a nurse, nurse practitioner, and physician's assistant. She retired from the Air Force in 1985.

Source: CMP News Report.

Sergeant Major Alfred B. Ramirez

Sergeant Major (Retired) Alfred Barrera Ramirez, 76, passed away in Gonzales, California, on October 18, 2006 after a long battle with cancer caused by Agent Orange.

SGM Ramirez served more than 20 years in the Army with assignments in the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, where he was assigned as a coach and shooter.

SGM Ramirez was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1963 and was a 2600 shooter. Other decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Master Parachutist Badge.

He fought in the Korean War and served two tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. He retired from the Army in 1985 and then worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 17 years. MMA TIMES Page 9

REUNION / From Page 1.

The Service Rifle Hall of Fame gained SFC Terry Daugherty, MSG Martin Edmondson, SFC Kenneth Gill, SSG Willie Jordan, SP5 Diane Klimas, CPT John Kolb, SP4 James Lamb, CPT Merrill Menlove, ILT David Meredith and SSG Eric Uptagrafft. The new Support Hall of Fame members were LTC Raymond Dobak, LTC Frank Palmer and MSG Warren Wiley.

Friday was also when the shooting ended and the winning team of the pistol/rifle/shotgun event was composed of Victor Olson, Ray Carter, Weldon Griggs, Steve Good and Ken Chandler. They received embossed wood plaques.

At the MMA meeting, the new officers were elected for the 2007-2008 years. Former AMU Commander, COL (Ret) Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. will be the President. Ronald Martere is the new Vice President. Steve Goff will move from his current position of Vice President to Historian. All others will remain in their positions: Laurence Mosely, Secretary; Sam Hunter, Treasurer; Richard Rebidue, Membership; Carter Berry, Public Affairs/ Editor of MMA times. The day ended with a BBQ at the old stand by Pecan Grove.

Saturday started with the dedication of the new Action Pistol Range. It was named for MSG William Krilling, winner of the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in the Korean War. He is also a former AMU shooter and coach. An oil painting of Bill, by Alexander Reid, was unveiled and will hang in the Action Pistol administrative building. Bill's daughter and grand-daughter placed shots in the target right next to Bill's when the range was opened by their firing of a M1C rifle. Medal of Honor recipient LTC Gordon Roberts was the guest speaker. Krilling was also given a watch by ISSF President, Olegario Vázquez Raña, who flew in from Mexico. Sig Arms donated a pistol which was presented by their representative, and our own, Ray Carter. Phil Cannella came forth with his usual fine dedication cake and saber for cutting. The weather was beautiful.

Saturday evening was the big show. It was held at the Columbus Convention Center, also called the Iron Works. There was a head table of ten persons and 75 tables of eight persons each. The room was packed. Co-hosts for the evening were the AMU Commander, LTC Charles Connett and the MMA President, yours truly. From left to right, at the head table, were AMU SGM Ybarra and his wife, Melanie, Guest Speaker, Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, LTC Connett and his wife, Jill. I was on the other side of the podium with my wife, Marcia. Next was ISSF President, Olegario Vázquez Raña and his wife, Maria de los Angeles, then, LTC Gordon Roberts. Did you notice the Medal of Honor flag behind Roberts? It is light blue with 13 white stars. Each MOH recipient travels with his own flag. Very nice.

VIP tables were set near the front of the room for: past AMU Commanders, Arch Arnold, Bob Hoidahl, Stan Parmentier, Mac Johnson and Dave Liwanag. Also, Dr. James Lally, President of USA Shooting; Rober Mitchell, CEO USA Shooting; Gary Anderson, Director of the Civilian Marksmanship Program; Jesus Elizondo, President of the Mexican Shooting Federation; Mr. Horst Schreiber, Secretary General of the ISSF

and Mr. J. B. Hudson, a consultant to the CMP and speaker at a previous AMU reunion.

The colors were posted and the evening began. A round of toasts were given. The Mayor of Columbus, Robert Poydachef, presented the Key to the City to LTG Van Antwerp and Mr. Vázquez and a special medallion to LTC Roberts. Life Members of the MMA were recognized and the plaques given out later in the evening. We now have 63 Life Members. Door prizes were given out, during the dining, by Vice President, Steve Goff. During the dining time, photos were taken of all the Olympic medal winners. The photos will be on our web site. Many photos of the reunion on our site thanks to our Webmaster/Secretary, Red Mosely. Check it out. Thanks, Red!

