

# 21ST INF REGT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY –JULY 2011



21ST INF REGT  
AND ALL ATTACHED  
UNITS



2011-2012-2013



2011-2012-2013

*South Korean and U.S. officials and servicemembers gathered to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Task Force Smith at the Jukmiryeong War Monument in Osan City, South Korea.*

OSAN, South Korea—The 60th anniversary of the first U.S. battle of the Korean War was commemorated in a ceremony at the Jukmiryeong War Monument here.

Held during a mid-summer monsoonal downpour at the monument on the ridgeline where Task Force Smith made its stand, the ceremony was attended by Osan City Mayor Kwan Sung-wook and 8th Army deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen Robert Williamson.

In that first engagement between U.S. and North Korea forces, the American Soldiers in Task Force Smith were outnumbered nearly 10 to 1.

Named after its commander, Lt. Col. Charles B. Smith, Task Force Smith was one of the first units that arrived in Korea from Japan by air. It consisted of around 500 U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, and A Battery, 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, of the 24th Infantry Division.

This small but determined group of U.S. Soldiers went up against nearly 5,000 enemy soldiers and 33 enemy tanks with limited amount of anti-tank weaponry and munitions.

Even though Task Force Smith eventually had to withdraw, their tenacious defense during the Battle of Osan delayed enemy forces for several hours.

“That day and the fight that followed were more than just battles of armor, artillery and infantry, They were the opening shots of a war of ideas that exists even today,” said Williamson. “Task Force Smith represents the notion that there is no sacrifice that will not be borne by South Korea and the United States in order to preserve the political integrity and territorial sovereignty of the Republic of Korea..”



“No More Lessons, No More Books”

“... And no more teacher’s dirty looks.” I wonder if kids today know that little rhyme. I remember when I was a kid, and later when my children were young, somebody would be sure to say it on the last day of school. If they do, it is one of a very few things that hasn’t changed over the years. I was thinking the other day about all of the changes that have taken place. I guess I was reading something about “paper free” classrooms. Apparently the goal was for each child to have a computer and everything they would need could be found there – books, study guides, tests, whatever. I can’t imagine how that could work, but then I guess I might be a dinosaur. Actually, I will be anxious to see if it turns out to be possible and how (or if) it does work.

Meanwhile, let me tell you about school when I was a kid. You see, as I have told you before, I grew up on a farm and we attended a “one room school.” First – how did we get to school. Generally we walked. Two or three miles was not a problem. It was harder for the younger ones but older kids were taught to help them. Several years ago I got a letter from a young woman who had been searching for me. She said she remembered that when she started school, I was in seventh grade and sometimes I even carried her when she got tired. I really don’t remember, but I am glad to know that I was helpful way back then. Over the years, we have corresponded and she keeps me up on things where I grew up and even sends me pictures of what remains of the buildings. It is great to see them – it is sort of like taking a trip down memory lane.

Now about the school itself. It was called “one-room” because that is what it had. A woodshed was built on the back and during winter the teacher came early enough to start a fire and warm up the room. All eight grades were there – usually there were no more than five kids in each grade. Assignments were given to all and after a time of study, each grade, beginning with the youngest, went to the front and sat in a row to discuss the math, history, spelling, or whatever. I remember that I often stopped studying my lesson and listened to them. I still remember the day I learned to spell “government.” One older kid couldn’t get it through his head that there was an “n” in the middle, but I have never forgotten. I don’t know if he ever learned to spell, but I sure did. We had art and music too. They were taught by radio, by the “school of the air.” For example, we listened to a story being read and then made a big picture to illustrate it and they were sent in to be graded and then returned. Somehow, I think our education was as effective as what kids get today.

Now about the last day of school. It was always celebrated with a school picnic. Since nearly everyone lived on a farm, parents could usually spend two or three hours and it was a family event. I remember my Mom always opened canned beef and shredded it and added mayonnaise to make the most fabulous sandwiches (with home made bread of course). Everybody brought food to share; we played tag, our version of baseball, and several other games, parents visited and discussed crops and weather etc. and then came the big moment. The teacher handed out our report cards!! Some kids told what grades they got and some didn’t, but it was an exciting time for us – with no waiting for them to come in the mail, or finding them on the computer.

