

# Taro Leaf

Volume 70, Issue 3  
Summer 2016

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24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**TARO**



**LEAF**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - FOUNDED 1945



*Photo by Dina McKain, Fort Stewart Public Affairs Office*

## 24TH ID VETS HONOR FALLEN COMRADES DURING 25TH ANNIVERSARY DESERT STORM REUNION

*Hundreds Gather at Fort Stewart, GA  
to Commemorate Silver Anniversary  
and Reunite with Old Battle Buddies*

**Cover Story**  
**Page 14**

**Volume 70, Issue #3**

**SUMMER 2016**



# Medal of Honor Project Nears Completion



The 24th IDA Medal of Honor monument is almost complete. Work was recently finished on the memorial's plaque and plans being made for the final placement of the monument. The hope is to place the monument at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Photo courtesy of Larry Jones.

The 24th Infantry Division's Medal of Honor monument is nearing completion. Work was recently finished on the memorial's plaque and plans are underway for the final placement of the monument.

The MOH project committee hopes to make a special presentation in San Antonio, Texas, at the 24th IDA reunion in September.

The project has taken nearly seven years and utilized the combined efforts of many talented people.

**MEDAL OF HONOR PROJECT**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

## 24th IDA Reunion

September 11-15, 2016  
San Antonio, Texas

Association members attending the 24th IDA Reunion in San Antonio, Texas this September will enjoy the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. Boat trips are about 35 minutes long and cover one and a half miles of the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. The River Walk trip is just one of three tours being offered during the 2016 reunion.

**Tour Info**  
**Page 12**



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**Taro Leaf, Volume 70, Issue 3, Summer 2016**

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**COMING UP NEXT**

**Taro Leaf, Winter, Issue 4, Vol. 70**

Deadline for submissions: 10/15/2016  
Delivered to members by: 11/15/2016



## PRESIDENT



### Greetings Fellow Taroemen!

In this issue, you will find great information about our Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas; including a meeting schedule, tour descriptions, photographs, hotel information, and a registration form. Arrival and registration begin on Sept. 11th and departure is on Sept. 15th.

The hotel is the La Quanta Riverwalk, which has reasonable rates and includes two free breakfasts daily per room. There will also be complimentary transportation to the hotel and back from the airport.

The Association is working diligently to make a special presentation regarding the Medal of Honor Plaque at this year's reunion. Plans are not firm yet, but we hope to have something unique to show to members attending the reunion.

Every year we accept nominations for the Association's William Jordan Verbeck award. This award is for excellence and outstanding service to our Association for the past year. Please send your nominations to VP, Don Bruner. A post card has been included on the back cover of this issue of the Taro Leaf.

Again this year, we will need to elect the following positions: President (I am not eligible), Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer (John Dunn would like to retire), and one Director-at-Large. Please consider running for one of these positions. Contact Don Bruner or any other officer or director with your nominations.

Expired dues are still a problem. Please look at the back cover of your current Taro Leaf magazine. If the date shown above your name is 04/01/2016, your dues have expired. Please pay the past due amount and one year forward. Those whose dues have lapsed will lose their membership and no longer receive the Taro Leaf. Please send your payments to John Dunn at the address shown on the back page of the Taro Leaf.

This will be my last Taro Leaf as President. It has been a real pleasure leading this great organization. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at our September reunion.

First to Fight... Victory

**Tom Appler**

## EDITOR



### First to Fight!

Hello, my name is JW Sternickle and I am the new editor of the Taro Leaf. David Valley has done a wonderful job with the publication over the years, but he has decided to retire as editor to spend more time with his family and travel. I wish him the best of luck and thank him for all his hard work on be-

half of the Association. David set a high standard, so please be patient with me as I work to get up to speed.

I am a veteran of the 24th ID and a new Life Member of the 24th IDA. I served on active duty for five years (1989-1994) and spent my entire Army career with the 24th Infantry Division. Fort Stewart, Georgia was my home, and my two girls (Columbia and Haleigh) were both born at Winn Army Community Hospital on post.

While I was in the Army, I worked as a Print Journalist (MOS 46Q). I deployed to Honduras and Turkey, and saw combat during Desert Storm in Iraq. I was attached to the division's Assault Command Post while working on a combat camera team and saw action during the Battle of Rumaylah. I did carry a weapon, but I did most of my "shooting" with a 35mm camera, not a 9mm handgun.

Right now, I teach at Joliet Junior College in the Chicago area. Before teaching, I spent most of my life working as a writer and photographer at daily and weekly newspapers in the Midwest. I teach photography, writing, graphic design, web development and local history classes. I also build websites for business clients.

It is my job as Editor to serve the Association and provide balanced coverage to all those who have worn the Taro Leaf. I believe every member's story is important and plan to have stories and photos that represent Taro Leaf troops who served in World War II, Japan, Korea, Germany, Desert Storm, as well as at Fort Stewart and Fort Riley. But I need your help! I need you to share your stories.

Please send me your stories, your photos, your letters. The Taro Leaf is about **YOU**. Please email me at 24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com or you can write to me at:

**Editor c/o The Taro Leaf  
21541 Wolf Lake Court  
Crest Hill, IL 60403**

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Victory!

**JW Sternickle**

## MY WWII SERVICE IN THE 24TH INFANTRY

### By WALT ROGERS

AS TOLD TO BARRY HILLMAN

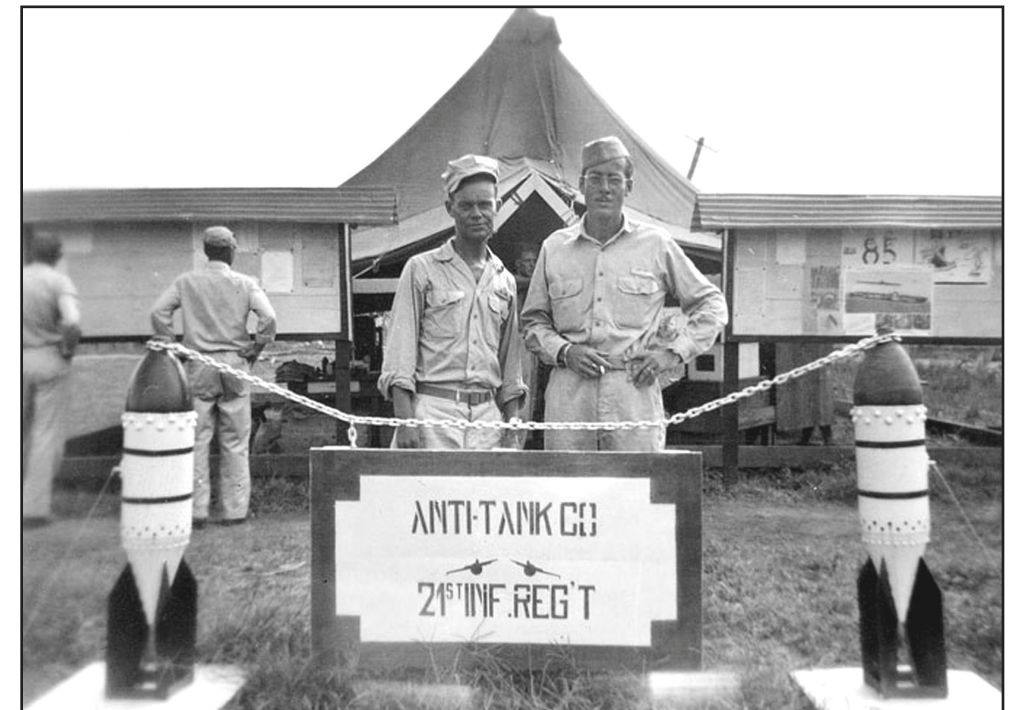
I was assigned to the 6th Army, 24th Infantry Division, 21st Regiment in the anti-tank cannon company. I was given the job of T Corporal and took care of all of the mail and stuff like that. The anti-tank company had 27mm cannons that we towed behind a jeep. When we traveled on ships we would strap them to the deck to give the ship more guns to shoot if attacked. We never had to use them.

In 1943 we were sent to Rockhampton, Australia for amphibious training at a place called Camp Caves. We had to practice crossing rivers and they would set off dynamite charges to simulate battle conditions. We had to practice landing on the banks of the river and moving the anti-tank cannons off the barges.

I remember seeing kangaroos for the first time – hundreds and hundreds of them. My wife's mom was Australian and her sisters still lived there. I went to visit her relatives when I was in Australia. In the middle of the night something started to nuzzle my hand. It surprised me and I must have said something. They told me that it was their pet wallaby.

