

The *CF* 24th Vets

*The Newsletter of the Central Florida 24th Infantry
Division Association Members, initiated July 2009.*

October 2010

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

Deadline for November St. Augustine min-reunion is October 23!

I'm sorry for getting this edition out a bit late, but there is still time for you to make plans to attend the 24th and 5th RCT Annual Mini-Reunion Thursday November 4 through Sunday November 7 at the Holiday Inn in St. Augustine Beach, FL. This is the 17th year for the 5th RCT getting together, but this year the Central Florida 24th IDA group that has been holding quarterly luncheons in Leesburg will be joining with the 5th RCT to make it a joint effort. I know some of you have already reserved but I suspect many more of you have not. So, why not come to St. Augustine the first week of November and meet with some of your fellow Taro Leafers! The registration form is on page 7; note the REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 23! ***Do it now!***



August 4 luncheon turnout good!

Twenty-eight Taro Leafers, spouses, significant others, surviving spouses, and supporters got together on August 4 at the Golden Corral in Leesburg for a good lunch and a great get together. Again, I am not sure I can identify everyone in the photo so will not try. Sorry.

Our next luncheon will not be until February 2, 2011, because the November get together will be the St. Augustine Mini-Reunion mentioned above.

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The Florida Nov. Reunion—don't procrastinate



As those of you who have been coming to our luncheons know, we always expressed an interest in holding a Central Florida 24th IDA Mini Reunion. Our model for this was the West Coast Reunion in Laughlin, NV.

Unfortunately, we could not organize a committee to arrange for our own reunion.

Ta-Da—the 5th RCT to the rescue! Especially Bill Kane and Tony Polemeni, who have been holding an annual 5th Mini Reunion in St. Augustine, and invited the CF24th to join with them.

We agreed to give it a go. After all Bill and Tony have a good track record, and we didn't have either a place or a committee to do our own mini-reunion.

We will sort of follow the model of the West Coast Reunion, which I understand conducts essentially no business and focuses mainly on attendees just getting together and sharing friendship based on our experiences with the 24th somewhere along

its historic route.

But we do plan to be at the All Members Meeting on Friday morning.

Bill tells me that not too many CF24th folks have registered yet.

So, please don't procrastinate like I have done with this newsletter.

Why don't you, if you have not done so already, complete the registration sheet on page 7 and mail it to Bill, make your hotel reservations, and come to St. Augustine on November 4-7.

Should you have any questions please contact Bill at 407-275-7450 or 407-421-4465 cell; email: kcrabbybill@yahoo.com or you can contact me, TJT 352-357-3943 or cf24ida@gmail.com

The Reunion registration deadline is October 23, 2010.

Do it now and we'll see you in St. Augustine in November!



Central Florida 24th IDA Group

February 2, 2011 Dutch Treat Luncheon

Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.

Space limited; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 cf24ida@gmail.com
or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net





August Luncheon Photos *by Paul Miller*



Flossie Kespart and Paul Miller



Harley and Sandy Joseph



Carol Becker (L) with Jim and Becky Bradford



Robert and Jean Hatfield — welcome!



Ernest and Nancy Boggs



Lyn Sawyer in the center

More August Luncheon Photos *by Paul Miller*



Bob Chalupa and Bill Stokes



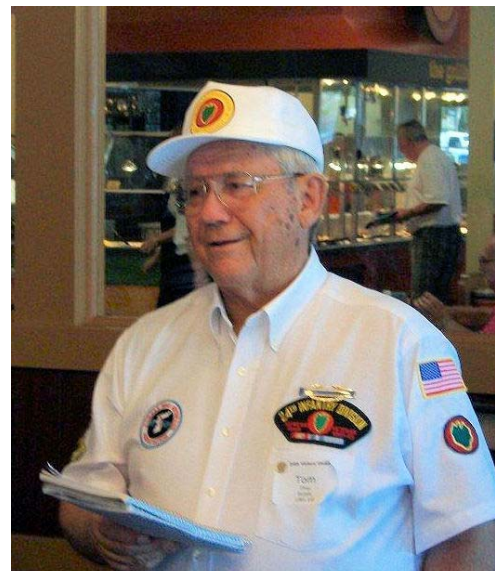
Marilyn and Ted Jansen



Jim & Dorothy Hurd & Mary & Herman Critchfield



Guess
by now
you all
know
this guy
on the
right—
that'd be
me. Tom





TAPS—Raymon Cooper—one of us

(photo 1952 in Korea)

I regret to have to send you the news that my husband, Ray Cooper, passed away on August 27, 2010.

He always enjoyed "The Taro Leaf", and appreciated all the hard work that went in to the publication. He enjoyed, also, being able to be part of the Leesburg gatherings at Golden Corral the few times that he was well enough to be there (December 2009 and February 2010).

Thank you all, and God bless! Marilyn Cooper

Ramon F. Cooper, 83, passed away on Friday, August 27, 2010, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Ray was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on June 10, 1927. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in the early 1950's serving with the 26th AAA in the 24th Infantry Division in Korea. He was a Sergeant and a member of the Honor Guard. Ray moved to the Lake Como area from South Florida in 1995. He enjoyed gardening, relaxing on the porch overlooking the lake, watching the birds feed and the serenity of the lake. Those left to mourn his loss are his "honey" of 39 years, Marilyn Cooper and children. In lieu of flowers the family requests that, donations may be made to Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center, 6400 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, Florida, American Cancer Society, 600 Zeagler Drive, Palatka, Florida 32177 or Hope Lutheran Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 132, Satsuma, Florida 32189. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Marilyn Cooper, PO Box 548, Lake Como, FL 32157-0548, 904-649-4889, or by signing Ramon's guest book online at:

<http://www.wattsfuneralhomes.com/ramon-f-cooper>

www.24thida.com

That's the address for the Association's new web site. It has no bells, no whistles, but a lot of Association and Division material. But it needs more; should you have some please contact me.

