

Florida 24th IDA Vets

Oct-Nov-Dec 2013

24th Infantry Division Association



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



November 7 luncheon!

Below, from left standing: Carol Becker of Clermont, Ed Schulte of Kissimmee, Nick Salakas of The Villages, Sam Irwin of Riverview, Paul Boulay The Villages, Bob Peters of Leesburg, and Bill Simunek of Mount Dora. Seated: Woody Wood of Silver Springs, Tom Thiel of Eustis, Dottie Wood, Yvonne Schulte, and Gene and Barbara Ames of Bradenton.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



A few words from the old man

As you can see from the photo on front page, our turnout for the November Dutch Treat Luncheon was quite small. But we enjoyed ourselves anyway.

The day before I received word from Paul Miller that Flossie Kespert had fallen and incurred some serious injuries. We hope that she has recovered and that she and Paul can be at our January 8 luncheon.

I got word from some others also that they would not be able to be there. We didn't hear from our "Miami regulars," Harley and Sandy Joseph; we hope they are OK. And our regular Ted Jansen confided in me that "he just plain forgot."

Welcome Ed and Yvonne Schulte

We enjoyed having Ed and Yvonne Schulte of Kissimmee join with us for the first time, and sincerely hope that they will continue coming.

Carol Becker Donates 24th Patch

If you look above Paul Boulay's right shoulder in the photo on the front page, you will see a nice replica of the 24th Division Patch. Carol Becker made that specifically for us to hang up at our meetings. As usual Carol goes well above and be-

yond—thank you Carol. And thank you for always bringing your camera!

Luncheons to continue

We again polled those present for their luncheon desires for 2014; everyone wanted to carry on. So, we have asked Golden Corral Manager Larry Travis and he has reserved the private room for Jan. 8, Mar. 5, May 7, Sept. 3 and Nov 5 at 11:30 a.m., at the Leesburg Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus Blvd Leesburg.

We would of course be happy to work with anyone of you who would like to sponsor it in your area. That would allow us to visit other parts of Florida.

If you'd like to sponsor one please let me know; it would not have to be on the above dates. I'd really like for someone to do that as that may be a way to grow our group.

Vets helping Vets

Several of you brought bags of items for the homeless living in the Ocala National Forest. And please remember to continue bringing items to future meetings.

Ted Jansen has agreed to accept our donations and seeing to it that they get to VHV in Ocala. Ted suggests we bring those items we might otherwise take to Goodwill or another charity. Of course they will also take \$\$\$\$. So, clean out your closets, houses, and garages, and to bring to our Jan. 8 meeting.

Since VHV is a 501c3, I presume you could have a receipt for tax purposes if you wish.

Bob Peters from Salute

We were happy to have my good friend Bob Peters, moderator of LakeFrontTV in Leesburg to come to our luncheon. Bob mentioned that he had been to homeless camps in the ONF and had seen first hand what Hank Wittier and VHV does for the vets and their families.

I wanted Bob to meet our group so that perhaps he might interview some of you; I know your experiences would make for interesting programming!

Two things may interfere with this: many of us are outside Lake County, and new management has taken over the station and future programming is uncertain. Bob suggests we could get around the first by doing it the same way we do the luncheons, i.e., format it around Lake County vets group, but bring in members from other counties. I will work with Bob on this as soon as I know what Salute's future beholds.

I hope to see many more of you at our January 8 luncheon. I still have visions of this growing similarly to what the West Coast Reunion now is.

Merry Christmas to all. Tom Thiel



The Gimlet

by Gene Ames, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, Korea, Task Force Smith, 24th IDA Life - #898



Just beneath the forest floor
sewn among the roots
There remain the last of him –
good old Moody's boots.

When he laid down there long ago,
scarcely were there trees,
just rocky, bloody soil
where in pressed Moody's knees.

The air now sweet with forest scent
so one could hardly know
that underneath that canopy
lie the bones of a G.I. Joe.

The rifled shot hit Moody square,
impacted in his chest.
His heart beat frantically within
the hollow of his breast.

Then another round came in,
hit Moody in the thigh.
Moody's rifle blazed away
as he heard someone cry –

"That man's a tough one, yes he is
Hit him twenty times or more
He kept coming at us yet
just like a Gimlet bore.

So there is seen a shallow pit
just beyond the spot
where Moody gave all he had
but mankind soon forgot.

Baptized at Cedar Mountain
or some other killing field
It doesn't really matter now
that Moody be revealed.

But washed in the fire
like those who went before
Brave lads stood their ground
For what? Peace forever more?

