

THE

RED 5 DIAMOND

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

Volume MMXXV Ed.1

JANUARY 2025

Annual Dues: \$15



“WE WILL”

Deadline for submission of articles for the next Edition: APRIL 10, 2025

2020-2021 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

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- *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 Healey (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. Pfau (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)
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- William Stanfield (1981-82)
- *Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)
- *Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)
- *Chester Ball (1984-85)
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- *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)
- Robert M. Rochell (2002-03)
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- Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)
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- 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)
- Gary Haverman (2021-2022)
- Hal Roller (2022-2023)
- Bud Wagner (2023-2024)

Elected Positions

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Judge Advocate	Steve Wheat
Editor	Dave Kocan
1st yr. Past President	Bud Wagner
2nd yr. Past President	Hal Roller

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Web Master	Joe Boman

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT LARRY BURNETT

By now everyone is done with Christmas and New Years. But like to wish everyone a Happy New Year just the same. As for my wife and I we are wishing and praying for a better 2025 than what we had in 2024. By now she is past her chemo and radiation treatments. But she is still having some issues with some nerves and muscles in her lower back and as Forest Gump would say, her butt-toxs area. Still not much to report on for KC Reunion this coming September. I have been told that its still too early to plan for the tours just yet. Am hoping for a lot of Red Devils to attend. KC is about as centrally located as one can get for People to come to.

As for our weather, it hasn't been to bad till last Saturday morning when we started getting freezing drizzle and rain. Then late that evening it started snowing.

About 24 hours later it finally stopped. We were really lucky that we only got about 8" here in east central Kansas. North about 70-75 miles they received up to 18'.

Then you that live east in Mo., Ky. Tenn. N.C. the Virginia's and areas to the north got basically the same. I do feel bad for the people that are still trying to recover from the Hurricane. And then get hit with this kind of weather. Prayers for those people.

A great concern of mine now is about Bob Dudley. As most of you know by now that his cancer has come back. He's again taking chemo treatments so I ask that all of you Red Devils pray hard for Bob and his wife Pat. I never could have served with a better man than Bob. He was one of those Officers that wouldn't ask someone to do something that he wouldn't do himself. And if you knew him like I did in Vietnam you would have went to Hell and back for him or with him. In spring of 71 during Dewey Canyon 2, we had just got to the Laos border and I believe it was a Sheridan crew jumped up out the top of their tank and said they had a fire inside. Since I was parked next to them in my 577, my first thought was that thing could blow-up, so I was wanting to get distance away from them, but Lt. Dudley and our Chief of Smoke ran to it. I thought those two people was Nuts. But that was Bob doing what had to be done. I truly thought the world of him. He was a great one. After about 30 years out of the service I find out that we were living only sixty miles apart. I only found that out after, I believe Captain Bowers started a web page for C battery 5/4. That was how I found Bob. We have kept in touch ever since. Bob my hats off to you. Love you Sir. I pray that the good Lord will heal you so we can talk and laugh for years to come. Salute you Sir.

Pres. Larry Burnett

WORD FROM OUR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT LEE AANONSON

Greetings Fellow Red Devils everywhere! Since we are into the new year 2025, I hope you had a Merry 2024th Christmas and a good start to this Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's reunion in KC. MO. In September.

I've been in contact with Armed Forces Reunion inc. and they have two hotels that have quotes for a 2026 reunion, but they are in Minneapolis or Milwaukee. I have been in contact with Hotels in the Green Bay area and one may be a good possibility if we can iron out an acceptable agreement on prices. I will get the representative from Armed Forces Reunions together with the hotel sales rep. and see if we can get this to happen. It looks very promising, and I truly believe we could have a very memorable reunion in Green Bay. It's been my understanding that this area is very supportive of Veterans and Events involving Veterans. Green Bay has an easily accessed airport only a few minutes from downtown Green bay. The only obstacles could be the room rates and or the Hospitality room arrangements. There are many possibilities for tours in this area as well. I will bring a report to the board at our next meeting on January 21st.

I recently met a 5th ID Veteran that served briefly served at Ft. Polk. I was wearing my 5th Infantry Division hat, and he noticed it, approached me, and said, "You were in the 5th ID?" Yes, I replied. He said he was with the 5th at Ft. Polk after the unit came back from Nam. I gave him one of our challenge coins and told him to go online and read about the Society and the annual reunions. I also gave him my contact information. He later contacted me and said he was going to join the Society and maybe attend a reunion. He said he knew of another 5th ID Vet from Ft Polk. I asked him to let that Vet know about the Society and maybe we could find a few more to join us. Wear that 5th ID hat proudly and carry a challenge coin.

Stay safe and stay as active as you can. Join a local Veterans organization in your area. VFW, VVA, American Legion, DAV any that support Veterans issues. Remember, there are needy and homeless veterans out there that need our help. Warm clothes, winter jackets, food and some shelter. Most service organizations, Veterans or otherwise do collections of these items to distribute. Give whatever you can whenever you can. God bless you and keep you safe!



Dennis Coulter

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT
JANUARY 2025



We hope 2025 is going well for you so far. The last weeks of December where we live have been a lot like Quang Tri Province in December 1969 and January 1970. Not freezing but cold and or wet, every day. The photo included was taken January 1970 at our rear area at Dong Ha Combat Base.

I have a verbal agreement on dates the Oasis Hotel in Springfield, MO for our 2027 Reunion. The dates reserved are September 25-29, 2027.

The next step will be that Armed Forces Reunions will prepare a contract which I will present to our Society Executive Board for their review.

Terrie and I have brainstormed some activities we think you would enjoy. We will further pursue that as soon as we have the contracted finalized.



A Sermon from our Chaplain Ron VanBeek

Chaplain Message - Christian

Jewish - Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is one of Israel's most sacred holidays. It is the Jewish day of repentance and/or resurrection to new life. While Yom Kippur is marked by fasting, before it begins a special festive meal is enjoyed. It's customary to set the home tables beautifully the way they would be for Shabbat or another holiday and to eat together with family or friends. This special afternoon meal before the fast begins, allows joyful celebrate of the holiday, as well as strengthening for the rigors of the fast to come. This meal – called seudah hamafseket, or meal of cessation in Hebrew – has to be concluded while it's still light outside, and should contain no alcohol, garlic or heavily spiced foods.

Many Jews wear white clothes like angels, fasting as if they were living entirely on a spiritual plane. For one day, they leave behind the physical and focus purely on their spiritual selves. On this holiest day, food and drink is given up. On this day Jews, also don't bath, anoint ourselves, wear leather shoes, or engage in marital relations. It's a day to downplay our physical needs and pleasures, and focus on each human's spiritual sides instead.

While Yom Kippur is a day of forgiveness, when it comes to atoning for bad things done to another person, it is required to reach out and apologize and seek forgiveness from those personally harmed. Sins between man and God can be atoned for through prayer and sincere teshuva, repentance, but If the pain caused another person can be remedied – for instance by paying to fix something we've broken – we have an obligation to do that too, before we can truly be forgiven.

