

THE

RED 5 DIAMOND

The official publication of The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army.

Volume MMXXII Ed.3

August 2022

Annual Dues: \$15



Our Reunions Are Better When You Are Here With Us. We Will Miss Those Who Have Departed And Pray For All Our Brothers.

“WE WILL”

Deadline for submission of articles for the next Edition:

October 10, 2022

2020-2021 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

- *Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Elyz (1919-22,24-25)
- *Col. Philip J. McCook (1922-23)
- *Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)
- *Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)
- *Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)
- *Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)
- *Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)
- *W. Walter Healy (1934-35)
- *Lloyd A. Reder (1935-37)
- *Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)
- *William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)
- *Emil Everts (1939-41)
- *A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)
- *William Gibbs (1945-46)
- *John W. Fonner (1946-48)
- *William L. McGrory (1948-49)
- *Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)
- *Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)
- *John H. Pflaum (1951-53)
- *Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)
- *John H. Baskin (1954-55)
- *Walter R. Stout (1955-57)
- *Frank H. Deane (1957-58)
- *Edward Pivovar (1958-59)
- *T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)
- *Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)
- *Gordon S. Henry (1962-63)
- *John J. Madison (1963-65)
- *Herbert K. Webb (1965-66)
- *Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)
- *Victor Dunneback (1967-68)
- *Winston Roche (1968-69)
- *Ervin J. Kotowski (1969-70)
- *Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)
- *Aubrey Prewitt (1971-72)
- *Michael S. O'Donnell (1972-73)
- *Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)
- *Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)
- *Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)
- *Howard Singer (1976-77)
- *Robert Young (1977-78)
- *Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)
- *George Bachman (1979-80)
- *Harry Arquette (1980-81)
- *William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)
- *Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
- *William Colon (1985-86)
- *Robert Graves (1986-87)
- *Herman Schell (1987-88)
- *William Stanfield (1988-89)
- *John Goodman (1989-90)
- *William Upham (1990-91)
- *Bradley Brewer (1991-92)
- *Harry Arquette (1992-93)
- *Robert Rochon (1993-94)
- *Charles Coco (1994-95)
- *Michael Giannini (1995-96)
- *Don Brown (1996-97)
- *Cullen Slone (1997-98)
- *Jay Balderson (1998-99)
- *Jimmy C. Walker (1999-2000)
- *Mickey McCoy (2000-01)
- *Carl M. Hiestand (2001-02)
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- *Mike Sperling (2004-05)
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- *Pat Andreoni (2008-09)
- *James "JJ" Jackson (2009-10)
- *Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)
- *Steve Wheat (2012-13)
- *Bobby Moody (2013-2014)
- *Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)
- *Robb Robetson (2015-2016)
- *Bob Dudley (2016-2017)
- *Dennis Thompson (2017-2018)
- *Alex Candelaria/Steve Wheat (2018-2019)
- *Hal Roller (2019-2020)
- *Louis Pepi (2020-2021)

* Deceased

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A Message From Our President Gary Haverman

Hello again to all of the wonderful and beautiful people of the Society of the Fifth Division. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 101st reunion in Springfield, MO September 22nd-26th. As I have mentioned in the past, the theme of the reunion is Music, Magic, and Memories. Well, this is how the theme came about. At our Saturday night banquet, we will be entertained by Dave and Beth Irvin from Peculiar, MO. They are quintessential when it comes to Branson/Ozark entertainment. They will be singing country, gospel, patriotic, and even some good old rock and roll/50s-60s. Beth will introduce us to her friend, "Lizzy Lou" who will get us laughing with her corny comedy. Dave is an accomplished guitarist and songwriter. This husband and wife duo come with very high reviews and are sure to win your hearts.

Anyone who will be at the Sunday banquet will be amazed with John Russell, an experienced magician. John offers an upbeat, funny, high-energy, interactive, and family-friendly magic show. He will keep the laughs flowing and the audience engaged. Jeanne and I have seen John's show at the RV park we stayed at when we wintered in Florida. We thought you would enjoy his amazing talent. These two shows will be something new for our Saturday and Sunday banquets this year, but it is our hope they will send you home with a lot of great memories.

We are also very proud of the tours that lay in store for you. On Friday, September 23rd we will be touring Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium. Discover an ocean in the middle of America that has been voted America's best aquarium and new attraction with over 35, 000 live fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

You will also have a chance to visit Bass Pro Shops. This store will make dreams come true for some of you outdoor enthusiasts. Within the store there are several no charge museums. They are the National Archery Hall of Fame, National Rifle Association Sporting Arms, and Motorsports Museum. Enjoy lunch at Hemingway's Blue Water Café, Fish Tales Café, or Shipwreck Snack Bar.

On Saturday the 24th our tour's first stop will be the College of the Ozarks. It is a private Christian college in Point Lookout, MO. The college has an enrollment of 1426 and over 30 academic majors in Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs. The college has a place in its heart for Vietnam Veterans. They have built a memorial to the Missouri Veterans who gave there all. There are 18 heroes who served with the Fifth Division who will be honored when we stop.

Next stop is at Branson Landing. If you cannot find what you want there, you probably do not need it anyway. No really, this will be a great place to get your steps in for those who wear a Fitbit. There are lots of places to eat, drink, and shop. This stop will have something for everyone. Enjoy!

Before we head back to the hotel, we plan to stop at Wilson Creek Civil War Battlefield. It is the stie of a pivotal battle on August 10, 1861. Over 2500 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded in five hours of fighting.

We will be ready to see you all as you come to the 101st Reunion of the Society of the Fifth Division. You will find Springfield, MO has something for everyone, food and drink, sights and sounds, history and arts, and of course, shopping. What I am looking for more than anything else is a lot of hugs and handshakes from my Brothers.

I am so sorry that I have to close on such a sad note, but unfortunately, we will be missing someone very special at the reunion. Past National President Wayne Cumer lost his life in a tragic tractor accident on his farm this past June. He will be dearly missed by one and all. Please continue your thoughts and prayers for all those who loved him. May God bless his soul and may he rest in peace.

National President,
Gary Haverman



A Message From Our 1st Vice President Hal Roller

I Remember

Some Thoughts from First Vice President Hal Roller

Remember back in the early 1970s when you heard the phrase MIA / POW a lot? My memory was jogged by a recent email Leigh Blood sent me. Leigh is on the emailing list of the American Legion, Georgia, POW / MIA Committee Chairman. This committee is dedicated to tracking down the identification and repatriation of MIA / POW / KIA soldiers. Leigh's email to me highlighted one name in particular. Staff Sergeant Casimir P. Lobacz of the 5th Infantry Division was reported missing on September 27, 1944 near Metz, France. If you recall, this timeframe was during World War II. The 5th Division had just completed a dash across central France under General Patton's Third Army. Everything halted before advancing into Germany because all supplies were diverted to Northern Europe for Field Marshal Montgomery's Allied Army Group. The soldiers of the 5th Division along with Third Army and all of General Bradley's American Army Group remained in place (while, of course, the German's prepared their defensive positions). This week, the Department of Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency announced Staff Sergeant Lobacz's remains have been accounted for on March 2, 2022.

Reading this, I was struck by the vast effort and resources the United States puts into locating, identifying and repatriating MIA / POW / KIA. This has not always been so. Historically there were efforts made, but not many resources (including administrative work) were available. Often after combat, the dead were buried where they lay. Battlefield cemeteries grew in number during the Civil War as casualties reached the thousands. The best that was hoped for in notification was publishing a list of names in the local paper. Remember the scene in the movie *Gone With the Wind* when no one knew if he was dead or alive until "Ashley" came walking down the road home? This is what it was like. As time moved on, notification became possible with the telegraph. Even during World War II, as with Staff Sergeant Lobacz, things were difficult. On D Day +1 (June 7, 1944), the 82nd Airborne Division Commander ordered his chaplain to seek out and bury any dead paratroopers still hanging in trees. The Division Chaplain and his Chaplain Assistant would cut the paratrooper down, bury him in a shallow grave, conduct a very short memorial service, mark the grave site on a map, and move on to the next paratrooper.