### DANGER ON GOODENOUGH ISLAND

Once we had completed the training in Rockhampton, we were sent to Goodenough Island. The Japanese had been there but I think the Australians had already defeated them. The first night we



Walter Rogers (right) behind the 21st Infantry Regiment sign.

all slept on the ground. The next morning a directive came down that we should not sleep on the ground because there was a red insect that would bite you and the bite could be fatal. We had to boil all our clothes in a solution and from then on slept in hammocks.

A guy that I went to school with in San Jose was bitten and he didn't make it. I don't remember what that bug was called, but I saw a guy who was bitten. I was in the infirmary and he lay beside me in another cot. He ran a temperature of 105 degrees for five days.

I don't know if he lived or not because I was sent back to my unit. We were told that the Australians used to go to this island for vacation.

I wouldn't want to go there with that insect around.

### ATTACK ON NEW GUINEA

We participated in the attack on New Guinea. I remember the mosquitoes there – big ones, and lots of them. You could be covered from head to toe. We slept under mosquito nets, but they didn't do that much good. I used to joke that the big mosquitoes would lift up the net so the smaller ones could get in to eat us. I ended up getting malaria. For the first three or four days while I was in the infirmary I could only see red.

I had a terrible experience my first night in New Guinea. This is the hard part. We were in foxholes that the Japanese had dug. Normally, I would take my canvas leggings off. That night I put them back on. I don't know why.

### WORLD WAR II SERVICE

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8



# LETTERS

AND ITEMS FROM THE INTERNET



My father Willard Peterson was in the 24th during World War 2 in the Phillippines and during the occupation of Japan. I served in the US Navy 69-75.

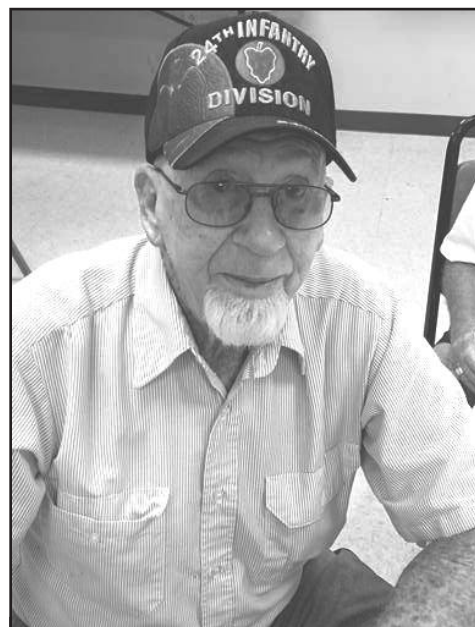
FROM KENNETH PETERSON

Some of us don't really understand how our forefathers stood their ground in Korea. They were sent to buy time and die until the army could gather enough troops to win that war.

They held like a rock. No soldier in the history of humanity wouldn't be proud of how they stood their ground. A decade and a half later I had to the privilege to wear their 24th Division patch. Might be one of the greatest honors of my life.

Any Korean War vets that wore the 24th patch and seeing this, thank you for allowing me the honor of standing behind you.

FROM JACK JOHNSON



At our weekly American Legion breakfast this morning I noticed this hat on Billy Conway. Didn't know he was a 24th vet, Korean War era. The photo taken in Morehead, KY at the American Legion Post 126.

FROM SCOTT BARKER



24th ID veterans and their families tour a 3rd ID motor pool at Fort Stewart, Georgia during the Desert Storm 25th Reunion held February 2016. *Photo found on Facebook.*

## A GI'S GERMANY IN SOUND AND MUSIC

### Old Audio Recordings Capture Sounds of 1960s "Deutschland"

A 24th ID veteran who was stationed in Germany recently discovered two audio recordings online from the 1960s. These recordings provide a "listen" back in time highlighting the sounds of Germany significant to soldiers. Germany was home to the 24th Infantry Division from 1958 to 1968.

The albums titled "A GI's Germany in Sound and Music" Volumes 1 and 2, were produced in 1962 and 1964. The recordings feature sounds and narration that GI's who served in "Deutschland" will recall. The recordings have been placed online by the 3rd Armored Division History Foundation, but apply to all veterans that served in Germany during the 1960s including the 24th ID. In fact, the albums' cover art includes Taro Leafs.

The original 33 1/3 LP recordings were supplied to the 3rd AD History Foundation by Cold War veterans David L. Smith and Jim Chorazy. The recordings recall Germany as American servicemen "heard" it and lived it.

Volume 1, produced in 1962, features brassy beer hall music, the crashing "Prost!" of 1,000 voices from Munich's Hofbrauhaus, the ever-changing sounds of modern Germany and the never-changing sounds of its bells, beer halls, cuckoo clocks and cobblestone-clattering streets. The Volume 1 audio tour "shows" the Germany that GI's wrote home about: the Land of Heninger, Hofbrau, and a thousand other beers; homeland of Gemeutlichkeit, lederhosen and schnitzel a la holstein; and slangland of "mox nix!", "clicks", and "You bedder belief it, GI!" Sounds also include the rigors of combat training, Grafenwoehr, alerts, kaserne life, and more.

Volume 2 was produced in 1964 as a sequel to Vol. 1. It includes the sounds of the Bahnhof, Bierhalle, Autobahn and FTX.

**A GI'S GERMANY**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 18



A GI's Germany features sounds and narration that many 24th ID veterans stationed in Germany in the 1960s will recall. Can you spot the Taro Leaves on the albums' covers? The audio recordings are available online to listen to for free.

**Were You Stationed In Germany?**  
We **REALLY** need your stories! 24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com



**WORLD WAR II SERVICE**  
*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5*

Another guy by the name of Max came up to my foxhole and asked if he could join me. He had lost his rifle somewhere. I had my rifle with a bayonet and a knife that the guys at the sheriff’s department (back home) had sent me. On the handle it said, “To kill a Jap.”

It was pitch black that night. You could hardly see your hand in front of your face. We were told that anything that moved was to be considered the enemy. This was my first combat and we were all scared. About eleven o’clock someone started banging on a can and making a lot of noise. Said he was “Captain Chen.” We had no Captain Chen in our company. I gave my knife to Max.

All of a sudden these two feet came over the edge of the foxhole. We pulled the guy in and I held him up against the side of the foxhole as he struggled. I hollered at Max, “Does he have dog tags? Feel for his dog tags,” because you were told to always wear your dog tags.

Max said, “No he doesn’t have dog tags” and so we ... we gave up on the idea that he might be an American and we killed him. This is the worst experience I have ever had in my life.

Well, the guy was a GI. He was drunk. Apparently he found some sake in his foxhole. He had taken off all of his clothes except for his undershorts and was banging on that can. They always told us to keep our dog tags on, but a lot of guys didn’t.

They should make guys keep their dog tags on. That is the only way you can tell for sure that it is a GI. They don’t emphasize that enough.

**HEAVY COMBAT**  
Early the next morning there was some shooting going on. Max and I decided to move to another foxhole where our sergeant was. We asked him if we could come over and he said, “Sure, come on.”

Max went first and had no problem. I started to get out of the foxhole, and the muzzle of a rifle was right in my face. It had just been fired. I yelled “American, American.” I could smell the powder from that gun having been fired. Whoever it was didn’t shoot me, and I made it over to Max and the sergeant.

As I said, we were an anti-tank company with 27mm cannons. I was on patrol when we came on about 25 Japs bathing in a pond. There was a Jap tank there too. They were having a good old time like nothing was going on. I think they thought they had control of the war. We went back and brought up the cannon. We started firing with our rifles while the 27mm fired on the tank at about point blank range. We hit the tank and destroyed it. Most of the Japs were killed. I think two or three got away, but the rest were killed.

One day on patrol we came across a wooden building. I went into one of the rooms and found a quart jar of liquid. I didn’t know what it was, so I threw it out the window. A great, big cloud of white smoke went up. The Japs were using that cabin to make explosives. I heard this crunching sound in the other room. I went in, and some of the other guys were knocking the gold teeth out of the dead Japs. I think they had been dead for a couple days. The Japs had a lot of gold teeth, and some guys would collect the gold. I just got out of there.

We captured the Hollandia air base. I don’t recall that there was much fighting. After the war, the Queen of Holland gave everyone a medal for the capture of Hollandia.

