

Florida 24th IDA Vets

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

October — December 2012

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT



Wishing you

a

Merry Christmas

2012!

Whatever the colour, race or creed,
All plain folks are brothers indeed.
Both you and we want life and peace,
If you go home, the war will cease.

Demand Peace!
Stop the War!

*Greetings
from
The Chinese People's
Volunteers*

KOREA 1951

FL 24th—5th RCT Mini-Reunion—the last!



Florida 24th IDA/5th RCT Mini-Reunion Saturday Banquet attendees, from left: Maxine and Frank Jennings, Tony Polemeni and Carol Regalado, Jerry and Judy White, Heidi Edgar, Helen and Bill Kane, Gloria and Cal Narram, Flora and Carl Groth, and Don Maggio.

St. Augustine, November 2012, by Sandy's wrath.
by Tom Thiel.

Although our joint 24th—5th mini-reunion was truly great, we decided that it will be our last.

Just too few members attended. And many of those who did came from considerable distances.

Mega-storm Sandy contributed to this somewhat; Bill and Helen Kane learned that their New Jersey home had been badly flooded.

And new 24th IDA VP Bill Tricarico was planning to come, but cancelled because his home in East Rockaway, NY, was extensively damaged by Sandy.

Cal and Gloria Narram's arrival was delayed until Saturday.

Jerry and Judy White from Kent, CT said that they were not affected

Carl and Flora Groth were first-timers at our reunion; they are from Livonia, MI.

The other out of state attendee was 24th Association President Don Maggio, from NC. Thank you Don, and everyone for coming.

Others there but not shown in the photo were Heidi's husband Matthew, Marysue (Jerry and Judy's daughter) and George Woodward, and yours truly, Tom Thiel.

St. Augustine has been a nice host city, although I only go to reunions to soak in the ambiance of the Hospitality Room!

But we agreed to try something new in the future—a cruise leaving from Port Canaveral, FL, in 2014!

I admit to being a land-lubber, and

have been on no cruises since I left the Gen. Weigel in 1952!

But our Florida 24th Group has been unable to come up with a Mini-Reunion Committee to take on the tremendous responsibilities of running a mini-reunion.

That's what made our joining up with the 5th RCT's mini was so attractive—Helen and Bill, and Tony and Carol, did all of that grunt work.

And we thank them profusely!

But with a cruise, I understand that travel agents do most all of that work.

We have made no contacts yet, but I've been told that tickets may be as low as \$30 to \$50 per cabin per day.

(Cruise Continued on page 3)



Will you join us on a cruise in February 2014?

(Continued from page 2)

So, let me take this opportunity to invite ***all members of the 24th Infantry Division, and of the 5th RCT Associations*** to join with us on a cruise from Port Canaveral, FL in February-or maybe March **2014**.

We picked February 2014 because it was approximately mid-way between the 24th IDA Reunion in Omaha, and the 5th RCT reunion in May, I think in Branson, MO. And it also is when we have a large number of snow birds in FL.

Air fares into Orlando are among the most competitive anywhere, and transportation from there to Port Canaveral can be made a part of the package.

The Space Shuttle **Atlantis** has



been moved to its final resting place in the display area in the Kennedy Space Center's Visitor Center.

Please let us know now if you think you would like to go with us on the cruise.

For the 24th IDA folks, please call

or email me, Tom Thiel, at 352-357-3943 or 352-408-6612 cell, or fl24thida@gmail.com, or for the 5th RCT, please contact Bill Kane at 407-275-7450, or at [kcrabbybill\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:kcrabbybill[at]yahoo.com)

We ask you to contact us now so that we can have some idea of total numbers when we go to the agents.



St. Augustine Business Meeting participants, from left: Tom Thiel, Heidi Edgar, Frank Jennings, Don Maggio, Tony Polemeni, Bill Kane, Frank White, and Carl Groth.

October 2 Luncheon



Delmar and Val Jean Dickson

On October 2, we continued our Quarterly Dutch Treat luncheon tradition at the Golden Corral in Leesburg.