Yom Kippur is closely connected to Purim, even though it seems to be the opposite: it's a joyous spring holiday marked by lots of spirited singing, dancing, giving presents, eating and drinking. Yom HaKippurim means both "Day of Atonement" and "a day like Purim". Both paths allow us to bring spirituality into our lives and elevate ourselves using radically different methods: Purim through engaging all our physical senses and Yom Kippur by denying and downgrading our physical sides.

While Jews generally do not kneel in the synagogue, on Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah it's customary to kneel at several key points in the service. This departure from ordinary custom underlines the specialness of this holy day and recalls the ancient service in our holy Temple in Jerusalem, when the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest, would prostrate himself during some points of the service.

The term "scapegoat" originates with the Yom Kippur service. In ancient times, the Kohen Gadol would take a goat and confess the sins of the entire people of Israel over it before driving it away into the desert and off a cliff (Leviticus 16:1-34). We read of this ancient ritual on Yom Kippur morning, as we pray that our sins will similarly be banished and forgotten today.

Starting the year with a clean slate, the evening after Yom Kippur is also considered a holiday. It's customary to eat a festive holiday meal and to wish each other holiday greetings. Many Jews recite a beautiful prayer over the new moon after Yom Kippur services, and Jews all over the world spend the evening preparing for the next big Jewish holiday: Sukkot, just four days away.

This page is dedicated to those who may need prayers, cards and maybe a phone call. If you know of anyone who should be listed please email the names, thank you.

Ken Magnett 29 East Ridge Rd. Eddyville, Ky., 42038
765-210-1513 Multiple cancer from Agent Orange

Tom Owens 3728 Davis Ford RD. Maryville, Tenn., 37804
404-984-7005

Karen Jackson P.O.Box 1845, Cold Springs, Texas 77331
936-767-4229

Robert Rochell 1129 Castle Bluff Circle Waco, Texas, 76712
254-723-3280

Marie Burnett wife of our 1st Vice President Larry

I received an email from Jerry Tedeschi about the passing of Dan Santagta, age 100. He served with 7th Engineers during WWII. Dan hasn't been able to attend the last couple of the reunions but Jerry & Debbie Tedeschi, who lived nearby, visited with him often and became very close friends with him. He will be missed by all who knew him.

In 2000 when we started looking for the VietNam veterans of the 7th Engineers. The WWII veterans asked if we could join their reunions. That's where we met Dan and all the other great WWII Vets. We held our reunions with them until 2006 there were only 2 or 3 vets that could still attend then we joined up with the Society of the 5th Division.

Please consider attending the reunions in Kansas City Sept 18th-25th.

Thomas W Grafton '68-'69

2554 Cathedral Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63129

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VENTING

from the Editor

of The Red Diamond

By the time most of you view this, Groundhog Day will be here and gone. We will find out if we have 6 more long weeks of winter or not.

President Trump, who won an election by a majority of Americans, will be in office a little over 2 weeks. Does the man ever sleep?

Making America Great Again is a huge task for which I fully support.

What a cruel thing war is, it fills our hearts with hatred, instead of love for our neighbors. General Robert E Lee

A little reminder of some upcoming calendar events that you should remember. February 1st is National Freedom Day, Groundhog Day February 2nd, Lincoln's birthday February the 12th, Saint Valentine's Day February the 14th, Washington's Birthday February the 22nd.

Ash Wednesday March the 5th, daylight savings time is March the 9th, Saint Patrick's Day March 17th, National Vietnam Veteran's day March 29th.

How could most of you ever forget, April Fool's day, Army day April the 6th, Palm Sunday April the 13th, income tax day April 15th, Good Friday April 18th, and Easter April 20th.

On February the 4th, I will be in Annapolis along with 100 Veterans. Who will be making their voices heard and airing their complaints to our state representatives. We will be taking action and voicing our opinions, on Veteran problems.

God Bless America and our leaders, may they be transparent enough to do the right thing for those who voted for them.

Society of the Fifth Division
Scholarship Program

At the General Membership Meeting of the Society of the Fifth Division (SOFD) held in Harrisburg PA, the Members present voted unanimously to approve the SOFD Scholarship Program. Although the SOFD Board of Directors has not yet approved the specific dollar amount for the Scholarship year 2025-26, a Scholarship committee has been formed to implement the Program.

Members of the Scholarship Committee are...

President: Dan Lyon

Treasurer: George Shoener

Member: Bob Dudley

Member: Mike Cooper

Member: Lou Pepi

The Committee had it's first meeting in October responsibilities were assigned to each Member. Next steps for the Committee are...

- (1) Place the scholarship application process on the SOFD website – www.societyofthefifthdivision.com.
- (2) Get approval from the SOFD Board for a dollar amount to be used for scholarships.
- (3) Get the Scholarship information out to all SOFD Members and 5th Division KIA Families.
- (4) Start accepting Scholarship applications.

If you have any questions regarding the SOFD Scholarship Program, please email your questions to gshoener22@gmail.com.

SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION



Scholarship Program 2025



About the Scholarship

- ❖ Ten \$1000 Scholarships
- ❖ For College or Trade School
- ❖ Financial Need not considered
- ❖ In honor of 5th Div KIA
- ❖ For Undergraduate Only

Eligibility Criteria

- Child/grandchild/great grandchild of SOFD Member or 5ID KIA
- 3.5 HS GPA for College
- 3.0 HS GPA for Trade

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Deadline is May 15, 2025.....Application Form available at:**
- https://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/Scholarship/Content/Scholarship_Application_Form.pdf
- **Mail Application to: SOFD Scholarship Chairman**
- **1355 F Street, Baker City, OR 97814**
- **Emailto: scholarship@societyofthefifthdivision.com**

**FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.**www.fisherhouse.org12300 Twinbrook Parkway
Suite 410
Rockville, MD 20852-1650Tel: 301-294-8560
Fax: 301-294-8562
info@fisherhouse.org

December 30, 2024

George Shoener
Society of the Fifth Division
7472 Pamelas Way
Easton, MD 21601SOFD ANNUAL
DONATION TO
FISHER HOUSE

Dear George:

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our military men and women, veterans, and their loved ones.

Families like August O'Niell's are filled with service members and veterans. He and his brother are Air Force pararescuemen, and his mom, dad, and stepdad are all Air Force veterans, so they understand the risk of getting the call that no one wants. In 2011 they received that call when August was shot in Afghanistan.

"Family is the only thing you have, so them being there... it was irreplaceable."

- August O'Niell

August spent the next three years attempting to rehabilitate his leg before opting for an amputation. From first being medically evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany through approximately 20 surgeries at hospitals in Maryland and Texas, his mother, brother, sisters, father, and stepfather all came to support him, usually staying at a nearby Fisher House.

Some families stay at a Fisher House for a couple of days while others stay multiple times for months or even years due to the severity of their loved one's injury or illness. For many, the need continues long after they leave service. We count on donations like yours to support families like August's, who were able to make sure he always had someone there when he needed it most.

There are many more families like August's, and your donations ensure they always have someone there when they need it the most.

