

THE

RED 5 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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- *Bob Dudley (2016-2017)
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- *Alex Candelaria/Steve Wheat (2016-2019)

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A Note from the President

Hal Roller



I am not a proponent of the great man theory. If you are not familiar with this theory, it holds that history is made by great men- men like Julius Caesar, Genghis Kahn, Martin Luther, George Washington, Dwight Eisenhower, etc. Human history moves in the direction these “great men” shove it. This is not to say great men have not had any influence. But in this part (of what will soon be history) in which we live, enter a coronavirus identified as Covid-19. Articles in the media are already beginning to appear saying our lives (history) will be changed forever because of this virus. One thing is for sure, the world-wide response to Covid-19 is having an impact on our upcoming 100th Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division.

If you haven't heard by now, we are going ahead with plans to have the Reunion in San Antonio, Texas on September 10 through 14, 2020. Registration is available on this website. Hotel reservation information is also on the website. If developments in the future prohibit the Reunion, we will adjust. As a Christian, my view is:

“I don't know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.”

While we work through this health crisis, it is great to have all these electronic communication devices. I can call Steve Wheat and find out how great the United States Air Force is. I can call John Estrada and find out how beautiful the high country of central California is. I can call Lou Pepi and find out how the weather is doing in magnificent New England. Occasionally, I will even talk to an Executive Board member about Society business. It is during these conversations I realize again how blessed we are in the Society of the Fifth Division to have such wonderful members. I should also add such wonderful spouses.

Friendship, interpersonal courtesy, cooperation, patriotism and willingness to compromise for the common good abound in our Society of the Fifth Division. By the way, these values have influenced American history as much as America's great men. During this mid-April 2020 time frame in which I am writing, the media is touting the Apollo 13 mission to the moon in April 1970 as a crisis which was overcome. The analogy is the American people will do the same in the Covid-19 crisis. A better analogy would have been the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was going on at the same time as the Apollo 13 mission, but it impacted all of America. The Vietnam War tore at the fabric of the above values. It took some doing but America came out of the Vietnam War and reinstalled those values.

Be safe during this time and practice social distancing. We are planning on being in San Antonio this September with everyone present!



Hello everyone. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. I am fine. Sound familiar? I can only speak for myself, but when I am out and about and I run into friends, this is how it goes. As we are shaking hands or hugging, we say something like: “Hi! How are you doing?” “Good—and you?” “I’m fine—and you?” We always add that last repetitive, “And you?”—an unconscious redundancy.

We spit out these words without thinking or even really wanting an answer to our questions. The last thing you want to hear is something like, “My dog died yesterday.”—or, “They repossessed my car”—or, “The bank foreclosed on my house”—or worse. It has just a greeting—a rhetorical question—and we are not really looking for an honest answer; but this Corona Virus business has changed all that. Now, when we meet our friends out and about, we smile and say, “Hi! How are you doing?”, and halt at six feet—I prefer ten or fifteen feet of separation myself. And the odd thing is—we really want to know how they are doing. No more rhetorical questions. In fact, we are blunt. “Are you and the family healthy?” We want answers, and conceivably good ones. This is always the main topic of conversation. It starts and ends with the Coronavirus—aka COVID19 because we need an acronym for everything these days.

Its long form name is “Corona Virus Disease of 2019.” We also now have new words in our everyday speech—epidemic and pandemic—not to be confused with epizootic. Let us clear up these definitions first off. This virus originated in a lab in Wuhan China, but it has spread worldwide, thus it is a “pandemic” disease (from the Greek: pan ALL—demo PEOPLE). Now, we have localized hot spots in specific countries, states, and communities. They are epidemics (epi UPON demo PEOPLE). Other related types of epidemics were the Spanish Flu of 1917-18, The Swine Flu of 2009 (H1N1), but not the Bird Flu (H5N1) of 2017 that is spread by birds and poultry. That was an “epizootic” (Greek epi UPON zoites ANIMAL NATURE). So much for word and definitions. Let us move on.

Lately, I find myself phoning friends—a few every day. It seems I am always on the phone now just chatting. That was never me in the past. If I called someone, it was for a specific reason, not to shoot the breeze. Dial the number, relate the specific information, and then hang up. Not so today. I need to know that my friends are okay. I worry about them. I need to chat just to hear their voices. The main topics are always the same now. First off, I get the health questions out of the way which is the main reason for calling. Except for several mild cases, everyone has been healthy. With that out of the way, a sense of levity sets in, and we move onto the subject of keeping sane in an environment of house arrest with your significant other. I

feel bad for couples stuck in the city in small apartments—in the same room 24/7. Fortunately, I have a greenhouse, two sheds and a garage when I need to be “alone—alone” if you know what I mean. Plus, there is a silver lining. I have never been so far along with spring cleaning, lawn care and garden prep. The outside of the house is power-washed, windows & screens are clean, the garage & sheds have been cleaned, and I even rearranged the spice rack. Of course, the last item has significance with respect to the most important subject of the day—“What are we going to cook for the next meal?” Let us get a little more “granular” on that subject. I like that word. I hear Doctor Deborah Brix use it every day.

It has not the bi-weekly shopping day—Stop & Shop opens at 6 AM now—Pat and I are up between 7 & 8 AM discussing the menu of the day over breakfast. The first order is to proof the yeast for bread and pastry baking. Yeast has been hard to get lately so we also replenish our sourdough “start”. That means we have several ounces of “start” available for pancakes every day. While eating the pancakes, we discuss the main course for the evening meal, and remove & defrost the appropriate meat and vegetables. I usually bake the bread, because there are long periods of downtime, I can devote to yard work or walks in the woods while the bread dough is rising. That is when Pat takes over the kitchen for the evening meal and cake making. There can only be one of us in the kitchen at a time even though it is an excessively big kitchen. I know I am going to gain weight this year, but I would be happy just to keep myself under 200 pounds.

In the evening we sit in front of the TV. We start with the President’s Task Force news conference, followed by Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. I used to be good with quick recall of the questions, but not so much anymore. My usual response is, “I knew that, but I just couldn’t get it out!” After that, in normal times we would be watching, the start of the Red Sox season, or the Bruins or Celtics in the playoffs. Although the Sox and Patriots are rebuilding this year, we were looking forward to possible championships with the Bruins and Celtics. But we do not miss sports altogether yet, because they are replaying all the classic sports events on our local sports channel. We have watched the 2004, 2007, 2013 and 2017 World Series, the 1970, 1972, and 2011 Stanley Cup, Tom Brady’s 9 Super Bowls, and of course, only a few of the Celtics’ 17 world championships so far. I think I will stop there because I might be doing a little bragging now. Besides, with Brady and Gronkowski moving south, I am now a Tampa Bay fan.

I leave you with one last thought concerning the commander-in-chief’s strategies to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. Follow the recommendations of social distancing and wear a mask in public. As 5th Infantry veterans, we know these things work from our combat zone training. On search and clear missions, we always were spread out and did not bunch up to avoid multiple casualties—very much like social distancing. Also, we wore our helmets and flak jackets—they were our PPEs.

I hope you all are finding the silver linings in the dark clouds over our nation now. Likewise, but most importantly, Pat and I hope you are all remain in good health. We look forward to reuniting with brothers and sisters in San Antonio this September, albeit at a safe social distance. I really hope to see you all there. Until then, stay safe.

