

The *Florida 24th Vets*

The Newsletter of the Central Florida 24th Infantry Division Association Members, initiated July 2009.

November 2011

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT



St. Augustine min-reunion!



Windy St. Augustine! Right on the ocean! But sunny and friendly inside the Holiday Isle Resort where the combined Florida 24th Infantry Division Association -5th Regimental Combat Team again joined together to hold its second joint Mini-Reunion from November 3-6.

Pictured above clockwise from left: Harvey Strausbaugh, Cal Karram, Bill Kane, Don Maggio, Bill Allen, Frank Jennings, Joe Scharge, Heidi Edgar, Don Perrin, Tony Polemeni, Jim Bradford (sorry Jim, almost missed you), and Don Van Beck.

Harvey, Joe and Don were first timers this year. But Don and Julie Van Beck left before the banquet as Don said he was not feeling well.

We didn't get the same kind of photos this year, and that fact will be reflected in these pages.

Despite significant efforts by Bill and Helen and myself to publicize the reunion and encourage you all to attend, our numbers were down from 38 total last year to 29 total this year.

Illness was a significant factor as normal for such an event. We are sorry to report that at least two who were there last year making up six of last year's attendees (Jerry White and Bill Morrison) were included in this category.

There were some other reasons that I heard from last year's attendees including a couple who expressed

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Florida 24th IDA Group Dutch Treat Luncheons

January 4, 2012

Leesburg Golden Corral 11:45 a.m.

Space limited to about 50—please reserve by

Contacting: Tom Thiel, 352-408-6612 or 352-357-3943

cf24ida@gmail.com

or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net

Future dates: April 4, July 11, October 3, and December 5 ??

Please, find and suggest a suitable venue in your area.

Strawberries, Strawberries, Strawberries!



Those of you at last year's Dutch Treat Luncheon will recall that Al McAdoo brought car a trunk full of the most beautiful and tasty strawberries imaginable.

Al offered them for a \$12.00 donation to his LT Baldomero Lopez (MOH) Chapter 175 Korean War Veterans Association.

Al will bring a trunk load again in January and although the price has not yet been determined, we presume they will be near last year's price. They will have been picked that morning!

So, think of this before coming to the Luncheon.

Reunion on www.24thida.com

Our reunion, as well as materials about our Florida 24th IDA group, has been posted to the Association's web site, www.24thida.com. On the Home Page note **Florida 24th IDA**. Click on it, and then select from the various options. This newsletter will be available by clicking on **Nov 2011**.

If anyone has any material they would like posted on the web site, whether about the reunion or anything related to the 24th Division or the 5th RCT, please let me know. 24thidaweb@gmail.com or 352-408-6612. TJJ.



Mini-Reunion Photos



Top: Tony Polemeni very capably led the Saturday evening program. The POW/MIA flag is the one Bill Allen presented the group at last year's reunion.

Above Right: Cal Karram did the Honor Guard and POW/MIA ceremonies again this year.

Above Center: Tom Thiel welcomes Shirley Maggio's hand to manage his 24th ID bolo tie.

Helen Kane saw to it that everyone had a nice gift to help remember the evening.

The Trolley to catch a ride to historic St. Augustine or the many nearby shopping areas stopped on the hour at the door to our hotel. Many took advantage of this; most at one time or another took a leisurely stroll on the Atlantic beaches right outside our hotel, although it was a bit blustery.

Saturday Mini-Reunion Banquet Photos



Bill and Helen Kane



Tony Polemeni and Carol Regalado



Harvey Strausbaugh



Don and Shirley Maggio



Jim and Beckey Bradford



Cal and Gloria Karram



Saturday Mini-Reunion Banquet Photos



Joe and Shirley Scharge



Heidi and Matthew Edgar



Frank and Maxine Jennings



Bill and Helen Allen



Don and Bettelou Perrin



Leon Slarskey

VA Malcolm Randall Medical Center *by TJT*



On November 30, Paul Miller, Carol Becker and I met at Wildwood, and then the three of us trekked to the VA Medical Center in Gainesville to deliver donated goods to the veterans there.

