

Florida 24th IDA Vets

December 2014

24th Infantry Division Association



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



We held our November 3 Dutch Treat Luncheon at the I-Hop at 10332 U.S. 441 #101, Leesburg, FL, directly across U.S. 441 from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall.

This time we were one shy of an even dozen. They were (see photo above, seated from left: Paul Miller, Inverness; Ted Jansen, Leesburg; Lawrence Koschak, Parish; and Mary and Paul Boulay, The Villages.

Standing, from left: Tom Thiel, Eustis; Dorothy and Jim Hird, Ocala; Bill Simunek, Mount Dora; Dottie and Woody Wood, Silver Spring.

We sincerely appreciate everyone coming, especially those coming from more distant places.

Lawrence had the dubious distinction of coming the longest distance; according to Google Maps it is about 125 miles and 2 h 4 min!

Paul has 39 miles, Woody 35, and Jim has 40. By contrast, I have only 11!

I offered to come to your area ☺!

Actually, Lake County Taro Leafers fell on there collective faces since only five were there.

January 5, 2015, Meeting Date and Place

Speaking of next time, we all liked the I-Hop. It had a somewhat private meeting area for us, service was excellent, food was good, and they have a 25% Senor Discount!

So, our next meeting will be at the same place. It is very easy to find—look for the traffic light at the main entrance to Lake Square Mall and it is directly across US441 at that same intersection.

A McDonald's is next door.

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Please Bring Donations to Veterans

Ted Jansen is still accepting our donated items, which he then presents on our behalf to Veterans helping Veterans at Ocala. They use them in serving Veter-

ans and their families living in the Ocala National Forest.

This has gone well and thanks to Ted for doing this.

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.

I have been assured that several more are planning on coming to this session—I certainly hope so.

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

Tom Thiel



Above: photo of us from Paul’s camera also at last meeting, but seated “in place” more or less. The room will accommodate more than twice the number we had. I wish we could be seated more centrally so that we could communicate with each other more easily.

Eagle Canes

are still available for \$35 each. Please contact:

Ralph Rossignol,
8001 Arcadian Court, Mt Dora, FL 32757,
352-385-0483, rossignolrpp@comcast.net



**Florida 24th IDA
Dutch Treat Luncheon
Monday, Jan. 5, 2015; 11:30 a.m.
IHOP, 10332 U.S. 441 #101,
Leesburg, FL 34788
(across US441 from Lake Square Mall)
Contact: 352-408-6612;
24thidaweb@gmail.com**



Our KWVA Chapter 169 was invited to the Korean Baptist Church in Ocala on Dec. 6 for a Korean War Veterans Appreciation Day. Since many are also Taro Leafers I am including here.

That is most of us above, and the church choir in dress at left. Below left has Ted Jansen front right and Bill Simunek at rear; they are loading up from a most ample selection of very good Korean specialties. And below shows Carol Becker presenting her handicraft to a church member. This was our second time. Next time I will invite 24thers!



Prairie Boys at War, by Merry Helm, Author, Broadcaster, Producer, Historian

A great book for combat vets who can't describe their experiences to their families – this book explains why it's so hard to talk about. They might consider giving it to their child or spouse who want to know "What was it like?"

The book is 512 pages, including index, maps, photos. A huge portion focuses on the 24th ID's huge sacrifices during those early months.

The book costs \$22, and Merry will sign it and also cover shipping costs to Taro Leafers who send a check to Prairie Boy Books, 420 8th Ave S, Fargo ND 58103.

Merry is an Honorary Member of the 24th IDA, and its former Historian.

It is essentially a compilation of the personal stories of many individuals which Merry then assembles to tell about the early days of the Korean War. She also plans to follow with two more books that then will tell the whole story—from the GI's perspective.

Merry gave me an early electronic copy. I find the stories compelling, easy to read, and well meeting the criteria Merry set for herself—to write your story, mainly just the names etc., are changed.

Send \$22 to Merry now.

"I have never read a book describing mortal combat as this one does."
Joe Langone, Task Force Smith

"Dynamite!" Addison Terry

"It is so markedly exceptional and unlike other portrayals. You have described the horrors of war with a lucidity that no other author has done."
Leonard Becicka

"Absolutely amazing and fantastic." Jim Yeager

"...best chapter of military history I've ever read."
Steve Strinden

"I had tears before I was through."
Sherri Willey

"I just put the book down after realizing it was 3:15 AM!"
Terry May

Readers respond to Volume I of "Prairie Boys At War" by Merry Helm, honorary Taro Leifer.

www.prairieboybooks.com

Last time I asked you “How often do you use your Association Website?”

