



VOLUME 51

OCTOBER 1997

ISSUE #4

## VICTORY DIVISION NEWS!



American Defense Svc. Medal



American Campaign Medal



Asiatic-Pacific Cpgn. Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Army of Occupation Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Korean Service Medal



Armed Forces Exp. Medal



Philippine Liberation Ribbon



United Nations Service Medal



Multinat Force & Observ. Med.



Kuwait Lib. Medal (Saudi Arabia)

### PEARL HARBOR

AUSTRALIA • NEW GUINEA • PHILIPPINES • JAPAN • KOREA • GERMANY • LEBANON • DESERT STORM



Army Presidential Unit Citation

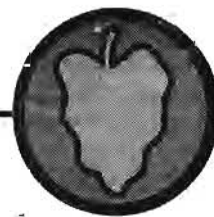


Philippine Pres. Unit Citation



Korean Pres. Unit Citation

# 24th Infantry Division Association



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1998 Reunion  
23-27 September 1998  
Excelsior Hotel  
Three Statehouse Plaza  
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**TARO LEAF**, the official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, is published quarterly by and for its members. Opinions expressed or implied are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the 24th Infantry Division.

## FROM THE EDITOR!

All dues, donations, changes of address including **ZIP + 4** (9 digit zip code) and deceased notices are to be sent to Yvonne Mullins, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor.

## Articles Submissions

To improve speed and accuracy and readability in editing, manuscripts and articles should be originals or clear copies, with either typed or printed out double-spaced in near letter quality printer mode. Articles are to be received by the Editor not later than the deadline established by the President, Secretary/Editor and as published in the Taro Leaf. Any article received after the established deadline and not in the format described above will be put in at the discretion of the Editor. To be considered for publication, articles should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Political endorsements and thank you notes will not be used. Biographies or personal stories of interest to the general membership, not exceeding three pages, will be accepted for publication but must conform to policy as outlined above.

1997 Golden Anniversary Reunion Pictures Taken By Our  
Association Photographer, Dr Philip Hostetter Are  
In Memory of His Beloved Wife  
Helen Hostetter  
(Helen loved the Association and had been an attendee  
since the reunion in St. Louis)

The following **DEADLINE** is established for submission of material to the Editor Yvonne Mullins, of the TARO LEAF for publication.

## Deadline to the Editor

1 January 1998  
1 February 1998  
1 July 1998  
10 October 1998

## Publication Date

February 1998  
April 1998  
August 1998  
November 1998

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## Letter To Our "CHAPLAIN"

If you are like we are, then you must always appreciate hearing from our Chaplain, Joe Hofrichter.

When Joe returned home from the 50th Golden Reunion in Colorado Springs, he went to see his doctor. A large spot on Joe's back had to be removed, it is malanoma. As of this time we do not know the complete results of the pathology report.

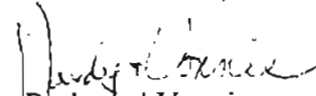
On behalf of the 24th Infantry Division Association, we want to write this letter to let you know about Joe and to pray for him and Charlotte. In addition, we want to let Joe know that all of us love him and Charlotte very much.

Joe has a beautiful way of putting his thoughts and prayers into the written word. The words just flow forth from his soul. Now, Joe, it is our turn to let you know how much you mean to each one of us. The kindness you show forth in comforting the bereaved of our association, comforting the sick of our association and just the joy you express in the eternal values you share with each one you come in contact with, brings an overwhelming realization of God's love for all of us.

We want Charlotte and you to know that you are daily in our prayers and asking God to bring you physical health, strength of spirit and let you know that each one of us cares about you.

The Taro Leaf is going to print today and by the time your copy reaches you, we pray that God will have already answered all of our prayers for you.

God Bless You,

  
Rudy and Vonnice

*Charlotte Hofrichter,  
Meliza Hoggatt,  
Joe Hofrichter  
at the  
Aloha Banquet.*





## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

### PLEA FOR THE RETURN OF 34TH INF REGT ROSTERS

To those present for the 34th Infantry Regiment Breakfast, I beg of you who took my rosters to please return them to me. Taken were: Page 1 of Heavy Mortar Company, "A" Company in its entirety, the 2d Battalion roster, "K" Company in its entirety, pages 1 and 2 of "L" Company, and "M" Company in its entirety. Trusting as I was, I brought the originals at the last moment, without making copies, since Ben Wahle could not attend for you to review and make notes, but as I stated at the breakfast, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE. I trust that you who have these rosters will return them to me. Tom Cochran.

.....

#### Congratulations Dutch!!!

I told you there how great the reunion was but only a few of our 2800 plus members heard that. All members should know of your achievements. You truly gave to us one of the most memorable reunions ever. The tours, loved by everyone, the dinners were simply divine, the Air Force Academy Drill Team was magnificent and the accommodations excellent. The citation of appreciation awarded you by me cannot adequately say how grateful I, and I hope the membership are for your dual handed duties of being President and Reunion Chairman for 1997. You and Margo are deserving of thanks from all those present at this associations' 50th (Golden Anniversary) reunion. Take a well earned rest Dutch and meet us in Little Rock in 1998. Victory!

.....

Openly, I want to thank General Barry McCaffrey, (Retired) for his attendance and talk at reunion. Because of his caring for the 24th Infantry Division as one of its former Commanding Generals, he took time out from his duties as the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and came, sharing his experiences as the division commander in Operation Desert Storm. He told, and backed it up with film that which the 24th did in combat in Saudi Arabia. Just another moment in the elite history of the Taro Leaf Division, "First to Fight." We, who wrote the history in World War II, Japan, Korea, Germany, Lebanon and now Southwest Asia cannot believe that the 24th was chosen to be deactivated over the 3d ID and 10th ID, who do not have the history that the 24th enjoys, yet that happened. I too, would like to apologize for the outburst at reunion while the General was speaking, but that is the principle of American democracy, freedom of speech, inappropriate, yes, controllable, no. Yet, the General is to be complimented for the manner in which he handled it and I applaud him for that. Thanks again General McCaffrey for being there.

.....

Speaking of former Commanding Generals of the 24th, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the fact that Lieutenant General James B. Vaught (Retired) was also there. There, because he too loves the 24th Infantry Division just as you and I. General Vaught, like you and I think the 24th should have remained active. He, General McCaffrey, General DeFrancisco and a few other past Commanding Generals are very supportive of the divisions' history and this association that keeps it alive for we who wrote the history. I think I can say, with support from gentlemen like them who once commanded the "best damned fighting division" in the army, this association will flourish and one day, those younger soldiers of Desert Storm and Lebanon will join our ranks and the association will live on far into the 21st Century. Although General Vaught did not speak to the association, he did speak to the men of the 34th at their breakfast and his speech was excellent for the occasion and I'm sure met with General "Red" Newmans reasons for wanting to start these breakfast gatherings. Jim, as you may know was an Adjutant for "Red" Newman at one time at Camp Campbell, KY.

General Vaught, your message to Major General "Buck" Kernan has been delivered, if he has not already called you, he may soon. Good to have seen you again, and the best of health and happiness to you and the wife, hoping to see you again at a future reunion.

.....

Robert E. Lee once said, "Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less." Robert E. Lee did not know Roldolph "Rudy" Mullins. Rudy did his duty in all things and he did more, he went beyond his normal duties of being our Secretary/Treasurer. He took on the additional duties of QM and Editor of the TL. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation to Rudy, he is truly a 24th division soldier, one who arose to the task and performed in a manner that is indescribable. Ailing from his affliction did not slow this soldier down, nor did it prevent him from giving us his all at the Golden Anniversary reunion. He was there, and while there, gave us a lesson in fund-raising for the association he loves so dearly. We are truly fortunate to have Rudy Mullins and I hope each of you will enjoy with me and let Rudy know this. Rudy has given us something else, his lovely wife Evonne to continue on in his position of Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the Taro Leaf. "Vonnie", having assisted Rudy all these years in his duties was the most qualified and desired person to continue those duties, and thanks to Jim Hill, Kenwood Ross and others that is now a fact. Rudy, I want to personally thank you for your many years of devotion and love to this association, our friendship, and most especially your nominating me to be the President for 1998. Rudy and Evonne, you are in my prayers daily.

.....

I, as your President for 1998, want to express my appreciation to you who attended this great reunion in beautiful Colorado Springs this year, and I encourage you, not only to attend the 1998 reunion in Little Rock, but get on the phone and encourage your buddies to be there as well. Involvement by all members is the key to success, get involved, if you cannot commit yourself to a position in the association, you can help us by getting more members at reunion and that is a goal of mine for 1998. This year, I noticed numerous "First Timers" name tags, and that is great. Next year, not only do I want to see more "First Timers" name tags, I want to see more of "Old Timers" name tags. Little Rock is central to the United States, a location that should attract members from all of the 48 contiguous states and it offers an abundance of things to do. That we will report on in future newsletters. The Hotel we have chosen for 1998 reunion is the Excelsior, the In-House and On-Premises Facilities and services are: Free Parking, Free Airport Shuttle to and from the Airport, Shopping at River Market (3-blocks away), Park Plaza and University Malls (3-miles away), Restaurant, the Apple Blossom (Open 7 days a week), Profiles (Open 6 days a week - Mon-Sat), Josephines Library (Open 5-days a week - Tue - Sat), Bar/Lounge (Atrium Bar, Open 7 days a week), Recreation (Riverfront Park, located behind the Hotel), etc., etc.,

.....

Jackie and I enjoyed the reunion immensely but we did not enjoy the first 300 miles out following reunion, fog and rain delayed our return home significantly -- but we made it home safe and we hope all others did so too. May each and every one of you be blessed this coming year. We want to wish you "Seasons Greetings" at this time to all and may your families be blessed.

Throughout this past year I have tried to be like the proverbial owl, allowing Dutch to do the speaking, and I have, but the time has come now for me to speak. If any of you can recall from your school days what was said about the owl, it is this, "A wise old owl sat in an oak, the more he heard, the less he spoke, the less he spoke, the more he heard, and I've tried to be like that wise old bird."

Our 50th Anniversary Reunion is over now, and thanks to Dutch, it was great. He, as we all know went all out and gave us a memorable reunion under trying circumstances. This entire year has been one with trying circumstances, one that we want to remember. yet, at the same time, forget.

Forget we cannot though, Rudy's health preventing him from continuing with us, doing his outstanding job in several capacities and his past performance in all he did for us. How do you say to a man of his caliber how much you appreciate all he has done? You don't, Rudy knows what he has done for this great association, and he knows how the association members feel about him. He is one of a kind, and we have been fortunate to have had him with us for as long as we have. Rudys' wife and love Yvonne, has been there for him throughout his tenure in office and willingly has been his assistant an inspiration in carrying out his duties. Thanks to her and her willingness to remain on and carry out those duties of Secretary Treasurer and Editor for the association, we are in her debt, and owe her gratitude for accepting such responsibilities, never before performed by someone outside the membership. I have known Rudy and Yvonne for more than four years and we, have at least once a year met and discussed association business and I am very comfortable with Yvonne continuing on with the positions at issue, a legacy of such for Rudy which will inspire her to excel.

Rudy, as did Bob Ender will dedicate the remainder of his life for the betterment of this association and we need more members like them. It was devastating to me a few months ago when no one would come forward and accept the position of Secretary Treasurer or Editor when Rudy notified us of his health which prevented him to continue. Ben Wahle, our Nominating Chairman did his best to obtain names to present to the officers as replacements, but to no avail. Ben is to be congratulated for his perseverance, he never gave up, he continued on with his pursuit to find a suitable candidate up to the point that Corky Peters (Our next President) arranged for Yvonne to remain on and carry out the duties of Secretary Treasurer and Editor.

Now, allow me to inform you of my pride in becoming your President for 1997-1998, and give you a snapshot view of who I am and where I came from in this association.

I do not like to make personal references but I want to say to you that no duty has ever come to me in my life, even that in the service of my country (24 years in the military and 24 more in Federal Service), which has so appealed to my sense of obligation, patriotism and love of the 24th Infantry Division as this, being your President for 1997-1998. All that I have observed, all that I know and all that I read and hear teaches me that I could do nothing nobler for the future of this great association.

May I say with a great deal of pardonable pride that I look forward, throughout this next year, to serve you to the best of my humble ability, to increase membership in this great association, and to encourage reunion participation. When mutual problems arise, I feel that I can save discussion of them for such time as reunion, and talk them over with men like you, who themselves may be familiar with the obstacles we face and concurrently reach a decision for resolution.

In 1993, I was elected for life to serve as the Executive Secretary for the 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment and its later designation as 2d Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "The First to Fight" in Korea. I have given of myself to serve them to the best of my ability and with the help and assistance of my wife, I believe I have. Solely, over these years I keep the membership informed via a quarterly newsletter, ensure an annual reunion of acceptance, increased the membership by 100% with the help of members and remain in constant contact with the members, assisting them with concerns.

In 1994, Bob Ender, having been given my credentials as a 24th ID Member, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Tennessee Guard and active in military affairs at the New Orleans reunion, contacted me and we began conversation. Upon his visit to Nashville looking for a Motel site for the 1995 reunion he, I guess you could say, "drafted" me to assist Rudy Mullins for that 1995 reunion. I did, although Rudy and Yvonne did most of the work, but the remainder is history, why I am here today as the next President of the 24th Infantry Division Association. Were Bob here today I'm not sure if I would thank him for this honor or be objective for the appointment. Unless you knew Bob Ender, you will never know the man, who knowing his life was at the end but ignored that and continued to serve this association with dignity. He was truly a 24th member, one that all should want to emulate. And, let me say this, Don Barrett has picked up that which Bob left upon his death, and is emulating Bob Ender in his position of Reunion Coordinator. I have had much contact with Don, and allow me to inform you, he is energetic, motivated, and pursuing all the leads given him to ensure excellent reunion sites for the future.

Oh yes! I belong to other associations, after all I went through Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division and 101st Airborne Division. But, for

me, the 24th ID, when we were sent to Korea as "Lambs of Slaughter" in July 1950, that Division will always be my first choice, and all my energies will be expended for its continuance, it was the division that I first served in during combat.

When I became a Chain Teacher in 1992 for Fort Campbell, Kentucky in the downsizing of the military and civilian workforce, I refused to use General Gordon Sullivan's opening remarks that there would never be another "Task Force Smith," that they were ill-trained, ill-equipped, and in most cases, illiterate. Instead, I gave them a first-hand account of what we were up against and that was acceptable. I remained a Chain Teacher for three years.

I, as your incoming President want to, in this first publication of the TL since becoming your President, give credit to those who have worked so hard this past year, Rudy Mullins of course and his lovely wife Yvonne, Don Barrett, Ben Wahle, Joe Hofmeyer, Joe McKeon, Jim Hill and of course Kenwood Ross (who is always there). But there were others, Dutch of course who did a magnificent job as both President and Reunion Chairman and Harold "Corky" Peters who is constantly working for us but outside the spotlight. Corky is the most proficient, most stimulating, most aggressive member of this association that has come along in awhile. When I give him the reins to this association in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1998 I can rest peacefully, knowing that my beloved 24th Infantry Division Association is in **GOOD HANDS**.

I thank each and every one of you that gives me the opportunity to be your next President, and I hope to serve you well, to do all that I can to ensure the longevity of this great association, the 24th Infantry Division Association (VICTORY DIVISION), (FIRST TO FIGHT), the division that you and I gave of ourselves in the decisive battles of the Southwest Pacific, Korea, Lebanon and Southwest Asia. Units of the 24th Infantry Division were there, answered: "Present" and shed their blood.

VICTORY.  
  
TOM COCHRAN

See you in Little Rock in 1998,

### 34TH INFANTRY REGT. BREAKFAST COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Our 34th Inf Regt. Breakfast must be rated an overwhelming success, if for no other reason than attendance. Forty five members were at the reunion, and forty two of them were present to devour the tasty eggs, bacon and pancakes. The breakfast was conceived by Ben Wahle, who less than a week before the reunion, suffered a heart attack, from which he is recuperating very nicely. He is mostly upset about missing the festivities and the camaraderie with his many friends. However, Ben, who some fifty plus years ago, was a Company Commander, did not forget how to delegate. He "requested" that Cpl. Jack Baird and Pfc. Eric Diller bring the Breakfast to fruition. The request was carried out. There were no casualties.

The first speaker was Tom Cochran, our 1997/1998 President, who passed on some enlightening and pertinent comments regarding our historic 34th heritage. He also provided several handouts including a list of 34th Inf members who were first to enter the Korean conflict, a list of 24th Inf Div men who became casualties, an Orientation Manual for those who joined the 24th after 1948, the story of the Combat Infantry Badge, the story of the 34th Inf Crest and a touching story/saga of a 34th Regt Korean ten year old mascot named Tommy.

Ken Ross, the George Washington of our Association, spoke next. Among many relevant comments, he stressed the importance of the continuance of our Association and electing Yvonne Mullins as Secretary/Treasurer.

David Mann then brought us up to date on the status of the 24th Div History book. Unfortunately it will not be ready until November (1997, we hope), despite the efforts put in by Dave and his committee. However, when ready for distribution, it will be as correct and accurate as humanly possible.

The next speaker was Paul Austin, a buddy of Ben Wahle dating back to OCS in 1942. Paul is the author of "Bullets and Bayonets", an excellent, factual, and humbling book highlighting the Leyte, Biak, and Zig Zag Pass Campaigns. General Jim Vaught then reminisced of experiences of the 34th in Korea. Jim was a spellbinding speaker who calls a spade a spade. Enough said. (Actually, not enough said.) All enjoyed his comments immensely.

Hanford Rants. (Who's son Jon, as well as Paul Cain's son as a WWII wireman, who hit most of the hot spots - and survived. He passed out leaflets for a Hollywood female "producer" who is urging our participating in generating a documentary relating to "Chaplains in Combat"

Eric Diller, who was the designated MC also wrote a book entitled "Memoirs of a Combat Infantryman by an Enemy Alien". For each sale, half or \$5.00 will be donated to our Association.

Tom Cochran  
Jack Baird  
Eric Diller

# COLORADO SPRINGS

General BARRY R. MCCAFFREY proved what he thinks of our beloved 24th and its Association. He traveled the 2000 miles between his Washington office and the Sheraton at C.S. to be with us. And mingle he did. He gladly made himself one of us. Then back to Washington it was for a two-day conference.