This was the second trip there for the Florida 24th IDA group, Paul and I having gone last year.



Above, Paul unloads the trunk of his car onto a flat cart as yours truly and the "cart man" look on.

The gifts were delivered under the auspices of the Florida 24th IDA Group, but came from a wider variety of donors who somehow have ties to our Group.

For example, in the above photo, the four pillow cover sized bags, which Carol made, contained a large num-

ber of lap robes and quilts offered by the *Lake County Quilters Guild* (P.O. Box 1065, Tavares, FL 32778 www.lakequiltguild.com) and the *Clermont Quilters* (451 Seminole St., Clermont, FL 34711 Ccae41@aol.com). Carol is a member of both clubs.



Frances Wesley of the Lake County Quilters Guild also offered a large number of lap robes that are in the box on top in the above photo; *Irma Muraro* donated the crocheted lap robes. *Florence Kespert* donated material and lap robes and walker bags with some help from the 1st Presbyterian Church USA Inverness. Photo above: Paul, Tom and Julie Baker of the VA Volunteer Office. Below Tom, Paul and Carol.



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the desire for a different location for both the meeting site and the city. The latter so that they could have a different “vacation.”

An also there was some concern expressed that mini-reunions in general detract from the organization’s primary reunion and that in turn adversely affects the operations of the organizations themselves. That because of mini-reunions the main one lacks sufficient members to conduct the necessary organizational business. I have heard this before.

But I have also heard many members say that they can no longer travel long distances too, so the dilemma here remains.

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Ted Jansen planned to go but with great regrets had to cancel out at the last minute.

In addition, there were socks, and toiletries, a box with accumulated hotel shampoos etc. contributed by *Harley and Sandra Joseph*, and the smaller red bag filled with many Christmas cards to the veterans including some unsigned ones as well that were offered by *Heidi Edgar*.

And there was some cash also, which Paul converted to cash

While we picked the location because of favorable pricing and service, and because of convenient access to St. Augustine’s attractions, we also heard from one member that there were lower cost venues in St. Augustine.

Nevertheless, this was a good reunion, and all attendees I visited with seemed to be very pleased. I personally very much enjoyed getting to know everyone better.

At the business meeting on Saturday morning, we agreed to meet together again in St. Augustine next year.

Tentative dates for this are November 1-4.

But this will be an item for discussion at our 24th Luncheon on January 4.

books that veterans can use in the hospital Canteen.

Julie Baker and the others at the VA seemed pleased; we thank you for your kind contributions.

But we are left with decisions about future contributions. Might there be better places to take our items? Do any of you have suggestions? And who is going to manage this next year?

So, your suggestions and your hands-on assistance are needed. Please bring them to January’s Luncheon.