I just read this over – and you know, maybe things aren’t as different as I thought. Kids, lessons, education, and grades are the same. Only the method of presenting them are different. Have a great summer.

Love and Prayers,  
Lyn Sawyer

Lyn,

We want to thank you for the many years you have devoted to serving as the Chaplain of the Association. You have contributed, by your actions and contributions to the newsletters and services at the reunions, and for that we owe you our respect and thanks for making our lives better.

We wish you the best in the years to come and know you are in our hearts.

Love,

Phil and Phyllis

## ATTENTION!

### PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY FURTHER DONATIONS.

We have enough funds in the account to cover the expenses for this newsletter and one more issue.

WE THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS OVER THE YEARS WHICH HAVE KEPT THE ASSOCIATION GOING!!

We used all your donations for the publication of the newsletters (postage, supplies, etc.)

Thank you for your support.

*Phyllis & Phil*

JESSIE L. SIZEMORE, 52ND FA POW TFS  
Enlisted in the Army on May 25, 1948 served in Japan & Korea from July 2, 1950 to August 31, 1953 and was a POW at age 17.  
He was captured on 5 July 1950 and was a POW with the Tiger Survivors until his release on August 30, 1953. He was with A Battery of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Jesse and I and a few others shared a mud shack at Chang Song North Korea for many long miserable months. Shorty Estabrook

## TAPS

|                          |              |           |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Duerk, Don MD            | Med Co       | 3 Apr 11  |
| Evins, Robert O.         | HQ 1st TFS   | 1 May 11  |
| Johnson, Wayne "Johnnie" | L Co         | 1 Jun 11  |
| Kurdziolek, Stanley      | G Co         | 16 Apr 11 |
| Poling, Jack             | L Co         | 14 Mar 09 |
| Pugh, Donald             | D Co         | 13 Jun 90 |
| Russell, John R.         | A Co         | 16 Feb 11 |
| Scott, Dwain             | 52nd FA TFS  | 14 Feb 11 |
| Sizemore, Jesse L.       | 52nd POW TFS | 13 Jul 10 |

**Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robert Owen Evins, 84**, of Panama City, Florida passed away Sunday, May 1, 2011. He was born October 3, 1927 in Louisville, Kentucky and grew up in Detroit, Michigan. Ltc. Evins served twenty-three years in the United States Army with service in World War II, Korea (Hq, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment (1949-50 & a member of Task Force Smith)) and Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, five Air medals, Army Occupation for Germany and Japan, Master Army Aviator, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge with combat drop. Ltc. Evins is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Katherine Evins and five children. Funeral services were held 2:00 P.M. Monday, May 9, 2011 at Barrancas National Cemetery. Military Honors were rendered by the United States Army Honor Guard. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or expressed at [www.kentforestlawn.com](http://www.kentforestlawn.com).

Donald Laux Duerk, MD, 87, of Conway, SC died peacefully, Sunday, April 3, 2011, at Agape Rehabilitation. Upon graduation from High School, he entered the Navy. He was just 17. After serving as a Hospital Corpsman, 3rd Class during WWII, he decided to further his career in medicine. He graduated from New York Medical College, where he earned an MD, and Columbia University. He was called out of the reserves to serve his country once again and entered the Army where he earned the rank of Captain and the nickname, "Doc!" He served in **Japan** and during the Korean War Conflict (49-50) where he earned numerous service medals, including The Bronze Star Medal, Combat Medical Badge, Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Campaign Stars, United Nations Service Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal (Japan). Donald was a proud member of the Korean War Veterans Association and the 21st Regimental Combat Association. He continued to attend the reunions every year, the last of which was last October. In 1998, the Korean War Veterans Association invited the 21st Regiment back to Korea. He proudly took along his Grandson, Granddaughter, and Great Granddaughter. Donald is survived by his former wife, Elnita K. Rogers Duerk. Also surviving him are four children whom he had with Elnita; three sons, Donald L. Duerk, Jr. (Susan) of Garden City, Gregory M. Duerk (Jayme) of Myrtle Beach, and Geoffrey K. Duerk of Myrtle Beach; one daughter, Deborah A. Duerk of Myrtle Beach and six grandchildren. A memorial service with full Military Honors, including TAPPS, 21 Gun Salute, and Flag Presentation will be held April 9, 2011 @ 11am at Christ Community Church with the Reverend Philip Miles officiating.