Lou Pepi

First Vice President



Second Vice Presidents Message: Gary Haverman

Hello again to everyone. I bring you greetings from Iowa. My wife, Jeannie & I have returned to our Iowa home in March after spending a 2 plus month stay in a RV park near Leesburg, Florida. We enjoyed our life in the motorhome and have made plans to return next year.

It is hard to believe how all of our lives have changed since the onset of COVID-19. We hope and pray that all of you are safe and healthy. For those of you who are personally dealing with this, we will keep you in our prayers for a speedy and safe recovery. Throughout the years each generation has had to live through some sort of hardship. History will show us that with God's help and American perseverance, we will come back to greatness again.

On a personal note, my biggest thrill happened a couple weeks ago. It was when I scored a big hit at Dollar General, grabbing 2 packages of the much obscure toilet paper as it came off the truck

Here are a few sentences that hopefully will give you a much needed chuckle in this era of isolation. My sister told me she had a hard time keeping her hands off her face until she put a glass of wine in each hand. And this whole thing is making me feel like a teenager again because gas is cheap and I've been grounded.

Now onto good news. Since my last article, I have obtained a signed contract with the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center of Springfield, Missouri. My thanks to President Roller who conducted an email vote with the Executive Board to get this approved in a timely fashion.

The Oasis will be the site of our 2022 reunion. Back in the day, it was the largest Howard Johnson Hotel in the United States. I'm not sure exactly when it became the Oasis, but it has gone through a total remodel, including the guest rooms in 2017. To describe it, I would say it has that tropical look and feel. Springfield, MO. is a great destination. There are lots of things to do and places to see. And if you'd like to venture out further, either coming or going to our reunion, Branson, MO. is just a short drive south, which will give you varied

options for showtime entertainment. Another great thing about Springfield is its people. There is nothing like that good, old, fashioned, mid-west hospitality.

Our Quartermaster for the SOFD, Dennis Coulter lives in Springfield and was very kind to show me around town. I am very grateful for his help. It brought back memories of basic training with the “buddy system” in place.

A few weeks ago, April 14th was an anniversary of sorts for me. It was on that date 50 years ago I was inducted into the United States Army with a group of young fellows who soon became men. It was my 1st flight on any airline as we flew out of Omaha, NE. to Ft. Lewis, WA. During that flight, I met a guy from my neighboring town where I grew up and we ended up in the same company and same platoon in basic training. Throughout the years we have remained friends and have gotten together on special occasions. So far this year, a phone call will have to suffice until time permits that we can plan a dinner with our wives and continue reminiscing about our past army days.

There is something so healing and special about being able to reminisce with your fellow comrades. With that being said, I am so anxious to see my buddies from Charlie Battery, 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery, 70-71 at the Society of the Fifth Division, 100th reunion in San Antonio, TX. this September. Of course, I will be looking forward to meeting and making new friends from all of the rest of you, Red Devils who plan to attend. I am very proud to be part of this band of brothers, who have said loudly and proudly; “We Will.”

God Bless you all and please stay safe and healthy.
See you in the “Lone Star State!”

Chaplains Message: Ron Van Beek

COVID-19 WAR

For word came unto the King of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. (Nineveh repented. Jonah 3:6)

A new war has descended upon America, like a thunderclap ! God has weaponized one of the billions of small, invisible germs that live around us. President Trump has declared that America, is at war! Globally, most of the countries of the earth are declaring war. All of us know that War; is a horrendous catastrophe, an apocalyptic disaster, and unspeakable misery, far beyond all human words. Clearly, the many deaths from this war are piling high!

From our text, human words can not describe the unspeakable cruelty and horror of the soldiers of the King of Nineveh! From the Bible, from historical documents, we can gauge something of Nineveh's unspeakable cruelty. They brutally crushed people, cities and nations, by terrifying those, whom they captured each day. They did this by publicly skinning them alive for their soldier's entertainment, at the end of each day and battle, without mercy or pity. Then, while their captives were in this inscrutable pain, they proceeded to cut parts of their body off piece by piece, until finally they died, in unspeakable pain. They did this publicly for all to see, while their people and soldiers partied nearby in enjoyment, watching this horrific pain inflicted upon innocent captives, simply for their sadistic entertainment. It was the Kings of Nineveh, who taught their soldiers this violent cruelty, and trained them in this horrific warfare to terrify many people, cities and nations.

It was this King of Nineveh, which had so cruelly carried the last of the 10 Tribes of Israel away in 700 BC, never to be heard of again. They were the "Scourge of the earth"; yet God actually used this monsters to execute His Judgments. How horribly the Nation of Israel suffered from this cruel king, as he killed their men, raped their women, scatter their children in violent havoc. Nearly 85% of the nation of Israel disappeared from the face of the earth, because of this king's cruelty and war. Because Israel, and His "Christian" Church, fully corrupted themselves with idols; this was the cruel king, which God used and sent to punish Israel for their great sins, in the 700s BC.

Jonah had more than likely watched Nineveh's cruelty for many years, from a tearful distance, as this king systematically destroyed his land, his relatives, and his family. Jonah was so unhappy, that God was sending him to go to Nineveh to preach repentance, that he ran away in the opposite direction from God's Command, to the other end of the known world. Jonah's heart had no mercy anywhere in it; for Nineveh. Clearly, The very last thing Jonah wanted, was for Nineveh to somehow find mercy. But God sent a storm, and then a whale, to bring him back, to go to Nineveh to preach repentance.

Amazingly, God caused an incredibly great miracle to take place. Jonah could not believe his eyes; all of his fears were coming to life before his eyes. He sat in his booth on the hills surrounding Nineveh and watched in utter amazement, as all the people of Nineveh immediately believed God's Message, he had peached of impending destruction. Imagine, the whole population of the city falling to their knees in repentance, dressing themselves in sackcloth and ashes, begging God for forgiveness for their great personal and national sins. God's Message so impacted Nineveh, that they even dressed their animals in sackcloth, to show their repentance. Their only hope; was in what the King of Nineveh Commanded to them...Repent of all sin, of all of your evil, for who can tell, God may yet turn from his impending destruction, and yet spare us. It was a HOPE planted from Heaven; in the words, Who can TELL !

Today, God has called this nation, and all of the nations of the world, to a dramatic stand-still, using this Corona Virus Judgment, which He has sent...because of our sins. God is Speaking loudly to the whole world today. He has dramatically changed the lives and daily activities of so much of the world. A week, two weeks, a month ago, no one could have imagined

this unmitigated catastrophe, where one half of the world is locked in their homes, tens of millions, are contracting COVID-19, and millions are going to die. Only once before in the entire history of the world, has God sent such a warning Judgment, across all of the world's 196 nations. That was The Great Flood, which destroyed the whole earth. God is not just Angry at our sins, but He is Hyper-Exceedingly Angry. He is Thundering COVID-19 Judgment today. God Always means Business! Let us hear His Voice today.

Repentance from our sins, is the only effective weapon of this war, for it works immediately, and every time. Amazingly, the cruel king of Nineveh, the world's cruelest Monster, recognized God's Hand, in The Judgment coming, and implemented repentance immediately; but tragically we, as individuals, churches, and nations do not. May each of us examine our own hearts, for The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanest from all sin. Nineveh's Monster's Surprise repentance demonstrates, that none has sinned too much to ask God for repentance and forgiveness! But if we refuse to imitate the King of Nineveh, and if we continue in our sins, which have caused this Judgment of God, we may well fear, that God has many other arrows of Judgment in His "Quiver". As God sent 10 Plagues against Egypt, in a relentless, cascading, assault against their idols, so this COVID-19 may well be just the beginning of God's Relentless Assault against our many idols and false gods in our day. God will not be mocked, and our Judgment Day is near. Let us imitate the King of Nineveh, and repent immediately from our personal, church and national sins, which have caused this Judgment. Who can tell?

