

Florida 24th IDA Vets

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

April 4, 2012

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

Enthusiastic April 4 Luncheon



Attendees, from left, standing: Tom Thiel, Larry Eideleberg, Keith Kohlhof, Paul Boulay, Ron Bubul, Nick Salakas, Bill Stokes, Duane and Eleanor Hall, Woodie Wood, Bob Chalupa, and Jim Bradford. Seated from left: Cameron (Luke's friend), and Luke Kohlhoff, Carol Becker, Becky Bradford, Marilyn Jansen, Paul Miller, Dottie Wood, Flossie Kespert, Ted Jansen, and Zillah Gaston. Not pictured were: Al McAdoo, Bill Kane, Tony Polemeni, Don Van Beck, and Jeanette who was with the Woods.

We were down a bit to 27 total at our April 4 Florida 24th IDA Luncheon; but I felt that we had a good meeting and that those there felt more of a family than ever before.

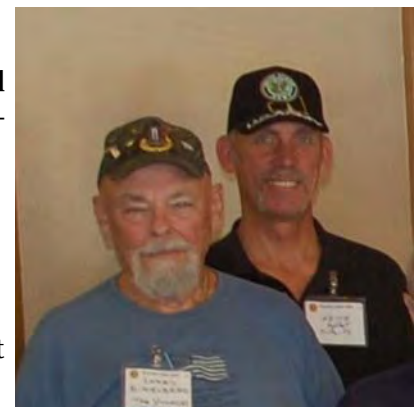
We were very fortunate to welcome six who had never come before. Well two of these were young folks who came with Keith Kohlhoff, from Trilby, FL.

We first came to know Keith at Florida National Bushnell in July 2010 at a memorial service for Billy Gaston. Keith was there as a part of the Cemetery staff, and noted my 24th ID patch. I believe he was wearing a 24th tie.

Since then Keith has become Life Member #2350 of

the 24th ID Association. He served in Iraq during Desert Storm—Desert Shield, and I think he also said that he served with the 24th at Ft. Stuart, GA.

I'm sorry we didn't get a single photo of Keith, but we did extract through digital editing a photo of Keith with Larry Eidelberg from The Villages (The Bronx, NY). Larry is on the left and Keith on the right.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I believe that our other three first timers all served in Germany,

One of them, Ron Bubel (below) is



a snow bird wintering in Eustis who comes from Caledonia, New York. We will place Ron on our distribution list and hope that he comes to visit with us next winter (Jan and Apr).

Another first-timer was the aforementioned Larry Eidelberg from The Villages; Larry's photo appeared on page 1.

Our fourth first timer was Nick Salakas also from The Villages, whose photo is above-right.

Harley and Sandy Joseph, (right) our regular attendees from Miami, were called back from Leesburg to Miami for health reasons. I spoke briefly by phone with Harley on Tuesday, Apr. 3, when he told me that his medical facility had instructed him to return for a heart procedure. I didn't fully understand that part of the conversation. You can send a card to Harley at: Harley and Sandy Joseph, 10644 Kendale Blvd., Miami, FL, 33176-2771, 305-274-2840, ssjteach@aol.com. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both!

Sorry I didn't get more information about their service time but I believe that there was mention of Augsburg.

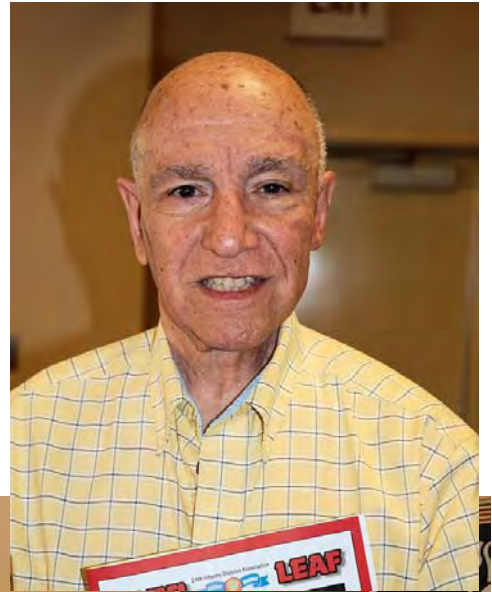
We gave these folks copies of recent Taro Leaf magazines as well as a special invitation for them to become a 24th IDA member.