I sometimes wonder if it is ever read by our members! I know others are finding it because I get inquiries.

That’s the home page above; I just did a bit of a redesign to make the links at the bottom more apparent.

The FL 24thIDA Group page is now more easily found at the bottom left of the table of Links at the bottom of the page.

And Frank and Maxine, and all you 5th RCT guys, will note that there is table entry for the 5th RCT Battlestars, as well as a good bit of other 5th material thanks to Al Mcado!

Then there is the brown highlighted menu on the left.

Each button goes to a whole section of material.

Notice the Taro Leaf button—it will connect you with 9,965 pages, well over 300 individual Taro Leaf magazines! Yes, the next one will take us over 10K!

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

This site is a lot of work. It costs the Association roughly \$125.00 a year to keep online. You guys with computers should use 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?” more --->>>

You may have noticed the first line of links “Recent Additions: Counterattack on the Naktong, 1950 William G Robertson, 30-page 2014 Reunion Book, 2014 Omaha Reunion, Hist of 24th Desert Storm.

These are placed on the main page temporarily for a period of months. They are then removed from the Front or Main Page and placed in a permanent place on the site, such as “24th Division,” or maybe “Stories,” or wherever.

If you had been interested in the 2014 Reunion Book, and clicked on that link, you would have been referred to the entire book online in a lesser quality than the printed book.

Should you be interested in buying a copy (I do not know the cost), please contact BG Gene E. Spicer (Ret), (812) 521-2324, gspicer@seidata.com, carolynbr@frontiernet.net.



24th Infantry Division Association 67th Annual Reunion



Omaha Marriott Hotel, Omaha, NE
September 18-22, 2014



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Site of the 2015 24th Inf Div Assoc 68th Annual Reunion

The National Infantry Museum, Columbus Georgia

The statue at the entrance to The National Infantry Museum at Columbus Georgia (Fort Benning) depicts the 24th's Aubrey S. "Red" Newman leading his 34th Infantry Regiment troops ashore at Leyte in WWII. The actual dates for the reunion are to be published in the next Taro Leaf, but I am almost certain that it will be in September.

The photo at right, which adorned the cover of the Summer 2010 Taro Leaf, is one I took when my daughter and son-in-law took me there for a visit.

It is a really interesting museum unlike most others I have been in. They have simulated or depicted real situations—a Vietnam jungle, a Korean sandbag bunker, the trenches of WWI, an army training barracks of WWI!, etc.

Lets begin now to assemble groups to travel to Fort Benning together next September!

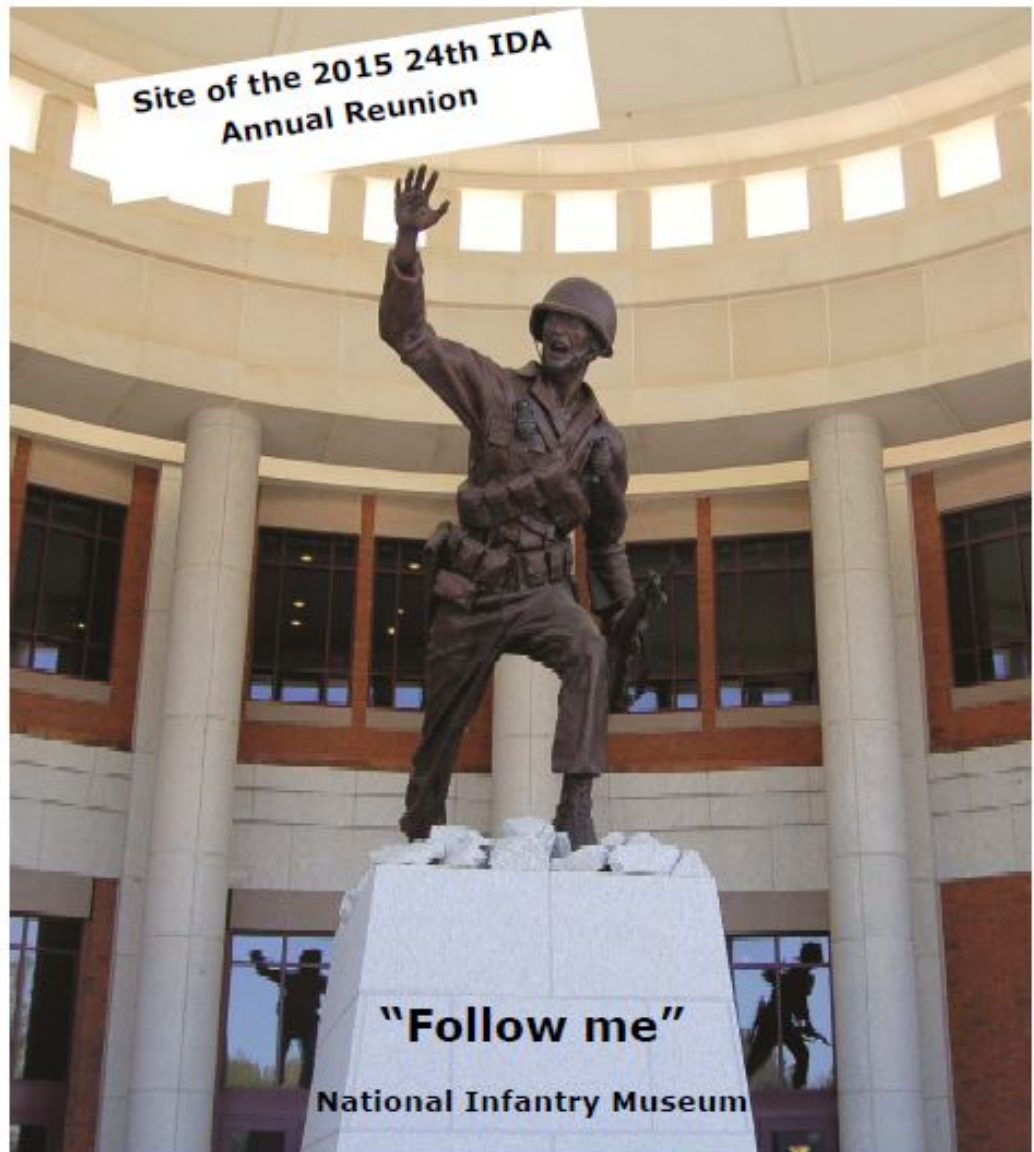
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Summer 2010

