

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



Jan 5 Dutch Treat Luncheon in Leesburg



Sixteen members and their spouses joined together at the I-Hop across from the Leesburg Mall in the 31st such event held by the FL 24th IDA since forming in the Fall of 2009.

From left, seated: Carol Becker, Gold Star Spouse 21st Clermont; Joyce and Herb Betz, F Co., 19th from Eustis and Palmyra MI; Nancy Boggs; Dorothy and Jim Hird, 26th AAA, Ocala; and Tom Thiel, E Co 19th Eustis.

Standing: Bill Stokes, 34th Leesburg; Paul and Mary Boulay 34th The Villages; Yvonne and Ed Schulte 3rd Eng. Kissimmee and Wisconsin; Don Van Beck 34th Tavares; Bill

Simunek 3rd Eng. Mount Dora; Ted Jansen, 19th Leesburg and Ernest Boggs 34th Lakeland and Ohio.

The Schultes relayed their experiences at the 2014 Association Reunion in Omaha, and we discussed plans for the 2015 Reunion at Ft. Benning.

We sincerely appreciate everyone coming, especially those coming from greater distances.

What do we need to do to get you to come back?

And we greatly miss our friends that have graced our luncheon and reunion efforts in the past. What can we do to get you to come back again?

Our next Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. on March 2, 2015, at the same I-Hop at 10332 U.S. 441 #101, Leesburg, FL.

For those of you who have yet to come to the IHop, it is directly across U.S. 441 from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall, and about 7 mi South (East) of downtown Leesburg.

A McDonald's is next door.

Monday's are 25 percent off days. For info: Tom Thiel 352-408-6612
24thidaweb@gmail.com.

Please Bring Donations for homeless Veterans

Ted Jansen is still accepting

(Continued on page 4)

A tribute to a friend, Bill Allen, Dec. 27, 2014, R.I.P.



Recent photo of Bill with his lovely granddaughter.

I first heard the name “Bill Allen” when, in 2007, as Editor of the Taro Leaf I received a photo and a brief story from Frank Blood something about 19th Regiment Hurdlers Finding Each Other! Frank mentioned

that Bill had been taken POW; I wanted to know more but was of course too busy to follow-up.

Then in the Winter 2010, Bill himself wrote me as Editor saying he was “... looking for former members of “C” Company, 19th Infantry to add to ‘My Old box of Memories, Thoughts of the Korean War.’” We of course put that in the Taro Leaf as well.

In November of that same year at the joint 5th RCT—Florida 24th IDA Mini-Reunion in St. Augustine, I finally got to meet Bill and Helen in person. We met again at the same reunion again in subsequent years. I fondly recall the many stories he told and the fellowship I

felt we shared even though my Korean experience was nothing like his.

Oh, I also got a copy of “My Old Box of Memories” Though not an avid reader, I could not put this one down. And I wrote a review that appeared in the Summer 2011 Taro Leaf. And it is also at www.24thida.com/books/allen_box_of_memories.html



Claus Tiesman presents Bill with his eagle cane at 24th IDA Luncheon.

Then in January 2012 Bill and Helen graced our own FL24th Luncheon by attending and making a presentation. There he presented me an autographed MIA/POW flag, which I will retain forever.

Bill kept me aware of some of the many things he was doing, and I tried to help—Forever Stamp, PTSD treatments, hospi-



At 24th/5th St. Augustine Reunion, Bill rear-center next to then 24th IDA President Don Maggio.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

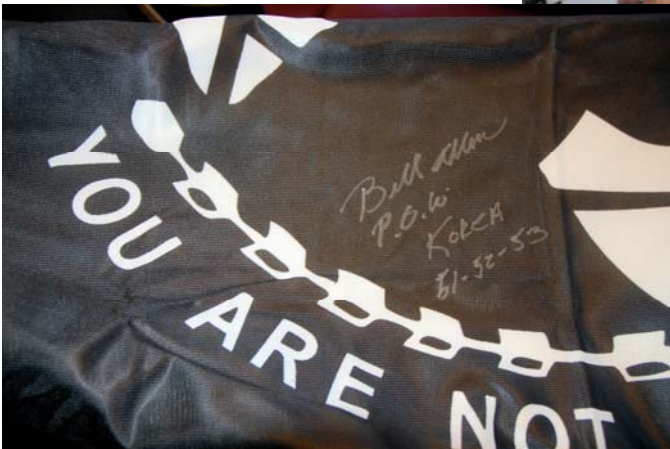
tals, museums, schools—I wish I had done more to help him. I’m going to try.