TAPS

Michael Pelton	died - Nov. 15, 2019	Co. D - 1/61
Don Hatch	died Sept. 13, 2019	5/4 Artillery - 1/61
David M. Ward	died Nov. 26, 2019	WWII
Joseph Phillip	died Dec. 29, 2019	WWII
wife of Randy Jones	died Dec. 29, 2019	1/61

No sense from non-sense the Editor's Cents



People who laugh a lot are much healthier than those who don't. Dr Lee Berk at the Loma Linda School of Public Health in California found that laughing lowers levels of stress hormones, and strengthens the immune system. Six year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. An adult laughs only 15 to 100 times a day.

Three dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic. All were small and traveling first class.

The drill sergeant decides to play a late afternoon-early evening game of golf and hooks up to play a twosome. Four quadruple bogeys, three triple bogeys and two double bogeys later the sarge's partner says "When did you take up this game?"

The drill sergeant says, "Nineteen fifty-nine."

"Nineteen fifty-nine?" says the other golfer. "I would think that you'd be able to play a little better than this."

"Whaddya mean?" says the sarge. "It's only twenty-two thirteen right now."

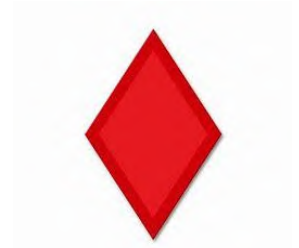
A priest is driving home from a St. Patrick's Day party and absent-mindedly leaves an empty wine bottle on the floor of the passenger side of the car. He gets pulled over by a cop, who smells alcohol on the priest's breath and notices the wine bottle on the floor. The cop says, "Father, have you been drinking?" "No, just water," answers the priest. the cop says, "Then how come I smell wine?" the priest excitedly says, "My God! He's done it again!!"

**Say your prayers, little one
Don't forget, my son
To include everyone
Be safe and God Bless**



Society of the Fifth Division

societyofthefifthdivision.com



April 21, 2020

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union Number 66
4345 Allen Genoa Road
Pasadena, Texas 77504

Ref: Donation for the 100th Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division

Dear All Members of IBEW Local Union 66:

The veterans of the Society of the Fifth Division want to thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 towards our upcoming 100th reunion. Please excuse the belated acknowledgemet of your gift.

The Society of the Fifth Division is the oldest divisional size organization. It was founded in Europe at the close of World War I. Our members are primarily Vietnam veterans, but we do have a few World War II veterans. One of whom, Harry Jack Paylor, has just passed-away at age 95. The Society seeks to keep all of our members, as well as, any veteran we can reach informed on the Veterans Administration services and assistance.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Hal Roller
National President

RESULTS OF FINANCIAL REVIEW –SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION, U.S. ARMY
CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

Applying established review procedures, the Audit Committee of the Society of the 5th Division performed a review of the Society's financial statement and activities for the calendar year ending December 31, 2019. The objectives of the review were to determine if Society funds were properly accounted for and used to accomplish the Society's objectives.

The Society of the 5th Division was created in 1919 to (1) perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the 5th Division; (2) promote fellowship and the interest and welfare of its members; and (3) publish and preserve the history and accomplishments of the 5th Division and the Society. These objectives are achieved through the efforts of Society members, under the leadership of its officers, and annual reunions for members and special guests.

The Society's National Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the Society's checking account and overall accountability of Society's funds. The National Treasurer provided the Audit Committee with the Society's year end Account Activity Report (See Attachment). The National Treasurer also provided the Committee with bank records, vendor receipts, and other relevant accounting records used to prepare the end of year activity report. The Audit Committee used these records to perform the review.

The results of the review are as follow:

- The Account Activity Report shows \$27,409.39 of cash receipts and in-kind donations for the calendar year. These receipts consisted of members' dues, quartermaster sales, annual reunion income and other income and donations, and gains from certificates of deposits. The cash receipt amount was supported by bank statements, ledgers, and other accounting records.
- The Account Activity Report shows \$21,384.18 of disbursements and donation off-sets for the calendar year. The National Treasurer made these disbursements for expenses associated with the "Red Diamond", the official publication of the Society; the Society's annual reunion; quartermaster purchases of 5th Division paraphernalia for resale; and general administrative activities. The disbursement amounts were supported by bank statements, vendor invoices, and requests for reimbursement by Society officers for expenses they incurred on the behalf of the Society.
- We evaluated \$17,079 or nearly 80 percent of total expenditures listed on the Account Activity Report to determine whether the expenditures were in furtherance of Society objectives. The expenditures tested appeared reasonable and consistent with Society objectives.

- The Account Activity Report reflects Certificates of Deposits (CDs) valued at \$43,209.49. This amount was supported by an account statement from the financial institution "Edward Jones" identifying four CDs with maturity dates ranging from 2020 to 2023.

In conclusion, Society funds for Calendar Year 2019 were properly accounted for and the Account Activity Report accurately reflects the financial condition of the Society of the 5th Division. Calendar Year 2019 expenditures appeared reasonable and consistent with Society objectives.

Audit Committee Member

Gary J. Barard, Chair
John
Sherrell

" We must adjust to changing times and still hold
to unchanging principles"

President Jimmy Carter

" Adhere to your purpose and you will soon feel as well
as well as you ever did.
On the contrary, if you falter, and give up, you will lose
the power of keeping any resolution, and you will
regret it all your life."

President Abraham Lincoln 1862

Report of the Treasurer of the Society of the Fifth Division
Account Activity for FY19 (01/01/19-12/31/19)

RECEIPTS

Secretary - Dues (\$5100) + Donations (\$1775)	6,875.00
QM Sales	5,598.30
2019 Reunion Income	12,139.37
2019 Other Income/Donations	955.00
Gain from CDs	<u>1,841.72</u>
TOTAL	27,409.39

DISBURSEMENTS

Secretary Expenses	(677.36)
QM Expenses	(7,230.61)
Red Diamond Expenses	(9,810.96)
2019 Reunion Expenses	(2,334.05)
2019 Web Site Expenses	(532.14)
2019 Other Expenses	<u>(799.06)</u>
TOTAL	(21,384.18)

RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS for FY19 **6,025.21**

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2018 (FY18)

Cash in Bank	27,673.22
Value of Ladder CDs	<u>41,367.77</u>
Net Worth	69,040.99

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2019 (FY19)

Cash in Bank	31,856.71
Value of Ladder CDs	<u>43,209.49</u>
Net Worth	75,066.20

Net Worth Difference for FY19 **6,025.21**

George B. Shoener
National Treasurer
SOFD

February 22, 2020

SECURITY PLATOON

HHC, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division Mechanized

Foreword

The events that I relate and the individuals that I describe in this short partial history of my time in Vietnam are drawn from memory. Memory, as we know, does not always serve well, particularly after so many decades have passed. I invite, I encourage, other veterans to correct or add to this narrative so that the record of the unit known as the Security Platoon may be accurate and as complete as may be possible.

Security Platoon

I met Don White at Replacement Company, Quang Tri Base Camp, in early October, 1969. His full name is Auldon Keith White. I guess we struck it off as a sort of odd couple as I am a Yankee out of Chicago and Don hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. But as I had family in Covington and Slidell, I was not unfamiliar with that part of the country and Don's enthusiasm for crawdads and all things Cajun.

