

# Florida 24th IDA Vets

Jan—Mar 2014

24th Infantry Division Association



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



Jan. 8, Florida 24<sup>th</sup> IDA luncheon get together at the Eustis Golden Corral. Left to right standing:

Don Van Beck of Tavares, Sam Irwin of Riverview, Joel Briggs of

Summerfield, Carol Becker of Clermont, Nick Salakas of The

*(Jan. 8, Continued on page 2)*



Mar. 5, photo description: Standing: Ellie Hall; Nick Salakas (21st) of The Villages, Joyce and Paul Boulay (34th) The Villages; Ted and Marilyn Jensen (19th) of

Leesburg; Maxine Jennings; Don Van Beck (34th) Tavares; Bill Simunek (3rd Eng) of Mount Dora; Yvonne and Ed Schulte (3rd) of Kissimmee and WI; and Woodie

Wood, Jr. (19th) of Silver Spring. Sitting: Herb Betz (19th) of Eustis

*(Mar. 5, Continued on page 2)*

*(Jan. 8, Continued from page 1)*

Villages, Bill Simunek of Mount Dora, Eleanor Hall, and Nancy, Bill



Simunek's daughter of New York.

Seated, from left: Andrew Thiel; Tom Thiel of Eustis; John Thiel of S. Lake Tahoe, CA; Ted and Marilyn Jansen of Leesburg; Duane Hall of Leesburg and MI; Herbert and Joyce Betz of Eustis and MI.

Photo left: Tom Thiel was proud to have his grandson Andrew (left) and son John who live in S. Lake Tahoe CA with him for the Luncheon.

*(Mar. 5, Continued from page 1)*

and MI; Duane Hall (26th AAA) of Leesburg and MI; Joyce Betz; Tom Thiel (19th Inf) of Eustis; Frank Jennings (5th RCT) of Melbourne; Dottie Wood, and Carol Becker (GSS – Bob Becker, [21st]) of Clermont.

Paul Miller (21st Inf) and Flossie Kespert of Inverness left before photo was taken.



## H.R. 2794 — Perpetual POW/MIA Forever Stamp Act (Introduced in House - IH)

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.

**Please contact your U.S. Congressperson and ask them to support H.R. 2794 -- Please call or write immediately.**

This effort initiated by Bill (Helen) Allen, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL, 33715-1730, 19th Inf, C, POW 01 Jan 51 to 11 Aug 53, wallen2[at]tampabay.rr.com, 24th IDA Life #1695, KWVA P003331, FL Chapter #14 - Suncoast Chapter. Bill contacted Congressmen Bilirakis (FL) and Young (FL) who in turn petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to issue a Forever Perpetual POW/MIA stamp; the U.S.P.S. refused. Therefore, Cong. Bilirakis has introduced H.R. 2794 to direct

**Don't turn the page; call or write your congressperson now!**

## Leesburg Golden Corral Closed

But there is one in Eustis! And we have gone there twice; January 8 and March 5. The one in Eustis is about 14 miles south (east) on U.S. 441 from where the one was in Leesburg.

And that may have cost us some regular attendees. But I think we gained some new 24th Vets too.

I think most of us felt that the food layout at Eustis was quite good both times.

But at least one of us obtained some chicken that was quite raw, and when they spoke to management, they were not at all pleased with the encounter.

So, I explored the Golden Corral in the The Villages. Their private room was already taken on May 7; I was told to call before I come on the day of the meeting and ask for preferred seating. That didn't seem acceptable, so I declined.

There are Golden Corrals in Inverness and Clermont, but I didn't want to make that much of a change without your input.

**So, we are going to meet at Eustis again on May 7!**

## Luncheons to continue

As said before, our next Luncheon will be **May 7 at the Eustis**

**Golden Corral 15810 Highway 441**, about 14 miles South (East) of

where the Leesburg GC was. You can enter from Dillard St, which is where the Lake County Tax Office is located (it has green Hwy signs both directions on 441). There is also a Sonny's at the same location.

We are planning to have luncheons on **Sept. 3 and Nov 5** at 11:30 a.m., however as of this writing our location is still undetermined.

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.

## Tallahassee anyone?

Heidi Edgar has invited us to come to Tallahassee for a Luncheons. That would likely be on a Friday. Heidi please consider one for October. I will to comng, and hope we can also get others as well.