*This is just a small excerpt from a much longer story posted online by the Memoir Center for the Tuolumne Veterans History Project. Walt Rogers was 91 when his story was posted in 2013. The non-profit Memoir Center’s mission is to collect and preserve the stories of World War II veterans living in Tuolumne County, California. Learn more at [www.MemoirCenter.com](http://www.MemoirCenter.com).*

**HELP!**

**We need your stories! Share your experiences from WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany and Desert Storm.**  
Don't delay, contact us today. [24thTaroLeaf@Gmail.com](mailto:24thTaroLeaf@Gmail.com)

# LOOKING FOR INFO

**My name is David Kupczyk** and I served with the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp MacKenzie, Korea between 1971-1972.

*I was writing in the hope that a veteran of the 24th Infantry Division might be able to identify which units of the division occupied Camp MacKenzie between 1955 and 1957.*

For the past month or so I have been attempting to trace the history of Camp MacKenzie as far back as possible. Camp Mackenzie was given its name by the 1st Cavalry Division in the very late 1950’s, as were most of the camps in the Munsan Corridor. Prior to that time they were known only by the designation of the unit occupying them. Before the 1st Cavalry Division arrived in 1957 the camps were occupied by units of the 24th Infantry Division.

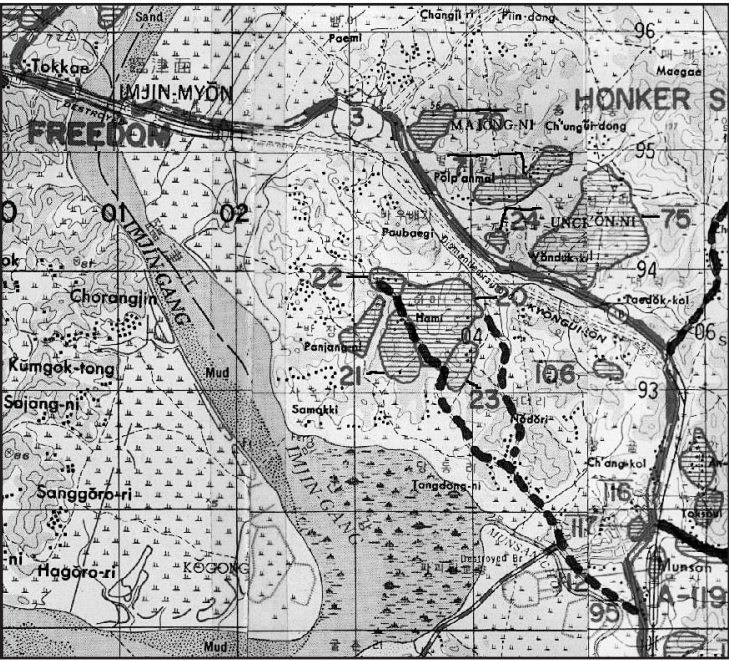
A real bonus would be finding out which units of the 1st Marine Division were relieved when the 24th Infantry Division moved into the camp.

Several camps were located along an approximate two-mile stretch of MSR 1 starting approximately 1.5 miles north of Munsan Ni and ending approximately 1 mile south of Freedom Bridge.

As a reference I have attached a portion of a topographical map created by 1Lt Richard Langdon who served in Korea at Camp Edwards East with Co B, 2nd Engineers Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division.

*Any help from the veterans of the 24th ID would be most appreciated.*

**Respectfully, David Kupczyk** Email - [mbloto\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mbloto_2000@yahoo.com)



The following numbers refer to the camp locations on his map. I have also included the map co-ordinates for each camp.

- Three camps were on the west side of MSR 1, working from Munsan toward Freedom Bridge:
- #23. Camp Ringgold, map co-ordinates CS039933
  - #20. Un-named camp, map co-ordinates CS038936
  - #21. Camp Lawton, map co-ordinates CS033934

- Four camps were on the east side of MSR 1, working from Munsan toward Freedom Bridge
- #75. Camp MacKenzie, map co-ordinates CS050944
  - #22. Un-named camp, map co-ordinates CS033939
  - #71. Camp Wilson, map co-ordinates CS043947
  - #70. Camp Jeb Stuart, map co-ordinates CS038952



QUARTERMASTER’S REPORT

FROM JOHN WALTERS

Here is the updated inventory list. I went through and removed items that are no longer in stock and noted items that are available in limited quantities. It’s not cost effective to order 1 or 2 items and recent sales have been slow. My suggestion to members, if they are looking for something we don’t carry, is that they check the internet. I sometimes order from [www.medalsofamerica.com](http://www.medalsofamerica.com). This is not an endorsement of the company, but it does have thousands of items, including those for the 24th ID.

HAT PIN MEDALS

- 1. Philippines Liberation \$5
- 2. Nat’l Def Svc \$5
- 3. Good Conduct \$5
- 4. Silver Star \$5
- 5. Pacific Campaign \$5
- 6. Armed Forces Reserve \$5
- 7. Army Occupation \$5
- 8. POW \$5
- 9. Distinguished Svc Cross \$5
- 10. ETO Campaign \$5
- 11. Soldiers Medal \$5
- 12. Meritorious Svc \$5
- 13. United Nations \$5
- 14. American Defense \$5
- 15. Vietnam Svc \$5
- 16. American Campaign \$5
- 17. Armed Forces Expeditionary \$5
- 18. U.S. Flag \$5
- 19. Army Dist Flying Cross \$5
- 20. Korea Svc Ribbon \$5
- 21. Army Commendation \$5
- 22. WWII Victory Ribbon \$5
- 23. Marine Corp Expeditionary \$5
- 24. Korean Svc Medal \$5
- 25. WWII Victory Medal \$5
- 26. Bronze Star \$5
- 27. Purple Heart \$5
- 28. Air Medal \$5
- 29. 24th ID \$5
- 31. 19th RGT \$5

HAT PIN MEDALS

- 37. Combat Medic Badge \$5
- 38. Army Desert Storm \$5
- 39. Vietnam Heaven & Hell \$5
- 45. CIB Lg \$10 Sm \$5
- 104. Desert Storm \$5
- 110. Philippines Presidential Unit \$5
- 116. 24th ID Airborne Hat Pin \$5

PATCHES

- 43. 24th IDA \$6
- 58. 19th RGT Color \$6
- 59. 21st RGT Color \$6
- 60. 34th RGT Color \$6
- 61. 11th FA BN Color \$6
- 77. 5th RCT \$6
- 87. 6th Tank BN Color \$6
- 108. 29th Inf Div Color \$6

CRESTS

- 56. 11th FA BN \$9
- 57. 13th FA BN \$9
- 63. 24th ID \$9 (only 1 left)

CAPS

- 65. 21st RGT (White) \$15 (6 left)
- 72. 24th ID White/1st to Fight \$15
- 78. 5th RCT Red w/patch Silk Screened \$12
- 80. Desert Storm Vet \$12 (only 1 left)
- 81. POW/MIA Blk \$15 (9 left)
- 101. WWII Veteran w/CIB \$15 (7 left)

While some items are limited in supply, we have some in such large numbers that we will probably never get rid of them. I am still working full time, so it is hard for me to get to the reunions. If items were available for purchase at the reunions, it would probably would help reduce our supplies. *If anyone wants to take over the QM position, I would be glad to relinquish it.* A new Quartermaster could possibly be someone that would attend the reunions and they could take our inventory of 24th ID items to the reunions to sell.

T-SHIRTS \$10 each

- 24th ID Hawaii Div/Black (Sizes L/XL/XXL)
  - 24th ID Hawaii Div/White (Sizes M/L/XL/XXL)
- Email to check which sizes are in stock.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 41. Ladies Bracelet 19th RGT \$5
- 46. 24th ID Window Sticker \$2
- 85. CIB Window Sticker Lg \$5 Med \$3 Sm \$2
- 94. NECK WALLET: 24th ID Green \$5
- 95. KEY CHAIN: 24th ID \$7
- 64. 1" Taro Leaf Stickers, 5 cents each
- 93. Christmas Cards: 10 cards w/env. \$8
- 98. CD: 24th ID Songs & March \$10
- 99. DVD: Punchbowl Memorial/Hawaii \$15
- 79. License Plate: 24th ID w/Taro Leaf \$10
- 84. License Plate, 24th ID, Stewart/HAAF \$10

FLAGS 3’x5’

- 102. Korean War Silk Screened \$65 (only 1 left)
- 103. Korean War Vet Silk Screened \$65 (only 1)

CIB BRACELET

- 120. CIB BRACELET \$35
- (Order direct from Sektor Co., Box 501005  
San Diego, CA 92150 - Free shipping)

24th IDA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

September 11 – 15, 2016 SAN ANTONIO, TX

YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE 24TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2016 REUNION!