Don came to country directly out of Infantry AIT and I had transferred out of Germany. He was twenty-one and I twenty years old. Don had a broad-shouldered build, a jaunty gait, and a ready smile and laugh.

While at 'Replo Depot' we managed to be assigned to Brigade HHC Security Platoon. The other prospects for 11B were mechanized or straight leg, respectively, 1/61 or 1/11. We considered ourselves lucky.

Security Platoon had a number of functions most of them related to providing security for brigade headquarters and Quang Tri Base Camp. Over time, that mission expanded somewhat as requirements within the brigade dictated. APCs were maintained and employed by the Platoon which also served as a way station for personnel with a variety of MOS as they came out of Replo Depot and awaited accommodations at their permanent unit. Those cooks, MPs, mechanics, clerks, etc., performed guard duty, patrol and all the other duties that were expected of the 11B assignees.

All New Guys, temporary or permanent, worked details. Along with the usual latrine waste burning detail (note my delicacy here), we strung concertina, fixed claymore mines to steel poles around the base camp perimeter, filled sand bags, etc. It was hot work and got us acclimatized in short order.

My assignment to details became much worse when I and another NG screwed up royal. I will not say what we did exactly. Let it suffice to say here that Platoon Staff Sgt. Armstead, a short pugnacious, shaved-head black man and thoroughly career EM, could have thrown the book at us but he was old school and had a sure cure for our stupidity. Sgt. Armstead put us on two weeks of base camp garbage collection.

The timing could not have been better. The monsoon was a bit late in arriving that October. When it did arrive in earnest, my companion and I had just commenced our garbage collection careers. Now, briefly, the detail was comprised of one open bed deuce-and-a-half, one driver, one shovel and two poor slob who were to load the garbage at various collection points and unload it at the dump situated outside of the base camp wire. This being 1969 meant that there was no such thing as a garbage bag. Trash of all sorts was collected in steel drums, cardboard boxes or just piled on the ground. By the time we got to those collection points, food from the mess halls, clothing, building debris, and other refuse was soaked by the rain and populated by several generations of flies. We scooped it up and loaded it as best we could. At the camp dump, we used the shovel and our booted feet to push the material off of the truck. Vietnamese women and children were there to comb through all of it as it came off of the truck bed. This was my first close look at the civilians.

My first real look at the country came with my first day patrol outside of the base camp wire. As at the dump, I took note of the great poverty of the people and their villages, so stark against my fresh memories of home and Europe. The presence of the enemy was very noticeable, also, in the discovery of 'spider holes' dug into the base of the many bamboo thickets that divided the fallow fields. Each hole could hold one man who could observe activity through a small opening generally facing the base camp. That opening was usually concealed with debris as innocuous as a small piece of cardboard.

Objects discovered during the patrols were all treated as if booby trapped. After the immediate area was secured, a rope was used to disturb the object from a safe distance. The threat of booby traps was ever present in our minds as we moved through the wet landscape.

Guard duty on the base camp perimeter seemed rather strange. Occasionally, we climbed up and manned one-hundred-foot tall steel towers but, more often, we pulled our watch in sandbag bunkers. Even as a New Guy, I was uneasy about these positions. Inside the bunkers, I felt entombed with a lack of visibility to my front and flanks. I was certain that inside the bunker was the place to be if we received incoming. But, barring that, I took to sitting outside on top or next to the bunker so as to have a 180 field of vision while keeping my silhouette obscured if at all possible. Was I just wrong about these fixed positions? I did not think so then and I do not now.

All in all, once garbage run had ceased, duty with Security Platoon, this early monsoon season, was not bad. Boredom being steady state in the military, we had our share of it. But Don and I checked out the USO Club when we could and the EM Club when we could afford it. He received a cassette tape from his family; mom, dad and sisters spoke to him from afar. These things and the occasional patrol provided some breaks from the monotony.

During this time, too, I learned that I could travel outside of base camp on Highway One if I caught a ride to a US destination and a ride back avoiding a stopover in the villages. I did so a few times and began in the process to see more of the country and become even more curious about life outside the base camp. When the rain lifted enough, I could see the mountain ranges in the distance. I wondered what went on in those places.

My wonder turned to action. I walked over to HHC orderly room and asked to 2496 to a line company; preferably 1/61 as opposed to 1/11. (I had a typical NG brainstorm that I would rather

ride than walk.) The clerk's pale, bespectacled face looked up at me as though I was the ghost of General MacArthur. He produced the form and we set the wheels in motion.

Don was truly angry with me when I told him what I had done. He said, and I remember his voice to this day, "My momma didn't raise no fool" as he slammed whatever object he was holding to the ground. There was nothing I could say in reply. Hell, I was not all together sure why I did it anyway.

Almost two weeks elapsed and we stood in morning formation as S. Sgt. Mossner (Armstead's replacement) called out the assignments for those personnel slated to ship out. He sang out, "Estrada B Company One-Eleven." Uh? What? Was this a clerical error? No matter, the die was cast.

Duty with B Company meant being in the field for twenty, thirty, sometimes forty days. During three or so days of stand down, I visited Don whenever I could. We hitched to the USO Club; he had a crush on a particularly fetching Donut Dollies as did a score of other troops. We swam in the new above ground pool they had installed. No one had swim trunks so OD boxers prevailed. Don told me about some of the Platoon operations that were mounted as the monsoon cleared and the dry season took hold. They pulled guard on the wire at Mai Loc, or was it Cam Lo? Sappers made a try to breach the wire but they were cut down. He told me how the VC and NVA moved at dusk under cover of the buffalo herds. Through it all, the Don White I met and came to know upon arriving in country was still same person; joking, laughing and dreaming about buckets of steamed crawdads and bottles of cold beer.

On or about June 2nd of '70, B Company was loading up onto deuce-and-a-half transports for the return run from an operation at Cua Viet. One the fellas approached me and said he knew that I had a friend in Security Platoon named White. He said that Don was dead. A booby trap killed him, the platoon sergeant and platoon leader. I cannot recall that ride back to base camp. I did not fully comprehend or believe that I would never see Don again. Someone had made a mistake.

Upon arrival at Red Devil, I shed my gear and immediately hitchhiked to the Security Platoon compound to confirm that mistake. The sun beat down mercilessly reflecting off of the white sandy soil of the deserted assembly area between rows of plywood hooches. A lone Buck Sergeant approached me. I recognized him. We had arrived in country at the same time and he knew that I was of friend of Don's. His name, regretfully, I do not recall.

The young Sergeant confirmed Don's passing. In the platoon orderly room, he pointed to a location on a map not too far from Quang Tri Base Camp where 1st Lt. James Howard (age 23, Nederland, TX), Staff Sgt. David Mossner (age 25, Austin, TX), and Don, as RTO, approached what appeared to be an NVA ruck sack. It was estimated that the ruck held about thirty pounds of explosives as the blast created a crater about four feet wide and two feet deep.

My sense of shock at the confirmation and finality of this report returned. I could not muster the presence of mind to ask questions; the answers for which I eventually set aside as being inconsequential. Nothing could bring those young men back.

Looking back at Security Platoon and B Company, I have come to realize how intimate that war was for all of us. The Vietnam War, as with all great wars, had its pitch battles involving battalions and divisions. I think, though, that most of our fallen were lost in company, platoon or squad size

engagements. As with Lt. Howard, Sgt. Mossner and Sp5 White, they died by one, two, three and so on in dark tangled jungle groves, open fields or in a base camp hooch where the war seemed so far away. They were all lonely, foreign places made tolerable only by the presence of one's comrades and the memory of the world back home.