What has remained constant throughout American military history has been remembering. The KIA is not just left where he fell. The MIA continues to be sought. The POW is ransomed. Certainly this brings comfort and closure to families. At the heart of it, however, is the ultimate worth of the individual. In America, every person is important. The soldier is not just an instrument for the state to achieve a military objective as practiced by some nations. The World War II Soviet Marshal Zhukov famously stated he advanced infantry through a known minefield to clear it. Some say the American concept of remembering the MIA / POW / KIA is rooted in our national founding and the Enlightenment. It is deeper than that. It is based on the Christian worth of every person before God as stated in the familiar biblical verse John 3:16. It makes me proud to say with you and all Americans: I remember.



A Message From Our 2nd Vice President Clyde "Bud" Wagner

In my last message from me I talked about having our reunion in Harrisburg in 2024 at the Best Western Motel but plans have changed. Due to unforeseen circumstances I had to find another venue and we are now booked at the Red Lion Hotel – Hershey in Harrisburg, PA.

Our 2022 reunion being held in Springfield Missouri September 22-26 is rapidly approaching. We are hoping for a great turn out since none of us are getting any younger!! Gary Haverman has provided great leadership in his planning for this event. Please go to the Society's website at <http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/> for registration and all the details.

I have never regretted attending our 5th Mechanized Reunions because it has allowed me to reconnect with brothers that I served shoulder to shoulder with, many I have not seen since leaving Vietnam in September of 1970. And I love sharing our stories together because it provides a safe place for us to heal.

Please consider attending this year, I am looking forward to seeing you this September in Missouri!!

Bud Wagner
2nd Vice President



A Message From Our National Chaplain Ron VanBeeck

Christian - God Confounding earth's Languages at Babel

Genesis 11:1 – And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

It is hard to believe when we look at the over 20,000 different languages spoke on earth, that we all once spoke just one language. God instantly changed this reality, to accomplish His Grand Master Blue Print, that all the people of earth would occupy all the 197 countries, and a Christian church would be established in each country.

Now, God created our entire universe from nothing. He simply spoke and immediately our whole universe in all of it's incredible complexities, came forth. How great, how high, how majestic, how omnipotent, He is. We read in Genesis 1;31, that everything was perfect, very good. Now obviously, something that is created so unfathomable, so complex, it's Creator must be a far greater, far more infinite, then the lowly finite thing, that he created. Thus humans, the crownpiece of creation, created so unfathomable holy and complex, yet finite, cannot begin to understand or define this great Creator, who designed and implemented everything, down to the lowest atom. We read in Genesis 11:1 - that all the earth at that time spoke one language. But we know when earth's people again rebelled against God, and conspired to stay put, in one place, God confounded their language and forced everyone to spread out over the face of the earth, in the 3 different directions, which He had decreed to Noah's 3 sons. To understand our text today He obviously Created the human voice box, and the tongue. What a simple but complex, feature is our voice box is. Our voice box is only two fleshly strings situated, in the back of our throat, connected to our tongue, where our brain can control our speech and articulate our thoughts across the full spectrum of speech, so incredibly well. What a miracle is our human voice box; which also so differentiates us from the animals. Obviously, Because God has created our voice box he has also created language for its use. He Created all the various components of language, all the nine parts of speech, or words whether they are nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, determinates, or interjections. The study of language is called linguistics, and there are five components of oral language. First there are phonology, the rules for combining sounds, or the structuring of words. For example there are 44 phonemes in English, which are groups of letters representing sounds according to an alphabetic principle. Second there are semantics, which are the ways that language conveys meaning. Morphemes are the smallest unit of meaning combines. Third syntax, the rules of how morphemes are organized into sentences or a word order. Fourth, there are pragmatics, which are the contextualized purpose in speaking appropriately, in a fitting situation. Fifth, vocabulary, which is the simple knowledge of words and their meanings. Now we don't want to bore you with an English lesson but it's important to have those basic understanding to dissect our text this morning. The key take away I want you to remember is not only that Jesus created the voice box and the tongue, but he created all these complex components of language. Yes, obviously no one knew language better than Jesus, who had designed and created it; and therefore we must believe Him as he uses the full spectrum of language, to convey His Words on earth in Scripture.

For example, in language there are 11 different kinds of sarcasm. Let's look at how Jesus uses sarcasm in Scripture. When the apostles are sleeping, after Jesus had earnestly warned them to remain awake, and Judas was a few steps away, Jesus says to His apostles, sleep on now, see if you can sleep now, it's a form of sarcasm.

In Scripture, sometimes Jesus speaks literally, sometimes He speaks metaphorically, sometimes He speaks allegorically, sometimes He speaks mystically, sometimes He speaks in parables, with a hidden meaning. Jesus himself says that He spoke in parables, to actually hide the true meaning of His Words, from those whom he spoke it to, but refused to obey. Yes, look at what directions, He instructed to Isaiah in Isaiah 6;9. He said, go, and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Today, let us hear His Word, in every language, in every country, repent and worship Him with all of our heart, mind, body, soul and strength.

TAPS

Terry Garrett (Okie)	Died March 10, 2022	5th Division – Vietnam
Alex Stenson (Al) Evan, Jr.	Died April 4, 2022	5th Division – Vietnam
Wayne Cumer	Died June 11, 2020	Past Society President

Staff Sgt Casmir P. Lobacz – MIA on September 27, 1944, near Metz, France, was officially accounted for on March 2, 2022

Wayne Edward Cumer

December 22, 1943 — June 10, 2022

Cherry Valley

Wayne Edward Cumer, 78, of Cherry Valley, passed away unexpectedly on Friday June 10, 2022 at home. He was born on December 22, 1943 a son of the late John and Margaret Fee Cumer.

A 1961 graduate of the Union High School in Burgettstown, he was drafted into the United States Army in November 1966 serving in Vietnam as a Recon Specialist and was a member of the Society of the 5th Division. He was honorably discharged in March 1968 a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal.

After retiring from US Steel, Mr. Cumer worked for General Electric from where he also retired as well as working on his family farm his entire life.

Wayne was a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Burgettstown and a member of the Slovan V.F.W., the Elks Lodge 1221 in Aliquippa and Chairman of the Smith Township Planning Commission. His wife, Janice Patton Cumer passed away in 2005.

He is survived by his sister Carol Kilcoyne and husband Jack; nephews Tim Froats, Ted Froats and wife Julie; his niece Julie Grabowski and husband James; his companion Darlene Kopp and her children and grandchildren; and his Goddaughter Andrea Alex and her husband David.

Family and friends will be received from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 14, 2022 in the Lee & Martin Funeral Home, 73 Highland Avenue, Burgettstown, PA 15021. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday June 15, 2022 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, 1109 Main Street, Burgettstown with the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, DD, Bishop of Pittsburgh, Celebrant. Immediately concluding the funeral mass, a luncheon and time of fellowship will be held in St. Bernadette Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church before entombment with full military honors accorded by the Slovan V.F.W. Honor Guard and the U.S. Army in Forest Lawn Gardens Cemetery, McMurray.

www.leeandmartinfuneral.com

It is with heavy heart that I have to inform you all of the loss of a Past President and dear friend Wayne Cumer.

Past president JJ Jackson called and informed me this morning of Wayne's death. He died due to a tractor accident. He will be sorely missed and I am sure you all will be keeping him and his family in your prayers. May God bless his soul.