NAME

UNIT YEARS LOCATION

ADDRESS

CITY ST ZIP

PHONE EMAIL

GUESTS NAMES

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: NO:

MEAL SELECTIONS:  
MEMORIAL BANQUET FISH CHICKEN BEEF

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS:

REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED*)	# PERSONS	x	\$25	=
MENS / LADIES BREAKFAST**	# PERSONS	x	\$00	=
MEMORIAL BANQUET	# PERSONS	x	\$30	=
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS & RIVERWALK CRUISE	# PERSONS	x	\$24	=
LUNCH AT MI TIERRA CAFÉ*** & CITY TOUR	# PERSONS	x	\$19	=
FORT SAM HOUSTON & ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM	# PERSONS	x	\$15	=

\*If you bring more than 2 people, the association will cover the registration fee of those guests above 2.  
Everyone will still be required to pay for their tours and meals. Please list all attendees on your registration form.  
\*\*Free Breakfast is included in your room rate for up to 2 people per room and can be used for this event.  
\*\*\*Lunch at Mi Tierra is NOT included in the price of the tour. You will be able to order directly from the menu.

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED.....

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 14, 2016

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

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

Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 21, 2016. A \$25 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 15 days of the event will be non-refundable. **Hotel reservations can be made by calling the La Quinta Inns & Suites San Antonio River-walk directly at (866) 527-1498 opt. #1 no later than August 20, 2016.** Be sure to tell them you are with the 24th Infantry Division 2016 Annual Reunion to receive the discounted rate of \$99 plus tax. The rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event if you wish to extend your stay. We’ll see you soon in San Antonio!

Circle item number for purchase and indicate quantity. It’s best to email the Quartermaster first, before ordering any items, to check if the items are in stock. Sorry, no phone orders. Shipping and handling is \$5.00. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. We do not accept credit cards. **Please make all checks payable to the 24th IDA.** Send this completed form and check to:

**Quartermaster John Walters, 313 Heritage Overlook, Woodstock, GA 30188**

REMEMBER - Please email before ordering. Email: [1k34cspd@gmail.com](mailto:1k34cspd@gmail.com)



# Tour Descriptions For San Antonio

## Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Museum Tour

**Fort Sam Houston** originates in 1845 when the Post at San Antonio was established in the Alamo City. The Army established a garrison and regional headquarters in rented buildings and a Quartermaster supply depot in the Alamo. After the Civil War, the Army began to move out of the city onto land donated by the City of San Antonio. In 1876, the construction of the Quadrangle began and the Quartermaster Depot moved into it in 1877. The garrison moved into tents west of the Quadrangle in 1879 and the Headquarters moved in 1881. The Post at San Antonio continued to expand with the addition of the Infantry Post in the 1880s. It was designated as Fort Sam Houston in 1890 and expanded again in 1905 with the Cavalry and Light Artillery Post.

These areas, plus the New Post of the 1930s, constitute the largest collection of historic buildings in the Department of Defense (800+) and form the Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark. Located in the heart of San Antonio, the post is the birthplace of military aviation and saw the development of the concept of airborne operations.

The post evolved into the “Home of Army Medicine” after World War II and into the “Home of Military Medicine” with the establishment of the Medical Education and Training Campus in 2010. Many of America’s finest military personnel have served at Fort Sam Houston. The post is proud of its historic role and the many initiatives to retain the historic character of the post while serving as a modern, model Joint Base for the future.

The Army Medical Department Museum (AMEDD) campus occupies seven acres of grounds, including the main museum building, a covered, restored hospital train car, and two pergolas, one containing modern wheeled ambulances and one containing helicopters. A Medal of Honor Walk recognizes the

50 Medal of Honor recipients from the U.S. Army Medical Department, winding through the museum grounds and leading to a 250-seat outdoor amphitheater. The galleries and outdoor exhibit areas tell the 200-plus year history of the U S Army Medical Department, in war and peace, emphasizing subjects such as battlefield medicine, the chain of patient evacuation, the evolution of the 8 different corps that compose the Army Medical Department and the evolution of equipment, medical care and treatment from 1775 to the present day. **SEE STORY PAGE 16.**

The buildings are in the “Spanish Revival” architectural style, with mission tile roofs and fountain courts, in keeping with the historic buildings at Fort Sam Houston. Large stone medallions representing the seals of the six commissioned corps, enlisted corps, and civilian corps decorate the facade.

## Mi Tierra Café and San Antonio City Tour

**In 1941, Pete and Cruz Cortez** opened a little three-table café for early-rising farmers and workers at San Antonio’s Mercado. Sixty years later, Mi Tierra Café is a world-famous landmark - the place hometown regulars and hungry tourists go for authentic Mexican food and a warm Texas welcome.

Pete and Cruz’s children and grandchildren continue the family tradition of good food and big-hearted hospitality at Mi Tierra, which now seats over 500 and is still located in Market Square, El Mercado.

San Antonio city tour offers visitors a rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of early Spanish colonial life in the Southwest. As the first civilian settlement in Texas, San Antonio de Béxar was founded in 1718. And today, many of these early architectural and cultural elements remain, allowing you to see into the city’s storied past.

San Antonio’s colorful culture stems from a history of diversity, and as it’s grown, it’s something they’ve welcomed and embraced, providing new, exciting experiences throughout the city. Take the opportunity to explore some of the unique, dynamic neighborhoods that make this city so unforgettable.

# San Antonio - Meeting at a Glance

	Pre Day One Sunday Sept 11, 2016	Day One Monday Sept 12, 2016	Day Two Tuesday Sept 13, 2016	Day Three Wednesday Sept 14, 2016	Post Day One Thursday Sept 15, 2016
Morning	Arrivals	Breakfast At Leisure  Registration Bowie East Foyer 7:00 am – 8:00 am  Hospitality Suite Bowie East 8:00 am – Noon	Men’s / Ladies Breakfast  Crockett 9:00 am – 10:00 am  Annual Meeting Crockett 10:00 am – Noon	Breakfast At Leisure  Hospitality Suite Bowie East 9:00 am – Noon	Breakfast At Leisure  Departures
Afternoon	Arrivals Continue  Registration Bowie East Foyer 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  Hospitality Suite Bowie East 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Lunch at Mi Tierra Café & San Antonio City Tour  12:00 pm – 3:30 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Bowie East Noon – 6:00 pm	Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Museum Tour  12:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Bowie East Noon – 6:00 pm	San Antonio Missions and Riverwalk Cruise  12:00 pm – 3:00 pm  Depart Lobby Area  Return Lobby Area  Hospitality Suite Bowie East Noon – 6:00 pm	Departures Continue
Evening	Hospitality Suite Bowie East 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Hospitality Suite Bowie East 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Board Meeting Bowie West 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Hospitality Suite Bowie East 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  On Own	Memorial Banquet Fiesta ABC 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Hospitality Suite Bowie East 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	

## San Antonio Missions and Riverwalk Boat Cruise Tour

**In the 18th century**, Spanish priests established five Catholic missions along the San Antonio River. The systems instituted by the friars led to an ethnically diverse society that continues to influence our city.

Today, the five missions (Mission San Antonio de Valero, Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan and Mission Espada) represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America and have been named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO encourages the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and national heritage around the world. To be chosen as a World Heritage Site, the missions had to meet demanding selection criteria that verified their historic importance. This rare honor has been bestowed upon only 23 sites in the United States. The missions are the first World Heritage Site in Texas.

Step aboard a River Cruising Barge for an exciting and entertaining narrative of the rich history of the San Antonio River! Cruises are about 35 minutes long and cover one and a half miles of the beautiful San Antonio River Walk.





# 24TH ID VETS HONOR FALLEN COMRADES

STORY BY K. DARRELL WILLIAMS

PHOTOS FROM THE FORT STEWART/HAAF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

More than 850 veterans of the 24th Infantry Division and their families reunited February 24-28th at Fort Stewart, Georgia to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Persian Gulf War.

They came to see each other, many for the first time in 25 years, to share stories and to heal from the war's hidden wounds. But most of all, they came to remember the loss of comrades-in-arms and honor them by laying a memorial wreath, Combat Infantry Badge and era medals at the Gulf War Memorial on Fort Stewart. During a moving ceremony, the name of each 24th ID soldier killed during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm was called out. Sixteen division soldiers were killed.

"The emotions never go away," stressed Gen. (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey, who served as the 24th Division Commander during the war. "I lost my brother-in-law in Vietnam and 28 of my West Point classmates. And we lost these 16 great soldiers. You don't heal; mothers don't forget their sons and daughters lost in combat."