Thank you for your gift of \$580.00 to Fisher House Foundation.*
We are grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,

David A. Coker
President

Thank you for this blessing!

* Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. This letter serves as your receipt and acknowledges that Fisher House Foundation (EIN #11-3158401) provided no goods or services in consideration of your gift.

"Dedicated to our greatest national treasure... our military service men and women, and their loved ones"

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Arlington Funeral Message of Phillip Andrew Briggs

And The Voice Said, Cry. And Isaiah said, what shall I cry? The Voice said, Cry aloud, that All flesh is as the grass. The grass; withereth. The flower; fadeth. The Dust; returns to Dust, because the wages of sin is Death, and then man returns to his long home. The Spirit of The Lord bloweth upon it. But The Word of our God shall stand forever.

Today, we are gathered together on this hallowed ground, with the extended Briggs family, and his 5th Division brothers, to commit Phillip Andrew Brigg's final remains to the earth, from which it came. During the earlier funeral service his dedicated life to the welfare of his family, his church, and society was covered.

He was awarded two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Service Star Medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge for his meritorious bravery in Vietnam as an Army Infantryman in 1970-71. His heroism and medals earned while serving near the

DM with the 5th Division in Vietnam has helped keep America Safe and Free. The 5th Division salutes him. America salutes him. As a fellow combat veteran in the 5th Division with him near the DMZ, I Salute him. Just read his many citations.

But today his life have been silenced, by the cold hand of death. However, God's Voice still Cries Aloud to us the living, as we stand here in this sacred cemetery, surrounded by the graves, standing in the midst of death. All around us the 1000s of graves and the stones testify to that bitter Reality, that death is the wages of sin, and that last enemy, Satan, still has the power of death.

The Voice Cries Aloud, that because of sin, we can not remain in this world for we are all born dead in sins and trespasses, sentenced to death. We know that God originally Created all mankind perfect in Eden, but in the

Deep Fall of our Covenant Head Adam, we all sinned and earned death. We need only look around to see that horrendous reality. Approximately 50,000,000,000, (50 billion humans have been born, and have died upon earth, since Creation. All except 2 have died, and they returned as dust to the dust of the earth.

Obviously, we must research the source of death. Now all of us can think of and lament the many bad decisions we have made in our life. Saying, If only I had not done this, or had done that differently, I would not have to suffer these consequences. But have we thought about the very worst decision each of us have made, that catastrophic decision in Paradise, when we believed and

followed, Satan, the father of death, the king of hell; instead of believing in and following the Father of life, Jehovah, The King of Heaven and earth.

Yes, If we had not made that horrendous decision, there would be

no graves in the world, there would be no funerals. No tears, no disease, no death. How differently the world would have been. If all the tears of the families of these 50 billion deaths, diseases, illnesses, sicknesses, could be collected. what a river of tears our sins, they would have caused, to flow upon on the earth. Who can not think how different things could have been. Who can begin to fathom that cataclysmic day, that catastrophic hour, that apocalyptic decision. Dust we are; dust we become, The Voice has Spoken. this morning I scooped up a handful of dust, withered grass, and faded flowers. I hold that in my hand now. Here is what a dead man becomes in the grave. We as dust, returning to

dust. With this dust; I anoint dust. And The Voice Cried, Dust to Dust, the mortal dies. The Wages of Sin is Death.

But if this was the final chapter of mankind, we would be the most miserable of all Creation. For all those Born Again, by The Grace of The Holy Spirit, fortunately there is a new Chapter in Life, which God has Promised

6000 years ago, to His Children. For such God has made A New and Living Way, in Jesus Christ, Whose Shed Blood covers all their sins, by which

Jehovah utterly defeats sin, death and the grave. Death is put to Death; by Death. O, Everlasting Thanks be to God, for His Unfathomable Miracle, Amazing Grace. Unspeakable Mercy. Yes, even though each of us sinners deserve hell a a zillion times over, The Blood of Jesus Christ, The Son of God, Cleaneth from all sin.

O lost sinners, hopeless, helpless and missing Beatitude sinners, look up to the Cross. There on The Cross, Jesus forcibly took Death's strongest weapon from death's strong hands; and violently beat death to death with death. Because Jesus destroyed death, by His Resurrection; the grave could not

hold Him; and He arose in the Power of His Resurrection, and ascended into Heaven, where He now sits at The Father's Right hand, ever making Intercession for Lost Sinners. Amazing Grace, Astounding Grace, Divine Grace.

Today if you hear His Voice; harden not your heart, but repent as the King of Nineveh urged his whole nation to do; and God saw their repentance, and did not Destroy them. O seek Him, Who put Death to Death, with Death.

Here is an email that I found interesting. It was sent to me a few years back and I thought that you might want to put it in one of our newsletters.

For over 30 years I....like many Vietnam veterans....seldom spoke of Vietnam , except with other veterans, when training soldiers, and in public speeches. These past five years I have joined the hundreds of thousands who believe it is high time the truth be told about the Vietnam War and the people who served there. It's time the American people learn that the United States military did not lose the War, and that a surprisingly high number of people who claim to have served there, in fact, DID NOT. As Americans, support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism, the mainstream media are once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States . We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 35 years ago. Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will....I guarantee....teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there. Please share it with those with whom you communicate.

Capt. Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.)
Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Source

Vietnam War Facts:, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

9,087,000 (Million) military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War

1. The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the >509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.
2. 58,148 were killed in Vietnam
3. 75,000 were severely disabled .
4. 23,214 were 100% disabled .
5. 5,283 lost limbs.
6. 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
7. Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
8. 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
9. Of those killed, 17,539 were married .
10. Average age of men killed: 23.1 years .
11. Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
17. Vietnam Veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
18. Vietnam Veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
19. 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.
20. There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study)
21. Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
22. 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

23. Interesting Census Stats and "Been There" Wanabees:

- A. 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).
- B. During that same census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958.

24. As of the current census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day.

24. During this census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam vets are not.

25. The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this errored index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

26. Isolated atrocities committed by American soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy.

27. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers .

Common Myths Dispelled:

#1. Myth: Common Belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted. Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

#2. Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population. Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. " The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

#3 .Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War. Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time, and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

#4 Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated. Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better. Here are statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years. (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action) Deaths Average Age Total: 58,148, 23.11 years Enlisted: 50,274, 22.37 years Officers: 6,598, 28.43 years Warrants: 1,276,

24.73 years E1 525, 20.34 years 11B MOS: 18,465, 22.55 years

#5 Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19. Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

#6 Myth: The Common belief is that the domino theory was proved false. Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

#7 Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II. Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords of 1962 would secure the border).

#8 Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972.....shown a million times on American television....was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang. Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to >Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

#9 Myth: The United States lost the war in Vietnam. Fact: The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley a major military defeat for the VC and NVA. FACT: THE UNITED STATES DID NOT LOSE THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DID. Read on..... The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975, two years AFTER the American military left Vietnam. The last American troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973. FACT: How could we lose a war we had already stopped fighting? We fought to an agreed stalemate. The peace settlement was signed in Paris on

27 January 1973.

* It called for release of all U.S. prisoners, withdrawal of U.S. forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam and a commitment to peaceful reunification.