I don't know of any arrangements so far but I will keep you all informed as I get information.

Sincerely,

National President

Gary Haverman



The Editorial From The Office Of Editor Of The Red Diamond Editorially Dave Kocan

Free beer tomorrow or to the correct caller whom can tell me how many mistakes are in the addition. I will take caller # 9. Phone lines are open!

What a great country we live in. If you don't believe me ask the person behind you getting gas. How many of you are spending a \$100. to fill up the vehicle? Do you have an answer or only an excuse for the problem. Maybe you believe that there is a conspiracy out there waiting to drag us all down. My Father who was a World War 2 and Korean Veteran, just shook his head at the music and protests of the 60's. My Grandfather a World War 1 veteran felt sorry for my generation. And now its our time to think about our children and grandchildren's generation. So what are you doing?? I do what I can and what I do best. Every Sunday I go to church and pray for us all. I vote at each and every election, can't complain if you don't vote. I don't sit in front of a computer screen and read the ramblings of those trying to make you believe that there is a conspiracy to take away my freedom. Has America made mistakes, yes, can we correct and amend them, of coarse we can. Can we talk without screaming and yelling, I pray they we can.

God Bless America Our America



Memorial Day morning, 2022 at 1/61 Battalion headquarters. Fort Jackson, SC
Photo by Pedro Marian.



A Message from our Treasurer George Shoener

1. As of July 22 the Societies Checking Account has \$34,688.51. The Investment account has \$55,058.31. All investments are in ladder CDs (February 2023 through July 2027). Currently, all our CDs are paying better than 3%
2. As of July 22, five members have paid for ads in the 2022 Reunion Book. If you want to put an ad in the book, notify Steve Wheat and send check for \$20 to George Shoener or let George know you will pay him at the Reunion.
3. As of July 22, the Society has paid for the 2 Domains (1) FIFTHINFANTRYDIVISION.COM and (2) SOCIETYOFTHEFIFTHDIVISION.COM. The Domains are for the next 5 years, until 09/05/2027.
4. At the September Reunion, any payments to the Societies checking account can now be made by Credit Card through the Treasurer using the Square system. This includes silent auction purchases, quartermaster purchases, and any donations.

Any or all of the above information can be placed in the next "Red Diamond." If there are any questions for me, please send an email to me after the meeting. Thanks...George

**The Society of the 5th Infantry Division
United States Army
101st Annual Reunion
September 22 - 26, 2022**



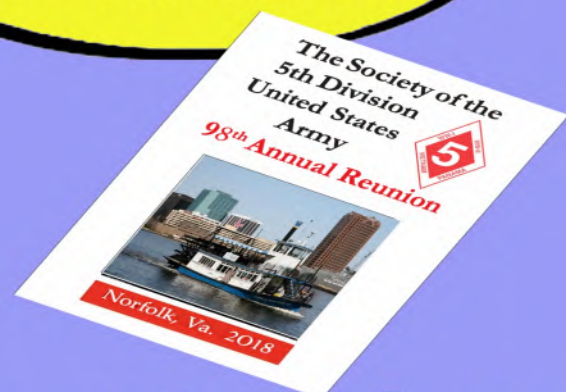
Springfield, Missouri

**For more information go to
<http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/>**

**2022 Springfield Mo.
Society of the Fifth Division
REUNION AD BOOK**



*I usually
don't have much to say
but when I do, I buy an ad in the*
OFFICIAL RED DIAMOND AD BOOK
**SHOW AND TELL YOUR PALS
WHAT YOU REALLY THINK**



**Pricing: 5" X 7" full color
single page ad is only!**

\$20 for Society Members

**Include your words and photos and give a shout to all of your
RD Brothers.**

**To place an ad: Send your photos and words to
Steve Wheat, wheatsco@gmail.com
DO NOT SEND ME CASH OR CHECKS**

**To pay for an ad: Send payment to George Schoener,
Society National Treasurer address on front page of RD**

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 \$35 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afn-reg.com/society2022 (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before Monday, August 22, 2022. 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.

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/22/22	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOUR \$	\$ 78	#	\$
FRIDAY 9/23: Wonders of Wildlife Tour			
SATURDAY 9/24: School of the Ozarks, Branson Landing & Wilson's Creek Battlefield	\$ 48	#	\$
MEAL OPTIONS (Please select your entrée)			
SATURDAY 9/24:			
Roquefort Sirloin	\$ 45	#	\$
Rosemary and Red Wine Chicken	\$ 45	#	\$
Hazelnut Crusted Tilapia	\$ 45	#	\$
Stir Fry Asian Vegetable Medley	\$ 45	#	\$
SUNDAY 9/25:			
Bistro Beef Medallions	\$ 45	#	\$
Mushroom Marsala Chicken	\$ 45	#	\$
Bacon-Wrapped Pork Loin Medallions	\$ 45	#	\$
Roasted Bell Pepper & Squash Medley	\$ 45	#	\$
PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE Covers various reunion expenses.	\$ 20	#	\$
DONATION FOR HOSPITALITY ROOM EXPENSES	\$		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. OFFICE USE ONLY 322 Madison Mews Check # _____ Date Received _____
Norfolk, VA 23510 Inputted _____ Name tag Completed _____ ATTN: SOCIETY OF THE 5TH

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAME TAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) OR GUEST NAMES _____

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

YEARS SERVED W/ SID(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.

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION REUNION
OASIS HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, MO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 2:00pm - 7:00pm Reunion Registration Open**
4:00pm - 11:00pm Hospitality Open Hospitality Room and Quarter Master Store to be open throughout reunion, hours to be posted.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 9:30am - 3:00pm TOUR: WONDERS OF WILDLIFE/
BASS SHOP**
3:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
4:00pm - 11:00pm Hospitality Open

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 8:00am - 9:00am Executive Board Meeting**
9:00am - 4:00pm TOUR: SCHOOL OF THE
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 10:00pm Dinner Banquet
10:00pm - 12:00am Hospitality Open

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:00am - 10:00am Non-denominational Worship Service**
10:00am - 11:00am Memorial Service
1:00pm - 2:00pm Society General Membership Meeting
2:00pm - 4:00pm KIA Photo Presentation
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 10:00pm Dinner Banquet
10:00pm - 12:00am Hospitality Open

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Farewells and Departures

SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION REUNION**OASIS HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, MO****Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium / Bass Pro Shop****Friday, September 23, 2022**

Travel around the world during your visit to Wonders of Wildlife, exploring exhibits featuring the most extreme wildlife habitats in the world. Start with the Wildlife Galleries which include Theodore Roosevelt's Cabin, the Lewis and Clark Collection and a Journey to National Parks. Transition into the Aquarium where you will be on an expedition of the globe's oceans, lakes and streams starting the great Ocean Hall. Lock eyes with some of the world's most interesting species as you walk through the Great Barrier Reef, The Hall of Fishing Presidents, and the Amazon Rainforest. *Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the sandwich bars in Wonders of Wildlife or at Hemingway's inside the Bass Pro Shop.*

9:30am board bus, 3:00pm back at hotel

\$78/Person includes bus & admission only. Bus Driver gratuity not included, Lunch on your own.

Group is responsible for collecting tickets upon boarding and insuring everyone has boarded the bus prior to departure from venue to return to the Hotel.

35 Person Minimum Per Bus**School of the Ozarks/Branson Landing/Wilson's Creek****Saturday, September 24, 2022**

A student guide will share the rich history of the School of the Ozarks during a driving tour of the school grounds. The Patriotic Goal of the school is "To encourage an understanding of American heritage, the value and responsibility of living in a country that has a constitution, a love of country, and a willingness to defend it." From the school, you will transit over to Branson Landing, an expansive mall for some shopping. After lunch on your own at one of their many eateries, you'll board the bus and head to Wilson's Creek Battlefield in Springfield where the first major Civil War battle was fought west of the Mississippi River. A museum volunteer will board the bus and guide you through a 5-mile tour of the Battlefield grounds.

9:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

\$48/Person includes bus and escort.

Bus Driver, Student Guide & Wilson Creek Guide gratuities are not included, Lunch on your own. 35 person maximum on bus

Hello Gary,

AFR is very pleased to announce that we have teamed with an insurance company to offer travel insurance to all our reunion attendees! This comprehensive travel insurance will cover transportation costs, reunion fees, and even COVID quarantine and medical expenses as well as any pre-existing medical conditions, at a very reasonable cost.

Now more than ever folks want peace of mind when they make travel plans. This coverage will give your attendees the comfort of knowing that non-refundable travel costs can be covered if the unexpected happens. There are several levels of coverage to give people the best coverage for them at the best price. It is recommended that folks book their travel and register for the reunion before applying for the insurance, to ensure that they receive the maximum in coverage.

AFR will be providing the insurance information and links to apply on our online registration site and then directly to everyone who registers for your reunion this year. If you would like to include this on your group's website, please use the links below. A brochure detailing the coverage is also attached for your use.

Best regards,

Amy



TRAVEL INSURANCE – Protect Your Investment Against the Unexpected!

Safe Travels Explorer - Budget-friendly travel protection plan designed for leisure or business travel for domestic and international trips. This plan includes Worldwide 24/7 Emergency Assistance Services, Trip Cancellation and Interruption, \$50,000 Emergency Medical Expense as well as baggage and many other essential benefits while you travel. COVID-19 MEDICAL EXPENSES are covered and treated the same as any other sickness.

<https://portal.trawickinternational.com/quote/product/110?agent=2399>

Safe Travels Explorer Plus - The Explorer Plus plan features everything in the Explorer plan AND INCLUDES coverage for Pre-Existing Medical Conditions when purchased within 7 days of making your initial trip deposit. For leisure or business travel for domestic and international trips. This plan includes Worldwide 24/7 Emergency Assistance Services, Trip Cancellation and Interruption, \$50,000 coverage for Emergency Medical Expense as well as baggage and many other essential benefits while you travel. COVID-19 MEDICAL EXPENSES are covered and treated the same as any other sickness.

<https://portal.trawickinternational.com/quote/product/111?agent=2399>

Safe Travels Journey - The Journey plan includes all the benefits as the Explorer Plus with extended coverage and coverage for airline ticket exchange fees. This product includes coverage for Pre-Existing Medical conditions when purchased prior to or within 14 days of making your deposit and \$150,000 of Emergency Medical Coverage along with \$500,000 of Emergency Evacuation coverage. COVID-19 MEDICAL EXPENSES are covered and treated the same as any other sickness.

<https://portal.trawickinternational.com/quote/product/112?agent=2399>

Safe Travels Voyager - Covers trip cancellation from \$0 up to \$100,000 and includes \$250,000 Primary Medical with coverage for Pre-Existing Medical conditions on plans purchased prior to or with final trip payment. \$2000 Travel Delay Expenses. The optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) provides reimbursement for the percentage of the prepaid, non-refundable, forfeited payments you paid for your trip, if you cancel your trip for any reason not otherwise covered. Must be purchased with initial policy and within 21 days of the initial trip deposit date, and the full, nonrefundable trip cost is insured.

<https://portal.trawickinternational.com/quote/product/153?agent=2399>

ATTENTION ALL – NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

The Society's Executive Board unanimously approved the Proposed Amendment to Article III (Membership), Section A (Eligibility) of the Constitution during its bi-monthly Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The amendment proposal will be presented for final approval to the General Membership during the General Membership Meeting planned for Sunday, September 25, 2022.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

Amendment Proposal to Constitution of the Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army

Appointment: The appointment of the Constitution Committee was made by National President Gary Haverman, during the bi-monthly Executive Board Zoom videoconference held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Members appointed include: National Judge Advocate Phil Maniscalco (Chairman), Past National President Robert Dudley (Committee Member), Past National President Lou Pepi (Committee Member), National Historian Roger Allen (Committee Member) and National Secretary Scott Murrah (Committee Member). Advising the Committee is National Treasurer George Shoener.

The Constitution Committee was directed to consider the request by National Secretary Scott Murrah to change the eligibility requirements to the Constitution to allow relatives of Society Members, who have served in the Armed Forces as war time veterans, to become voting members of the Society of the Fifth Division and to help grow the Membership in the Society.

The Committee presented its findings & recommendation to approve the change in voting member eligibility, to the Executive Board during the Executive Board Zoom videoconference held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The Executive Board approved the Proposed Changes by unanimous vote.

The proposed change will be presented for final approval to the General Membership at the General Membership Meeting planned for Sunday, September 25, 2022 during the Society's annual reunion and convention at the Oasis Conference Center, Springfield, Missouri.

Amendment Proposal to Constitution of the Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army

Current Paragraph A. ELIGIBILITY of Article III. MEMBERSHIP reads...

Those who served honorably as officers and enlisted men in the Fifth Infantry Division during its periods of activation are eligible to become members of this Society.

Proposed Paragraph A. ELIGIBILITY of Article III. MEMBERSHIP to read...

Those who served honorably as officers and enlisted men and women in the United States Armed Forces in the Fifth Infantry Division during its periods of activation are eligible to become members of this Society.

Also eligible to become members of this Society are war veterans who served honorably as officers and enlisted men and women in the United States Armed Forces and who are ancestors (parent, grandparent, etc.), lineal descendants (child, stepchild, grandchild, etc.) or collateral descendants (brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, etc.) of those who served in the Fifth Division. Also eligible are members of Regiments of the Fifth Infantry Division that remain active in the United States Armed Forces.

Background:

The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army - Veterans of World Wars formed the Articles of Incorporation under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act in Springfield, Illinois on November 8, 1952 in perpetuity.

An excerpt from a letter dated September 7, 2008 from the Department of the Treasury (IRS) addressed to Society of the Fifth Division c/o Donald B Smallwood (Society's National Treasurer) "recognized that the Society is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. This determination is based on the Society's representation that at least 90% of its members are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States defined under section 501 (c)(19) of the Code. It is also based on the Society's representation that substantially all of the other members, if any, are individuals who are cadets, or are spouses, widows, or widowers of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets.

Based on the Society's representation that at least 90 percent of its members are war veterans and that it is organized and operated primarily for the purposes consistent with its current status as a war veterans' organization, donors can deduct contributions made to or for the use of the organization".

Research and Findings:

Before the enactment of IRC 501(c)(19) on August 29, 1972 (Public Law 92-418, 86 Stat. 656, reproduced in 1972-2 C.B. 675), war veterans' organizations were grouped together with all other veterans' organizations and recognized as exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) as social welfare organizations.

Since IRC 501(c)(19) organizations may conduct a broad range of activities without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status, many veterans' organizations are organized under this authorization. However, there is a requirement that at least 75 percent of the members must be past or present members of the US Armed Forces. Because the ranks of war veterans were thinning, and many organizations were at risk of losing their tax-exempt status due to waning membership, Congress amended IRC 501(c)(19) on September 3, 1982 (Public Law 97-248, 96 Stat. 640), by deleting the requirement that 75 percent of the members be war veterans. War veterans' organizations are described in IRC 170(c)(3).

Congress relaxed membership requirements again in 2003 with passage of Section 105 of the Military Family Tax Relief Act by permitting veterans' organizations to count ancestors and lineal descendants as part of their veteran base. The Act also broadened the purposes of veterans' organizations.