(Top) 24th ID Desert Storm veterans place a wreath at the Fort Stewart Desert Storm monument during a special 25th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony held Feb. 26, 2016. (Bottom) Proud Taro Leaf troops display the Victory Division's colors during the memorial ceremony. The division's colors have not been displayed since the division was deactivated on August 1, 2006 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

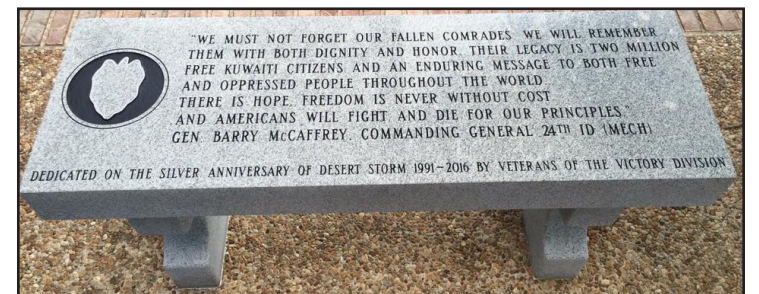


McCaffrey, the keynote speaker at the February reunion, also paid tribute to the 26,000 soldiers under his command 25 years ago. McCaffrey led 34 battalions, with 241 M1 Abrams tanks, 221 Bradley fighting vehicles and more than 7,800 other vehicles on their mission to block the Euphrates River valley as a means of escape and crash eastward into the Iraqi Republican Guard divisions.

"It's enormously moving 25 years later to see these great soldiers come back (to Fort Stewart)," said McCaffrey. "Today, we wanted to reconnect and remember the hundreds of soldiers killed or wounded during that campaign. It was a great day with great memories."

During the reunion, veterans of Desert Storm also dedicated an engraved memorial bench which was placed near the Gulf War Memorial.

**25TH DESERT STORM REUNION**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 17



(Top) SGT Ken Kozakiewicz sheds a tear during an emotional Memorial Ceremony. (Center) 24th ID Desert Storm vets dedicated an engraved memorial bench during the reunion. (Bottom) Battle buddies come together to share a moment during the Silver Anniversary Reunion.



# Fort Sam Museum Tells Story of Solopilots

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – 24th IDA members attending this year’s reunion will have a chance to learn about the Korean War’s “Solopilots.”

The Army Medical Department Museum (AMMED) tells the story of these helicopter pilots who responded alone to evacuate wounded warriors during the Korean War. A memorial honoring their commitment and sacrifice is just one of the things to see at the museum.

“Like Benjamin Foulois and Billy Mitchell who helped to pioneer aviation, the Solopilots risked their lives to demonstrate the potential of what a rotary-wing aircraft could do,” said Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw.

Czerw was the commanding general at Fort Sam Houston when the memorial honoring the Solopilots was dedicated in 2010. “Solopilots created one of those giant leaps forward of men and machine that saved the lives of men and women every single day,” explained Czerw.



Fort Sam Houston is the home of the Army Medical Department Museum (AMMED). The museum features many exhibits including the story of the Army’s SoloPilots.

These pioneers of aero-medical evacuation flew from 1952 to 1959 in conditions and over terrain that could give nightmares to most pilots, often in the dark and with primitive instrumentation. Helicopters had only been in full-scale production 10 years at the outset of the Korean Conflict, but Army

helicopters began to fly medical evacuation missions, sparing seriously wounded Soldiers punishing ambulance trips over Korea’s wretched roads.

The Bell H-13 helicopter, which many pilots referred to as a flying fishbowl because of the huge plastic bubble the

pilot sat in, was never designed for evacuating wounded. These pilots coaxed the underpowered aircraft to heroic feats, and during their first 12 months of operation in 1951, the Bell H-13’s carried out 5,040 wounded.

KOREAN WAR SOLOPILOTS  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 18

# 25TH DESERT STORM REUNION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The engraved words on the memorial bench are from Gen. McCaffrey’s letter to the Victory Division written on March 6, 1991: “We must not forget our fallen comrades. We will remember them with both dignity and honor. Their legacy is two million free Kuwaiti and an enduring message to both free and oppressed people throughout the world... There is hope, freedom is never without cost and Americans will fight and die for our principles.”

Catherine Alaniz-Simonds, the widow of Spec. Andy Alaniz, also spoke at the memorial ceremony. Alaniz, a Bradley driver with the 24th’s 3/15 Infantry Battalion, was killed during the Battle of Jalibah Airfield in Iraq on 27 February 1991. Catherine was six months pregnant with Andy’s only child when she learned of his death.

“I was in Oklahoma having a baby shower when I got call from my husband’s cousin who said, ‘guess what? The guys are coming home.’ Alaniz-Simonds said. “Little did I know that a week later I would be greeting my husband’s casket at the Corpus Christi airport,” said Catherine. She vowed her unborn baby would be named Andy. What she thought was going to be a boy was instead a girl so she named her Andee.

Andee, now 25 years old with a beautiful baby of her own, was present at the 25th Anniversary Reunion with her mom and all the Victory Division veterans were blessed by meeting her. Catherine’s father, Claude Arthur Medearis was killed when the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was blown up. Catherine’s healing words spoken at the memorial ceremony extended love and forgiveness to the veterans of the 24th.

“It (the Oklahoma City bombing) was very devastating,” she explained, “but I quickly learned that God’s loving grace is sustained and His plan is greater than my own. The loss of Andy helped me get my mother through her loss. I also learned that forgiveness is very powerful. My advice is be forgiving, be loving



24th ID veterans and their families had the chance to visit with Fort Stewart soldiers during the Desert Storm 25th Anniversary Reunion and learn about how the modern Army operates.

and remember. As long as we remember those who died, their life will never be forgotten.”

Other guests for the Desert Storm anniversary and memorial included renowned journalist and author Joe Galloway, who wrote “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young,” the account of the 7th Cavalry’s battle with North Vietnamese forces in the Ia Drang Valley. Joe was embedded as a journalist with the 24th Division during Desert Storm and appropriately proclaimed the Victory Division as the “Point of the Spear during the Storm” He spoke at the reunion luncheon following the Memorial Ceremony.

The Silver Anniversary Reunion extended over five days, jammed packed with activities for the attendees such as a tour of Fort Stewart motor pools, time in the advanced combat simulators for small arms training, artillery call for fire, tank and Bradley combat simulators. Veterans enjoyed dining at a modern mess hall as well as a Division banquet. The Reunion Task Force consisted of four veterans, Darrell Williams, Francisco Irizarry, Stephen Harrington and Lon Busby assisted by many other volunteers who made the reunion a big success.

(K. Darrell Williams was a chaplain with 3/15th Inf during Desert Storm and is the current Webmaster of the 24th Infantry Division Association.)



# New Feature

# Next Issue

# Q&A Column

## What was your most memorable military meal?

We want to know! Share your military memories in the new Q&A column. Please send your one-paragraph answer to the editor. A new question will be asked every issue, and the answers will be shared in the following issue.

**Don't delay, send your answers today! 24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com**

## A GI's GERMANY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Other audio highlights on the second volume include the explosions of Grafenwoehr, the ringing of Germany's bells, the voices of a thousand Mitsingers, and the crunch of combat boots in the German snow.

German music is also featured on this volume. Music includes yodelers, singers, zither players, the big Bierhalle brass bands, the Hofbrauhaus Chorus and the Platz 1 Musikanten Band presenting the songs of Germany that any veteran will want to remember.

The two albums are available online to listen to for free. Both recordings are hosted on the online video website Vimeo. Just type in the websites address below and begin your audio trip back in time. Be sure to type in the addresses exactly as shown.

### A GI's Germany, VOLUME 1

<https://vimeo.com/4591094>

### A GI's Germany, VOLUME 2

<https://vimeo.com/4591192>

Information provided by Siegfried L. Dauer.

## KOREAN WAR SOLOPILOTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

By mid-1953, even with the perils associated with early helicopters, the Army Solopilots evacuated 1,273 casualties in a single month.

"I found out that these helicopters didn't have enough power to take off when they were fully loaded," Czerw said. "I asked them how they did it and they said, 'Well, we'd get up on top of a high cliff and kind of jump off to get a jump start.' These aircraft delivered wounded warriors under the most austere and dangerous battlefield conditions, bringing the injured to battalion aid stations and MASH sites, places that would be considered primitive by today's standards."

While their exploits are now legendary, Solopilots were actually U.S. Army Medical Service officers called to action by Maj. George E. Armstrong, the U.S. Army Surgeon General at the time. In early 1952, Armstrong sent out word to his corps of officers - which included pharmacists, assistant battalion surgeons, lab officers, etc. - that if they met the re-

quired flight qualifications, they could volunteer for helicopter flight training.