And, Bill’s name still keeps popping up unexpectedly , most recently at our Chapter 169 Korean War and Korean Veterans Asso-



Left: Photo of POW/MIA flag donated to the Florida 24th IDA Group.

Above: Bill presents General Petraius with a POW/MIA flag



ciation Member Meeting when Chaz Vienna mentioned that Bill would no longer be able to assist him with PTSD treatments; Chaz literally had tears streaming down both cheeks.

I could go on Bill, but as usual other things are pressing. Not only do I wish I had done more to help you, I wish I had the dedication that you have shown.

I truly value the relatively few times we have shared together Bill, and am most honored to have been your friend! Tom Thiel



2013 picture of Bill Allen with Brooker Creek Elementary Kids at his exhibit at Tampa Museum.

(Continued from page 1)

our donated items, which he then presents on our behalf to Veterans helping Veterans at Ocala.

They use them in serving Veterans and their families living in the Ocala National Forest.

This has gone well and thanks to Ted for doing this.

What can we do to enhance participation!

Thanks to those of you who have been coming to our

YR	LOCATION
2015	Columbus, GA
2014	Omaha, NE
2013	Louisville, KY
2012	New Orleans, LA
2011	Dayton, OH
2010	Buffalo, NY
2009	Rapid City, SD
2008	Springfield, MO
2007	Columbia, SC
2006	Indianapolis, IN
2005	Philadelphia, PA
2004	Albuquerque, NM
2003	Tucson, AZ
2002	Kansas City, MO
2001	Hampton, VA
2000	Ft. Mitchell, KY
1999	Tulsa, OK
1998	Little Rock, AK
1997	Colorado Springs, CO
1996	Minneapolis, MN

Luncheons; I appreciate your effort.

We miss those of you who came to earlier Luncheons, but are no longer coming.

No one has given me any suggestions, so I'm going to suggest something again.

A Reunion!

"What," you say, "You're suggesting a reunion again? I thought we put that to bed."

Well, I like reunions. Especially reunions one can drive to in six hours or less.

I think it is becoming clear that the members can no longer come to the reunion.

Maybe we need to take the reunion to the members!

Where are the members? Omaha? Rapid City? I don't think so—see **table at right which shows Association membership by state** in rank order.

FL is second only to CA, and only by eight! Yet the *Association has only come to FL once*—Clearwater in 1974! And to California four times.

The West Coast Reunion continues to be quite viable.

The locations of the 24th IDA Reunion for the last 20 years is shown below left (you may see the entire list of 70 at www.24thida.com select the Reunions Button).

It would be neat to know the number of members attending our Reunions but I am not aware of any data.

I think we should try to create our SE US 24th IDA reunion—especially if Association will not come to FL!

We should shoot for the January-March 2016 timeframe when Florida's Taro Leaf population swells by maybe as much as 40 percent—six of the sixteen at our last luncheon supports this argument.

Anyone care to work with me on this? Especially some of our younger Germany and Desert Storm Taro Leafers.

A group of 24th Desert Storm members meeting at Ft. Stewart, GA February 26 -27. Again please go to www.24thida.com.

Please let me know what you think about the possibility. Send me your suggestions. Tom Thiel

ST	No.
CA	175
FL	167
PA	122
NY	116
TX	97
OH	81
IL	79
MI	68
Ga	65
NC	64
NJ	55
VA	54
MA	52
AZ	49
MO	49
IN	45
WI	43
WA	40
MN	36
TN	36
MD	35
KY	32
SC	32
AL	30
KS	29
CO	28
IA	28
WV	27
AR	25
OK	24
OR	24
NV	23
CT	20
NE	20
NM	13
LA	12
HI	11
ME	11
MS	9
NH	8
RI	8
SD	8
DE	7
MT	7
ID	6
ND	6
UT	6
AK	4
WY	4
VT	3
DC	2
Guar	1
IO	1
Onta	1
	1998

- Home
- 24th Division
- Taro Leaf
- Reunions
- Officers
- TAPS
- Stories
- Looking For
- POW/MIA
- Membership
- Links
- Contact us



Welcome to the 24th Infantry Division Association.

If you have ever worn the Taro Leaf shoulder patch this site is for you.

Wherever you wore the Taro Leaf, whether at Pearl Harbor, in the South Pacific, Japan, Korea, Fort Stewart or Fort Riley, Germany during the Cold War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm or any the other numerous places the 24th Infantry Division served our Nation, this site is for you.