All of these folks have been added to our distribution list and will re-



ceive our regular distributions.

The photo above shows me, Tom Thiel, left, talking to Duane Hall also standing; I think Duane was telling me he was heading back north to Michigan near the end of



April. Those folks sitting are from left to right, Bob Chalupa, Bill Stokes and Paul Bulay.

Thanks to our Silver-Star Spouse member, Carol Becker, for the nice photos.





Items discussed at April 4 luncheon meeting

Welcome—Call to Order approximately 12:00 noon by Tom Thiel, who asked everyone to please sign-in. He also asked all present to use his cell phone number, 352-408-6612.

He also said that thanks to Zillah Gaston's contribution at the January meeting, we have new, more permanent name tags. They have "BG" in upper right hand corner in memory of Billy Gaston who passed away two years ago.

Thiel asked that the tags be dropped off in the collection box at end of meeting. He also asked that we be sure to get a group and individual photos; Carol Becker was taking the photos.

Ted Jansen offered a Blessing, and then the group enjoyed lunch.

After lunch, each attendee introduced themselves and their spouses or significant others.

Sick Call: Gene Ames, and Gene Alard. Also, Harley Joseph already mentioned on the previous page.

Who we are; what we do: The Florida 24th IDA is a group that was formed in July 2009 and has met quarterly ever since. All luncheon meetings so far have been held at the Golden Corral in Leesburg.

An original goal was to hold a Florida 24th IDA Mini-reunion such as the West Coast Reunion that is very viable, but we were unable to obtain a working committee to make this happen.

Therefore, we decided to join with Bill Kane and Tony Polemeni who were holding a 5th RCT (assigned to the

24th ID in Korea) reunion annually in St. Augustine the first week in November. As with many organizations, though, even combined we are having difficulty maintaining attendance.

But we have agreed to do it again in 2012; more later on.

All Florida 24th IDA Newsletters and the total of this 24th effort is supported with the 50:50 drawing that Ted Jansen conducted at today's meeting.

There is a Florida 24th IDA Group web page on the Association's web site: www.24thida.com; the link is at the bottom of the main page and is labeled, appropriately enough, Florida 24th IDA.

Future meetings: We then discussed the continuation of our luncheons and where to meet. Dates for the remainder of the year are July 11, Oct 3, and Dec. 5. We have asked members to propose alternative sites, e.g., Tampa, Orlando, and other areas.

Al McAdoo had researched the possibility of the Fantasy of Flight in Polk City. We polled the attendees at today's meeting and only three indicated they would come to FoF on July 11. So, we agreed to again meet in Leesburg and will propose FoF for one of the later venues (see page 4).

5th RCT—Florida 24th Group

Mini-reunion: Bill Kane then discussed plans for our joint mini-reunion, to be held Nov. 1-4, 2012. Bill will be mailing registration forms to both his distribution list and to non-email 24th IDA addresses. We will also include the form in this newsletter. Bill urged folks to reply to him even if

they are not coming. See Page 5.

Collection of items for veterans—

Paul Miller and Ted Jansen told of their recent visit to the VFW Retirement Home in Ft. McCoy, FL (see flyer page 7).

They were enthusiastic about the home itself, and also were pleased with the opportunities it offers for us to donate items to Veterans.

Paul was collecting items for Vets, but since he indicated he might change the preferred items list, we will wait to publish this later on.

Promoted the 24th IDA – Taro Leaf Quarterly, www.24thida.com 2012 Reunion, New Orleans, LA, September 23-26, Dayton 2011 Reunion Book; Membership Application. Asked for attendees to make recommendation for the Verbeck Award.

Korean War and Korean Service Veterans of America Graybeards, Chapter 169, Scuttlebutt and Jan 25 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park—Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties. Dedication May 19, 2012.

Honor Flights: Been asked by The Villages Honor Flight Chapter to ask Korean War vets to register for Flights to Washington D.C. Memorials.

Service Records: SF-180 or www.archives.gov/veterans/eevetrecs/ or www.24thida.com.

