

THE

RED 5 DIAMOND



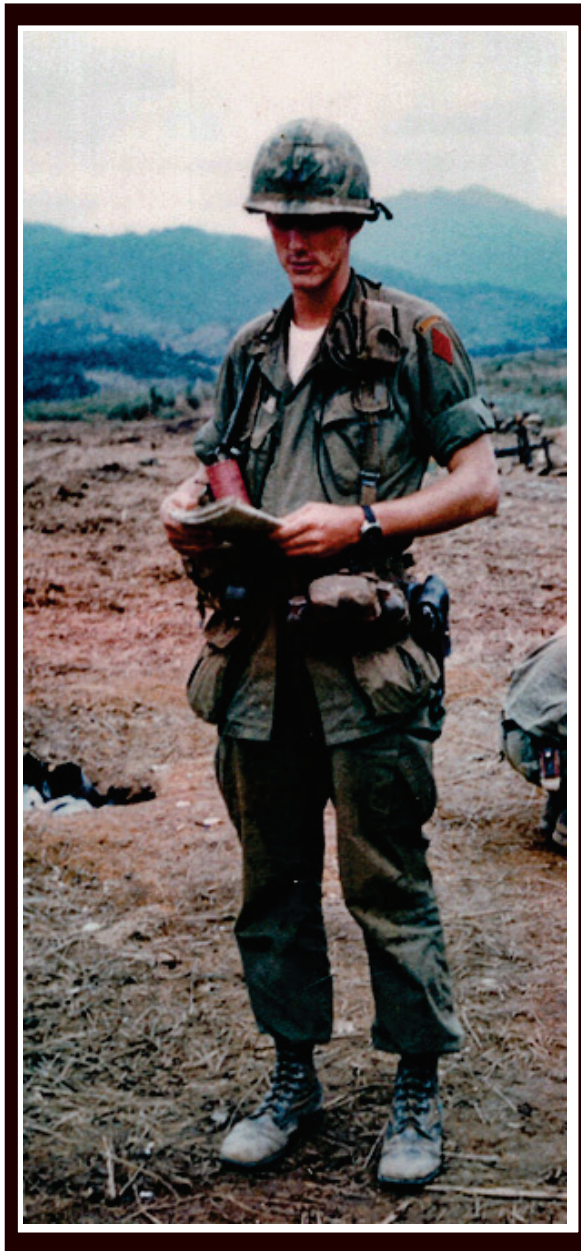
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In Memoriam: CPT. Robert S. Dean



“WE WILL”

** Deadline for submission of articles for next Edition: 10 January 2019*

2018 – 2019 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

Objectives of the Society

A. To perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Fifth Division; to electrify and unify that invisible current of fellowship, friendship and comradeship molded in the throes of war and the exigencies of a peacetime service, and promote the interests and welfare of its members.

B. To publish and preserve the history of the accomplishments of the Fifth Division and the Society, in war and peace, and set forth the gallant and heroic deeds of its members.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

- *Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Elyz (1919-22,24-25)
- *Col. Philip J. McCook (1922-23)
- *Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)
- *Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)
- *Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)
- *Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)
- *Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)
- *W. Walter Healy (1934-35)
- *Lloyd A. Reder (1935-37)
- *Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)
- *William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)
- *Emil Everts (1939-41)
- *A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)
- *William Gibbs (1945-46)
- *John W. Fonner (1946-48)
- *William L. McGrory (1948-49)
- *Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)
- *Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)
- *John H. Pflaum (1951-53)
- *Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)
- *John H. Baskin (1954-55)
- *Walter R. Stout (1955-57)
- *Frank H. Deane (1957-58)
- *Edward Pivovar (1958-59)
- *T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)
- *Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)
- *Gordon S. Henry (1962-63)
- *John J. Madison (1963-65)
- *Herbert K. Webb (1965-66)
- *Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)
- *Victor Dunneback (1967-68)
- *Winston Roche (1968-69)
- *Ervin J. Kotowski (1969-70)
- *Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)
- *Aubrey Prewitt (1971-72)
- *Michael S. O'Donnell (1972-73)
- *Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)
- *Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)
- *Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)
- *Howard Singer (1976-77)
- *Robert Young (1977-78)
- *Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)
- *George Bachman (1979-80)
- Harry Arquette (1980-81)
- William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)
- *Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
- *William Colon (1985-86)
- *Robert Graves (1986-87)
- *Herman Schell (1987-88)
- William Stanfield (1988-89)
- *John Goodman (1989-90)
- *William Upham (1990-91)
- Bradley Brewer (1991-92)
- Harry Arquette (1992-93)
- *Robert Rochon (1993-94)
- *Charles Coco (1994-95)
- Michael Giannini (1995-96)
- *Don Brown (1996-97)
- *Cullen Slone (1997-98)
- Jay Balderson (1998-99)
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- Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)
- Jim Spiller (2007-08)
- Pat Andreoni (2008-09)
- James "JJ" Jackson (2009-10)
- Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)
- Steve Wheat (2012-13)
- Bobby Moody (2013-2014)
- Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)
- Robb Robetson (2015-2016)
- Bob Dudley (2016-2017)
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National Presidents Message



Hello to all of the members of the Society of the Fifth Division. My name is Steve Wheat and I will be the society president this year in place of Alex Candalaria who for health reasons had to step down. I stay in touch with Alex and he sounds good and I plan on making this year and the reunion emulate what he envisioned the being elected 2nd VP.

Firstly I would like to thank our Past President Dennis Thompson and his wife Judy for making the recent 98th Reunion in Norfolk Va. a wonderful fun filled event. The amount of planning and details to

host a reunion is considerable and this past one was another in a long line of good times with our fellow Red Devil brothers.

In order to do all of the work necessary to host this coming years reunion in San Diego a committee has been formed composed of Phil Maniscalco, Mike Sperling, William Baugh and me. Together we are going to make it happen in the same manner that Alex envisioned it. The final details, registration forms, and hotel registration for the 2019 reunion will be included in the January RD, the Society of the Fifth Div webpage and on the Society of the Fifth Div. facebook page. So mark your calendars for Thursday Sep 05 2019 through Monday 10 Sep 2019 to be at the 99th Fifth Division Reunion in San Diego. The Hotel location, meals, and tours are all going to be top notch thanks to the valuable Recon that Alex did when he was First Vice President and through the attention to detail that the committee is doing to make it a good event.