The Government brought together more than 500 drug experts from around the country to discuss the scope of the nation's heroin problem and how to deal with it.

The two-day conference, involving medical researchers and specialists in law enforcement, public policy, and drug treatment and prevention, follows months in which Clinton Administration officials have been expressing dismay about rising heroin use, particularly among teen-agers and young adults.

The Director of National Drug Control Policy, General BARRY R. MCCAFFREY, retired, cited estimates that in all, the United States now had 600,000 heroin addicts.

Alcohol and marijuana remain the most popular drugs among adolescents, while heroin lags well behind cocaine. Still, the number of American high school students who have tried heroin nearly doubled last year, to 2 percent of all such students from 1 percent.

General McCaffrey, who called heroin "clearly one of the most intractable of all drugs to deal with," said the nation had found the will and the resources to put drug offenders behind bars but had yet to marshal the same will and resources to give them treatment in prison and half-way houses.

"We have a failed social policy," he said, "and we have to correct it."



*General Barry R. McCaffrey*

# The Two General McCaffreys

Since his appointment as the White House drug czar in February 1996, Gen. Barry McCaffrey has consistently said the right thing about drugs. He stresses that increased treatment, not law enforcement, is the best way to reduce drug usage. In January, he acknowledged that world production of cocaine and opium was increasing. "If you want to fight a war on drugs, sit down at your own kitchen table and talk to your own children," he told National Public Radio last week.

Little of this, however, is reflected in Washington's drug programs, which General McCaffrey coordinates. This month, Congress will make an initial decision whether to approve the Administration's budget request for drug control programs overseas. As it did last year, the Administration has asked for a large increase in counternarcotics aid to Latin American police and militaries. As it did last year, Congress is likely to approve. The 1998 budget will probably more than double the \$75 million that Washington spent in Latin American counternarcotics in 1996. These programs are part of a law enforcement effort that consistently eats up about two-thirds of Federal anti-drug spending.

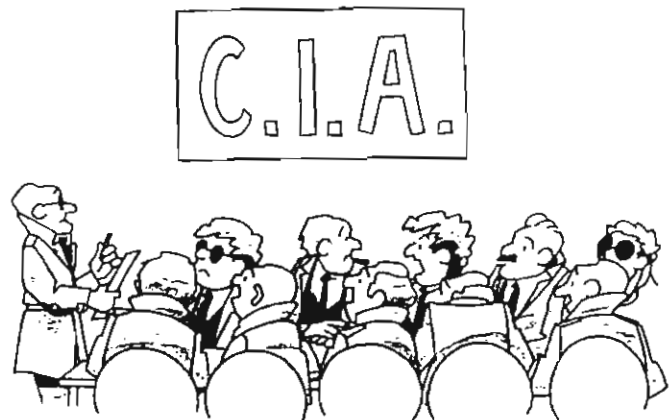
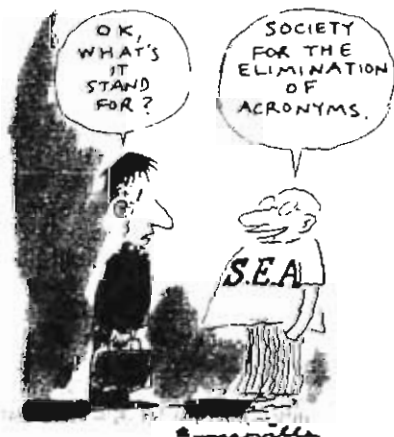
Until taking the drug czar job, General McCaffrey was the head of the United States Army Southern Command, which worked with Latin mili-

taries and police to fight cocaine. He knows that the overseas programs have succeeded largely in pushing cocaine from country to country.

Plenty of members of Congress know that too, but they throw money at militarized efforts overseas and balk at financing treatment, to appear tough on crime and drugs. General McCaffrey's colleagues in the Administration prefer the same expedient course. General McCaffrey has not helped at times by carelessly praising his Latin American counterparts. He called Mexican anti-drug chief Gen. Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo a man of "unquestioned integrity" just weeks before General Gutiérrez was arrested on corruption charges.

General McCaffrey, at least, has championed a new program to prevent juvenile drug use, and has achieved an increase in treatment beds. But those initiatives are minor compared with the large increases in the military and law enforcement budget that he has supported.

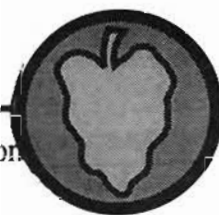
It is hard to think of anyone better placed to shift America's drug priorities than General McCaffrey. A respected general who has directed the drug wars has an unusual opportunity to convince Congress and the President that war alone will not reduce drug use. General McCaffrey says it. But he will not say it in the budget, where it counts.



"Of course one of us is a spy, you idiot...We're all spies!"



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(24th Recn. Co. '43-'45)  
1637 Palmouth Street  
Charleston, SC 29407-3926  
Tel. 803-766-8890

## **Quartermaster**

Harry L. Wittman, Jr.  
(G Co. 21st Inf '51-'52)  
1385 Terri St.,  
Keyser, W.VA 26726-2119  
Tel. 304-788-0465

## **Reunion Coordinator**

Donald L. Barrett  
(Hd. Co. 19th '51-'52)  
2854 Pinckard Avenue  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278-1535  
Tel. 304-788-0465

**1998 Reunion**  
**23-27 September 1998**  
**Excelsior Hotel**  
**Three Statehouse Plaza**  
**Little Rock, AR 72201**  
**Tel. 501-399-8050**  
**Fax 501-373-7320**

TO: All members of the 24th Infantry Division Association  
FROM: Harold "Corky" Peters

I want to thank all of you for electing me Vice President of the Association. I accept this position with humility and pride. I feel extremely honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve you. I will do my best to uphold the high tradition that has been passed along from previous vice presidents.

I would like to take this time to give my thanks to Rudy Mullins for the outstanding job he has done for the members of the 24th Infantry Division Association. As your secretary/treasurer and friend he has been a GIANT in every sense of the word!

A big thank you to Dutch, Margo and their committee for the great reunion they put on in Colorado Springs. The 50th reunion was one that we will never forget.

The 1998 reunion will be September 23rd-27th in Little Rock, Arkansas. I am pleased to say that the 3rd Battalion of the 34th and the 2nd Battalion of the 21st Association have voted to hold their annual meeting in conjunction with ours. I hope most of you will plan to attend.

## 24th Infantry Division Association Officers 1997-1998



Left to Right: Joseph Hofrichter, Chaplain; Don Barrett, Reunion Coordinator; Tom Cochran, President; Wally Kuhner, Membership Chairman; Harold (Corky) Peters, Vice President; Yvonne (Vonnle) Mullins, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor.



CONGRATULATIONS.  
RUDY

# LOYALTY. DEDICATION. TENACITY.

RODOLPH MULLINS is a straightforward Association officer who appreciates directness, simplicity and decorum. Loyalty, dedication and tenacity he possessed in abundance. That is why we honored Rudy with the award of the WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK BOWL. Bill Verbeck would have been proud of Rudy. Rudy has missed a great experience in life - the experience of knowing Bill. They were two of a kind - a very rare breed. What a pair they might have been had they shared some years together.



# COLORADO SPRINGS

Words we didn't want to print. They are the closing words in the annual report of our Secretary/Treasurer/Editor/QM  
RUDY MULLINS:

"I want each and every one of you to know that I have thoroughly enjoyed these past three (3) years. 1995 as Reunion Chairman, 1996 and 1997 as your Secretary/Treasurer/Co-Editor and also 1996 as the Q.M. It has kept Yvonne and I very busy, and I might say here, I couldn't have done it without her. She has been my inspiration. I regret that I must step down, my battle with cancer has been a losing one. My Oncologist informed me in July that I have 6+ months and that there is nothing more that can be done except to give me medication that will keep me pain free and comfortable. To be perfectly honest, I know that I have many out there who are praying for me daily and these prayers must surely be paying off. I feel better now than I have in months. I would like to thank all of you who have me in your prayers.

"I regret nothing in my life, for God knows that he could have taken me many times since the Kum River to the TET offensive. Somehow he spared me and has now found another need for me. I wish to thank all of you for the pleasure of knowing you and allowing me to serve you in the greatest Division and Association to ever wear brown shoes, leggings and jungle/desert boots.

"God Bless and the best of health to one and all."

What a man!! What a gentleman!!!



*Rudy & Yvonne Mullins*

# COLORADO SPRINGS

To the surprise of absolutely no one Rudy came through with this concise Treasurer's report at C.S.:

In the financial report for 1995-96 We had a CD for the General Fund of \$31,000.00 and as of July 12, 1997 the interest earned from this CD was \$2,682.86. This interest was added to the CD and the amount of this CD is now \$33,682.86 earning interest at 5.75 APR. The CD in escrow for the history book was \$22,448.60 and as of July 14, 1997, this CD had earned interest of \$1,905.51. \$10,188.96 was transferred to the operating account (checking account) to be used for the history books ordered and the balance of \$14,165.15 was put back into a CD to mature in December 1997. The \$3000.00 CD in escrow for the history book earned interest of \$155.75 and the total of this CD \$3155.75 was transferred to the checking account to be used for the history books. There was a total of \$14,537.41 in the checking account for history books. Our check #1375 written to Turner Publishing Company for \$16,062.00 was mailed to them on August 20, 1997. When the CD of \$14,165.15 matures in December, \$1,524.59 will be transferred to the operating account to cover the balance of the history books. The balance of this CD of \$12,640.54 plus interest earned will then be put back into a CD.

**Our financial situation is recapitulated as shown below:**

\$26,813.48 in the operating account as of 8/31/97  
\$33,682.86 in a CD at 5.75 APR - General Fund  
\$14,165.15 in a CD at 5.75 APR  
- \$1,524.59 owed to the operating account to cover history books, will be paid in Dec. '97  
\$12,640.54 in December 1997 will be put back into a CD (plus interest earned)

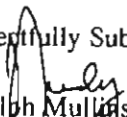
Total Interest Earned on C.D.'s for the year 1996-97 is	\$4,744.12
Interest Earned on Checking Account for 1996-97 is	<u>779.78</u>
Grand Total Interest Earned 1996-97 is	\$5,523.90

**Monies owed the Association Operating Fund**

Loan to Dutch Nelsen(1997 Reunion)	\$3,000.00
Money in checking account in	
Colorado Springs (1994-95)	<u>700.00</u>
Total Due Operating Fund	\$3,700.00

As of August 21, 1997 donations on the 35/15/ Raffle is \$8,466.00. Expenses incurred on the raffle was \$931.19 leaving a balance of \$7,534.81. As of this date \$3,767.45 is in the operating account (earmarked for the 1998 - Little Rock Reunion) and \$3,767.46 for the two winners. Names to be drawn Saturday, September 20, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room of the Sheraton Hotel. We will have raffle tickets available for donations at the reunion. Taxes for Fiscal Year August 1, 1996 - July 31, 1997 filed 18 Aug. '97

Respectfully Submitted

  
Rodolph Mullins, Treasurer



Secretary's Report  
50th Annual General Membership Meeting

Minutes: 24th Infantry Division Association

The President Ellsworth (Dutch) Nelsen called the meeting to order at 1000 hours 20 September 1997, at the Sheraton Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

The pledge to our flag was rendered. Invocation by Chaplain Joe Hofrichter.

The Secretary presented the Secretary's report, Bill Pence made motion to accept Secretary's report, seconded by Walter Marszalek. The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report, motion made to accept Treasurer's report by Bill Hosler, seconded by Angelo Agresti, motion carried.

Audit report given by Jim Hill, Chairman, Harold Peters and Tom Cochran, audit performed with no restrictions and was accepted.

Membership report by Wally Kuhner.

The President reported that the 1998 reunion will be in Little Rock. The Reunion Coordinator reported that we would be staying at the Excelsior Hotel, room rate of \$65.00. The Coordinator also reported that the Executive Committee had considered the 1999 reunion sites of:

Covington, Ky  
Albuquerque, NM  
Tulsa, OK

The executive committee voted to hold the 1999 reunion in Tulsa, OK. This met with the approval of the general membership.

Don Barrett gave report on why committee selected Tulsa. Adams Mark Hotel will give the Association \$1000 after the reunion. \$70.00 room rate, 4 kegs of free beer, coffee and snacks. Don also reported on the West Coast reunion.

Ken Ross was called upon by the President to explain to the membership that due to an oversight, the membership had to vote on the dissolution of the 24th IDA Inc., again. The Commonwealth of MA requires that they must be advised of the dissolution within 30 days of approval by the general membership. This was not done after the vote was taken at the annual reunion in 1996. A motion was made by Matt Slowik and seconded by Art Kemp to dissolve the corporation, motion carried.

The President discussed the Executive Committee action of making Yvonne Mullins an Honorary Member in order for her to be eligible to hold office in the association. Ken Ross discussed Article 5 of the By-Laws, motion made by Harold Peters, seconded by Rod Stock to amend the section 5 of the By-Laws to read. "no officer shall receive

compensation except for the Secy/Treas/Editor." Bill Hosler made motion, seconded by Lloyd Oler, motion carried. Bill Pence made the motion that in addition to paying the Secy/Treas/Editor a salary, that the Association also pay the expenses of the Secy/Treas/Editor. Motion was seconded by Walter Marszalek, motion carried.

Jim Hill, Acting Chairman of nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1997-1998.

President:	Tom Cochran
Vice Pres.:	Harold Peters
Secy/Treas/Editor:	Yvonne Mullins

Motion made by Ken Fentner, seconded by Walter Marszalek, motion carried, nominations closed and nominees elected by acclamation.

Dutch explained that he had purchased the national flag and bases from reunion funds.

B. David Mann was introduced and talked about the history book. Latest date for availability is November. It is currently going through the final "Blue Line" procedure.

Joe Hofrichter explained the procedures for notifying the Chaplain of any deaths. Send to Yvonne, send name, unit, dates, etc.

Bronco Atkinson spoke on the Banner, and was happy that Biak had finally been added after all these years of trying to have it included on the banner.

Fran Welch thanked Dutch for a good year.

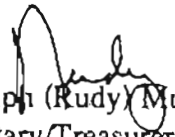
The following announcement was made by members from the floor:

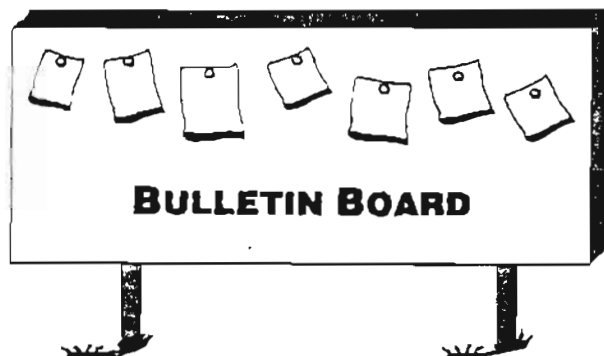
Worldwide Internet Korean War Project is now available to those with a computer and access to the internet.

Korean War Vets who have trouble from frost bite should get in touch with V.A., they are interested and will help.

Al McAdoo made motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt Slowik. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1155 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rodolph (Rudy) Mullins  
Secretary/Treasurer



### **REUNION STEINS**

There are a limited number of steins left from the reunion. These are crystal and etched with our Taro Leaf patch. They are offered for \$10 including postage. Send money to:

24th Inf Div Assoc  
PO Box 6066  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80934-6066

Make checks to: 24th Inf Div Assoc

### **ORDER YOUR COPY NOW**

As discussed at the Unit breakfast on Saturday in Colorado Springs, Bullets and Bayonets by Paul Austin can be ordered by sending your check for \$18.00 to:

Paul Austin  
3945 Misty Meadow Dr  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
Phone: 817-263-4030  
Fax 817-294-2432  
E-Mail paustin@flash.net

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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Two old vets meet for the first time in 52 years.

"Remember that stuff they used to put in our food when we were in the P.I. - to cool us down in our thoughts about women?" asks one.

"Yeah" says the other.

"You know it's beginning to work," says the first one.

### **RAFFLE AT 50TH REUNION A SUCCESS!**

**First Place Winner:** William Ladany of the 3rd Engineers. William is from Rockville, MD and was not at the reunion and his check of \$3,054.38 was mailed to him.

**Second Place Winner:** Tom Cochran of the 34th Inf. Tom was at the reunion and there was much rejoicing as he was presented with his check of \$1,309.02.

**Congratulations William and Tom.**

We will definitely be having another raffle at our next reunion in Little Rock, AR

Old man had trouble with his memory. Found a doctor who specialized in memory. Doctor fixed him up fine.

One day he was telling a friend about this wonderful doctor.

Friend said, "What's his name? I notice my memory is slipping."

Old man says, "Just a minute. I've got to use the system the Doctor taught me. What's the name of a city in northern Italy famous for its art works?"

Friend replied, "Florence".

Old man says: "That's it."

Turning to his wife, he says, "Oh Florence, what's the name of that Doctor?"

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**Hope your memory is better than that when it comes to sending in your change of address when moving or going to your winter home.**

**Send changes of address to your Secretary/Treasurer/Editor**

**Yvonne (Vonnice) Mullins**

**HCR 3 Box 191**

**Rocky Mount, MO 65072-9014**

Tom,

Thanks for bringing back the message from Jim Vaught. He is indeed a unique man and a heck of a Patriot! I also appreciate you passing along General Mc Caffrey's speech - he has had a very interesting career himself!

Sounds as if the reunion was all that it was intended to be - an opportunity for warriors to renew old friendships.

*"Victory" / Air Assault!*  
*W. Keenan*

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### ATTENTION TROOPS

The 1998 West Coast Mini Reunion is being transferred back to California to Buena Park, in Orange County.

Date: Wed. 15 April through Sun. 19 April 1998

Hotel: Holiday Inn Buena Park

Rate: \$59.00 Single/Double Same rate 2 days before and after

A Saturday night dinner and Sunday morning farewell Buffet Breakfast is in the process of being finalized. Other things to see and do that are being planned include the following:

Knots Berry Farm.

Disneyland

Movieland Wax Museum

Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament (Great Show).

Look for further details and prices for the above in the next Taro Leaf. All members of the 24th are welcome. Our next objective is Buena Park.

Donald Barrett,  
Reunion Coordinator,  
2854 Pinckard Avenue,  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
Phone: 310-370-2095.