*The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians and Vietnamese military, NOT American military running for their lives.

*There were almost twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (primarily Cambodia) the first two years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 then there were during the ten years the U.S. was involved in Vietnam .

*Thanks for the perceived loss and the countless assassinations and torture visited upon Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians goes mainly to the American media and their undying support-by-misrepresentation of the anti-War movement in the United States .

*As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported and misinterpreted the 1968 Tet Offensive. It was reported as an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a decided defeat for the U.S. forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite initial victories by the Communists forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of those forces. General Vo Nguyen Giap, the designer of the Tet Offensive, is considered by some as ranking with Wellington , Grant, Lee and MacArthur as a great commander. Still, militarily, the Tet Offensive was a total defeat of the Communist forces on all fronts. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA troops and the complete, if not total destruction of the Viet Cong elements in South Vietnam . The Organization of the Viet Cong Units in the South never recovered. The Tet Offensive succeeded on only one front and that was the News front and the political arena. This was another example in the Vietnam War of an inaccuracy becoming the perceived truth. However, inaccurately reported, the News Media made the Tet Offensive famous.

Please give all credit and research to: Capt. Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.)

12. The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

13. As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War .

14. 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged .

15. 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.

16. 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.

Thomas W Grafton '68-'69

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In our 1st Point, the sun darkened. Now most of christendom, thinks this will be as the 3 hours of darkness during Jesus' time on the Cross. Recently many in America experienced an eclipse, where the sun was darkened for a few minutes. Many said this is a fulfillment of The Last Days; but that is a wrong interpretation of the spiritual meaning of the sun darkened in this chapter. For this darkness is spiritually, allegorical, and symbolic darkness, rather than literal. For God is using the sun and alludes in this chapter, to The Sun, as His First Born Son, Jesus Christ. No, it does not mean that Jesus will become darkness; but that mankind, christendom will willfully darken His Word, by twisting it radically differently from God's Meaning. No, the sun is Not a star, but the sun is Created differently than each of the different stars, for it is especially created by God to shine upon earth, where as the physical stars serve a different purpose for God.

Yes, the Sun being darkened in Mark 13, refers to the time of a severe persecution of Christianity, such as never been seen before, when the Word, the teachings of The Trinity, by Jesus Christ are willfully and radically twisted, turned inside out and upside down, by satan. That is the meaning of the sun darkened in the last days of the last days. O only look around, at Christendom destroying itself, today. Dr. Barna, christendom's promenade researchers, concludes it all saying, Christendom is rotting from the inside. Yes, we read that in those last days, satan is loosed for a time from his chains in hell, and he goes about darkening the sun, distorting and perverting God's Word. He does this by non bloody persecution by radically distorting God's Word, from God's Truth. But God is allowing him to do this in trying, testing, sifting the Precious from the vile, the sheep from the goats. God allowed the tares to grow with His Wheat, until this time. Yes, Satan is allowed to do this work at God's Spiritual harvesting, where He separates the tares from the wheat. Yes, by twisting, perverting and manipulating, saying God's Word is a lie, he darkens the sun of Truth, turning Scripture upside down into a lie, deceiving mankind, that they believe man's word, the governments word, the supreme courts word, instead of God's Word. We can't list all the ways that the Sun is darkened, but higher and lower criticism, higher learning, abounds in this day and cunningly twists Scripture. Their words are smooth as butter on the tongue and sweet as honey to the mouth to the enjoyment and comfort of sinful man, who hypocritically obey, loving these evil Words of darkness from man, instead of the Word of God. Only look around, for we can easily see how higher criticism, false science and the Powers of this world are darkening The Son, darkening the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In our 2nd Point, the moon darkened, in Mark 13, obviously again does not point to the physical changes of the moon, blue moons, bloody moons, half moons, etc. No, No, No. The moon in our text is also allegorical and symbolic and reflects, to the fact that the moon does not produce any light, but it only reflects the light of the sun. So, that is the context of the moon being darkened, actually refers to false doctrines, and mis interpreted doctrines, willfully perverted Scriptural doctrines, taught by The Holy Spirit and Given to the Church of all ages. Yes, as represented by the darker moon, a radically and perverted false doctrine is taught, that such receive from the darkened sun, but which dominate in Christendom. It is In that sense, we must understand the moon darkened. We have preached over 200 sermons about the 29 ways, we have perverted Scripture and doctrine in our day. No, it is not my Word; Scripture overwhelmingly proves it; christian research during the last 100 years, overwhelmingly proves it. All the evidence is overwhelming. O let us repent.

In our 3rd Point, the stars shall fall, likewise obviously does not refer to physical stars falling to earth; for according to science, there are billions of billions of galaxies, each made up of billions upon billions of stars. Now Any one can imagine the absurdity of zillions of stars, most of which are far bigger than the sun, falling to this small puny earth. No, it can not be literal for physical stars would have to travel light years in a split second. Heated millions of degrees hotter than the sun, all zillion falling to the earth at one time an impossible interpretation of stars falling to earth. Yes, Just one of these zillions of stars, such as Beetjuice are over 10 million times larger than the sun. No, these falling stars, refers to God's Ambassadors, Those called to be His ministers, who because of the darkened sun, and the darkened moon, fall from the truth. Yes, these stars are false prophets, false christs, men such as Jamees, and Jambrees, who bitterly resist Moses in His Day, men which will especially dominate the church, across the earth, in the last days of the last days. These ministers, these stars, which Scripture calls stars in this chapter, will appear so pious, so truthful, so powerful, but they will simply be fallen stars, tools in satan's hands, during the dreadful last days of spiritual persecution such as has never been seen before coming from satan and his servants, who have been loosed from hell, for a season, to openly, obviously separate the tares from the wheat at God's Harvest time. Jesus calls the ministers of a church, stars, and we read that He holds the 7 Spirits of God, as True stars in His Hand. Jesus warns us that many false stars, false prophets, false christs shall come. In that this chapter is a reference to the last days of the last days, these stars falling away, refers to the many false ministers, the Levites, who will fully and willfully pervert, the darkened sun, the darkened moo, into into further apostasy; falling as stars.

I know a lot of us has talked to Bob by phone lately. He just called me. He's having a hard time. So I'm asking you guys to consider sending him a card. Maybe to help put a smile on his face and let him know we are thinking of him and praying for him. Like most of us, we are more worried about our loved ones we'd leave behind and the pain we put them through more than we are about ourselves dying. He wants to prove them wrong and outlast their time they are saying he has left.

Just a thought from me. He was special to me in VN. Couldn't have had a better Officer to serve under.

Larry B.

Sent from my iPhone

Robert Dudley
16385 148th Street
Bonner Springs, KS., 66012-9373

I am writing for Donald C. Farmer to let you know that you can remove Don's name from the list of those who should be sent a copy of The Red Diamond. Thank you for doing so in the past but due to his health, he no longer reads.

Minna Farmer (Don's wife)
20400 Saums Road, Apt 2202
Katy, TX 77449



Tom Grafton <graftonthomas5@gmail.com>

What can cause a cut on my penis?

