

Florida 24th IDA Vets

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

July 11, 2012

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

Hanging strong, our July 11 get together



Attendees, from left, standing: Bob and Jean Hatfield, Carol Becker, Sam Irwin, Bob Chalupa, Maxine and Frank Jennings, Bill Simunek, Tom Thiel, Jim Hird, Woody Wood, Nick Salakas, Ted Jansen, Bill Stokes, Sam Leanza, Zelah Gaston, Marilyn Jansen, Sandy and Harley Joseph, Lyn Sawyer, Flossie Kespert, and Paul Miller. Seated from left: Dorothy Hird, Dottie Wood, and Gene and Barbara Ames. Not pictured: Keith Kohlhof and Bob and Lila Hartley.



Thanks for being my straight man this afternoon! I told you we'd get a laugh. I thought this was a most successful meeting - everyone was happy, and many had something to say; it was just great.

That was what Bill Stokes, above, had to say about our July 11 Luncheon. And I agree; it was one of our best.

Sam Leanza, right, was our first-timer at this luncheon; Sam joined our KWVA Chapter in January this year, and of course since he was a fellow Taro Leafer, I was easily able to persuade him to also join up with our FL24th IDA Group. Sam and Sheila live

on SE 175 Loop, Summerfield; Sam served with the Army's 24th ID, 2nd BN HQ in 1955-56.



Thanks again to our Silver-Star Spouse member, Carol Becker, above, for the excellent photos!

On the following pages, we will try to show you most of the photos Carol's Nikon D-50 managed to capture at Wednesdays luncheon.

(hanging strong Continued on page 2)

(hanging strong Continued from page 1)

Sandy and Harley Joseph



missed the April luncheon because of Harley's health issues. He now has an additional stent, and was

advised that he is a candidate for a heart valve. But the size he needs is not authorized for use in the U.S. although it is available elsewhere! Also, notice Harvey's very nice 34th Infantry Regiment shirt. He has been looking for one since 1949! Thank you, Harley and Sandy for coming from Miami to almost all of our luncheons!



Barbara and Gene Ames of Bradenton have likewise had some serious health issues that kept them from some of our recent luncheons. Thankfully, they were able to come to this one and we hope they will be able to continue.



Flossie Kespert and Paul Miller have been FL24thIDA stalwarts from the start of our group. Leading the charitable efforts, and assisting with the meetings are but a few of their strengths. Thanks very much Flossie and Paul!

Sam Irwin of Riverview, a bit southeast of Tampa, has been coming to our luncheons almost from the beginning in 2009. Thanks Sam!



Dottie and Woody Wood from Silver Springs. It was a real effort for them to be there today as they had to be at a 2:00 p.m. doctor's appointment. We appreciate your continued support!

FYI, I'm showing the photos in the

order that Carol took them!



And here are **Ted and Marilyn Jensen**. That is the 50:50 bucket Ted and Carol used today. This is the only source of revenue for mailing this newsletter, and it is very much appreciated. I should also tell you that Marilyn is again taking chemo treatments; our prayers are with you Marilyn.



Here are **Maxine and Frank Jennings** of Melbourne. They have become regulars and we appreciate having them. Incidentally, Maxine held the lucky 50:50 ticket.

And here is Zellah Gaston, spouse of Billy, from Summerfield. Zellah has been a



(Continued on page 3)



(hanging strong) *Continued from page 2)*

consistent financial supporter of our program, which we have used to obtain semi-permanent name tags. Thank you, Zellah!



Keith Kohloff of Trilby joined with us for the first time last luncheon. A Desert Storm veteran, Keith served with "A" 124th Mil Int. He now works with the VA at Florida National Bushnell.

Bob Chalupa another 21st Gimlet who hails from Leesburg, has been a good loyal attendee at our luncheons! Thank you too Bob!



We were very happy to have **Nick Salakas** of The Villages here today. Nick was a first timer at the April luncheon. I do not have any information on his time in service, though.

Jim and Dorothy Hird of Ocala have also been coming to our luncheons for all but a couple. Thank you too Jim and Dorothy!