Our core group was there, and we welcomed some new folks too.

Regular attendees this time were: Paul Miller and Flossie Kespert, Sam Irwin, Nick Salakas, Sam Leanza, Paul Boulay, Bill Simunek, Carol Becker, Jim and Becky Bradford, Al and Sandra Yeakel, Don Van Beck, Bill Stokes, Bob Chalupa, and yours truly, Tom Thiel.

And we welcomed Delmar and Val Jean Dickson from Baltimore MD, who saw our notice in the *Taro Leaf*, and called to ask if they could come.

And we welcomed two more first timers Dee Peever, of Wildwood, and her son, Rob, from Toronto, ON, Canada. Dee's husband served



Dee Peever and her son, Rob

in the 24th.

Thank you all for coming, everyone. You are always welcome.

All Taro Leafers are always welcome to our Luncheons. We include all of you who may be visiting in FL too.

24th and KWVA "Connection"

John T. "Sonny" Edwards is a 24th IDA member and also Commander of the Department of Virginia, Korean War Veterans Association.

He has also recently been asked to be the KWVA National Recruiting Director.

Recently, I met Sonny at Daytona Beach for a "working breakfast." He was interested in how we might be able to get new KWVA members from the ranks of Taro Leafers.

I put up a web page telling what KWVA offers Taro Leafers on www.24thida.com, and advised

Sonny how the same might be done in the *Taro Leaf*.

I also put Sonny in touch with the President of the Second Infantry Division Association, and he has agreed to link their website to KWVA Membership. This should help as 2nd ID has had troops in Korea continuously since 1950!

24th IDA delivers personal items to Ft. McCoy Veterans



On September 21, Florida's 24th IDA group delivered a large trunk-load of personal items to the several hundred veteran residents of The VFW Retirement Home, Inc. Ft. McCoy, Florida.

Taro Leafers making the presentation were, from left, Tom Thiel, Carol Becker, Al Lugo (Home Director), Ted Jansen and Paul Miller.

The Home is a "non-medical, independent living retirement home committed to providing a home-like atmosphere offering affordable housing and services to qualified veterans and their spouses. Monthly rates are \$1,615 per couple, \$1,415 per private single room, and \$804.50 for a shared room. www.vfwretirementhome.flvfw.org

We have been going to other veteran's facilities, but especially like VFW Ft. McCoy because we are able to meet and visit with the veterans themselves, and we were treated to a free lunch (see below).



The Florida 24th IDA Group consists of 24th veterans, Gold Star spouses and surviving spouses who meet quarterly for Dutch Treat Lunches. Our next luncheon is Feb 6 in Leesburg.

"Ditty Bags" for our Veterans Personal Items program

At the December 5 luncheon, our group decided to try a "ditty bag" route with our 24th donations to vets program.

Flossie and Carol will donate some of the bags, and the rest of us will get smaller items to put in the bags.

Then all members need to find local

rest homes with veterans and take these bags to them.

Some of the **items needed** for the bags are: all types of toiletry items in smaller dimensions (three to five inches), bar soap, etc.

Items not needed that we asked for before are: socks, tee shirts,

caps and gloves.

Now for the most important part; members are urged to seek out veterans in rest homes in their areas and then take the filled ditty bags to these veterans.

Our December 5 Luncheon



Small, but a really good luncheon and meeting, was the consensus opinion for our December 5 Luncheon.

But apparently I did not get the word out since only 13 of us were in attendance. These were, above, from left: Paul Boulay, Tom Thiel, Carol Becker, Bob Chalupa, Marilyn Jansen, Becky Bradford, Ted Jansen, Jim Bradford, Nick Salakas, Flossie Kespert, Eleanor Hall, Paul Miller, and Duane Hall.

Nevertheless, we had a surprisingly good meeting, covering many items of interest.