A penis can get cut for numerous reasons.

Friction injuries

Penile skin is thin and somewhat loose, whether the penis is flaccid or erect. As a result, the skin may get rubbed raw or pulled back and forth during physical activities, potentially tearing the skin.

A 2017 study^{Trusted Source} found that people with a circumcised penis were less likely to experience penile cuts, abrasions, or scratches during sexual intercourse than people with an uncircumcised penis.

Some activities that may cause friction injuries like a cut on your penis may include:

sexual intercourse

masturbation

playing sports, such as cycling, football, baseball, and basketball

jogging or running

cardio exercises that involve up and down movements

During sex, any part of your penis may get cut from friction created by movement within the vagina, anus, mouth, or hands.

The most delicate areas are more likely to get cut, such as the frenulum. This is a small, thin strip of skin that connects the bottom of the penis head, or glans, to the shaft.

Zipper injuries

A 2023 review^{Trusted Source} found that zipper injuries are the most common cause of penile injuries in the United States.

Zipper injuries usually affect children because they're more likely to get distracted while using them.

However, the authors of the review note that adults may also experience zipper injuries, especially if another person, like a caretaker, is zipping up for them.

Zipper injuries usually affect the foreskin. This may cause pain, inflammation, and cuts.

Most people will try to treat zipper injuries themselves due to embarrassment, but this may cause further injury and make removal more difficult. It's important to get immediate medical attention if you experience a zipper injury to your penis to prevent any complications.

Genital grooming

It's possible to cut your penis while trimming your pubic hair with a manual or electric razor. According to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), 1 in 4 people may injure themselves while shaving their genital area.

A cut on your penis could be painful and increase your risk of developing infections.

The AAD recommends the following tips to prevent penile cuts while shaving:

avoid distractions while shaving

use a clean, sharp razor

shave while standing

Learn more about how to trim your pubic hair.

We hope to see you out on the road in 2025!

Sincerely,

The VVMF Team

THE WALL THAT HEALS SPONSORS

We are honored to have USAA return as the presenting sponsor for the 11th year. Over the past decade, they have traveled to nearly 300 communities with VVMF. This year, VVMF is also pleased to announce a new sponsor for the 2025 season, Wipfli LLP. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wipfli is an advisory and accounting firm with more than 3,300 associates who deliver digital, people, strategy, risk, financial and outsourcing solutions to nearly 56,000 clients. A partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), the trucking industry, and Blue Beacon, enables the exhibit to travel across the country.



As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with no government funding, VVMF's programs and ceremonies, like *The Wall That Heals*, are dependent upon support from people like you. We hope we can count on your support as we continue to honor all of our Vietnam heroes.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
3033 Wilson Blvd
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

photos of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's *In Memory* program, which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

The Wall That Heals 2025 Tour dates include:

Sebring, Fla. (March 6 - 9)
Kissimmee, Fla. (March 13 - 16)
Baton Rouge, La. (March 20 - 23)
Corpus Christi, Texas (March 27 - 30)
Laredo, Texas (April 3 - 6)
D'Iberville, Miss. (April 10 - 13)
Whiteville, N.C. (April 24 - 27)
Roxboro, N.C. (May 1 - 4)
Johnson City, Tenn. (May 8 - 11)
Liberty, S.C. (May 15 - 18)
Shaler Township, Pa. (May 23 - 26)
Warren, Ohio (May 29 - June 1)
Troy, N.Y. (June 5 - 8)
Claremont, N.H. (June 26 - 29)
Farmington, Maine (July 3 - 6)
Montgomery Township, Pa. (July 10 - 13)
Antioch, Ill. (July 17 - 20)
St. Louis County, Mo. (July 24 - 27)
Buckner, Mo. (July 31 - August 3)
Nevada, Iowa (August 7 - 10)
Emporia, Kan (August 14 - 17)
Spokane, Wash. (August 28 - 31)
Ellensburg, Wash. (September 4 - 7)
Port Townsend, Wash. (September 11 - 14)
Independence, Ore. (September 18 - 21)
Orange, Calif. (October 2 - 5)
Clovis, Calif. (October 9 - 12)
American Canyon, Calif. (October 16 - 19)
Wylie, Texas (October 30 - November 2)
Athens, Ala. (November 6 - 9)
Crystal Springs, Miss. (November 13 - 16)

**For the most up-to-date schedule, please visit <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/>*



Disabled American Veterans
National Appeals Office of Veterans' Appeals
Suite 2-E-250, I Street, 810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420
dav.org

December 26, 2024

Mr. David R. Keene
9016 Simms Ave
Baltimore, MD 21234

Dear David R. Keene:

You have recently been notified that the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) has made a decision in your case. If you disagree with all or part of the decision, you have two options. One of these is to appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). You must appeal within 120 days of the BVA decision date to preserve your rights and your effective date. The other option is to file a supplemental claim at VA with new and relevant evidence on any disputed issue(s). You must do this within 1 year of the BVA decision date to preserve your rights and your effective date.

DAV routinely uses the firm of Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick Ltd (CCK) to facilitate prompt review of BVA decisions. CCK has concluded that BVA may have erred in denying your appeal, or in failing to grant you the highest possible rating or earliest effective date. Through a special arrangement with DAV, **CCK is willing to represent you at CAVC for no charge.** (CAVC itself will require that you pay a nominal filing fee, although this fee may be waived based on hardship). Very few cases qualify for this special DAV program. **If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please call Robert Chisholm and his firm as soon as possible at 844-823-0384. If you wait until the last minute, there may be insufficient time to prepare the necessary papers and you may lose your rights.**

CCK's offer may not involve all of the issues you would like to dispute. For any remaining issues, you have the rights that I explained in the first paragraph. To the extent that you wish to file a supplemental claim, DAV is here, ready to assist you. Just contact your local National Service Office to get the ball rolling. DAV does NOT file appeals at CAVC.

Please remember that the decision to file any kind of appeal, whether at CAVC or VA, is yours and yours alone. Neither DAV nor CCK will make any filing without your express authorization. In addition, you are responsible for observing the deadlines we have explained. It is important that you read carefully all notices that you receive from VA about your appeal rights. Many aspects of the rules governing appeals are in a state of transition, and it is VA's responsibility to inform you of all the options available to you.

DAV is pleased that it can offer you the best in representation, whether at VA or, as here, through CCK at CAVC. If you have any questions about this letter, Mr. Chisholm's firm will be delighted to address your concerns. Just give him a call.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Montague
National Appeals Office Supervisor

The Fifth Infantry Division: Its Long-term Contribution to the Army

Donald L. Cummings

Introduction

There are many excellent books about each of the services in every conflict focusing on many subjects and individuals. I published *Steel Tigers: The 77th Armor Regiment 1940-1992* in June 2024. I chose to use an Army armor regiment to examine US domestic and foreign policies through five levels of analysis from the national political leadership down to the soldiers on the ground who put the faces on these policies along with US values, attitudes, and beliefs to the civilian populations where they serve. Nothing happens in a vacuum, and my challenge was how to tell the story.