And this is **Bill Simunek** who lives across Mud Lake in Mount Dora from me in Eustis. We also have Eustis "International" Airport between us. Thanks for the ride today, Bill.



And finally here is **Lyn Sawyer** of Summerfield being introduced by you

know who. We are happy to have spouses come regularly.

There were one or two more photos but maybe next time they will be better next time!



At left is **Paul Miller** with the various items he has collected for veterans.

He talked about going to the VFW Veterans Home in Fort McCoy as well as to the Malcolm Randal Medical Center in Gainesville.

Paul asked us to suggest other places where we can donate to veterans.

He also needs some additional items like toiletries, socks, tee shirts, and underwear. A date for delivery was not decided upon.

Items discussed July 11

Welcome—Call to Order—11:45

Registration—Everyone sign in

Zellah Gaston made a donation enabling us to have semi-permanent Name Tags. When you leave please drop your tags off in the box, or be sure to bring them next time.

Luncheon Arrangements: There were a few preliminaries before lunch: Group photos, preliminary announcements, and a prayer.

After lunch all members introduce themselves and their partners.

Sick Call:

Who we are; what we do.

- Newsletter, email and snail mail.
- Total of this 24th effort is from 50:50.

Future Luncheons:

- Tuesday, October 2, again at Golden Corral in Leesburg. (Oct. 3 was not available)
- We also agreed to hold another on December 5. Reservation placed on both dates.

Annual Mini-Reunion with 5th RCT Association. St. Augustine, FL, Bill Kane and Tony Polemani, Nov 1-4, registration form next two pages. Please attend.

Collection of items for veterans—Paul Miller and Ted Jansen. (p. 3.)

24th IDA Membership promoted:

- Website: www.24thida.com (Click on Florida 24thIDA on Home Page); *Taro Leaf* (had copies and Membership Applications); currently working on posting all Taro Leafs on website (133 to date, about that many yet to go, but do not have copies—see next TL or go to the Taro Leaf button on above website).
- Reunion 2012, New Orleans, LA, September 16-20.

Urged Association Members to nominate a member for the Verbeck Award; send to Don Maggio, 411 Concord Rd., Fletcher, NC 28732-9734, 828-684-5931, the24thidavp@aol.com ASAP Please.

Korean War and Korean Service Veterans of America:

- Chapter 169, Scuttlebutt and www.cid169.kwva.org, meet every 4th Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at the Leesburg Sr. Center, 1211 Penn St.; Pamphlets; largest chapter in Florida. 89 members. Yours truly president.
- 59th Anniversary of the Cease Fire in Korea, July 27, at VMFP, Leesburg, at 10:00; everyone invited

- Florida and National (Association), Graybeards

Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/index.html>

- July 27 in Washington DC, Heroes Remembered: 59th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Observance
- They will come to your group to Commemorate the Korean War

Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park— www.lakeveterans.com Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties

- Name on the Wall: 352-314-2100;
- Purchase a Brick \$60.00

Note that I received a request for larger font. This newsletter is generally Georgia 11 font. Please let me know if this is better.



Wanted—one of you to take over leading the Florida 24th Group. There are two issues that lend some urgency to this request: health and relocation. It does not require that much time. Call me at 352-357-3943 or 352-408-6612. TJT

Come join with us at our annual mini-reunion

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



Join with your fellow Florida 24th IDA Group and 5th RCT Association 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.

Take the convenient trolley on the hour 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 Isle Oceanfront Resort

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))

Zillah Gaston donated \$25.00 "to use where you need it." This will go into the general funds for the FL24thIDA, mainly for copying and mailing, meeting post cards, name tags, etc.

The 50:50 drawing, the only funding support for our group, was won by **Maxine Jennings**; \$32.00 went into the FL24thida general funds. Thank everyone for participating.



On Thursday, July 12, **Carol Becker** (right in above photo) delivered 51 quilts to the children at Camp Boggy Creek, whose mission is to enrich the lives of seriously ill children and their families by creating a life-enhancing camp experience that is exciting, empowering, memorable, safe, and medically sound, at no cost to them.

Since the Camp is not too far from my house and it was on Carol's route, she stopped to deliver all the very fine photos herein.

