

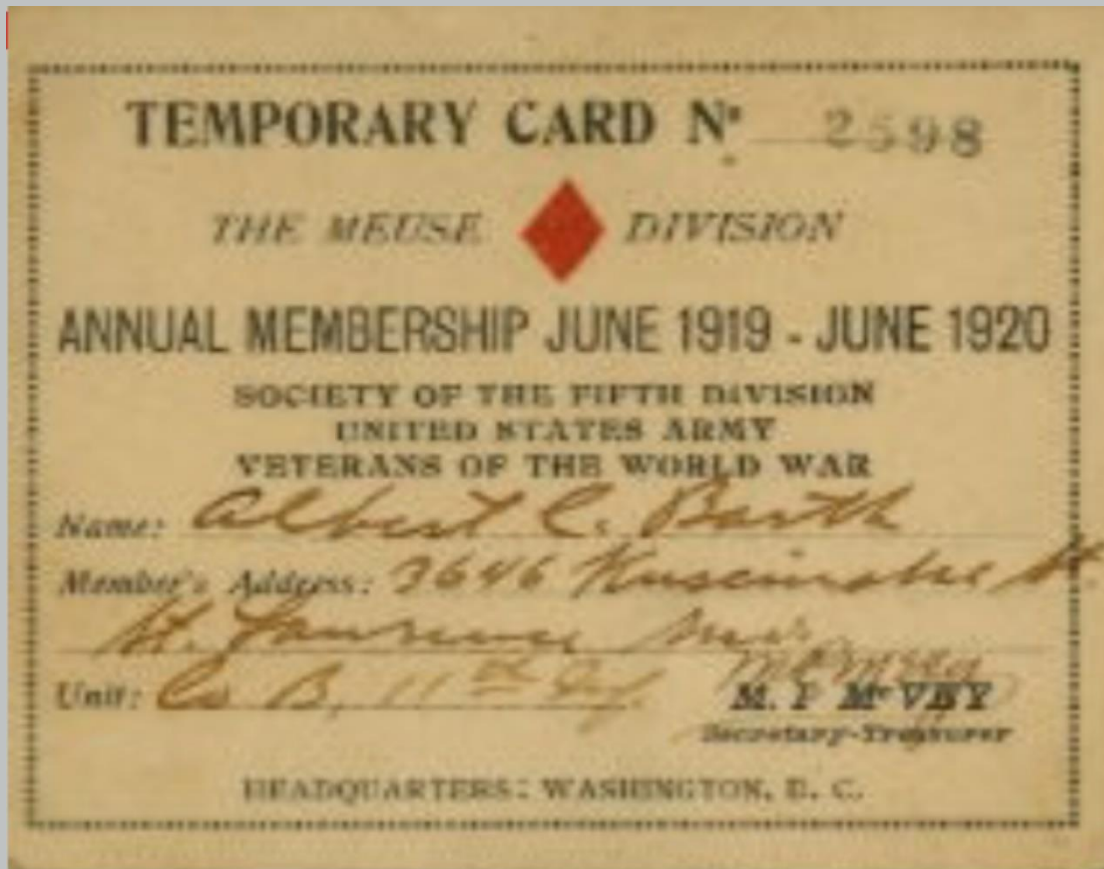
# THE RED DIAMOND

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## 100 Years

**“WE WILL”**

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# 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.**

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## A Note from the President

Hal Roller



It is the start of a new year and a new decade. It is also the start of a new digital age for the Society of the Fifth Division. Our beloved Red Diamond magazine is now published on the Society's website. This includes all the information about our Reunion, as well as, registration will be on the website. Of course, you know that because you are reading this article by accessing the website. But did you know The Preventive Maintenance Monthly magazine is going digital?

What! You do not remember The Preventive Maintenance Monthly (known more commonly as PS) with Master Sgt. Halfmast? Think back to Vietnam. In the days when comic books were the G.I.'s Harvard Classics, the Army gave us a miniature comic book on fix-it stuff for equipment and vehicles. It started in 1951 and continued to 2019. Except for the nomenclature, the words were simple- like Superman's words to Lois Lane. Now those were the days. Not like this electronic age where you must learn a vast technical vocabulary. High school French was easier. Anyway, The Preventive Maintenance Monthly magazine has been replaced with an on-line blog. Master Sgt. Halfmast has been reduced to mere cameo roles. How humiliating. They are even putting PS on Facebook and Twitter. So, looks like the Society of the Fifth Division is just moving along with the times in going digital.

I just cannot close out this note without telling a war story about my preventive maintenance on a hog. No, not the animal called a pig, the tracked vehicle affectionally known as a hog. Hog was what everyone called the Armored Personnel Carrier (M113) modified to carry artillery shells. On March 23, 1971 Alpha Company, 1/61 was sent on a mounted mission west on the road QL9 to retrieve a battery of eight-inchers on the Laotian border. They had been firing for the ARVN's in Laos but now were about to be overrun by the NVA. Alpha Company quite literally fought our way in, retrieved the battery and fought our way out. On the way back toward Kha Shan, the company commander, CPT Dean, had ordered me to leave my platoon in the order of march and take my APC to the rear of the formation. As the last APC, I was to be rear guard, ensure no vehicles fell out of the engaged mounted march and report to CPT Dean the situation in the rear. As we moved east, there was a hog fully loaded with eight-inch shells in the middle of QL9. It had been hit by an RPG, one track was broken, and abandoned. By this time the NVA 130mm artillery in Laos had found their range and were firing heavily on us. It was under these circumstances I did some preventive maintenance on that hog. Following CPT Dean's instructions to "Take care of that hog," I tossed a thermite grenade into the bed and told the driver to "Step on it." (Come to think of it, I don't believe I said, "Step on it." Maybe it was something a little stronger.) At any rate, we got out of there in a hurry and looked back to watch the fireworks. That was the ultimate preventive maintenance because that vehicle will never need preventive maintenance again.



With holidays over and the winter season in full tilt, I have set aside further planning of the 2021 Reunion which is still 20 months away. Having said that, I plan to visit several possible tour sights in early May. Instead, I have switched my focus to my upcoming trip to Vietnam which is now only 2 ½ months away. It should be quite a trip as we visit various sights from the old DMZ to Saigon. We will be flying into Danang which I dare say, it will be quite different from my first flight there in a C-130 in 1969. I'm really looking forward to this trip with my son. My other object of focus is my second book which will cover the Charlie 2 rocket attack and

coverage of the 5th Infantry's role in Lam Son 719 and Dewey Canyon II. I have already contacted many of you for your memories of those times and I extend the invitation to anyone who I haven't spoken to yet who wants to offer their memories as well to contact me by email or phone. I am also looking forward to San Antonio in September. It is a part of the country I have never visited and again look forward to seeing all of you again. Till then, my friends.



## Second Vice Presidents Message: Gary Haverman



Hello again to all the members of the Society of the Fifth Division, I hope this message finds all of you in good health and looking forward to the new decade. As I wrote in my last article, I would tell you a little more about myself, so here it goes as briefly as I can.

Born and raised in Iowa near Carroll, which is in west central Iowa. My parents farmed, so I grew up knowing how to work and get dirty, which I didn't know at the time, but would prepare me for my time in Vietnam.

I graduated from high school in 1968, then went on to Community College to study Ag. Retail. After graduation, I was offered a job with a seed corn co., even though they knew I was reclassified 1A from the draft board. By September of 1969, I had my pre-induction physical. They looked in one ear and couldn't see

light from the other side so I passed. At the time the lottery system was being set up, so it took till April to be drafted. Basic was in Ft. Louis, WA. And AIT in Ft. Sill, OK and then of course off to Vietnam. I got to Fire Base Charlie 2, September 1970. There is a lot I could say about my stay there, but I will just say God was with me all the way. My tour was cut short 45 days due to the 5th Division going home. After a 30-day leave, I finished my duties at Ft. Carson, CO. I got home for Christmas, 1971 and found myself at a New Year's Eve party talking to a high school buddy's younger sister. At the stroke of midnight, we gave each other a kiss to welcome in 1972. Little did we know that would lead us to our wedding day in June of 1973. Six months later, we began to farm the land she grew up on raising corn, soybeans, hogs and cattle. It was a good life and a great place to raise our six kids that God had blessed us with. We all know that life has its ups and downs and in 1996, God put our faith in Him to the ultimate test when He took our 17-year old son, Andy back home. Wow, I thought I had a tough life in Vietnam, but what I didn't know was that God wasn't done testing my faith yet, because 8 and a half years later, He called my wife of 30 years home. I was devastated and didn't know how I would be able to go on.

In the following year, I find myself at an American Legion dance honoring our WW2 veterans and literally crying in my beer, while talking with one of my Legion buddies, when I see this beautiful lady on the dance floor. After some thought, I knew her as our family hygienist from years ago and my friend informed me she had lost her spouse as well. After the dance, she approached me and offered her sympathy. I returned in kind after some small talk.

After six weeks of letters and phone calls, we found the courage to walk around a State Park Lake for what was to be our first date, July 18th, 2004, which led to many, many more.

With my 5 kids and Jeanne's 2 daughters, we now have 7 kids between us with 13 amazing grandkids. Wow-what a life!!! We love spending time with all our kids and grandkids, going to movies and the theater, dances, hiking and traveling. We have bought a motor home and definitely enjoy being snow birds. As I write this article, we are in Florida, loving the 70 plus temperatures.

