

# Florida 24th IDA Vets

May 4, 2015

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



## Our May 4 Dutch Treat Luncheon was Great!



Seventeen members and their spouses was still fairly good attendance at our May 4 Dutch Treat lunch at the IHOP across from the Leesburg Mall. This was the 33rd such event held by the FL 24th IDA since forming in the Fall of 2009.

Seated, from left: **Gene and Barbara Ames**, 21st, Bradenton; **Dorothy Hird**; **Paul and Mary Boulay** 34th The Villages; **Jim Hird**, 26th AAA, Ocala; and **Tom Thiel**, E Co 19th Eustis.

Standing: **Bill Stokes**, 34th Leesburg; **Lawrence Koschak**, 52nd FA, Parish; **Carol Becker**, Gold Star Spouse,

Clermont; **Don Van Beck** 34th Tavares; **Jim Bradford**, 21st, Winter Haven; **Paul Miller**, 21st Inverness; **Dottie and Woody Wood, Jr.**, 34th, Silver Springs; and **Bill Simunek** 3rd Eng. Mount Dora. **Becky Bradford** is not in the photo.

Thanks to everyone for coming, especially those coming from greater distances.

**Our next Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Monday, August 31, 2015, at the same IHOP at 10332 U.S. 441 #101, Leesburg, FL.**

No, this is not the date set while everyone was still pre-

sent. But, when we asked for that date we were told that the room would not be available.

So, Bill Simunek and I made an executive decision; August 31. It seemed to us the best choice of the dates that were available. I apologize if it causes you a problem.

For those of you who have yet to come to the IHOP, it is directly across U.S. 441 from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall, and about 7 mi South (East) of downtown Leesburg.

A McDonald's is next door.

Monday's are 25 percent off days. For info: Tom Thiel 352-408-6612

## 24th Inf Div Assoc 68th Annual Reunion, The National Infantry Museum & Columbus GA, Sept. 17—21, 2015!



### MEETING AT A GLANCE COLUMBUS

	Pre Day One Thursday Sept 17, 2015	Day One Friday Sept 18, 2015	Day Two Saturday Sept 19, 2015	Day Three Sunday Sept 20, 2015	Post Day One Monday Sept 21, 2015
<b>Morning</b>	Arrivals	Breakfast Azalea I 8:00 am – 9:00 am  Registration Azalea Foyer 7:00 am – 9:00 am  Hospitality Suite Azalea III 8:00 am – Noon	Men's / Ladies Breakfast  Azalea I & II 9:00 am – 10:00 am  Annual Meeting Azalea I & II 10:00 am – Noon	Breakfast Azalea I 8:00 am – 9:00 am  Hospitality Suite Azalea III 9:00 am – Noon	Breakfast Azalea I 8:00 am – 9:00 am  Departures
<b>Afternoon</b>	Arrivals Continue  Registration Azalea Foyer 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Hospitality Suite Azalea III 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Lunch & Ft Benning Rangers In Action Ceremony & Tour  9:00 am – 3:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	Lunch At Country's BBQ & Columbus City Tour  12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	National Infantry Museum Tour & IMAX Theater  12:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Azalea III Noon – 6:00 pm	Departures Continue
<b>Evening</b>	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Board Meeting Azalea II 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Hospitality Suite Azalea III 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Memorial Banquet Azalea I & II 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Hospitality Suite Azalea III 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	





**24<sup>th</sup> IDA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**September 17 – 21, 2015**  
**COLUMBUS, GA**

**YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2015 REUNION!!!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

MEAL SELECTIONS:

MEMORIAL BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ FISH \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ BEEF \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED*)	# PERSONS _____ x \$25 = _____
MENS / LADIES BREAKFAST**	# PERSONS _____ x \$00 = _____
MEMORIAL BANQUET	# PERSONS _____ x \$25 = _____
LUNCH FT BENNING RANGERS IN ACTION & TOUR	# PERSONS _____ x \$19 = _____
LUNCH AT COUNTRY'S BBQ & CITY TOUR	# PERSONS _____ x \$26 = _____
NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM & IMAX THEATER	# PERSONS _____ x \$24 = _____

\*If you bring more than 2 people, the association will cover the registration fee of those guests above 2. You still will be required to pay for their tours and meals. Please list all attendees on your registration form.

\*\*Free Breakfast is included in your room rate for up to 2 people per room and can be used for this event. Additional attendees above the 2 per room or anyone not staying at the hotel would need to be listed and pay \$16.00.

**GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 21, 2015**

**PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**FREDERICK EVENT MANAGEMENT**  
**9233 SHETLAND ROAD**  
**EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55347**  
**(612) 804-9457**

Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 28, 2015. A \$25 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 15 days of the event will be non-refundable. **Hotel reservations can be made by directly calling the Hilton Garden Inn directly at (706) 660-1000 or HGI Brand Reservations at (877) 782-9444 no later than August 31, 2015. Be sure to tell them you are with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$89 plus tax.** The rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event if you wish to extend your stay. We'll see you soon in Columbus!

## **Tour Descriptions for Columbus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

### **Fort Benning Rangers In Action, Lunch and Tour:**

Come watch a Rangers in Action Demonstration (RAI) on Fort Benning. The U.S. Army Ranger School is recognized as the Army's premier leadership course. This highly coordinated performance will awe and thrill you as Rangers detonate explosives, jump from helicopters into the water, rappel down and up towers, race down zip lines, and participate in hand to hand combat.

Have lunch on base like the old days followed by a tour of the base including interaction with simulators, gun ranges and other hands on activities.

### **Country's Barbecue and Columbus City Tour:**

Country's Barbecue offers great barbecue cooked in open pits over hickory and red oak -- the way folks down here like it. We also offer a full range of country cooking, homemade pies, shakes, sundaes, banana splits and old fashion made in a double boiler banana pudding. Country's on Broad offers full table service, to go and drive thru. We're located in an original Greyhound bus station with a built in 1940 something bus.

Columbus is an authentic rivertown. Today, the river is home to the 15-mile trail known as the Chattahoochee RiverWalk. Locally, Columbus offers a variety of fine attractions, such as the State Theatre of Georgia, the historic Springer Opera House; Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum; the National Infantry Museum; The Columbus Museum; the beautiful Historic District and spectacular architecture of the MidTown Historic District; and the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Stroll back to times genteel with a guided tour of Heritage Corner, in the heart of Columbus' 26-block Historic District -- Georgia's largest -- where brick cobblestone streets, ancient oaks and century old homes are the order of the day. Five historical buildings, from a trader's log cabin to the home of Dr. John Pemberton -- whose French wine d'coca became better known as Coca-Cola.

<http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/>

### **The National Infantry Museum, Soldier Center and IMAX Theater:**

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center salutes soldiers in a 190,000-square-foot facility nestled where Columbus meets Fort Benning. It is the only museum in the country dedicated to the American Infantryman and preserves one of the greatest collections of military artifacts. Featuring state-of-the-art exhibits, the museum traces infantry history from colonial times to the present in a series of galleries. The museum also showcases the Vietnam Memorial Plaza, featuring the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall and the iconic World War II Company Street. Guests can enjoy the many attractions at the museum, including the area's only IMAX Theatre, Combat Simulators and EST200 Rifle Range, Soldier Store, and the Fife and Drum Restaurant.

The IMAX Theatre at Patriot Park is the region's premiere destination to experience the most thrilling Hollywood blockbusters and the most immersive documentaries! The theater features the area's largest screen at five stories high and 70 feet wide that offers a bigger picture, clearer images and crystal clear sound. Recognized as the world's most immersive movie-going experience, IMAX puts you IN the movie, delivering an experience that cannot be replicated in a conventional cinema.

[http://www.24thida.com/reunions/2015\\_columbus\\_ga.html](http://www.24thida.com/reunions/2015_columbus_ga.html)



## The 2015 24th Inf Div Assoc 68th Annual Reunion will be Sept. 17—21, at Columbus, GA & The National Infantry Museum.

The photo on page 2 is my photo of the National Infantry Museum taken in Summer 2010.

Not shown is a reconstructed WWII (and Korean War era as well) Basic Training Complex; the barracks looks just like Camps Breckinridge and Roberts.

And you 19th Rock of Chickamauga vets may be interested to know that the 1st Battalion of the 19th is there now! It is a basic training Bn. My grandson,

Zach, graduated from there a couple of years ago.

Quite a few indicated an interest in going: the Woods, the Boulays and the Bradfords. And Bill Simunek, Don Van Beck, Paul Miller and myself as well.

The Infantry Museum is the major attraction, but it will be a challenge for those of us with mobility problems. The museum does not have power assisted mobility devices; they do have wheelchairs that may be reserved, but do not always have volunteers to help move the guest around.

But the Museum is not the only one reason to go to Ft. Benning. For me, the Reunion itself is the major attraction. Then there is the Ranger tour of Ft. Benning too.

## UCF Veterans History Project

by Tom Thiel

Its still not too late for you

We now anticipate that UCF VHP interviewers will come to Lake County sometime early this fall to record the eight interviews we scheduled earlier.