For many others followed him
and paid the price for peace
Laid their life upon the line
to make all warfare cease.

Well, these did not die in vain,
nor any other soul
who took the sword of righteousness
to fill that vacant hole

Where Moody gave all he could
to defend the way that's right
His boots cry out from the forest floor
"Give us peace," each day and night.

Now a Gimlet's not just any guy.
He's unusual to say the least
for he's filled the gap and held the hill
against the raging beast.

Welcome, all you Moodys
to the highest hall of fame
for those are your boots, buddy
and Gimlet is your name.

"Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm, All is Bright," Central Front North Korea, 1951.

by Tom J Thiel, Weapons Platoon, "E" Company, 19th Regiment

Christmas Eve 1951—a most interesting evening!

We were still in that Chinese bunker, the "mansion" along the trail of a side road looking up to hill 747. Why we could almost stand up in that bunker!

Everyone was just certain that the Chinese would attack us on our "Christian" holiday.

Shortly after full darkness set in, the Chaplin's troop drove a 6-by truck up the main valley and stopped on the road about 100 yards or so behind our position. They



brought with them a well amplified speaker system. The photo caption in 24th Forward reads: "Chaplains and officers of the 19th 'Rock of Chickamauga' Regiment caroled on Christmas Eve....Bitter cold did not dampen the celebrant's ardor."

Soon they were vigorously singing Christmas carols for us grunts in the foxholes!

My mind drifted back to family and friends, to Mass and to gifts.

The last thing I wanted to be reminded of at that moment was that I was in Korea on Christmas Eve! And I yelled my displeasure as loud as I could and "suggested" they depart and leave us alone. Others yelled their same displeasure. And none of us was too kind or polite either! I was sullen; I was mad as Hell! I'm Sorry.

The carolers soon left.

But No Man's Land Was Alive, or so We Thought!

There was something going on out there in no man's land a few hundred yards in front of the barbed wire barricade in front of our foxholes. We could hear noises.

At least we thought we heard noises. And we thought we could detect movement. But we really could not see anything.

We all "just knew" that the Reds would hit us on Christmas Eve, especially after all that caroling they would figure we were ripe for the taking.

There was a lot of rifle fire along the lines where the riflemen were deployed, but I believe this was totally the product of antsy GI's just like I was.

There was no enemy fire

coming into our positions!

Our bunker was connected to Easy Company's sound powered telephone system and there was a lot of voice traffic about the disturbance. Somewhere on the circuit, some Easy Company GI said they wished they could see what was out there. They wanted our artillery support unit to fire a flare.

When we had prepared our defenses I had set out a number of tripwire flares in front of the barbed wire barriers in front of us. These were simply a base plate onto which was affixed a small tube into which we inserted the flare, somewhat similar to a fireworks rocket. We then ran a piano wire from the flare to our foxhole. All I had to do to fire a flare was to simply yank the wire.

I pulled wire number one! The projectile soared up a couple hundred feet in the air, ignited and floated slowly back down on a parachute. Our whole area was well lighted for perhaps 15 seconds or so. (This was not the intended application of these flares; they were to be placed along a trail with the tripwire strung across the trail about 10 inches above the ground. When an enemy soldier came along they would trip the flare and disclose their location.)

I couldn't see anything or anybody out there while the flare

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

lighted the area, but voices on the telephone cried that my flare was just what they needed.

I jerked wire number two, and the scenario was repeated. A bit later our 81's began to launch much larger flares, again with the same result.

No enemy troops ever appeared that night. And sometime after midnight the excitement eventually died down. But we remained on high alert nevertheless!

By then the carolers were snuggled back at Headquarters into their warm squad tents with cots and sleeping bags! Their intentions were in the right place and I should have been more appreciative, but I hated where I was!

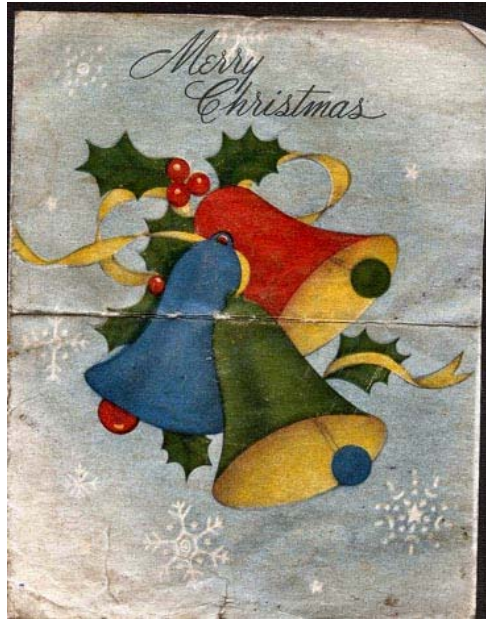
Merry Christmas GI; You Go Home The War Will Cease!