On the way down here, I did mix some work with pleasure by looking at some potential hotels in the Springfield and Branson, MO. Area. Along with the help of the society's Quarter Master, Dennis Coulter who resides in Springfield, I think we may have found a real gem for our reunion in 2022 and also so thankful for Dennis's help because I also have found another gem-a gem of a friend in Dennis, that is.

Hoping to seeing a contract soon. If it happens and we get the ok's, that then will be the subject of my next report to you all.

Looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio,  
Gary Haverman

## In Memoriam: Joseph Rudkowsk Delta Company/1st Bn/11th Infantry Regiment



Joseph Rudkowski, 71, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. He was the husband of Debra L. (Rehnberg) Rudkowski to whom he was married for 42 years.

Born in Augsburg, Germany, he was a son of the late Michael and Maria (nee Grosicka) Rudkowski.

Mr. Rudkowski was an Army Veteran of the Vietnam War and was a recipient of the Bronze Star. He worked for Jostens as a mold and model maker for 25 years. Joe had many hobbies that he enjoyed and was known to be a jack of all trades.

Besides his wife he leaves two sons, Timothy Rudkowski and his wife Sarah of Seekonk and Thomas Rudkowski and his wife Sierra of Swansea, two grandchildren, Audrey and Theodore, two sisters, Helen Bogart and Irene Nowick, one brother, John Rudkowski and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. He was the uncle of the late Nicole Rudkowski.

His funeral and visitation will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2020 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM in His Providence

Church, 262 Swansea Mall Drive, Swansea, MA 02777 with a service to follow at 4:30 PM. Burial with Military

Honors will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 9:45 am in the Massachusetts National Cemetery, Connery

Avenue, Bourne, MA. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Bags of Hope. (<https://www.bagsofhope.org/>).



# 1970

**Jan. 19** Operation Green River, a search-and-clear-mission by the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, begins in Quang Tri province in northern South Vietnam. By its July conclusion, 400 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers had been killed, against 22 U.S. deaths.

## National Editor of Red Diamond Message: David Kocan



It is amazing to still be alive and to actually say out loud that this is the year 2020. Yes I am one of those who believed that I would never see the year 2020 (never trust anyone over 30). So fill your glass and raise it high and may I propose a Toast to The 5th Division HAPPY 100 Years Young or Old. Which one of us, some 50 plus years ago, would thought that we would

be amongst such a great group of soldiers (FNG's). And belong to the very best division in The United States Army. I shed a tear for those who died fighting for this great country. I shed a tear for who have passed as it was their time to meet their Creator. I miss those who once attended and for what ever reason have not returned. I love each and everyone that i have had the honor to shake your hand, hug you or at very least smiled and acknowledged your presence. Thank you and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

"To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend-- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor." George H.W. Bush

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND ARE SERVING. HAPPY 100th to THE 5th DIVISION.



# Chaplains Message: Ron Van Beek

## TAPS

David M. Ward died Nov. 26, 2016 WWII

Don Hatch died Sept. 13, 2019 5/4 Artillery, 1/61

Randy Jones died Dec. 29, 2019 Medic - 1/61

Roy D. Morgan died Oct. 19, 2019 5th Division

Joseph Phillip died Dec. 29, 2019 WWII

Member of the 5th Division Society, Almer (A 1/61) and Mary Parker's son, Timothy, passed away on Dec. 27, 2019, at the age of 30.

## Jewish New Year

Israel celebrates the beginning of the year, differently than America. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Israel's holiest days. It means "head of the year", or "first of the year." This festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which falls during September or October. Rosh Hashanah refers to and commemorates the creation of the world, and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe. This is a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two "High Holy Days" in the Jewish religion.

The exact date of Rosh Hashanah varies every year, since it is based on the Hebrew Calendar, where it begins on the first day of the seventh month. Rosh Hashanah is almost always in September or October.

Rosh Hashanah is not literally mentioned in the Torah, Judaism's founding religious text, but appears under different names in the Bible. Though the holiday was likely well established by the 18th century B.C., the phrase "Rosh Hashanah" shows up for the first time in the Mishna, a Jewish code of law compiled in 200 A.D.

The ancient Jewish instrument known as the shofar, is traditionally made from a ram's horn, is used to herald in the New Year.

The Hebrew calendar begins with the month of Nisan, but Rosh Hashanah occurs at the start of Tishrei, when God is said to have created the world. Thus, Rosh Hashanah can be seen as the birthday of the world. Moreover, it is on Rosh Hashanah that the number of the civil year increases

The Mishna described three other “new years” in the Jewish calendar in addition to Rosh Hashanah. Nisan 1 was used to resume the cycle of months and measure the duration of kings’ reigns. Elul 1 resembled the start of the modern fiscal year and determined the tithing of animals for charity or sacrifice. Shevat 15 calculated the age of fruit-bearing trees and is now celebrated as the minor holiday of Tu B’Shevat.

According to tradition, God judges all creatures during the 10 Days of Awe between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, deciding whether they will live or die in the coming year. Jewish law teaches that God inscribes the names of the righteous in the “book of life” and condemns the wicked to death on Rosh Hashanah; people who fall between the two categories have until Yom Kippur to perform “teshuvah,” or repentance. As a result, observant Jews consider Rosh Hashanah and the days surrounding it a time for prayer, good deeds, reflecting on past mistakes and making amends with others.

#### Christian Meditation - Traveling through Time

Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Ps. 90:12

As you read this, we will be well into the new year, the Year 2020, with all of its challenges, disasters, deaths, but also its joys, excitements, and potentials of Life! The overwhelming reality is that we have entered a new year, but we have no idea if we will see the end of the year. Our future and our life is hidden from us as a closed book, known only to God.

Clearly, each new day we receive in this life is a Miracle, and a Gift, from on High! As you see the TAPS list of 5th

Division grow each month at a relentless pace, we know soon, all of us are going to be on that list. Every new

death recorded emphasizes that overwhelming reality; that none of us are going to get out of this life: alive.

God has set a specific day, hour, minute and second, for our death, and the appointment, where we must meet

Him, to be Judged in every aspect of our life. Since the beginning of the world, statisticians estimate that 120

generations have passed by into history. This means, we have all had at least 120 grandparents, in our family

history, and heritage.

Imagine, what we would see, if we could go back in time and explore each the adventures of our many of our many grandparent’s lives, in each generation going back to Adam. While we don’t know exactly where The Garden of Eden was; many believe it was somewhere, in the middle east, probably, present day Iraq. What a fascinating, and an exciting story of family history, could be told, as we explored each generation, as to where they lived, how they traveled, who they fought against, what they ate, etc.

It seems from Gen, 5, that for the first 1656 years of Genesis, our first grandparents lived in two main places.

The first place was to the East of Eden; when Adam and Eve were expelled. Their way back was prevented, and guarded by an Angel, armed with a flaming sword. The second place was even further East; Canaan. This is where Cain and his wife went, after they were expelled from Adam and Eve's presence, because of Abel's murder. These two groups grew mightily. From Genesis 7, we can read that these two groups, representing the Church and the world, gradually merged through marriage. Wickedness abounded greatly, during these first 1656 years, until we read an amazing reality; that it repented God that He had Created man. (Genesis ). Soon we read God's Sad Assessment; that the whole earth was full of violence; and He Decided to destroy the first world. (Gen. )

For 120 years, Noah and his family of eight, built an Ark; to escape the destruction of the wicked first world, and travel to the second world. The Ark landed on Mt. Aarat, and we read he and his 3 sons lived in the Plain of Shinar, (probably present day Iraq). There, at the Tower of Babel, God, confounded earth's one common language, generating the 22,000+ languages, spoken on earth today. With that confounding of language; God also planted in humans, a "wanderlust" to migrate and to repopulate the far, and remote reaches of earth. Generally, the descendants of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japath migrated in 3 different directions. Shem's descendants, migrated to Europe, Japeth's descendants, migrated to Asia, and Ham's descendants, migrated to Africa.

Certainly, this vast relentless migration, did not happen "over-night"; but took many generations of migration. (The earth's circumference measures 25,000 miles.) But, God's "wander

lust", drove our ancestors to migrate, often, far, and relentlessly, seeking a better life, in a different place. When Shem's descendants filled Europe, and reached its furthest shores, God finally opened up a new land, which He had reserved for 5500 years. While, many Native America's, of Japeth descendants, lived here, it was only when Christopher Columbus reached America in 1492 AD, that a new migration to the Americas grew greatly. The rest is history; as America became the destination of many of our descendants. America is on the opposite side of the world, from the Plain of Shinar. So after so many years, under our 120 Great...grandparents...here we are. You can't migrate further; without going back! What a Rich history, and Grand Heritage, we have in our many ancestors, traveling across the earth, these many, many years.

#### Quick Fact

During the Vietnam War, nearly 1500 of the newest soldiers, did not survive their first day; and nearly 1000 soldiers did not survive their last day!



## TET - The Vietnamese New Year

Every G.I. knows about Tet, but fewer know about its beauty, or what it is supposed to mean. Tet Nguyen Dan or Tet is the most important holiday in Vietnam. It is the Vietnamese New Year marking the arrival of spring. The name Tet Nguyen Dan is Sino-Vietnamese for Feast of the very First Morning.

