

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

St. Augustine, November 2012, by Tom Thiel

Although our joint Florida 24th Group—5th RCT mini-reunion was a good one, we nevertheless 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. Carl and Flora Groth were first-timers at our reunion; they are from Livonia, MI. And we were very pleased that new 24th IDA President, Don Maggio, from NC was there; thank you, Don. 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 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 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.

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 more 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 24thida@gmail.com.

For the 5th RCT, please contact Bill Kane at 407-275-7450,



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



Editor's Note: Although the proposed cruise is being organized as a regional reunion, there's no reason why members from anywhere in the country cannot come along. Cruises organized for a group will usually get a substantial discount from the usual fares. This may compensate for whatever additional costs you'll have to get to Florida. If you have never been on a cruise before, there's nothing better than taking one with a whole lot of friends. A cruise offers other great advantages such as having as all you want to eat, interesting places to visit, and many shipboard activities just a short walk away...a great way to treat yourself for a lifetime!