One of the goals that I need all of your help to accomplish this year is finding and recruiting Fifth Division soldiers that wore the Diamond when the Division returned from Viet Nam. My point in asking for your help is that the body of our membership is now composed mainly of Viet Nam veterans with a smaller percentage of WW II members. It was the WWII men who passed this great organization down to us just as did the WW I members who started it welcomed them. The Red Devils who were at Ft. Polk La. and fought in Panama can be the ones who carry on the good work of the Society when our innings come to a close. But only if we find them and get them involved in the Society. This will only happen if we contact them and encourage them to join and become active in the Society. We soon will celebrate 100 years of the existence of the Society (the oldest Army organization of its kind) and for it to see 150 years the next generation must be the ones who will take the Society there. On our Monument at Ft. Benning each side carries the name of the war that the Fifth Div. saw combat in (WWI, WWII, Viet Nam and the last face of the monument reads Panama. For the Society to carry on our traditions and continue being a source of joy to veterans we must have the Panama generation's participation and leadership. If anybody feels compelled to take action on this recruiting initiative individually or as a team please let me know. Just think that if every member who is capable can reach out and we get a few Panama vets involved then they will tell their veteran friends and voila, the next generation will emerge and take the lead. If you agree with this plea for membership and are willing to take action it would be an important step toward maintaining the group we have grown to love and appreciate.

In closing I promise that I will do everything in my ability with the help of the Executive Board and membership to make 2019 another good and rewarding year for all of us.

First Vice Presidents Message

A Proud Heritage

By First Vice President Hal Roller



From the beginning of America, volunteers formed an Army to resist what was considered the British government of tyranny. They called themselves “Minutemen” and pledged to take up arms at a minute’s notice immediately before and for a short time during the American Revolution. With the full explosion of war this voluntary system was not enough and ended. Instead, each of the thirteen colonies formed military elements mostly of infantry with occasional artillery. These military units were designated militia. When delegates from each of the colonies formed a Continental Congress and declared independence, the new nation needed a national army, as well as, each State having its militia. This Continental Army, along with the States’ militias, were placed under a single command led by General George Washington. The Continental Army and the States’ militias provided the forces that won the Revolutionary War.

Though the Revolutionary War ended in victory; it was not an end to conflict. Indian Wars and the War of 1812 revealed the need for “Volunteers” to supplement the Regular Army in order to fulfill its frontier missions. These Volunteers enlisted for a short period of time (six months to a year), were paid very little money (if at all) and usually provided their own clothing and arms. They were organized into units and fought beside Regular Army units or on their own under Regular Army officers. The Volunteers added greatly to America’s westward expansion in the first half of the 19th century. The service, pride and honor of these men can be understood in Tennessee calling itself, “The Volunteer State.” Perhaps the best mental picture of Volunteers can be found in Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders. But as the twentieth century began, America found itself requiring a more formal structure for national defense.

The Militia Act of 1903 and the National Defense Act of 1916 took the Regular Army, the States’ militias and the Volunteers creating the Regular Army, the National Guard and the Army Reserve wearing the same uniform, having the same structure and using the same equipment. This came just in time because America was about to enter World War I. The First World War is the birth of the modern United States Army. The Army mobilized, trained, equipped, and deployed over 2,000,000 soldiers to France. Tactically, the division was the unit of maneuver. Regular Army divisions were organized and our Fifth Division came into being, as, General Pershing proclaimed, “distinctive appellations will be discontinued. The single term, the United States Army, will be exclusively used.” The Fifth Division conducted close and continuous combat during that war. Even after the war, the Fifth Division performed occupational duty in Germany. It was during this occupation duty that the Society of the Fifth Division was formed.



Our country is observing the 100th anniversary of the First World War’s end. Our Fifth Division played a major role in bringing that war to an honorable conclusion. Although you and I were not there, we have a proud heritage in our Society of the Fifth Division.

Second Vice-President Message



If you are anything like me, you are still comforted by the warm glow of friendships renewed at the recent Norfolk Reunion. For those who get this newsletter, and have never been to a Society of the Fifth reunion, what are you waiting for? It is a great experience just to be gathered in a place where you know that everyone really has your back. And, on that segue, I would like to let everyone know that my book, “My Brothers Have My Back” has finally gone to press. It should be available in Late November through Amazon or any other similar website.

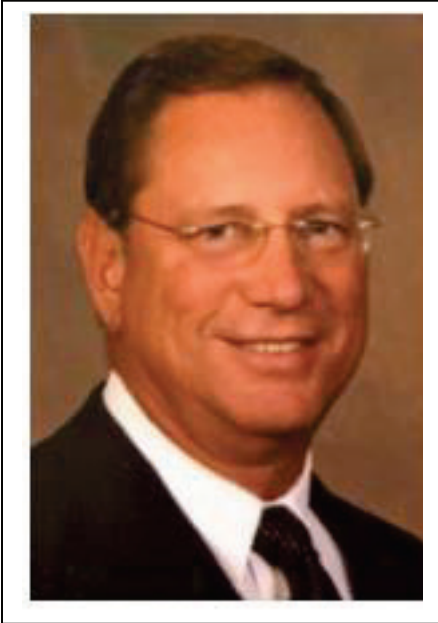
With that task behind me, I have accepted an appointment to serve on the executive board, and I feel privileged to have been selected as your second vice-president. I am genuinely honored with the trust you have shown me and I pledge to do my best to serve you honorably. Although that sounds like a politician, I can assure you that it is a brother-to-brother promise. I will have your back.