We may want to include Camp Boggy Creek in our future objectives.

**Florida 24th IDA Group
Dutch Treat Luncheons
Tuesday, October 2
Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.
Future dates: December 5.**

List of attendees at the July 11, 2012, Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg.

LastName	FirstMI	Spouse	Address	City	State	Zip4	Phone	email	Unit1	CoBat1
Ames	Gene	Barbara	2711 39th Ave. W	Bradenton	FL	34205-3540	941-756-7623		21st Inf	
Becker	Carol		17741 W Apschawa Rd	Clermont	FL	34714	352-394-5451	carolbecker@juno.com	GSS	
Chalupa	Robert		26932 Honeymoon Ave.	Leesburg	FL	34748-9127	352-728-8672	gimlet0120@aol.com	21st Inf	
Gaston	Zillah	Billy C.	17738 SE 119th Ave Rd	Summerfield	FL	34491-8000	352-347-4257		24th MP	
Hartley	Robert	Lila H.					813-788-4469	LILABOB52H@aol.com	6th Tank	
Hatfield	Robert	Jean	605 Jennifer Dr.	Lady Lake	FL	32159-2429	352-753-3962	bj59infl@aol.com		
Hird	Jim	Dorothy	10620 SW 27th Ave #A-31	Ocala	FL	34476-8014	352-291-2028	jimmydavis63@yahoo.com	26th AAA	C
Inwin	Samuel	Grace	13010 Lincoln Rd.	Riverview	FL	33578-7513	813-677-5012		21st Inf	
Jansen	Theodore S.	Marilyn L.	1507 W Lancaster Ave	Leesburg	FL	34748-6936	352-787-7818	tedj29@aol.com	19th Inf	
Jennings	Frank	Maxine	PO Box 410337	Melbourne	FL	32941-0337	321-751-9103	frank-jennings@cfl.rr.com	5th RCT	
Joseph	Harley	Sandy	10644 Kendale Blvd.	Miami	FL	33176-2771	305-274-2840	ssjfeach@aol.com	34th Inf	Svc
Kohlhof	Keith A.	Cheryl	P.O.Box 960	Trilby	FL	33593-0960	352-583-4301	keithkohlhof@hotmail.com	124th Mil Int	A
Leanza	Sam	Sheila	12200 SE 175 Loop	Summerfield	FL	34491	352-307-7209	leanzasam@yahoo.com		
Miller	Paul	Flossie Kespert	828 Lanark Dr	Inverness	FL	34453-4415	352-344-8277	pmiller151@tampabay.rr.com	21st Inf	
Salakas	Nick	Karen	1520 Abercrombie Way	The Villages	FL	32162	352-561-4949			
Sawyer	Lynette		5435 SE 140th St	Summerfield	FL	34491-3126		BOBALYN52@aol.com	21st Inf	
Simunek	Bill	Janet	5024 Greenbriar Trail	Mt. Dora	FL	32757-9102	352-385-0205	SIMJB@comcast.net	3rd Eng	HQ
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
Wood, Jr.	Woodie	Dottie	2201 NE 125th Terrace Rd.	Silver Springs	FL	34488-2581	352-625-3305		19th Inf	

How I Found My Grandfather—and the 24th IDA by Heidi Edgar, Assoc. Life Member



I did not serve in the 24th Infantry Division; actually, before 2003, I cannot say I had even heard of it.

My grandfather, Elden Lloyd Broadfield (above), was a 25 year old with a wife and three boys aged 1, 3, and 5 years when he was killed in action on February 21, 1945 on Corregidor.

My dad was the three year old. That is all the information we had; my father and I wanted more!

During a search of the National Archives and Records Administration website, I discovered that my father could obtain his father's service file. But sadly, those records burned in the 1973 St. Louis fire.

The folks at NARA were able to produced a packet of papers that "brought my grandfather home."

My dad had told me that when he was young and playing in a basket-

ball game, a man came up to him and handed him a watch that he said was his father's. He said that his father had given it to him in case he did not come back. He went into a cave and the cave blew up!