### THANK YOU NOTE FROM MARGO NELSEN To the 24th Infantry Division Association

The Candelabra is beautiful. I will put candles in it in the four colors of the Taro Leaf and one white.

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Margo, We all want to thank you for your work with Dutch during his year as President and Reunion Chairman.

Thank you, you are a Grand Lady.



*"Does everyone like pastor?"*





## Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

**C.V. Ortiz**, 3812 Gordon Ave., Ft Worth, TX 76110-4824 (Co. D 21st, '44-'46) writes that he has just received his first issue (Aug '97) of the Taro Leaf. "Found an item that has been on my mind for the past 52 years. He says reading the Medal of Honor Recipients list he saw the name of one of his good buddies who was KIA on Mindanao. PFC James Diamond. He has wondered all these years if his good friend ever got a citation for his action". You can't imagine how I felt when I saw his name on the MOH list. This made me very happy so I'm writing the Association to say "Thanks a Million". This seems to me that it took a lot off my chest, PFC Diamond was a real go-getter and a brave young man. I'm planning to go to the reunion in September and hope to see someone from Co D 21st Inf Regt of 1944-1945. I'm glad I joined the Association or I would never have known about PFC Diamond".

**Ted Shields (A.T.)** 617 W. Granger #23 Modesto, CA 95350-4157 (19th Inf Regt, '45-'46) sends along his dues with the following: "The August issue was great! Really enjoyed all the pictures, most particularly of Kenwood Ross. I was in Hq 19th when he was (although I was a lowly 1st Lt." My time with the 19th in the Philippines and Japan was something not to be forgotten.

**Ernest L. Samples**, #1-1600 Brick Kiln Ln., Louisville, KY 40216-4817 (A Btry, 11th F.A. Bn, '49-'51) would like to hear from Col William (Bill) Stratton 26th AAA or anyone who might be able to help locate him.

Col Stratton was stationed at Camp Hakata prior to going to Korea.

**LCOL (Ret) Gene Sykes**, 115 Kaywood Dr., Sanford, FL 32771-8838 H/S Co. 3rd Eng (C) Bn Aug '50- Sept '51. Sent us a nice thank you note saying, "Sure do love my (Taro Leaf) had an enjoyable contact with Gen. Tankersley and Col Al Greibling, Thanks to you guys - (Article in Feb Taro Leaf about Class of '50, West Point".

**Joseph McKeon**, 12733 Muscarine St., Arleta, CA 91331-4245 (Hq 19th Inf and G-2 24th, Feb '49-May '51) writes to tell us that there has been a change in the Area Code for Akron, OH, it is now 330 instead of 216 and that there is a number of other 216's in the list, so there will be other Ohio numbers to change. Ohio and other members, please let the Secretary know if your area code changes. Los Angeles County, around Long Beach has been changed from 310 to 562. Thanks Joe.

**A big thank you to Joe McKeon and Diane Peters** for getting so many changes of area codes and zip codes to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to say to all members, when you move, please send us your new address, with the 9 digit zip code and your telephone number. This will save the Association much expense in mailing correspondence to you. Money that could be better spent on publishing the "Taro Leaf".

**Marion E. Parker**, 523 Poplar Dr., Pittsboro, IN 46167-9058 (Co I 34th Inf Regt Nov '53-June '54) writes that he was pleased to receive the Taro Leaf. "It reminded me of some things I had been told about the Division history as well as informing me about lots of things I did not know".

**Ervin De Muth**, PO Box 382 Morgan MN 56266-0383 (Co C 21st Inf Regt May '45-Oct '46) sent us the following note: "Very good magazine, I especially like the new cover, your 50th anniversary issue was really well done and informative". **Thanks Ervin, it was our pleasure**

**Doris Downing Müller**, 4604 Nicklaus Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047-1981 (Father, 19th Inf Jul '44-Nov '46, KIA) Doris is looking for anyone who knew her father. He was on Mindanao near Davos City when he was KIA by sniper fire the day Gen McArthur landed on the Island. He is buried in Manila. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

**Cliff Mathis**, PO Box 1295, Vienna, IL 62995 would like to hear from anyone who knew his brother Pvt William F. Mathis who served in Co A Heavy Weapons 21st Inf Regt and was killed on Nov. 7th, 1944 on Leyte. He was called Tiny.

**John(Jack)Tait**, 1373 Green Vista Ln., Gulf Breeze, FL 32461-3488 (HQ 8/44-1/46) writes, "Enclosed please find my dues for this year. Sorry we couldn't make the 50th Reunion, but am busy recuperating from heart surgery. Maybe next year! "



## Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

The Following is from Wesley A. Oxner, 3317 Southern CV, Cabot AR 72023-8800 (SMS, USAF Ret). He is seeking information from anyone who knew his brother Harvey Oxner, Co A, 19th Inf Regt, and who perhaps can recall his death and capture circumstances. From the date, 16 July 1950, he was perhaps killed at the battle of the Kum River.

Picture and story of Harvey below.

From S/Sgt Edson A. Carpenter, 7133 Sunset Ave., Jenison, MI 49428-8927 (19th Inf Regt, '41-'45) writes that he would be pleased to see an explanation to the readers of what the Taro Leaf is. Edson, please see the article in this issue.

Here is one for you. Anyone know Timothy Braun who was stationed with the 24th Inf Div in Augsburg, Germany. Braun left there in Jul-Aug 1963 after returning to the States for his home in Texas, he went to Viet Nam. He has a daughter who would very much like to get in touch with him. She may be contacted by writing to: Kathyrene Denekas, PO Box 720, Apache, OK 73006 Tel: 405-588-2953.

## War Hits Home To Us; Two Brinkley Boys Missing In Action



Pfc. Floyd Dobson



Pfc. Harvey Oxner

Two Brinkley boys, members of the same infantry regiment recently shifted from Japan to Korea, have been reported by the War Department as missing in action as of July 16.

Pfc. Floyd Dobson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dobson of 3 miles north of Brinkley, one of the missing boys, joined the service in December, 1948, and after a few weeks basic training at Ft. Smith visited home, and was transferred to Camp Stoneman, Calif. From there he was shipped to Japan. The last letter the parents had from Floyd was written from his camp in Japan on Sunday, June 25th and he told of being in the same company with another Brinkley boy, Harvey Oxner. The message to the mother was signed by Ed F. Mitchell, Maj. Gen., U. S. Army, The Adjutant General of the Army. It came Sunday morning.

Pfc. Harvey Oxner of Brinkley, was reported as missing in action in Korea, as of July 16, in a message from Maj. Gen. Ed Mitchell last Sunday morning. The message came to his father, Abner Oxner, who lives 2 miles southeast of Brinkley. Young Harvey is a brother of Mrs. Wilbur Collins, also of near Brinkley. Harvey went into the service last November, and took his basic training at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He was home about March 1st for a short visit with his relatives and then was shipped overseas.

The Dobsons have another son in the service, Pfc. Fred Dobson, twin brother of the missing infantryman, and Fred was shipped overseas on August 7th from a west coast port. He has arrived safely in Okinawa.

From Don Wagner, Apt 11, 1712 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661-3749. (19th Inf Regt 8/50-9/51) Don ran an ad in the Columbian Newspaper with a circulation of 55-60000 advertising our association and reunion. He said it will be worth it if we get just 1 or 2 new members. Don, we have received at least two, maybe more.

W. Clarence Sisley, 2509 W. Calle Tonda, Tucson, AZ 85745-2506, (Med Det 19th Inf 1/41-4/45, Med Det 34th Inf 1941) writes: "Since I seem to be all here at the moment and hope to still be here at this time next year, I feel that I had better pay my dues. Check is enclosed. I still enjoy the Victory Division news even though the membership seems to be getting younger each year. But, then I seem to be getting older each year. Replacements must be used to fill the ranks when the spots become vacant. If we oldsters can't keep the spots filled, replacements will just have to join the ranks. Does anyone from the 19th Inf remember when New Guinea, the tower that we were to practice climbing up the cargo net just happened to blow up about a 1/2 hr before we were to start our practice?"



## Notes From the Secretary/Treasurer

From Wanda Sampson, PO Box 40700 Mesa, AZ 85274-0700, visited Korea in June and while there she would like to see if she can find any information about her brother who was killed there in 1950. He was declared MIA on 16 July (probably Kum River Action) no remains were ever found and he was declared KIA on 7 Nov 1950. Anyone having any information on Sgt Bill S. Sumpter RA 17236281, Co. C., 19th Inf Regt, please contact Mrs Sampson.

William Ballard, 1020 South Lusk, Apt 169, Boise, ID 83706, Co. C 3rd Engr would like information on a 1st Lt Yordy 2 Plt Co. C. 3rd Engr (C) Bn. from Sept - Oct 1950.



From Bill Boyden, PO Box 114, Norton MA 02766-0114

Dear Rudy,

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$55.00, Five dollars for the ticket donation, fifty to upgrade my life membership. I'll be unable to attend this years reunion, before my wife passed away, she and I enjoyed going to the annual reunion.

Am sure the 3rd Engineers will make a good showing, they usually do. I'll miss seeing them. If possible could you publish the enclosed picture of my best friend and I. Retired S/Sgt Di Giramo and I were together since being sworn in at Ft. Banks, MS, through basic and together in the 3rd Engineers. He lives in West Newton, MS and we still get together, he was a great cook. Hope you all have a wonderful time at the reunion.

"First to Fight"  
Regards, Bill Boyden  
Life Member #426

Photo Below from Nicholas Marasco

From Nicholas Marasco, 1494 Gleason Rd, Andover, NY 14806-9622. Enclosed is my check for the 35/15 raffle. I think it is an excellent idea. Also I have enclosed a photo that I just run across taken in a village of Leyte on Christmas day 1944. "Lazy L Co" landed there the day before and went on a night march Christmas night 10 miles behind the Jap lines. Capt Stearns had insisted that we receive our Christmas mail before we went on the mission. Everyone received the usual cakes, cookies, candy that we could not carry into combat so we made a happy Christmas for the Natives. I am sure that the kids will never forget our generosity as they flocked around us. We had a Catholic Mass on the afternoon of the 24th Dec. and then went into the Village on the Bay to cool a six pack of Genessee Beer in the water. Pete Milliard is peeking out of the middle of the group, I am standing on the left and Herb Schuler is against the wall. The one on the extreem right was a guerilla fighter who was our guide over the mountain that night. Note happy faces of all of the children.





## Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

**Letter from LeRoy E. Atkins, PO** Box 1588, Orleans, MA 92653.

Congratulations on putting out a wonderful anniversary issue. You are to be complimented on doing such a fine job, not only with the content but with the quality of the photographs as well. This coming from an old time printer who was in the trades for over forty years. Your reproduction of the article "Good Riddance to WW II's" die gelme upset, to say the least. Sounds as if the writer has a huge chip on his shoulder, but is typical of what newspapers publish nowadays just to stir up more controversy.

Nice to see that someone would like to form a club of those who underwent prostate operations. Maybe Dick Goiny and myself could form a club of those who recently underwent heart by-pass surgery. Around here it is called "The Zipper Club," a very apropro name don't you think? Want to repeat what I have said in previous letters. Would like to hear from anyone who was with the 21st guarding prisoners on Kojima Island, who stayed there until the prisoners were re-patriated, and then the unit was moved to a spot near Chunchon, where I stayed until being rotated home. Dues enclosed. Keep up the good work.

**Letter from Lee R. Phillips, PO** Box 432, Wilder, ID 83676. I read the article by Kenwood Ross, "Birth of our Association". I find it really interesting to me. I was at Davao Gulf Sector, Mindanao, South Philippines when the war ended. A young man probably a PFC drove a 2nd LT up to our position in the Jungle behind Davao. We were dug in around a sawmill, that the Philipinos were

trying to get in operation. We went out on security patrol. I was awarded the combat infantry badge, while I was up there. John Klump was in my Squad. The Lt told us the war was over but we could still take prisoners. Other people in my Squad were Ratcliff, Potter, Dines, Davis, Riggerwetter. There were more but I can't remember their names. The last time I saw Klump was at Tocoma, Japan. I was guarding a warehouse filled with Jap rifles and swords. I talked to Klump that night. I also saw him when we were at Matsuyama. I was in both towns where the atomic bombs were dropped, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The last town I was stationed at in Japan was "Ormura" near Sasebo on Kyushu Island. I was a member of E & C Company, 34th Regt., 24th Division, 8th Army. They are now checking me for radiation exposure at veterans Hospital in Boise, Idaho. I know for sure I was exposed. I have cataracts on both eyes and I am 76 years old. Anyway I get good treatment. I have some pictures I could send you if you want them for the "Taro". P.S. I remember a Colonel Wheeler at Matsuyama, Japan.

From John Ambrose, Jr, 820 North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15209-2232 (24th Sig Bn 1/42-5/45). John writes that he was assigned to the 24th Sig Bn upon his arrival in Hawaii in Feb. '42. He started out as a pole lineman but later became a code clerk but when he arrived in Australia, he became a pigeon trainer. He sends his regards to Kenwood Ross.

**Picture from John Ambrose, Jr**



From Irving Christensen, Rt 3, Box 103, Canby, MN 53220-9240 (Co. A 724 Ord Bn) '55-'56. Sends us a picture of Libby Bridge, names for the first MOH recipient of the Korean War. While stationed in Korea he says he crossed the bridge many times, also crossed the Freedom Gate Bridge. The Freedom Gate Bridge was where the POW exchange took place.







## Notes From the Secretary/ Treasurer

Have received word upon Joe Hofrichter's(our Chaplain) return home from the reunion, that he went to see his doctor because of a lump on his back, his doctor recommended immediate surgery to determine cause of the lump. Joe underwent surgery on Friday, September 26 and was advised that the lump was malanoma cancer. Joe and Charlotte are always the first to remember us and now let us all remember them in our prayers and well wishes and our love.

Kenneth E. Rogers Sr., 94 Western Promenade, Auburn, ME 04210-4717 (339th Eng. '44-'45) writes, "I think the date due is a neat way of letting us know when our dues are due - unless they are like me. Best of luck as I enjoy everything and maybe we will see some of Joe Hofrichter's ideas or sayings. He is top notch and always a credit to the 339th as his time was ours always, he and Charlotte.(He is 339th). Thanks again."

Walter J. Marszalek, 8713 S Tully Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453-1358 (3rd Eng (D) 8/51-3/53) writes, "This was my first reunion, my wife and I really enjoyed ourselves. we can't wait until next September. I guess we are hooked for the rest of our lives. A donation included. Writing this letter with a 24th Div. 50th anniversary pen." I sent to all the Chicago and area newspapers "Editors", our search for new members letter. Our next Village Senior newsletter will also run a copy. P.S. Peter Crombie and wife couldn't make the reunion but said to give you and your husband The Best." We thank you both for your good wishes.

Alvin F. Buchholz, 2222 Hall Ave, Grand Junction CO 81501-6662 (Co H 19th Inf. Regt. 1944-46) writes, "We had planned to attend the Reunion but due to an accident we were unable to. The Association refunded our registration fees, therefore, I am returning the favor by becoming a life member."

Thanks, Alvin, we welcome you as a "Life Member". Good to hear from you.

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Thomas F. Hawkins, 29 3rd St., Inman, SC 29349-1771, (11th FABN C Btry 6/50-5/51) writes: "Just a few lines to let you all know how much I enjoy the Taro Leaf, I read it from cover to cover every time I get it. I read the article from Jim Lillie and I had forgotten that I had been in (B) Btry when we went to Korea and that I got one of the bronze stars that was awarded. We left Japan on the 8th day of July 1950 and landed in Pusan the 9th day of July 1950. I would like to hear from any one that was in B Btry when we left Japan and was transferred to C Btry. I was only in the outfit a few days before we left Japan and I only remember 3 names of the guys that I was with. I was wounded March 27, 1951 and was sent back to the States. The names I remember was Winstead, Fisher and King. The first two were in my crew but I don't think King was. I am sending a check for the balance of my life membership, the book and the rest goes to the organization." Thanks for writing, Tom.

---

S/Sgt Dan Laughlin, 1934 Johnson Pl, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6638 (21st Inf '42-'43) writes:

HELP! Anyone remember Bre-grade Wood? Capt Riley was CO, Sgt Amos and Jack Hiley, George Lichteneaur, Victor May, Leo Duffy, Amos Bull Blar, was just a few that come to mind. Would like to hear from anyone. P.S. Was living in Shenandoah when I went in the Service. Thanks for writing Dan. Lets hear it guys, can you help Dan?

### Daily Breeze October 23, 1994

#### 'D-Day' in Phillppines was one to remember

After celebrating the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Europe, we should remember there were also some "D-Days" in the Pacific Theater of World War II, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Tarawa, to mention a few. The one I remember most vividly was the landing on Leyte on Oct. 20, 1944.

As a 20 year-old combat infantryman, I was considered a seasoned veteran after surviving several New Guinea campaigns. We were still hunkered down on Red Beach barely 150 yards from the water's edge when I saw Gen. Douglas MacArthur wade ashore surrounded by a few dozen of his staff and the news media.

He subsequently made his famous "I have returned" speech. It took several more bloody months

to secure the island, with related casualties.

In memory of the many fallen comrades, I would like all peace-loving people to remember Oct. 20, 1944, the day that the liberation of the Filipino people began in World War II.

Eric Diller  
Redondo Beach

AFTER ACTION REPORT KOREAN ARMISTICE DAY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
July 27, 1997

It was 90 degrees and 95% humidity at 10:00 in the morning and it got no better. The placing of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown by the various representatives was solemn, dignified and impressive. Honor Guards from the five services were present, plus the combined colors, and the army band. After the brief honors ceremony, including taps, flowers were placed at the Korean War Memorial bench, which is located adjacent to the amphitheater.

Later, at the Korean Memorial, after posting the Division colors away from the speakers' platform, three veterans, recognizing the flag, came up and introduced themselves. Two were in the division but do not belong to the association, the other is Cleon Eckler (Co. I 21st Infantry) life member. I asked the three of them to accompany me while I placed the flowers. Cleon carried the division colors. The flowers were placed in front of the "point man" and we gave a hand salute for our absent friends. The floral tribute was large and colorful. The two dark blue ribbons were inscribed "24th INF DIV ASSOC" and "FIRST TO FIGHT".