This site is mostly about the Association, but the second button, "24th Division," is reserved for the collection of historical documentation of the Victory Division. We know it is incomplete, and would welcome information from your era of service to the 24th.

We welcome you to browse through the pages of our site to see what we do to retain the memories and the comradeship of the 24th. Frankly, we need everyone who served the 24th, especially those serving in later years. We hope that you will consider *becoming one of us*.

Click on the links below

Now over 10,000 pages of Taro Leaf on line!

Recent Additions: 24th Infantry Division Desert Storm Reunion, Feb. 26-27, 2015.

Ziobron [CHONUI-CHOCHIWON MASSACRE](#) [Counterattack on the Naktong](#) [Hurst, The 24th Infantry Division's Naktong River Crossing](#)

[30-page 2014 Reunion Book](#) [2014 Omaha Reunion](#) [Hist of 24th Desert Storm](#)

Medal of Honor	Association Birth	Assoc Presidents	Bylaws&Constit
Verbeck Award	24th Memorials	Audio	Books
How to Join	Using PDF Files	Search this site	
Business Meetings	Task Force Smith	Lady Tigers	Carmel&Tiger March
Military Records	Member Photos	Oral History	Don. 24th mat'l
Florida 24thIDA	5th RCT, Battlestars	KWVA	Revisit Korea

www.24thida.com boasts over 10,000 Taro Leaf pages

Actually there are 10,010 Taro Leaf pages on the 24th's site!

That's the new home page above; it keeps changing as I add to it.

The FL 24thIDA Group page is now more easily found at the bottom left of the table of Links at the bottom of the page. This area has been redesigned as a table.

On the facing page we talked a lot about Reunions. Clicking on the Brown Reunions button takes you to most all I know about 24 Reunions.

Also in the group of brown buttons is one labeled Taro Leaf. That will take you to a listing of Taro Leaf publications.

From there you may select from over 300 Taro Leaf's that have been scanned and uploaded to web.

The site has an estimated 25,000 pages of content (including over 10K pages of Taro Leaf), is 1.45 GB in size, has over 3100 files and 160 folders, and is hosted by Lunar Pages. It is the property of The Association, who pays the annual fees.

We are looking for someone to

step in and begin to carry the ball for us old guys--I am 86 going on 87, and I urgently need a replacement.

The website is constructed and maintained with Microsoft's Expressions Web, hence knowledge of websites and html is minimal. Knowledge of website structures and folders and files and content is much more important.

If you think you might be interested, please give me a call at 352-408-6612.

Thanks.

Marjorie Talbot, wife of Member Gordon Talbot, died January 24, 2015. Services Friday, February 27, 2015, Visitation 11am-12pm, service at 12 pm, both at Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services, The Villages, 1511 Buenos Aires Blvd, The Villages, FL, US, 32159, (352) 753-8353, info@hiers-baxley.net , <http://www.hiers-baxley.com>.

Interment at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Graveside Service 02:30PM, 6502 SW 102nd Avenue, Bushnell, FL, US, 33513, <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Gordon himself is recovering from a medical situation that necessitates his being in rehab, but we have been told he is doing well and should be home soon, if not already.

Gordon G. Talbot, 1254 Chaparral Drive, The Villages, FL 32159-9500, 352-750-9160, ggtsports@aol.com

Paul Miller I asked Paul how he was doing; he replied: "Well, I must be doing something right as I no longer have a nurse come by or a therapist. This all stopped last week of Jan. I am doing OK except now one of my knees is acting up. I think this was caused by the cane I have been using. To make it short , no I hope to be around for a long time." You may contact Paul at Paul B. Miller, 828 Lanark Drive, Inverness, FL. 34453-4415, 352-344-8277, pmiller151@tampabay.rr.com

Survivor Assistance Guide and Family Preparation Workbook At our most recent KWVA Chapter 169 meeting we had speakers from the D.A.V. Chapter in Merit Island who gave a copy to all attendees. You may download a copy of this excellent 68-page workbook that is so self-explanatory that, as one of the speakers said, "Even a Marine could follow these instructions!" It is available for download at <http://cid169.kwva.org/> Find it listed on the lower main page and click on the link. You may then of course print or download it. TJJ

Eagle Canes

are still available for \$35 each. Please contact:

Ralph Rossignol,
8001 Arcadian Court,
Mt Dora, FL 32757, 352-385-0483,
rossignolrpp@comcast.net



Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon

Monday, March 2, 11:30 a.m.