Since the Society of the Fifth Division is organized as an IRC 501(c)(4) organization, unlike an IRC 501(c)(19) organization that has specific membership requirement, there is no membership requirement to maintain our tax-exempt status. However, in order for donors to deduct contributions from their income tax, the Society must be 90 percent war veterans.

Recommend:

Given that the Constitution Committee's objectives are to grow the war veteran membership, remain an IRC 501 (c)(4) organization, be eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under IRC 170 (c)(3) by having at least 90 percent of the members be war veterans and allowing war veteran family members to be eligible to become Society members, the change to the wording in the Constitution's Membership (Article III), Eligibility (Section A) is recommended.

References:

1. Constitution of the Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army
2. Tax Guide for Veterans' Organizations (publication 3386) revised April 2018
3. Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 (H.R. 3365) – Section 105
4. Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(4)
5. Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(19)
6. Internal Revenue Code 170 (c)(3)
7. Internal Revenue Manual: Part 7 (Rulings and Agreements); Chapter 25 (Exempt Organizations); Section 19 (Veterans Organizations)

Hi everyone , just wanted to let you all know that I have received a donation to be used for our 2022 reunion in the amount of \$1200.00 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I will be sending the check to our National Treasurer George Shoener for deposit later on today. Also I am planning on drafting a letter to the IBEW Local Union No.66 to express our deep appreciation for such a generous donation. Steve Wheat will also be notified so they will be recognized in the reunion Add booklet for their gift. Lastly I would like to thank our own JJ Jackson, for if it wasn't for him this Union would not even know we existed. Thank you Brother JJ. God Bless you.

National President

Gary Haverman

Greetings All,

We who served in Vietnam were effected from it in many different ways: even to this day.

Over this past Memorial Day Weekend, I got an email from a family member thanking me for leaving a comment on the "Vietnam Wall of Faces" for James George Howard, KIA, Quang Tri Province, June 1, 1970. It had been 52 years since the HHC Security Platoon Leader Lt. Howard, Platoon Sargent Sgt Mossner, and Squad Leader Sargent Auldon were killed by IED. The previous Security Platoon Sargent Issac was killed by an IED a few days earlier. Squad Leader Sargent Gliemmo witnessed both IED events which was close to the northwest side of Quang Tri Combat Base. I knew all four KIA's, and Jim Howard who was a friend when I was with Brigade HHC before my next assignment as the Graves Registration Officer. I cannot express talking to Jim's family and their kind words has helped me. Once our Fallen starts their way back home, there is little information provided to Families or the Soldiers who were affected by the death.

While Bob Gliemmo and I were providing additional information relating to Jim's death, leadership, comrade with others, we both were overwhelmed with gratitude. We were helping Don, Sharon, and Pam find some peace and closure; it was heart wrenching to hear how little they were told and how difficult it has been for them to find out what actually happened.

My weekend began with an exchange between myself and the Howard Family. Below you will find a selection of emails in chronological order from top down and a beautiful poem written from a young family member years later. It was definitely a WOW!

Thank you for your comments on the Wall of Faces. We have often wondered about other soldiers that might have memories of Jimmy. We would love to have you share your memories of him or your times in Viet Nam. Perhaps you know others that returned from their service there.

We just returned from Washington DC and visited the Wall Memorial monument. We have taken 5 of our 7 grandchildren and will take the last two, twins when they reach 10 yrs old. One of the twins is James and he reminds us of Jimmy.

Please accept our deepest gratitude for the service that you gave for us and our country. It is unimaginable what the sacrifices have been for the soldiers and their families.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

My Company Commander George D Eicke, new Jim and his wife as they were from the same area.

It will be easier for me to tell you some things about Jim over than trying to put it in an email

Call me anytime and you can record what I have to say if you wish to

Every time I go to Washington DC I always stop by the wall and pay my respects to Jim and others that I knew.

Please identify who you are too please

My wife found me Jim's Father phone number many years later and I did talk to him about Jim. I can also tell you about the conversation I had with him too.

Jerry Collman

(850) 933-9733

Jerry,

I am Don's (Jimmy' younger brother) wife. We were dating when Jimmy was killed and have been married for 51 years.

Don's Dad (also Jim) passed away about 16 yrs. ago. Don's sister, Sharon, gave us the Wall of Faces site and we will see her tomorrow.

Don doesn't like email so he is glad to know that he can call you at a later time.

Thanks again for time.

Pam Howard

Don, Sharon, Pam,

First Memorial Day Weekend I had something to smile about! Same for today, knowing I have done everything I could do for Jim. Thank you so much!

I wasn't Jim's best friend, I was a friend though, and I'm sure there's many other Vietnam friends too who knew Jim; I am just one who has spoken out.

I don't have everyone's email address; Don & Sharon, feel free to send me your email addresses if you like.

I hope you talked to Bob Gliemmo; and it helped to know everything about what occurred to Jimmy, 52 years ago on this day.

A lot has happened for you all, in a good way this past weekend, in thinking of Jimmy's death. I can't imagine how difficult this has been for you all these decades, to know little about Jim and Vietnam; then suddenly there is more information than you ever thought you would ever know.

You are part of the Fifth Division Family. If you look up The Society of the Fifth Division web site, you will read all about our Fifth Division as it has a long past History. Even to this day, one of its Battalion's from Vietnam has been involved with the training of new Army Recruits at Ft Jackson, South Carolina.

I would like to write an Article to the Red Diamond about what happened to us this past Memorial Day Weekend. I will say nothing negative as to certain individuals we talked about. You are and will always be part of the Fifth Division Family.

You are also, and will always be, part of the Gold Star Family's; I encourage you, if you haven't done so, please contact your local area Gold Star Family Association.

Do I have your permission? I will send you a copy for approval before emailing it to the Editor of the Red Diamond?

Jerry

Jerry, this is Don Howard.. Words can't express how thankful all of us are to have discovered you and Bob. Yes, you have our approval to write as you wish.. These last few days have been so incredibly important to us - we will never forget it. We are forever indebted to the two of you.. Keep us in the loop, and look forward to meeting you in the future.

Don & Sharon,

I talked to Bob Gliemmo tonight. We find many times we were in some of the same areas, so we discuss our experiences from different perspectives. It's amazing for us that after 52 years later the amount of details we remember about being in some of those same locations, but with different Missions. Bob told me tonight he had a good phone conversation with Sharon as she had a lot of questions to ask. Bob is full of knowledge as to the Security Platoon and the time Jim was there.

I would like to provide other information as to where the Security Platoon resided within the Brigade and its Mission. I know Bob is providing you what Jim was doing as his Platoon Leader...

On an earlier conversation with both of you I said I talked to Jim a few days before he was killed, but Jim's Platoon Sergeant (SGT Issacs) was killed May 27th so I must have talked to him May 28 or 29. Sgt Issacs didn't come to Quang Tri Graves Registration. He was medivac out to the Hospital Ship off coast since he had a very serious head wound from an explosion. When I saw Jim we both knew Sgt Issacs died and of course was upset about it.. I know he told me he was being pushed hard by the Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO). That DCO replaced another DCO whose tour was over sometime in early February. I believe Bob said Jim started changing in Feb; I still believe he didn't help the situation. A couple days after Jim's death I went to the Headquarters Ceremony for Jim and the other three Security soldiers killed within that same week. I remember there were grumblings at that ceremony from others about the DCO aggressiveness.

Jerry

This is a poem that my daughter, Sara, wrote in the 8th grade in 2000. Don and Pam had visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial,

and she was touched hearing him explain his unexpected reaction to the memorial. She won 1st place in the D.A.R. poetry

contest. I added the WE WILL NOT FORGET.

We can't begin to express the gratitude we feel to you in answering questions that have tormented us since 1970.