Since I reside in Massachusetts, I am hoping to host the 2021 reunion in Boston. It is a city rich in American History. There are so many things to do and so many sites to see in “Bean Town”, therefore there will be plenty of places to choose from in one of our birthplaces of American independence. We have Bunker Hill (The Shot Heard ‘Round the World), Lexington & Concord (Paul Revere’s & William Dawes’ ride), The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), The Old North Church (one if by land, two if by sea), The JFK Library (Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country), Faneuil Hall (The Cradle of Liberty), and Fenway Park (Go Sox!)—to name a few. Then there are all the great restaurants of the North End and world-class shopping on Newbury Street. It should be fun.

Thank you again for your confidence.

Lou Pepi

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings from Georgia. It has been a good year and a fast year and I am grateful for the opportunity you gave me to be your President. The future of the Society of the Fifth Division is bright with the Officers and Executive Board members that you have chosen. I look forward to Alex Candelaria's Reunion in San Diego, California and encourage you to begin making plans to attend. I want to thank the committee of Steve Wheat, Phil Maniscalco, Mike Sperling and William Baugh for stepping up and making Alex's dream a reality.

The Reunion we hold each year is a requirement of our Constitution and Bylaws. But more importantly, it is a time to reunite with old friends and to make new friends. I think our time together in Norfolk, Virginia filled our objectives.

Although it was a busy time for me, I had a wonderful time and I hope you did too. I know many members of the

Society were not able to attend the Reunion and I want you to know that you were missed.

We always strive to hold the Reunion in a fun place but more importantly we strive to have a Reunion that does not cost the Society anything. This year's Reunion in Norfolk fulfilled that goal. Because of the efforts of the membership volunteering their time, donating items for the silent auction and buying them, buying tickets for the 50/50 raffle, placing ads in the Reunion Booklet and making monetary donations, the checking account for the Society of the Fifth Division has been increased by \$12,857.85 per our national Treasurer George Shoener. This also includes an amount from Armed Forces Reunion after expenses were paid.

My wife, Judy and I want to thank you all for making my time as President a treasured experience.

Dennis Thompson

Past President 2017-2018

One of many words of gratitude for Dennis and Judy

Greetings from Michigan

"Very good reunion in Norfolk! Dennis and Judy did a great job. Andy and I had a wonderful time seeing the sights and talking to everyone. Special thanks to Bob Rochell for the Bad Ass award. (All brothers are bad asses) We're looking forward to San Diego next year"

Stan and Andy Shaffer

MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018



Roger Jones



Sandy Maniscalco



Robert Dudley

Every year members who have distinguished themselves by their commitment and dedicated efforts to keeping the Society of the Fifth Division a great example of what a successful veterans group is are recognized by the leaders and membership for their work keeping it so. They are presented with the Man of the Year medallion and a plaque with the proclamation engraved on it. This years recipients are:

Roger Jones: A lifetime member who has served as former National Treasurer, who has helped by doing numerous things at each reunion you probably recognize his engaging smile and wonderful voice serving refreshments in the Hospitality Room.

Sandy Maniscalco: A member who is always helping by pitching in and working in the background helping anywhere she is needed at every reunion and in her community by taking the lead on several charitable organizations. She is the oil that keeps things working smoothly, and is also the wife of member Phil Maniscalco.

Robert Dudley: A lifetime member who is a Past President of the Society (Kansas Reunion) who is always busy at each reunion. Among his many accomplishments he initiates several of our Artillerymen members into the Order of St.Barbara and spearheaded the effort to award each member with the Viet Nam service pin.

They each deserve our pride and a Salute for their service to the Society of the Fifth Division.

In Memoriam: CPT. Robert Dean

Obituary: Robert Dean died on 21 Sept 2018 exactly 50 years to the minute from when he was wounded in Vietnam.

Robert was born March 3, 1948 in Ogden, UT. He was the youngest of eleven children of Arvel W Dean and Charlotte Stephens Dean, his parents died while Robert was a teenager leaving Robert to care for himself in all things. He entered the US Army in September, 1966. He rose through the ranks and became a Captain in the US Army. His most cherished military accomplishments and life long memories were that of an Infantry Platoon Leader and Infantry Company Commander in the 5th Division in Republic of Vietnam. His efforts earned him a Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars, 3 Purple Hearts, 2 Army Commendation Medals, Air Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct medal along with assorted Vietnam service and campaign medals. However, his most treasured military awards and accomplishments was that of being a Ranger in the US Army and proudly wearing a Ranger Tab on his left shoulder. Robert endured both the pride and punishment of the war carrying with him five bullet wounds numerous shrapnel wounds and 1st and 2nd degree burns and other wounds received in combat after enduring two tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam and elsewhere. He returned on a stretcher from both tours of duty having served honorably for 20 months in combat and enduring 22 months in the hospital as a result of wounds received in that war. He has corresponded with and maintained his friendship with many of his former and much respected warrior friends.

Robert moved to Montana in August 1977. He traveled from one end of Montana to the other from 1977 through 2000 as the proverbial road warrior, selling various items. He was both salesman and sales manager for three different companies over those twenty-three years on the road. He knew and loved both the countryside side of Montana as well as its resplendent people. He often said that traveling Montana on his various routes was not work but rather like a continual vacation, seeing beautiful sights and meeting memorable people.

In fall of 2000 Robert retired from the sales business and began his lifelong desire to complete his College education. He enrolled as a student at Montana State University of Billings. On 30 April 2004 Robert graduated with honors with a BS degree in accounting. Rubbing shoulders with students half his age and competing with them on the academic playing field was a treasured experience. He met and befriended many young and truly distinguished students and faculty alike.

Robert's love of the outdoors took him the many camping and fly-fishing trips in the Beartooth Mountains. He knew and loved such lakes and rivers as Phantom, Sylvan, Dewey, Wounded M~ Silver, Mystic, West Fork of the Stillwater, and others as his fly-fishing playground. Many a fish took to a well-placed dry fly only to be released after being the proud catch of the day. Many an evening heard him recite old war stories over the flickering light of a camp fire deep in the Beartooth Mountains alone or with others. His love of the outdoors took him to the top of Granite Peak at the age of 53 years of age or up a mountain bike trail on Rattlesnake Trail while retreating from the presence of a stubborn large boar black bear or grizzly. During his many

mountain treks, he ran into grizzly and black bears alike, only to wish each a good day as he continued up the trail.