"Starting from these humble beginnings with one individual, the Solopilot was not only responsible for flying and navigating the aircraft in all types of weather, they were also the mechanic and the medic," Czerw said. "On rare occasions, you had to land that bird, so you could fix it so it could fly out, or you had to help the patient. All of this was not performed by a team, but by an individual ... the Solopilot."

"They took these small observation helicopters with marginal piston engine power and converted them into functional ambulances," said retired Lt. Col. Hank Capozzi, director of the Solopilots Society.

"They strapped patients to the outside in locally contrived litter racks and transported them to life-saving surgical hospitals. It was this dedicated willingness and the ability to improvise that makes the solopilot unique. They performed these duties more than half a century ago, 24/7, in all weather conditions alone," stressed Capozzi.

TAPS FROM THE SECRETARY'S REPORT					
<b>Frazier, George D.</b>	300 Estelle Lane, Westminster, PA 18974	13th FA HQ	WWII	2/14/2016	
<b>Matchett, Robert S.</b>	79775 Westward Ho Dr., La Quinta, CA 92253	21st InfF	WWII	3/12/2016	
<b>Simunek, William C.</b>	5024 Greenbriar Tr., Mt. Dora, FL 32575	3rd Eng HQ	Japan	6/14/2016	
<b>Torres, Joe</b>	851 Rama Dr., La Puente, CA 91746	34th Inf G	Korea	5/12/2016	
<b>LaFlame, Richard T.</b>	198 Locust St. Apt 207, Lynn, MA, 01904	11th FAB	Korea	N/A	
<b>Wuscher, Frank J.</b>	98 Morris St., Nazareth, PA 18064	19th Inf Med	Japan	4/27/2016	
<b>Eresh, George</b>	305 Trillium Ct., Cranberry Tep, PA 16066	5th RCT Svc	Korea	4/05/2016	
<b>Ackerman, Walter C.</b>	36 C Street NW, Navarre, OH 44662	3rd Eng Co	Japan	1/14/2016	
<b>Youngblood, Carl D.</b>	5912 Unitas Ln. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	6th Tank	Korea	1/25/2016	
<b>Burke, Ezra P.</b>	15322 Edgehill Dr., Dumfries, VA 22026	21st Inf Med	Korea	2/18/2016	
<b>Sheppard, Ulysses F.</b>	160 Robin Ln, Pinehurst, NC 28374	724 Ord	Japan	3/19/2016	
<b>Montgomery, Robert S.</b>	6985 Edgarton Road, N. Royalton, OH 44133	19th Inf M	WWII	2/28/2016	

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## NEW MEMBERS

<b>Doherty, Michael J.</b>	21st Inf	Lifetime Member (New)
<b>McNeill, Loren D.</b>	19th Inf, Div HQ	Germany 60-61
<b>Wentzel, Richard F.</b>	34th Inf, B	Korea-POW 51-53
<b>Ochart, James</b>	71st Hv Tank Bn	Korea 55-56
<b>Thomas, Isaiah W.</b>	19th Inf, Co A	Fort Riley 68-69
<b>Taylor, Raymond L.</b>	19th Inf, HQ	Korea 54-56
<b>Loutzenhiser, Lynn</b>	724 Ord	Germany 61-63
<b>Schmitt, John W.</b>	24th ID, HHC	Fort Stewart-Storm 85-93
<b>Pelas, James</b>	24th S&T, Co A	Germany 66-68
<b>Muth, David C.</b>	19th Inf	Korea 54-56
<b>Whitney, Edward J.</b>	19th Inf, Co G	Korea 56-57
<b>Perrone, Anthony</b>	19th Inf, Co I	Korea 53-54
<b>Smith, Dwight J.</b>	Not Given	Germany 58-60
<b>Pendarvis, James E.</b>	Associate	N/A

### Don't Miss An Issue of the Taro Leaf

Please look at the back cover of your current Taro Leaf magazine. If the date shown above your printed name and address is 04/01/2016, your dues have expired. Please pay the past due amount and one year forward. Please send your payments to John Dunn at the address shown on the back page of the Taro Leaf.



# FALLEN COMRADES

## Alfred Robert French II, M.D.

(Col.- Retired), passed away on March 8, 2016, at age 89. Alfred attended Wentworth Military Academy and Valley Forge Military Academy, graduating in 1944. Upon graduation, Alfred asked for immediate induction into the U.S. Army. Alfred's first enlistment was served in France, Belgium and Germany where he was a Private 1st Class and Corporal in the 79th Field Artillery Group. He was honorably discharged from WWII in July of 1946.



In June of 1950, Alfred was serving in the Army of Occupation in Japan when the Communist North Korean forces attacked South Korea. His battalion was ordered to Pusan and then to Osan, becoming the first American ground forces to fight and delay the attacking North Koreans. This group of American soldiers was known as "Task Force Smith."

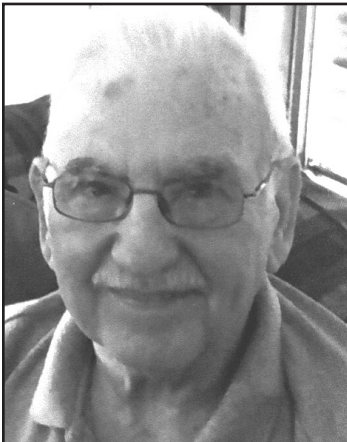
First Lieutenant French, Infantry, U.S. Army, a member of Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Korea from July through October, 1950. During the Korean War, Alfred participated in the UN Defensive, the UN Offensive, CCF Intervention, First UN Counteroffensive, and the CCF Spring Offensive. Some of Alfred's military distinctions include: Combat Infantry Badge, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany and Japan), and UN Korean Service Medal. Alfred joined the Army National Guard in 1976 and served until 1993. Alfred was Chief of Ophthalmology at the V.A. Hospital from 1990 until his retirement in 1999. Alfred was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Mary Jo French. **LIFE MEMBER**

**Ronald Sanchez** passed away on March 23, 2016, in Kennewick, WA. Ronald served in the 57 Recoiless Section of Company G, 19th Infantry as a gunner during Operation Nomad. He served in the Army from 1951-55.

**Jack L. Martin** passed away Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at age 89. Jack proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II in Europe and Asia. He re-entered the service in 1949 and served in the Korean Conflict (PFC, RA 13117633, Company A, 34th Infantry Regiment), where he was captured by the North Koreans and was a prisoner of war for 37 months (7/20/50-8/28/53, Camp #3). He was also a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marcella. Online condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.reesfuneralhomes.com](http://www.reesfuneralhomes.com).

## Frank J. Wuscher

passed on April 27, 2016, at the age of 85 in Nazareth, PA. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Japan for 23 months, and saw action during the Korean conflict for 17 months. He served with the 19 Infantry Reg. Med. Co., 24th Division. He was discharged in 1952. He was awarded the Combat Medical Badge, United Nations Medal, Korean Service Medal, 2 Bronze Stars, Republic of Korea Presidential United Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, and the Korean Medal from the South Korean Government. He is survived by his wife, Betty, of 37 years. **LIFE MEMBER**

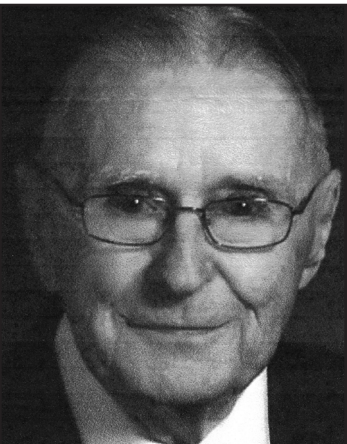


**Donna M. Uting**, of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, passed away on April 16, 2016, at age 85. She was the wife of George M. Uting, Company M, 21st Infantry, Korea 1950-51. Condolences may be sent to the family at N3703 Uting Road, Black River Falls, WI 54615 **SPOUSE OF MEMBER**

**Robert Sidney Matchett** passed away on March 12, 2016, at age 90, in La Quinta, CA. Sid, as he was called, served honorably in the Merchant Marines and later in the U.S. Army (ASN: 39728220, Company F, 21st Infantry, 1944-46) in the Pacific Theatre in WWII. Sid is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sara. Condolences may be sent to his wife and family at 79775 Westward Ho Dr., La Quinta, CA 92253 **MEMBER**

## Russell Gale Brockfeld

passed away on August 3, 2014, at the age of 87. He served his country in WWII. He was a member of the Warrenton VFW Post 2180 and the Warrenton American Legion Post. He was a past Missouri State Representative for 20 years. His wife was Janis Brockfeld. **MEMBER**