I-Hop,

10332 U.S. 441, Leesburg, FL, across U.S. 441
from the main entrance to Lake Square Mall;
7 mi South (East) of downtown Leesburg.

352-408-6612, 24thidaweb@gmail.com

24th Inf Div Assoc 68th Annual Reunion, The National Infantry Museum & Columbus GA, Sept. 16—21, 2015!



The 2015 24th Inf Div Assoc 68th Annual Reunion will be Sept. 16—21, at The National Infantry Museum and Columbus, GA. I have no information other than what was in President Tom Appler's column in the Winter Taro Leaf.

I've assembled here some photos I took in 2010 when I visited the Museum as special guests of some special people—my daughter Christine and Son-in-law Ed Ziobron (Ed is a DSC recipient from Vietnam—see Ziobron at home page of www.24thida.com).



Top is my photo of the Museum, Chris and Ed are below, and a photo provided by the Museum



depicting Desert Storm is just above.

Not shown is a reconstructed WWII (and Korean War era as well) Basic Training Complex; the barracks looks just like Camp Breckinridge and Roberts.

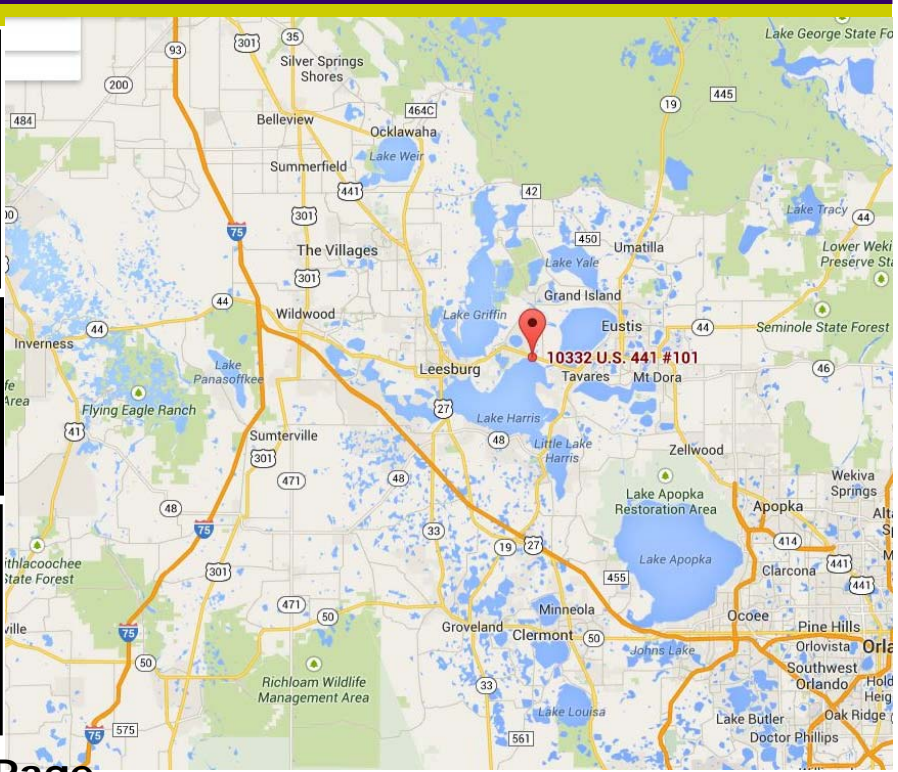
And you 19th Rock of Chickamauga vets may be interested to know that the 19th is there now! My step-grandson, Zach, was there a couple of years ago.

Lets begin now to assemble groups to travel to Fort Benning together next September!

**Florida 24th IDA Group
Dutch Treat Luncheon**
Mon. Mar. 2, 2015 11:30 a.m.
**I-Hop, 10332 US441 in Leesburg.
Across 441 fr Lake Square Mall**

This newsletter produced and delivered with only the financial support realized from the 50:50 drawings held at the Luncheons.

Please help us cut mailing costs.
If you have email, please send Tom Thiel an email at 24thidaweb@gmail.com
352-408-6612



FL 24th IDA Web Page

www.24thida.com — click on Florida 24th IDA
at bottom of home page



The Florida 24th Vets
Tom J. Thiel, Editor
19147 Park Place Blvd.
Eustis, FL 32736-7262