## Welcome Herb and Joyce Betz!

We enjoyed having Herb and Joyce join with us for the first time in January, and for returning in March. I met Herb and Joyce at Post 41 American Legion in Eustis.

## Donations to Veterans

Over the past year or so Ted Jan- sen has been accepting our donat-

ed items and has seen to it that they are presented on our behalf to Veterans helping Veterans at Ocala. They use them in serving Veterans and their families living in the Ocala National Forest. This has gone well and thank Ted for this.

However, I have received a complaint recently that we receive no recognition or publicity for our contributions, and that we ought to return to the VA Hospital in Gainesville.

In all fairness, all we received from Gainesville was a letter. Any publicity we got was what we sent to the media ourselves.

VHV Executive Director Hank Whittier, and several of his assistants have spoken to at least two of our meetings. Maybe we need to photograph our donations or a couple of us take materials to Ocala and get photos to send to the media if we wish to have publicity.

Ted will continue 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 bring to our May 7 meeting. Since VHV is a 501c3, I presume you could have a receipt for tax purposes if you wish. Please continue bringing items to future meetings.

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

## Carol Becker Donates 24th Patch

Carol Becker made the nice replica of the 24th Division Patch shown in all the photos. As usual Carol goes well above and beyond—thank you Carol. And thank you for always bringing your camera!

## Change Meeting Date

Don Van Beck has asked us to change our meeting date from the first Wednesday to another week day; he now has a conflict. I think we discussed this before, and plan to do so again at next meeting. Maybe second Tuesday?? Please email me days you cannot meet.

## 24th IDA & 5th RCT to Exchange Reunion Ads

Frank Jennings, Secretary Treasurer and Co Editor (with Maxine) of the 5th RCT Association and I on behalf of the 24th IDA (with president's approval) agreed to begin carrying each others Reunion Ads in our respective publications, the 5th RCT Korea Association Newsletter, and the Taro Leaf.

Recent issues of the 5th RCT Korea Association Bi-monthly newsletter may be viewed at  
[http://24thida.com/24th\\_division/units\\_5thrcr.html](http://24thida.com/24th_division/units_5thrcr.html)

## Bob Peters Salute TV

You recall Bob Peters, moderator of

Salute (to veterans) which airs on LakeFrontTV in Leesburg, who came to our Nov 2013 luncheon.

Bob tells me that he would like to have our group come in to record one of his Salute programs. He is unable to specify a date right at the moment, however, because of some equipment concerns. I will continue to monitor and advise you, perhaps by phone and on a few days notice.

## Verbeck Award Deadline is July 15!

I meant to talk to you about this year's Award at our last luncheon.

You will recall that last year our group strongly supported our 24th IDA Historian, Merry Helm for the Verbeck Award. She had over 20 total ballots to two for the actual recipient.

But because she is an Honorary Associate Member and nowhere in the bylaws or in historical materials is membership defined in terms of Verbeck Award recipients, the Board yielded to the objections of Director Morrison, and rejected Merry as a viable candidate.

We need to now move to this year's

## 24th IDA 67th Annual Reunion Sep 17-21



- Greet your fellow Taro Leafers
- Local Field Trips in area
- Banquet
- Free Hospitality Suite
- 

Make your plans now to attend the 2014 Annual Reunion to be at Omaha, NE on September 17 - 21, 2014.

24th Infantry Division Association  
Pres. Don Maggio  
828-684-5931  
[the24thidavp@aol.com](mailto:the24thidavp@aol.com)

Verbeck Award. Please fulfill your membership duty to vote. Ballots are in the last Taro Leaf on the inside and outside of the back cover. THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR A MEMBER NOW.

I am going to cast my ballot for John Dunn, who has quietly and very effectively fulfilled the duties of Secretary/Treasurer for the last several years.

## Thank you!

Thanks to those of you who have been coming to our Luncheons; I appreciate your efforts.

We miss those of you who came to earlier Luncheons, but are no longer coming.

If you have suggestions for enhancing and growing our attendance please let me know.