**William C. "Bill" Simunek**, of Mt. Dora, FL, died in Tavares, FL, June 14, 2016. He was 88. Bill served in Japan with the 24th Infantry Division's 3rd Engineers, HQ, from 1946-47. He later served with the 501 HC CO 7 TMP, in the Korean War from Sept. 1951 to July 1955 as a 1st Lt. He was active with the Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, FL Chapter 169, Inc., serving in the Color Guard and on the Board; he also served in the Florida 24th IDA Group. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet. Condolences may be sent to Nancy and Charlie Simunek, 5024 Greenbriar Trail, Mt. Dora, FL, 32757-9102 **MEMBER**

**Duane LeRoy Hall** of Pinckney, Michigan, died July 17, 2016, at age 84 at Howell, Michigan. He was in the U.S. Army for two years, serving in Japan and Korea. Duane served in Korea with the 26th AAA, B Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division from April 1953 to September 1954. Duane was a longtime member of Herbert J. Mc Kune Post 31, having served as Adjutant and Post Commander. He was also a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, the Korean War and Korea Defence Service Veterans Chapter 169 of Lake County, FL and was a life member of the 24th Infantry Division Association. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor. Condolences may be sent to: 591 Cattail Lane, Pinckney, MI 48169-8025. **LIFE MEMBER**



**Glenn H. Towe**, Command Sergeant Major, US Army Ret., died November 15, 2015, at age 89 in Murfreesboro, TN. CSM Towe entered the US Navy in November 1943. He served in the Pacific Theater during WWII and in China in 1946-47. He was discharged from the US Navy in November 1947 and entered the US Army in February 1948. He entered the Korean War from Hawaii with the 5th Regimental Combat Team. He served in Vietnam in 1968-69 as Brigade CSM with the 4th Infantry Division. He served at many posts in the United States, Germany, Austria, Hawaii and the Philippines.

During his 30 years of service he was awarded two awards of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Air Medal with 12 oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was also awarded various campaign and service ribbons with twelve major campaign or battle stars. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marian. Condolences may be sent to his family at 301 Jaynes Street, Walhalla, SC. **LIFE MEMBER**



**Arthur E. Wessels, Sr.** of Wakefield, MA, passed away on January 26, 2016. **MEMBER**

**PLEASE SEND OBITUARIES TO**  
**The Taro Leaf Editor**  
**21541 Wolf Lake Court**  
**Crest Hill, IL 60403**

*(Please include a photo if available)*

Information can also be emailed to  
[24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com](mailto:24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com)



## SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU

Roy E. Appleman



*This is a continuation of a story published in the Spring 2016 issue of the Taro Leaf (Vol. 70, Issue 2).*

### Chapter XIII, “The Enemy Flanks Eighth Army in the West,” continues...

The late Roy E. Appleman’s book, written for the Center of Military History, has been called the most accurate and complete review of what happened during the early months of the Korean War. Appleman (1904-1993) entered the U.S. Army as a private in 1942 during World War II. After completing Officer Candidate School in 1943 he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and was sent overseas to the Pacific Theater in 1944. During both WWII and Korea he served as a combat historian. His other books include *Okinawa: The Last Battle* and *Ridgway Duels for Korea*. He received the Army Commendation Ribbon in 1945 for performance of duties as combat historian in the Okinawa campaign and his contribution to the Okinawa book.

Appleman retired from the Army in 1954 as a lieutenant colonel.

## The N.K. 4th Division Joins the Enveloping Move

After the fall of Taejon, the N.K. 4th Division rested in the city for two days and took in 1,000 untrained replacements. On the morning of 23 July, it started south from Taejon on the Kumsan road. It was joining the 6th Division in an envelopment of the United Nations’ left flank. The N.K. 6th Division moved on an outer arc around the left of the U.N. position, the N.K. 4th Division on an inner arc. The two divisions were engaging in a coordinated movement on a theater scale.

At Kumsan the 4th Division received another 1,000 replacements that had trained only a few days. Departing Kumsan on or about 25 July, the division reportedly left behind the tank regiment that had accompanied it ever since they had crossed the 38th Parallel together a month earlier. The tanks were to remain in Kumsan until the division had crossed the Naktong.

On 28 July the first indication appeared in American intelligence estimates that elements of the N.K. 6th Division might have moved south. The next day the Eighth Army intelligence section conjectured that the enemy had shifted troops southward. It stated that major parts of one enemy division probably were in the Chinju area and major elements of another in the Koch’ang area. While the estimate did not identify the enemy unit in the Koch’ang area, it erroneously repeated that “all elements of this division [the 4th] are attacking eastward along the

axis Chinju—Masan.” Even after the Hadong battle on the 27th, Eighth Army did not know that these troops were from the 6th Division.

The 34th Infantry of the 24th Division, defending the Koch’ang approach to the Naktong, had a regimental strength at this time of about 1,150 men, with the 1st and 3d Battalions averaging approximately 350 men each. It was in position at Koch’ang on 27 July.

Koch’ang is about midway on the main road between Kumch’on and Chinju and is strategically located near the point where two lateral east-west roads, one from Namwon and Hamyang and the other from Chinan, cross the Kumch’on- Chinju road and continue eastward through Hyopch’on and Ch’ogye to the Naktong River. Chinju is thirty-five air miles south of Koch’ang.

On 27 July, Colonel Moore sent Colonel Wilson with the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry, north from Chinju to relieve Colonel Rhea in the Anui area. Colonel Rhea was then to bring his battalion south to Chinju, where Colonel Moore planned to concentrate the 19th Infantry.

The relief took place at Umyong-ni in the early afternoon of 27 July. Wilson’s battalion had no artillery, armor, or air support. A platoon of 4.2 mortars had only two rounds of white phosphorous shells for ammunition. Mounted messengers traveling over thirty-five miles of road were the only means of communication between Wilson and Colonel Moore’s command post.

In the early afternoon, Colonel Rhea guided 1st Lt. John C. Hughes with B Company, 29th Infantry, reinforced by approximately thirty-five men and their weapons from the Heavy Weapons Company, from Umyong-ni to relieve A Company, 19th Infantry, at Anui. A Company was engaged in a small arms fight and its relief could not be accomplished at once. Colonel Rhea returned to Umyong-ni, leaving instructions that the company should follow him as soon as possible, which he expected would be shortly. At Umyong-ni Rhea waited about five hours for A Company. Then, when reconnaissance toward Anui showed that an enemy force had cut the road, he started just before dusk with the rest of the battalion for Chinju as ordered.

Meanwhile, Colonel Wilson had sent 2d Lt. Frank Iwanczyk, Assistant S-3, with two jeeps from Umyong-ni to make contact with the 34th Infantry at Koch’ang; 1st Lt. Sam C. Holliday, S-2, went to make contact with the ROK troops at Hamyang. Iwanczyk set off northward. At the Anui crossroads he checked his map and then led off toward Koch’ang, waving the other jeep to follow. Because of the heavy dust the second jeep kept well behind the first.

*Approximately half of the 215 men  
of B and D Companies, 29th Infantry,  
taking part in the Anui battle, were either  
killed or listed as missing in action.*

A mile north of the crossroads, an enemy machine gun, hidden in a native hut on a turn of the road, suddenly poured devastating fire into the lead jeep. The bodies of all four men fell from the wrecked vehicle into a rice field. The second jeep stopped with a jerk and the men jumped into the ditch by the road. After three or four minutes of silence, seven or eight North Korean soldiers started down the road. They passed the first jeep and, when nearing the second, they shouted and started to run toward it. Pvt. Sidney D. Talley stood up and fired his M1 at the North Koreans. He killed two of them. His three companions now joined in firing. The surviving North Koreans turned and ran back.

One of the Americans scrambled up the bank,

turned the jeep around, the others jumped in, and the driver raced back to the Anui crossroads. There, they excitedly told members of B Company about the roadblock. At the battalion command post they repeated their story.

By this time, Lieutenant Holliday had returned from Hamyang. There he had found somewhat less than 600 men of the ROK 7th Division and 150 fresh South Korean marines from Mokp’o. Holliday with three men now set off for Anui. Two and a half miles short of the town, enemy fire from a roadblock destroyed their jeep and wounded one man in the chest. Holliday covered the withdrawal of his three men with BAR fire, and then followed them.