Our shut-in brothers and sisters



Members of KWVA Lake County, Chapter 169, included Carol, Ted and me representing the 24th, are planning on visiting Ed Browne, a Pearl Harbor Vet, who is in a nursing home in Wildwood. Ed and Clara attended the first FL 24thIDA Luncheon in 2009 (photo at left) ; since then Clara

has passed away, and Ed is housed in an Alzheimer unit.

We really ought to do more of these acts of kindness!

2013 Luncheons

We discussed the appropriate date for our next luncheon—January versus February. We decided that February 6 was the better choice. That leaves the following dates for Luncheons; May 1; Aug. 7; and Nov. 6.

Items for veterans

Paul, Ted, Carol, and I went to Ft. McCoy Sept 21 (see page 5). This was a very nice visit and the VFW staff there as well as veterans seemed very appreciative.

But, Paul has asked for someone else to manage the program and house this collection. Ted and Paul worked out a satisfactory arrangement that saw Ted taking the boxes home.

Mini-Reunion with 5th RCT in St. Augustine, FL, Nov 1-4. As has been covered before, the decision was made to discontinue. Only nine total attended, including Association President Don Maggio. We instead are considering a cruise out of Cape Canaveral 2014, instead.

The FL Group webpage is on the Association Website, www.24thida.com. Link is on bottom main page.

All Taro Leaf publications that we have been able to find are being scanned and placed on the website; 6,437 pages of TL have been loaded, about that many yet to go.

Verbeck Award: I plan to nominate Merry Helm, for her extensive contributions to the Association as 24th IDA Historian, and ask you to consider supporting her also. Send to: Don Maggio, 411 Concord Rd., Fletcher, NC 28732-9734, 828-684-5931, the24thidav@aol.com.

KW60—Certificates signed by Secretary of Defense Panetta

A couple of years ago, Cong. Rangel sponsored legislation that created the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/index.html>

While they will come to events outside DC, they came to KWVA Chapter 169 on January 25, 2012, in Leesburg at the Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park, I am not proposing that for our FL 24th IDA Group.

But if you served in Korea during the Korean War and do not already have one, please get in touch with me by mid Feb 6, and I will request one for you.



Korean Government 60th Anniversary Peace Medallions

These are medallions issued by the Korean Government recognizing those veterans who served in Korea during the Korean War. They are a set of three in a jewel box, the larger one 1-3/8ths inch in diameter (shown here), another about 3/4-inch on a short pin on ribbon, and a lapel pin.

I received mine at a large event in Tampa last year; about 30 of our Chapter members went.

But, our Chapter recently obtained 20 of these from the Korean Consulate Atlanta, and while I have no assurances any more will be available, I be willing to request them. Again, please let me know.



19th & 34th Infantry Reg. 20th Reunion—Pigeon Forge

Pigeon Forge, TN, April 22-24, 2013

Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson Chapel Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

For reservations: call 888 774-4366 Mention code KVR for \$63 rate

Donations Accepted, Come and have fun!

Our Reunion began in 1994 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Since then they have grown in size and have re-united many wartime buddies. In 2006, the group voted to move to Pigeon Forge in the foothills of the Smoky

Mountains adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Many fine attractions including: Dollywood, shopping malls, many showplaces, and excellent dining.

For information contact: Don Perin, 772-538-2876, email: doc50korea@gmail.com

"Korean Conflict Veteran" Florida auto license plate.

Carol saw one in Clermont. Thiel checked FL statutes and found that indeed the above plate was authorized by 2012 Florida Statutes, Title XXII, Motor Vehicles, Chapter 320.

KWVA Chapter 169 Members universally approved a motion directing me to contact Florida representatives, and the Senator, representing our area to explain our collective dismay

over the FL approval of the term "Korean Conflict" in lieu of "Korean War," for Florida license plates; and to request that they, our representatives in the Florida Legislature, bring about action in the Florida Legislature to correct this insult to Korean Veterans everywhere.