The Third Inf Division was the only other combat division represented. The 24th was the only Division flag displayed. Thank you for allowing me to represent the division at this ceremony. It should be done every year. I was proud to be there and I know we stood tall.

(s) Norman J. Riegler



*Left to Right: (\*-Non-Assoc. Members) Dominick Pantaloen\*, 21st Inf; Norman J. Riegler, 19th Inf; Cleon Eckler, 21st Inf; Paul Kowalewski\* 5th RCT*

FRANK M. McINTYRE, PhD  
2625 PLUMBROOK DRIVE  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48304  
(810) 333-7601

October 26, 1995

To: Al Liwang, Bill Roseboro, Frank Plata;

I told Al that I was going to the Korean Memorial in Washington last weekend and that I would let him know my reaction to it. Others would have different reactions but these were mine. I walked through the memorial and went away for a while and came back and sat on a bench by the end and thought about what I had seen and sorted out my feelings. My wife, Alice, was with me and let me go alone while she waited.

It was a sunny and warm Sunday afternoon in late October. The mall area was filled with the left overs from a big Marine Corp marathon that drew thousands in to the Mall area in the morning. I had not been in Washington for years and had not visited the Vietnam War Memorial until the same day. I wont make any comparisons but the two memorials share much in common and are still very different.

The memorial is in several parts. The figures of the infantry squad coming up the hill gives the display a central theme. I admit I did not go expecting to be impressed with these. And yet, after a few minutes I felt the power of the image. The figures brought home to me that this memorial was a memorial to the infantry. Maybe the last one in the books of time. I remembered the Time magazine cover and man of the year in December 1951. This was the cover that had as the man of the year the infantry soldier in Korea. I felt that I could connect with the images that the statues in the memorial brought to mind.

I was impressed with the people at the memorial. Not the tourists and the kids who were visiting because it was such a nice day in Washington, but the older person, like myself who had probably experienced some of the trauma of the Korean War. Their were several groups of people with hats or jackets from veteran organizations. Some were from the Maryland Korean War group. They were placing flowers at the memorial and a plaque commemorating one of the dead from Maryland.

Sitting at the stone benches around the periphery were others, who like me, just sat and watched and were lost in memories. And the parents and grandparents with children who walked through the memorial. The number of people who were more than tourists was surprising. Of course these stayed for a while longer than the tourist who were just passing through. I could see 20 or 30 easily and I was not looking or counting. Did have one person who was with the Maryland group come up to me and say something. He told me he was with the 25th Division and that others were with the 1st Cavalry. I am sure I could have joined with his group and probably had an exciting afternoon, but we did have other things to do and it was a time for me of contemplation rather than socializing.

I was impressed by the list of countries that had supported the war along the walk. I knew this but to see the list ranging from the Canadian, the French and English through the list of 20 or more countries that supported this war. At the end of the walk was a simple statement of the numbers of dead and wounded. The number of US was not a surprise but the number of UN dead and wounded was a shock. I should have made a better note of the number but it was several hundred thousand dead for the UN Forces compared to 50 thousand US dead. Of course these were mostly the South Korean soldiers and civilians who we too often forgot.

This could well have been the finest hour for the United Nations. In World War 2 we may have had more allies but most had no choice. Here, we had allies who came to make a point. Those mis-guided people who are concerned about the UN taking over the country would really have something to worry about if they saw how easily we all worked together for a common cause. How things have changed. How much that was found through hard battle do we take for granted or have we given back with nothing in return?

The last impression came as I watched over the flowing fountain at the end of the memorial. I looked at a wall about six foot high of black stone. This end had nothing on it but a few words.

### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Simple words that could easily be missed. But with what implications to our current society. I could feel the sacrifices that were made for freedom, by those who were on the ground and by those who supported the effort through out the world. And, we stopped a bad thing from happening. We showed that we were willing to commit resources and travel half way around the world to protect an ideal. Some words in the concrete at the point of the statues talk about men coming across the world to a country that most had never heard about and most could not find on a map to fight for a people that they could never understand. But the bigger picture was that we showed our courage and our willingness to pay a price.

And I look down the mall away from the Lincoln Memorial to the capitol building. And I hear an echo of the voices who are so willing to forget how this country was made great by the sacrifices of its warriors in the name of liberty. And I hear these voices of false and evil leaders who know so much and who are so willing to let us keep our freedom but at a price to the rest of the world and to the future generations.

To me that is the message of the memorial. Can we look at the images and see what it all means. Can we see the sacrifices made by so many in the interest of freedom. Can we see that running from sacrifice is not the answer but a rejection of all that has been done in the past. The Memorial sits within the arc of the Lincoln Memorial, that great monument to a war that costs us so much as a nation but that made us a free and better nation.

I want to go back to the Korean Memorial. But I want to go in winter when the ground is frozen and the frost sits on the statues. I want to feel the cold chill of the ground creep into my bones. I want to stand alone at the end of the squad as the sun comes up search the high ground for movement. I want to see the enemies before they see me and before they can destroy this society.

I did make a try at pictures. Too many people around and no good camera angles. Better to buy a postcard. But I did not see any for sale. I was not impressed with the stands selling the VietNam war 't' shirts and banners. It is not a place for slogans. Hope they go away.

We left Washington by way of the SkyLine Drive in Virginia. Driving along the ridges and seeing the beautiful fall colors made it all worth while. Some one years ago had the vision to save and return this piece of our heritage to us. All over this country we have examples of where choices were made for the future not just for today.

Well, I did not start this with the intention of preaching a sermon. I know that I do not do that well. If you have not gone to see the Memorial then it should be on your list of things to do. But come for an understanding of the meaning of the experience not of the memorial. Come for a renewal of why it all was worth while. And why Freedom does come at a cost.

Wish you all a good winter. I will try to keep in touch.



Dear Sir:

I am forwarding you an article that was written by my niece. She is a student at Georgetown University. She went to see the Korean War Memorial. When returning back to Georgetown she wrote the following article to me, which I am very proud of. I would like to share this with all Veterans, if you see fit to put in our 24th Victory Division News.

Thank you.

(S) Angelo Agresti

### *THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL*

At four o'clock in the afternoon, the sun hid behind the clouds and it began to rain. Although I was drenched within a few minutes, I continued to walk at the same pace. The drops of rain on my face and in my shoes made me smile. As I crossed in front of the Washington Memorial, I first noticed that there were very few people around me in the streets. In an attempt to flee the rain I supposed, they had all quickly sought protection in one of the Smithsonian Museums. While the sky became darker and more threatening, I watched it with my head tilted backwards and my mouth open wide in order to drink the water falling from the sky. I was enjoying myself so much in the rain that I almost forgot the reason why I was out walking downtown so far from Georgetown. However, the moment I lowered my head once more, I froze in my tracks.

The Korean War Memorial stood fifty meters in front of me to the left. Because of a dozen large statues of soldiers, it was impossible to overlook the memorial from this distance or even further away. Before moving forward again, I hesitated a minute in order to better reflect on the scene before me. Being of realistic size, the statues appeared to be human beings. Due to the fog that enveloped them, I perceived the statues to be faceless ghosts, newly risen from the ground. As I looked at the group of young, isolated and desperate soldiers, I thought of my uncle Ange who left in 1950 to participate in the war at the age of eighteen. Although thankfully my uncle returned home alive after the war, I was certain that part of his spirit was also there at the memorial among the spirits of all the veterans of the Korean War, living and deceased.

There was a lone path of small stones that led to the memorial. As I followed it, I had the impression that I was then entering into a new strange world from which there was only one route of escape. The light green statues which together formed a platoon of soldiers were dispersed in a dirt field littered with small bushes at the center of the memorial. They were dressed in military uniforms. The long tight boots came up to their knees and the metal helmets fit snugly on their heads. Even though they carried machine guns over their shoulders, their eyes which were fixed forward showed clearly the fear that ran through their bodies. The footpath on which I walked circled the dirt field, isolating the vulnerable young men in the war from all else. While I slowly continued to advance on the path, I became increasingly aware of my participating in the platoon's patrol, I, too imagined that the enemy was watching, me, preparing to strike me down.

A marble black wall ran the length of the path's opposite side. It began at a formidable height and then slowly decreased in a proportional manner. At first glance, I saw nothing on the wall except utter bleakness. However, after a second look, I perceived images seeming to jump out at me. There were many different small scenes engraved on the facade. The engraved images were placed in no apparent order on the wall. Among the faces of all shapes and sizes, there were also pictures of helicopters, surgeries in progress and nurses tending to the wounded. I found myself staring at each image for more than a few moments.

One thought echoed in my mind: each face belonged to a fellow human being, a fellow American. These images were not created by an artist's imagination; rather, they were war photographs taken of brothers, fathers, husbands and uncles to those back home. Suddenly, I was face to face with a young soldier who was no more than twenty. Even though we were approximately the same age, his expression was frighteningly serious, and he lacked a youthful spirit. Without a doubt, the war had forced him to become an adult far before his time. He, like the others, had a name, a family and a past. As I stood in a semi-conscious trance, questions for which I preferred not to have answers, bombarded me. Was this soldier living today, or was he one of the innocent victims of the Korean war? If he died while serving his country, when and how was he killed? Had he been afraid? And, more importantly, did he know that he was a hero to us all?

The raindrops that continued to fall from the sky became tears streaming down the faces of the soldiers reflected in the somber wall. Why were they crying, I wondered. I wanted to ask them, but I was well aware that they would be unable to respond, even if they desired to. These poor boys, trapped within the wall, were living in a foreign world, the Koreans. They did not know if one day they would return to their homes and their families in the United States. The greatest challenge each day for the soldier was to live to see the sun rise the next morning.

As I continued to follow the path which lay between the black marble wall and the platoon of soldiers, I began to feel as though I was also following the progression of the war itself. With each step, days passed and the number of casualties sadly increased. The faces on the wall continued to change. However, they all shared one particular experience: that of the war and the uncertainty of the future. A plaque, in the ground at the end of the wall read:

*Our nation honors her sons and daughters, who responded to the call to  
defend a country that they never knew and a people that they never met..*

After reading the words a second time, I turned my head once more towards the faces reflected in the wall. I hoped they heard the "thank you" that I whispered.

On the opposite side of the dirt field on which the platoon tread, the footpath was bordered by a low wall on which were written the names of all the nations that participated in the Korean Wars as allies to the United States. The memorial not only paid tribute to the American casualties, but also those of the world who fought in the name of freedom and justice. While the majority of U.S. citizens continued to live as usual in the United States from 1950 until 1953, the soldiers in Korea suffered a great deal. 54,246 dead. 103,284 wounded. 7,140 captured. 8,177 missing. Are these numbers only to record in books? Certainly not. The Korean War permanently scarred each individual who was killed, wounded, captured or never found.

While taking my last few steps along the footpath, I realized my fatigue. The tears that fell from my eyes became one with the raindrops. Although I was extremely proud of these young men who had risked everything so that today we could live in a better world, I was also utterly depressed to think how many returned home in a coffin. After these last few reflections, I cautiously walked on. I now was leaving Korea to once more enter the modern world. Although the Korean War Memorial quickly disappeared behind me, the faces of the soldiers remained imprinted on my mind. They will be with me always, I am certain.

(s) Jacqueline Wolhers

NEW MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Recruited by</u>
Andreas JR	John D	Delano	CA	19th	(Hvy Mtr)	Raymond Vega
Ball	Adolph H	Manawa	WI	13th		Wally Kuhner
Ballard	W C	Boise	ID	3rd En	(C)	Jim Hill
Bee	David	Florence	AL	34th	(G)	Robert S Wode
Beeler Jr	David	Magazine	AR	19th	(C/5)	Dutch Nelsen
Bizzell	Herbert	Placerville	CA	21st		Wally Kuhner
Cable	Michael	Sacramento	CA	Assoc		
Castillo	Dominic	Denver	CO	21st	(G)	Warren G. Avery
Collins	Joseph E	Hamilton	OH	21st	(F)	William E. Kerns
Conner	Jeffrey L	Colorado Springs	CO	2/7 Inf		Reunion-C.S.
Craft	Floyd	Plainfield	IN	Assoc		Rudy Mullins
Crowe	Harold Richard	Minneapolis	MN	19th	(D)	Carl B. Gamel
Daigle RET	Capt Roland J	Maxwell	TX	21st	(K)	Wally Kuhner
Davidson	William A	N. Wales	PA	21st	(H-D-M)	Paul Carpenter
Davis	Sam H	Shebogan	WI	13th		
Davis USA RET	William D	Potomac	VA	21st	(B)	
Deeter	Wilbur E	Greenville	OH	21st	(SVC)	Tom Cochran
East	Malcolm P	Lumberton	TX	724th	(C)	
Engler	Daniel D	Bella Vista	AR	19th	(Med)	Dutch Nelsen
Fritz	Alvin H	La Cross	WI	24th R		Newspaper Ad
Gaffney	Thomas W	Orange City	FL	724th	(M)	Jim Hill
Gapol	Geraldo	Pearl City	HI	34th	(B)	Ad(VA Hosp)
Hazlet	William D	West Sunbury	PA	21st	(MED)	Cochran&Peters
Hostetter	Roger Lee	Reading	PA	5th AA		Bill Hosler
Johnson	Howard E	Eau Claire	WI	339th		Joe Hofrichter
Johnson	Jesse C	Huntsville	TX	19th		George Carter
Jugan	Robert J	Fords	NJ	Div Ba		Harry L Wittman Jr
Kirby	John L	Apple Valley	CA	29thR		Ross,McAdoo,Balbi,
Kuns JR	John	Somerdale	NJ	21st	(A)	AD
Lake	Charles E	Ogdensburg	Ny			Wally Kuhner
Lee	Willard H	Kent	WA	19th	(A)	
Lehman	Seymore	Yonkers	NY	63rd		Harry Wittman
Mannering	John R	Haadonfield	NJ	21st	(A)	Paul Carpenter
Marculewicz	Robert W	Essex	MA	24th	(HQ)	Al McAdoo
Matoes	Raymond R	Jamestown	RI	21st	(C)	
McElhandon RET	MSGT James	LeMoore	CA	3rd En	(C)	SFC WC Ballard
McGill	John F	Brookville	IN	19th	(B)	
Medlin	Carl	Ontario	CA	5th RC		5th RCT
Miller	Doris Downing	Lawrence	KS			Rudy Mullins
Mueller	Kenneth G	Edwardsville	KS	34th	(B)	Robert W. Allen
Mullins	Yvonne	Rocky Mount	MO	Honor		
Nickas	Nicholas	Daly City	CA	21st	(I)	Dick Bohls Co I 21st
O'Connell JR	John	Colorado Springs	CO	2/9 CA 4/64 Arm		Reunion-C.S.
Parker	Marion E	Pittsboro	IN	34th	(I)	Harry Wittman
Perceful	Earl,	Muskogee	OK	21st	(E)	Cochran&Peters
Pucillo	Louis	Philadelphia	PA	19th	(H)	Jim Hill
Reed	Paul	Orrville	OH	21st	(H)	Arnold Riddle
Revels	MSGT Freeman S	Zephyrhills	FL	19th	(C)	Chuck Unsworth

NEW MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Recruited by</u>
Robertson	Dannielle	Woodland Hills	CA			Bob Lawhon
Robinson	Roland Dee	Sugar City	ID	19th	(H)	Gray Clawson
Roman	Joseph F	Pittsburgh	PA	24th	M	Rudy Mullins
Sampson	Wanda Sumpter	Mesa	AZ	19th	(C)	
Schafer	Col Robert W	Colorado Springs	CO	11th		Dutch Nelsen
Schrumpf	LeRoy V	Ridgefield Park	NJ	Div Hq		VFW Ad
Simmendinger JR	Marcus A	Hatfield	PA	13th		Kenneth Bollinger
Skinner	Lawrence J	Spokane	WA			Don Donner
Snyder	Walter B	Dallastown	PA	34th	RCT	Wally Kuhner
Stevens	Raymond Lee	Vallejo	CA	19th		Charles W Foster
Toomey	Charles T	North Dartmouth	MA	52nd	(Btry A)	AD
Van Etten JR	Judson R	Corning	NY	3rd En	(D)	Elwyn Miller
Vaughn	Roger H	Monterey	CA	24th	R	Rudy Mullins
Warren	Howard A	Alton	IL	24th	D (HQ)	Wally Kuhner
Watkins	George N	Newark	Oh	724th		Claude Crist
Wells	Weiford R	Bremerton	WA	104 A	(Btry HQ)	Rudy Mullins

8526 West Duquesne Drive  
Lakewood, CO 80227

Dear Mr. Nelsen:

I appreciate very much that you took time out of what I know must have been a very busy schedule to return my phone call last weekend. As I mentioned on the phone, I have tried to find someone who served with my brother in the Army during World War II and might be able to share some of his last days with me.

Frances left for the service when I was just 13 years old. He told us goodbye in a small town in western Iowa, Cherokee, and we never saw him again. I believe he was sent to the west coast immediately and two weeks later he was in Hawaii. He never came home on furlough and from there he served in New Guinea where his group rescued some Catholic missionaries from the Japanese. He was killed in the Phillipines on February 4, 1945 and he is buried there at Manila in the National Cemetery. This is the information I can give you on him: **S/sgt. Francis C. Schmillen (sometimes called Bud or Frank by his buddies) Co. 4 34th Inf. 37437490; APO #24 - C/0 Postmaster (his APO was sometimes #957) San Francisco, CA.** He was the leader of a mortar squad and I remember he mentioned several of his buddies, I think they were also in his squad, named Stafford and Streeter, last names. He was only 25 years old at the time of his death. Anyway you could get this message out would be very much appreciated by me and I thank you sincerely for your effort.