However difficult it was to hear, we are immensely thankful to you for helping us find closure. You are friends that

we will forever treasure.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Standing at the wall

There is an endless sea of names.

The long black shiny wall

Seems innocuous cut into the earth.

From a distance, it blends innocently

Into the majestic landscape.

As the pilgrim walks closer

He runs his hands in Braille like fashion

Along the thousands of names

Etched in granite.

Almost by instinct,

As if the wall has called out to him

From beyond the pain and suffering.

The pilgrim opens his eyes.

He stands frozen and humbled

Before the name.

His numb fingers lightly touch

The name in front of him.

A tear falls from his cheek,

As he recalls the pain and suffering

Of his family and the nation.

Is the world a better place?

Was the loss of life and limbs in vain?

Silently, the pilgrim bows his head

With his arm outstretched,

And his hand touching the name etched on the wall.

Slowly, he lifts his head, and removes his hand.

A feeling of peace envelops him,

As if touching the wall has given him strength

And hope for the world

To end the needless suffering.

He gently bends to kiss the name

And speaks for the first time.

"Goodbye my brother, you did not die in vain."

"WE WILL NOT FORGET"

Sharon,

That's a wonderful poem!

Please thank your daughter. Amazing at such a young age to be able to express what she saw and felt so eloquently.

Would you mind if I include in the Article I am writing later in the week to the Fifth Division Red Diamond? My wife, Joy, loved it and thought many in the Fifth Division from Vietnam would too.

May I also use your daughter's name, unless she would prefer not to?

I hope Bob and I are not overwhelming you and Don. I can speak for Bob and myself, it helps to clear the fog of war for us. It has definitely brought clarity to some of our experiences. Bob has pictures of Jim he has found and didn't even realize it until last week; also more information coming forth as to his leadership and the care he had for the men under his command.

Jerry

Jerry and Joy,

Thank you for your constant support. Somehow Don & I can't help but think that Jimmy had a hand in our connecting with you. For us, it has been a blessing.

I did ask Sara if you could use her name, and she has agreed. You can tell from her poem, that she was impacted by Jimmy's death. She picked up the torch he left behind in Quang Tri, and went to law school as he intended to do. Her name is Sara Manoochehri, and she is an attorney for Spirit AeroSystems. They are a spin off from Boeing, and manufacture the cabin, wing flaps, and fuselage for Boeing aircraft. She is excellent at arbitration, and was able to convince Spirit that she could permanently work from home in Houston, and travel to Wichita for the quarterly meetings, and the year-end BOD meeting. The advantage of staying in Houston is having parents to help with your children.

We pick them up from school, and take them home. Both Amelia (5) and Ben (3), ask questions about Jimmy and the war.

My 3 year old grandson, Ben, asked me recently if we were still at war with the people that killed his uncle.

War impacts families.

Best regards,

Sharon Howard



Self Hydration Guide



Compare your urine against the colors below to help assess your hydration level



Orange: May indicate dangerously low hydration level



Dark Yellow: May indicate very low hydration level



Yellow: May indicate low hydration level



Light Yellow: May indicate adequate hydration level



Clear: May indicate good hydration level



Cola: May indicate Rhabdomyolysis

Always drink fluids in accordance with the fluid replacement guidelines found in Fort Jackson Regulation 385-10

Drink at least 1 glass of water, juice or milk with each meal and eat complete meals with a variety of foods.

Do not drink more than 1&1/2 quarts of fluid per hour or more than 12 quarts per day.

Mission First—Safety Always
Fort Jackson Safety Office

This entry evokes the gamut of human emotions.

You and Jerry have taken Don & I from the blindness that masks itself as naiivete', to the brightness of high noon. Everything is exposed ...the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Thank you for having the foresight to maintain and keep a book worthy journal. You and Jerry have breathed new life into the memories of America's Vietnam ghost. It gives meaning and understanding, and allows us to heal. Don and I will remain eternally grateful.

Thank you,

Sharon

" I am not influenced by the expectation of promotion or pecuniary reward. I wish to be useful, and every kind of service necessary for the public good, becomes honorable by being necessary."

Nathan Hale

" I will thank God every day for the men and women in this country who are willing to put their lives on the line for all of us. They have responded to the call of the bugle with courage and with selfless dedication to country."

Leon Panetta

The Lewis and Clark expedition was a military affair, with Captain Meriwether Lewis and Second Lieutenant William Clark leading a select group of volunteers.

VA proposes updates to disability rating schedule



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CHRISTOPHER MORALES U.S. AIR FORCE

■ The Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities that pertain to the respiratory and auditory systems. The changes will incorporate medical advancements for treating certain disabilities and modern medical knowledge to more accurately compensate veterans for their service-connected disabilities, according to the VA.

“Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated,” said Thomas Murphy, the acting undersecretary for benefits.

Some of the proposed changes include modernizing the evaluation criteria for sleep apnea by evaluating it

based on the symptoms’ responsiveness to treatment. If symptoms are fully treated with a CPAP machine or other treatment, a veteran would be rated at 0% and not receive compensation; the VA will award progressively higher percentage evaluations based on how symptomatic the condition remains after treatment.

In public comments, DAV stated that the proposed change is a failure to “address the functional impairment caused by sleep apnea” and asserted that the current 50% rating is appropriate.

For tinnitus (ringing in the ears), proposed changes would recognize that symptom as part of a veteran’s broader ailment. The veteran would receive service-connected compensation for tinnitus through the disease to which it is attributed, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

DAV also opposes this change, noting the proposal contradicts a legal precedent decided in 1994 that said veterans are entitled to separate evaluations—and distinct ratings—for conditions that stem from a single disability if they are not duplicative.

“No change to a veteran’s current rating would automatically occur due to these proposed changes,” said National Service Director Jim Marszalek. “When and if the proposed changes are finalized, veterans should seek assistance from a veterans service organization like DAV before filing a claim for increase to determine the impact of the final rules.”

VA shares implementation plan and locations of PAWS Act pilot program

■ The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced its plan for implementing the pilot program required by the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act.

The PAWS Act, signed into law Aug. 25, 2021, requires the VA to conduct a five-year pilot program to provide canine training as an element of a complementary and integrative health program for eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Veterans participating in the program will have

the opportunity to train potential future service dogs, with the goal of helping veterans manage their PTSD symptoms.

The pilot program will be offered at VA medical centers in Anchorage, Alaska; Asheville, North Carolina; Palo Alto, California; San Antonio, Texas; and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Clinicians at the pilot sites will determine the eligibility of veterans interested in the pilot program. Agreements with the participating organizations that will furnish the training have not been finalized.

ISSUES UP FRONT | CURRENT VETERANS CONCERNS



VA May Have to Report on Health Care Records Program

A new bill could require VA to submit quarterly reports to the Senate. The bill aims to increase the transparency of the VA's implementation of the new electronic records program.

BY DAVE SPIVA

The House and Senate in May passed a bill that could require VA to submit five quarterly reports to Congress regarding the status of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program.

In May, the Senate approved the *VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021 (H.R. 4591)*. The bill passed the House last November, where originally it was introduced. The bill would require VA to regularly report on the status of the new health care record system, including problems with its implementation. The new medical record system is planned to be fully rolled out at VA medical facilities by 2028.

The new electronic records system will give VA easier access to the Department of Defense's health records. The *VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act*, as of the magazine's print deadline, has not been signed into law by President Joe Biden. If approved, the *VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act* would require VA to give a report within 90 days of the bill's approval date.