The 5th Infantry Division arrived in France on May 1, 1918 nearly 4 years after the war began. During the War, the overwhelming number of casualties caused by the trench warfare on the western front demanded a solution be found to restore mobility and maneuver to defeat an enemy. Using newly developed aircraft equipped for combat, and then inventing and employing the tank, the World War I visionaries saw a combined arms force of tanks and infantry breaking through an enemy's front defensive positions before it could conduct an orderly withdrawal and then advance rapidly into the enemy's rear or flank to exploit success before a counterattack could be organized. The evolution of aircraft added the third dimension to the battlefield.

The Red Devils with its attached 735th and 737th tank battalions in World War II and the Korean War with its tanks demonstrated the successes of the inventions. One issue that affects all armed forces over the ages including these two wars has been improving the capability of logistical units to keep apace with the maneuvering units.

The 5th Infantry Division

My emphasis in this article is the 5th Infantry Division after it was reactivated at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1962. The division became a major command in the US Strategic Reserve. In addition to preparing to respond to a Warsaw Pact attack in Europe, it prepared to help restore order in the United States during periods of labor strife and the civil rights movement. Federal troops were ordered to Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 to assist local authorities respond to the integration of its public schools. Civil disorder increased during the 1960s when troops were sent to Los Angeles, CA, Newark, NJ, Detroit, MI, and Washington, D.C. The Army's plan called for each Army area in the United States to designate and train 21,000 soldiers for restoring order within its area of interest in the following phases: immediate response, follow-on, and full brigade deployment

within 24 hours of the request for military assistance. Fifteen US cities were designated priority one and 105 smaller population centers were assigned priorities two through four,

The August 4, 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King at about 6 pm caused violence to erupt almost immediately across the nation in 130 population centers. The Fifth Division's 2d Brigade deployed according to the plan to Washington, DC. The 3rd Brigade was ordered initially to Cleveland, Ohio, but then diverted to Chicago, Illinois. The 1st Brigade was in its training program prior to deployment to Vietnam. It was ordered back to garrison, to fill the two brigades with troops to bring them up to strength. It also began crowd control training to prepare for the spread of the rioting to another city. The USAF had transports on the ground, but the violence began subsiding and the 1st Brigade never left Fort Carson. The deployed brigades were released back to Fort Carson by the middle of April when local authorities regained the capability to protect their populations and properties. Upon their return to Fort Carson, the 1st Brigade's soldiers returned to their units to continue training for deployment in July. The research for this portion of the book was very illuminating.

1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

This article's primary concentration is the 1968 organization of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division when it was identified to deploy to South Vietnam. This topic opened a new chapter in the rich history of the Red Devils and the US Army that has continued for nearly two decades.

The first step taken occurred before 1968. It was implementing the Reorganization Objectives of the Army Division (ROAD) force structure introduced by President Kennedy in 1961 as a part of the Flexible Response strategy. This strategy was designed to enable the US avoid using military force in a potential confrontation that would credibly deter any enemy from employing a symmetrical or asymmetrical small-to-large military force that threatened destabilizing the international order.

The first Army division to use the ROAD structure was the 1st Armored Division. The 5th Infantry Division ROAD at Fort Carson was first ROAD infantry division. Both divisions made the change in February 1965. This concept was based on building blocks. There was a division headquarters group with one commander and two assistant division commanders and the combat support and combat service support entities necessary to support the infantry, mechanized infantry, and tank battalion blocks. The mix of battalions in a ROAD division varied with the mission assigned to it. Intermediate brigade commanders and their headquarters units each controlled a set number of maneuver battalion building blocks.

Following the 1968 Lunar New Year Offensive (Tet), General Westmoreland, the theater commander, requested an additional 206,000 troops be sent to South Vietnam within six months. The President did not approve the 206,000, but he did authorize 15,500 more in two separate brigades, one of which was the 5th Infantry Division's First Brigade with its tanks, infantry, and mechanized infantry battalions. Until 1968, Westmoreland, originally an artillery officer, did not believe the terrain would permit tracked vehicles to realize their potential.

The maneuver unit building blocks of 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) included the 1st Battalion 11th Infantry, 1st Battalion 61st Infantry (Mechanized), and the 1st Battalion 77th Armor. The other combat, combat support and combat service support units were the 5th Battalion 4th Artillery (155 millimeter) (Self-Propelled), A Troop, 4th Squadron 12th Cavalry, 75th Support Battalion, Company A, 7th

Engineer Battalion, 532nd Signal Platoon (Forward Area), 1st Detachment 5th Military Intelligence Detachment, 86th Chemical Detachment, 48th Public Information Detachment, and the 407th Radio Research Detachment. Finally, there was an aviation section with four UH-1H multipurpose and four OH-6A light observation helicopters. There was a brigade commander, deputy brigade commander for operations and intelligence, and brigade executive officer who directed the brigade staff. Once the brigade was in Vietnam, modifications occurred as required.

The force structure of the 1st Brigade 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was the precursor to today's Brigade Combat Team (BCT). The mechanized infantry and tank battalions organized into task forces. The mechanized infantry battalion had two mechanized infantry companies and one tank company and vice versa for the tank battalion. The two task forces trained at Fort Carson as individual battalions. Tankers and infantrymen interacted and each learned the other's personal strengths and weaknesses and the capabilities and limitations of their equipment. Once in Vietnam, armor and infantry companies were cross-attached according to the mission.

The Army shifted in 2006 from a division-based force structure which included all of the assets to be the basic deployable mix of units enabling independent operations to one where the building blocks of the BCT enabled assumption that role.

General Westmoreland placed the Red Devils just below the Demilitarized Zone in northern Quang Tri Province under the command of the US Army's XXIV Corps in Phu Bai, but under the operational control of the 3rd Marine Division at Quang Tri Combat Base. Westmoreland had wanted to locate a major unit in this area earlier, but was unable to because of more pressing tactical demands.

The Brigade's headquarters shared the base with the Marines in a section named Camp Red Devil. The Brigade flew from Fort Carson to the Quang Tri Airfield where multiple models of military aircraft were located. Each planeload soldiers went through in-processing steps, and then moved by truck to the logistical base at Wunder Beach where the units acclimatized to the heat and humidity, drew their equipment, test-fired their weapons, and then deployed to their assigned firebases. The 1/11 Infantry took control of A-4 (Con Thien) from a USMC battalion. This base was within the range of North Vietnamese artillery across the Military Demarcation Line which was the Ben Hai river that separated North and South Vietnam. A short distance south of A-4 was C-2 and C-2 Water Point where the 1/61 Infantry (Mech) was located. The main east-west highway between the Laotian border and the city of Dong Ha was Highway 9 (QL-9). The main north-south highway from Hanoi to Da Nang was Highway 1 (QL-1) where a bridge crossed the Cua Viet River. The last US base above QL-9 was transferred from the Marines to the 1/77 Armor. It had two parts: C-3 and C3 Bridge at another Cua Viet River crossing point. One tank company and the Scout Platoon secured this location. This series of bases occupied by the maneuver battalions was nicknamed Leatherneck Square. Once the transfer of the real estate between the Marines and Red Devils was completed, the entire brigade was operational.