Very Sincerely,

*Shirley Brickman*

Shirley Brickman

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Exp.Date</u>
Aitken	Malcolm D	PO Box 13644	South Lake Tah	CA	21st	(1st BN)	Life xx
Allen	William M	421 4th Ave N	Tierra Verde	FL	19th	(C)	Life xx
Altieri CWO3 Ret	Alphonso R	7135 Fair Oaks Ave # 13	Dallas	TX	21st	(C)	Life xx
Belanger	Charles L	4747 Batchelder Rd	Bellaire	MI	21st	(A)	Life xx
Buchholz	Alvin F	2222 Hall Ave	Grand Junction	CO	19th	(H)	Life xx
Carpenter	Paul	428 N Division St	Seymour	MO	21st	(A)	Life xx
Clark III	Sheffield	305 3rd Ave S	Franklin	TN	63rd		Life xx
Davidson	William A	135 Stump Rd	N. Wales	PA	21st	(H-D-M)	Life xx
Davis	Sam H	427 Woodhaven CT	Shebogan	WI	13th		Life xx
Dennis	John M	2010 Wall Church Rd	Wall	NJ	13th	(A Btry)	Life xx
Faulkner	Melvin J	1414 Crescent Dr	Alamogordo	NM	3rd Eng	(H&S)	Life xx
Flake	Leon E	PO Box 811	Wichita Falls	TX	21st		Life xx
Fox	Joan E	921 Gardenia Dr Apt 271	Delray Beach	FL	3rd Eng		AssocMbr(Life)
Griffin	Don Edwin	Rt 1 Box 393 B	Dunlap	TN	21st	(D)	Life xx
Hagen	Keith R	3911 Ingersoll Rd	Concrete	WA	21st	(I)	Life xx
Hawkins	Thomas F	29 3rd St	Inman	SC	11th	C Btry	Life xx
Henley	JD	12321 W Swanson St	Marana	AZ	19th	(B)	Life xx
Hotaling	John F	221 Searlwyn Rd	Syacuse	NY	24th Sig		Life xx
Mannering	John R	631 Radnor Ave	Haadonfield	NJ	21st	(A)	Life xx
Markey	Bernard C	123 E. Walter St	Summitt Hill	PA	24th Div Art	(HQ)	Life xx
Matson Jr	Walter M	150 Reservoir Rd	Lunenburg	MA	34th	(Med)	Life xx
McNutt	Rice A	30 Birch Dr	Blue Ridge	VA	19th	(HQ)	Life xx
Morrison	Wesley R	452 Gloria Cir	Marina	CA	21st	(F)	Life xx
Nickas	Nicholas	4165 Callan Blvd	Daly City	CA	21st	(I)	Life xx
Payne	Joe E	10 Scotland PL NW	Atlanta	GA	21st	(E)	Life xx
Rose	Bernie L	3521 Wire Branch Rd	Ona	WVA	5th RCT	(I)	Life xx
Sampson	Wanda Sumpter	PO Box 40700	Mesa	AZ	19th	(C)	AssocMbr(Life)
Shields	Edward L	24 Brimley Mnr	Rochester	NY	34th	(HQ)	Life xx
Wicinski	Joseph A	450 N Paramount Blvd Spc 14	Long Beach	CA	11th		Life xx

**UPGRADED FROM LIFE \$100 (LIFE X) TO LIFE \$150 (LIFE XX) 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Upgrade Life xx</u>
Anderson	Marshall H	1304 E Olive Ave	Lompoc	CA	63rd	(HQ 8tr	8/28/97
Atkinson	Carroll H	2716 Beaver Creek Ct Apt 102	Las Vegas	NV	24th MP		9/25/97
Avery	Warren G	836 Middletown Ave	North Haven	CT	21st	(G)	9/18/97
Balestrieri	Ralph	41 Rose Ct	Eatontown	NJ	13th	(C)	7/7/97
Carter	Jack W	28142 County Road R	Brush	CO	19th	(MED)	8/13/97
Clark	Donald G	5316 53rd Ave E Lot G7	Bradenton	FL	19th	(B)	8/19/97
Cuomo	Danny	10 Gaston St Apt 6Q	West Orange	NJ	34th	(B)	7/7/97
Dillon	Kenneth R	19 E Dayton Rd	Yellow Spring	OH	19th	(E)	7/12/97
Eustachy	Roger L	4216 Fruitvale Ave	Oakland	CA	24th Med		9/18/97
Hartley	Paul W	204 Condo 3663 Grand Ave	Des Moines	IA	21st		8/28/97
Latitte	Clyde S	13 Saucito Ave	Monterey	CA	11th	(A Btry)	8/23/97
Mann	B David	119 Gaymont Rd	Richmond	VA	34th		9/9/97
Miller	Elwyn H	RR 1 Box 212	Corning	NY	21st		9/18/97
Mullin Jr	William	64 Millford St	Medway	MA	21st	(H)	8/14/97
Mullins	William L	3412 Logan View Dr	Baltimore	MD	13th		8/22/97
Postma	James L	720 Louisiana St	Lawrence	KS	21st		7/22/97
Schnaaf	Valentine	1244 SE 35th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	21st	(H)	9/18/97
Scroggins	Robert E	PO Box 404	Nebraska Cit	NE	19th	(B)	8/18/97
Soemann	George W	2458 Hess Rd	Appleton	NY	724th Or		8/28/97
Stock Jr	Rodney F	4551 Azalea Dr	Reno	NV	34th		8/12/97
Veleto	John M	16 New Meadow Trl	Parsippany	NJ	21st		8/14/97
Walter	Clifford N	68943 Eighth St	Edwardsburg	MI	52nd	(HQ Btr	8/18/97
Welch	Francis H	102 Throckmorton Ln	Old Bridge	NJ	21st	(L)	9/18/97
Wittman Jr	Harry L	1385 Terri St	Keyser	WVA	21st	(G)	9/18/97



**50th Anniversary  
Reunion  
Colorado Springs  
1997**



*The head honcho.*



*The young and the restless.*



*Is great to see those big smiles, guys.*



*Bill, they say the third time charms.*



*What's so funny?*



*JD and a bunch of old Chicks.*





*What a pair to draw to, outstanding MC, outstanding speaker.*



*Outstanding salesman, Joe McKeon. If you wanted to see Joe during the reunion, this is where you found him.*



*I'll take good care of it Wally.*



*We're so proud.*



*A good showing of 3rd Engineers (Combat).*



*Hope you have that big smile at the end of your year Tom!*



**24th DIVISION ARTILLERY**  
**(CAMP HAKATA ASSOCIATES)**

Group picture taken at reunion in Lawton (Fort Sill) May 28-June 1st. Eighty + were in attendance, largest one so far.





*Back Row: Lt. Gattis, WO Slater, Lt Breckenridge, Lt. Cheever, Lt. Yates, Lt. Gray,  
Lt. Gessel, Lt. Zohn, Lt. Wielly, Lt. Borschel*

*Front Row: Lt. Fuller, Lt. Starr, Lt. Fraser, Capt. Wintara ?, Lt. Clo. Agnew, Capt. Oberbeck  
Capt. Walker, Lt. Bacon, Lt. Paige*





*Going back in time, they all look great.*



*It's about time someone took one of me.*



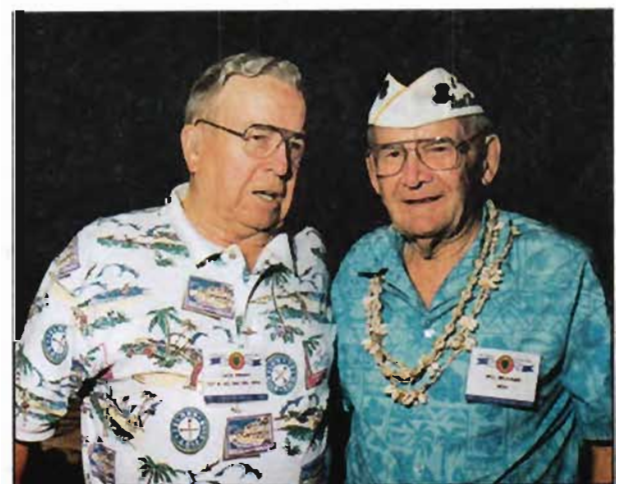
*Time out to smell the flowers.*



*In our book, two winners.*



*Are we having fun yet?*



*Two ole clucking Chicks*





Ninety-nine countries, including most members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have tentatively agreed to sign a Canadian-sponsored treaty to ban one of the most hideous weapons known to war, the land mine. But the United States is not among them.

Why?

The Pentagon opposes a ban. Land mines "greatly enhance the ability to shape the battlefield, protect unit flanks and maximize the effects of other weapons systems," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a recent statement.

That may be. But tell that to the estimated 26,000 people - mostly civilians - who are killed or maimed by mines each year.

Did you hear what happened to the glassblower when he accidentally inhaled? He got a pane in his stomach.



The flu bug is coming.  
Please get your flu shot, not the flu.

Are you taking the PSA test? And if you don't know what we're talking about, you should be ashamed of yourself.

About 60 Special Forces soldiers from the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., have been sent to Senegal and Uganda to train a battalion from each country for humanitarian and peace-keeping missions. Also deployed were about 60 soldiers from the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) and XVIII Airborne Corps support elements.

Training is scheduled to be expanded to Malawi, and training schedules are being worked out with Ethiopia and Mali. Several other African countries have also expressed interest in the program, officials said.

The Veterans of WW II from the former USSR represent 4000 veterans of the Soviet Army living in Brooklyn NY. They want the U.S. to extend veteran's benefits to them because they fought Germany during WW II. Most are in their 70s and seek health care, education and burial assistance and VA home loans.

# Museum's backers hope to preserve Korean War memories

**TUSCOLA, Ill. (AP)** — After central location in the United States, and its proximity to Interstates 70, 57 and 74.

get the nightmarish experience — the round-the-clock fighting, his certainty in his first month of combat that he would never see home again. Forgetting wasn't hard. Tired of fighting after World War II, many Americans weren't interested in what was called a "conflict" in Korea.

"When I got back, people would say, 'Where have you been? We haven't seen you in a long time,'" Cook said.

Now he's part of a group that wants to locate a national museum and library for Korean War veterans in Tuscola, about 25 miles south of Champaign.

"A lot of veterans have saved memorabilia and mementos from the war. They're in the attic, they're in the basement. If we don't preserve these now, they're going to be lost," said Cook, who lives in Danville.

Cook took the proposal before the National Korean War Veterans Association in February, and its board overwhelmingly approved it.

Museum supporters defend the choice of Tuscola, pointing to its



AP graphic

Plus, they say, the momentum to build the museum exists here, not in Washington or other big cities.

The idea grew out of a three-month exhibit on the Korean War at the Douglas County Museum.

"The men have to have someplace to preserve their artifacts," said county museum administrator Lynnita Sommer.

"There has to be someplace to care about the Korean War veterans. This is as good as place as any."

Sommer, 46, said she was heartbroken by the stories 110 veterans and veterans' relatives shared with her for an oral history project.

And she was surprised at the turnout; the exhibit was the museum's biggest moneymaker in 13 years and attracted veterans from more than 20 states.

"The men came back from the war and laid their weapons down," Sommer said. "There was no parade to meet them when they came back. There was no hometown effort for the men when they were over there. This is a silent group of men who have a story to tell and they've never told anybody."

"IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE REPORTER, WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE POET, WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE CAMPUS ORGANIZER, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE LAWYER, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL.

IT IS THE SOLDIER WHO SALUTES FLAG, WHO SERVES UNDER THE FLAG AND WHOSE COFFIN IS DRAPED IN THE FLAG WHO ALLOWS A PROTESTOR TO BURN THE FLAG."



"Take off yer hat when ya mention sex here. It's a reverint subject."



"I've got a wig, false teeth, fake boobs, a tummy tuck and you want the truth?"

NOTE: ON 26 SEPTEMBER '97, I TALKED WITH KEN COOK, THE MAN BEHIND THIS PROJECT. HE TELLS ME IT IS A GO AND THEY WILL VOTE ON THE BUILDING ON 1 OCTOBER '97. HE IS MAILING ME LITERATURE ON THIS ON 27 SEPTEMBER. I WILL SHARE THAT WITH YOU IN THE NEXT T.L.

*Tom Rockman*

## **Frostbite**

If you are losing (or have lost) feeling in your feet, have foot fungus, athletes foot or any problems with your extremities, REALIZE that you are probably now suffering from Frostbite, Freezing Cold Injuries (FCI), and immersion foot, or Non Freezing Cold Injuries (NFCI) that you got that first Korean winter.

Already, veterans of the Chosin Reservoir (marines mostly) HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED by the VA as having suffered especially high rates of severe cold injuries (FCI) and were unable to obtain medical care or documentation was never made or may now be unavailable!!!

**YOU SHOULD:**

1. Contact the VA at Dept of Veterans Affairs, VHA, Washington, D.C. 20420 Attn: Dr. Susan H. Mather, M D M P H Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Office phone: 202-273-8579 or e-mail Bob Devesty at e-mail address [devesty@mail.gov](mailto:devesty@mail.gov).
2. IMMEDIATELY CONTACT your veterans service officer (or whatever) at any veterans' organization such as MOPH, VFW, Am Leg etc., etc.

*Not too early to pay your 1998 Dues,  
why don't you pay today and get it  
out of the way?*

THE  
SEVEN  
AGES  
OF  
MAN



SLEEPY



HAPPY



DOPEY



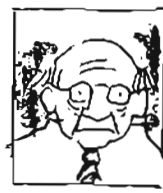
BASHFUL



DOC



SNEEZY



GRUMPY

## Now On Active Duty:

Here's one recovered from the bowels of our Division memorabilia. It's the time General MacArthur visited us at Mindanao, June of 1945. The scene is just outside Maj.Gen. ROSCOE B. WOODRUFF's tent. The brass had just had lunch. Reading from left to right, it's Capt. BILL WATKINS, Div.Arty S-4 (he had just had his moment with Mac), Gen. WOODRUFF, Gen. EICHELBERGER, behind the palm tree, Mac, Maj.Gen., then Col. AUBREY "Red" NEWMAN, and then finally with his back to the camera, KEN ROSS. Ross has just highballed Mac, having been introduced by Red. As Ross relates it, Mac didn't return the salute.





*Past President Chester A. Andrezak  
1982-1983*



*Chester A. Andrezak, President, trooping the line with  
Maj Gen H. Norman Schwarzkopf at Fort Stewart GA August 1983.*

August 27, 1997

Please print the enclosed photo and the following article in the next issue of the Taro Leaf:  
After forty-six years, Dan L. McKinney (left) and Hillman Paul Rabalais met again at the Korean Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion held in Knoxville in July. Dan and Hillman fought together in "K" Company, 19th Infantry, 24th Division in April of 1951. Both Dan and Hillman were taken prisoner during the Spring Offensive by the Chinese Army during the Korean War. They were together in the death march to the Yalu River where they were held in separate prison camps. Both men were held captive for twenty-eight months.

Thank you for your attention to my request. You may reach me at 504-279-0053 for any information you might need for the printing of these two items.

Sincerely,

*Hillman Paul Rabalais*

Hillman P. Rabalais  
305 Parish Drive  
Arabi, LA 70032

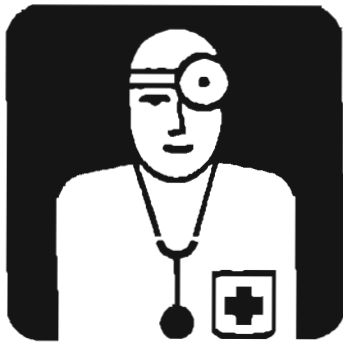




# COLORADO SPRINGS

He who laid out the floor arrangement at the C.S. Sheraton must have been related to the Marx Brothers. The average distance between guest room and lobby seemed something like a quarter of a mile.

Our C.S. weekend was the very quintessence of felicity and friendship. May we suspect that it goes with the aging process.



## THE DOCTORS IN

Much as we enjoyed Dr. PHIL HOSTETTER "making his rounds" at C.S., we did miss having his ever helpful mate, Helen, by his side carrying much of his omnipresent photographer's tools-of-trade. Sadly, Helen passed away last spring. It happened, incidentally, while the folks were on a cruise to Greece.

The "busloads" to Cripple Creek were very generous to the gaming establishments there. Most contributed to their cause and left the area light!

BARRY MCCAFFREY suffered an incident in the very middle of his thought-provoking presentation Saturday night. One of our own stood up to argue with some of his thoughts on drug addiction. It was not a happy moment - but Barry carried it off beautifully - and gentlemanly. He allowed her to rave on for some 60 seconds - seizing upon a moment while she caught her breath to thank her and - what else - suggest that we give her a round of applause - which we did. Ever hear of a round of applause to shut a heckler up? It worked, Barry, hearty congratulations - and one more apology for the disgraceful incident in the first place.



*"I don't think it's quite accurate to write your folks that you're a prisoner of war."*

## REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO

Three 24th Division veterans recently enjoyed a reunion, the first time they had been together since Nagoya, Japan in 1945. Bill Campbell served with Headquarters Battery, 52nd F.A.Bn.; Dick Emerson and Cal Inman were together in Battery B, 13th F.A.Bn. All three were in basic training together at Ft. Sill in 1943, went overseas together, and joined the 24th Division in Rockhampton, Australia in December 1943.

Emerson lives in Angola, Indiana. Campbell and Inman are residents of San Antonio.



I am enclosing a picture taken 4/2/97 when Myself and Rudy Weber and our wives traveled to Oakboro, North Carolina to visit Mr AND Mrs Reece Morton, who served in Co K 21 Inf with Weber and Myself. We had not seen Reece since 1946. He was hurt sometime ago and is not able to travel very far. I would appreciate you putting the picture in the Taro Leaf along with the address of the Mortons.