In March, VA Inspector General Michael Missa reported that his office received "wide-ranging com-



PHOTO BY PFC ISAAH MATTHEWS/ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Pfc. Loran Jones, a combat medic serving with the Georgia Army National Guard's 248th Medical Co., 265th Chemical Bn., updates patient medical records on May 12, 2020, at the Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center. The *VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021 (H.R. 4591)* would require VA to report quarterly on the status of the new health care record system, which will give VA access to the Department of Defense's medical records system.

plaints" to VA's hotline about the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Wash. Members of Congress also have expressed concerns since the Cerner Corporation's VA Electronic Health Record launch of a pilot program at the VA medical facility in 2020.

"Our oversight work is vital given the potential impact of this new system on patient safety and the quality of health care provided to veterans, as well as its costs," Missa said. "A number of those complaints and the failings specifically found [were] with respect to medication management, care coordination and the ticketing process for staff to request and report problems."

Missa added that reports from the VA's Inspector General's office addressed many of those allegations.

The VA in 2018 signed a contract with Cerner, a North Kansas City, Mo.-based medical information technology company, to overtake VA's health record system and make it compatible with DoD's record system.

VA patients can submit complaints to the VA Inspector General's office by going to <https://www.va.gov/oig/>, calling 1-800-448-8244, faxing to (202) 495-5861 or mailing to:

VA Inspector General Hotline (53H)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

★
EMAIL dspiva@vfw.org

WASHINGTON WIRE | CAPITOL HILL BRIEFS BY DAVE SPIVA



PHOTO BY ROBERT COUTURE/VFW



LEFT: Then-VFW Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic speaks about the importance of the *Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022* at a May 28 Rolling to Remember event in Washington, D.C. VFW believes the *Honoring Our PACT Act* is the most significant piece of veterans' legislation in history.

VFW Continues to Advocate for the PACT Act

The passage and signing of the *Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, also known as the *Honoring Our PACT Act*, has continued to be one of VFW's high priorities.

Over the last year, VFW has urged members of the Senate to pass the bill, which would then head to President Joe Biden's desk for approval. The Senate had not approved the *PACT Act* as of VFW magazine's August issue print deadline.

Then-VFW Commander-in-Chief Matthew M. "Fritz" Mihelcic spoke on May 28 about the *Honoring our PACT Act* during the Rolling to Remember rally in Washington, D.C. There, Mihelcic asked those attending to contact their senators about supporting the "historic" and "comprehensive" bill.

"The time is now to get this done; no more delays," Mihelcic said at the rally.

VFW believes the *Honoring Our PACT Act* is the most significant legislation for veterans in history. The bill aims

to address a range of issues dealing with toxic exposure.

If passed by the Senate and signed into law, *H.R. 3967* will:

- Add 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits and airborne hazards exposure as presumptive conditions.
- Add hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance to the VA's list of presumptive conditions of Agent Orange exposure.
- Add Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to locations where Vietnam War veterans had a presumptive exposure to Agent Orange.
- Require VA to provide training to improve toxic exposure disability claims.
- Require VA to conduct outreach campaigns and provide resources to veterans exposed to toxins during military service.

New VA Benefit Gives Guaranteed Life Insurance

Starting in January 2023, VA-rated disabled veterans — with a 0 to 100 percent rating — will be eligible to purchase guaranteed life insurance.

The new life insurance benefit Veterans Affairs Life Insurance, or VALife, will be available to disabled veterans younger than 81 years old. Some veterans who are older also might be eligible, according to a VA press release.

VALife will give an option of life insurance for veterans who may not have qualified for insurance in the past. The new program was created through the passage of the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*, or *P.L. 116-315*.

The new service, according to VA, will feature a way to enroll online. VA also claims insurance approvals will be "instant." Also, there will be "no medical requirements" to participate in the new service.



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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA STORY

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.

We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream.

It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

—Ronald Reagan, 40th United States President (1911–2004)



Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year-old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington, D.C. His first trip to our nation’s capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career in business, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Morrill found himself with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our county’s veterans. With the help of former Maine senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery – a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This act of generosity became an annual tribute that went on quietly for several years each December, led by Morrill and his family until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to participate – to emulate the Arlington wreath project at their national and state cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation’s heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POWs/MIAs.

In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the East Coast in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and other groups and individuals who had helped with the annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America (WAA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: Remember. Honor. Teach.

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. More than 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated, including members of national veterans' organizations and the American Gold Star Mothers.

December 13, 2008, was unanimously voted by the United States Congress as National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 2011, WAA and its national network of volunteers laid 325,000 veterans' wreaths at 750 locations in the United States and beyond. WAA was able to include ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11, 2001 tragedies. WAA accomplished this with help from 902 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands.

The wreath laying is still held annually on a Saturday, each December, and has expanded to include more than 3,100 locations and 2.4 million wreaths. And for the first time in 2018, our mission expanded overseas with the placement of 9,387 veterans' wreaths at Normandy-American Cemetery in France. Each wreath is placed by a volunteer and the names of our fallen said out loud to keep their memory alive.



BACKGROUND & FAQ

Who We Are

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

- ★ 1992: First wreaths (5,000) donated by Morrill Worcester and Worcester Wreath.
- ★ 2005: Iconic photo of wreaths in snow became a viral sensation.
- ★ 2007: Wreaths Across America formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
 - *Organization governed by board of directors. Day-to-day operations managed by volunteer Executive Director Karen Worcester.*
- ★ 2012: Millionth wreath placed at Arlington National Cemetery.
- ★ 2014: For the first time, every headstone at Arlington National Cemetery received a wreath.
- ★ 2016: 25th year that veterans' wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery.
- ★ 2018: Mission advances overseas with the first placement of 9,387 veterans' wreaths at Normandy-American Cemetery in France.
- ★ 2021: Marked the 30th year that veterans' wreaths have been placed at Arlington National Cemetery, a tradition started by Maine wreathmaker Morrill Worcester as a gift of thanks.

WAA's mission - **Remember, Honor, Teach** - is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. This year, it will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022.**

2021 Recap

- ★ 2.4 million veterans' wreaths were placed in total across the country.
- ★ More than two million volunteers participated at 3,137 locations nationwide. More than a third of the volunteers were children.
- ★ At Arlington National Cemetery specifically, the Wreaths Across America program saw 66 tractor trailers deliver over 250,000 veterans' wreaths that were placed by nearly 38,000 volunteers.
- ★ Over 525 truckloads of wreaths were delivered across the country by hundreds of volunteer professional truck drivers driving donated equipment and fuel from approximately 390 carriers.

2022 Theme: Find a Way to Serve

The inspiration for this year's theme came from a few different places and seemed to be a recurring conversation throughout the last year. Notably, the **American Rosie Movement™** which highlights the stories of the World War II-era women known as Rosie the Riveters, or simply "Rosies." These women pulled together to do the work that needed to be done for our freedom. The movement encourages youth to get involved in their own communities to serve in small ways that can make a big impact. As part of this new theme, Wreaths Across America is revamping its educational curriculum working with like-minded organizations to develop action plans to inspire young people across the country to find a way to serve in 2022 and beyond.

What We Do

REMEMBER

- ★ WAA's annual pilgrimage from Columbia Falls, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach.
- ★ The Remembrance Tree Program provides a living memorial to loved ones lost. A replica dog tag is made in honor of your loved one and it is attached to the trunk of an evergreen tree on the tip land in Maine where the brush is harvested every third year to make veterans' wreaths.
- ★ The HART Ceremony (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) is conducted each year to honor veterans of our nation's allies in ceremonies on international border-crossing bridges between Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada; Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Canada; and Sweetwater, Montana and the Alaskan/Canadian border.
- ★ WAA hosts statehouse ceremonies in nearly 50 states.