Robert spent over three years embedded with the US Military and allied forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan in support Operation Iraqi Freedom in or near Tikrit., Iraq for 18 months and 18 months in or near Mosul, Iraq and for 2 months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This was Robert's final effort in support of America's military efforts. Robert supported America's military on three different continents during his lifetime. Iraq and Afghanistan were an enjoyable and welcomed last HURRAHH!!!!

Robert's true love in the final years of his life was with his little white Labradoodle dog named "RANGER". During Robert's bout with cancer Ranger was always by his side and gave him much comfort and strength to fight on. Ranger was his love and his life in these final years. If there is indeed an afterlife Ranger and Robert will meet again and walk the trails together, forever

A Letter to the men of Alpha Company



To the Courageous men of Alpha Company 1st BN 61st Inf, 5th Infantry Division. Sept. 1970 to May 1971. Many times, Gen Hill said to me that Alpha Company 1/61 were the best of the best. I thought so then and want to relay the high esteem we had for all of you both then and now. You were and are extraordinary men because you cared about the mission and equally and more importantly you cared about each other. That caring was obvious then and now as you still have close communication between each other as I am sure you will continue to for many years to come. You have contributed so much to the success of the 5th

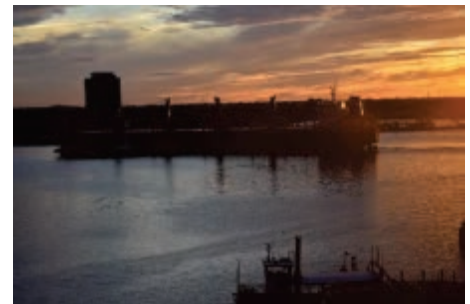
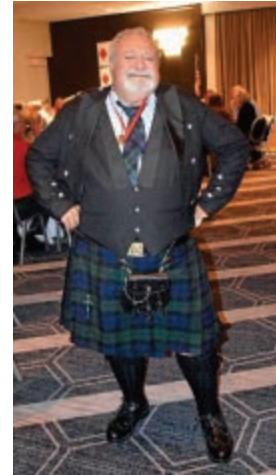


Division, The Society of the Fifth Division, its membership, and administration. From Sept 1970 to May 21, 1971 this Company of men endured the loss of over 25+ men KIA, brothers and comrades in arms. I do not have all the stats but would bet a lot of money that that total is greater than any Infantry Company or any other company for a similar time-period. I was indeed fortunate to be a member of Alpha Company during that time. Though I am certainly not proud of those stats I am so very proud to have served with you the men that endured those

losses and kept on coming no matter the duress or obstacles... The skills to fight that you demonstrated, the love for one another that you reflected each and

every day, the values you demonstrated and displayed on every mission were examples no one else could be compared to. The LT's, NCO's and enlisted men of Alpha Company were absolutely the best of the best and demonstrated it despite such staggering losses and operating in such an unbelievably harsh environment. You are indeed the Best of the Best. It was my dream of a life-time to come back to Vietnam and join Alpha Company. Contrary to what many of you think, I loved every one of you then, since, now, and will forever. Continue onward and upward A Company. What an honor it is to have been associated with such a unique, courageous, and distinguished group of men.

Thank You ...Thank You...
Robert S Dean
Alpha Company 1/61 CO, 1970-1971



Special Thanks to: Robert Galloway and Cindy Desmond for all of the photos.

National Chaplains Message

100 Years, since the end of WWI

All the church bells around the world tolled at 11:00 AM. It was the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, of 1918. WWI had ended! At the news of the Armistice, singing, dancing and parties broke out in the world's streets. Most of the world leaped for joy, for "The War to End All Wars"; was finally over. Over 40 million people had perished in this awful war, and the destruction was major.

Foolishly, countries, people and churches rejoiced exceedingly, believing, in the false promises of their leaders, that there would be no more war in the world. War was outlawed; they promised! Everyone seemed caught up in this spirit of delusion! In most countries, their vast stock of weapons were destroyed. National budgets for new weapons were dramatically reduced across the world, as the population rejoiced in this vain dream.

But the grim reality is that the "War to End All Wars", WWI, actually "fathered" over 230 other major wars around the world, in this Century. The world had to learn, that human words and promises were worthless; unless the corrupt human will was changed. Scripture prophecies, that 1/3 of the world's population will die from wars, and tragically, history bears out God's horrific judgment over sin. Statistics estimate that over 500 million, (500,000,000), have been violently put to death in this century alone; far, far more than any other century since the beginning of the world. In their willful delusion, the world ignored the real reason why wars happen, from Jer. 17:9, that the human heart is desperately wicked, who can know it! Incredibly, this "delusional utopian dream", is still relentlessly fostered today; against overwhelming evidence. The bitter reality, was that sin did not die in WWI, and lust did not grow weak. (James 4:1b) – "even of your lusts that war in your members." Since The Deep Fall; war, obviously lives deep in our "hearts"

The 5th Infantry Division fought valiantly in WWI, under General Pershing. Over 1/3 of all of our Armed Forces in WWI wore our Red Diamond. We are one of the oldest Army units in America, and have fought to preserve America's Freedom, in WWI, WWII, Vietnam, Panama, and Desert Storm. Over 1.3 million American soldiers have given their lives to keep America Free! Every good soldier intensely hates war; but also knows that the other side must hate it just as intensely, to be Peace.