Thanks,  
*Jim*

Jim Lemon, Life member #1494

His address is 20001 Hurley Road  
Oakboro, N.C. 28129



L to R: Reece Morton, Rudy Weber, Jim Lemon 41

**QUARTERMASTER 24TH IDA-SUPPLY PRICE LIST**

<b>Control #</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Price Ea.</b>
1	24th Inf Cloth Patch	(Colored)	\$3.00
2	24 ID Colored Patch		\$5.00
3	24 I.D. Black Cap W/Patch		\$10.00
4	24 I.D. Cap White W/Patch		\$10.00
5	24 I.D. Decal 2"	6 for \$5.00	\$1.00
6	24 I.D. Decal 4"	Each	\$3.00
7	Bolo Tie/W/TL (New Type)	W/S Steel background	\$16.00
8	Bolo Tie 2 Emblem (Korea)	Bolo Tie 2 Emblem (Korea)	\$16.00
9	Bolo Tie Dogtag W/TL	Bolo Tie 24 ID Single Emblem	\$14.00
10	Bolo Tie Dogtag W/CIB	24th I.D.	\$16.00
11	24th Sig BN Unit Crest		\$5.00
12	19th Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
13	21st Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
14	34th Inf Crest	Current Issue \$10 Pr	\$5.00
15	11th FA Crest	\$10 Pr	\$5.00
16	13th FA Crest	\$10 Pr	\$5.00
17	19th Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
18	21st Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
19	34th Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
20	11th FA Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
21	13th FA Pocket Patch(Color)		\$5.00
22	24 I.D. Lapel Pin		\$5.00
23	21st Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
24	34th Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
25	CIB(1stAward)1-1346(Mini)	Mini DRESS MESS	\$5.00
26	CIB(2ndAward)1-1347(Mini)	Mini DRESS MESS	\$6.50
27	CIB Lapel Pin		\$5.00
28	19th Cap Dark Blue/Crest		\$10.00
29	21st Cap White/Embroid/Crest		\$12.00
30	21st Cap Dark Blue/Embroidered	Crest	\$12.00
31	34th Cap Dark Blue w/Crest		\$10.00
32	24 IDA Cap DarkBlue w/Patch	On front, Poplin Twill	\$10.00
33	24 IDA White Caps		\$10.00
34	24 IDA Red Caps		\$10.00
35	24 IDA Green Caps (Patch)		\$10.00
36	24th Inf Div White Mesh/Cap		\$10.00
37	3rd Engr Crest		\$5.00
38	14th Engr Crest		\$5.00
39	19th Inf Bracelet(Ladies)		\$10.00
40	19th Inf Lapel Pin		\$5.00
41	19th Necklace(Ladies)		\$5.00
50	Purple Heart Medal HP-754		\$3.00
51	Bronze Star Medal HP-926		\$3.00
52	Good Conduct Medal HP-927		\$3.00
53	Korean Serv Medal HP-929		\$3.00
54	Nat'l Serv Def Medal HP-957		\$3.00
55	Victory Medal HP-958		\$3.00
56	Silver Star Medal HP-959		\$3.00

# QUARTERMASTER 24TH IDA

Harry L. Wittman, Jr  
1385 Terri St.,  
Keyser, W.VA 26726-2119

Control #	Item	Description	Price Ea.
57	ETO Campaign Medal HP-962		\$3.00
58	DFC (HP-965)		\$3.00
59	Korean 8000 Missing HP-115		\$3.00
60	CMB 1st Award HP-569		\$3.00
61	US Flag Clutch Back HP(V-37)		\$3.00
62	US Flag Pin Back HP(V-38)		\$2.00
63	Pacific Campaign Medal HP-963		\$3.00
64	Am Campaign Medal HP-964		\$3.00
65	Army Occupation Medal HP-051		\$3.00
66	Meritorious Serv Medal HP-056		\$3.00
67	UN Serv Medal HP-059		\$3.00
68	Philippine Liberation HP-361		\$3.00
69	Korean Serv Ribbon HP-099		\$3.00
70	Air Medal HP-925		\$3.00
71	DSC Hatpin-308		\$3.00
72	Bring Em Home/Back HP-214		\$3.00
73	Am Def Medal HP		\$3.00
74	Viet Nam Serv Medal HP		\$3.00
75	24 Inf Div Hatpin		\$3.00
76	24th Inf Div Tie(Reg.Length)	Regular length	\$30.00
77	24th Inf Div Tie(XL)	Extra Length	\$31.00
78	24th Inf Div Tie(Clip-on)	Clip-on Style	\$30.00
79	Army Commendation Medal HP		\$3.00
80	Soldiers Medal HP		\$3.00
81	POW Medal HP		\$3.00
82	Armed Forces Reserve Medal HP		\$3.00
83	1" Decal 24th I.D.	Sell 12 for \$1.00	\$0.08
84	24TH CHRISTMAS CARDS	10 ea. Packet	\$5.00

(Replica Medals) These are well done and are listed above. Please order by Control Number only. These are designed as HAT PINS, but some have used them in displays. Each pin is about 1/2 inch by 3/4 inch in size so are quite small. We cannot ship them one pin at a time. We require a minimum of three pins @ \$3.00 each plus a dollar postage and packing. We can include Hat Pins with other items. If you have a Cap in your order and include \$2.00 postage, no additional postage for hat pins is necessary. We cannot affix stars, etc.

**Please allow six weeks delivery. No Phone Orders Please.**

Post a copy of this or any of our ads at your local Vets Clubhouse. Others may be interested in some of these items.

# COLORADO SPRINGS

We asked Dutch about that Drill Team which performed so brilliantly for us at the colorful Aloha night sit-down. Said Dutch: "What is to say about the AFA Drill Team? They are officially called, "The United States Air Force Academy Honor Guard." Five men performed with one NCOIC and a supernumerary standing by. They have won many awards. This drill team is highly sought-after and most requests for them are turned down, the reason being that the Cadet's first priority is to go to school and study. If it were not for the fact that we have so many Pearl Harbor survivors we most likely would not have gotten them."

---

We notice that Japan is finally getting around to acknowledging its WWII brutalities. First they have admitted to the recruitment of the abduction of hundreds of thousands of "comfort women". Next with more than 20 million dead across Asia, Japan seems to have turned a historical corner with its long-delayed admission that the brutal policies of the imperial Government brought on the suffering. Accounts of atrocities that were long suppressed, admissions of responsibility and expressions of condolences finally broke through the decades of evasions.

Irving Strobing died 8 July, at age 77, in Durham NC. He was the Army radio operator who sent a stream of telegraph messages from Corregidor in the last minutes as the troops under the command of Maj.Gen. Wainwright prepared to surrender to the Japanese. A corporal, he became famous for his description of despondent soldiers smashing their rifles rather than turning them over to the enemy and of preparing the wounded for what lay ahead. His last message was "stand by"... then nothing more.

---

It was a rainy foggy Sunday a.m. as we departed C.S.

Margo NELSEN told us something her sainted Mother used to say to her on similar dismal days. It went: "When angels travel, the heavens are crying" meaning, "We don't want you to leave." So it was with all Coloradans that wet Sunday; they hated to say goodbye.

---

A favorite tune whilst we played in C.S.:

We don't stop playing  
because we grow old...  
We grow old  
because we stop playing!





## TAPS

### Letter from Philip H. Hostetter, M.D. - July 29, 1997

Helen won't be with us this year. She died March 12 when we were touring Turkey with a group mainly from our Church. She was feeling fine but had a breathing problem at night. Helen always enjoyed meetings of the 24th Inf Assoc. She had been with me every year since the 24th met in St. Louis. She made many friends and would have liked to visit with them again. Her picture must have appeared in the Taro Leaf oftener than any other because of being my favorite person.

#### Helen Marie Hostetter

Helen Marie Whitwam Hostetter, 81, 2045 Jay Court, died March 12, 1997 while on a trip in Turkey.

She was born Sept. 24, 1915 in Peabody and had been a Manhattan resident since 1951 where she was a homemaker.

Her memberships included the First United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women, Current Issues group and the Choralaires, all of the Church.

She was also active in T.P.M. the Stardusters, E.H.U., Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, A.A.U.W., Memorial Hospital and the Thimble Club. In addition to her numerous memberships, she also enjoyed traveling with her husband.

She married Dr. Philip H. Hostetter, a longtime Manhattan physi-

cian, in 1941. He survives of the home.

Other survivors include two daughters, Carol Pacey, Manhattan and Dorothy Brecheisen, Cedar Falls, Ia., two sons, Jim Hostetter, Topeka and Bob Hostetter, King City, CA., her identical twin sister, Dorothy Heffebower, Newton, four additional sisters, Rowena Beard, San Antonio, TX., Nina Belle Grose, Dodge City, Monna Lannington, Arlington, TX., and Donna Roembach, Prairie Village; eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

---

#### Daniel J. Cavanaugh

Daniel Joseph Cavanaugh, 76, of 101 North 4th St., died Friday, July 25, at United Hospital Transitional Care Center, following an extended illness.

He was born Feb. 18, 1921, in Groton, CN., a son of the late John Joseph Cavanaugh and Evelyn M. Holloway Cavanaugh.

Surviving are his wife, Leota Evelyn Burton Cavanaugh., Clarksburg; two brothers, John J. Cavanaugh, Lake Placid, FL., George Cavanaugh, New London, CN.; two sisters, Ruth Raines, Lighthouse Point, FL., and Jane Wall, Waterford, CN.

A World War II Army veteran, Cavanaugh also served as a combat medic with the Army's 34th Regiment of the 24th Division in the Korean War. Based in

Japan on occupation duty, the division was rushed to Korea about a week after the war's outbreak.

The 34th Regiment suffered tremendous casualties in fighting, a delaying action against the invading North Koreans.

Several of his combat photos have appeared in military histories of the war. In his retirement, Cavanaugh worked to publicize the valor and sacrifices of Korean War veterans.

Mr. Cavanaugh was a member of the VFW Meuse Argonne Post No. 573. He retired with the Army with 21 years of service. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with silver star, Medical Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany and Japan clasps, and a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

He also worked for the Federal Police force at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. until 1983.

---

#### Letter from Dick Fisher

Will you please accept this item for the "In Memoriam" section of the Taro Leaf, **Horace O. Wilson** Headquarters Co., 34th Infantry 1941-1945, died suddenly on December 4, 1996. Wilson was 1st Sergeant of Headquarters Co and

## TAPS (Continued)



later served as Regimental Communications N.C.O. He was retired from Bell Telephone of New Jersey. He made his home in Venice, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Marie and two sons, Scott and Richard.

Blaz C. Ficek, 72, of Yakima, passed away Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

Blaz was born December 13, 1924 in Dickinson, North Dakota, to Joseph and Anna (Binstock) Ficek. He was raised and educated in Dickinson and then served with the U.S. Army during World War II in the South Pacific.



Blaz C. Ficek, Co. I 34th Inf  
Regt - 1944 - 1946

Following his discharge, Blaz returned to Dickinson, and later married Bertha Ott on October 16, 1946. The couple farmed in Dickinson. Blaz also worked for Mann's Automotive. They moved to Yakima in 1957, and Blaz worked as a mechanic for Firestone Tire Company and Lovering Tire Company, retiring 10 years ago.

For 16 years Blaz played the accordion and drums in "The Little German Band" throughout the State of Washington, with Thomas Tilton and Lyle Heilman. He had many close friends.

He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church. Survivors include his wife, Bertha Ficek of Yakima; his son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Sharon Ficek of Yakima; his daughter, Sheri Lang of Portland, Oregon; eight grandchildren, Krista, Tara, Heather, Karisa and Eddie, Amber, Jessica and Emily; a great-granddaughter, Breanna; and five brothers, Joe and Andy Ficek both of Dickinson, Bob Ficek of Des Moines, Iowa, Emil Ficek of Yakima and Pete Ficek of New England, North Dakota.

Blaz was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Anna Ficek; six brothers, Louie, Clement, Frank, Edward, Ludwig and Steve; and by a sister, Anne.

Gale (Bill) Carter, 68 years old of Monroe, Michigan fought his last battle and died August 15, 1997 after a 4 month struggle with Cancer of the lungs.

He served in occupation of Japan, fought in Korea with 5th R.C.T., 24th Inf Div when he was captured. A POW from 4-23-51 to 9-2-53, he was in Camp #2 and Z annex. After Korea he served in Germany.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lois J. Carter, four children and 5 grandchildren. He will never be forgotten.

Written by, Lois J. Carter

We appreciate the word - though it was tragic. Charlie H. Isackson, Jr. wrote us from Box 352, Huron SD 57350-0352, advising us of the passing of his good Dad, **CHARLES H. ISACKSON** (19th '39-'45) on 8-28-97. His widow, Florence, resides at 444 Colorado Av., SW, Huron SD 57350.



# TAPS



Deceased: 8/96  
Robert Bayless  
21st, Korea  
Non-Member

Deceased: 8/97  
Edward Byrtus  
21st 5/42-11/44  
530 S Nebraska Ave  
Casper WY 82609-2514

Deceased: 8/97  
Gale (Bill) Carter  
5th RCT  
15457 Dayton Rd  
Monroe MI 48161-3784

Deceased: 7/97  
Daniel J Cavanaugh  
34th 5/48-5/51  
101 N 4th St Apt 404  
Clarksburg WVA 26301-278

Deceased: Unknown  
Bernard Cohen  
21st  
54 Tain Dr  
Great Neck NY 11021-4435

Deceased: 11/96  
LT Ollie (O.D.) Conner  
21st

Deceased: 6/97  
Blaz C Ficek  
34th  
3 North 85th Ave  
Yakima WA 98908-1402

Deceased: 3/97  
Helen Marie Hostetter  
2045 Jay CT  
Manhattan KS 66502

Deceased: 8/97  
Charles H. Isackson  
Non-Member '39-'45  
444 Colorado Ave SW  
Huron SD 57350

Deceased: 4/97  
Edsel F McCaslin  
19th Inf

Deceased: 3/96  
Col Albert Muehlke  
Non-Member  
19th Inf Korea

Deceased: 6/96  
Col Roger H Nye  
Non-Member  
21st Inf Germany

Deceased: 8/93  
LT Gen Charles W.G. Rich  
Non-Member '42-'43

Deceased: 12/96  
Horace O Wilson  
34th 12/40-3/45  
2220 Sandlewood Dr  
Venice FL 34293-2837

Deceased: 8/97  
Floyd Winters  
Non-Member  
244 Lastner LN  
Green Belt MD

## SOLDIERS

I was that which others did not want to be.  
I went where others feared to go, and did  
what others failed to do.  
I asked nothing of those who gave nothing,  
and reluctantly accepted the thought of  
eternal loneliness, should I fail.  
I have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging  
cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of  
a moments love.  
I have cried, pained, and hoped... but most  
of all, I have lived times that others would  
say were best forgotten.  
At least someday I will be able to say that I  
was proud of what I was....a soldier

*George L. Skypeck*

# COLORADO SPRINGS

Great to see members back, bringing their sons with them. PAUL CAIN (34th WW II) for one - with Michael. HANFORD RANTS (34th WW II) for another - with Joe.

Paul Carter, son of JACK CARTER (Med Co. 19th - Korea) was another.

Shana and Berry Long, daughter and son-in-law of RUDY MULLINS (Med Co. 19th - Korea). First time for Berry. Shana had been to the reunion in Baltimore in 1982.

Handsome ERIC DILLER (H 34th WW II) filled in as toastmaster at the 34th Breakfast in the absence of BEN WAHLE. He did a masterful job, though he admitted to being "as nervous as a pregnant nun."

HARRY and Frances WITTMAN, JR. (21st Korea) were with us once again, bringing with them some of Frances' perfectly beautiful handwork for raffle prizes.

Wonderful to see faithful Col. MAX PITNEY (63rd, 52nd, WW II) at our C.S. party. Max reports that his wonderful wife is troubled with Parkinson's.

MAX GARLAND, 34th WW II, approached us at C.S. and asked us to convey his good wishes to BEN WAHLE out in Burlingame CA. This we happily do - but Max, why not set yourself down and pen a note to Ben yourself. Max, you're at Box 4017 down in Pinehurst N.C. Better still, Max, pick up a phone and call Ben. Ben is at 1132 Killarney Ln., Burlingame CA 94010-3349. His telephone: 415-697-3308.