Tet takes place from the first day of the first month of the Lunar calendar in late January, and lasts until the third day. Vietnamese, generally prepare for Tet by cooking special holiday foods. Some customs practiced during Tet are visiting a person's house, ancestral worship, wishing New Year's greetings, giving lucky money to children and elderly people and opening a shop.

Tet is also an occasion for pilgrims and family reunions. Vietnamese visit their relatives and temples, striving to forget the troubles of the past year and hoping for a better year.

Vietnamese believe that the colors of red and yellow will bring good fortune, which explains why these colors can be seen everywhere in the Lunar New Year. People consider what they do on the dawn of Tet will determine their fate for the whole year, hence people always smile and behave as nice as they can in the hope for a better year.  
(This wasn't so evident in TET of 1968; or the other Tets, which G.I.s knew.)

Vietnamese people usually return to their families during Tet. Some return to worship at the family altar or visit the graves of their ancestors in their homeland. The first day of Tet is reserved for the nuclear family. Children wear their new clothes, give their elders the traditional Tet greetings before receiving the lucky money from them in exchange.

Since the Vietnamese believe that the very first visitor a family receives in the year determines their fortune for the entire year, a person of good temper, morality and success will be the lucky sign for the host family and be invited first into the house. This special activity is called xông đất or xông nhà, which is one of the most important rituals during Tet.

Vietnamese buy home peach blossom trees, kumquat trees, and orange trees. They also buy flowers to decorate their homes such as chrysanthemums or orchids. They plant these flowers and put them into beautiful pots inside the house.

Vietnamese during Tet try to decorate every house with a peach flower. The kumquat tree is a popular decoration for the living room during Tet. Its many fruits symbolize the fertility and fruitfulness that the family hopes for in the coming year.

## The Final Flight of Curious Yellow

Nov. 10, 2006 St. George, Utah

Tomorrow is Veterans' Day – a beautiful weekend lies ahead. The sky is brilliant blue against red-orange

sandstone cliffs; the desert air is clean with a light scent of sagebrush. This is an afternoon worth living for.

The cell phone rings – an unfamiliar caller ID.

“Dave, this is Eddie Iacobacci in Florida. You won't believe who just called!”

Whoa. Eddie and I had recently exchanged numbers at the 237th Medevac reunion after a gap of 35 years, yet I

am surprised that he is actually calling.

“You remember the pickup on Hill 950?”

My pulse rate begins to increase. Of course I remember. No one involved could have forgotten.

“One of the guys we picked up, a Green Beret named Roger Hill, well, his nephew Bobby Hill has spent three years

searching for the crew. He wants to talk to you. TONIGHT! ”

Unbelievable! Characters from a distant life-and-death drama, suddenly reconnecting. What did we each

remember?

After 35 years what real, dependable memories remain of the events at Hill 950 on June 4, 1971? They are like a group of bone fossils spread on a lab floor, some hard and well defined, others damaged and splintered. Some are missing entirely. Crackling radio voices, ominous vertical rocks forming the pinnacle; frantic anxiety trying to find a spot to touch the skids down, and explosions so close that the windshield should have shattered. Sensory and emotional recollections like these are the building blocks of this story, which like a museum dinosaur may not be perfectly accurate, but is pretty close to the real thing.

Sgt. Roger L. Hill

Special Forces, Hill 950, north of Khe Sanh June 4, 1971

“It began at dawn when a Bru Striker anxiously entered my bunker, exclaiming ‘Trung Se, VC #10...

Trung Se, VC#10.’ I immediately followed him to the Northwest corner of our hilltop location. As I peered over the wall, about 20 feet in front of me, hidden in the weeds, was a 20-pound Claymore. This sight scared the hell out of me, and it felt like my knees just gave way. I went straight down into the slit trench, pulling the Montagnard with me, and calling to everyone on the wall to come to alert.

After the initial scare, I immediately began moving around the

perimeter to survey the situation, and observed seven Chicom Claymores set up in positions where helicopters

would approach the hilltop.

They were set to knock down helicopters, because they go off like a giant shotgun.

“We decided that I would go outside the perimeter with three Montagnards, trying to approach the back of the Claymore, and attempt to capture or kill the North Vietnamese soldiers who had to be somewhere close by the mine. They would be observing us or any helicopters that would come into view, at which time the mine could be activated.

I exited the North East edge of our perimeter, and was approaching an area behind the mine, when an RPG (B40 Rocket) was fired, coming from my left rear and exploding on the ground directly in front of me. When the explosion occurred, I was facing South, and after the dust cleared, I realized I had been blown approximately 10-15 feet to the North, and was facing in the opposite direction. I was wounded, as were two of the Montagnards with me, one at the base of his tailbone, and the other in his neck, so the only thing we could do was get ourselves back inside the perimeter.



Front: Sgt. Roger Hill. Background: SSG. Jon Cavaiani, June 4, 1971



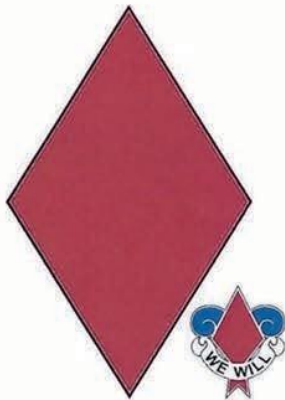
Hill 950 looking east



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Dennis Coulter  
[dwcoulter1@aol.com](mailto:dwcoulter1@aol.com).



“After the first B40 rocket exploded, the action intensified. SSG Jon Cavaiani (who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action on this day) was stationed above me on the perimeter wall, with a .50 cal. machine gun, which covered us, as I gathered the Montagnards, and scrambled to get back inside the perimeter. Additional B40 rockets exploded around us.

Once inside the compound, we moved down the slit trench on the North side, to a bunker located on the Northwall. I went inside the bunker with the wounded Montagnards, so our indigenous medic could treat our wounds. After receiving care, we moved to the slit trench on the North side of the compound, as the entire camp was receiving intense fire from heavy machine guns and 75mm recoilless rifles. The majority of the fire was coming off the top of Elevation 1015, approximately 1000 meters to our East.

“We were taking direct fire into our compound, our bunkers were being flattened, and the entire Eastern end of the camp was almost instantaneously destroyed. The North, South, and West end of the camp became our defensive position, since we no longer controlled the East end of the compound. After a while, the artillery fire abated

because the Communist soldiers had entered our camp on the Eastern end, apparently lifting their heavy weapons fire so their infantry could move in.

Because of this, a hand grenade battle ensued. Although there was a limited amount of automatic weapons still being fired sporadically, we proceeded to toss hand grenades at the North Vietnamese as fast as we could over the crest of the hill, as they did the same to us. The Communist soldiers were close, and they couldn't bring their artillery fire in any closer than what they had already done, so we continued to toss grenades over the North, South, and West walls in an attempt to kill anyone who may be approaching from those directions.

“The brunt of the battle came from the East, as the South side was a sheer cliff facing the Khe Sahn Combat Base. The camp was not very big and the Communists had no trouble throwing hand grenades almost the full length of the camp from the East end, so explosions covered the entire area. I can't say for sure how long the hand grenade battle lasted, but it appeared to me we had quite a fight going on.

At some point, a 'Fast Mover' (jet fighter) aircraft did come overhead and used some machine gun fire or cannon fire – whatever they had – and spread Napalm between 950 and 1015 in the saddle. As the battle continued, I also moved along the wall of the North slit trench, checking on the Montagnards, making sure their weapons were loaded, and they were safe and undercover.



East end of Hill 950, the ground attack came here

I received this email from Jean-Michel of Boutzenot of Saint-Die des Vosges, France. Looks to me like he is wanting help in doing research on the 5th Division, specifically the 60th Infantry Regiment in WWI. As I understand it, the 60th Infantry has been with the 9th Division since WWII. Do you think we can help Monsieur Boutzenot? Hal

On Saturday, November 23, 2019, 08:41:59 AM CST, Jean Michel BOUZENOT <jean-michel.bouzenot@wanadoo.fr> wrote:

Dear President, dear American Friends,

My name is Jean-Michel Bouzenot and I am French. I live in Vosges department (Lorraine). Historic club member, I examine the Great War. My no-profit association is called "Guerre en Vosges" (War in Vosges). We have a small museum and a nearby battlefield that we make alive: La Chapelotte.

With an American friend, I study the history of the Great War (WWI) in my country, especially about the three American Divisions who fought around my area (5th, 92d and 81th divisions). Last year, our temporary exhibition --had for theme: the American soldiers in the massif of Vosges during the Great War.

100 years ago, soldiers of the 5th Division Infantry fought, suffered and died for our freedom in the Vosges valleys, near Raon l'Etape, where is our museum, and Saint-Die des Vosges, Godmother of America. Once of the regiments of the 5th DIUS was the 60th infantry regiment. It quartered in a camp called "Canrobert" near Celles-sur-Plaine.

We discovered, in this former first-line camp, where the soldiers of this regiment were, names and other artifacts engraved on some boulders. There were soldiers' names, numbers of company, symbols and a beautiful American eagle. We had the pleasure, 2018 June 7 and 2019 July 19, to welcome Felipe TELLO, the Public and Cultural Affairs Officer of the general consulate of Strasbourg and visit the site with him. Madam McDonald, consul general, had to come but one last-minute trouble forced her to cancel her presence. They were very affected by these memories forgotten since a century. A report of these two visits was published on their page facebook and Madam the Consul mentioned it in his speech during the ceremony of Independence Day in 2018.