Tom Thiel

## 5th Regimental Combat Team Association

### 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REUNION

COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

TUESDAY APRIL 29, 2014 THRU MAY 4, 2014

HOTEL: COMFORT INN AND SUITES ON THE BEACH  
 ADDRESS: 3901 NORTH ATLANTIC AVE. ,COCOA BEACH FLORIDA 32931  
 PHONE NO; 321-783-2221 FAX 321-783-0461  
 TOLL FREE: 800-247-2221

DISTANCE FROM ORLANDO AIRPORT 47 MILES  
 DISTANCE FROM MELBOURNE AIRPORT 15 MILES

WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, PLEASE ASK ABOUT  
 TRANSPORTATION, THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA COST  
 OF \$ 60.00 PER PERSON ROUND TRIP



BY CHOICE HOTELS

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: SOUTH BOUND OR NORTHBOUND INTERSTATE 95  
 EXIT TO STATE ROAD 520 EASTBOUND. GO OVER CAUSEWAYS  
 TO NORTH ATLANTIC AVE. TURN RIGHT AND GO ½ OF A CITY BLOCK AND TURN LEFT INTO  
 SIDE STREET AND INTO THEIR PARKING LOT. ANY QUESTIONS, CALL THE HOTEL

HOTEL INFORMATION: 170 ROOMS TOTAL, 50 OCEAN VIEW SUITES HI-RISE,  
 40 COURTYARD SUITES, 80 DOUBLE QUEEN ROOMS. 8 HANDICAP ROOMS.  
 FOOD & BEVERAGE INFORMATION: COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST EVERY  
 DAY 6A.M. TO 9A.M. OFF HOTEL LOBBY

NO CHARGE FOR R.V. PARKING. (NO HOOKUPS ALLOWED) MUST BE  
 REGISTERED IN HOTEL

OUTDOOR POOL AND PATIO...SHORT DISTANCE TO FAMOUS COCOA BEACH

#### ROOM AND DAILY RATE INFORMATION

# OF ROOMS REQUESTED: 50 Till the March 30 Deadline

ROOM TYPE	DAILY RATE	# OF PERSONS
STANDARD DOUBLE QUEEN - RUN OF THE HOUSE	\$88.00	1-4
ONE BEDROOM SUITE - COURTYARD VIEW	\$110.00	1-4 OR 1-6
ONE BEDROOM SUITE - OCEAN VIEW	\$119.00	1-4 OR 1-6

- ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO THE PREVAILING LOCAL AND STATE TAXES (IF APPLICABLE), CURRENTLY 11%
- RATES ARE NON-COMMISSIONABLE
- DAILY RATE INCLUDES A HOT "YOUR MORNING BREAKFAST" SERVED 6:00 - 9:00 AM  
 IN OUR CORAL BREAKFAST ROOM, WI-FI, HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS AND PARKING FOR OVERNIGHT  
 HOTEL GUESTS.



## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REUNION

COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

CHECK-IN TIME 4:00 P.M.

CHECK-OUT TIME 11:00 A.M.

COMFORT INN AND SUITES OF COCOA BEACH FLORIDA

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE MARCH 30TH 2014

THE RATES ARE GOOD FOR 2 DAYS BEFORE AND 2 DAYS AFTER REUNION  
MENTION THIS WHEN YOU CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AND STATE DAYS.

TUESDAY      REGISTRATION IN HOSPITALITY ROOM AT 4:00 TO 10:00  
APRIL 29      SNACKS WILL BE SERVED IN ROOM

WEDNESDAY...REGISTRATION 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. HOSPITALITY ROOM, HOWEVER  
APRIL 30      ROOM WILL BE CLOSED DURING TOUR.  
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.  
TOUR IS SCHEDULED, BUSES WILL LOAD AT 12:15 AND WILL LEAVE  
PROMPTLY AT 12:30 TO "KNIGHTS ARMAMENT" CO. TOUR FREE, BUS  
\$10.00 P.P.  
FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED IN HOSPITALITY ROOM BY ASSOCIATION  
AFTER RETURN ABOUT 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY : REGISTRATION 9:00. A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. IN HOSPITALITY ROOM, HOWEVER  
MAY 1      ROOM WILL BE CLOSED DURING TOUR.  
TOUR IS SCHEDULED FOR THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER  
A BUS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A TOUR GUIDE, COST IS \$69.00  
P.P. FOR BUS, TOUR AND GUIDE., WILL LEAVE HOTEL APPROX 8:30 A.M.  
FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED IN HOSPITALITY ROOM BY ASSOCIATION  
AFTER RETURN ABOUT 6:00 P.M.

