

# Florida 24th IDA Vets

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

January 2012

24th Infantry Division Association



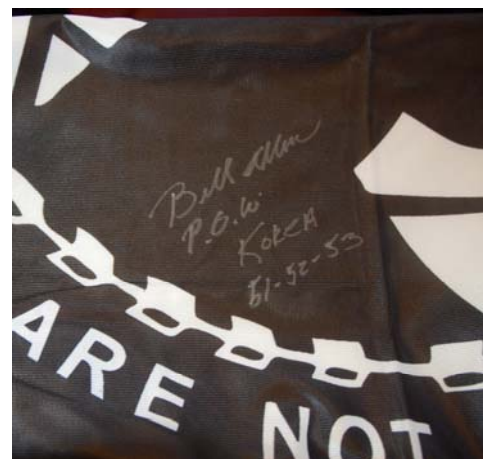
**FIRST TO FIGHT**

## Good turnout for January luncheon



Thirty-seven Taro Leafers and their spouses or significant others turned out for our January 4 Dutch treat Luncheon at the Golden Corral in Leesburg.

Of these a dozen were first timers. Bill Allen of Tierra Verde, who was a POW in Korea 1951 to 1953, was one. Bill presented Tom Thiel with a personally-autographed POW flag. That's Bill on right in above photo with Tom. Bill's autograph appears on the



close-up at right.

Note the photo display panel at the left of the above photo. It is what Bill uses to make Tell America presentations to Tampa area youth.

You may recall from the newsletter telling about the 2010 Mini-Reunion in St. Augustine, that Bill is the

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author of “My old box of memories, thoughts of the Korean War.” Through monies gathered through the sale of his book, and from other fund drives, Bill has contributed over \$45,000 to various charities!

Thanks to the photography skills of Carol Becker, we are able to show you some of the other new folks.



Ron York of Altamonte Springs above, who served with the 5th RCT was another first-timer.



And this is Helen and Bill Allen, whom I introduced to you before.

(Ed note: I managed to fail to collect much needed basic information about our guests, so please forgive me if I make some blunders—I have been known to “marry” certain members in past issues!)



Above are Lewis Ackert and his guest, Ann Held.



And these are the Petersons, Stan and Darlene, and again I failed to obtain the location.

The folks below I had met the day before at the Legion Post 41 in Eustis. They are Herbert and Joyce Betz and they are snowbirds in Eustis during the winter, and from Palmyra, MI, normally. Being a Buckeye (OSU '56 and '59) I wouldn't normally root for the Wolverines, but I did this year in the BCS!



And above are Bill Stokes and Whitney—of course Bill is an old-timer, but we were most happy to welcome Whitney to our group.

Finally, here is Don Franklin, the last of the photos Carol took of “new-timers.”



And, I'm sure going to have to overload Zabasearch.com to try to find addresses and phone numbers of all these folks.

Oh, I think it appropriate to also show you a photo of our great photographer, our Silver-Star Spouse member, Carol Becker.







## More stories and photos from Jan. 4



I was most happy to welcome Zillah Gaston to our luncheon. Zillah had been to nearly a half-dozen of our sessions along with Billy. But sadly, Billy left us in July of 2010. You are always welcome here Zillah!

I should mention a special donation Zillah made, which I think will be used to create a bit more suitable name tags. Thank you Zillah.

And on the topic of donations, I need to express my sincere appreciation for you all contributing to, and Ted Jansen and Carol Becker for conducting, the 50:50 raffle. Unfortunately, I cannot find which slip of paper I logged that on, but memory seems to say \$80.00 total. The winning ticket was one left by Lewis Ackert and Ann Held, who left before the drawing. According to the Allens, they left instructions that

should their ticket be drawn it be contributed back to the group kitty. Thank you Lewis and Ann!



That's Claus Tiesman above left with Bill and Helen Allen. Claus is president of Lake Wood Carvers, who made the cane that Helen is holding. Claus is a Korean Vet with the 1st Marine Division, and a member of Chapter 169 of the Korean War Veterans Association of Lake County.