With my American friend, Sarah, member of the association, we wish to go farther to the knowledge of these soldiers having left these moving tracks of their passage. We prepare a historic work over the period of July and August, 1918 when the 60th occupied lines and perhaps we extend the historical study at the 368th (92d division) and 324th (81st division) which stationed between August and October 1918. Until now, I have found 3514 names of soldiers of the 60th, present in Vosges Mountains in July 1918,

Among them, was Frank Hoff EVERITT (co G, registration number 2383817). He was born in Frenchtown on April 22, 1887. He was killed in action on October 14, 1918 at Cunel (Meuse department-France) during the "Meuse-Argonne" offensive and now he is buried in Frenchtown. I put you in attachments the stone engraved and his registration card and some other documents. This is, for me, a way to prove to you the seriousness of my research and the reality of our discoveries. I can send you all photos of engraving rocks, if you want.

As I live in France, it's impossible for me to go to NARA at Atlanta or College Park, MD, where is the Textual Reference Archives II Branch (RDT2).



As your Society of The Fifth Division have an historical branch, would it be possible to you to communicate to me a copy of diaries, maps and "journal de marche" (digital or PDF or other form as We transfer, I can paid the sending of duplicates naturally) for the period of June/July/August 1918. Your help will be invaluable to us for the work of this historic report which we will realize in memory of the sacrifice of the American soldiers in France and particularly in our region.

Thank you in advance for your listening and for all the documents and information that you could give me. Our book should be finished in September 2020 and I will be happy to send you a copy.

Receive all my friendship.

Best regards.

Jean-Michel Bouzenot

12 avenue André Colin

88100 Saint-Dié des Vosges- France

+33 6 60 08 75 23

▪

“At one point I was in the trench line with the two Montagnards who were wounded with me earlier, when we received word a Dustoff (medevac) was on its way. We didn’t know where it was going to come from or where it was going to put down, but we had decided we would get as many wounded people as possible on the helicopter when it arrived. All I know is I was in a slit trench on the North side of the camp, facing to the East, when I heard the helicopter. As I looked in the sky, the ‘Curious Yellow’ helicopter was coming over the South West wall, and it was flaring. Its nose was up in the air, and I could see the whole belly of the helicopter. Just like that, it set down on one of the low, flat top bunkers in the camp.

“The sight of the helicopter was like a religious experience for me. It was like coming back from the dead—I can’t even describe in words how I felt at the time. I moved towards the helicopter, with the two wounded Montagnards, and with assistance from other Montagnards we entered the helicopter on the left side. It happened so quickly, amid the explosions, the helicopter suddenly lifted up and rolled to its right, heading South off the cliff on the South side of our camp. I remember looking out the left side of the helicopter at the mountain falling away from me and traveling past the trees and rocks . . .”

Excerpt from the Congressional Medal of Honor citation for S/Sgt. Jon Cavaiani:

... On the morning of 4 June 1971 the entire camp came under an intense barrage of enemy small arms, automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire from a superior size enemy force. S/Sgt. Cavaiani acted with complete disregard for his personal safety as he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to move about the camp's perimeter directing the platoon's fire and rallying the platoon in a desperate fight for survival. S/Sgt. Cavaiani also returned heavy suppressive fire upon the assaulting enemy force during this period with a variety of weapons. When the entire platoon was to be evacuated, S/Sgt. Cavaiani unhesitatingly volunteered to remain on the ground and direct the helicopters into the landing zone. . .

Specialist Eddie A. Hopper Crew Chief aboard Dustoff 702 June 4th, 1971

“I had just finished cleaning and checking our air filters when I looked up and saw Specialist Eddie Iocabacci and Sgt. George Shaughnessy coming over to the ‘Curious Yellow.’ Sgt. Shaughnessy had an M60 machine gun and said to me that he was going along on this one. Specialist Iocabacci briefed me on the mission; it was a Special Forces camp being overrun by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong. As Specialist Iocabacci was looking over his aid bag and checking his weapon, our pilots came over. We were flying with Aircraft Commander CW2 David Hansen and co-pilot W01 Milton Kreger.

“The weather and sky were clear, just about perfect conditions for flying. Within a couple of minutes and a ‘clear left’ and ‘clear right’ we were airborne. After a few minutes above highway QL 1, we came to the



Dustoff 702 arrived and departed over the south wall of Hill 950

'Rock Pile.' I then locked and loaded my Thompson, and checked my .38 caliber pistol and my knife. I was thinking of a hoist mission Iacobacci and I had pulled at the Rock Pile not too long before. "After a few more minutes of flight, Hill 1050 came into view, and then Hill 950. After getting a little closer, we went into a holding pattern. I could see smoke coming off the east side of Hill 950. Gunships were on station and after they had made a couple of runs, it was time for us to go in.

"Our approach was from the southwest and fast. As we came in along the tree line, it was quiet, too quiet. No one was firing at us! Everything changed in the blink of an eye; as Dave landed the helicopter, all hell broke loose! Explosions were going off in front and to the east side of the helicopter along with a lot of shrapnel flying in the air. I moved to my left next to our medic to help get the wounded on board. Specialist Iacobacci was taking shrapnel hits in his 'chicken plate' body armor, and the wounded were being wounded again. Sgt. Shaughnessy got his M60 going just as the F4 Phantom jet with heavy machine guns came in.



SP5 Eddie A. Hopper, Crew Chief



Sgt. George Shaughnessy, Volunteer Gunner

"After loading as many wounded as we could, our AC David Hansen lifted our helicopter and dropped off the side of the cliff. As soon as we departed, both east and west sides of the hill opened fire on us with machine-guns and small arms. Sgt. Shaughnessy, Specialist Iacobacci, and I returned fire. I then checked to my left for our medic and our pilots. Part of my job as Crew Chief was to keep eyes on the helicopter and crew at all times.

"Once we were out of range of the small arms fire we needed a place to land, and fast. Both of our pilots were on the controls at the same time. Talk about flying by the seat of your pants! All of the hydraulics were shot out, and white smoke was coming from 'Curious Yellow.' Somehow, our pilots found an old airstrip. The landing was beautiful and just in time, for we had lost all of our fuel.

"Sgt. Shaughnessy, Specialist Iacobacci, and I got off the helicopter and formed a line to defend our position and our wounded. The Dustoff that came in to pick us up was from the 571st. The Dustoff's Crew Chief's name was Bowmann."

.....

SP5 Edward Iacobacci Medic aboard Dustoff 702 June 4th, 1971

"It was a nice day for flying. There were five crew members on board. We stayed in a holding pattern that seemed too long. We were the first Dustoff to go in. We were to get the most serious-wounded out first.

“When we were loading the injured, I remember looking to the rear of the ship and seeing a line of other choppers. Dave Hansen said that we had to go, and I said, ‘Just one more.’ There were explosions going off and small arms fire. As the last wounded was on board I yelled, ‘Let’s go!’

“As we lifted out, the emergency lights on the center control panel lit up with the alarm going off in the helmet headset. I yelled, ‘Fly the chopper!’ There was no keying the mic, as hands were too busy. As we went over the edge of the firebase, small arms increased, and I told George to fire. As we cleared the area, Dave got control of the craft with the help of the co-pilot. They were both on the controls as it was very difficult to direct the motion of the chopper. George did not know what was going on; he had lost his mic hook-up. I told him we were going down, and I said it may not be a good landing.

“Dave and the co-pilot got the chopper to the old air strip at Khe San. I told the injured to hang on; it could be bad. When we landed, I unhooked the co-pilot. Ed Hopper, the Crew Chief, got the injured out while George and I set up security. The only other nearby Dustoff came in and picked us up.



## SP5 Edward Iacobacci, Medic

“We left the yellow-nose chopper at the air strip. I believe it stayed there for several months. All the injured and the crew were taken to the 18th Surgical Hospital in Quang Tri. About two or three weeks later, the medic and pilot of the dustoff that picked us up were killed in a LZ not far from Khe San.”

CW2 David Hansen, Aircraft Commander Dustoff 702

June 4, 1971

“...we decided to make a top speed run straight at the LZ from the Southwest, coming in about 50 feet below the top of the pinnacle and flaring upward over the wall to lose the forward airspeed. The pandemonium in the LZ was contagious and I couldn’t find the exact landing spot. Precious seconds were lost in confusion, and finally I just set the helicopter down on a low bunker top and had the patients thrown in the side door. At the same moment, multiple blasts exploded immediately in front of the helicopter – no doubt about it – we had to get out of there now, and not the way originally planned, which would have taken us into the explosions.



"I picked the Huey up and dropped it sideways off the edge of the pinnacle in an extreme maneuver we called the 'falling leaf.' Looking straight downward through the side window at green foliage about a thousand feet below, we would fall erratically past rocky crags sheltering NVA soldiers, making it hard for them to lead us with rifle fire. Unfortunately, we were not lucky.

"In the midst of this gambit—falling through the air like a pickup truck—we took heavy fire and the emergency panel began to light up. The hydraulics went out and suddenly we couldn't control the position of the ship. We were falling faster and faster toward the ground; it now seemed certain that we would crash at high speed, killing everyone.