Relieved finally at Anui about 1600, A Company, 19th Infantry, loaded into trucks and started south to join Rhea’s battalion. A mile below the town the company ran into a fire fight between North and South Korean troops and was stopped. After enemy fire wrecked six of its vehicles, the company destroyed the others, abandoned its heavy equipment, and started on foot through the hills toward the 34th Infantry positions at Koch’ang. The next morning 64 American and 60 ROK soldiers came in to Colonel Beauchamp’s positions there. Why this force did not return to Anui and join Lieutenant Hughes is not known.

Meanwhile at Anui, Lieutenant Hughes’ B Company, 29th Infantry, was under attack from superior numbers closing in from three sides, and by nightfall it had been forced back into the town. Hughes made plans to withdraw across the upper Nam River to a high hill east of the town. Two officers and sixteen men got across before enemy automatic fire cut off the rest. After vainly trying to help the rest of the company to break out eastward, the eighteen men went over the hills to the 34th Infantry position at Koch’ang. In Anui the cutoff troops engaged in street fighting until midnight. Those who escaped walked out through the hills during the next several days. Approximately half of the 215 men of B and D Companies, 29th Infantry, taking part in the Anui battle, were either killed or listed as missing in action.

### NORTH TO THE YALU

*CONTINUES ON PAGE 25*



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MEDAL OF HONOR PROJECT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

After the 24th ID Punch Bowl monument was placed in Hawaii, several 24th IDA members decided to create the Medal of Honor monument.

The MOH monument specifically recognizes the 14 soldiers of the 24th ID who were awarded the Medal of Honor. Of those 14 Medal of Honor recipients, four were from World War II and ten were from Korea. The 24th ID received the most Medals of Honor out of any unit in the U.S. Army serving in Korea.

Two people involved in the Punch Bowl monument have been instrumental in bringing the Medal of Honor monument to fruition. Larry Jones, a professor at Saddleback College of Sculpture in California, volunteered his services to be the project coordinator for both the Punch Bowl and for the Medal of Honor projects. Danielle Rickert, the granddaughter of one of our 24th IDA Life Members, was the designer for both the MOH plaque and the Punch Bowl monument.

The beautiful bronze plaque for the monument was primarily crafted by David Freda, working from blue prints sent to him by the project committee. He is a professional enameller and jeweler who creates all types of fine arts for Tiffany’s of New York.

There are five life members of the 24th IDA who are serving as the MOH project committee. They include: Gene Spicer, Dan Rickert, Sal Schillaci, Kenneth Dillion, and Mel Frederick. These men have been instrumental to the completion of the monument in so many ways. Gene Spicer is even volunteering to drive to Buffalo, New York to transport the 1,700-pound granite base of the monument to its future home.

Several sites have been considered in choosing the future home of the Medal of Honor monument. For a time, it was thought that it could be placed in Arlington National Cemetery, but no success was gained for this location. The most promising plan is to place the Medal of Honor memorial at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Fort Stewart is currently the home of the 3rd Infantry Division. Post officials have allowed Desert Storm soldiers to erect monuments to commemorate the 24th ID in the past, and it is hoped they will embrace the 24th ID Medal of Honor Memorial, as well.

The newly completed plaque is truly a work of art. The Medal of Honor monument will be something we can all be proud of as a memorial to our fallen comrades.

The 24th Infantry Division is very grateful to all those persons mentioned here and to many more. Without all those who donated time, talent, ideas, and money, this monument would not have become a reality. Your efforts are all greatly appreciated.

Information Provided by Tom Appler.

REUNIONS

25th Anniversary Reunion Desert Storm/Provide Comfort

Open to Civil Affairs Veterans, All Military Personnel, Family and Friends

September 24, 2016 4pm to 8pm

VENUE: The Club at 1889 Arnold Avenue, Joint Base Andrews, MD

GUEST SPEAKER: Hon. Edward “Skip” Gnehm, former US ambassador to Kuwait

PROGRAM: Cash Bar, Buffet Dinner, Brief Remarks, Music, and Lively Conversation

COST: \$60 per person, due no later than August 26, 2016. Make checks payable to: “25th Desert Storm/Provide Comfort Anniversary Reunion” and mail to: LTC (R) F.R. Verrier, 594 Duffield Drive, Severna Park, MD 21146-2700. Please include your email address with payment. To meet Joint Base Andrews security requirements, please provide full name, DOB for all non DoD ID cardholders accompanying DoD ID card holders.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Co-Chair: COL (R) George Padar: gpadar2009@yahoo.com Co-Chair/Treasurer: LTC (R) F.R. (Frenchie) Verrier: frverrier43@aol.com Publicity Chair: COL (R) Lilia (Lee) Vannett, lmvannett@aol.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you have any questions email one of the POCs listed above.

NORTH TO THE YALU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Colonel Wilson and the rest of the battalion at Umyong-ni meanwhile knew nothing of the fate of B Company at Anui except that enemy forces had engaged it, and that roadblocks were above and below it. Wilson made two unsuccessful attempts to send help to B Company.

The enemy troops that had closed on Anui were advanced units of the N.K. 4th Division. They were well aware that a mixed force of American and South Korean troops was only a few miles below them. To deal with this force, elements of the division turned south from Anui early on 28 July.

In defensive positions about Umyongni and Hamyang, Colonel Wilson’s men were on the east side of the Nam River. Col. Min Ki Sik’s remnants of the ROK 7th Division and a small force of South Korean marines were on the

west side. American mortar fire turned back the small enemy force that approached Umyong-ni. On the west side of the river near Hamyang a hard fight developed. There, the South Koreans seemed about to lose the battle until their reserve marines fought through to the enemy’s flank. This caused the North Koreans to withdraw northward. From prisoners captured in this battle Wilson learned of the American defeat at Anui the day before.

Learning that evening that the enemy was moving around his battalion on back trails in the direction of Chinju, Colonel Wilson began, after dark, the first of a series of withdrawals. On 30 July the battalion reached the vicinity of Sanch’ong, twenty miles north of Chinju, and went into defensive positions there on orders from Colonel Moore. Colonel Min’s ROK troops also withdrew southward, passed through Wilson’s positions, and continued on into Chinju.

Continued in the next issue of the Taro Leaf.



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**John Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer, 9150 Hwy 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527**

## Still Time For Verbeck Nominations

**August 20, 2016** is the final date for you to nominate the member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious Verbeck Award. Please use the postcard printed at the back of the Taro Leaf to submit your nomination.

Please contact award chairman Donald Bruner if you have concerns about your nomination arriving on time. Bruner can be reached at (580) 233-4228 (home phone) or (580) 977-4037 (cell phone). You can also email him at - donbruner@suddenlink.net.

The Verbeck Award is presented to the Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck. The late Major General William Jordan Verbeck was a commander of the 21st Infantry Regiment and onetime Division Chief of Staff. He demonstrated an unparalleled love for and devotion to the Victory Division.

The award is not intended to reward popularity, but to acknowledge hard work in helping to make the Association more successful.

The award is symbolized by a large silver bowl, the "Verbeck Bowl," which was conceived to promote excellence and encourage others to emulate the values of William Jordan Verbeck.

Initially, the awardee's names were engraved on the bowl itself. But eventually the capacity for the bowl to carry more names became limiting. In 2007, the Association's Board of Directors approved the addition of a wooden base to support the original silver bowl and provide an attractive and efficient means to carry the names of future award winners.

The Verbeck Award is not awarded every year. It is only awarded sparingly on the vote of the Executive Committee because of the unusual quality of performance required to earn it.

## We Need Your Stories!

### Tiger-Faced Tanks

The next issue of the Taro Leaf will feature the *Tiger-Faced Tanks of the Korean War*. We have some great information about the tanks, but we need stories from the soldiers who manned them. The deadline for submissions for the Winter, 2016 issue is October 15. Please mail stories and photos to the Taro Leaf Editor, or email information to - 24thTaroLeaf@gmail.com.



## 24th ID Vets March in Memoiral Day Parade

Proud 24th ID Desert Storm veterans marched in Washington, D.C. during the 2016 National Memorial Day parade. More than 500 Gulf War Veterans marched to honor and remember the 383 service members that died during the Gulf War. Veterans from all five branches of service marched, yet one group stood out with the largest contingent from any unit, that unit was the 24th Infantry Division!

**See the next issue of the Taro Leaf, Winter 2016 for a full story and more photos.**

*Photo Credit - John Humphreys, Studio 660 Photography.*



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## VERBECK AWARD NOMINATIONS



**August 20, 2016** is the final date for you to nominate the member you feel most merits the Association's prestigious Verbeck Award. Please use the adjacent postcard to submit your nomination.

# Taro Leaf

**NEXT ISSUE**  
**Winter 2016**

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**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**