The President of the International Shooting Sport Federation, Olegario Vázquez Raña, requested to award a watch to Margaret Murdock, AMU Hall of Fame member, for her extraordinary accomplishments during her shooting career. She was the first woman to win an Olympic medal and caused such a sensation, by beating men during her career, including 300 meters, that women now have their own events in the Olympics.

Mr. Vazquez and Mr. Schreiber presented a very nice silver plaque to the AMU Commander, on behalf of the ISSF. The AMU presented them, in return, with a wooden framed setting of the AMU crest, an American Flag flown over the White House on 1 March 2006, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the AMU, a unit crest and an obverse and reverse of the 50th anniversary coin.

Six people were inducted into the AMU Hall of Fame. They were MSG Eric Buljung, SSG Matthew Dryke, SGM Emil Heugater, CPT Daniel Puckel, COL Thomas Sharpe and SFC Earl Waterman. Tom Sharpe accepted for his deceased father and Lones Wigger accepted for Puckel, who was unable to attend because of a serious illness of his daughter. Each was presented a medal and plaque by LTG Van Antwerp and the AMU Commander and an ISSF certificate and wrist watch by Mr. Vazquez.

At the end of the evening, members of the AMU did a coining. They personally went through the dining room and presented a black and gold 50th anniversary coin to all present. The colors were then retired.

We have heard nothing but excellent remarks regarding the conduct of the reunion. It was a super show. Thanks to all the MMA volunteers and the AMU soldiers and civilians who made this happen. Behind every great production are the people in the pits who did the work. I was really pleased to have been a part of it. Unfortunately, I was in high gear most of the time and did not get to have much conversation with many people with whom I would have liked to have spent time. Catch me next time. Ya' all come back.

DON'T FORGET

MMA Annual Meeting January 19, 2007 3:00 PM Pool Indoor Range, FT Benning

Conway Chronicles Francis B. Conway

Right after I built my first 22 Varminteer (now the 22-250 Rem), a new friend in Maryland and I sat behind a rock wall just below Conowingo Dam on the Susquehana River. A retired Merchant Marine Captain had a lovely rolling hills farm and a good supply of woodchucks. We were well concealed in bushes and small trees. In a couple of hours I got four and my friend had two. Next morning I was sitting in a chair in our machine shop, my work section, applying ointment to my fifty or so chigger bites. A voice said, "I am glad I am not the only one"! My friend Carl, who drove the B & F (back and forth), a small diesel train between the town of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Proving Ground, had just as many bites as I! What to do about chiggers? I went to a pharmacist in town and he told me about "Flowers of Sulfur"! Years ago he had stocked capsules, but now I bought a bottle and a box of capsules. I filled them myself. What you do is take one an hour before going out to hunt. In about half an hour you can smell the sulfur on your skin. So I always used the sulfur in Maryland, Georgia and Alabama and had no further chigger problems. Oh! after a couple of hours out in the field, take another capsule and continue to do so every two and a half to three hours while hunting.

TIDBITS

EMAILS The president sent out an e mail to the membership requesting input, good and bad, regarding your thoughts on the 50th reunion, for future reunion planning. More than fifty were rejected because of a change of your address or a virus protection you have set up. Is your email current with the MMA directory? Do you want to open your door for the MMA Secretary (secretary@militarymarksmanship.org) to reach you?

50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK Turner Publishing has forecasted that they are targeting to ship the USAMU 50th Anniversary Book in March 2007.

THANKS!! New Life Member Donald L. Parrish recently donated **\$1000** to the MMA. He wrote - Sorry I could not make it to the reunion. Please use this to the best advantage of the organization. You might call it a tribute to Bill Krilling. I served with him, 1947, Universal Military Training Experimental Unit, same squad, Chemical Platoon.

PHOTOS Check out the MMA Website - militarymarks-manship.org - for photos of the reunion. Lots of people took lots of photos and they are posted there.

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