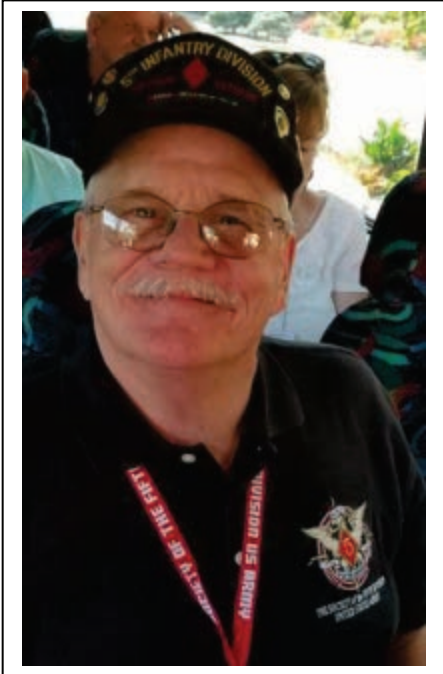
Resolved: To solemnly remember the 100 years of war, of "humanity against humanity; killing far more of humanity", since the end of "the war to end all wars". To set aside a day of Repentance; for our "Century of Profound Failure". To set aside a minute of silence, and to ring all the Church bells at 11:00 AM, on November 11, 2018. To proclaim, that prayer be made for personal and national repentance, a return to Scripture, and to The Law of God; which can alone bring Peace.

Psalm 46:9 – He makes War to Cease, unto the end of the earth.



New National Historian Message

Roger Allen



As the incoming National Historian, I was asked to write a few words introducing myself to the membership.

I entered the Army on January 2, 1968 at Coral Gables, Florida and after training at Fort Gordon, Ga and Fort Lee, Va I was sent to Fort Carson. I was a cook in HHB, 46th Field Artillery Group, and after one winter in Colorado I decided that was no place for a Florida boy. In the summer of 1969 I put in a request for transfer to the Republic of Vietnam, which was approved. Arriving at Camp Red Devil, I was assigned to Co A, 75th Support Battalion, where I spent one year. I ETS'd in September 1970 and returned home to Florida.

My working career was spent in building materials distribution, starting as a truck driver, and ultimately retiring 45 years later as a warehouse manager. I have been married almost 29 years and have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

I have been active for 3 decades in VFW, Am Vets, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America, holding various officer positions at one time or another in all four. I enjoy serving my community and being with fellow veterans.

My study of military history began as a schoolboy in the 1950's and today is a serious interest of mine.

I was truly humbled when several members of the Society of the Fifth Division asked me if I would be interested in this position, and it did not take very long for me to accept.

Thank you for your confidence in me, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the Society.

Sincerely

Roger Allen





My Life with the A-75th Support Battalion

Written by Gene Rees

One evening after chow at Ft. Leonard Wood (after having been told that our Company of 200+ Combat Engineers was heading to Germany) a group of 17 of us were told to report to the Supply Room. Upon our arrival there we were issued green underwear. When we asked why we were told that WE were going to Vietnam. BAM!!

About a week after I arrived in Da Nang on August 13, 1968 I was boarded onto a flight for my “in Country Assignment”. It turned out to be Quang Tri Combat Base Northern South Vietnam. I arrived as a 12A10 – Combat Engineer and had no idea where I was or what I might be headed into. The guy doing the “in-processing” looked at my paperwork and said “You have a college degree – can you type?”. I told him “Enough to do term papers and things like that”. As such he assigned me to A-75th Support and said that I’d now be the Reenlistment Clerk working with Sgt. Dean. I figured that that would be OK but wondered why in God’s Green World would anybody want to reenlist in Vietnam? After a brief orientation I found out that there were 2 to 3 reenlistments a week – mostly from 11Bravo Infantry to Door Gunner. Seemed to make sense – especially when combined with the VRB (Variable Reenlistment Bonus) which, if memory serves me correctly, ran about \$20K which was BIG money back in 1968 and, since it was in a combat zone, the VRB was tax free!! Typing the back log of “error free” reenlistment applications on blue mimeograph forms had now begun. As a trained Combat Engineer FNG I had officially become a REMF.

Since the Reenlistment Office shared a tent with the Brigade AG (Maj. Carmen and Capt. Helwig at the time) and since I had a military driver’s license (the ONLY thing that I ever volunteered for – despite my Dad, who had been a B-29 mechanic on Tinian Island, warning me to the contrary) I was soon tapped to do the driving (when there weren’t reenlistment forms to be typed up) for various trips hither and yon. Like to the new, under construction, Camp Red Devil, to Con Tien, the 3rd Marine Division, LZ Sharon countless times, etc.

Gradually my assignments evolved into typing prisoner interrogation reports, seemingly endless amounts of paperwork like the Morning Report, etc. – all while driving over the upper 1/3 of Vietnam about every other day. Sometimes in a Jeep, sometimes in a ¾ ton, sometimes in a Deuce and a half – it didn’t matter. “Rees, you got a license – go get a

vehicle of some kind and take me or whoever to wherever, whenever.”

On a trip to and from the under-construction Camp Red Devil in a ¾ ton we got washed off what WAS the road into the rice paddies and had to wait until somebody came by and towed us back up onto the road so we could get back to the Combat Base. I HAD to get back – I had forms to type!

I spent numerous days on the “new” perimeter at Red Devil filling sand bags to be used for building bunkers. – never thinking about the fact that I’d soon be on perimeter guard every other night. Had the “interesting” occasion to come across a snake one afternoon – which I flattened with my entrenching tool because to me “The Only Good Snake Is A Dead Snake” – only to be told later, in response to “Who killed this snake?” that it was a “Charlie Two Step” (a Krait Snake) – perhaps the deadliest snake in Vietnam. I was REALLY glad that it was now dead!

Once we moved Red Devil my duties increased a bit. Since I had a knack for it I soon ended up painting countless signs for various offices, the Mess Hall, the Motor Pool, HQ, etc. Since I had worked for about 6 months before getting drafted at a restaurant design & equipment company it seemed logical to Sgt Dean that a group of us might get together & convert an empty Sea Hut into somewhat of an NCO Club. We “foraged” at night at the 3rd Marine Division for various things needed for construction. Things like a Jeep loaded with so much plywood that a buddy had to ride on the hood to keep the headlights on the road and the front end on the ground! But, as they say, the price was right. We constructed a bar, stained it & the hooch floor blue (with “foraged” paint thinned out with gasoline), made decorative lights above the bar and seating area with #10 cans painted black & holes punched in them and back bar display shelving with yet more of the “Marine quality” plywood. Since the Officers had opportunities to spend an evening or two at the Seabee’s Officer’s Club (to which I often drove – in exchange for a bottle of booze) it seemed like the least we could do was have a little place of our own for the A-75th Support guys and for troops that were on “Stand Down” from the field for a few days. And, yes, a lot of the “driver’s fee booze” ended up on that back-bar display while some of it got traded back to the Seabees for things that they had in abundance and we had none of – lockers, file cabinets, etc.