Taro Leaf

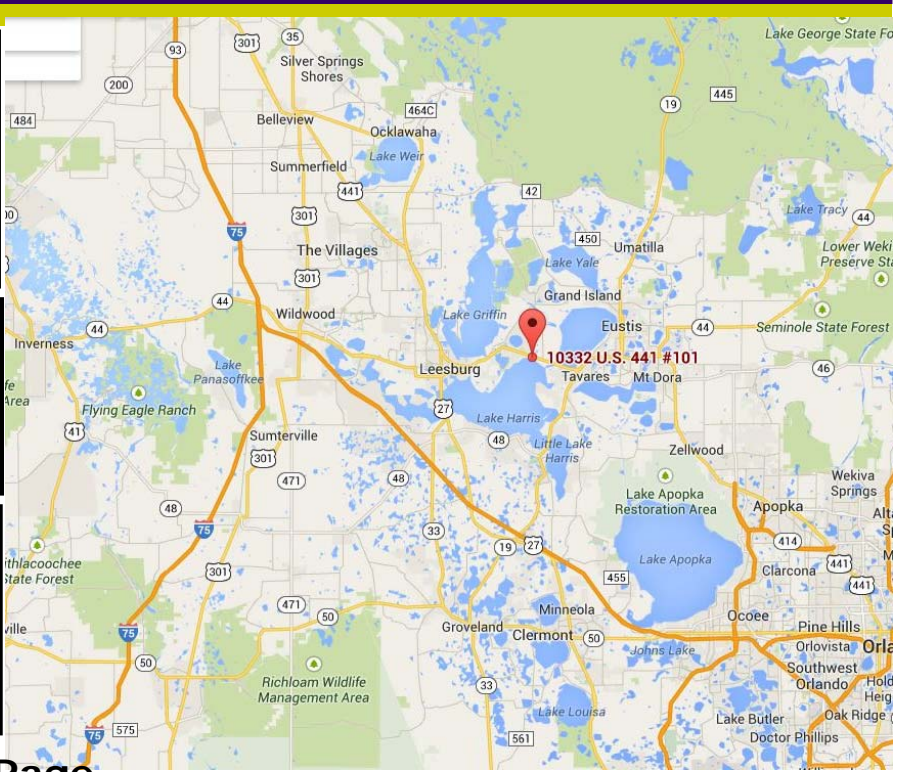
VICTORY DIVISION
FIRST TO FIGHT



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Dutch Treat Luncheon**
Mon. Jan. 5, 2015 11:30 a.m.
**I-Hop, 10332 US441 in Leesburg.
Across 441 fr Lake Square Mall**

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 — click on Florida 24th IDA
at bottom of home page



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