It has some pages devoted to the CF 24th Vets too! We have included a bit about us, how we got started and, copies of all of our newsletters.

Go to the above site, click on the **Reunions** button on the left side of the screen,

Then click on the **Regional, mini or unit Reunions** link.

You will then see **Ongoing Scheduled Events** and below that [Central Florida 24th IDA](http://www.24thida.com).

Click on that and you will be taken to the introduction page that has links to all our newsletters.

I'm not sure what I will put on in the future; mostly that will depend on what you send me.

This has been a new experience for me as I have never done a web site before. TJJT

Follow Me



After the Summer 2010 *Taro Leaf* went to press (my last issue), I discovered that the sculpture that stands in the main entrance to the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA, the one that appeared on the front cover of the subject *Taro Leaf*, was made in honor of Major General Aubrey S. "Red" Newman (1904–1994).

General (then Colonel) Newman commanded the 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th during the Battle of the Philippines in World War II. His cry of "Follow Me!" at Leyte, during the Battle of Bataan (1945), rallied his troops and has inspired American Infantrymen for decades. General Newman was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for bravery, for his actions during this battle. I have some of his writings on the web site; see the Stories button.

Tom J. Thiel, *Taro Leaf* "Retired Editor", 24thidaweb@gmail.com

The Soldier and the Spider . . .

During World War II, a US soldier became separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting was intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire, he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear the enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly, he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized the enemy soldiers were looking for him and when they swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be found and killed.

As he waited, terrified and alone, he prayed, "God, please protect

me." After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw near. He thought, "Well, I guess God is not going to help me out of this one."

Then he noticed a spider was building a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. He thought, "What I need is a brick wall and the Lord has sent me a spider web . . . I guess God really does have a sense of humor." As the enemy drew closer, he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see the enemy searching one cave after another.

As they came to his, he got ready to

make his last stand. But, to his amazement, the enemy soldiers only glanced in the direction of his cave and then moved on.

Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. As he quietly hovered in the cave, overwhelmed with relief and totally amazed he prayed, "Dear God, please forgive me, for with You, all things are possible and even a spider's web is stronger than any brick wall . . ."

This story was related to us by Lyn Sawyer at our last luncheon; sure glad I was able to transcribe it for carrying here. Thank you, Lyn!



"We'll try Sir!"



"First to fight!"

5th Regimental Combat Team
and the
24th Infantry Division

Invite you to

Florida's 17th Annual Mini Reunion

Thursday, November 4, 2010 through Sunday, November 7, 2010
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

Holiday Inn

860 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach, Florida 32080
Phone 904-471-2555 / 800-626-7263 Fax 904-461-8450

Convention rates will be offered three days prior and three days after the event.
Guests need to make their own reservations and please specify that you are with the 5th R.C.T. Association
If special accommodations are needed, please specify at the time of reservations.

Rooms Rates \$79.00 per night, plus tax and gratuity

Friday, November 5, 2010

All Members Meeting 9am – 11am
Get together – Food & Beer – 6:30pm

Saturday, November 6, 2010 – Banquet

Cocktails in Scores Lounge (Cash Bar) 6pm – 7pm
Dinner 7pm

Banquet Choices

A. 12 oz. Prime Rib \$30.00

B. Chicken Marsala \$30.00

Both Dinners Include:

Tossed Salad with choice of two dressings, Baked Potato, Glazed Carrots, Rolls & Butter, Peach Cobbler
Coffee/Decaf/Ice Tea, Water, Dressings and Sour Cream

Please detach the below form and return with your payment or indication that you will not be attending. Thank You, Bill.

***** Registration Deadline October 23, 2010 *****

Reunion Registration

Member Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Telephone Number _____ Guest Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fees:		Price	Number	Total
Registration (Member Only)		\$ 20.00	1	\$ 20.00
Banquet Dinner	A. Prime Rib	\$ 30.00	_____	_____
	B. Chicken Marsala	\$ 30.00	_____	_____
			Grand Total	_____

Please make check or money order payable to:
Mail with registration to:

c/o Bill Kane
5023 Andrea Blvd.
Orlando, FL. 32807

"I'll Try Sir"
Thank You,
Bill

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 407-275-7450 (home) or 407-421-4465 (cell)

Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 4—7, 2010. 5th RCT
and CF24thIDA Mini-
Reunion, St. Augustine
Beach, See AD.

Feb. 2, 2011, Wednesday,
CF 24th Vets, Golden Cor-
ral in Leesburg, or else-
where?

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you
are receiving this in hard copy, please
send an email to cf24ida@gmail.com

**Feb. 2, 2011,
Leesburg**



Golden Corral
1720 Citrus Blvd
Leesburg, FL 34748-3424
(352) 728-3911



24th Infantry Division

"Victory Division"

"First to Fight"

The CF 24th Vets
Tom J. Thiel, Editor
19147 Park Place Blvd.
Eustis, FL 32736-7262