Harley and Sandra Joseph, right, as usual, came the longest distance—from Miami.



Al McAdoo, left, again offered boxes of fresh-picked "frost-free" strawberries for a \$12.00 donation to his KWVA Chapter.

There are still many more photos to fit—we'll have to see if there will be space!



## Outline of Business Conducted

Blessing by Bob Hatfield

Group photo; individual photos by Becker.

Introductions around the room.  
Strawberries—Al McAdoo

Sick Call: Received regrets from: Herman Critchfield, Leon Slarskey, Gene Ames, and Gene Allard, all due to ailments.

The newsletter and the total of this 24th effort is from 50:50 here; no resources from the mini-reunion registration.

Promoted membership in the 24th Infantry Division Association—costs \$15.00 per year for which receive four copies of The Taro Leaf, the publication that binds 24th members, access to [www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com), the Association's web site, and the Annual National Reunion.

St Augustine Mini-Reunion—discussed the pro's and cons of current mini-reunion format following the newsletter reporting same.

Also, as reported in last newsletter, Paul, Carol and I went to Gainesville Malcolm Randal VA Center on Nov 30 to deliver donated items.

Mentioned that veterans of Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties are encouraged to mail in their names, DD214s and \$25.00 to the Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park in Leesburg.

Encouraged membership in the Ko-

rean War Veterans (and Korean Service Veterans) of America, where an annual dues of \$25.00 entitles a member to six issues of the 80-page color Graybeards magazine, and excellent web site, and representation at the national level.

Our member, Don Van Beck, appears on page 30 of the current Graybeards.

Membership in Chapter 169, Lake County, \$12.00, entitles members to the monthly Scuttlebutt newsletter, to <http://cid169.kwva.org>, to have their name engraved on VMFP, and participation in Chapter Tell America, Color Guard and other activities.

Ed Browne— is Pearl Harbor survivor. He and his wife Clara were at two of our earlier meetings in 2009. Clara has passed away, and Ed is in Arbor Village in Wildwood. On Dec. 7, three of our Chapter 169 color guard visited Ed. (see pg. 8; item also submitted to the Taro Leaf).

New Business

Shall we continue our luncheon efforts? April 4, July 11, Oct 3, Dec. 5. Yes, but I would like to move it around the state some. Please someone come forward to hold in your area.

Collection of items for veterans—Paul Miller, rather emotionally thanked members for their contributions this year. Ted Jansen spoke briefly of his research at the VFW Home in Ft. McCoy FL; to having

closer access to veterans. He and Paul to work on this, and also to combining efforts with KWVA, Chapter 169.

Mini-reunion. Although a poll of those in the room suggested that very few if any more members would attend any mini-reunion, since we had agreed with Bill Kane and the 5th RCT to again meet in St. Augustine in November 2012, it was agreed to support this year with idea of seeking other possible venues next year, or perhaps none.

Bill Allen then touchingly told of his experiences as a POW for over two years in North Korea.

If you still have not read Bill's book, you may read my review at [http://24thida.com/books/allen\\_box\\_of\\_memories.html](http://24thida.com/books/allen_box_of_memories.html), or in the last Taro Leaf.

You may obtain an autographed copy by sending \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to Bill Allen, C. Co 1950-53, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730, [wallen2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wallen2@tampabay.rr.com), phone 727-866-8337).

And you might also want to read Don Perrin's most interesting book, "13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain: True Story of a Florida Boy." That was reviewed in last month's Florida Vets. Don's book can be purchased at Xlibris bookstore. For

(Continued on page 5)





Bob and Jean Hatfield



Duane and Elinor Hall



Ted and Marilyn Jansen



Jim and Dorothy Hird

If your photo was taken and is not shown herein, it was because I didn't think you would have been pleased had I shown it. Sorry.



Don Van Beck



Sam Irwin

(Continued from page 4)

more information, contact Xlibris

at (888) 795-4274 or <http://bookstore.xlibris.com/AdvancedSearch/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=perrin>, Or you can contact Don at the address given on page 8.

