



By Captain Russell Lehman and Captain Samuel Chiang

During the week of ENFORCE 2010, engineer leaders from across the Regiment gathered together at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to discuss the future of the Regiment, commemorate its great accomplishments, and focus its efforts for the coming years. As the Regiment looked forward, it also took time to look back and honor and remember the engineers who had fallen in combat. The Fallen Sapper Memorial Tribute, conducted on 22 April 2010, was specifically designed to pay humble and respectful homage to the engineer Soldiers who died in combat from April 2009 to April 2010. In addition to those killed in action, the ceremony also paid tribute to the engineers slain in the Fort Hood, Texas, attack in November 2009.

The Fallen Sapper Tribute took place in the Fort Leonard Wood Memorial Chapel, which was originally built in 1942 and has been in use in one capacity or another since its construction. The chapel's private setting, simplicity, and proximity to the Engineer Memorial Grove enabled participants to feel the depth of solemnity inherent in the ceremony. Families, friends, and members of the Regiment were able to view photos of each Fallen Sapper in the chapel. Family members of the Fallen Sappers, who were seated by the photos of their Sappers, were joined by senior members of the Regiment, including the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp. Many other senior members of the Regiment were present and were joined by Soldiers from engineer officer courses and advanced individual training courses. It was the first time many of these Soldiers had attended a military memorial

tribute, so the ceremony allowed the new sappers to participate in and learn about how we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It was also a time for family members to see the honors bestowed on their loved ones, hear how much their service and sacrifice meant, and know that they will never be forgotten.

While engineer leaders reflected on the heavy burdens of responsibility that leaders face when Soldiers deploy into harm's way, and remembered their own experiences and their own fallen, the new engineers developed a greater understanding of the solemnity of service to the nation and how important it is to remember those who did not return.

Following the ceremony, the attendees accompanied the United States Army Engineer School Commandant and host of the event, Brigadier General Bryan G. Watson, out of the chapel to the Engineer Memorial Grove. Here, the Chief of Engineers and the Engineer Corps Command Sergeant Major, Micheal L. Buxbaum, placed a memorial wreath to designate the future site of the Engineer Memorial Wall. (See page 5.) Made of Missouri red granite, the wall—with the engraved names of sappers who have made the ultimate sacrifice—will serve as a permanent commemoration of the Soldiers and will ensure that they are never forgotten. 

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