

The Florida 24th Vets

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

www.24thida.com (Florida 24thIDA) fl24thida@gmail.com

July 2011

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

Florida 24th IDA May 4 Luncheon



Twenty-eight attended, they are from left to right (more or less): Sam Irwin, Riverview; Ted and Marilyn Jansen, Leesburg; Carol Becker, Clermont; Bob Chalupa, Leesburg; Harley and Sandy Joseph, Miami; Tony Polemeni, Holly Hill; Paul Boulay, The Villages; Frank and Maxine Jennings, Melbourne; Jack Banther, Sun City; Bill Kane, Orlando and David Kaplan, Leesburg; (seated); Bob and Jean Hatfield, Lady Lake; Gene and Barbara Ames, Bradenton; Beryl and Audrey Smith, Fort McCoy; Woodie and Dottie Wood, Jr., Silver Springs (plus Woodie's niece); Paul Miller and Flossie Kespart, Inverness; Bill Stokes, Lady Lake; Tom Thiel, Eustis; and Lyn Sawyer, Summerfield.

About our Florida 24th IDA Group

by Tom Thiel

We had a good May luncheon. A reasonable turnout-29. And we welcomed two first time participants, **Jack Banther** of Sun City, and **David Kaplan** of Leesburg. Sandy and Harley Joseph again came from the most distance—Miami.

There was a good social interchange, and Lyn Sawyer shared with us her birthday tribute to her departed husband, Robert, who 60 years earlier was a member of Task Force Smith on July 5, 1950.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

24th ID MOH Memorial ANC	2
Gifts for Disabled Vets	3
50:50 drawing	3
POW/MIA Publication	4
www.24thida.com	4
FL-24th IDA/5th RCT Reunion	5
24th/5th Reunion Reg. Form	6
Ltr to your congressperson	7/8
Luncheon photos	9
Calendars	10
Leesburg Map	10



(Continued from page 1)

We agreed to meet again on the first Wednesday in August, and also to participate again with Bill Kane and Tony Polemeni of the 5th RCT in holding a joint 24th Florida & SE US and 5th RCT Reunion at St. Augustine Beach November 3-6.

And we, mainly Paul Miller, accepted Christmas donations for veterans at Gainesville.

You probably have noticed a slight change from "Central Florida" to just "Florida." And you may have also noticed the addition of "SE US" once in a while. This is because we have regular attendees from more than just central Florida, e.g., Sandra and Harley Joseph of Miami have come to every one of our sessions; and several came to the reunion from AL and NC.

We would like to expand, especially the November reunion. So, we are now officially just the "Florida 24th IDA Group."

We hope you all will come to the Luncheon in Leesburg on Aug. 3.

And we also hope a lot of you will come to the Reunion in St. Augustine this November.

Now to some other areas of interest. TJThiel



24th ID MOH Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

I hope you remember our ongoing effort to place a Memorial to the fourteen 24th Division Medal of Honor recipients in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC).

This effort has been reported in several articles in the Taro Leaf as well as in: www.24thida.com.

Some monies have been collected to get the Memorial itself well toward its Fall 2011 completion.

However, we are at a standstill on the needed Congressional action to get approval to place the Memorial in Arlington Cemetery.

The letter on pages 7 and 8 is what I sent my Congressman, Daniel Webster. I have reproduced it here so that you could possibly just remove the page, fill

in the date, name and address of your Congressperson, your address and phone number, sign and send it.

Please read what is written in that letter, and if you can, go to the web sites shown in that letter, to get a lot more information on the Memorial.

We urgently need support for this effort. When I was discussing this with Senator Bill Nelson's staff person, he wondered why there had not been a groundswell of support for such a worthy endeavor. That is up to us!

Lets all get behind this effort. Please contact your Congressperson now. Lets make a difference.

Tom Thiel.

Florida 24th IDA Reunion & Luncheons

Annual FL 24th/5th RCT Mini-Reunion, Nov. 3-6, St. Augustine, FL

Please see companion registration form pages 5-6. Send it in now.

Dutch Treat Luncheon Aug 3, Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.

Space limited to 50; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 fl24thida[at]gmail.com
or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 wsswriter[at]centurylink.net

Dates for 2012 Luncheons, Feb. 1, May 2, and Aug. 1 — Dates and place subject to review.

Gifts for Disabled Vets

In February last year Paul Miller and I took the items you all donated to the Malcom Randall Veterans Medical Center in Gainesville, where they were very appreciative to receive them. Additionally, we garnered several newspaper articles from this effort.