List of attendees at the St. Augustine Mini-Reunion

LastName	FirstMI	Spouse	Address	City	State	Zip4	Phone	email	Unit1
Allen	Bill	Helen	421 4th Ave. N.	Tierra Verde	FL	33715-1730	727-866-8337	wallen2@tampabay.rr.com	19th Inf
Bradford	Jim	Becky	1776 6th Street NW, Unit 308	Winter Haven	FL	33881-2178	863-293-3055	jbradford15@tampabay.rr.com	21st Inf
Edgar	Heidi M.	Matthew	797 Ames Barineau Road	Havana	FL	32333-6707	850-575-4857	bravo29_98@hotmail.com	Assoc
Getsee	Malcolm F.		43 High Ridge Ave	DeLeon Springs	FL	33130	863-398-8667		555th FA
Jennings	Frank	Maxine	PO Box 410337	Melbourne	FL	32941-0337	321-751-9103	frank-jennings@cf.rr.com	5th RCT
Kane	Bill	Helen	5023 Andrea Blvd.	Orlando	FL	32807-1302	407-275-7450	kcrabbybill@yahoo.com	24th Inf
Karram	Cal	Gloria	78 Blueberry Lane, RR#2	Marston Mills	MA	02648	508-420-1832		5th RCT
Maggio	Donald E.	Shirley	411 Concord Road	Fletcher	NC	28732-9734	828-684-5931		24th Admin
Perrin	Donald B.	BetteLou	7930 129th St.	Sebastian	FL	32958-3633	772-388-9342		19th/21st Inf
Polemeni	Tony	Carol Regalado	1591 Birmingham Ave.	Holly Hill	FL	32117-2015	904-672-3808		5th RCT
Scharge	Joe	Shirley	215 24th Ave	Vero Beach	FL	32964	772-569-97864	schargj@aol.com	5th RCT
Slarskey	Leon R.		14667 Village Glen Circle	Tampa	FL	33618-2733	813-962-8242		52nd FA
Strausbaugh	Harvey E	Betty	28229 CR 33-196W	Leesburg	FL	34748	740-695-7990	landms1@verizon.net	34th Inf
Thiel	Tom	Jean Singer	19147 Park Place Blvd.	Eustis	FL	32736-7262	352-357-3943		19th Inf
Van Beck	Don	Julia	32004 Harris Rd	Tavares	FL	32778-4630	352-343-1529	seafari.vb@juno.com	34th Inf

January 4, 2012 Dutch Treat Luncheon

I hope you all can come to the Jan. 4 Dutch Treat Luncheon 11:45 a.m. at the Golden Corral in Leesburg (there's a small map on the rear cover).

There are some special events planned with some special folks who have never come to one of our luncheons before. And Al McAdoo will be there with strawberries too.

And I think there are a lot of items to discuss as well. Some of the things that come to my mind are:

- shall we continue promoting a Florida 24th IDA Group,
- if so, how can we improve it to grow our Group,
- shall we continue to have luncheons, and if so how often and where,
- shall we continue to collect

items for a charitable purpose, and if so, where might we better place our donations,

- is anyone really interested in a mini-reunion, and if so are there better venues for it,
- Is anyone interested in 24th ID association shirts and other things,
- what other things should we be doing, and
- now to the nitty-gritty, who can we get to help share the leadership burden?

Then we might also give some thought to the Association and its efforts, too. The history of the organization. Collecting and somehow publishing "our story."

Next spring, the City of Osan, S.K. is going to dedicate a new Task

Force Smith memorial; they are looking for items to place in the memorial. There are a whole host of things that the Association ought to be doing and isn't.

Then there is Revisit Korea, should we be doing something in this area? Are any of you interested in going?

Sometimes it gets lonely here in Eustis knowing what is on everybody's mind, what they think about our newsletter, what they think about our whole effort.

So, you can see there is a lot to be accomplished at our January 4 luncheon meeting! Give it some thought beforehand so that we can wade through if better. I really hope to see you there!!! Tom

19th & 34th Infantry Regiments, Pigeon Forge, TN Reunion, April 23-25, 2012, Holiday Inn Express, 308 Henderson Chapel Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 For reservations call 865-428-8600, Mention code KVR for \$60 rate **For information contact:**

Bob Taylor

828 884-9593

bobnjoan@comporium.net

or

Don and Bettelou Perrin

772-388-9342

Mountainmama125@gmail.com

Stories, your stories?

Stories. Our stories. They are worthwhile, of interest. Don Perrin's is reviewed on the next page. We reviewed Bill Allen's after last year's mini-reunion. And we heard the rudimentary elements of at least two at this mini-reunion—Joe's and Heidi's. I'm sure there are more too. But your stories are important, are of interest. If you do not tell them, who will? I want to publish them for the world to see on the Association's web page. tj

2012 24th IDA Reunion to be in New Orleans.