Somewhere along the line Maj. Carmen was “DEROSED” and was replaced by Maj. Bittner who was FAR more enjoyable and was a GREAT accent to Cpt. Helwig.

Maj. Bittner had been to ‘Nam before and pretty much knew his way around – in a “variety” of ways. Like how the local “ladies” operated, what to look for in a local laundry, what was the best Vietnamese beer to trade for, etc. Around that same time Sgt. Jim Bruss was assigned to the AG Office having been released from hospitalization for some serious back issues after having been a Platoon Sgt. In the field. Jim fit right in at the AG/Reenlistment office. He and I became great friends and, despite Jim being from Milwaukee, visited with each other back home several times until Jim passed on about 4 years ago. As an aside, Jim and I once published a little something called “The Mourning Report” which took a lot of the upper rank NCO’s and Officers to task in a “somewhat lighthearted” way. It showed up at the Mess Hall for distribution early one day. I REALLY wish that I still had a copy of it to share.

Somewhere along the line I “relocated” my sleeping quarters to the Motor Pool (since I was driving something somewhere almost every day) - just a little closer to the perimeter and, thus, a bit closer to various forms of incoming whatever on a nightly basis. Seemed like we spent more nights in the bunker than in the hooch but... The good part of the relocated lodging was that we could blast the Iron Butterfly, the Doors and the Chamber’s Brothers (with a customized 20-minute extended version of “Time Has Come Today”) long into those non-perimeter guard nights without disturbing anybody. All went well at that end of Red Devil until one evening in the Special Services hut I stepped on a Scorpion and got stung in the ankle.

“Fortunately...” said the Medic “...it was ONLY a brown one”. As such I’d probably just be sick for a few days but wouldn’t die. Obviously, I didn’t die but, WOW, was I on another planet for a few days. Somebody else even had to drive for about a week – and I missed several nights of perimeter guard so it wasn’t all bad news.

Perimeter guard was something that the majority of the A-75th Support guys had every other night - and for one or two full days about every other week. It got interesting when our guys started burning off the “brush” along the outside of the perimeter. As it turned out a lot of that “brush” was, apparently, Marijuana – based on the “relaxed attitude” of whoever had daytime guard duty on those days. Suddenly day time Perimeter Guard became a sought-after opportunity with guys doing whatever they could to trade with their buddies for same – just to do them a favor and all.

And then there was the weather. During the Monsoon of ’68 – ’69 up in I Corps it seemed like it rained every day & night from October to March. Sometimes it just rained harder. It seemed like it was the coldest that I ever was in my life at, maybe, 45 degrees. When the Monsoon ended it also seemed like it was the hottest that I ever was in my life at, maybe, 140 degrees.

My biggest driving “adventure” was on my birthday when Cpt. Porter from Personnel and I had to take some paperwork down to Phu Bai.

What could go wrong – the Monsoon had ended, the Seabees were busily paving a few miles of Rt. 1 a day, there were flush toilets there, a REAL NCO Club AND they had CHEESEBURGERS!! On my birthday! As we drove thru HUE on our trip down we got shot at. Puff of wind on my cheek, shards of windshield all over the hood of the Jeep - and pedal to the metal. Nothing compared to what the guys in the field had to deal with but it authored my quotation of how my year went in Vietnam – “Shot at and missed, shit at and hit”. Thankfully the guy was a pretty bad shot. Obviously, he didn’t know that Officers weren’t allowed to drive or he’d have been shooting at Cpt. Porter. Maybe it was just his way of wishing me Happy Birthday. Or maybe he just wanted me to know what the guys in the field were dealing with on a daily basis. No matter - I GOT the picture.

Yep – it was quite a year. Actually only 50 weeks. I traded enough booze gotten from buying Marines booze with their ration cards at the PX (since, no matter their age, they weren’t allowed to buy booze until they were E-5 or above - “Here’s my card & MPCs - buy

me 5 bottles of whatever and keep one for doing me the favor.”) to get sent back to the States 2 weeks early. As such I left picturesque RVN August 2nd of 1969. It was suggested that, if I extended 45 days, I would be released from active duty as soon as I got home. My comment was “I wouldn’t extend here for 45 seconds”. Based on 5th Division activity that occurred in late ‘69 I think that it was a good decision overall. As such I got to spend my last 6 months of active duty at Ft. Rucker. Helicopters, heat, humidity, mosquitos, giant Palmetto bugs, snakes – and all of the townsfolk speaking pretty much of a “foreign language” – but that’s a WHOLE ‘nuther story.

The Editors Two Cents



Once again, the fall weather is here and all that goes with it. The past reunion in Norfolk was great although it was somewhat bittersweet as it arrived on the heels of the passing of one of my company commander and friend Cpt. Robert Dean. With the winter months ahead of us it would be a great time for any member who has a story about your time in the Red Devils (and we all do) whether it be humorous or serious or just a run of spontaneous thoughts, I welcome you to put it into print and submit it to be shared with your brothers who read the Red Diamond. All of us have had enough time to find the wisdom or comedy that we lived and learned in Viet Nam and there is no better time than winter evenings to get it out of your head and put it in print. It does not have to be Viet Nam related either, I often talk about my interests and how they keep my mind and hands occupied and I will include a few paragraphs and photos about what I do in the next edition. You do not need to be concerned about grammar or sounding like Shakespeare just write the words you use in conversation and I will edit your article and modify any misspellings etc. The main thing is that the RD is our newsletter and besides messages from the Executive Board I want it to become about us, the soldiers who make up the membership. If you are really long winded I will put a representative photo of you on the cover which some of you have already seen in past editions or a photo montage of the various writers. This can be a real opportunity to continue the conversations that flow at our Reunions and a means for your brothers to learn another facet about how we are spending our time after Viet Nam doing things that bring us our bliss. I mean it, there is no limit to what I will include as long as it is true, within the bounds of good taste, and not deprecating to anybody for who or what they are, and by all means no politics. I will write you again and look forward, to my email and mailbox to be choked with your submissions to the RD.