At our February 2011 meeting we agreed to do that again this year. Items needed include:

- socks, long
- gloves, cloth, canvas or brown
- ball caps (new only)
- walker bags
- playing cards
- personal products—tooth paste and brushes, Polygrip, shaving cream, shaving lotion, powder
- phone cards (1 hr time or less)
- canteen cash cards (\$1. ea.) they use these for bingo prizes
- cash to purchase Canteen Cards and/or long socks

So, please everybody bring some items or cash at our August 3 meet-

ing. Paul Miller has again agreed to collect and hold them. We will also collect them at the November Reunion in St. Augustine.

We will take to Gainesville before Christmas this year.

Photo: March 2010. Julie Baker (center), Veterans Volunteer Services Officer at the Malcom Randall Veterans Medical Center in Gainesville, accepts your donations from Paul Miller (right) and Thiel (left).

Thank you.



50:50 drawing

We held a 50:50 drawing at the May 4 luncheon to support mailing and other costs. There was a total of \$70.00 in the kitty: Beryl Smith won the \$35.00, of which he donated \$15.00 of his winning back to the kitty. Thank you Beryl. Thank you Ted Jansen and Paul Miller.

And thank you everyone!
TJT



Special POW/MIA Publication



More than a thousand 24th Division Taromen who fought and died in the Korean War are still missing and unaccounted for.

Our Association undertook a significant effort to help find or identify our missing brothers who were killed or who died as prisoners of war whose remains have never been recovered.

It has produced a special 24-page POW/MIA Publication that has been sent to all members in our Association Roster who are identified as having served in Korea.

It asks everyone that has knowledge about how or where our MIAs or missing POWs were lost to please complete and submit an Oral History to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii.

An oral history is the systematic compilation of living

people's testimony about their own experience that relates to the events in which these men were lost. Guidelines for submitting an Oral History are provided in the publication.

By completing and submitting an Oral History, we can help JPAC better understand how and/or where our brave brothers were lost.

In the special publication, our missing men are listed by Unit, then by Company or Battalion, and finally in Last Name order. Also included is the date they were last seen.

Space limitations in the printed document limited us to only showing the list in Unit-Name order; however, should anyone wish to view the list of names by date of loss, or to see them in alphabetical order, they may go to the Association website at: www.24thida.com

If you are aware of 24th Division veterans who are not members of the Association, please share this information with them. Thank you very much.

Don Maggio, Vice President; Merry Helm, Historian; and Tom Thiel, Webmaster

PS: I have been communicating with JPAC in an attempt to obtain their total list of almost 10,000 names with the plan to publish this on a Korean War Veterans Association Department of Florida website that I built and maintain. <http://dfl.kwva.org> After posting there would then approach the KWVA itself with the request for them to publish it like the 24th did. TJT

Go to

www.24thida.com

Click: Florida 24thIDA on Home page, for information on activities, newsletters, and other information.

Keep your address and email up to date in our records, and also in Association records; call me at 352-357-3943 or email at fl24thida@gmail.com; for Taro Leaf see last page of your TL.

Sick Call—Please keep us apprised of any illnesses.



Florida—SE U.S. 24th IDA/5th RCT Reunion



Plan now to attend the 2011 Florida 24th IDA/5th RCT Mini-Reunion.



It will be Thursday, November 3, 2011 through Sunday, November 6, 2011, St. Augustine Beach, Florida. We will again meet at the same resort, except that it now is The Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort. The address and phone numbers are still the same, 860 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach, Florida 32080, Phone 904-471-2555 / 800-626-7263 Fax 904-461-8450.

The **All Members Meeting** will be Friday, November 4, 2011, from 9 a.m.—11 a.m. We urge all members to participate in this meeting so that we can plan for our 2012 Annual Florida Mini-Reunion.

On **Friday evening** all attendees are invited to get together for food and beer in the Hospitality Rooms at 6:30 p.m.

The **Annual Mini-Reunion Banquet** (2010 photo right) will be Saturday, November 5, 2011. Cocktails will be served in Scores Lounge (Cash Bar) 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. followed by The Banquet Dinner at 7 p.m.



And the best part, the **Hospitality Suites** (2010 left) will be open from the beginning to the end with beverages and light snacks provided.