50:50 of \$27.00 won by Jeanette, friend of the Woods. She donated \$15.00 to Items for Veterans fund.

Adjourned about 2:30 p.m.

Alternative Meeting Locations—Please let us know

As you know, I have been asking for members to find possible alternative locations for our Luncheons.

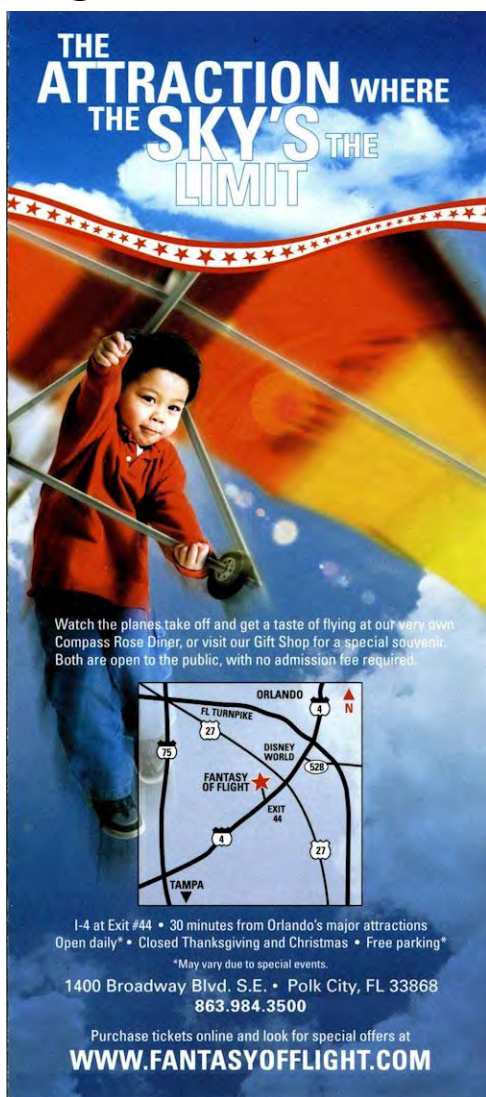
That way we might move the location around the state and hopefully strengthen participation.

Al McAdoo took me seriously and has done some research on the Fantasy of Flight at Polk City, FL. A portion of its flyer is at right.

Al was able to get a discounted admission of \$20.00 per person if we would have at least 15 attendees. Lunch at their facility would be additional, and would be on the menu.

Of those attending on Apr. 4, only three indicated they would come to Polk City if we were to hold it there on July 11.

So, this is a request of all of you to let me know if you would come to our Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon on October 3, if we were to hold it at the Fantasy of Flight.



Would Dec. 5 be better?

Or do you have an alternate location? Please let me know.

The Armed Forces Military Museum, Largo, FL is another alternative meeting and reunion location that has been suggested by at least two folks, Bill Allen and Paul Miller, who gave me a lot of information, flyers, and photos describing the museum. Bill suggested that the area would be ideal for a future mini-reunion. The area has a lot of folks who served with the 24th Infantry Division, and therefore are eligible to be a part of our group.

Because of the many hats I wear, I cannot, however, commit to personally managing such an event. So, unless we can get a group locally to do all the necessary support work, it cannot happen. I just cannot do it; that's why we joined with Bill and Tony and the 5th RCT at St. Augustine.

For those of you interested in knowing more about the Largo museum, see: www.armedforcesmuseum.com or phone 727-539-8371. If we could develop a local team in the area, we would be receptive to a mini-reunion there in 2013.

Come join with us at our annual mini-reunion

November 1-4, 2012 at beautiful—historic St. Augustine, FL



Join with your fellow 5th RCT and Florida 24th IDA Group buddies at our 2012 annual joint mini-reunion in beautiful St. Augustine. Our hotel is situated literally on the Ocean beaches, and linked to all the shopping, dining and historic attractions by a trolley that comes by the hotel every hour.



This is an informal get together for all our members to renew old acquaintances and to develop new ones. EVERYONE who has served in the 24th or any unit attached to it anywhere is welcome. Come spend your hours lending on your buddy's ear at the forever replenished hospitality suite; ladies have a suite all to themselves.

