



## 2013 TREA NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT FROM COLORADO SPRINGS, CO SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2013

BY: 2ND VP HARRY JOHNSON

The **opening ceremonies reception** was very nice. The color guard was from Peterson AFB. Good finger foods were served and a hosted bar available.

On Thursday, September 26, the first meeting began at 0900 hrs. Special Rules of Order were approved. Minutes of the 2012 meeting were approved and President Delany's report was approved.

Director Deidre P. Holleman in the Washington, DC office reported that the IRS is going after TREA and The American Legion. Deidre told us that she is keeping the pressure on our Reps in Congress to protest our benefits. The **Senior Citizen Report** was given by Larry Hyland (Chapter 58) about what they are doing to help TREA in Washington.

Past President Cooper said it would be in order to send in information about events or happenings at the chapter level to The Voice. It was also discussed about the TREA chapters being charged a monthly fee for using our own NCO Club. Some chapters are putting copies of The Voice in places like the VA and Exchanges, etc.

Leonard Black told our chapter to make sure we put in for awards for next year.

The **Special Awards luncheon** was held at noon on Thursday (26th). Chapter 58 received two awards for medium-size best chapter and newsletter. Many thanks to Lou Arana, President and Juanita Anspach, Secretary/Editor of The Trooper, for making these honors possible for our Chapter 58.

**By-law changes** will be forthcoming to chapters from headquarters.

TREA was founded in 1963 by two Air Force Master Sgts over a cup of coffee at an Air Force Base. The co-founders were George Skonce and Dean Sorell. TREA has come a long way in 50 years. I believe they would be proud.

In the evening was the **President's Dinner** with an Irish Theme.

Our second meeting started at 8 a.m. Friday (27th) with **Elections of Officers**. Some positions were unopposed and only two new candidates were contested. Director Reed was elected for another term. Carolyn Allen was elected to be a director on the Board (good credentials.) We then voted on the site for the 2016 Convention. Las Vegas won over Sacramento, CA, Palms Springs, CA and Seattle, WA.

There were bag lunches this noon, but we finished our business early. The rest of the afternoon was free. This evening the group was invited to Chapter 1's meeting place in Colorado Springs. This is where it all began 50 years ago. We were made to feel welcome, pina-coladas were served as well as a finger food buffet. Some of the delegates went to Cripple Creek Casino for dinner and gaming.

Saturday (28th) we went on a bus to the Air Force Academy, a beautiful acreage and quite a few students. The chapel was quite unique with a great number of pipes to the organ. The Visitor's Center was available to guests also. At the North Gate was a B52 on display.



Chief Master Sgt Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, TREA Chapter 58 President  
Louis Arana and 1st Vice President Leonard Black

We then proceeded to the Garden of the Gods, with beautiful rock formations and then the famous Trading Post for an already prepared luncheon. Our bus driver/guide took us through beautiful country with the Pikes Peak always in view and the mountains all capped with snow. We visited Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs both historical places. We were shown where the recent floods did some damage and some roads were lined with sand bags to protect the buildings.

The **Installation Banquet** was this evening with a hosted bar. The colors were presented by the Peterson AFB. Also very moving was the table that was set for the MIA's by two retired Air Force Master Sgts. They have been doing this for many years and will retire the duty of this ceremony next year.

Our **Guest Speaker** was Chief Master Sergeant Denise M. Jelinski-Hall. She achieved the highest position ever held by an enlisted woman in the history of the US military. She retired this past June, was an excellent speaker with a good message.

The ballroom was decorated in gold for our 50th anniversary. How good to see old friends again.

In 2014 the Convention will be held in Norfolk, VA on September 10-13. It was a great pleasure being a delegate to the 50th Convention at Colorado Springs and I look forward to next year's celebration. (*Additional Photos in December 2013 "Trooper"*)



TREA TampaBay Chapter 58 delegates to the 2013 TREA National Convention