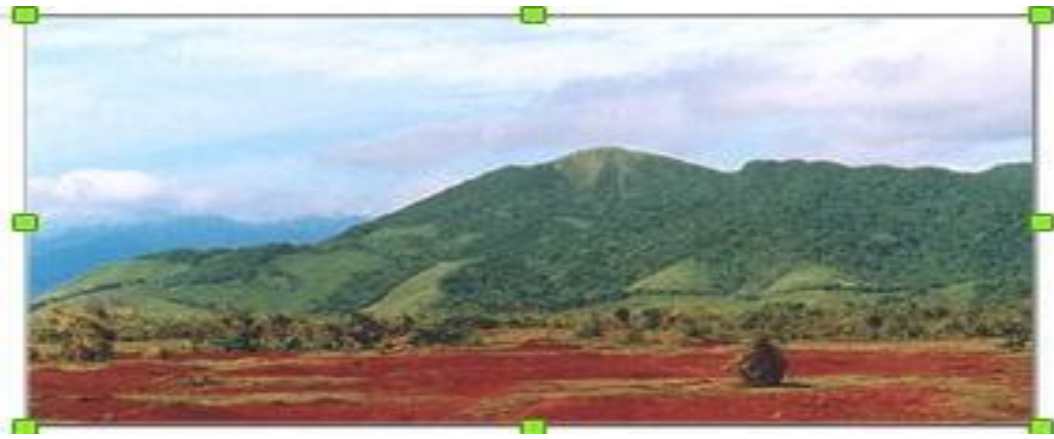
WO1 Milton Kreger, Pilot; and CW2 David Hansen, Aircraft Commander circa 1971

"Somehow the ship leveled out, and as soon as the crisis was over, analytical thinking resumed – the next problem was fuel. At the start of the approach we had just enough to return to Quang Tri, and now the gauges seemed to have dropped markedly. Had the tanks been ruptured? Would we run dry before getting back to the airfield? We couldn't safely land at any of the small firebases between Khe Sahn and Quang Tri without hydraulics, and Steve Woods (Dustoff 509) reported seeing white smoke coming from our aircraft. The only solution was a 'hydraulics off' landing at the abandoned runway at Khe Sahn, even though it was now surrounded by NVA forces.

"The wind was out of the west, so Kreger and I working together, lined up an approach from the east and brought 'Curious Yellow' down for a running landing, like an airplane, on the rusty, perforated steel plates of the old Khe Sahn runway. With the screeching grind of metal sliding on metal, the aircraft slowed to a stop. Now the problem was how to avoid becoming POWs.

View of Hill 950 from Khe Sanh

"Shaughnessy, who had insisted on coming along as a gunner after listening to the mission request in the radio shack, jumped out and ran to the edge of the runway, kneeling with his M60 machine gun to set up a perimeter. Others joined him. When I opened the door and looked back, there sat Steve Woods' helicopter, our angel of mercy. They had touched down the same moment we slid to a stop on the steel plates. The crew worked rapidly, moving the patients to Steve's bird and in only a few minutes we were ready to go. Shaughnessy was the last one aboard, closing out his perimeter.



“The abandoned rotor blades were still slowly turning as we lifted off over the top of ‘Curious Yellow’...”

.....  
 One Generation Later....

R. W. “Bobby” Hill, Ptlm./ Forensic Sketch Artist

Erie Police Department, Former 16th MP Brigade (ABN) November 2006

“I grew up not only as the son a Vietnam Veteran Green Beret, but also the nephew of a Vietnam Vet Green Beret, and the grandson of an original “Merrill’s Marauder”. Like every other kid in a military family, I began hearing “war stories” as a small child, and kept listening to them into my adult life. I became amazed by all the people, the places, and especially by aircraft, mainly the Huey helicopters. My Dad and Uncle Roger both insisted that Hueys in Vietnam had saved their hides on several occasions.

I decided to conduct an “official” interview of my Uncle one night. I wanted the actual first-hand account of an incident, which had occurred six months before I was born. All I knew is that the story took place on June 4, 1971. It involved a Huey Medevac, and that my uncle had been wounded and picked up while the base was being overrun by NVA. The interview was slow and deliberate, with every detail explained and every emotion described. He stated that the helicopter was named “Mello Yellow” or something to that effect, and I could tell that it was very important to him. After I left that night, I thought, “Man, that helicopter crew is still young if they’re alive, and I wonder how hard it would be to find them”.

I drove home and decided I would start a secret project to try to locate any of them, and simply say “thank you”. I determined which medevac units were working in the area during that time, and began making phone calls and sending emails. Many Vietnam nurses and soldiers were very helpful, but I still had no luck until June 5th, 2006 when a guy named Phil Marshall emailed me. Phil was with the 237th Med Det (DMZ Dustoff), and said he thought that Huey had been in his unit. I emailed Phil for more info, and my heart raced. A couple of days later, a medic named Wayne “Doc Gordie” Gordon also emailed me and confirmed I had the right unit. I was literally in shock! Not long after that, one of the nurses from Quang Tri, Sandy Peterson, identified the crew members, and before long, I had some of their email addresses.

It was all happening quickly. They were all alive, and all within my reach. I wasted no time in making contacts, and making sure they were the ones. They made it clear that their bird was called ‘Curious Yellow’. It turns out that none of them had ever spoken again with anyone they had picked-up in Vietnam. That idea shocked me, and I knew they had to meet my Uncle . . .”



Bobby Hill displays his artwork on a hand-painted bomber jacket.

Roger Hill and David Hansen Erie, Pennsylvania

December 14th, 2006

“At about 7:00 p.m. there is a knock on the motel room door. I’m a little anxious about this first meeting. I haven’t seen Roger since we unloaded him at the 18th Surgical Hospital in Quang Tri. But as soon as the door opens, Roger and I are smiling and hug each other like old friends. We have a lot to talk about and soon feel very comfortable with each other.

“Roger told me all about his experiences on Hill 950, and filled in a lot of



Roger Hill and David Hansen, 2006

missing details. I told him what it felt like from the left seat of ‘Curious Yellow.’

“The next morning Bobby Hill, Roger’s nephew who located us, and Roger’s sons Kirk and Kevin, joined us for a wonderful day of camaraderie, ending with a special dinner including the wives and grandchildren. We took some photos and, before parting, decided we would definitely stay in touch.”





After dinner at Roger's house

Bobby Hill – April 2007

“Think about this: If the crew of ‘Curious Yellow’ had not crossed paths with my uncle for a few stressful moments thirty-five years ago, half my family tree would not exist! Yet, they never saw him again, and he was only one of thousands that they had saved, none of which they ever saw again. Furthermore, that UH1-H helicopter was only one of many Medevacs flying on one terrible day in Vietnam. I would like to thank ALL of you for doing a great job, past and present, and I would strongly encourage people to find the people they owe their lives to and thank them. They deserve it.”

Dustoff Hueys headed for Khe-Sanh



The Final Flight of Curious Yellow June 4, 1971  
Quang Tri Airfield, South Vietnam



100th Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division

September 10- 14, 2020 in San Antonio, Texas

at the flagship

Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel

Reservations Begin After April 1, 2020 and Are Made on the

Society of the Fifth Division Website

[societyofthefifthdivision.com](http://societyofthefifthdivision.com)

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, September 10

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Reunion Registration Open  
Hospitality Room and Quartermaster Room to be open  
throughout the reunion with hours to be posted

Friday, September 11

8:00 am – 9:00 am Executive Board Meeting  
8:30 am – 9:30 am Reunion Registration Open  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm Fredericksburg / National Museum of the Pacific War Tour  
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Reunion Registration Open, Additional Hours If Needed  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Banquet Seating Requests Collected

Saturday, September 12

9:00 am – 2:00 pm San Antonio City Tour  
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Cash Bar Reception  
6:00 pm – Ending Dinner Banquet

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am – 10:00 am Non-Denominational Worship Service  
10:00 am – 11:00 am Memorial Service  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm General Membership Meeting  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm KIA Photo Presentation  
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Cash Bar Reception  
6:00 pm – Ending Dinner Banquet

Monday, September 14

Farewells and Departures

## ATTENTION RED DEVILS !!!

People often ask me, *“Steve, I can’t make it to the reunion this year but I really would like to, give a shout out to my old friends.”*

So I tell them this: *“Other than attending a Society of the Fifth Division Reunion, the next best thing is making your own ad saying Hi to all of your Red Devil friends”*. Face it, the guy who is not present at the reunion will be the one talked about by all of his friends, and who doesn’t like to get the last word in even if you can’t be present.

*So how can you overcome this puzzling predicament?*

**EASILY!!!** By placing an ad in the 2020 Reunion Booklet you will ensure that your words and photo will represent you in fine order and give all of your buddies a reminder that you are still thinking of them. All of the proceeds from the Ad Book are used too offset costs of the reunion, so you are also doing a good deed for the Society.

**Like last year, the ads will be all one page in size and you can add a photo with your message all for one low price.**

A single page ad is 4.5” wide and 7.5” tall.. Keep your comments brief, 1-2 sentences and one to two photos. The deadline for ad submission is July 25, 2020.

