



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



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LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS

GARY BERMAN, DDS



Dr. Gary Berman is a licensed General Dentist and Forensic Odontologist. He is one of four dentists in a group practice in Belleville, Michigan. Gary attained both his Undergraduate and Dental School degrees from the University of Michigan. Dr. Berman is on staff as a Forensic Odontologist at the Wayne County Michigan Medical Examiner's office, and a Forensic Odontology consultant to Sparrow Forensic Pathology Services and Oakland County Medical Examiner's office. He is the assistant team leader of the Michigan Dental Association's Forensic Dental Identification Team and a member of its "Go Team". He also serves as the Chief Forensic Odontologist for the MiMORT (Michigan Mortuary Operations Response Team).

Dr. Berman is extremely active within his profession. He is board certified in Forensic Odontology and a fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). He is also a fellow in both the Academy of General Dentists (AGD) and the International

College of Dentists (ICD). Demonstrating his leadership skills, Gary is a past President of the American Society of Forensic Odontology and past Secretary of the Odontology Section of the AAFS. In February 2008, Gary was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Odontology section of the AAFS. He is also on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Forensic Odontology.

In addition to his work as a dental clinician and forensic odontologist, Dr. Berman is an educator, teaching annual courses in Forensic Odontology for the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School at the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office. He extends these forensic courses to a variety of audiences throughout the United States, including Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, and Michigan, and most recently, at the Medical University of South Carolina.

In April, 2008, Gary received the Assistant Director's award of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) for Exceptional Public Service. He was named as "Dentist Citizen of the Year" in 2006 by the Detroit District Dental Society for his participation during Hurricane Katrina. He also received the "Dentist Citizen of the Year" award by the Michigan Dental Association in 2002 for his work during the World Trade Center tragedy.

Gary has been a member of DMORT since its inception in 1992. Along with attending all of the annual training exercises, Gary has been deployed a number of times: twice to New York, in response to the World Trade Center tragedy (September 2001); Gulfport, Mississippi and St. Gabriel, Louisiana, following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina (August 2006); Monroe, Michigan, after the 1997 COMAIR crash.

Gary and his wife, Lisa, have both lived in Michigan their entire lives. They have two daughters: Reva (19 years) and Hannah (17years.) When Gary can find any free time, he enjoys traveling gardening, bicycle riding, and electronic toys.

The people of DMORT are very important to Gary. As he states, "*I have made many wonderful friends through DMORT and feel my life has been enriched by working with these many highly committed and compassionate people.*" The Region V Team concurs that Dr. Gary Berman has also left a good "impression" on them!

A "Short" Detour

By: Tim Schmidt

While driving home from my Florida vacation this past winter, I decided that I would make a "short" detour (700 miles), and return to Gulfport, MS and St. Gabriel, LA where I spent many weeks working during the Hurricane Katrina deployment.

In Gulfport, I stopped by Gary Hargrove's office. Although Gary was not available, I was able to spend some time with his secretary who updated me on a few issues. In the

February 2007 issue of the V of V, O J Fawcett reported the story about the funeral and burial of the only 2 unidentified remains in Gulfport. I was told that as of today, there is only 1 unidentified remain. A family member came into Gary's office and gave them information that could positively identify one of them. They showed the family pictures of the funeral and burial site. The family decided to let their father remain buried at the site.

We then drove about 15 miles along the coast and noticed most of the debris had been cleaned up. We noticed there were a few buildings in downtown Gulfport where nothing had been done. I understand that the Mayor is putting pressure on the owners to do something with these buildings.

One of the things I was curious about was the Presbyterian Church which was a few blocks from the Coroner's office. This church suffered major damage. I remember that one evening while we were staying at the airport, we went into town for a "feast" graciously provided by Outback Steakhouse. While we were there, the electrical supply was restored in part of Gulfport. I looked up and the lights were on in the steeple of the church. Since that time, the church has been torn down and the plans are to rebuild at a new location. The steeple is still sitting at the site of the original church.

I must mention that I did drive around the Gulfport airport. I had to visit our "home". As we continued our driving, I noticed that all the Waffle House Restaurants were rebuilt higher than before the hurricanes.

We saw that some homes were rebuilt or in the process of being rebuilt. There were still many places where the steps went up to a concrete slab. Much work still needs to be done. In some areas, the beaches were still closed.

As we left Gulfport, and headed to St. Gabriel, we followed the coast through Waveland, Pass Christian, Diamond Head and Bay St. Louis. The sites here were similar to Gulfport.

On our way to St. Gabriel, we spent one night in New Orleans and the next morning in downtown New Orleans. We went to several of the tourist sites. I noted that there is still a lot of damage in New Orleans.

In St. Gabriel, we visited St. Gabriel Church and met with the pastor, Fr. Tony Russo. He seemed very happy that we took the time to stop. I thanked Fr. Tony for the hospitality his parish showed the DMORTs while we were working there.

We then went to Carville. The facilities are still there. There were guards at the gate but they did allow us to enter the gate and turn around. We were not able to get close to the building but did get to see them from afar.

We then went to St. Gabriel City Hall, our other "home". Once again, we were warmly welcomed. They gave Charlene a St. Gabriel City pin that most of us received while we

were there. We walked around and I was able to point out some of the places where we sat around in the evening. The courtyard with the fountain is still there.

We really enjoyed our detour. It felt good to visit these locations.



The steeple in front of the Presbyterian Church



A rebuilt Waffle House

Report on I-35W Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis

To see the recently released U.S. Fire Administration/Technical report on the I-35 Bridge Collapse and Response for FEMA, click on the following link:

www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/042108.shtm . The link will take you to the Online PDF file titled "Report on I-35W Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis"

The report stresses the importance of pre-planning, use of NIMS and interagency training, as well as after action reports to achieve the best possible results.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Gary Berman, DDS**, who was recently elected as the "Chairperson" of the Odontology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS).

Congratulations are also due to **John Williams, DDS, Chuck Berner, DDS, and Gary Berman, DDS**, who will be receiving the Assistant Director's award of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) for Exceptional Public Service on April 17, 2008.

NEWS FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Sue Atwood

Spring is here!! Time to clear out the cobwebs, put your winter garb away and go through your go bag to make sure you're ready.

Speaking of ready.... Please go through the following checklist:

Is your license on file current?

Are your immunizations up to date?

Have you completed the four required online courses?

Do you have the new ID (the one that expires after 2010)?

Do you have the government issued US Bank credit card?

Have you sent in the NDMS Member Information form within the last month?

All of the above are necessary to be considered deployable.

Congratulations to Jan Simons – Region V's 2007 Distinguished Member



Dave Hunt and Marilyn London (previous recipients of the Distinguished Member Award) congratulate Jan Simons on her achievement

Photographs from the 2008 NDMS Training Summit
Submitted by Gary Berman







For details on the 2008 NDMS Training Summit, see the Spring Edition of the National Newsletter on the DMORT website.