UCF's Tiffany Rivera would like to have a "Lake Veterans History Day." The Lake Sentinel is interested in this project as well.

We are exploring obtaining an interview site either at the Eisenhower Center, The Villages, or if none is available there, then we will explore a room at the Leesburg Library.

Jimmy Corbet, Lynch, Reynolds, Schuetz, Corscadden, Stover, Vanas and Wood, Jr. are scheduled for the first interviews this fall.

Those planning on being interviewed should have already registered online at the site below, or do it now:



<https://richesvhp.cah.ucf.edu/register/>

If you had a problem with online registration please let me know and someone from UCF will assist you in registering over the phone.

We anticipate they will return in the near-future for additional interview sessions. For those of you still on the fence about being interviewed, please also let me know and register online soon. If you are a non-computer person and would like to be interviewed, again let me know and we will make arrangements for you.

These interviews are being compiled online at

<http://riches.cah.ucf.edu/veterans/>

for posterity, and for history. And also for the Library of Congress.

**kwwathiel@gmail.com, 352-408-6612**

## Bob Chalupa



**R**obert Frank "Bob" Chalupa age 88 passed away Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at Brookdale Senior Living in Leesburg, Florida. Robert was born in Chicago, Illinois and moved to the Leesburg area in 2003 from Palos Hills, Illinois. He spent over 40 years in the Lumber industry as the owner and operator of the Peoples

Lumber Company in Chicago, Illinois.

Bob was a WW II Veteran and proudly served in the U. S. Army's 24th Infantry Division's 21st Infantry Regiment. He was Life Member #345 of the 24th Infantry Division Association, and until recently regularly attended the FL 24thIDA's events.

He attended St. Paul's Catholic Church in Leesburg, and was a member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, AmVets, Fraternal Order of the Eagles, and The Loyal Order of the Moose. He will be remembered by those closest to him as "a man who loved to work!" He also loved the outdoors, riding horses and was an avid golfer most of his life. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 58 years Rita and leaves behind to carry

on his memory a daughter Nadine (Jim) Muller of Leesburg; brother Ed Chalupa of Reno, NV; and a sister Barbara Mayhugh of Palentine, IL;

A memorial mass was read at 8:30 A. M. Monday, April 27, 2015 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Leesburg, Florida with Father Mark Wajda serving as Officiant.

Interment was at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

All arrangements were under the careful direction of Page-Theus Funeral Home, Leesburg.

<http://www.pagetheusfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Robert-Frank-Chalupa/#!/Obituary>

Condolences: daughter, Nadine Muller, 26932 Honeymoon

## Survivor Assistance Guide and Family Preparation Workbook

At a recent KWVA Chapter 169 meeting we had two speakers from the D.A.V. Chapter in Merit Island who gave a copy of above to all attendees.

A copy of this excellent 68-page workbook that is so self-explanatory that, as one of the speakers said, "Even a Marine could follow these instructions!" is available for download at <http://cid169.kwva.org/> Find it listed on the lower main page and click on the link. You may then of course print or download it. TJT

## 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](mailto:rossignolrpp@comcast.net)



Woodie, enough!  
But Thank You!

## **"Reactionary!" by Lloyd Pate, K 19th/24th POW by Tom Thiel**

**R**ecently I read Lloyd Pate's (K Co, 19th Reg., 24th Div.) book "Reactionary!" as told to B. J. Cutler. It is a story about how the Communist Chinese tried to control their Prisoners of War. It is gut wrenching in the brutality of the captors and some of the prisoners.

Pate says that the American prisoners divided into three groups.

"There were the men who went along with the Chinese and agreed with everything they had to say. They stood up and publicly denounced their country, their government, all that America stood for, and their God. The Chinese called these men peace fighters and later they became known as progressives."

"The largest group was in-between. These men were on the fence and didn't know which way to go. The Chinese got most of their information about what went on in the camp from this group. Not all of these men were bad. They had some damn good men in there, but some of them would denounce the Chinese to your face and sell you out behind your back."

"Then there was the third group made up of men who were strictly against the Chinese-anything

they said and anything they did. In the beginning these men were called stubborn students but later the Chinese said they were reactionaries."

Pate was, of course a reactionary.

A man by the name of Gallagher was a constant antagonist of Pate, who tells of when he arrived at the camp, seeing Gallagher hang a helpless youth on a peg in the wall of their quarters. And then later seeing Gallagher take the same man and toss him in the frigid outdoors, where he died. And this had happened previously!