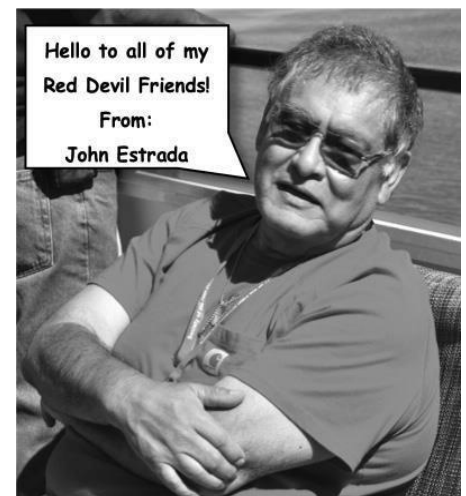
**Send your ad information to: [wheatsco@gmail.com](mailto:wheatsco@gmail.com)**

Cost is \$50 per page in the ad book. Send checks to the Treasurer  
**George B. Shoener**  
**7472 Pamelas Way ‘**  
**Easton, MD 21601**

The Society of the  
 5th Division  
 United States  
 Army  
 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion



Norfolk, Va. 2018



My name is Rick Draker and Bill Helwig was my friend.

Some of you already will have heard the news as Sandy Cody and I have called many of you. But for those of you who we could not contact, Sandy and I want to inform you, with great regret, that Bill passed away Friday afternoon, January 10, 2020. Bill went peacefully, in his own apartment as he wished.

Sandy and I are in the process of making arrangements and we will keep you informed.

Currently the situation is this:

-Bill is at the funeral home awaiting cremation.

-Cremation will not take place until late this coming week, at the earliest, because of requirements for for the death certificate, and sign-off by the state medical investigator. All of this is formality and not a problem; it just takes time.

-Sandy and I will be calling the VA National Cemetery scheduling office Monday to determine a time to take Bill's remains to the cemetery. There will be a very short service (30 minutes) will take place at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe; there is no grave-site service.

-We will also be arranging a memorial for Bill at La Vida Llena, where he resided. Date and time to be determined.

-Bill made it clear to Sandy and me that he did not want any service at the funeral home or in any church. A memorial at La Vida Llena was fine with him. We will make sure his wishes are met.

Bill was a great friend to Sandy and me and to all of you. He touched all of our lives in different ways. He is and will be missed!

We will communicate again in a few days when we have more information on arrangements.

From: Rick Draker <rdraker@drakercody.com>  
Date: Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 8:59 AM  
Subject: Re: Bill Helwig  
To: Rick Draker <rick.draker@respec.com>

## RAO BULLETIN15

September 2019

## Emergency Medical Bill Claims

## Update 05: Federal Appeals Court Rules VA Must Pay

The Department of Veterans Affairs must reimburse veterans for emergency medical care at non-VA facilities, a federal appeals court ruled 9 SEP in *Wolfe v. Wilkie* — a decision that could be worth billions of dollars to veterans.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims said the VA has been wrongfully denying reimbursement to veterans who sought emergency medical care at non-VA facilities, and struck down an internal VA regulation that blocked those payments. "All of this is unacceptable," said the ruling, which ordered the VA secretary to "readjudicate these reimbursement claims." Plaintiffs' lawyers say that based on past estimates by the VA, the department is now on the hook for between \$1.8 billion and \$6.5 billion in reimbursements to hundreds of thousands of veterans who have filed or will file claims between 2016 and 2025.

The first thing the VA tells people to do when calling is to hang up and dial 911 if it's an emergency," said VFW National Commander William J. "Doc" Schmitz. "So the VA must reimburse the actual cost of emergency medical care, regardless of whether the veteran has secondary insurance or not," he said. "VA Secretary Robert Wilkie must make these veterans financially whole again, correct its policies and practices regarding non-VA emergency room billing immediately, and fully adopt the IG report's 11 recommendations to improve the accuracy of the non-VA emergency room claims processing."

Former Coast Guardsman Amanda Wolfe, one of the plaintiffs in the case, told NBC News on 10 SEP, "I'm just overjoyed. I think it means change, it means that veterans don't have to be afraid of receiving care, emergency care. They can have that sense of security that sense of peace knowing they are covered if they have emergency care." "I served side by side with some of these veterans who were impacted and to think that this is going to make a difference for them is what is most important to me." The VA told NBC News in a statement that the department, "is aware of this decision and reviewing it."

In 2015, the court struck down a previous version of the internal VA regulation that refused any coverage for an emergency claim when another form of insurance covered even a small part of the bill. The court said the regulation violated a 2010 federal law. Monday's ruling found the department had violated the same federal law with its revision of the reimbursement regulation. The panel said the new rule, issued in January 2018, actually created another obstacle for veterans by forbidding the VA from reimbursing medical expenses for emergency services at non-VA facilities.



## Hard-won victory

In September 2016, Wolfe went to the emergency room because her appendix was about to burst. After a speedy recovery, she figured she was all set — she had two kinds of insurance, a private plan she paid for and her Veterans Affairs benefits. Her private insurance covered most of the more than \$20,000 bill for her hospital stay. But six months later, the VA denied her claim for the roughly \$2,500 that remained, putting her in an unexpected financial bind. She paid off the bill in 2017, but had been fighting for reimbursement ever since. This year, her case made it all the way to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

When the VA's Inspector General released a report in August revealing major problems in the way the VA reimburses veterans for emergency care at non-VA facilities, Wolfe was shocked to learn how many other veterans were in unnecessary binds just like hers. The August report found that in just one recent six-month period, the VA left roughly 17,400 veterans to pay out-of-pocket for \$53 million in emergency medical treatment the government should have covered. "The Court's decision rights a terrible injustice and its order ensures that veterans who were unjustly denied reimbursement for critical emergency treatment at non-VA facilities will finally be reimbursed," said Bart Stichman, executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, which represented Wolfe in the case. "It is a hard-won victory for hundreds of thousands of veterans." Wolfe's lawsuit is only the second case the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has ever granted class action status. The first was earlier this year. [Source: NBC News | Courtney Kube, Mosheh Gains & Adiel Kaplan | September 10, 2019 ++]

**Jan. 19** Operation Green River, a search-and-clear-mission by the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, begins in Quang Tri province in northern South Vietnam. By its July conclusion, 400 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers had been killed, against 22 U.S. deaths.



Initially the Red Diamond Brigade conducted a 13-week training and familiarization program to adjust the brigade's personnel to situations in Vietnam. The emphasis was on independent small unit tactics and rapid response to alerts. In June 1968, the brigade began the long and difficult overseas movement. The advance party arrived in Quang Tri base on July 2, 1968. The remainder of the Brigade had closed on Quang Tri by July 22, and three maneuver battalions were located at separate base camps outside Quang Tri base proper.



WASHINGTON WIRE: CAPITOL HILL BRIEFS ★ BY DAVE SPIVA

## VFW Demands Answers on Agent Orange Diseases

VFW in October called on VA to answer for the delayed decision to add more Agent Orange-linked diseases to VA's presumptive diseases list. This came after an October *Military Times* report that said White House officials are responsible for the delay in adding four diseases to the list.

"The VFW is extremely upset and dissatisfied with the backdoor political games that are being played in Washington, as the lives of our veterans are at stake," VFW Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz said. "The health and welfare of our nation's veterans should, and must, be our number one priority."

The *Military Times* reported hypertension, bladder cancer, Parkinson's-like symptoms and hypothyroidism were the conditions that VA officials wanted to add to the presumptive conditions list in 2017. But as of Nov. 1, VA has not added these conditions.

"Every time we send our men and women to war, we end up deliberating for decades as to whether or not they were exposed to toxic chemicals," said Patrick Murray, deputy director of VFW National Legislative Service. "This type of absurdity must stop."

Schmitz, a Vietnam War veteran, said VA "must do the right thing" by approving additional Agent Orange presumptive conditions.

"We cannot, and will not, stand by and allow another veteran to lose their life because of the bureaucracy of Washington," Schmitz said. "The time for waiting is over."

VFW encourages veterans who served in or off the coast of Vietnam or Thailand or their caregivers to contact a VFW service officer to discuss whether they are eligible to file a VA claim for Agent Orange exposure.

Visit [www.vfw.org/nvs](http://www.vfw.org/nvs) to find a nearby VFW service officer.

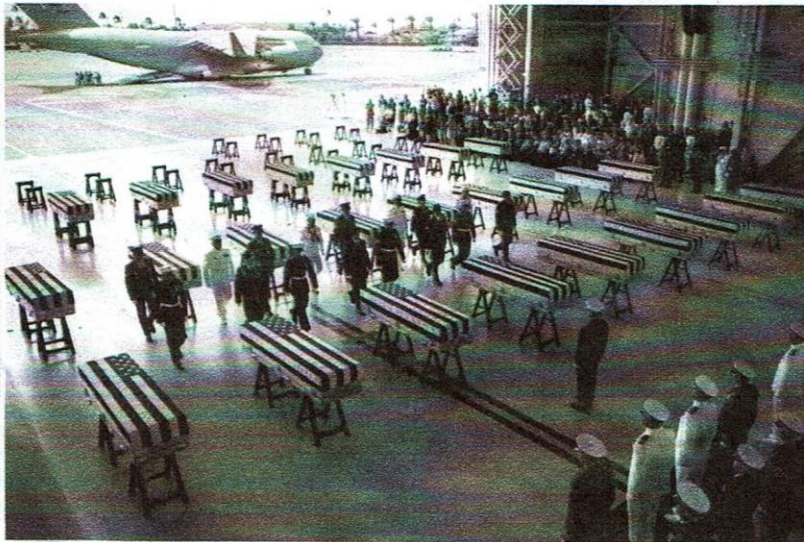
### 14 Presumptive Agent Orange Conditions

To qualify for Agent Orange-related benefits, a veteran must have one or more of the 14 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by exposure, which are:

- Chronic B-cell Leukemia
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas
- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Early onset Peripheral Neuropathy
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

## 41 MIAs Identified from North Korea Remains Return

PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS SETH COULTER/U.S. NAVY



Personnel from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command conduct an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 1, 2018, in Hawaii. North Korean officials returned 55 boxes of remains and artifacts to the U.S. in July 2018.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has identified more than 40 U.S. troops of the remains returned from North Korea last year, according to *Stars and Stripes*.