Cheers! Steve Wheat

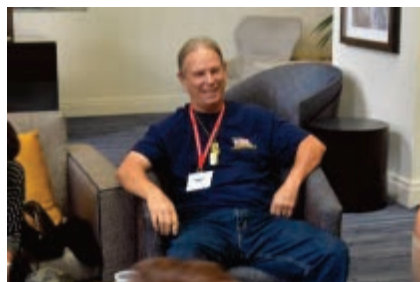
From the Desk of Alex Candelaria

Although I was unable to attend the Norfolk, Va. annual reunion I was there in spirit. Fortunately, my half-brother and VN vet, Phil Maniscalco was able to represent me. Did you notice the resemblance...especially the fine beard, kilt and manly legs?

As we head toward the 2019 reunion in San Diego, Ca. Among the reunion scheduled events, highlights of the 75th Support unit contributions toward the war effort will be recognized. I ask all 5th I.D. personnel to submit your story as support staff. Also, emails from those that benefited from the contributions of the 75th are most welcome. Emails that cover not only receiving ammo, water and food but also improved moral from receiving mail, hot meals, new fatigues, boots, fuel for the armored units of the 5th and on and on. The tip of the spear soldiers are ready, willing and anxious to be informed of the nuts and bolts behind the lines that made their missions possible. We all worked as a team regardless of job titles/duties that would at times overlap depending on the situation at hand. Remember the saying, "all give some and some gave all". Are you aware there were twelve support personnel KIA in the performance of their non-combatant designation. How many were wounded? Bullets, mortars, and other incoming rounds do not distinguish between combatant and non-combatant. They just destroy what they strike.

Read the most current stories submitted by support staff since the last printing of the Red Diamond. 75th Support personnel are beginning to step up increasing knowledge of the "rest of the story" of team work.

"In Brother Hood" Alex T. Candelaria, Past treasurer, editor and 1st VP



Weary GIs Walk out of 'Hell' After 43 Days of Red Siege

Written by: T Jeff Tuttle, Past National Secretary. With thanks to Society members Philip Bienvenue and Budd Russell for their research assistance.

KHE GO BRIDGE, Vietnam

(Associated Press May 1970) – A company of U.S. Infantrymen broke out Sunday from a 43-day siege of Firebase Fuller, a mountaintop camp they called “hell.” But the agony of their hell pursued them down the mountain. In the Americans five-mile dash in 90-degree heat, the North Vietnamese enemy fired mortars at them and a sniper shot one American.

Weak from the heat, one man nearly drowned in the swift current as he forded a stream near this bridge at the mountain’s foot. Lt. David E. Daubel, 25, of Fremont, Ohio, and Pfc. Gary Holbrook, 19, of Arlington, Tex., plunged into the stream and pulled him out. And about 100 yards from the trucks waiting to take them to the rear, a helicopter hit by enemy ground fire crashed among them, killing all six Americans aboard and one on the ground. One foot soldier was wounded. The fatigue showed on their bearded faces.

Exaltation surfaced through their exhaustion only when they approached the trucks and thought of the beer and showers back at Quang Tri.

A South Vietnamese infantry unit took over the base and was greeted by a 40-round mortar barrage. Since late March, Firebase Fuller, atop Dong Ha Mountain four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, has been hit by more than 500 rounds from enemy mortars. Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division’s 1st Brigade had gone to Fuller just before the siege began. Sgt. Norman Gervais, 21, of St. Agatha, Maine, said: “It’s one place where no one would ever want to go.” “Every time you left your bunker you wondered if you’d ever come back,” said Lt. Paul Harmon, 25, of Thousand Oaks, Calif., a platoon leader. “Every place you walked, mortars had landed. Every morning you woke up wondering if you’d live until night.” Lt. Fred Johnson, 28, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., said he

remembered “the waiting, the waiting for the next round.” Pfc. Carl Givens, 20, of Statesboro, Ga., recalled, “We were scared most of the time. The mortars were bad enough, but it was worse when the snipers and RPG’s (rocket propelled grenades) started in on us.”

The enemy from the North Vietnamese 27th Regiment, are in the surrounding hills. South Vietnamese artillery on Fuller, U.S. fighter-bombers and rocket-firing helicopters could not find the mortars. Late in April, enemy sappers crawled up the steep mountain-side and attacked the base but were beaten back. American casualties during the siege were about five killed and 20 wounded. Another three Americans died when a mortar round hit their resupply helicopter just as it touched down. Food and water and ammunition had to be dropped to the men from the air, and only medical evacuation helicopters would land. The pinpoint firing precluded lifting out the company by chopper.

(end of newspaper story)

The preceding Associated Press article was originally published in May 1970. Since I was there with some of you reading this today, we know that the story only scratches the surface of events. And yes, there are some inaccuracies in the story also.

It began on or about March 28, 1970 when Co. D 1/11 along with a platoon from Co. A 1/11 5th Infantry Division were airlifted to FSB Fuller atop Dong Ha Mountain. The units were to provide perimeter security for the 105mm howitzers manned by ARVN. The expectation was that the assignment would last a week or two before being returned to the bush. I don’t believe the eleven Americans that gave their lives have ever been listed on the same page. I would like to pay tribute to them by doing so here.