Pate promised to one day to see to it "... that the man who had killed him would pay for it."

He and Gallagher were in conflict almost until they go home.

He later recounts how he provided the compelling testimony in the US's case against Gallagher who by then was seen as a hero.

Gallagher is convicted and Pate tells of how he felt after the trial.

This led me to research Pate's story, especially Gallagher.

Surprisingly, there is quite a lot of material via Google. Gallagher was convicted and given a long

sentence. I do not know where or if he is now. Pate passed away March 20, 2013.

There were a number of films of that era about POWs; one was "The Rack" with Paul Newman as a Captain. I was able to find a trailer of "The Rack;" in it Newman says he served with the 24th Infantry Division.

All this occupied more of my time than I should have expended, but I find the POW books I have read extremely compelling.

How can humans so badly mistreat fellow humans? The death rate for prisoners in the Korean War was something like 43 percent; by contrast in Vietnam it was in the teens.

Pate's book, revised, is available on Amazon from 3rd party vendors for from \$8 to \$28. If you would like to read it, I can provide it to you in PDF format and you can read it on your computer. That way you can enlarge it (for old eyes).

The Rack is available from Amazon for just under \$15.00. They create a one off DVD film when you order it, I chose to not get it, but still may. TJT

## On our 8,000 MIAs still in Korea by Tom Thiel



**D**ear fellow Taro Leafer.

Recently my good friend Ted Morford, Captain, Retired, initiated a line of inquiry about whether recently identified remains from the Korean War were newly-obtained from North Korea, or if these were identified from the relatively few remains that had been returned many years ago and placed in storage in Hawaii.

Ted's letter, which appeared in *Graybeards*, the Korea War Veterans Association journal, was not directly answered, but Editor Sharp suggested that we focus on our elected representative's failure to respond to our letters. (See *Graybeards*, Mar-Apr 2015, Morford, "Do We Have Current Access To MIAs?", pg. 62.)

Ted is driven to bring home his youthful very close friend, Corporal Robert S. (Floogie) Manier,

"G" Company, 21st Inf Regt, Native Tennessean, Died in Captivity (POW), July 5, 1951 North Korea, Never Recovered. (from a memorial placed in KWV Dept. FL 2015 Reunion Book by Ted).

Ted's letter led me to ask "What is my Association, The KWVA, doing to aid in returning Floogie and the other 8,000 still there in North Korea?"

I did extensive research of KWVA's website, [www.kwva.org/](http://www.kwva.org/), and of 7,234 pages of *Graybeards* from 2000 to the present issue.

I could find no evidence that KWV either had a Policy on POW/MIA or had done anything to hasten their return. (Also, see *Graybeards*, May-June 2015, Thiel, "What is the KWVA Policy On ....?", pg. 64-65.)

When the Korean War ended on July 27, 1953; our POW's came home to a mixed reception.

But, some 8,000 of their and our lost brothers were left behind!

Almost all were left in the shallow graves they were relegated to because their living brothers had barely the strength to scrape indentations in the frozen and rocky North Korean soil.

For the most part they are still there today, and we need to do what we can to bring them home.

So, what can we do?:

A) Remember them at the outset of each Member Meeting with an appropriate remembrance. One that is used by KWV CID169 that is patterned after the American Legion is suggested at [http://cid169.kwva.org/POW-MIA/01\\_pow\\_mia.htm](http://cid169.kwva.org/POW-MIA/01_pow_mia.htm)

B) Remember them annually, on the third Friday of September each year, known in the United States as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, by attending or perhaps sponsoring a ceremony at an appropriate memorial.

C) Regularly write letters or make phone calls to all of the U.S. Senators and Representatives in our area asking them what they are doing to foster the return and identification of these lost brothers. Invite each of these Members of Congress to come to our meetings to explain what they are doing in this and in other matters.

D) Make the public aware that 8,000 of America's bravest still lie silently in North Korea.

One thing we can do in this re-

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

gord is actively endorse the proposal initiated by William "Bill" Allen to have a permanent POW/MIA Forever stamp issued.

Who was Bill Allen and what is his Forever Stamp bill?

Bill of course was a friend of ours; 24th Infantry Division, Charlie Company, 19th Regiment, and KVV in Tampa. He spent nearly three years in various POW prison camps.

I'm sorry to say that Bill passed away of lymphoma December 2014! But his Bill lives on!

Bill wanted to have the Post Office issue a Forever Stamp so that the POW/MIA symbol is seen by the public more often.

He was able to convince his Congressman Gus Bilirakis, FL 12th District, to introduce a bill, HR2794, mandating said Forever Stamp, which he did in 2013.