When daylight arrived we could see a fairly large dark object on the road maybe 500 yards in front of our position.

We formed a patrol to go out to see what was there. Much to our surprise we found a large poncho the Chinese had left on the road. It was filled with Christmas cards and gifts!

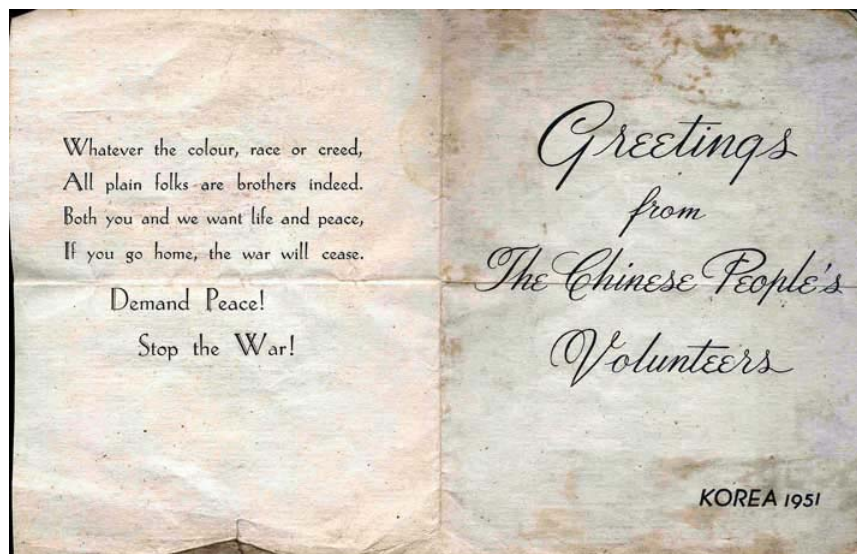
After determining that they weren't booby-trapped, we brought the poncho with gifts and cards back to our lines. The

gifts were mere trinkets and didn't make much of an impression on us. I didn't keep any, I wish now that I had.



But I did keep one of the greeting cards the Chinese troops left for us. It has remained in my deteriorating photo scrapbook 62 years now! Its front is shown above; and its inside is shown below.

"If you go home the war will cease!" "Demand Peace! Stop the War!"



It certainly had a sobering effect on this 21 year-old draftee GI that Christmas!

There was another version of Christmas Card left for us by the Reds. It was even more thought provoking! I was not able to get one of those; but years later was able to obtain a copy of one from E Company's 4th Platoon Sgt. Mel Frederick of Minnesota.

On the front was a photo of two men on a beach with young ladies at their table. This was captioned: "Mr. Moneybags is in Florida this Christmas!"

On the back was a very cold and snowy scene with a row of GIs trudging up a hill. Its caption read: "Where are you? In Korea" "You risk your life, Big Business rakes in the dough!"

Their intentions were an obvious effort to get us to go home and the war would stop; to remove our form of freedom and substitute Communism.

But none of us did! Years later we realized that Korea was not a "Forgotten War," not a "Lost War."

Quite to the contrary; we drove the first nail in the coffin of Communism! We won!

There were no casualties on that trip to the front line.

And for our Christmas Day 1951 dinner, we ate cold C-rations!



24th Infantry Division Association 66th Annual Reunion



Holiday Inn, Hurstbourn, Louisville, KY

September 22-25, 2013



Some selected photos from the 66th 24th IDA Annual Reunion in Louisville, KY.

There were about 50 members registering with a total of about 160 people attending.

Above left is a Reunion Photo Book of 24 pages that I put together from some 460 photos provided by The Reunion Guy. This book is available in printed form from BG Gene Spicer, and www.24thida.com

Top right, Glen Carpenter received the Verbeck Award. Merry Helm received the greatest number of member votes by orders of magnitude, but Director Morrison objected.