HONOR

- ★ Through WAA's national group sponsorship program, it has helped other nonprofits and civic groups such as Civil Air Patrol, Scouts, 4-H Clubs, local VFWs and American Legions raise funds for their own community needs. Since 2007, Wreaths Across America has given back more than \$17 million to local groups.
- ★ WAA conducts several programs to honor our veterans, including our popular Thanks-A-Million campaign, which distributes free "I Owe You" cards to people all over the country to share with veterans as a simple thank-you for their service and a promise to give back.
- ★ The organization participates in veterans' events throughout the year as well as public outreach through Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, Wreaths Across America Radio, in our monthly newsletters, in press coverage and on the website.
- ★ The Wreaths Across America Museum located at the National Headquarters in Columbia Falls, Maine, showcases thousands of items that have been donated to Wreaths Across America over the decades. All donations help to provide insight and tell the greater story of the experiences of U.S. military personnel.
- ★ Wreaths Across America has a veteran liaison on staff to work with local veterans' organizations in Maine.

TEACH

- ★ WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. We offer learning tools, interactive-media projects and opportunities for schools, 4-H clubs, Scouts, and other youth groups to participate in our efforts.
- ★ The Mobile Education Exhibit is a traveling classroom on wheels designed to inspire and educate all about the mission and those who lives have been impacted by it. The goal of the Wreaths Across America Education Exhibit is to bring local communities and our military together with education, stories, and interactive connections.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you use live wreaths?

Wreaths Across America does not “decorate” headstones. We are honoring all veterans and active military members by placing live, balsam veterans’ wreaths on the headstones of our nation’s servicemembers. The fresh evergreens have been used for centuries as a symbol recognizing honor and as a living tribute renewed annually. We want people to see the tradition as a living memorial to veterans and their families.

Does WAA have a religious or political affiliation?

Wreaths Across America is not affiliated with any religion or political party. It is our mission to remember and honor every fallen military service member during the holiday season, no matter what is happening in the nation or overseas. These are not Christmas wreaths, they are veterans’ wreaths or remembrance wreaths. Our goal as an organization is to Teach younger generations about the diversity of our American heritage, and the freedoms for which so much was sacrificed.

What are the sources of funding for WAA?

WAA receives no government funding. National Wreaths Across America Day and other events are made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths and participate in the events. Individual wreath sponsors and corporate donors, pay for most of the cost for the program and volunteer truck drivers and trucking companies make it possible for WAA to transport wreaths all over the country.

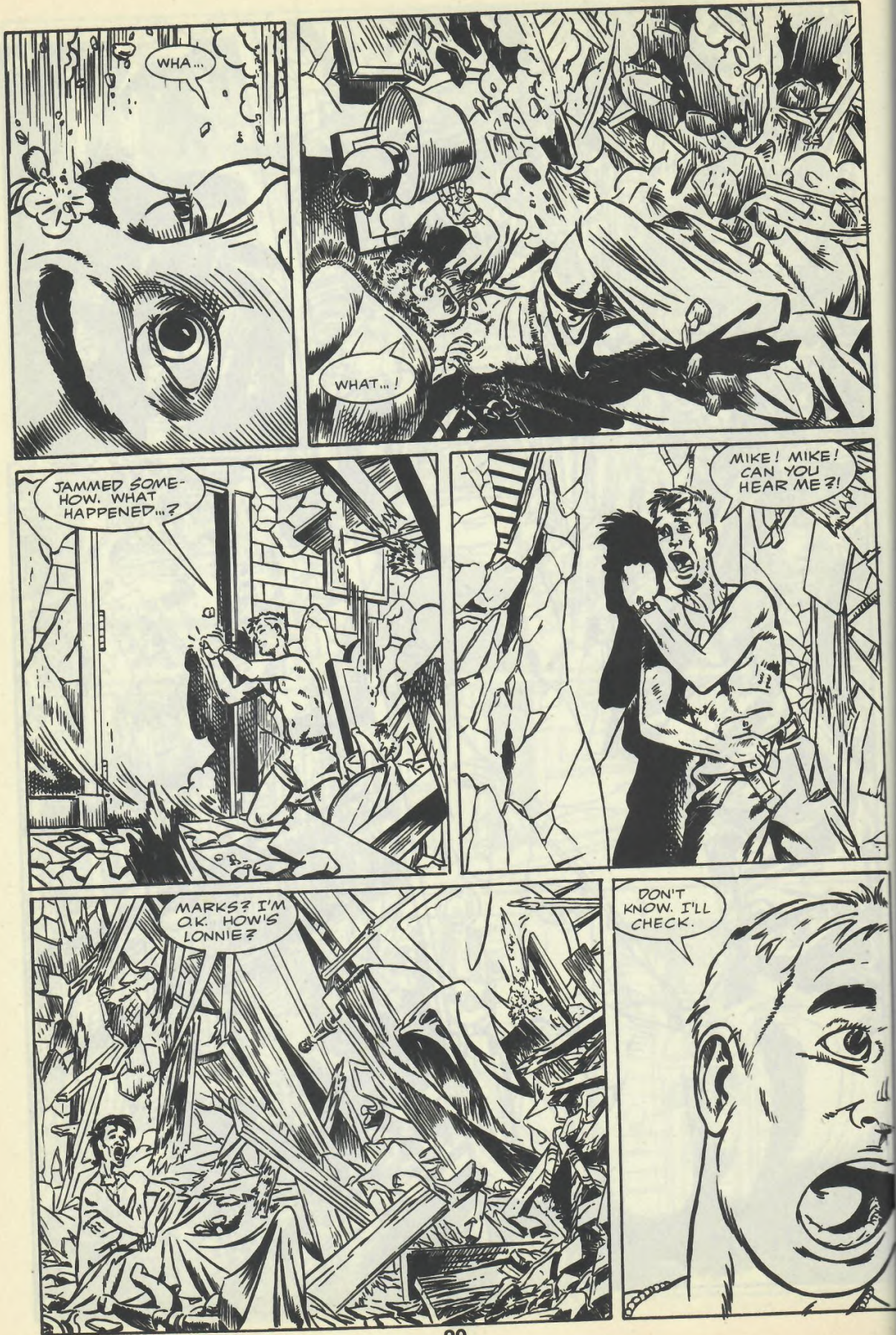
How can I get involved?

There are several ways for volunteers to get involved. Please keep in mind that there is NO COST to attend or participate in a Wreaths Across America event.

- ★ Help place wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day in your local community.
- ★ Sponsor a \$15 wreath for a local veteran.
- ★ Statehouse ceremony – in nearly all 50 states and at our nation’s capital.
- ★ Sign up as a sponsorship group and help place wreaths at a local or national cemetery of your choice while raising funds for your own group or program.
- ★ You can also volunteer to coordinate a new location in your state to participate in the national remembrance ceremony.



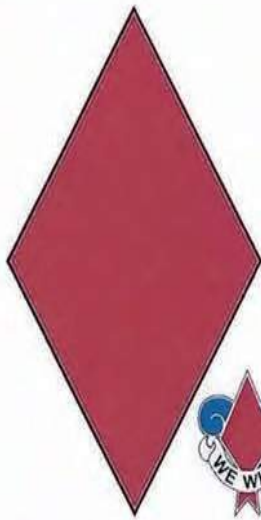




5TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMEMORATIVE LEGACY BOOK

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.

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
Crissonné, \$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



Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin
(front and back shown): \$10.00 ea.
Antique gold (sandblasted texture)
w/epoxy finish; 1 1/2" x 3/4".
Detail is exquisite. This is the only authorized Challenge Coin issued by the Society of the Fifth Division. \$4.00 S&H

Fifth Division Hats

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



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.

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
dwcoultter1@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.



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 AND ADDRESS CLEARLY.*



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 FIFTH
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 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,

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: National Secretary
 Scott Murrah
 PO Box 62176
 Fort Worth, Texas, 76161**

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.