I would like 24th IDA members to support us in our effort.
Tom Thiel



Florida 24th IDA Group 2013 Dutch Treat Luncheons *Feb. 6; May 1; Aug. 7; Nov. 6*

11:45 a.m. Golden Corral

1720 Citrus Blvd, Leesburg, FL 34748

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

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

List of attendees at the Oct 2 & Dec 5, 2012, Dutch Treat Luncheons.

Last Name	First MI	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
Chalupa	Robert	deceased	26932 Honeymoon Ave.	Leesburg	FL	34748-9127	352-728-8672	gimlet0120@aol.com	21st Inf	
Dickson	Delmar E.		10005 Crane Lane	Middle River	MD	21220-1429	410-687-8064		21st Inf	1st Bn
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	dhall22@comcast.net	26th AAA B	
Irwin	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	
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	
Peever	Doreen		113 Big Oak Lane	Wildwood	FL	34785	(352) 748-0549	doreenmpeever@aol.com		
Salakas	Nick	Karen	1520 Abercrombie Way	The Villages	FL	32162	352-561-4949			
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
Van Beck	Don	Julia	32004 Harris Rd	Tavares	FL	32778-4630	352-343-1529	seafari.vb@juno.com	34th Inf	HHC
Yeakel	Albert	Sandra	9386 SW 89th Ter # B	Ocala	FL	34481-7552	352-854-1969		24th Med Amb Co	



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

**Feb. 5, 2013**, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg.

**Apr. 22-24, 2013**, 19th & 34th Inf. Reg. 20th Reunion, Pigeon Forge, TN

**May 1, 2013**, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg, or alternative location TBD.

**Aug. 7, 2013**, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg, or alternative location TBD.

Leon, Leesburg, or alternative location TBD.

**Sept. 22-25, 2013**, 24th IDA Reunion, Louisville, KY.

**Nov. 6, 2013**, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Leesburg, or alternative location TBD.

**Dec. 4, 2013**, FL 24th IDA Christmas Sit Down Luncheon, Leesburg.

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you have email, please tell me by email at [fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com)

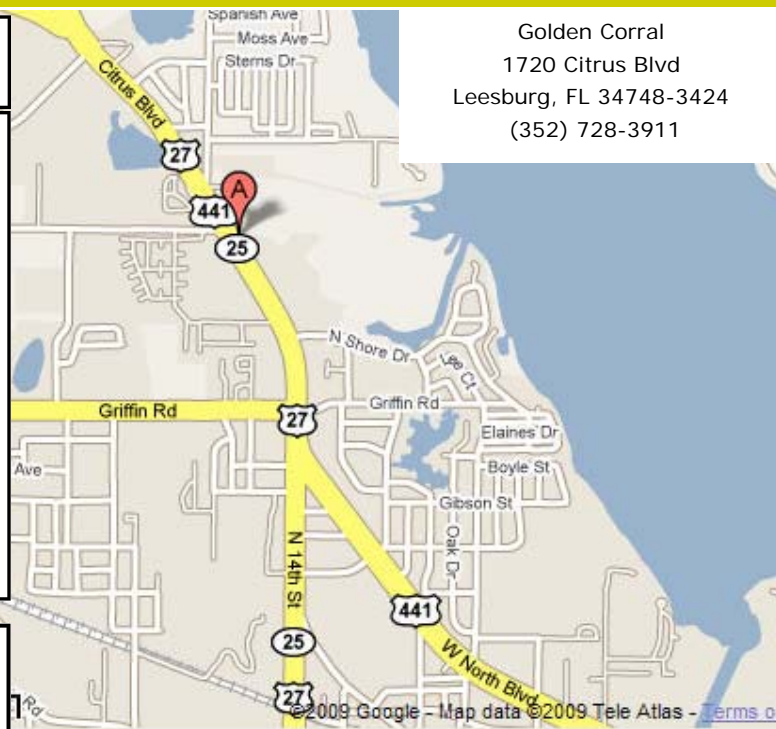
This newsletter produced and delivered without any support other than what is realized from the 50:50 drawings held at the Luncheons.



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

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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 urgency to this request: health and relocation.