Ceremony during the Memorial Banquet, and scene of restored vehicles provided by Spicer and others. TJT



The 24th Infantry Division Association

Founded August 1945 on a Philippine Island beach

Home	 Welcome to the 24th Infantry Division Association. If you have ever worn the Taro Leaf shoulder patch this site is for you. Wherever you wore the Taro Leaf, whether at Pearl Harbor, in the South Pacific, Japan, Korea, Fort Stewart or Fort Riley, Germany during the Cold War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm or any the other numerous places the 24th Infantry Division served our Nation, this site is for you. This site is mostly about the Association, but the second button, "24th Division," is reserved for the collection of historical documentation of the Victory Division. We know it is incomplete, and would welcome information from your era of service to the 24th. We welcome you to browse through the pages of our site to see what we do to retain the memories and the comradeship of the 24th. Frankly, we need everyone who served the 24th, especially those serving in later years. We hope that you will consider <u>becoming one of us</u> . Click on the links below
24th Division	
Taro Leaf	
Reunions	
Officers	
TAPS	
Stories	
Looking For	
POW/MIA	
Membership	
Links	Recent Additions: 2013 Louisville Reunion Photo Book Thomas Hoke Compere Wartime Letters, 1942-45 19th Inf. Reg. Monument-GA Gay's Taro Leaf Index USA Today's 60th Anniv Bill Funchess Lady Tigers, by Estabrook Hist of 24th Desert Storm 24th 2013 Reunion 5th RCT, incl. Newsletters Medal of Honor Association Birth Assoc Presidents Constitution and Bylaws Business Meetings Verbeck Award 24th Memorials Florida 24thIDA Audio Books How to Join Using PDF Files How to search this site Revisit Korea Requesting Military Records Quartermaster Member Photos Contribute Your Oral History Korean War & Service Vets Assn Donating 24th materials Carmel and Korean Tiger Death March
Contact us	

www.24thida.com

How often do you use your association website? A lot of work is involved in maintaining the site; I hope our members are using it. I receive contacts from the outside world that others are finding it.

If you do not have a computer, have you ever gone to your local library and asked them to bring it up for you to look at? Or asked your grandchildren to let them examine "Grandpa's Division?"

This describes some of what is on your site, the largest online source of material on the 24th Victory Division ever assembled.

For example, the Taro Leaf section alone has nearly 10,000 pages of

about 300 Taro Leafs, each as a separate document! And we are still missing some!

The Home Page (12/19/2013), where you go when you log on to www.24thida.com, is shown above.

Note the brown buttons on the left margin. Each takes you to a separate section. For example, the Taro Leaf button takes you to the page listing in tabular form by year (columns) and Number or Month (rows). By merely clicking on the issue you want it will then be downloaded for you to view or to print if you wish.

The "24th Division" page contains much of the History of the 24th.

Also, note the bold lettered and underlined phrases in the lower third of the page. Each of these goes to a page or document.

One of these is devoted to Florida 24th IDA in second line that is essentially our own website.

Those marked "Recent Additions:" are intended to call the viewer's attention to new items. These will be moved to another site later on.

If you do not have high speed internet connection, this site is not for you.

Try your site today; let me know what you think about it!

TJT

Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 8, 2014, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Mar. 5, 2014, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Apr 29-May 4, 2014. 5th RCT National Reunion, Cocoa Beach, FL. Frank Jennings, 321-751-9103.

May 7, 2014, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Sep. 3, 2014, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Sept 18-21, 2014. 67th Annual 24th IDA Reunion, Omaha, NE.

Nov. 5, 2014, FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheons

Jan. 8, Mar. 5, May 7, Sept. 3 & Nov 5
11:30 a.m.

Leesburg Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus
Blvd Leesburg, FL 34748

Space limited to 50; contact:

352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net
352-408-6612 fl24ida@gmail.com

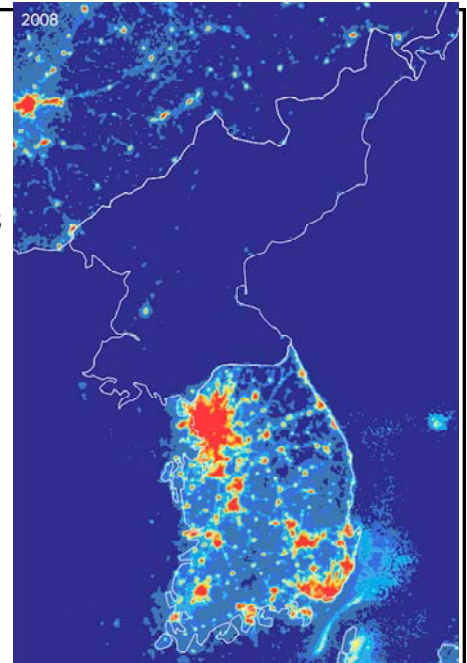
Eagle Canes

The bad news is that the Lake County Carvers Club no longer has funds for making Eagle Canes gratis for veterans.