May 10, SP4 Charles Covey, 237th Medical Det. (UH-1H crew)

May 10, SP4 John Largent, 237th Medical Det. (UH-1H crew)

May 10, WO Alfred Gaidis, 237th Medical Det. (UH-1H crew)

May 10, LT Phillip Schmitz, 237th Medical Det. (UH-1H crew)

May 10, SP4 James Blackmon, Co D 1/11

May 10, SP4 Robert Luther, Co D 1/11

April 9, LT John Kitrilakis, Co D 1/11

April 13, SP4 Robert Pendergast, 101st Airborne (CH-47 crew)

May 4, PVT Ronald Chisolm, Co D 1/11

May 5, PVT Robert Dowds, Co D 1/11

May 7, SP4 Thomas Haslet, Co D 1/11



QUARTERMASTER REPORT

Following are pictures and descriptions of merchandise that is available for sale from the Quartermaster.

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Black or White Polo Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of short or long sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50)
Cotton/Polyester (50/50).
Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$40
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$50
S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50
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Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$25
Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$30
S & H: 1 shirt - \$5; 2 shirts - \$7.50
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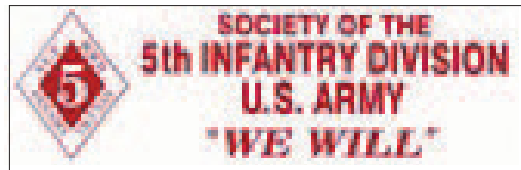
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Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin (front and back shown): \$10.00 ea. w/shipping and handling included. Antique gold (sandblasted texture) w/epoxy finish; 1 3/4" x 1/8". Detail is exquisite. This is the only authorized Challenge Coin issued by the Society of the Fifth Division.



Bumper Sticker: "WE WILL" BumperSticker; 1 1/2" x 3"; \$1.00 ea. Add \$1.15 for shipping and handling for each order.



Compilations of New York Times Articles: This is the book which was made available to those who attended the Reunion. It is available now at our cost of \$9 plus \$9 shipping/handling for a total cost of \$18. Contact Quartermaster for larger orders.

Dennis W. Coulter - Quartermaster
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Springfield, Mo 65809
email: dwcoulter1@aol.com

Veteran: “Art is an awesome outlet.”

Veteran Anthony Jones and his works of art

By Sarah M. Tolstyka, Martinsburg VA Medical Center, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

“Art therapy is no different from working out at the gym. It is an awesome outlet to resolve your issues,” according to U.S. Army Airborne Infantry Veteran Anthony Jones. Coming from an artistic family, he felt it natural to utilize the art therapy program after he enrolled in health care at the [Martinsburg VAMC](#). “In 2015 I decided I needed to change, I dedicated myself to the health care and programs offered at the VA.” Jones said. Nationwide, VA medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities.



Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition includes 51 categories in the visual arts division this year that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 100 categories in the performing arts pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama and creative writing. Through a national judging process, first, second and third place entries in each category are determined.

Jones participated in the Martinsburg VAMC Creative Arts Festival in 2016 and 2017, receiving first place both years in Fine Arts and Mixed Media. The festival provided him the opportunity to showcase his artwork and prepared him for a larger audience.

The annual competition raises the visibility of creative achievements.”

Recently Jones was given the opportunity to create a piece of artwork on his largest canvas to date by partnering with another local artist to showcase their art and vision on a tractor-trailer.

“I’m very excited about it being out there.” Jones said.



Jones at work in his studio

He volunteers his time at the medical center Hobby Shop every other Friday providing motivation and encouragement to other Veterans. "I'm offering hope and inspiration that if you want something, it's there." He said. "The VA helped me get it together."

Jones is currently enrolled at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College as a full-time student working toward a major in liberal arts and has opened his own studio.

The [National Veterans Creative Arts Festival](#) is the celebration and grand finale stage and art show, which are the culmination of talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for Veterans treated in the VA national health care system. The festival this year is hosted by the VA Western New York Healthcare System, Buffalo, New York and is presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Approximately 120 Veterans will exhibit their artwork or perform musical, dance, dramatic or original writing selections in a gala variety show. A professional orchestra will accompany the performance. All Veterans invited to participate are selected winners of year-long, national fine arts talent competitions in which thousands of Veterans enter, from VA medical facilities across the nation.

VA medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their recreation therapy programs to further rehabilitation for both inpatients and outpatients. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's Veterans after disease, disability or life crisis.

FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

STAY HEALTHY. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SEPSIS.

Take charge of your health. Chronic conditions, such as diabetes, put you at risk for infections that can lead to a life-threatening condition called sepsis.

WHAT IS SEPSIS?

Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is life-threatening, and without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

Sepsis happens when an infection you already have—in your skin, lungs, urinary tract or somewhere else—triggers a chain reaction throughout your body.

AM I AT RISK?

Anyone can get an infection, and almost any infection

can lead to sepsis. People with chronic conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and kidney disease, are at higher risk of developing infections that can lead to sepsis. Sepsis also more commonly occurs in:

- Adults 65 or older
- People with weakened immune systems
- Children younger than one

The most frequently identified germs that cause

infections that can develop into sepsis include *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph), *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), and some types of *Streptococcus*.

HOW CAN I GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS?

1. Talk to your doctor or nurse about steps you can take to prevent infections. Some steps include taking good care of chronic conditions and getting recommended vaccines.
2. Practice good hygiene, such as handwashing, and keeping cuts clean and covered until healed.
3. Know the symptoms of sepsis.
4. ACT FAST. Get medical care IMMEDIATELY if you suspect sepsis or have an infection that's not getting better or is getting worse.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms of sepsis can include any one or a combination of the following:



CONFUSION OR
DISORIENTATION



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



HIGH HEART RATE



FEVER, OR SHIVERING,
OR FEELING VERY COLD



EXTREME PAIN OR
DISCOMFORT



CLAMMY OR
SWEATY SKIN

Sepsis is a medical emergency. Time matters. If you or your loved one suspects sepsis or has an infection that's not getting better or is getting worse, ask your doctor or nurse, **“Could this infection be leading to sepsis?”**

To learn more about sepsis and how to prevent infections, visit www.cdc.gov/sepsis.





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