Don will be missed by all his friends. He made all of the reunions, coming by himself, with great difficulty. Don and I served together both in Japan and Korea. In Japan, he and I delivered a baby to Mary Jane (Smith) Ray, a boy, Leonard Smith Jr. who has attended the last few reunions. Leonard Smith Jr. has been so excited meeting the members (especially Don) who served with his father, Garrard Smith (who was KIA 12 Jul 50). At our last reunion Leonard Jr. won the walking stick that Gene Ames carved with several Japanese names on it. He was elated. His sister also attended several reunions and won the quilt.

*Phil*

## TIGER PROMOTED TO GLORY

Wayne Archer (Johnny) Johnson, was Promoted to Glory on 1 June, 2011 at San Marcos, Texas. He was 79 years old and one of the youngest of the Tiger Survivor group. He had a massive stroke which he never recovered from. He had been tube fed for a number of years and now he suffers no more.

He was born at Beaver Dam, Ohio in 1931 and lived in Lima Ohio for many years. He leaves his beloved mother who is more than 100 now and 2 brothers and 1 sister. For many years now Johnny has made his home with his brother and his family at San Marcos Texas.

Johnny was a member of L Company, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division that was on Occupation duty in Japan at that time. He was a Scout in that unit. When the Korean War broke out the units of the 24th were rushed to Korea to meet the onslaught of the North Korean Army. They were out gunned and outnumbered and soon they suffered many casualties and many were captured. Johnny was among those captured during the early days of July 1950.

During captivity Johnny thought that someone had to keep a list of the men who died or were shot so the next of kin back home would know what happened. He found scraps of paper and bits and pieces of pencils and kept his valuable list. Johnny could have been shot for doing that. He accomplished this in secret. He had no idea how important this list would become. The "LIST" grew to over 500 names during his imprisonment. This "LIST" also contained the date, places and causes of death and information of home town etc.

Johnny told debriefing Officers of his list and a note was made of it but no one seemed interested in it, but he held onto it and would never loan it out not even to the FBI.

Then, during the summer of 1996, Johnny told a group of other Tiger Survivors about his list at a reunion in Evansville Indiana. Work began immediately on making a list of all the Tiger Survivors including the living and the dead, the soldiers and the civilians. With the help of Command Sergeant Major Tim Casey and Johnny's list, the entire group of Tiger Survivors, were accounted for. CSM Casey noticed that a note had been made when Johnny came home about the list and Casey notified the Department of the Army. Before Long Johnson was awarded a Silver Star Medal.

There were 835 people, including 81 multi-national Civilians, with the Tiger Survivors. 58% died in captivity and are still there in North Korea.

Johnny's list is now a treasured document and will be donated to the POW/MIA Museum at Andersonville, Georgia at the Andersonville National Historic Site.

I never heard Johnny swear during all the time I have known him. He is a straight arrow.

Burial will be at 1030 AM on Thursday 9, June 2011 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at San Antonio, Texas. The family has requested that no flowers be sent. A donation to the Andersonville POW/MIA museum in lieu of flowers is suggested.