## Chapter Color Guard visits Pearl Harbor survivor by TJT



From left: Don Lynch, Charlie White and Bill Shumaker visit with dementia patient, Major Edward Browne at Arbor Village in Wildwood on Dec. 7.

On Dec. 2, Lois G. Herbst of Wyoming, wrote me: "I receive this newsletter\* for Major Edward J. Browne, Ret. who is now in Arbor Village at Wildwood.... Ed started his military career at age 16 in Jan. 1941 when he joined the U.S. Army, was with the 24th [Infantry Division] at Pearl Harbor (Schofield Barracks). He served in South Pacific. The Leyte battle helped him be assigned to Gen. MacArthur's Honor Guard during the occupation of Japan. He then went to Korea with the First Cavalry (wounded twice)...he has commendations and medals from three wars. He has no family in Florida. I am trying to get someone ... to visit him on Dec. 7th. Ed has dementia, but I think he would enjoy a visit from a fellow military man."

Since Don Lynch is from Wildwood, and also in the Color Guard, I asked Don if he might be able to contact "Major Ed."

The end result was that Don, Charlie White and Bill Shumaker visited Ed early afternoon on Dec. 7, after they had done their color guard duties at the Villages Veterans Memorial that morning.

Don reported "... that Ed has advanced Alzheimer's

disease. He looked alert and healthy, but he couldn't put things together. When we mentioned Pearl Harbor, he replied: 'I was at breakfast.' But that is about the most that we could get from him. I saluted him and shook his hand right off the bat and he saluted back. His sister should know that he is well cared for and likes the people he is with. It was a good visit, I told him we would visit him again."

### Thank you Don, Charlie and Bill!

Our Chapter Color Guard is our Chapter's most vital resource—a 169 publicity billboard! Led by Charlie White, members now include: Don Lynch, Bill Shumaker, Art Canale, Gunther Noder, Claus Tiesman, Paul Deeley, and Wally Jones. From The Scuttlebutt.

\* The *Florida 24th IDA Vets* which I write.

From: The Scuttlebutt, the newsletter of the Korean War (and Service) Veterans of Lake County, Ch. 169.

### Commentary:

We are becoming older—aging. With that comes many unfortunate situations, such as our friend Ed at left. I am writing this on Saturday as the Saints take on the Niners. Earlier this afternoon, eight of us in KWVA participated in farewell services for another Alzheimer's casualty; only I had met Bob, and that was only for an hour and a half about three months ago. I believe all of us felt good in going, I know I did.

Our Florida 24th Group should be doing this. When I have sent notices of one of our members passing away, none of you came to Bushnell. Fortunately, our KWVA Chapter did!

We now have members of our group that have been too ill to come for approaching a year now; they are reported elsewhere in this letter, and their addresses and phone nos. are in earlier newsletters. Let's do it!!





Bill Allen with his famous fold-up display panel, that has helped him propel his charity fund distribution to over \$45K!



Claus and Wilma Jean Tiesman, our guests for the luncheon. Claus is a Director of our Korean War Veterans Chapter 169, and an officer in the Lake Wood Carvers Club, the group that makes eagle canes. Claus made the cane that was given to Bill Allen.