For members of the 5th RCT, this will be our 19th consecutive mini-reunion; for members of the 24th IDA, this will be the third mini-reunion. Bill and Helen Kane, and Tony Polemeni do the major grunt work to make the reunion successful. (That's why the 24th IDA Group joined up with them!)

On Friday, Nov. 2, 2012, from 9-11 am, we will have an All-Members Meeting to discuss future reunions and other items; that evening at 7:30 pm we will have a Get Together in the hospitality rooms with food and beer.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, we have the Banquet, with military honors. From 6-7 pm cocktails will be available in the Scores Lounge (Cash Bar), with the Banquet Dinner at 7 pm.

Anytime, take the convenient trolley at the hotel front entrance; it is Saint Augustine's Best Tour to see the Spanish Quarter, Flagler Memorial Church, the Bay View, St. Augustine Old Jail, Plaza de la Constitucion, San Sebastian Winery, Lightner Museum, Castillo de San Marcos, Fountain of Youth, Candy Factory, and Much More!



The registration form is on the reverse side of this page; please fill it out now and make your plans to join with us in St. Augustine this November. (Photos from last two reunions.)



**I'LL TRY, SIR!**

5th RCT and Florida 24th IDA Group

Invite you to

Florida's 19th Annual Mini Reunion

Thursday, November 1, 2012 through Sunday November 4, 2012
St. Augustine Beach, Florida



Holiday Inn

860 A1A Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach, Florida 32080
Phone 904-471-255 / 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.

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

Friday, November 2, 2012

All Members Meeting 9 am – 11 am
Get Together – Food & Beer – 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 3, 2012 – Banquet

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

Banquet Choices

A. Chicken Cordon Bleu \$30.00

B. Prime Rib – Medium \$30.00

Both Dinners Include:

Tossed Salad with choice of two dressings, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Roll & Butter, NY Cheese Cake/w Strawberries
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 13, 2012 *****

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 _____

<u>Fees:</u>		<u>Price</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration (Member Only)		\$20.00	1	\$20.00
Banquet Dinner	A. Chicken Cordon Blue	\$30.00	_____	_____
	B. Prime Rib – Medium	\$30.00	_____	_____
			Grand Total	_____

Please make check or money order payable to: **Bill Kane**

Mail payment with form to:

Bill Kane
5023 Andrea Blvd
Orlando, Florida 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))

VFW RETIREMENT HOME, Inc.
 Fort McCoy, Florida

Independent Living Facility


The VFW Retirement Home is located in Fort McCoy, Florida. It is owned and operated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Florida. It is the only facility of its kind in the U.S. We are a non-profit organization who does not receive any local, state or federal funding.

The VFW Retirement Home opened its doors in October, 1991 and have been "taking care of Veterans" ever since!

We are a non-medical, Independent Living Facility, "Retirement Home". Our Goal and Purpose, along with our Commitment, is to continue to provide a home-like atmosphere offering affordable housing and services to qualified Veterans and their spouses.

To learn more about our one-of-a-kind "Veterans Home" please call us at 352-236-0823 or visit us!

**Donations can be sent to the
VFW Retirement Home**

13005 NE 135th Street
Fort McCoy, FL 32134

Check out our website at:
www.vfwretirementhome.flvfw.org

Admission: Adults \$5.00, Seniors 65+ \$3.00, Youth 12 and under \$3.00 Refreshments available for sale
Bring your lawn chairs!!
For information call 352-236-0823

What: 3rd Annual Veterans Horse Festival
Where: VFW Retirement Home (located at 13005 NE 135th Street, Fort McCoy)
Date: Saturday, April 14, 2012
Time: 11:00am — 2:00pm