The Board voted to hold it September 23-26, but it appears President Schillaci has decided to further assess the actual date, so keep tuned. The Board also voted to hold the 2013 24th IDA Reunion in Louisville, September 22-25. More later.



13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain: True Story of a Florida Boy

Author Don Perrin, 2011



the cigarette out of his mouth and put it in mine. I felt he was part of me. I swore I would never quit smoking because I might lose him, but that never happened. In 1988, I had to give up smoking, and I was always afraid they would be gone, but they are still with me in my heart and my soul.

Perrin's gripping autobiography starts with his first memory of living with his grandparents back in Central Florida and takes readers to the time when he signed up for the army as part of the maintenance team. Everything from then on in Perrin's life took a different turn even after he went back home.

A book review by Tom Thiel:

I first met Don Perrin at the 2010 St. Augustine mini-reunion. He said something about writing a book. I forgot about it. At this year's reunion, Don had the book, and a copy of a professional reviewer's news release recommending the book. I came home and read the whole book, at one setting.

Don wrote it just like he talks—directly and forcefully. Like one man who has seen mortal combat to another.

Consider, for example: *"I don't know how many times I've gotten to a patient that there was no way I could save him.*

I always pulled his bandage off his belt, ripped it out, put the bandage on so he couldn't see. I would light a cigarette and put it in his mouth and say, 'You lucky bastard. You're going home.' If he was able to talk, he would usually say, 'No shit, doc?' I would say, *'Yep, all the way.'* We were both thinking of different places.

When he would die, I would take

The worst part of all this was if he was a good buddy, it was all I could do not to cry. But you can't linger."

Don's story was riveting to me. I'm sure it will be to you also, and have no hesitation in recommending it to you.

Now you can read the professional reviewers release below.

Engaging Memoir Introduces Readers to Someone Who Has Seen It All

Author Donald Perrin narrates his firsthand accounts of the infamous Korean War

SEBASTIAN, Fla. — For the great Julius Caesar, one has lived long enough if both nature and glory has been satisfied. What if there's a heavy price to pay for that short and fleeting moment of glory's grandeur and splendor? Author Donald Perrin shares his life when he joined the ranks of men who fought during the Korean War in *13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain: True Story of a Florida Boy*.

A true story in itself, *13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain* narrates the author's experiences while he risked life and limb in the battlefield, and places readers to where the real action happens with his firsthand accounts of the raging war that happened between July 1950 and August 1951 in Korea.

Specially dedicated to the author's comrades in the "Victory Division" who won more battles than any combat division in the history of modern warfare, *13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain* is a riveting and engaging memoir of somebody who has seen it all; someone who really came, saw and conquered.

13 Months of Glory for a Lifetime of Pain by Donald Perrin, True Story of a Florida Boy, Publication Date: June 30, 2011, Trade Paperback / \$15.99; 97 pages; ISBN 978-1-4568-7952-5. Don's book can be purchased at Xlibris bookstore. For more information, contact Xlibris at (888) 795-4274 or <http://bookstore.xlibris.com/AdvancedSearch/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=perrin>

Mark Your Calendars

January 4, 2012, Wednesday, FL 24th Vets, Golden Corral in Leesburg.

April 4, 2012, Wednesday, FL 24th Vets, Golden Corral in Leesburg.

April 23–25, 2012, 34th-19th Inf. Mini Reunion, Pigeon Forge, TN.

May 16-20, 2012, 5th RCT 20th Annual Reunion, Ft. Mitchell, KY.

Please help us cut mailing costs. If you are receiving this by U.S. mail and have email, please tell me by email at fl24thida@gmail.com

Jan. 4, 2012, Leesburg

This newsletter produced and delivered without any support other than what is realized from the 50:50 drawings held at the Luncheons.



24th Infantry Division

"Victory Division"

"First to Fight"



5th RCT

"I'll try sir."

24th ID Korea

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