## List of attendees at the January 4, 2012, Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg.

| LastName | FirstMI     | Spouse          | Address                      | City              | State | Zip4       | Phone        | email                       | Unit1      | CoBat1 | ExpDate        |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------|----------------|
| Ackert   | Lewis       | Ann Held        | 723 Trevino Dr               | Lady Lake         | FL    | 32159      | 727-866-8337 | wallen2@tampabay.rr.com     | 19th Inf   | C      | Life - #1695   |
| Allen    | Bill        | Helen           | 421 4th Ave. N.              | Tierra Verde      | FL    | 33715-1730 | 813-633-0546 | jbanther@tampabay.rr.com    | 24th Trans | Hq&Hq  |                |
| Banther  | Jack        | Phyllis         | 1402 Brattleboro Cir.        | Sun City          | FL    | 34714      | 352-394-5451 | carolbecker@juno.com        | GSS        | F Co   |                |
| Becker   | Carol       |                 | 17741 W Apsawa Rd            | Clermont          | FL    | 34714      | 352-751-2388 |                             | 19th Inf   |        |                |
| Betz     | Herbert     | Joyce           | 11 Sharps Circle             | Eustis            | FL    | 32726      | 863-293-3055 |                             | 34th Inf   |        |                |
| Boulay   | Paul A      | Mary J          | 921 Bristol Ter              | The Villages      | FL    | 32162-3390 | 352-728-1502 |                             | 21st Inf   | C      | Feb 10         |
| Bradford | Jim         | Becky           | 1776 6th Street NW, Unit 308 | Winter Haven      | FL    | 33881-2178 | 352-347-4257 | jbradford15@tampabay.rr.com | 24th MP    |        | Life - #2310   |
| Franklin | Don         | Dean            | 32830 Timberwood Dr          | Leesburg          | FL    | 34748      | 734-878-1189 |                             | 26th AAA   | B      | Life - #2167   |
| Gaston   | Zillah      | Billy C.        | 17738 SE 119th Ave Rd        | Summerfield       | FL    | 34491-8000 | 813-788-4469 | dlhal122@comcast.net        | 6th Tank   |        | Life1 (Jan 10) |
| Hall     | Duane L.    | Eleanor         | 1637 Blackfoot Court         | Leesburg          | FL    | 34748-9066 | 352-753-3962 | LILABOB52H@aol.com          |            |        |                |
| Harley   | Robert      | Lila H.         |                              |                   |       |            | 352-291-2028 | bj59inf@aol.com             |            |        |                |
| Hatfield | Robert      | Jean            | 605 Jennifer Dr.             | Lady Lake         | FL    | 32159-2429 | 813-677-5012 | jimmydavis63@yahoo.com      | 26th AAA   | C      | Life - #2091   |
| Hird     | Jim         | Dorothy         | 10620 SW 27th Ave #A-31      | Ocala             | FL    | 34476-8014 | 352-787-7818 |                             | 21st Inf   |        |                |
| Irwin    | Samuel      | Grace           | 13010 Lincoln Rd.            | Riverview         | FL    | 33578-7513 | 352-751-2388 | tedj29@aol.com              | 19th Inf   |        | Dec 09         |
| Jansen   | Theodore S. | Marilyn L.      | 1507 W Lancaster Ave         | Leesburg          | FL    | 34748-6936 | 321-751-9103 | frank-jennings@cfl.rr.com   | 5th RCT    |        |                |
| Jennings | Frank       | Maxine          | PO Box 410337                | Melbourne         | FL    | 32941-0337 | 305-274-2840 | ssjteach@aol.com            | 34th Inf   | Svc    | Life2 (Jun 09) |
| Joseph   | Harley      | Sandy           | 10644 Kendale Blvd.          | Miami             | FL    | 33176-2771 | 813-837-2728 |                             | 5th RCT    |        | Life - #779    |
| McAdoo   | Albert J.   |                 | 7506 S. Mascotte St.         | Tampa             | FL    | 33616-2206 | 352-344-8277 | pmiller151@tampabay.rr.com  | 21st Inf   |        |                |
| Miller   | Paul        | Flossie Kespert | 828 Lanark Dr                | Inverness         | FL    | 34453-4415 |              |                             |            |        |                |
| Peterson | Stan        | Darlene         |                              |                   |       |            |              |                             |            |        |                |
| Stokes   | Bill        | Whitney         | 304 Balsam Circle            | Lady Lake         | FL    | 32159-3201 | 352-750-6741 | wsswriter@centurylink.net   | 34th Inf   | HHC    | Life1 (Oct 09) |
| Thiel    | Tom         | Jean Singer     | 19147 Park Place Blvd.       | Eustis            | FL    | 32738-7262 | 352-357-3943 | fl24thida@gmail.com         | 19th Inf   | E      | Life - #2184   |
| Van Beck | Don         | Julia           | 32004 Harris Rd              | Tavares           | FL    | 32718-4630 | 352-343-1529 | seafari.vb@juno.com         | 34th Inf   | HHC    | Feb 09         |
| York     | Ron         |                 | 822 Lindenwald Lane          | Altamonte Springs | FL    | 32701      | 407-830-6460 | ronyork@cfl.rr.com          | 5th RCT    | Tank   |                |