FRIDAY      REGISTRATION. 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. HOSPITALITY ROOM  
MAY 2      EXECUTIVE MEETING IN HOSPITALITY ROOM AT 10:00 A.M.  
BUFFET LUNCH FOR ALL IN ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED AT 12:00  
COST \$ 5.00 P.P. .  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN SAME ROOM AT 1:30  
WE ARE WORKING ON EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY      REGISTRATION 9: A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. IN HOSPITALITY ROOM  
MAY 3      AUCTION SET-UP BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.  
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN  
AUCTION BEGINS AT 1:00 P.M. TIL 3:00 P.M.

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BANQUET ROOM AND BAR OPENS AT 6:00 P.M.  
ALL SHOULD BE SEATED BY 6:30, FOR THE HONOR GUARD  
CEREMONY AND PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.  
ENTERTAINMENT AFTER DINNER  
SPEAKER: COLONEL DANNY MCKNIGHT  
CHAPLAIN  
NEW OFFICERS & NEW PRESIDENT INSTALLED  
CHAPLAIN, PHOTOS

HOSPITALITY WILL RE-OPEN AFTER DINNER..  
SUNDAY      REMEMBER CHURCH SERVICE AT 8:00 A.M. IN HOSPITALITY ROOM

For registration or other information please contact Frank Jennings at PO Box 410337, Melbourne, FL,

32941-0337, Ph: 321-751-9103; email: frank-jennings@cfl.rr.com



## The 24th Infantry Division Association

Founded August 1945 on a Philippine Island beach

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### 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 [becoming one of us](#).

Click on the links below

**Recent Additions:** [Cacciola's Historical 955th FAB](#) [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](#) [5th RCT, incl. Newsletters](#)

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## 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 9,865 pages of more than 300 Taro Leafs, each as a separate document! And we are still missing some!

The Home Page (Mar 21, 2014),

where you go when you log on to [www.24thida.com](http://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.

I noted the Medal of Honor link; it will need be updated as two of those new awardees (by President Obama just this week) were in the 24th, one with the 21st regiment and the other with the 5th RCT.

As you know, I was Editor of the Taro Leaf for about three years. During that time I became concerned that some quite unique stories were not getting outside our ranks "for the world to see." My inquiries, including the Library of Congress, all resulted in the advise to "put them on the internet."

So, this is what I have done. I am proud of it; I hope you are also.

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

TJT

## Mark Your Calendars

### **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 Lunch-

eon, TBD.

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

**TBD.** FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Tallahassee.

**Nov. 5, 2014.** FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, TBD.

**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

## 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 to order.

## 19th & 34th RGT Regiments Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion April 28-30, 2014

**Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson  
Chapel Road, Pigeon Forge, TN  
37868**

**For reservations: call 888 774-4366  
Mention code KVR for \$63 rate  
No Fees, Come and have fun!**

**This will be our 21st reunion. It is in  
Pigeon Forge in the foothills of the  
Smoky Mountains. This location offers  
many fine attractions including: world  
famous Dollywood, shopping malls,  
many showplaces, and excellent dining.  
For information: Call Don Perrin  
772 538-2876**

**Lyrics to THE ARMY SONG.** It is played to the music of the Caissons go Marching Along. Go to [www.24thida.com](http://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.

## FL Bill will replace Korean Conflict with Korean War on FL Licenses

Leesburg, FL, February 26, 2013: KWVA Chapter 169 (Lake County, FL) had the very distinct honor of having Rep. Larry Metz, FL District 32, Florida Legislature, tell them



the status of his Bill, HB 559. This bill addresses language in Florida statutes and on Florida license plates to revise references from Korean Conflict & Vietnam Era to Korean War & Vietnam War, respectively. He also gave us an excellent overview of Freedom as granted to us by the Constitution of the United States.

This all came about because CID169 brought the issue to Mr. Metz's attention. A couple of years ago, KWVA GSS Carol Becker observed a special license plate when she visited the DMV in Clermont. The plate said "Korean Conflict Veteran." "Photo of existing FL Korean Conflict Vet Plate."