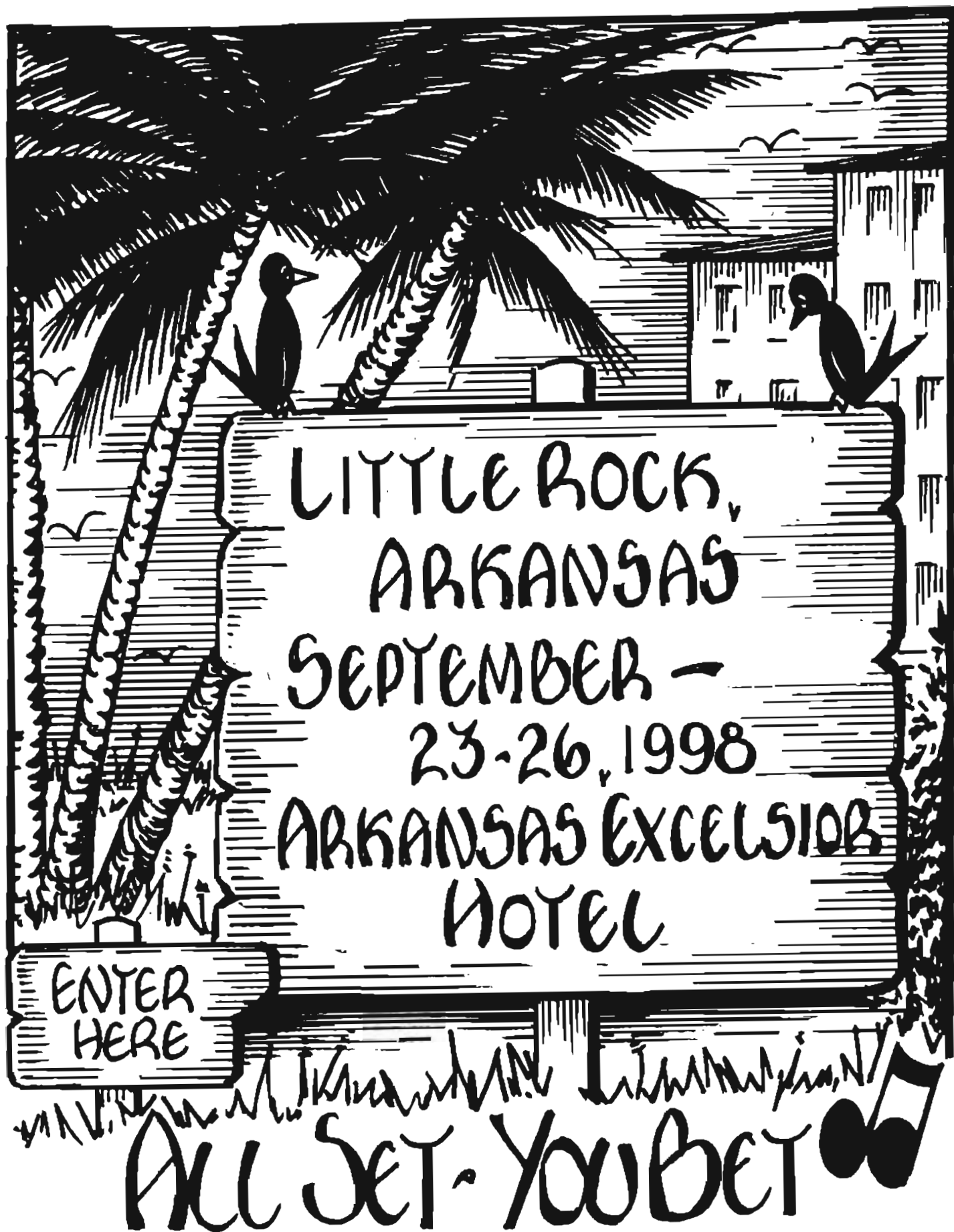


*"Go back, buddy—it ain't worth it."*

## Moving?

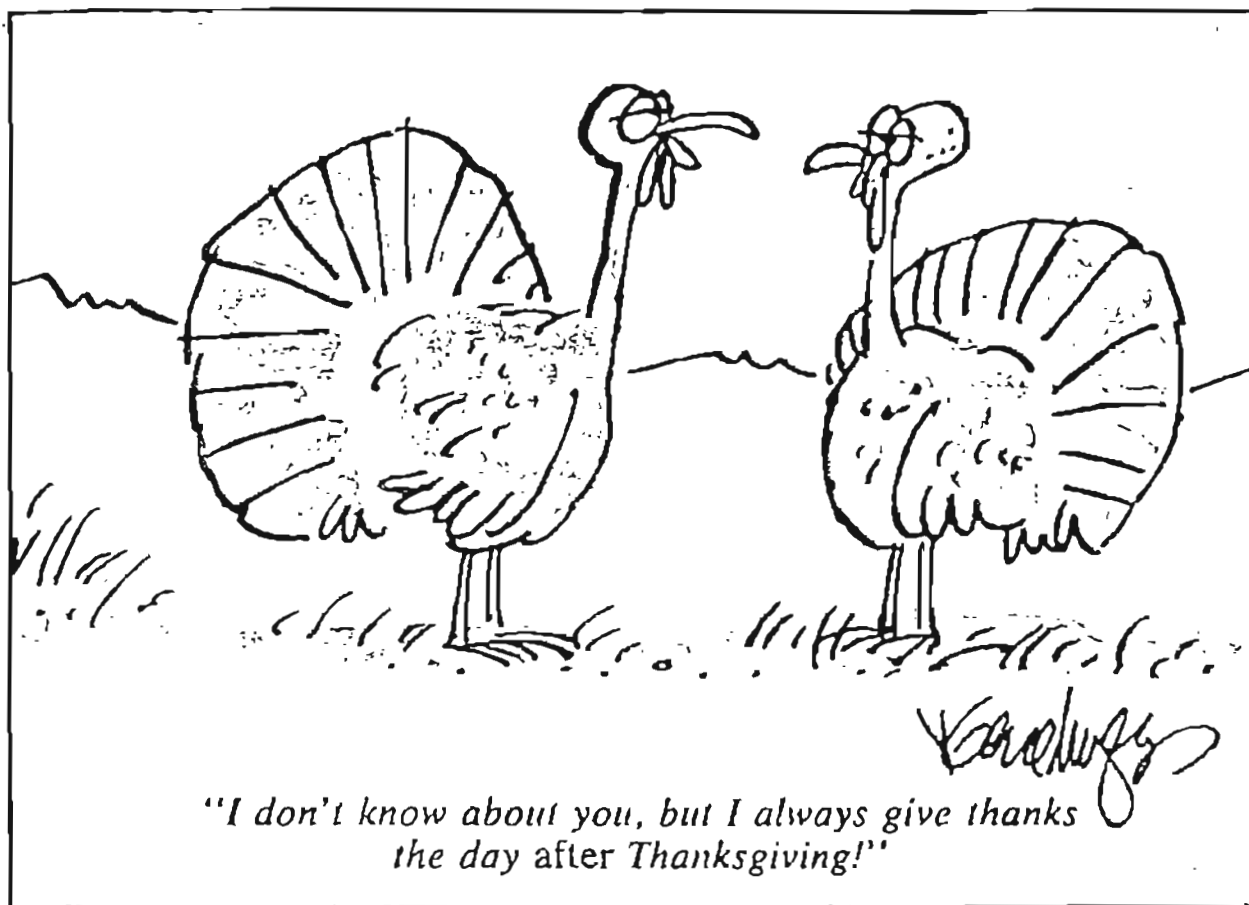
Let us know  
where  
and  
when!

Secretary-Treasurer  
Yvonne Mullins  
HCR-3, Box 191  
Rocky Mount, MO  
65072



—PERRYCK—





Another "regret" for not making C.S. - JESSE FOSTER (19th WWII) of 937 Mastline Dr., Annapolis MD 21401. Seems Jess is still on rehab following a second by-pass, and Daisy is walking with both knees having been replaced and a pesky gall bladder removed. Boy, you kids have been hit. But Jess is still able to sign his letters with a parting, "Good ole Chick".

Missed the 50th did CHARLIE and Martha CARD (34th WW II). They were in the process of moving from their delightful Houston TX home to the hinterlands 150 miles due west at 420 Summit Cir., Fredericksburg TX 78624. We wish you folks much happiness in your new abode.

Postcard by ALEX POLAND from 160 W. 71st, NY NY 10023. Had trouble reading you, Al. Gather that you were hospitalized in August in San Francisco - something about your "middle right toe". Did they take it from you? We await details; like our members to have all ten toes.

One more bit of trouble - TOM UPTON (Div.Hq. WW II) suffering from CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia). He is "feeling fine" he said, at last report. Write him, if you're in the mood. He's at

4 Dartmouth St.  
Forest Hills NY 11375.  
He'd appreciate your encouragement. Tom served us ably and well as President in 1989.

"Just Received Word" Glenn Mayo, Ret Lt Col (5th RCT-Korea) is in the hospital. Please send cards and notes to Glenn at: Loyola Univ., 2160 S. First Ave., Maywood, IL 60153.

# COLORADO SPRINGS

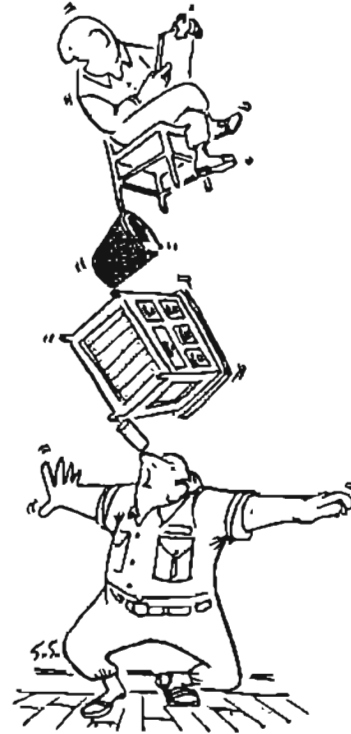
Many are the members whose hair has gone from grey to snow hite. Whitest of all was GEORGE WELDON ALLARD (21st WW II) as he waltzed around the Sheraton lobby. Looks great on you, Weldon. And, too, we noticed more bearded men at our gathering then ever before. One most all of them, the beards were becoming.

---

CHARLEY MCMICHAEL (19th WW II) regaled us with stories of his recent travels to New Zealand, Australia, England, Scotland and Wales. Fortunately he doesn't travel alone; good son, Chuck, is able to steal away from his important computer work to go with him.

---

ZANE GREY WALLACE, (24th Recon.WW II) was doing nicely waltzing around the Sheraton, despite a recent knee replacement. Zane claims he has been writing buddies, "but I get no answers". We know, old buddy, we know. You gotta keep trying. Give Ma Bell a chance; she might get through for you. Or give us a chance. Send your names and addresses to WALLY KUHNER (24th Recn.WWII) 1637 Falmouth St., Charleston, SC 29407, the membership mogul. What's more, Wally is 24th Recon himself.



***"For the last time, Dickson, I am NOT transferring you to Special Services!"***

- OLD AGE IS ABOUT 15 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU ARE.
- TALK IS CHEAP UNLESS A LAWYER IS DOING THE TALKING.
- HIS CAR IS SO OLD THEY ISSUED IT UPPER AND LOWER PLATES.
- NEVER WRESSEL WITH A PIG. YA BOTH GET ALL DIRTY BUT THE PIG LIKES IT.
- IT'S BETTER FOR FOLKS TO WONDER WHY YA DON'T TALK THAN TO WONDER WHY YA DID.
- A RARE BOOK IS ONE YOU GET BACK THAT YOU LOANED.
- ONE OF THE FASTEST WAYS TO LEARN MANNERS IS FROM SOMEONE THAT DON'T HAVE ANY.
- HEALTH FOOD RESTAURANTS IS WHERE THEY ADD NOTHING TO THE FOOD AND 50% TO THE PRICE.
- HARD WORK PAYS DEBT. WORRY DON'T.
- A MAN THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT BUT HIS ANCESTORS IS LIKE A POTATO. THE BEST PART OF HIM IS BURIED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97

First Name	Last Name	Unit 1	Co.	Donation In Memory
Angelo T	Agresti	13th		\$10.00
Michael	Albert	21st	(H)	\$15.00
Benjamin R	Allen	19th	(HQ)	\$25.00
Donald A	Anderson	13th	(B)	\$2.00
Marshall H	Anderson	63rd	(HQ Btry)	\$50.00
Paul	Austin	34th	(F)	\$10.00
Warren G	Avery	21st	(G)	\$50.00
Claude E	Barrick Jr	11th		\$10.00
H Gordon	Behrel	19th	(HQ)	\$20.00
Charles L	Belanger	21st	(A)	\$5.00
Victor	Bialczak	24th Inf Div		\$22.00
George A	Bourne	28th		\$5.00
Allen	Brooks	34th	(L)	\$5.00
Creighton	Bryson	19th	(K)	\$10.00
Alvin F	Buchholz	19th	(H)	\$15.00
Michael K	Burch	24th MP		\$20.00
Juan S	Calderon	5th RCT		\$10.00
Edson A	Carpenter	19th	(AT)	\$10.00
Jakie A	Cauble	Admin Co		\$5.00
V R	Chambers	3rd Eng	(B)	\$5.00
Raymond V	Clark	3rd Eng		\$5.00
Evelyn	Clarke	Div Hq		\$100.00 Arthur M Clarke
Robert O	Cosgrove	3rd Eng	(A)	\$25.00
Eugene P	Coyle	19th	(Med)	\$20.00
Floyd	Craft	AssocMbr		\$5.00
Peter B	Crombie	339th Eng		\$10.00
Danny	Cuomo	34th	(B)	\$17.30
John T	Curran	21st	(I)	\$5.00
MG Chester	Dahlen	21st		\$10.00
Bennie D	Davidson	21st	(G)	\$5.00
Ervin	De Muth	21st	(C)	\$5.00
Eric	Diller	34th	(H)	\$80.00
Edward E	Dishman	24th Sig		\$10.00
Howard H	Feather	11th	(B)	\$10.00
John J	Fecko	3rd Eng		\$10.00
Stanley	Fijol	21st	(D)	\$10.00
Donald R	Fisher	5th RCT	(G)	\$5.00
James W	Fowler	34th	(F)	\$10.00
Richard C	Francis	19th	(B)	\$15.00
Charles M	Freeman	21st	(E)	\$5.00
John W	Frey	21st	(H)	\$20.00
Alton I	Furbish	5th RCT	(H&H)	\$25.00
Robert F	Gardner	21st	(HQ)	\$5.00
Walter	Gay	19th	(HQ)	\$10.00
Col Floyd S	Gibson	21st	(I)	\$35.00
Richard R	Glenn	24th Recon		\$20.00
George P	Gorham	21st	(F)	\$5.00



*'Sometimes, Margaret, I feel like running away and auditing a circus.'*

***It's never too  
early  
to pay your  
dues.***

***1998 Dues  
are now due  
\$15.00  
Send in your  
payment today.***

**Secretary-Treasurer  
Yvonne Mullins  
HCR-3, Box 191  
Rocky Mount, MO  
65072**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Gerald R	Goulet	19th	(C)	\$10.00	
Virgil C	Green	19th	(2D BN)	\$10.00	
Lauren A	Hallgren	5th RCT		\$10.00	
Edward F	Harrison	11th	(A Btry)	\$5.00	
Bill	Haurilak	24th Inf Div		\$10.00	
Thomas F	Hawkins	11th	C Btry	\$17.30	
JD	Henley	19th	(B)	\$20.00	Perry Vanter-Ralph Thompson
Chester	Jordan	34th	(Medics)	\$5.00	
Paul R	Kemper	19th	(HQ)	\$10.00	
William E	Kerns	21st	(D)	\$4.00	
Lloyd E	King	34th	(A)	\$10.00	
Robert L	Lawhon	6th Tank		\$132.00	
Reginald A	Le Blanc	19th	(B)	\$5.00	
William T	Livingston	34th	(HQ)	\$35.00	
Donald E	Maggio	24th	(AG)	\$5.00	
John R	Mannering	21st	(A)	\$28.00	
Walter F	Marszalek	3rd Eng	(D)	\$10.00	
William	McColgan	11th		\$10.00	
Sgt James P	McKenna	5th RCT	(Serv)	\$5.00	
Clarence	Mehlhoff	63rd		\$15.00	
Clarence W	Merkley	52nd		\$5.00	
Richard H	Miller	724th Ord		\$5.00	
Angelo	Montaglione	34th	(G)	\$15.00	
LTC Rodolph	Mullins	19th	(Med.)	\$35.00	
William R	Musselman	24th Repl		\$10.00	
Alexander W	Nicholson	19th	(C)	\$5.00	
Salvatore A	Nicoletta	21st	(C)	\$10.00	
Joseph P	O'Connell	19th	(H)	\$10.00	
Earlwin C	Oklaire	21st	(L)	\$5.00	
Cresencio V	Ortiz	21st	(D)	\$5.00	
Jim	Owens	34th		\$10.00	
Roderick	Owens	26th AAA		\$10.00	
Theodore F	Peer	24th Admin	(HQ)	\$10.00	
Lawrence R	Plaatje Jr	34th	(L)	\$5.00	
Kenneth R	Popovich	21st	(M)	\$10.00	
Lloyd T	Potterton	19th	(E)	\$10.00	
Charles H	Reese	724th Ord		\$10.00	
Alfred J K	Ridge	21st	(L)	\$5.00	
Spencer N	Roads	Div Hq	(SJA)	\$10.00	
Stanley E	Rodrigues	5th RCT	(H)	\$10.00	
Nicholas A	Russello	34th	(3rd Bn)	\$5.00	
Michael J	Sacchitella	21st	(HQ)	\$5.00	
Valentine	Schaaf	21st	(H)	\$150.00	
Alvin J	Schreiber	3rd Eng	(A&C)	\$10.00	
Robert E	Scroggins	19th	(B)	\$50.00	Jack Shay & James Lawren
Frank W	Shalosky	21st	(B)	\$22.00	
A T	Shields	19th		\$10.00	
Albert J	Silverstein	21st	(E)	\$10.00	

**Daily Breeze**

**July 15, 1997**

**Filipino vets denied aid,  
while aliens get handouts**

The Filipinos who fought for their and our country in World War II deserve serious consideration for their compensation claims, which, incidentally, were promised to them. As a combat infantry survivor of the Philippine Islands of Leyte, Luzon, Mindoro and Mindanao campaigns, I can attest that their sacrifices saved many American lives.

What I don't understand is how their legitimate requests can be ignored, while illegal aliens get handouts for not only doing nothing for our country, but also becoming tax burdens for American citizens.

Can anybody explain the rationale?

**Eric Diller**

Redondo Beach

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 6/19/97 THROUGH 10/6/97

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Unit 1</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Oliver C	Simmers Jr	21st	(G)	\$5.00	
Andrew	Simpson			\$10.00	
Maurice R	Slaney	24th Sig	(Sv.Co.)	\$10.00	
George W	Soemann	724th Ord		\$25.00	
John G	Starr	3rd Eng	(C)	\$10.00	
Edward B	Sund	21st	(H)	\$5.00	
Ernest P	Terrell	11th		\$100.00	
Ralph W	Thomas	19th	(K)	\$10.00	
Douglas W	Thornton Jr	34th	(B)	\$75.00	
LTG James B	Vaught	34th		\$50.00	
Gerald G	Vincent	11th		\$5.00	
Carl	Vogt	724th Ord	(M)	\$5.00	
Ben H	Wahle Jr	34th	(E&G)	\$25.00	
Zane G	Wallace	24th Recon		\$10.00	
Rudolph	Weber	21st	(K)	\$15.00	
Harley F	Welsh	19th	(B)	\$5.00	
Walter B	Westmoreland	34th	(HQ)	\$25.00	
Joan	Wetterau-Blankenbur	19th	(Serv)	\$5.00	
Rodney A	White	34th	(K)	\$10.00	
Donald F	Williams	21st	(K)	\$10.00	
Walter S	Wyand Jr	34th	(C)	\$5.00	
Raymond M	Youngblood	21st	(B)	\$120.00	Honor of 21st Inf.Gimlets

**TOTAL Donation:**

**\$2,139.60**



*The Three Past Treasurers and Current  
Treasurer of our Association  
From left to right:*

*Vonnie Mullins (Current) 1997  
Rudy Mullins (Past) 1995-1997  
Dutch Nelsen (Past) 1994-1995  
Ken Ross (Past) 1947-1995*



# COLORADO SPRINGS

Smiling BILL "Wild Bill" FENCE, (24th Med., Korea) was at C.S. in all his glory - twice married and about to make his third plunge. Bill seems to be to marriage as Earnst Borgnine is to tap dancing. Keep us posted, Bill, please.

Do you see in some of DUTCH NELSEN's mannerisms, as he dashes about we reunion folks, a resemblance to Cosmo Kramer of the Seinfeld show?



"Tell me Prunella—just where did we go wrong?"

Tulsa, OK gets the nod for our 1999 get-together, thanks to the untiring efforts of DON BARRETT, our tireless reunion coordinator. Such types are as scarce as reindeer. Thank fortune we have Don.

HORACE HOGGART (339th Eng., WW II) went back to the P.I. four times for a visit, happily meeting Melica operating a travel agency in Manila on one of those trips. Yes, they married. Melica has been up to here studying computers. We flew with them from C.S. back to Chicago when our party was over. Melica deeply immersed herself in her books through the whole flight. Horace is mighty proud of his student.

GLEN BEHREND (24th Sig., WW II) couldn't get a room at the Inn. That's what comes from not registering early.