The Trolley to catch a ride to historic St. Augustine, or the many nearby shopping areas, stops on the hour at the door of our hotel. Last year many took advantage of this. And most at one time or another took a leisurely stroll on the Atlantic beaches right outside our hotel.



This is the second Mini-Reunion with the 5th RCT; last year's was outstanding. Please see your November 2010 *24th Vets Newsletter* or go to http://24thida.com/cf24thida/cf24ida_2010_mini.html to view it on line.

Please mark your calendar, make your hotel reservations, and fill out the form on back of this page NOW! We want to make this a true Florida and All Southeast annual event.

See you all in St. Augustine November 3-6, 2011!



5th RCT and CF 24th IDA

Invite you to Florida's 18th Annual Mini Reunion

Thursday, November 3, 2011 through Sunday, November 6, 2011
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort

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 4, 2011

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

Saturday, November 5, 2011– Banquet

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

Banquet Choices

A. Chicken Cordon Bleu \$30.00

B. White Fish Lightly Battered and Grilled \$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, 2011 *****

Reunion Registration

Member Name _____ Badge Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Telephone Number _____ Guest Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you with the: 5th RCT _____ CF 24th IDA _____ Is this your first time: Yes _____ No _____

Fees:	Price	Number	Total
Registration (Member Only)	\$ 20.00	1	\$ 20.00
Banquet Dinner			
A. Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$ 30.00	_____	_____
B. White Fish	\$ 30.00	_____	_____
		Grand Total	_____

Please make check or money order payable to:

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

"I'll Try Sir"
Thank You,
Bill

Mail with registration to:

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



Dear

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 2,100 members of the 24th Infantry Division Association. We are seeking your assistance in helping our organization place a memorial to the fourteen members of our Division whose brave and selfless acts in defending our country have resulted in their being recognized with the highest award our country offers, the Medal of Honor.

Our Association is seeking to place a Memorial to these fourteen, four from WWII and ten from the Korean War, at Arlington National Cemetery.

It is our understanding that to do this it is necessary to have action taken by the House of Representatives.

Hence, that is the reason for this letter, to ask you to either initiate or support such action.

In January 2010, Congressman Chris Lee (NY-26), introduced legislation (H. Con. Res. 232) to honor the Army's 24th Infantry Division and its 14 Medal of Honor recipients with a memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery.

As you know, Rep. Lee abruptly resigned from the House on Feb. 9, 2011, and although his legislation was supported by over 20 of his fellow members of the HR, as near as I can tell, the bill is no longer viable.

I am not sure what action is appropriate now in light of the above unfortunate circumstances, and that too is part of this request.

Extensive information about the 24th Infantry Division Association and the Division itself may be found at our website, www.24thida.com



Page 2

Information about the memorial I am talking about in this letter may also be found on our website at http://24thida.com/memorials/000_memorials_default.html

Names of the fourteen Medal of Honor recipients and write-ups of their heroic actions may be found at: http://24thida.com/honors/honors_b_moh.html

Finally, the text of Congressman Lee's bill may be found at:
<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-hc232/text?version=ih&nid=t0:ih:8>

This Memorial will be completely paid for by the Association. When the Memorial is placed at its spot in ANC, we will most certainly invite you to the ceremony.

This letter is being sent to your office nearest me because that is where I live, and it would be very convenient for me to come to that office at your convenience, or the convenience of your representative at that office, to provide you with additional detail.

If I can answer any of your questions, please call me at the above number.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

24th Infantry Division Association

A few May 4 Photos



Bill Stokes and Jack Banther*



Lyn Sawyer—Birthday tribute to "Bob."



David Kaplan* and Bob Chalupa



Audrey and Beryl Smith



Maxine and Frank Jennings



Tony Polemeni and Bill Kane

* First timers at our luncheon.

Mark Your Calendars

Aug 3, 2011, Wednesday,
24th Vets, Golden Corral,
Leesburg.

Sept. 19-21, 2011, Dayton
Ohio, 24th Inf. Div. Associ-
ation Reunion.

Nov. 3-6, 2011, St. Augus-
tine, FL, CF24th/5th RCT
Mini-Reunion.

Feb. 1, 2012. Wednesday,
24th Vets, Golden Corral,
Leesburg or your site.

Please send me infor-
mation on any reunions
you may know of.

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you
are receiving this by mail and have
email, please tell me by email at
fl24thida@gmail.com

**August 3,
2011, Leesburg**



24th Infantry Division

"Victory Division"

"First to Fight"

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