"We are up to 41," DPAA spokesman Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman told *Stars and Stripes* in an email. "We can't speculate at this point about how many more soldiers may be identified."

In July 2018, North Korean officials returned 55 boxes of remains and artifacts to the United States. This came after the first meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore during the summer of 2018.





















As of Nov. 1, a total of 7,607 U.S. troops remain unaccounted for from the Korean War, with about 5,300 of them expected to be north of the Korean demilitarized zone. In addition to those missing from the Korean War, more than 100 Cold War losses are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula.






**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org). A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.



**U.S. MAJOR COMBAT UNIT BUILDUP 1965-1968** When President Lyndon B. Johnson decided in spring 1965 to send combat troops to Vietnam, the Army was required to raise four light infantry brigades and one infantry division (the 9th). The Marine Corps had to organize two additional infantry regiments (the 26th and 27th). At the end of 1965, the U.S. had 185,000 troops in Vietnam. In July 1968, that number had risen to 536,000. Troop withdrawals began in August 1969. Below are the major combat units deployed to Vietnam and the arrival date.

	UNIT	ARRIVED	REMARK
	<b>9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade</b>	March 1965	Strength of 9,000 by May 1965
	<b>173rd Airborne Brigade</b>	May 1965	Two airborne infantry battalions from Okinawa
	<b>3rd Marine Division</b>	May-December 1965	3rd, 4th and 9th regiments arrived throughout 1965
	<b>2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division</b>	July 1965	Three infantry battalions
	<b>1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division</b>	July 1965	Three airborne infantry battalions
	<b>1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)</b>	September 1965	Eight infantry battalions, three assault helicopter battalions
	<b>1st Infantry Division</b>	October 1965	Six infantry battalions; remainder of the division
	<b>25th Infantry Division</b>	January-March 1966	Three brigades arrived over a three-month period
	<b>1st Marine Division</b>	March-June 1966	7th Marine Regiment in July 1966; all units by June 1966
	<b>26th Marine Regiment</b>	August-December 1966	Three infantry battalions activated at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; arrival of battalions was staggered
	<b>196th Infantry Brigade (Light)</b>	August 1966	Deployed from Fort Devens, Mass.
	<b>4th Infantry Division</b>	September 1966	Deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash.
	<b>11th Armored Cavalry</b>	September 1966	Three armored cavalry regiment squadrons
	<b>9th Infantry Division</b>	December 1966	Deployed from Fort Riley, Kan., nine battalions
	<b>199th Infantry Brigade (Light)</b>	December 1966	Deployed from Fort Benning, Ga.
	<b>198th Infantry Brigade (Light)</b>	October 1967	Deployed from Fort Hood, Texas
	<b>23rd Infantry Division (Americal)</b>	October 1967	Division activated in Vietnam to provide headquarters for light infantry brigades-196th and 198th
	<b>101st Airborne Division</b>	November 1967	Remainder of division; two brigades with six infantry battalions
	<b>11th Infantry Brigade (Light)</b>	December 1967	Deployed from Hawaii; integrated into Americal Division
	<b>3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division</b>	February 1968	Reinforcement of three airborne infantry battalions from Fort Bragg, N.C., after communist Tet Offensive
	<b>27th Marine Regiment</b>	March 1968	Post-Tet reinforcement
	<b>1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)</b>	July 1968	Deployed from Fort Carson, Colo., with two mech infantry battalions and one tank battalion

**U.S. ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS** Three of the first units deployed to Vietnam, despite myriad equipment, personnel and training issues, received Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary heroism and esprit de corps in 1965.

	UNIT	DATE OF ACTION	LOCATION	DA GO (Department of the Army General Order)
	<b>2nd battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division</b>	Sept. 18-19, 1965	Central Highlands-An Ninh	DA GO 20, 1967
	<b>1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)</b>	Oct. 23-Nov. 26, 1965	Ia Drang Valley campaign	DA GO 40, 1967
	<b>1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade</b>	Nov. 8, 1965	Hill 65, War Zone D	DA GO 40, 1966



## VA to reimburse veterans for emergency medical care, court rules

■ The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has ruled the Department of Veterans Affairs violated the law requiring the department to approve veterans' claims for emergency room expenses not covered by private insurance, other than copayments.

The ruling in *Wolfe v. Wilkie* determined the VA has been wrongfully denying reimbursement to veterans who sought emergency medical care at non-VA facilities, and it struck down an internal VA regulation that blocked those payments.

According to the VA, the department covers emergency medical services for veterans if their condition is service related or caused by a service-linked condition and medical services are unavailable at a VA facility.

For non-service-connected conditions, the VA can pay for emergency care under certain conditions.

Two of the three judges on the court ruled that

the VA's interpretation of the law is incorrect, and the VA should reimburse veterans for co-insurance and deductibles, but not copayments.

In August—a month before the court ruling—the VA's inspector general released a report revealing significant problems in the way the VA reimburses veterans for emergency care at non-VA facilities. The IG report found that over a six-month period the VA left roughly 17,400 veterans to pay out-of-pocket for \$53 million in emergency medical treatment, about 31% of all claims filed by veterans for non-VA emergency services.

The ruling would apply to veterans who filed health care claims since 2016 or will file by 2025 and is estimated to cost the VA billions of dollars.

"We're pleased with the court's decision to rightfully hold the VA accountable for the financial burden of emergency medical care when an eligible veteran seeks treatment," said National Commander "Butch" Whitehead. "The last thing a veteran should be concerned about when experiencing a medical emergency is whether or not their decision to seek care at a non-VA facility will result in financial distress."



## VA's Million Veteran Program reaches 750,000-member milestone

■ The Department of Veterans Affairs has reached a major milestone with enrollment of its 750,000th veteran partner in the Million Veteran Program (MVP)—a national, voluntary research initiative that helps the VA study how genes affect the health of veterans.

"While having 750,000 veteran partners is a momentous achievement, there is still much work to be done," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "MVP is on track to continue the march to 1 million veteran partners and beyond in the next few years."

The program began in 2011 and has successfully expanded into one of the largest, most robust research partnerships of its kind in the world. MVP was designed to help researchers understand how genes affect health and illness. According to the VA, having a better knowledge of a person's genetic makeup may help to prevent illness and improve treatment of disease.

Already, several significant research findings have been published in high-impact scientific journals, thanks to data obtained through MVP. The knowledge gained from research can eventually lead to better treatments and preventive measures for many common illnesses, especially those common among combat veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

For the last couple of years, DAV has hosted representatives from MVP at the annual national convention where DAV members have had a convenient opportunity to enroll in the program.

The VA is also working on a collaboration with the Department of Defense to make MVP enrollment available to active-duty service members.

For more information or to participate in the program, call toll-free 866-441-6075 or visit [www.research.va.gov/mvp](http://www.research.va.gov/mvp).





## VA Refunds \$400 Million to Veteran Homeowners

Tens of thousands of disabled veterans received a total of about \$400 million in refunds from the VA due to an error in charging extra fees for buying homes.

The refunds come after an inspector general's report that stated there were about 53,000 veterans who were improperly charged a fee that typically is waived if a veteran has a VA disability rating. Currently with VA, veterans and service members have to pay a fee of up to 3.3 percent of the loan's cost. Those who are waived from paying the fee are:

- Veterans receiving VA compensation for a service-connected disability.
- Veterans entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability if they did not receive retirement or active-duty pay.
- Surviving spouses of veterans who died in service or from a service-connected disability.

VA reviewed about 130,000 claims this year for potential errors. Refunds ranged from a few thousand dollars to more than \$20,000 for some individuals, according to VA.

"This effort included loans dating back nearly 20 years," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. "Our Administration prioritized fixing the problems and paid veterans what they were owed."

For more information, veterans can call the VA's loan center office at 1-877-827-3702. Information about VA home loans and fees can be found at <https://benefits.va.gov/homeloans>.



Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency, and VFW Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence discuss the ongoing POW/MIA mission in October at VFW's Washington Office. VFW is asking all Vietnam vets to return any Vietnamese artifacts they may have collected from the Vietnam War. Such artifacts could help determine the fate of 300,000 missing Vietnamese.

## VFW Helps Return Artifacts to Vietnam

VFW returned six artifacts and personal items to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in October.

During VFW's National Convention in Orlando, Fla., in July, Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence asked Vietnam veterans to provide any information they have that could help determine the fate of 300,000 missing Vietnamese and also return personal effects, such as photos and letters, to Vietnamese families.

Lawrence said VFW is fulfilling its promise to DPAA to help advance the POW/MIA mission. He added that a goodwill gesture on the part of U.S. veterans can foster a sense of cooperation that can ultimately help the U.S. cause.

"Our VFW members, and their families, continue to answer the call in this very important effort to bring closure to those who lost loved ones during the

Vietnam War," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said it is "vital" for Vietnam veterans to return any artifacts, documents and personal items back to the Vietnamese government.