HR2794 directs the U.S.P.O. to issue a permanent POW/MIA Forever stamp. The bill has many co-sponsors, including Congressman Webster, who told me last summer that the bill was alive and continuing ahead.

But, in a recent phone call to Congressman Bilirakis' New Port Richey office, I was advised that the bill is still in the United

States House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The person I spoke with there was excited over our interest in the bill, and suggested we write to congressman Bilirakis.

So that likely will be one of the my first steps.

I then Googled "United States House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform," and got the following information.

Jason Chaffetz, (R ) Utah, is Chairman; Elijah Cummings, (D) Maryland, is Ranking Member.

John Mica, and Ron DeSantis, both (R ) and both Florida are members; there are no minority members from Florida.

There is a subcommittee on Government Operations, John Mica (R-FL) and Gerry Connolly (D-VA) are the ranking members.

I plan to draft letter (s) to try to find out the status of HR2794, and what we can do to hasten its passage. I will probably write letters to Congressmen Bilirakis, Chaffetz, Mica, DeSantis, Webster and Nugent, and to Senators Rubio and Nelson.

I think it appropriate for each of you to do likewise; include your congressman. If you would like copies of my draft when it is fin-

ished just let me know.

E) But there is strength (political) in numbers. So, we should petition the 24th Association to become active in this effort, after all nearly a quarter of the 8,000 came from our Division!

As former Taro Leaf Editor, and Webmaster, I know pretty much what the 24th Infantry Division Association has done.

I can safely say that it has never published a POW/MIA Policy statement, had a POW/MIA Committee, and that all I know that it has done was initiated by a non-member, Merry Helm, when she was Association Historian! And Past President Mel Frederick paid to publish that because the Association objected!

The Association should develop and publicize a strong POW/MIA Policy. Through the Taro Leaf , it should encourage all 1,700 or so members to each write letters to their Congresspersons and Senators.

Our Association should join with other Associations in a joint effort to bring our lost brothers home, where they can be identified and returned to their families for proper burial and closure.

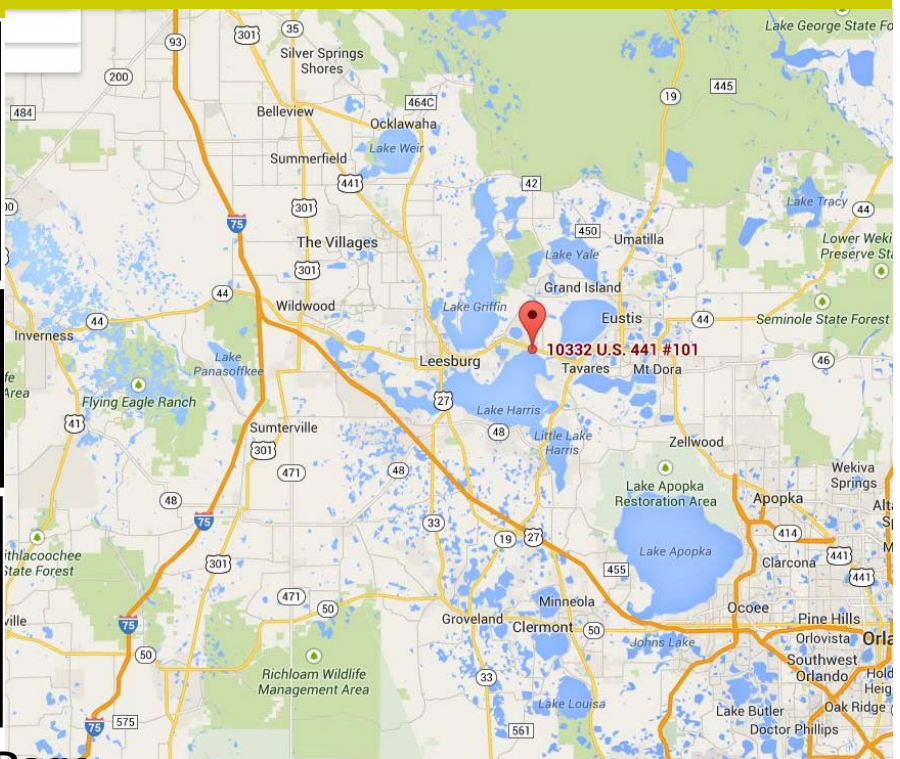
We all have work to do! TJT

**Florida 24th IDA Group  
Dutch Treat Luncheon**

**Mon. Aug. 31, 2015, 11:30 a.m.  
IHOP, 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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