The good news is that one of the Club members is still making Eagle Canes! But they are no longer free; he charges \$35 each. Please contact: Ralph Rossignol, 8001 Arcadian Court, Mt Dora, FL 32757, 352-385-0483, rossignolrpp@comcast.net for information.

In my keynote speech at the 60th Anniversary Celebration in Leesburg on July 27, I used the 2008 night satellite image of the Korean Peninsula (shown at right) to illustrate one of the great benefits resulting from the Korean War—a stark contrast in economic vitality between communist North Korea, and a free, elected republic in South Korea.



Wanted— I would like someone consider leading the Florida 24th Group. It does not require that much time. And I have a situation wherein I may suddenly not be able to serve in this role. Call me at 352-408-6612. TJT

Lyrics to THE ARMY SONG. It is played to the music of the Caissons go Marching Along. Go to www.24thida.com Audio to hear it to music.

Verse: March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

Chorus: First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain: Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Please contact your U.S. Senators and Congressperson to ask them to support H.R. 2794 -- Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act (Introduced in House - IH) This is

another cause initiated by and being aggressively pursued by Bill Allen, 24th IDA Life 1695, KWVA CID14; the U.S. Postal Service has rejected this simply as a request of Cong. Bilirakis and Cong. Young. Congressional action is necessary. Call or write your U.S. Sen. and U.S. Rep. to ask them to support HR2794 NOW! (You could simply mail this sheet with your request.)

HR 2794 IH

113th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 2794



gress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that--

(1) the Department of Defense reports that more than 83,000 service members remain missing since World War II;

(2) the United States Government has an obligation to achieve the fullest possible accounting for the Americans who have gone missing while serving the country and to leave no one unaccounted for in future conflicts;

(3) in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the first flag other than the Flag of the United States to fly over the White House in Washington, DC;

(4) on August 10, 1990, Public Law 101-355 designated the POW/MIA flag as `The Symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to re-

You Must Act Now!! Contact your Representative and Senators asking them to support this action NOW!!

solving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.'; and

(5) the POW/MIA flag should maintain continued visibility as a constant reminder of the plight of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

SEC. 3. PERPETUAL POW/MIA STAMP.

(a) In General- In order to continue to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have been prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, the Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp suitable for that purpose and depicts the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

(b) Definition- For purposes of this Act, the term `forever stamp' means a definitive stamp which meets the postage required for first-class mail up to one ounce in weight, and which retains full validity for that purpose even if the rate of that postage is later increased.

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 23, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, and for other purposes.

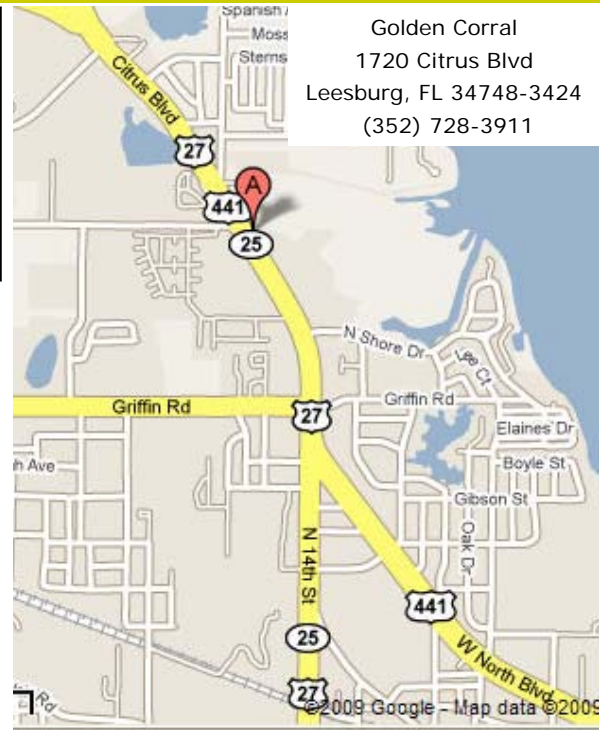
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Con-

Florida 24th IDA Group 2013 Dutch Treat Luncheons

Jan. 8, 2014 11:30 a.m. Golden Corral
1720 Citrus Blvd, Leesburg, FL 34748

This newsletter produced and delivered with only the financial support realized from the 50:50 drawings held at the Luncheons.

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you have email, please send Tom Thiel an email at fl24thida@gmail.com or call at 352-408-6612



FL 24th IDA Web Page

www.24thida.com — click on Florida 24th IDA at bottom of home page



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



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