"The Vietnamese have continued to foster a good relationship with the U.S. as we diligently search for our missing servicemen," Lawrence said. "This display of diplomacy will only help in our efforts to reach our true goal and promise to our families affected by the Vietnam War – and that's to achieve the fullest possible accounting of those Americans missing from the Vietnam War."

Items collected from Vietnam veterans and their families will be given to DPAA. Those interested in turning over items to DPAA can mail artifacts and personal effects to: VFW Washington Office; Attention: Public Affairs; 200 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, D.C. 20002.

## McCarthy Confirmed as Army Secretary



Former Army ranger Ryan McCarthy officially became the new Army Secretary in September. McCarthy is the former Army undersecretary.

McCarthy was selected and then confirmed for the position by the Senate after Mark Esper, a life member of the VFW Department of

Pennsylvania, became the Secretary of Defense in July.

McCarthy, who was in the Army from 1997 to 2002, served with the 75th Ranger Regiment in the beginning of the Afghanistan War. McCarthy was a special assistant to former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates during the George W. Bush Administration. He also was a staff member for the House International Relations Committee.



BETTER HEALTH ★ NEWS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

## Get Vaccinated to Prevent Shingles

**One in three Americans will develop shingles in his or her lifetime. Consider getting vaccinated to prevent this painful rash.**

BY JANICE PHELAN



**S**hingles, also known as herpes zoster, is an often painful rash that can result in serious complications. Around one in three Americans will develop shingles in his or her lifetime, with some having multiple outbreaks.

The condition, caused by the same virus as chickenpox, lasts a few weeks for most people, although more severe cases can possibly last months or even years.

Fortunately, the fight against shingles continues to advance thanks to a new

vaccine known as Shingrix, approved by the FDA in 2017. The older shingles vaccine, Zostavax, is still available.

"Shingrix is approximately 95 to 97 percent effective in preventing shingles and is approved for patients 50 and older," said Dr. Todd Fristo of Saint Luke's Physician Group in Independence,

Mo. "The Zostavax vaccine is approximately 50 to 60 percent effective."

Although Shingrix is considered the better alternative, there is a national shortage of the newer vaccine.

"Currently, Shingrix is somewhat difficult to find, due to the supply being unable to keep up with the demand for the vaccination," Fristo added. "This should improve over time."

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that about 1 million cases of shingles develop each year.

Shingrix also is recommended for people who previously received the older vaccine, said Dr. Sophia Califano, VA's deputy chief consultant for preventive medicine.

"You need two doses, so remember to make a plan to get your second dose of Shingrix two to six months after your

first dose," Califano added. "Within the VA, availability of Shingrix may vary by facility because of a shortage in the national vaccine supply."

Fristo said shingles is likely to occur in those people who have had chickenpox in their lifetime, but can develop in others as well.

"Patients who have conditions that compromise their immune system also have a greater incidence of developing shingles," he said.

Shingles first appears as an outbreak of rash or blisters on the skin, often resulting in burning or tingling pain, numbness or itching on one side of the body. Fluid-filled blisters usually appear within a few days, again on just one side.

"There are several antiviral medicines to treat shingles and shorten the length and severity of the illness," said Dr. Gary Roselle, VA's national director of infectious diseases services. "They work best when they are taken as soon as possible after the rash appears. A patient should contact their health care provider immediately to discuss treatment."

Fristo added, "Additional therapies include pain medications, and there is some evidence that steroids can help reduce inflammation and pain."

Among complications, one of the most common is postherpetic neuralgia/nerve pain.

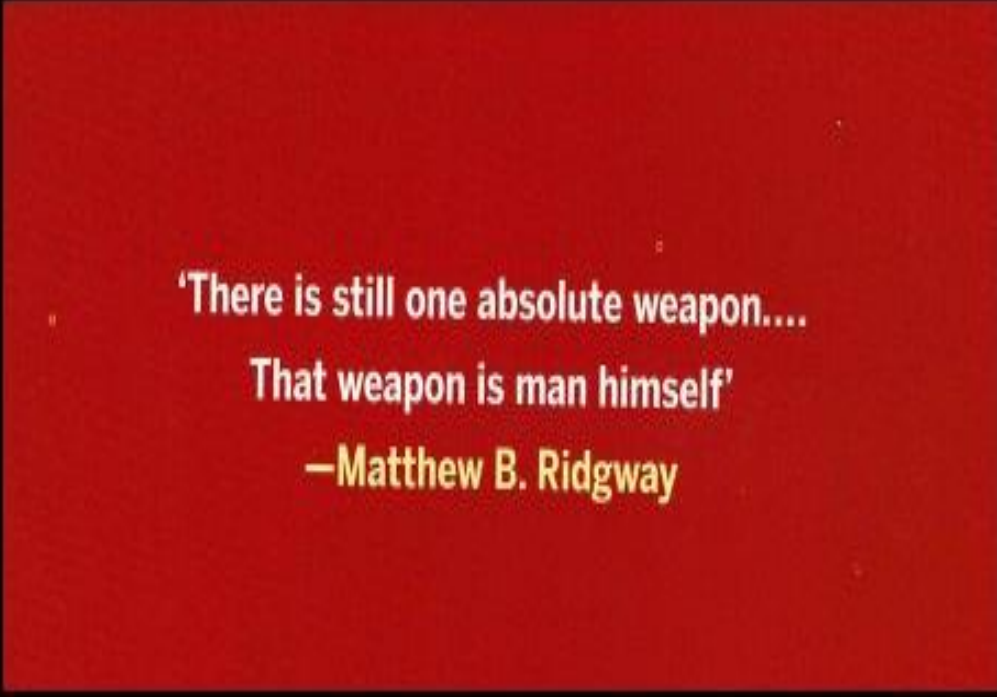
"About one in 10 people who get shingles develop nerve pain that can last for months or years after the rash goes away," Roselle added.

"Shingles also can lead to other more serious complications, including blindness, pneumonia, hearing problems and brain inflammation, although these are less common."

The likelihood of shingles increases as people age, Fristo said. Among patients 65 years old, approximately 10 patients per 1,000 develop shingles in a year, he added, with 16 patients per 1,000 annually developing shingles among people who are 85 years old. ★

EMAIL [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)

Janice Phelan is a freelance writer based in Lee's Summit, Mo.



'There is still one absolute weapon....  
That weapon is man himself'  
—Matthew B. Ridgway



# A Strong Defense Against Flu: Get Vaccinated!

**FIGHT FLU**



The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against influenza (flu) is to get a flu vaccine every flu season. Flu is a contagious respiratory disease that can lead to serious illness, hospitalization, or even death. CDC recommends everyone six months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

## What are some key reasons to get a flu vaccine?

- Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu illnesses, hospitalization, and even death in children.
- During the 2016–2017 season, vaccination prevented an estimated 5.3 million illnesses, 2.6 million medical visits, and 85,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations.
- Flu vaccination also is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions.
- Vaccinating pregnant women helps protect them from flu illness and hospitalization, and also has been shown to help protect the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated.
- A [2017](#) study showed that flu vaccine can be life-saving in children.
- While some people who get vaccinated still get sick, flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness.



## Why is it important to get a flu vaccine EVERY year?

- Flu viruses are constantly changing, so flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the viruses that research suggests will be common during the upcoming flu season.
- Your protection from a flu vaccine declines over time. Yearly vaccination is needed for the best protection.



For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)  
or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
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# QUARTERMASTER REPORT

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

## Society of the 5th Division Polo Shirts



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 - \$7.00 \$2.50 each additional Larger orders: Contact the Quartermaster

## Society of the 5th Division T-Shirts



Black or White T-Shirt w/embroidered logo design. Choice of Short or Long Sleeve. Cotton/Polyester (50/50). Specify size: Short Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$25 Long Sleeve: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - \$30 S & H: 1 shirt - \$7; Each addl. \$2.50 Larger orders: Contact the Qtr.master



**PIN (Hat/Lapel)**  
1 Inch Red Diamond,  
Silver finish metal Cloisonné, \$5.00 ea.

Shipping & Handling Add \$4.00 for order of 1 to 10 pins  
Contact Quartermaster for larger order

## Fifth Division Hats

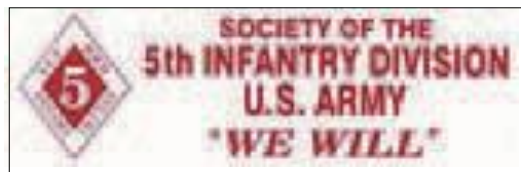
w/embroidered logo design, adjustable, \$15.00 ea. plus \$6.00 shipping costs. Contact Quartermaster for larger orders



## Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin (front and back shown): \$10.00 ea. Antique gold (sandblasted texture) w/epoxy finish; 1 1/4" x 1/8". Detail is exquisite. This is the only authorized Challenge Coin issued by the Society of the Fifth Division. \$4.00 S&H



**Bumper Sticker:** "WE WILL" BumperSticker; 1 1/2" x 3"; \$1.00 ea. Add \$2.00 for shipping and handling for each order.

Please check pricing carefully for each item ordered, as shipping and handling is not included in some pricing and must be added to order. Contact the Quartermaster for pricing on large orders.

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The dues for membership in the Society are \$15.00 for annual membership. Any member wishing to become a LIFE member may do so by paying the following one-time dues: age less than 61, \$150.00; age 61-69, \$75.00; age over 70, \$50.00. All LIFE members are subject to any special assessments declared by the Executive Board or adopted at any meeting.