During the initial weeks, the US and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) had to learn about their opposition. The latter always looked into the air for Marine and Army infantry approaching in helicopters. The Red Devil maneuver battalions moved on the ground. Two early operations are an example. The 1/77 Armor with two tank companies and one B-1/61(M) company attacked into the Demilitarized Zone close to the Ben Hai River. The commander stopped his tank atop an enemy position so no one could escape and he could focus on his intended targets. The second operation saw the 1/61 Inf (M) task force with one B-1/77 tank company attack a large NVA formation infiltrating into South Vietnam. The enemy had crossed the Ben Hai River. The 1/61 Inf (M) task force was between the NVA and the Ben Hai and attacked the enemy's rear surprising them. A major battle occurred.

The Red Devils had to learn about enemy mines, booby traps, and that ensuring the security of night defensive positions required a serious effort with great attention to detail. The enemy always looked for weaknesses in targets they selected so they could exploit them even if it took hours of undetected observation before they initiated their attacks.

The 1st Brigade served in South Vietnam from July 1968 to August 1971. Units performed varied missions. Food denial stopped the transport of food from the populated region of Quang Tri to the Base Areas near the Laotian border. Cordons and searches of villages to demonstrate to the people that the central government could provide services and protect them. This included providing the citizens with medical and dental treatment, and other services including village construction projects. Another mission was reopening roads through abandoned villages so that ground forces could traverse the routes keeping the NVA off balance.

Two large-scale operations included returning to the Khe Sanh plateau in when intelligence indicated that reconstituted NVA units were moving back into South Vietnam following their defeats during Tet 1968 and the assault on the Marines at Khe Sanh Combat Base. The first set of operations in 1969 were nicknamed *Operation Remagen* and *UTAH MESA*. Remagen consisted of two increments. The first was controlled by the 1/77 Armor and the second by the 1/61 Infantry (M). The first was a reconnaissance –in-force, and the second was to follow portions of the Ho Chi Minh Trail without being observed by the NVA in the mountains across the river separating Laos and South Vietnam. It is enough here to state that the route along QL-9 had to be completely reconstructed so the tracked vehicles could reach the plateau. UTAH MESA was the second increment and it included the 1/61 (M), a USMC regiment and two battalions from the 2nd Army of Vietnam (ARVN) Regiment, 1st ARVN Division.

All three operations on the plateau were resupplied completely by air. Only tracked vehicles ascended the plateau. The logistical support included all classes of supply and major maintenance such as replacing engines, transmissions, and track were performed on the plateau. The results proved that mechanized units could perform any assigned mission.

The second major operation was *Operation Dewey Canyon II – Lam Son 719* beginning in January 1971 and ending in April. The purpose of the enterprise was to allow the ARVN to cross into Laos and attack NVA safe havens. Dewey Canyon II was to reopen QL-9 up to the Khe Sanh plateau permitting access by wheeled vehicles as well as tracked, and to secure QL-9 to the Laotian border. Lam Son 719 was the ARVN attack into Laos. No US troops including US advisors to the ARVN could cross the border.

Operation Keystone Oriole (BRAVO) was the notification that the Red Devils were to leave Vietnam. The order to stand down and prepare to leave Vietnam arrived on June 12, 1971. The Brigade's staff formulated a phased plan to be initiated beginning July 1st. Areas of operation had to be turned over to the Vietnamese and remaining US units. All equipment, records, and funds had to be accounted for and turned in by set dates. Vehicles had to be taken to Da Nang with tracked vehicles transported by sea and wheeled vehicles traveling in convoys. Personnel were processed out at Quang Tri. Each battalion had a deadline to reach zero strength.

The 1st Brigade 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) returned to the United States according to the plan. Its colors were cased and returned to Fort Carson where it was deactivated on August 22, 1971. The 4th Infantry Division replaced the deactivated 5th Infantry Division at Fort Carson in 1970.

About the Author: Donald Cummings served in Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company B, 1st Battalion 77th Armor from March 1968 to August 1969

Veterans benefits

increase 2.5% in 2025



The adjustment is close to the average increase of 2.6% for the past decade

By Kevin C. Miller

On Oct. 9, 2024, the Social Security Administration announced a 2.5% boost in the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the smallest in the last three years.

The Department of Labor determines the annual COLA by measuring the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is based on a broad sampling of the costs of consumer goods and expenses.

Veterans, families and dependents eligible for VA benefits saw the new amount reflected in their monthly checks effective Jan. 1. The increase affects everything from Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation to clothing allowances to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and survivors benefits.

"Many veterans and their families rely on their VA benefits to help cover essential expenses like food, housing and utilities," said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. "The rising costs of consumer goods and other expenses the last several years have put a significant strain on veterans and their families, and the cost-of-living adjustment is intended to help counteract the impact inflation has on veterans benefits."

The 2.5% increase for 2025 is well below the 3.2% in 2023, 8.7% in 2022 and 5.9% in 2021. However, this boost is still close to the average increase of about 2.6% for the past decade.

The 2025 adjustment means VA disability checks will go up about \$4.28 per month for those with a 10% rating and \$93.45 for those rated at 100% who don't have dependents. ■



Learn More Online

Learn more about VA disability ratings with our VA compensation calculator at dav.org/disability-calculator.



MOPH

<https://www.purpleheart.org/Benefits>

**Free Dental for Veterans and Spouses**

Everyone for Veterans

To meet E4V's threshold for care, a veteran must have served for at least two years, be honorably discharged, show proof of financial hardship, and be less than 100% service-connected disabled. Along with filling out the application form, a veteran also must submit their DD214 paperwork, a VA disability award letter from this year (even if they are rated at 0%), and, if a veteran's spouse is applying, a marriage certificate.

If accepted, the process of linking a veteran to a dentist in their area begins. E4V does not manage urgent dental cases, but it can help address bridges, crowns, dentures, fillings, implants, and root canals, et al. Since 2008, nearly 900 veterans and their spouses have had their oral issues through the efforts of Cheng and then E4V.

In all, 654 dentists nationwide have volunteered with E4V, the organization's data shows.

Veterans can mail their application to

Everyone for Veterans, P.O. Box 1081, Issaquah, Wash. 98027-004181, or email it to info@everyoneforveterans.org. Any dentist interested in volunteering can do so on the organization's website.

Because of an influx of applications that must be vetted and a limited network of volunteer dentists -- there might not be one near where a veteran lives, for example -- vets who turn to E4V should prepare for a potentially long wait. While Cheng said the average time it takes to connect a vet to a dentist is a few months, the organization's website warns that lag could run for two years.

[Everyone For Veterans](#)

**MyVetBENEFITS (AUSA)**

At AUSA, we understand your frustrations when navigating the complex maze of Veteran and military benefits. That's why we're excited to introduce our newest partner, MyVetBENEFITS.

MyVetBENEFITS is a mobile app and website that matches service members, Veterans, and their families to the service-connected benefits they've earned in a matter of minutes. The app includes 2,500+ benefits from the VA, state Veteran departments, service organizations, and more. Wondering where to settle down? Compare state

benefits before you decide where to live.