# Florida 24th IDA Group Dutch Treat Luncheons

**April 4, 2012**

**Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.**

Space limited to about 50—please reserve by

Contacting: Tom Thiel, 352-408-6612 or [fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com)

or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 [wsswriter@centurylink.net](mailto:wsswriter@centurylink.net)

Future dates: July 11, October 3, and December 5 ??

*Please, find and suggest a suitable venue in your area.*

19th & 34th Infantry Regiments, Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion, April 23-25, 2012, Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson Chapel Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 For reservations call 865-428-8600, Mention code KVR for \$60 rate **For information contact:**

**Bob Taylor**

**828 884-9593**

**[bobnjoan@comporium.net](mailto:bobnjoan@comporium.net)**

**or**

**Don and Bettelou Perrin**

**772-388-9342**

**[mountainmama125@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmama125@gmail.com)**

**2012 24th IDA Reunion** to be in New Orleans.

The Board voted to hold it September 23-26.

The Board also voted to hold the 2013 24th IDA Reunion in Louisville, September 22-25. More later.

## Stories, your stories?

Stories. Our stories. They are worthwhile. Of interest. We published a lead to Don Perrin's in the last newsletter. It is now on the website, and may have been in the Taro Leaf.

We reviewed Bill Allen's after last year's mini-reunion. And we heard the rudimentary elements of at least two at the most recent mini-reunion—Joe Scharge's and Heidi Edgar's.

I'm sure there are more too. Your stories are important, are of interest. If you do not tell them, who will?

I want to publish them for the world to see on the Association's web page. tjt







# THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I desire to be: Enrolled ☐ (Or) Reinstated ☐; as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐  
(please check the proper two boxes)

*of the*  
**24th "Victory Division" Association**  
The Greatest Combat Division the United States Army has ever known.

- ☐ Annual Dues - \$15.00 (1) Year From date of joining in The Association.
- ☐ Life Member - \$200.00 Payable in one sum or 5 yearly payments of \$40.00 each.

~~~~~

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE+4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

***Served IN the 24th Division, OR was Member of Any Unit Ever Attached TO the 24th at any time.***

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Plt/Bat \_\_\_\_\_ Co \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., 5th, 19th, 21st, 3rd Eng, etc.)

Location Served: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Pearl H., WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stewart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc.)

POW: From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (not necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks in above amount payable to the **"24th Infantry Division Association"**  
And mail with this completed application to:

**John A. Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**24th Infantry Division Association**  
**9150 Hwy. 51**  
**Westover, AL 35147-9527**

**FLORIDA 24TH IDA**  
January 2012, 24th IDA WEB

## Mark Your Calendars

April 4, 2012, Wednesday,  
FL 24th Vets, Golden Corral in Leesburg.

April 23–25, 2012, 34th-  
19th Inf. Mini Reunion,  
Pigeon Forge, TN.

May 16-20, 2012, 5th RCT

20th Annual Reunion, Ft.  
Mitchell, KY.

July 11, 2012, FL 24th  
Vets, TBD.

September 23-26, 2012,  
24th IDA Reunion, New  
Orleans, LA

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are receiving this by U.S. mail and have  
email, please tell me by email at  
[fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com)

## Apr. 4, 2012, Leesburg Golden Corral

This newsletter produced and delivered without any  
support other than what is realized from the 50:50  
drawings held at the Luncheons.



**24th Infantry Division**  
"Victory Division"  
"First to Fight"

*The Florida 24th Vets*  
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