She told Tom Thiel, then CID169 President, about the plate. Tom checked FL statutes and found that indeed the conflict plate was authorized by 2012 Florida Statutes, Title XXII, Motor Vehicles, Chapter 320.

Chapter members at their November 2012 meeting universally approved a motion directing President Thiel to contact the Florida representatives, and Senator, representing the Chapter's coverage area to explain member's collective dismay over the FL approval of the term "Korean conflict" in lieu of "Korean war," for Florida license plates.

They also requested that they bring about action in the Florida legislature to correct this insult to Korean Veterans everywhere. He wrote these four letters yet that month, and in early 2013, received a phone call from Mr. Metz, who expressed deep sympathy with our cause, but because of timing he could not act immediately, but he promised he would.

Then in the fall of 2013 we learned of HB 559: Military Veterans, a GENERAL BILL by Metz ; (co-introducers) Murphy, which "Revises references from Korean Conflict & Vietnam Era to Korean War & Vietnam War, respectively, & from Korean Conflict Veteran to Korean

War Veteran; authorizes issuance of Combat Medical Badge license plate; revises references; establishes method of proof of eligibility for certain specialty license plate."

Mr. Metz advised us that he believed that all his fellow members of the Florida legislature will vote for his bill, and that Governor Scott will readily sign it. Mr. Metz invited the Chapter to be present at the vote, and we extend this invitation to all KWVA members.

Mr. Metz served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976 to 1980. He served in Japan for a year during that time, where he met his wife, Mariko. From 1980 to 1982, while in law school, he served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Chapter members expressed their sincere appreciation to Mr. Metz. They very much appreciate Mr. Metz allocating one of his six legislative opportunities to this issue.

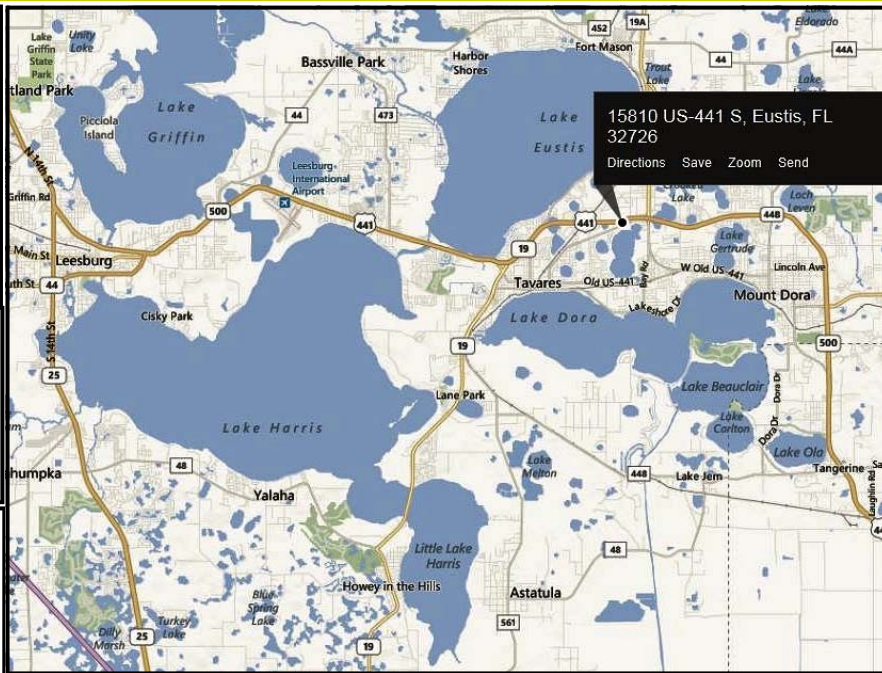
"Tom Thiel expresses his appreciation to Mr. Metz"



**Florida 24th IDA Group  
Dutch Treat Luncheon**  
**May 7, 2014 11:30 a.m. Golden  
Corral**  
**15810 Highway 441, Eustis**

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**  
**24thidaweb@gmail.com**  
**352-408-6612**



## FL 24th IDA Web Page

[www.24thida.com](http://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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