From Shorty Estabrook

## MESSAGE FROM PHIL AND PHYLLIS:

### A SINCERE THANK YOU

So many of you have helped us over the years with your encouragement, donations, articles you sent us, that we will certainly forget to mention you. Without MOP (General Perry deceased), Susie, his daughter, Bud and Laurette Steckel, Tom Flynn, Maxine and Pete Turnipseed, Gene and Barbara Ames, Hank and Joan Sosa, Bertie Wells, Mary and John Shay, our reunions would have flopped. Everyone was willing to pitch in and help. Laurette and Bud Steckel really put a lot of effort into keeping us going, Laurette with her handmade articles and especially the quilts made for raffle, bringing in revenue for the Association. Bud Steckel for his running the hospitality rooms and the donation of his homemade sausage, fruit cake and wine. The many generous behind the scenes monetary gifts from (to mention a few): our own Australian Consulate, Tom Flynn, Leon and Barbara Davenport, Al and Joan Silverstein, Brian Macaulay, John King, Mary Jane (Smith) Ray, to mention a few.

Our dedicated Chaplain Lyn Sawyer, who gracefully offered her services after her husband, Pastor Bob Sawyer passed away. She kept us furnished with her articles and inspirations for the newsletters and also conducted the services at the reunions.

The dedication of our Historian, Lisa Sholl, who kept the members glued to her many books and memorabilia, and answered their many inquiries, not to mention the effort to carry all of these books to the reunions.

Art Stampler added advice and leadership and his Cajun Jokes to the reunions. Hank Sosa dedicated many years to the Associations' leadership, serving as President.

A lot of our material for the newsletters was sent to us by Wes Morrison of the 24th Inf Division Assoc., Jim Fine, "L" Co and Shorty Estabrook, of the "Tiger Survivors" Association.

Thanks to all of the above and the many others who have held us together !!

*Love, Phil and Phyllis*



**64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
DAYTON, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 18-22 2011**



*To be held at the Holiday Inn Fairborn. Room rates are \$98 a night plus tax. Parking at the hotel is free. There is a complimentary airport shuttle to the hotel. The following is the tentative itinerary:*

- ~ Sunday Hospitality Room Opens*
- ~ Monday ~ National Museum of the U.S. Air Force*
- ~ Tuesday ~ Board Meeting*
- ~ Tuesday ~ Tour Dayton's Aviation Heritage Park & Wright Bros. Bicycle Shop*
- ~ Tuesday ~ Aloha Banquet*
- ~ Wednesday ~ Member's Business Meeting with Breakfast*
- ~ Wednesday ~ Women's Meeting with Breakfast*
- ~ Wednesday ~ Banquet & Program*
- ~ Hospitality Room stocked with snacks, beverages & cocktails all 4 days*
- ~ All associated taxes and gratuities*

*Please call the Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn at (937) 426-7800 no later than September 7, 2011 to make your hotel reservations.*

**Optional Tour**

**National Museum of the U.S. Air Force**

***Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 9am ~ 5pm ~ Price \$25 per person***

*The National Museum of the United States Air Force galleries present military aviation history, boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display -- many rare and one-of-a-kind -- along with thousands of historical items.. Lunch on your own at the café.*

**Heritage Park**

***Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 12:30 ~ 4:00pm ~ Price \$22 per person***

*Dayton's Aviation Heritage National Historical Park where interpretive centers gives you a glimpse into Dayton's varied aviation history and most notable aviators, Orville and Wilbur Wright. At the park you will be able to visit the original site of the Wright Brother's Bicycle Shop and Museum.*

***COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!***

***For More Information:***

***Contact: Sal Schillaci***

***Phone: 716-812-7312***

***Or***

***Contact: The Reunion BRAT***

***Phone: 360-663-2521***

***Email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)***



**64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
24<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
DAYTON, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2011**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

ALOHA BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: LOMI LOMI SALMON \_\_\_\_\_ KAHLUA PORK \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

ALOHA BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ x \$42 = \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES BREAKFAST \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S BREAKFAST \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

HERITAGE PARK \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 18, 2011  
PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

**THE REUNION BRAT**  
16817 Mountainside Drive East  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
(360)663-2521

- Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 18, 2011.
- A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- Call the Holiday Inn Fairborn at (937) 426-7800 no later than September 7, 2011 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion to receive your group rate of \$98 a night plus tax. If rooms are available the hotel will honor group rate 3 days prior and 3 days after your event, should you choose to extend your stay.

**WE'LL SEE YOU SOON IN DAYTON OHIO!**