Dutch mentioned the looting of the funds of the Korean Veterans Association. We heard that the fund collapsed like a bad souffle. It would make an interesting story for Taro Leaf. But then again, the boys may not want to hear any more about it. Thank fortune, our people are bonded.

When you get to Little Rock for our next rendezvous, be sure to visit the Central High School where memories of the school clash still live after 40 years. It was 9-4-57, rhetoric having failed him, Gov.Orval Faubus used the Guard to prevent the Little Rock Nine from entering Central, the then all-white school of 2000 students. After 3 weeks, President Eisenhower put down Faubus' resistance, calling in the 101st Airborne.

An excerpt from my book,  
"MEMOIRS OF A COMBAT INFANTRYMAN"

An excerpt from my book, "Memoirs of a Combat Infantryman", which I wrote so that my four children and nine grandchildren (so far) know where I am coming from: ....My machine gunner at this time was Pfc. Reed and again I was the assistant gunner. Every day a patrol went out to make contact with the enemy. Daily they returned and reported no contact. Then one day we heard shots. The patrol was running back to our dug-in positions on the hill. I asked the scout, Pfc. Angelo Montaglione, whom I knew from basic training, "Where are they?" He answered, "Right behind us." Then I noticed that blood had soaked his fatigues. Later I learned that he had three machine gun bullet holes in his upper thigh, one of which barely nicked a testicle. His life was in danger since evacuation was difficult in the muddy terrain, surrounded by enemy troops. Nevertheless, after many months in hospitals, Angelo survived. We have been good friends ever since finding each other at one of our 24th Division reunions. After the patrol had safely returned with their two walking/running wounded, it became very quiet. Soon, however, I could smell the Japs. An aromatic odor pervaded the air, which did not exist previously. Reed said to me, "T...take a l...look". I did and the tree branch, which I had stuck in the excavated foxhole dirt for camouflage, was pierced by a bullet and collapsed. Reed, who stuttered, made a profound statement, "T...they're sh...shootin' at us." It became a funny comment later on, but certainly not then. I tossed a grenade but the brush was too thick for it to be effective. I told Reed to clear a lane with a burst from our gun and he did. After releasing the pin and counting to a quick two, I threw several more grenades. The normal five seconds for a grenade to detonate might have given them too much time to throw it back. I will never know what my tosses accomplished, if anything...

S/Eric Diller  
H Co. 34th Inf.

---

Dear Rudy:

It was a pleasant phone chat that we had last Sunday evening (about 7:30 PM). Enclosed, please find my check in the amount of \$25.00 for my annual dues and a small donation. Also enclosed, are two xerox copies of Bob Greene's article that appeared in the Chicago Tribune more than two years ago. I am sure that Bob Greene would be proud to know that this particular article appeared in the 24th Infantry Division Association's Newsletter, TARO LEAF.

I regret to say that future trips to anywhere for my wife and I are all but impossible because of health reasons. Therefore, I will not be attending the Association's "Golden 50th" Reunion, much, much to my regret.

May the Lord's good works touch you and keep you well.

Sincerely and Kindest Regards,

S/Peter B. Crombie  
339 Engineers

P.S. Please greet Dutch Nelsen for me and a big "HELLO" to Joe and Charlotte Hofrichter. Thanks,  
PBC

**Bob Greene**

## Their world of hope destroyed by hate

**T**he members of the World War II generation are dying. You have to wonder what they really feel about the world they are leaving behind.

The victory of the Allies in World War II may have been the greatest single accomplishment with which this nation has ever been involved. The number of American men and women who served in the military in World War II was 16,353,659—a unified national commitment that makes the word “extraordinary” seem terribly inadequate. More than 400,000 of them died in the war.

They did so in an effort to provide a world of safety, decency, tranquility and peace. It should not be surprising that the American decade of the 1950s is often stereotyped as being quiet, bland, conformist and staid—the “suburban back-yard barbecue” image that is regularly derided. To the millions coming home from the war, that America—even if the image never was wholly accurate—seemed to be a pretty good domestic representation of the kind of world they had fought for.

They are elderly now, the World War II generation, and every day you see their names on the obituary pages of the newspapers. They didn't make a lot of noise after they came back from Europe and the Pacific—in addition to being a generation that worked hard to gain astonishing achievements, all in all they happened to be a remarkably self-effacing generation—but before they're all gone, we ought to consider what has become of the world they sacrificed so much for.

It's ours now—and it is a mess.

The butchery and the barbarism they fought against in Europe—it's coming back all over the map, in such scattershot fashion that it is difficult to keep up with the meanness and the horror. If the people of the planet sighed in blessed relief at the end of World War II—sighed with pride and gratitude at the apparent end of such widespread inhumanity—then the men and women of the World War II

generation can be readily excused if some of them find themselves weeping at the world they see around them now. This is what the 16 million fought for? This is why the 400,000 died?

In Bosnia, the cold-eyed slaughter is a mockery of everything the American military forces in Europe tried to do away with in World War II; “ethnic cleansing” may be a relatively new phrase, but its meaning needs no translation to those among the American fighting forces who are still alive. In Rwanda, at least 100,000 men, women and children are reported to have been massacred in the last three weeks, and in one 24-hour period last week 250,000 Rwandans were reported to have fled into neighboring Tanzania. From different outposts around the globe, news photos of the starving and the slain are so commonplace that they are losing their power to shock.

What we are seeing, around the world, is tribalism at its most terrifying—tribalism fueled by a hunger to kill, tribalism that cares for no one and for nothing outside the tribe. If the dream after World War II was the dream of a world of safe and welcoming borders, that dream is dying just as the World War II generation is dying. If anything, as the World War II generation leaves us, humankind may be in even worse shape than in the days of that war—because now the tribalism is not only between countries, the tribalism has beset the cities of the world, most especially the cities of the United States, the cities where the World War II soldiers returned to stake their claims for happiness. In this country, 24,500 people were murdered last year—in one year—on American streets, in American houses. In what we call peacetime.

The men and women of the World War II generation—the men and the women who will soon enough all be gone—are all but invisible on these American streets. They are in their 70s and 80s; many of them fear going outside at night, many of them fear walking down certain streets in their own cities even in the daylight. When you see them, there is no apparent heroism to them, at least not the kind of heroism that is visible to the quick glance. They won something great, something they wanted to pass on to their children and grandchildren—to us—and as they leave, they must know that the wonderful thing they thought they had won has been squandered, has vanished.

They are departing now, the men and women of the World War II generation. They may be the lucky ones.

from:

**Peter B. Crombie**

**339th Engineer Construction BN.**

**May, 1943 – November, 1945.**

2458 Hess Road  
Appleton, New York 14008  
August 23, 1997

Mr. David L. Smith  
Houston Chronicle  
801 Texas Avenue  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Smith:

After reading a copy of your article "Good riddance to WWIIs," I decided to attempt to enlighten your jaundiced view of a generation which did indeed "put everything on the line."

After the war was over, I do not recall the WWII generation continuing to cry and bemoan the fact that over 116,500 of their age group were killed, over 204,000 were wounded and some 78,773 were POW-MIA. These veterans came home and picked up the pieces and went on with their lives. With a positive outlook they worked hard to make a success of what they had left, ever thankful that democracy had survived and that the door of opportunity was still open for those with a work ethic to take advantage of. Those veterans did not languish over their fate. Theirs was a generation willing to accept what was past and move on toward helping to improve conditions throughout the world.

Obviously, Mr. Smith, you have forgotten about the lend lease program which for the most part was never repaid. What about the Marshall Plan and the entire cold war? Did not the WWII veterans help pay for those democratic initiatives? Did you forget about the Korean War when many WWII vets went back into combat with obsolete and inadequate equipment left over from WWII because this country refused to fund the cost of maintaining a ready military force?

I cannot recall that there was any mass exodus of that generation to Canada to avoid serving their country. To my knowledge, none of them went to any foreign country and demonstrated against the government of the United States while dodging the draft. It was shameful of you to lump a laundry list of contemporary national concerns together and blame them on the WWII generation.

Did they deserve everything they achieved after their service? You bet they did! They provided for the continued existence of a country with freedom. Freedom which, I might add, permits ingrates like you to spew your negative venom.

I would argue that the WWII generation was indeed Robin Hood. The problem is that the David L. Smiths after WWII dropped the ball when it was in their court. Permit me to give you some advice. Be optimistic and extend your efforts toward organizing your generation into some positive endeavors which aim at improving the very conditions which you complain about. After all, it is time to give back something to those who won the "big game." I suggest you could begin by giving a contribution to the World War II Memorial Fund. Altruism suggests that WWII veterans earned it.

Sincerely,  
George W. Soemann

cc: Rodolph Mullins, Editor  
24 Infantry Division Assoc.

# Right Time, Wrong Place

The current controversy over placing the proposed WW II memorial on the National Mall in Washington takes us back in history, to the founding of the nation. Washington was then mostly vacant swampland.

Well, more than two centuries later, the capital is crowded with Government buildings, museums, lobbyists' offices and memorials to statesmen and soldiers. The singular exception to this pattern is the National Mall, a strip of unobstructed lawn extending from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, then onward past the Reflecting Pool to the Lincoln Memorial.

And therein lies the problem posed by the planned site for the WW II memorial, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The large size of the WW II memorial - a sunken plaza flanked by two curving colonnades backed by 50-foot-high walls - would mean that our most sacred space is to be occupied by a new and obtrusive tenant.

There is little question that the veterans of WW II deserve a national memorial. Their sacrifice, in terms of the number who served and the casualties suffered, dwarfs the sacrifices made by veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, both of which have memorials of modest proportions on opposite sides of the Mall. One might reasonably ask, why fail to recognize the generation that gave us total victory in Europe and the Pacific?

The awkward answer is that the memorial's proposed site and size violate the integrity of American history. The designer of the memorial has made it huge for good reason: No sacrifice by any generation this century is comparable. But its proposed location would break the line of vision between the Founding Father of the union and the President who saved it.

If located in this spot, the WW II memorial will allow the claims of the 20th century to intrude squarely between the more venerable claims of the 18th and 19th centuries. It will put WW II between the American Revolution and the Civil War, breaking the dialogue between our ultimate symbols of national unity.

The veterans of WW II are prepared to understand the principles at stake. These principles, in fact, are the very principles they fought for. In that same spirit, they could leave no more lasting legacy than to find a more appropriate site and preserve a clean vista across our nation's most sacred space.

This would serve as a final reminder of their abiding sense of duty, as well as a lasting tribute to the uncluttered spaces our nation's founders first envisioned.

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Friends may come and go,  
but enemies accumulate.



# COLORADO SPRINGS

MATT SLOWIK (19th WW II) thoughtfully brought to C.S. the warm wishes of Loretta RAFTER, MIKE's widow. Mike was our president in '70.

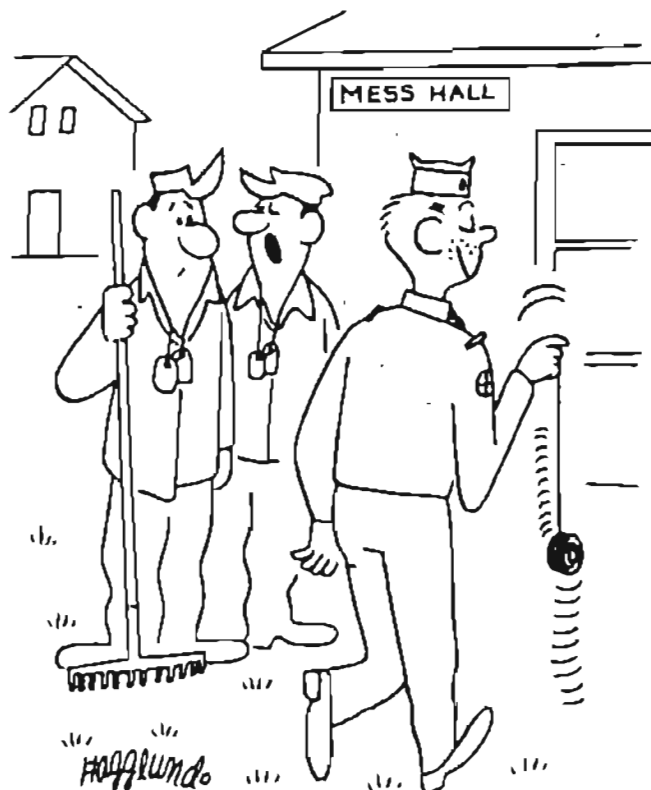
At the banquet, Florence VAUGHT, JIM VAUGHT's lovely bride, was telling us about how she and Jim were childhood sweethearts while Jim captained the football team and she was the high school cheerleader.

Regretfully, we can't report who gave us the sad news that JIM HARTMAN has passed away. Told us that Mary Lou, Jim's lovely widow, had called him.

While you're at the Little Rock Excelsior next fall, be sure to check out room 323. We hear that "That's the room".

In the lobby, BEN KALISH, (19th WW II, asked us: "What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?" Of course, we didn't know. "A stick", Ben told us. Look, they can't all be gems. Ben was trying. For years, we've been telling the one about the champion boomerang thrower. For Christmas, his friends gave him a new boomerang. Only trouble is he can't get rid of the old one.

Wonderful having past president WARREN AVERY (21st and 34th, Korea) back with us at reunion time. You were gone too long, Warren.



"YOU'RE SO RIGHT - THEY ARE GETTING YOUNGER."

There were a few foul-ups at the Shertaton registration desk - usually blamable, on the computer. You know a few of the typical answers - the "0" looked like an "8" - the mouse must have run into a glitch - couldn't read the screen because of the poor lighting - etc., etc. One member was sitting quietly in his room - it was his second day, too, when in walked two burly 300 pounders - with a claim to have just been assigned to that very room. Computer foul-up again.

So happy to meet Virginia, BASIL DONAVAN's happy bride. Our warmest wishes go to this thrilled pair.

# COLORADO SPRINGS

HANFORD RANTS, (34th WW II) asked us to do this for him and we assured him that we would. Hanford, a high school principal for "umteen years", had one pupil, Dannielle Robertson, who is on the way in Hollywood as a film maker. Here, let Dannielle plead her own case; she seeks our help:

September 1997

Dear Veteran of the 24<sup>th</sup>:

My name is Dannielle Robertson, I am a documentary film maker in Los Angeles. I have written a grant proposal for the Corporation for Public Broadcast which includes funding for my project entitled **"When God Goes to Hell, the Personal Accounts of Military Chaplains During Wartime"** It is a project I feel has been sorely neglected in our military history:

I wish to present the stories of the chaplains and their comrades during their greatest challenge...war. And, more specifically, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I choose these battles not to diminish the work done in other arenas, but because the combat was hand to hand, and in the face of horror. In the struggle to preserve life, we had to destroy it. The men that were the caretakers of the souls during these battles were just men. The grandeur when it came worked through them, and they eased the conscience of society. Only you know the cost. The average man should be given the chance to understand. **There is a most uncommon moment between men in battle when, as brothers, they turn into the nightmare and stride forward, not on the feet of courage or valor; those things are intellectual choices. Instead, they go forth wrapped in their souls. They are just men, but theirs is a wisdom that the rest of us should have the opportunity to hear. Won't you please help me?** If you have a story, would like more information about this project, or would like to share your thoughts, please contact me at:

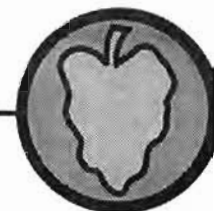
Dannielle Robertson  
*The Image Maker*  
23167 Leonora Drive  
Woodland Hills, California 91367  
Phone and Fax: 818 883-6752

I am proud and humbled to be working on this project. It belongs to all of you who did not question, but preserved life for me and for all future generations. **You have earned the right to be heard.**

Thank you.

Dannielle Robertson

# 24th Infantry Division Association



**BE A MEMBER**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**GET A MEMBER**

I desire to be enrolled or reinstated as a member of the Association, and thereby remain affiliated with the greatest combat division the U.S. Army has ever known.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN AND AGES \_\_\_\_\_

SERVED IN THE 24TH:

UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

DUES:

☐ Annual - \$15.00

1 Year From Date of  
Enlisting in Association

☐ Lifetime - \$150.00

Payable in lump sum of \$150.00  
or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00

Please make all checks payable to "24th Inf. Div. Assoc."  
and mail with this completed application to:

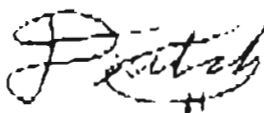
Yvonne Mullins  
Secretary/Treasurer/Editor  
HCR-3 Box 191  
Rocky Mount, MO 65072-9014

62 Recommended by : \_\_\_\_\_

My Dear Friends:

Margo and I would like to thank all who came to the 50th Reunion, and for all the many kind words of encouragement and appreciation. You were a great bunch and we love each and everyone of you.

Was it a great deal of work? Yes. Are we glad we did it? Yes. Would we do it all again? I think not — its a case of the mind being willing but the body weak. But it was a great four days, and we hope to see you all again in Little Rock.



Dutch Nelsen  
President, etc., etc., etc.

10/6/97

Dear Fellow Taro Leafers:

The day after we left Mpls. last year I looked forward to the "Golden One" in Colorado Springs. Unfortunately the "Supreme Commander" had other ideas.

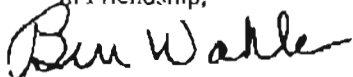
However, I would like to thank several friends and buddies. First, I would like to thank the members of the nominating committee who helped me make so many important decisions this year. Second, the members of the association owe Dave Mann a vote of thanks for his leadership as chairman of the history book committee. His untiring devotion kept the project moving in recent years. I know of no single project that required so many man hours. The job is not complete but will be soon. Dave you have done an outstanding job. Third I missed the men of "George" Company - we have sat together for both the business meeting and the memorial banquet for quite a few years.

I want to tell Ken Ross I owe him ten bucks as I invited him to be my guest at the 34th breakfast.

Fifth I want to thank Jack Baird for setting up the 34th breakfast and to Eric Diller for taking over as "MC". Sixth I let my buddy Paul Austin down as I talked him into coming and then didn't show up myself. Also tell Bronko Atkinson to stay out of trouble.

God willing we will all be together in Little Rock next year. To all members of the association, please help in keeping our great association going. See you next year in Little Rock.

In Friendship,



Ben Wahle - "G" 34th 42/45



Return to:

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