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

LastName	FirstMI	Spouse	Address	City	State	Zip4	Phone	email	Unit1	CoBat1
Becker	Carol		17741 W Apshawa Rd	Clermont	FL	34714	352-394-5451	carolbecker@juno.com	GSS	
Boulay	Paul A	Mary J	921 Bristol Ter	The Villages	FL	32162-3390	352-751-2388		34th Inf	
Bradford	Jim	Becky	1776 6th Street NW, Unit 308	Winter Haven	FL	33881-2178	863-293-3055	jbradford15@tampabay.rr.com	21st Inf	C
Bubel	Ronald	Caroline	366 Barks Road	Caledonia	NY	14423	585-538-2570			
Chalupa	Robert	deceased	26932 Honeymoon Ave.	Leesburg	FL	34748-9127	352-728-8672	gimlet0120@aol.com	21st Inf	
Eidelberg	Larry	Linda	704 Rosella Pl	The Villages	FL	32162	352-751-7636	lrteam@aol.com		
Gaston	Zillah	Billy C.	17738 SE 119th Ave Rd	Summerfield	FL	34491-8000	352-347-4257		24th MP	
Hall	Duane L.	Eleanor	1637 Blackfoot Court	Leesburg	FL	34748-9066	734-878-1189	dlhall22@comcast.net	26th AAA	B
Jansen	Theodore S.	Marilyn L.	1507 W Lancaster Ave	Leesburg	FL	34748-6936	352-787-7818	tedj29@aol.com	19th Inf	
Kane	Bill	Helen	5023 Andrea Blvd.	Orlando	FL	32807-1302	407-275-7450	krabbybill@yahoo.com	24th Inf	A
Kohlhof	Keith A.	Cheryl	P.O. Box 960	Trilby	FL	33593-0960	352-583-4301	keithkohlhof@hotmail.com	124th Mil Int	A
McAdoo	Albert J.		7506 S. Mascotte St.	Tampa	FL	33616-2206	813-837-2728		5th RCT	
Miller	Paul	Flossie Kespert	828 Lanark Dr	Inverness	FL	34453-4415	352-344-8277	pmiller151@tampabay.rr.com	21st Inf	
Polemeni	Tony	Carol Regalado	1591 Birmingham Ave.	Holly Hill	FL	32117-2015	904-672-3808		5th RCT	
Salakas	Nick	Karen	1529 Abercrombie Way	Lady Lake	FL	32162	352-561-4949			
Stokes	Bill	Whitney	304 Balsam Circle	Lady Lake	FL	32159-3201	352-750-6741	wsswriter@centurylink.net	34th Inf	HHC
Thiel	Tom	Jean Singer	19147 Park Place Blvd.	Eustis	FL	32736-7262	352-357-3943	fl24thida@gmail.com	19th Inf	E
Van Beck	Don	Julia	32004 Harris Rd	Tavares	FL	32778-4630	352-343-1529	seafari.vb@juno.com	34th Inf	HHC
Wood, Jr.	Woodie	Dottie	2201 NE 125th Terrace Rd.	Silver Springs	FL	34488-2581	352-625-3305		19th Inf	

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Florida 24th IDA Group Dutch Treat Luncheons

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
or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net**

Future dates: October 3, and December 5.

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

2012 24th IDA Reunion to be in New Orleans, September 23-26. The 2013 24th IDA Reunion to be in Louisville, September 22-25.

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 (Sorry Heidi, no room this issue; next one.)

www.24thida.com Highlights

We have added several more books that have been scanned for placing on the web.

One of the more impressive of these is "*A regiment in action*," by William Verbeck, which is Verbeck's accounting of the 21st Infantry Regiment in WWII. It is in full text, and so far as I can determine only four copies exist anywhere in the world, and you have it on your web site.

And we have several new book reviews there as well. We are also considering adding "*General Dean's Story*," by General William Dean.

Other books on the website include "*Children of yesterday*," The 24th Infantry Division In World War II, by Jan Valtin, 429 pages.

"*24th Forward, A Pictorial History of the Victory Division in Korea*" (1952) book, 375 pages.

Both of these books are out of print. You may download and print. More are planned.

And remember, a special section of this website has been allocated to our Florida 24th IDA activities. Go to www.24thida.com and then find the link *Florida 24thIDA* at the bottom of home page, and then follow the links. (Yes, this is one of the three web sites I maintain!) 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 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, Golden Corral,

Leesburg.

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

September 22-25, 2013 24th IDA Reunion to be in Louisville, KY

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you are receiving this by U.S. mail and have email, please tell me by email at [fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com)

### July 11, 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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