So, my dad had lived years believing his dad still was in the Pacific somewhere inside a mountain, and that only a uniform and some bricks were in the casket at the funeral for his father.

But we found this was false and that he was indeed in the family cemetery the whole time!

We found out he was with the 24th Infantry Division, 34th Infantry Regiment, and A Company. We know that he died on Corregidor, February 21, 1945. Papers in the packet told us how his remains were moved from an "Isolated grave found near Queen's Tunnel Corregidor P.I.," to the states.

After learning all this, I next went off in search of the 24th Infantry Division, 34th Infantry Regiment, and A Company.

I found a website for the 24th Infantry Division, and read about the history of it. I was surprised that it was then based in Fort Riley, Kansas; I was born there!

I also found that

there was an Association, and was very happy to be able to join. I'm an Associate Life Member.

Several people in the Association sent me information. They told me about "Children of Yesterday," where I read the story of February 21, 1945. I have talked to many people, learned their stories, and learned of Elden's, too.

I tell everyone that I joined the Association to honor my grandfather and the sacrifice that he and many others made.

But I have also been given a gift. I have not met anyone that remembers him specifically, but I met a man whose brother was in the 34th and was killed a couple of days before my grandfather.

I have found out, though, that through knowing you (members of the 24th IDA) and the kind of men you are, I now know him and the kind of man he must have been. I could not ask for more. (Abstracted extensively by ED—TJT)

Florida 24th IDA Group Dutch Treat Luncheons *Tuesday, October 2*

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



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

September 23-26, 2012,  
24th IDA Reunion, New  
Orleans, LA, September 16  
-20.

Tuesday, October 3, FL  
24th IDA Dutch Treat  
Luncheon, Leesburg,

November 1-4, 2012, 5th  
RCT—FL 24th IDA Mini-  
Reunion, St. Augustine,  
FL

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)

### Oct. 2, 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.



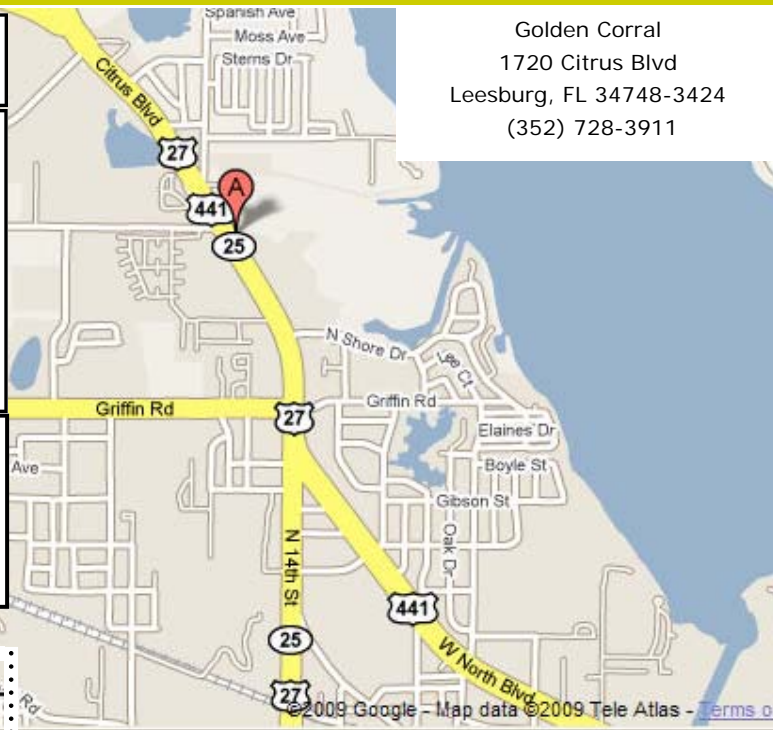
**24th Infantry Division**

**"Victory Division"**

**"First to Fight"**

*The Florida 24th Vets*  
Tom J. Thiel, Editor  
19147 Park Place Blvd.  
Eustis, FL 32736-7262  
352-408-6612

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



**Wanted**—someone to take over leading the  
Florida 24th Group. There are two issues that lend ur-  
gency to this request: health and relocation.