And unlike battlefields of other great wars, those lonely places bear no witness to death. They show no trace. There are no monuments in these places. The memory of the fallen and the MIAs live on in the minds and hearts of their families and their comrades.

Epilogue

I visited Don at his resting place in Baton Rouge. He lies next to his mother and father under the shade of mossy live oaks that border the memorial park. Those oaks were undoubtedly saplings when Don was laid to rest forty years prior. I take much comfort, too, knowing that below ground strong roots have encircled and entwined the family in an embrace to last the ages.

Malcolm Estrada
Harrison, Tennessee



Lt. James Howard



Sp4 Auldon K. White



Camp Roberts
going out

M. Estrada (right)

M. Brown

center background
Montanard Scout
Adang

To the Editor of the Red Diamond Magazine, David Kocan, I regret to inform you that George Sorrendino, from Co. A 75th SPT Bn passed away. (See attached obituary) He was in Vietnam with the first wave of 5th Inf Div troops, arriving in August of '68. I, Paul T. Giordano don't know when he left Vietnam, as I got out of Vietnam before him. He was my bunk mate in our hootch, and he worked as a finance clerk under CPT. Neill at that time. He was a good soldier, and buddy to us all. We visited each other after returning home as civilians. I then lost touch with him, as so often happens and was in the process of looking him up again when I stumbled upon his obituary. Thanks for your consideration in this sad matter. Regretfully, Paul T. Giordano, Co. A Spt Bn
PS....George never joined our society, but was again, a good soldier and buddy to all in the outfit. I will miss him.
George G. Sorrendino

George G. Sorrendino, 71, of Camillus, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away Wednesday at Francis House, surrounded by his family. A lifetime resident of the Syracuse area, he was a graduate of Central Tech High School. George was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and was employed as a millwright and chaplain at General Motors until retiring in 2002. He enjoyed woodworking and vacationing in Florida during the winter. George volunteered on the hospital and prayer teams at the Syracuse Vineyard Church and loved spending time with his seven grandchildren.

George was predeceased by his mother, Angeline.

Surviving are his wife of 21 years, the former Carol DiPaola; father, Ralph of Liverpool; daughter, Tianna (Paul) Dumond of Orlando, FL; son, Anthony of Syracuse; stepdaughter, Amy (Thomas) Rotundo; stepson, Mario (Ashley) DiRenzo; grandchildren, Micah and Gianna Dumond, Isabella, Olivia and Nicholas Rotundo and Mario and Victor DiRenzo; sisters, Nancy and Janet Sorrendino; and many nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to George's family and friends who supported and prayed for him and thank you to the staff at HOA, Brittonfield and Upstate University Hospital Community Campus for helping him through this journey.

A memorial service will be Tuesday, February 27 at 10 a.m. in Syracuse Vineyard Church, 312 Lakeside Rd., Syracuse. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the GoFundMe for Victor DiRenzo at www.gofundme.com/zn5vc8 or to Hospice of CNY, 990 Seventh North St., Liverpool, NY 13088.

Reply Reply All Forward

PTSD Women

Air Force veteran's suicide sheds light on female soldiers and PTSD

By Adam Sechrist

It's a chilling statistic: Twenty-two United States [veterans commit suicide](#) a day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

One recent victim: Thirty-year-old Air Force Reserve Capt. Jamie Brunette. Capt. Brunette, the youngest of five children from Milwaukee, had served two tours of duty in Afghanistan during her 11-year Air Force career. On Feb. 9, police in Tampa, Fla., found her dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Her family and friends came together this week to honor Brunette's memory and raise awareness about [posttraumatic stress disorder](#) (PTSD), something Brunette's friends say was hard for her to talk about.

"Our whole friendship was based on conversations," says Brunette's friend Jessica Aguiar. "She never really opened up about her professional life. She's actually extremely humble about it and all of her achievements." Brunette's friends say they were shocked and in disbelief that a friend who they say was so full of vitality and spirit would take her own life.

"I found out through Facebook," Aguiar says. "My best friend, Nicole, reached out to me because she saw a status indicating that Jamie had passed, and she screen-shotted it and said, 'Is this serious?' And I hadn't been on Facebook all day, so I was stunned and was, like, I have no idea."

Brunette's roommate, Heather Milner, says she had just seen Capt. Brunette the night before she died.



Audiology Health Technician Audrey Fleet assists with the measurement of Veteran Jerry Smith's ears so that his hearing aids will fit properly and work well. (Photo by Jamie Mobley)

That sounds great to Jerry

By Jamie Mobley

During Vietnam, U.S. Army Veteran Jerry Smith was a paratrooper. When he got home, he thought he would never be able to hear again. Over the years he's tried a number of solutions to improve his hearing, with varying levels of success. Now, thanks to the tele-audiology clinic at the

Baton Rouge CBOC he's hearing better than he has in years.

"In the Infantry, machine guns, rifles, hand grenades, all those noises blew my hearing away. Helicopters, artillery – everything happening at once, all day, every day. When I came home from Vietnam in '71, they didn't know how to fix that kind of stuff," said Smith

"Eventually, I couldn't hear at all. Then, after I got the first hearing aids, if there was background noise it would block sounds and I couldn't hear well. I just kinda got used to thinking it would always be half-way. I was always asking, 'What'd you say?' and people kind of shied away from wanting to hold a conversation." ▶



*With his new hearing aids, Smith can hear better than he has in decades.
(Photo by Jamie Mobley)*

The Baton Rouge clinic has three audiologists working in-house and one audiologist who sees patients via telehealth. When hearing aids are prescribed there, telehealth fittings are offered as an alternative to in-person fittings. Smith decided to give it a try.

Upon arrival for a telehealth fitting, Veterans meet Audiology Health Technician Audrey Fleet. Then, Fleet explains the hearing aids to the Veterans, giving a basic orientation on how to use them and how to get in touch with the clinic with any questions or problems. Dr. Jessica Riggs remotely joins the conversation on a screen from her office in Mobile, Alabama. Then telehealth fitting can begin.

Fleet places a device on the Veteran's neck and a small, flexible probe into the ear

canal, which Dr. Riggs uses to perform measurements. Dr. Riggs takes readings as the Veteran listens to recorded speech samples. Then, Dr. Riggs remotely adjusts the sound levels of the hearing aid to match target amplification levels based on the Veteran's hearing loss across the speech frequencies. This ensures each Veteran gets the correct level of amplification.

Smith said his telehealth fitting appointment with Fleet and Dr. Riggs was almost like being in the room with the audiologist.

"Audrey was able to put me at ease," Smith said. "On the tele-med, the doctor was able to say 'You're gonna hear some bells ringing for a minute as I adjust the aids' and it was instantaneous."

Fleet explained why she thinks tele-audiology is a good fit for Veterans of her clinic. "Most times they can get in a little sooner if they do a telehealth fitting," she said. "The primary benefit of it is the time saved; less wait for an appointment. We've had very good feedback from Veterans."

Dr. Riggs agreed. "It's neat! It cuts down on the Veterans' wait times," she said. "I like it because I know they are getting their hearing aids faster, and I'm happy to help. Technology is always advancing!"

As technology has improved, so have Smith's hearing aids. He said, "I'm hearing again! Before I started wearing hearing aids, I couldn't hear you. Now I can actually hear – if I'm sitting out there in the hallway and you're talking to me, I can hear what you said. These aids are fine-tuned to what I need." Having good hearing is important to Smith.