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Go to: <https://purpleheart.wholesalehotelrates.com/PinRegister>

It Takes 1 Minute to Register for a Lifetime of Hotel Savings

Pamela Merritt, 65, coped with obesity for years, facing numerous health challenges because of her weight. With a six-year old granddaughter and a daughter eagerly anticipating her mother walking her down the aisle, Merritt made a life-changing decision to join VA's MOVE! program at Durham VA.

The program transformed her dietary habits and incorporated physical activity into her daily activities, fostering a healthier lifestyle.

"I recognized the need for change, for my well-being and overall health. The MOVE! program provided the essential support and resources to kickstart my journey toward a healthier life," she shared.

MOVE! assists Veterans to achieve clinically meaningful weight loss to improve their health and reduce their risk for chronic health conditions. It features a comprehensive lifestyle intervention that provides Veterans support to make changes to their eating patterns, increase physical activity and use strategies to make these life changes.

Merritt's path to success was not without obstacles. She faced setbacks and moments of doubt along the way. But fueled by determination and the encouragement of fellow Veterans, VA staff and her devoted daughter, she persevered.

"I learned to read food labels and discovered exercises."

"I was skeptical about my ability to lose weight, given my long-standing struggle. Yet, under the guidance of physiologist David Warfield and other VA officials, I learned to read food labels and discovered exercises personalized to my physical limitations," she said.

The unwavering support from her daughter and the VA community propelled her forward. Her daughter's words served as a powerful motivator: "Mom, you got right back up after falling. You wouldn't have been able to do that two years ago. I am so proud of you."

Merritt is pictured above with her daughter, Shamika White.

After months of hard work, Merritt achieved a remarkable milestone, losing 150 pounds.

"I feel like a new person. I've transitioned from a size 26-plus to a size 17," she added.

If you would like to learn more about how MOVE! has helped Veterans improve their health and their lives, visit [MOVE! and Get Started – MOVE! Weight Management Program](#).

Don't Let Anger Get in Your Way

Better understand and manage your anger

Everyone gets angry now and then. It's a natural emotion that can help protect us from harm. But uncontrolled or out of place anger can damage relationships and cause further stress. For people who have experienced trauma, anger can be a common response. The good news is that anger can be managed.

If you struggle with anger, VA can help. You may want to improve your relationships or better handle stress. If you want to make changes, the AIMS mobile app is a good place to start.

Get the AIMS app on the VA Mobile website

AIMS can help

AIMS (Anger & Irritability Management Skills) is a VA app that's free and anonymous. It offers tools and techniques to help manage your anger. It takes time, but you can teach your mind to respond differently.

The AIMS app is based on treatment that was designed for Veterans. The goal isn't for you to never feel angry. Instead, the app will help you identify what makes you angry. You'll learn to notice the warning signs and manage how you respond.

How does it work?

Many Veterans have improved their anger management skills with AIMS. The app can help you better understand anger, learn to recognize your warning signs, and create a useful plan. You'll set goals for the skills you want to learn. Then, you'll practice a variety of anger management tools to find what works best for you.

You can access AIMS on a computer or mobile device. Use your device to practice new ways to cope with anger in the moment.

Sign in to manage your health

AIMS for Anger Management provides useful tools, but you can also talk to your doctor about more options. My HealtheVet offers free online mental health screenings. Results are not recorded, but you can share them with your health care team through Secure Messaging.

Go to mental health screenings

Learn more about Secure Messaging

After January 2025, you'll need to use a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in to My HealtheVet and other VA tools.

Sign in or create an account

You must be a VA patient to access some parts of your VA health record. If you're not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply now.

Learn how to apply for VA health care

Are You Ready for VA's Sign-In Changes?

Don't delay. Create your sign-in account today.

Veteran signs in to My HealtheVet with a Login.gov account. By now you may have heard that VA is making changes to our online sign-in process. We're moving to 2 modern, secure sign-in account options, Login.gov and ID.me.

If you don't have a Login.gov or ID.me account yet, don't delay. These changes are happening soon. We're removing the My HealtheVet sign-in option after January 31, 2025, and the DS Logon option after September 30, 2025.

Get step-by-step instructions for how to create an account on VA.gov

If you already have a Login.gov or ID.me account but haven't yet used it, start now so you're ready.

Note: Don't worry. My HealtheVet isn't going away. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with an identity-verified Login.gov or ID.me account. And you can get your new account anytime. You'll still have access to all the same information and services you use today.

How can I get help creating an account?

If you've tried to create your sign-in account and you're having trouble, we have resources to help you.

Get support for common issues for Login.gov and ID.me accounts for VA

You can also get direct help with creating your sign-in account or verifying your identity by creating a ticket on the account provider's help center. Their help desk staff will then contact you to help you resolve the issue.

Go to the Login.gov help center

Go to the ID.me help center

Why do I need to verify my identity?

Identity verification is a one-time process that helps us make sure that the person creating your account is really you—and not someone pretending to be you. During this process, the account provider (Login.gov or ID.me) will ask you to provide certain personal information and identification (ID).

Learn about how to verify your identity on VA.gov

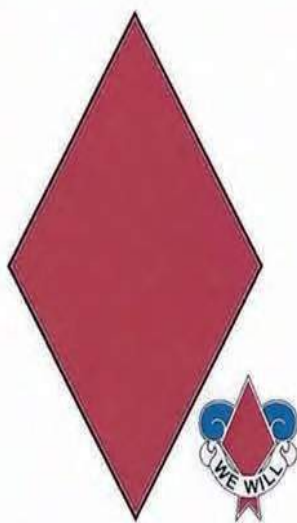
Continue to manage your VA health care with My HealtheVet

Once you setup a Login.gov or ID.me account, you'll be able to use it to sign in to My HealtheVet. You'll also be able to use it to sign in to any other VA website or mobile app. With your modern sign-in account, you can continue to manage your VA benefits and health care, while keeping your information and benefits secure.

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
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For questions please contact Quartermaster:

Dennis Coulter

dwculter1@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
Cloisonné, \$5.00 ea.

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

Fifth Division Hats

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

hats are available in
traditional cloth or mesh
trucker hat style indicate
which style when ordering.



Fifth Infantry Division Challenge Coin

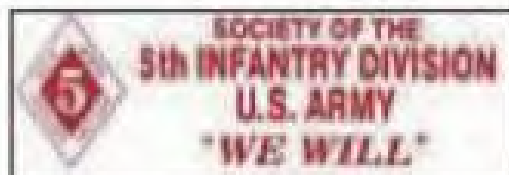


Fifth "Infantry" Division Challenge Coin
(front and back shown): \$10.00 ea.
Antique gold (sandblasted texture)
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Detail is exquisite. This is the only author-
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of the Fifth Division. \$4.00 S&H

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Society of the Fifth Division, U.S.
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dwcoulter1@aol.com



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Be sure shipping address is included and an
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and herewith submit my
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\$ _____ Gift to the Society.

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