"I'm active in life. I do a lot of theater, I work backstage with lights and sounds, choreography and stuff like that as a hobby. I love it. Once you get to be able to hear what you're doing after the work you put into it, it's very satisfying."

Smith said he's grateful for the Baton Rouge hearing clinic and for how they have helped him.

"I'm hearing better now than I have in 20 years." ■

Tiger - Baby

Don Struke shared his first post.

Here's the story of a SF tiger. I understand this was at FOB 2, Kontum:

"Here is a re-post on Bubba. We got him in Laos after his mom tramped on a landmine. He was only two days old, but I had him in my jungle jacket wrapped in a towel and when we were extracted we fed him milk and got him started on his way.

He did well because he got much larger than an Asian Tiger usually grew to. His weakness was real beer (He had two cans a day) which he slurped down, went to a corner of the hooch, rolled on his back, showed his junk and snored like it was his last day! If the Bubster wanted to get in your bunk with you, you just rolled over and dealt with it.

It's such a shame so many tigers were killed over there because most were killed for sport and not in self defense.

When we cycled out, the question was, what the hell to do with Bubba? He couldn't survive because he only knew SOG, Special Forces, Seals, etc. Here is where we got creative. We had access to things normal military didn't.

So we got creative and a phone call went to a research zoo in Sidney, Australia and we asked if they wanted a "free tiger?" When the lady at the other end realized we were for real she pissed her pants and said, "Yes, but how do we get him?"

I don't want to reference Air America, but we flew the Bubster to his new home and I got off the airplane with him walking beside me like a dog on a leash. They all went nuts when he walked to the lady and heeled by her side looking at her for instructions. He must have had a very good time and life there because he sired tons of babies.

When I was back in Sidney in 87 I saw a bronze plaque telling about the SF Tiger that came to them in 1969 and made lots a great baby tigers.

That part of my life is gone, like Bubba who lasted to 1985, but every time I hear a Tiger make those special noises my head and heart goes back to a tiny little baby we found in Laos in 1968.

God I miss him! BTW the Bubster never lived in a cage. He was always shown love from a bunch of very dangerous men whose hearts melted when they met him. To discipline him you grabbed a handful of hair and flesh on his shoulder and simply said "no." He never retaliated he just complied.

When I said he never lived in a cage, the decision was made about the zoo - where he ended up, because it was a research zoo that was very excited because of gene diversity. It also had the new concept of no animals in cages. People were the ones in cages or behind glass.

It took a bit for him to get back to being a tiger, but after he figured out the male/female thing, nature took its course and he was off to the races and he made a ton of tiger babies who are in zoos around the world.

God Bless, to my knowledge, Bubba was the only Special Forces tiger in the history books.

Hitting the Ho Chi Minh Trail

Forty years ago, in early 1971, GIs mounted a major operation in support of Saigon's incursion into Laos—a last offensive gasp to forestall the inevitable invasion of South Vietnam. This is the story of the GIs' role in operations *Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719*. **By Richard K. Kolb**

“What kept them going, in spite of a pervasive sense that the war served no real purpose and the country didn't care,” wrote battalion commander Lt. Col. William Hauser, “was a combination of pride, mutual interest and loyalty to good leadership.”

These values did indeed motivate GIs serving in Vietnam in the 1970s, just as they had past generations of warriors. Morale then, as it has always been, was the key ingredient to unit cohesion. And members of combat units in the field fiercely held on to their morale.

On the surface, however, it may not have seemed so. Spec. 4 Mark Jury, an Army photographer who served in the war from 1969-70, about said it all when he made this observation:

“Often their opposition to the military had nothing to do with the moral aspects of Vietnam. It's just that they'd pick up a battered copy of *Life* magazine and see everybody else skinny-dipping at Woodstock, and that's a hell of a lot better than 'greasing gooks,' fighting malaria, and maybe going home in a plastic bag.”

Yet the Laos operation was replete

with sacrifice and genuine heroism. For those who served, place names like “the Rockpile,” Lang Vei, Vandegrift, Khe Sanh, Lao Bao, Landing Zone (LZ) Lolo, LZ Hope and Ranger North would forever be imprinted on their minds.

Cutting Hanoi's Laotian Lifeline

When asked in 1995 how the U.S. could have won the war, Bui Tin, a former North Vietnamese Army (NVA) general staff member, quickly replied: “Cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail inside Laos.”

That's precisely what the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) was sent to do in February and March 1971. Laos had served as a sanctuary and lifeline for the NVA for seven years, and it was time to sever Hanoi's umbilical cord.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail was actually 3,500 miles of roadways contained in a 30-mile corridor stretching the length of South Vietnam. All of its branches passed through the Tchepone area, 22 miles inside Laos. The most direct way to this dusty town was to head due west on old colonial Route 9, originating in Dong Ha.

ARVN's *Operation Lam Son 719's* intent was to drive a 15-mile-wide corridor to Tchepone with the objective of destroying NVA's base areas 604 and

611. This would, it was hoped, pre-empt any NVA offensives into South Vietnam.

No U.S. ground troops or advisors were allowed to accompany ARVN units across the Laotian border. Helicopter crews were the only exception. GIs on the ground had one essential mission: maintain Route 9 as a vital supply line to invading ARVN forces. That mission was dubbed *Operation Dewey Canyon II*.

Nearly 10,000 Americans participated directly in *Dewey Canyon II* and the helicopter aspects of *Lam Son 719*. These combined thrusts had many of the earmarks of a conventional WWII campaign. And it was one that required mobilizing the full range of Army assets then available in Vietnam.

'Magnificent to Behold'

Mobilized on South Vietnam's side of the border were the 101st Airborne Division; 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division; 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division; elements of the 1st Aviation Brigade; 223rd Combat Aviation Battalion; 108th Artillery Group; 45th Engineer Group; and two units (HMH-463 and HML-367) of the 1st Marine Air Wing.

In support, were the 5th Transportation, 801st Maintenance, 326th Medical

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AUG

THE NAM MAGAZINE



THE 'NAM

Welcome to the 'Nam.

For thousands of Americans, that phrase meant an introduction to a year of danger, fear, valor, and glory. A year of humping the bush, fighting the terrain, the insects, and old Charlie himself. A year's tour of duty in Vietnam.

The Vietnam war is over now. But the wounds it opened, the controversies it engendered have never healed. This was the war that changed American society. The war that pitted the rich against the poor. The black against the white, the liberal against the conservative. The war that spawned Abby Hoffman, Mayor Daley, and the MyLai massacre. The war that made Jane Fonda a household term and the helicopter a major weapon.

This is the war that everyone has tried to forget. The war that no teacher has taught, the war that fathers don't tell their sons about.

But times have changed. Time passes, and in passing, heals at least some of the wounds. The Vietnam war is no longer a dirty term, something to be hidden in the closets of our minds, not discussed in polite company. Vietnam vets are finally gaining their place in society, finally getting the parades, the accolades, the welcome they have deserved for so long.

You are holding a copy of THE 'NAM magazine. THE 'NAM started as a comic book, a comic that was designed to show the young of America what the war was really like, what it felt like to be a grunt in those days not so long ago, not so far away.

It was an experiment. An attempt to find out if some of those wounds had really healed, if the time had become right to talk about the war, to accept it as a part of history — a part that should not be forgotten lest it be repeated.

The experiment was a success. THE 'NAM comic book has managed to find a readership, and hold that readership. THE 'NAM magazine is an attempt to broaden that readership.

If you have ever wondered what it was like to be a troop, a ground-pounder in that war, or if you experienced it yourself, and want some way to try to show your family, your friends what it was like, this is one way to do it.

THE 'NAM is my small way of trying to heal those old wounds, and to prevent another generation from acquiring new ones. We'll do our best to show the war the way it was. The way it felt, the way it looked. The 'NAM. Now we can talk about it, and try to understand what it all really meant.

—DOUG MURRAY—



continued page 34

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, the last word in even if you can’t be present.

So how can you overcome this puzzling

EASILY!!!

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.

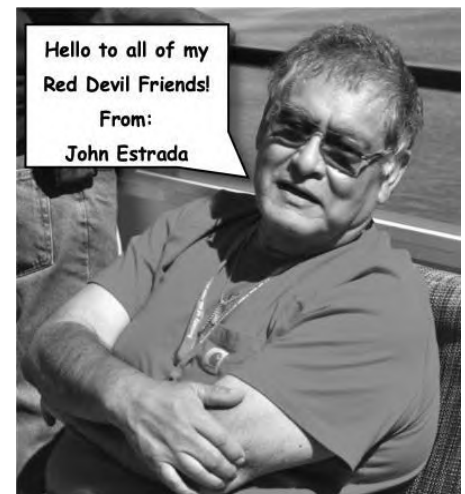
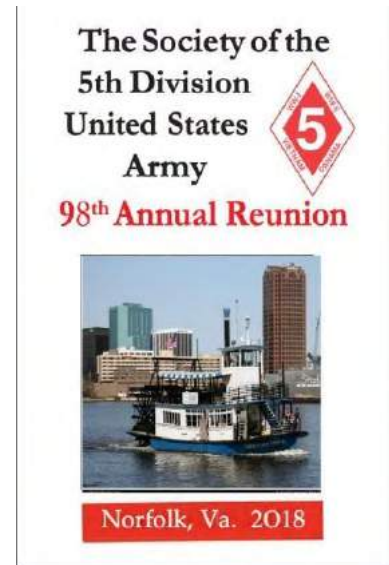
Like last year, the ads will be all one page in size and you can add a photo with your message all for one low price.

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

Cost is \$50 per page in the ad book. Send checks to the Treasurer

**George B. Shoener
7472 Pamelas Way ‘
Easton, MD 21601**



100th Reunion Is On!

We're Confident all Covet-19 induced restrictions will be lifted before our 100th Reunion September 10-14, 2020. Here's how you can register:

On the home page of this website, click **100th Reunion**

or

1. Print and complete the Armed Forces Reunions registration form in this edition of the RED DIAMOND. Then, mail the form with your check to the Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. address on the form.
2. Our hotel is the flagship Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk, 217 N. St Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205

For Reservations:

Please Call (210) 272-1512 or (210) 224-2500
Use Block Code FIF or Society of the Fifth Division

SOFD 100th Reunion Dates: September 10-14, 2020

Hotel Daily Rate: \$139 (+16.75% tax) including breakfast for two (double occupancy)

Cut-off Date for Reservations: August 8, 2020. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation must be received 24 hours prior to arrival date or there will be a charge of one night's room plus tax.

Parking: Self-parking is available for \$15 per day. Hotel garage may not be able to accommodate oversized vehicles.

Shuttle Service: The hotel does not provide shuttle service. Public transportation (bus) is available with a stop on the south side of the hotel entrance.

Wheelchair Rental: ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs available by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for details and to make reservations.

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/society2020 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 8, 2020. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: SOCIETY OF THE 5TH

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/8/20	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>TOURS</u>			
FRIDAY 9/11: Fredericksburg/National Museum of the Pacific War Tour	\$47	#	\$
SATURDAY 9/12: City Tour	\$36	#	\$
<u>SATURDAY: BUFFET DINNER</u>			
Mexican Buffet	\$66	#	\$
<u>SUNDAY: BANQUET DINNER (Please select your entrée)</u>			
Chicken Picatta	\$50	#	\$
Seared Salmon	\$54	#	\$
Fire Grilled Sirloin Fillet	\$58	#	\$
<u>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Covers various reunion expenses.	\$20	#	\$
DONATION FOR HOSPITALITY ROOM EXPENSES	\$		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

UNIT INFORMATION (ex. D CO/1st BN/11th Infantry): _____

YEARS SERVED W/ 5ID(ex. 1965-66): _____

WHERE (CIRCLE ONE): WWII FT CARSON VIETNAM FT POLK OTHER: _____

CURRENT & PAST SOCIETY OFFICE HELD (ex. NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT, ETC.): _____

STREET ADDRESS OF MAIN ATTENDEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).** YES NO

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.



Donald L. Guldner Sr.

WWII Army veteran, CPA, was a longtime Livingston resident

Donald Louis Guldner Sr., 94, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2020, and will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife Beverly, at The Hillside Cemetery in Lyndhurst, N.J., at a time when it is deemed safe to do so.

He was born on March 9, 1926, to Anne and Louis Guldner of Rutherford, N.J. He served his country honorably during World War II in the United States Army's 5th Infantry Red Diamond Division of Patton's 3rd Army. After returning from service, he was active in the Livingston Old Guard.

Don graduated from Pace University and became a CPA. During his career, he worked as the treasurer for Bates Manufacturing and Graulick Hotel Properties. He lived in Rutherford in the early part of his life, before moving to Verona and then to Livingston, where he lived for almost 50 years with his wife and six children.

Don was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church of Livingston. In 2015 Don became an active member of the Crane's Mill Community and enjoyed all the activities and the time he spent with the residents, especially Naomi. He loved making crafts, singing in their choir, working in the gift shop and taking the exercise classes. He also enjoyed playing games and attending the live entertainment with his friends there. He was always looking for ways to help others, including the Livingston Historical Society, AARP and the ESL Program. He was known for his wisdom, generosity and kindness. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Guldner was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Beverly Jean Guldner. He is survived by his loving children and their spouses, Donald Guldner Jr., Kenneth Guldner (Linda), Robert Guldner (Meg), William Guldner (Jean), Dianne Grenz (Timothy) and Debbie Pavlo (Michael); and by 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Presbyterian Church of Livingston, 271 West Northfield Rd., Livingston, N.J. 07039.

Published in Star-Ledger on Apr. 3, 2020



David...your quick response tells me that you are self-quarantined like so many across the USA.

I'll contact Roger for his thoughts, and then go through my stash to see exactly what would be useful to the SOFD. I like your thought process to possibly use material like that for filler in the Red Diamond when articles don't show for publication. I should be able to find something of value for you. Attached is a fun photo...wonder if any 3rd platoon guys are around that helped with their artistic talents.

No doubt you have Lou Pepi's book that was available last year. I sent him a couple little tidbits of info that he was looking for when he was writing it. An interesting book, and one that helped me fill in a few blank spots in my tour. Fifty years ago yesterday and today were a disaster for C-1/61 as six men were KIA in a two day operation right in our back yard...the NVA's 27th Regiment was hovering around in the area.

Later...Dan

My name is Lars Schlaphof, I'm a historian from Germany and I'm currently working on a research project about the end of WWII in Ruesselsheim, a small town near Frankfurt. I found your e-mail address on www.societyofthefifthdivision.com therefore I'm writing to you.

It appears to be that the 5th Division, after crossing the Rhine River on the 22 of March 1945 near Oppenheim, came through Ruesselsheim on the 25th of March while heading towards Frankfurt am Main. May I ask if by any chance you or someone you know has more information on this time period (22nd of March till 27th of March 1945), especially diaries, recordings, prints or photographs.

I hope you weather the corona storm well

Best Regards from Germany

Lars Schlaphof

Sir,

My name is Billy Folinusz and I am currently a Captain (Armor/Cavalry) in the United States Army. My wife is currently trying to locate information on her grandfather, a WWII veteran. We believe he was a member of the 5th Infantry Division and had multiple awards (BSM/PH), but we have had issues getting records from Veterans Affairs (possibly lost in the fire during the 70s).

I am contacting you in the hopes there may be a database for records within the Society of 5th Division that may help us get more information on his service. I have CC'd my wife on this email as well. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

--

V/R

Billy Folinusz
Captain, US Army
c: (908) 447-9250

Good evening and I hope you are doing well during these times.

I am contacting you because I see your the editor of the Fifth Division website and I was hoping you could point me in the right direction. My grandfather was in the Fifth Division during WWII and received the Silver Star and Boozie along with the purple heart. Unfortunately we lost my grandfather in 2003 while I was in the Navy so I didnt get to ask him alot of stories. I am wondering if there are write ups or documents stating how or why he would get these medals or if you know where I could go to uptain such information?

Thank you for your time and help,
Brian Belardinelli

Sir,

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I have CC'd my wife, Theresa (theresa.folinusz@gmail.com) because she is going to have to talk to some of her aunts and uncles to see if they have any of his service paperwork. Unfortunately, her grandfather passed away in 1972 and he had nine children so a lot of the information and paperwork may take time to track down. Once she is able to contact a few of her aunt's and uncles should be able to get more information and will immediately send it to you. There are some interesting verbal stories about his time-fighting in Europe and it would be great to find paperwork to corroborate them.

Thank you again for your assistance with this research.

Billy and Theresa Folinusz

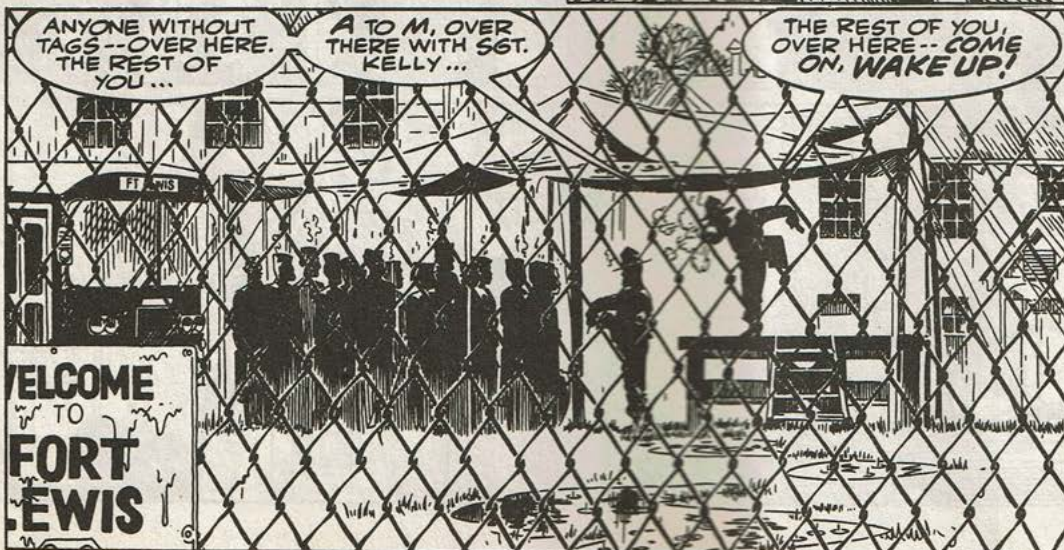


EARLY IN 1966, A YOUNG SOLDIER LEAVES HOME FOR HIS FIRST TASTE OF INDEPENDENCE, AND WAR.

NAME: FIRST PATROL

STORY: DOUG MURRAY. PENCILS, COLORING: MICHAEL GOLDEN. INKS: ARMANDO GIL. LETTERS: PHIL FELIX. EDITOR: LARRY HAMA. EDITOR IN CHIEF: JIM SHOOTER.





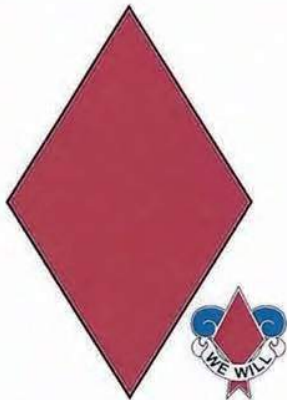




5TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMEMORATIVE LEGACY BOOK

Good News! The highly-anticipated 5th Infantry Division Commemorative Legacy Book is hot off the press and available for immediate delivery. This exiting new book contains:

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION



COMMEMORATIVE BOOK
1917-2019

- History of the 5th Infantry Division including hundreds of historic photographs from WWI through 1993
- 5th Infantry Division Insignia, Units & Campaigns
- Commanding Generals
- Memorials & Tributes
- The Society of the Fifth Division
- Photographs & Memories
- Hundreds of biographies from 5th Infantry Division veterans, with profile photos
- 9x12-inch, hardbound "coffee-table" book with 136 pages
- Bound in a rich leatherette cover featuring the 5th Infantry Division diamond emblem in red on the front cover

Copies may be purchased for only \$60.00 (plus \$6.50 shipping/handling).

For All Orders Send Check or Money Order to Address Shown Below:

SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION, U.S. ARMY

Attn: Quartermaster
4118 E Stanford Street
Springfield, MO 65809

NO CASH ACCEPTED!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS:
PAYABLE TO:

THE SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION

For questions please contact Quartermaster:
Dennis Coulter
dwcoulter1@aol.com.



QUARTERMASTER REPORT

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



(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 "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 author-
ized Challenge Coin issued by the Society
of the Fifth Division. \$4.00 S&H



Fifth Division Hats



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

w/embroidered logo design,
adjustable, \$17.00 ea. plus
\$6.00 shipping costs.
Contact Quartermaster for
larger orders

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



- "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.

For All Orders Send Check or
Money Order to Address Shown

Society of the Fifth Division, U.S.
Army


Attn: Quartermaster
4118 E Stanford Street
Springfield, MO 65809
dwcoulter1@aol.com

Be sure shipping address is included and an
email address and/or phone number in case
we have questions.

Make checks payable to: The Society of the Fifth Division 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.



SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION
 John Estrada - National Secretary
 P.O. Box 5764
 Oroville, CA 95966-8823

Non Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage

 Madison, WI
 Permit No. 406

MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME
 AND ADDRESS CLEARLY.



“WE WILL”

**THE
 SOCIETY
 OF THE
 FIFTH
 DIVISION
 UNITED
 STATES
 ARMY**

Having served honorably with the Fifth Infantry Division, I wish to:

- become a member in
- renew my membership in

... the Society of the Fifth Division as:

- a full member
- an Associate Member

and herewith submit my annual dues of \$15.00, to include a year's subscription to the *Red Diamond Magazine*.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I served in _____

Co, Bty, Trp / Battalion / Regiment / Brigade

- WW-II
- Vietnam
- Panama

Other _____

\$ _____ Gift to the Society.

Make checks payable to: **Society of the Fifth Division**

Send to: **Secretary: John Estrada**
Society of the Fifth Division
P.O. Box 5764
Oroville, CA 95966-8823

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.