

Florida 24th IDA Vets

Jul, Aug & Sep 2013

24th Infantry Division Association



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

August 7 luncheon excellent!



Twenty attended our August 7 meeting at the Leesburg Golden Corral; from left standing: Sam Irwin of Riverview, Joel Briggs (guest) of Summerfield, Alma Lugo and Don Williams of Veterans Helping Veterans Ocala, Nick Salakas of The Villages, Jim and Dorothy Hird of Ocala, Paul Boulay The Villages, Woody Wood of Silver Springs, Tom Thiel of Eustis, Sandra Joseph, and Zillah Gaston of Summerfield. Seated from left: Paul Miller and Flossie Kespert of Inverness, Marilyn Jansen, Gene Ames of Bradenton, Ted Jansen of Leesburg, Carol Becker of Clermont, Evelyn Ames, and Harley Joseph of Miami.

Our group continues! Although many of our group are up north for the summer, and many more are “occupied” by their medical situation, we continue.

While comradeship is by far the primary reason we continue to get together, we do other things as well.

Donations to Veterans

One of these has been distributing donated items to veteran’s homes.

Initially begun by Paul Miller, Ted

Jansen has now leads our donations program, and has been instrumental in getting us in contact with a more local veterans aid group headquartered in Ocala but with outreach to adjoining counties beginning to materialize.

Vets Helping Vets

Vets Helping Vets (VHV) is a 501 (c)(3) not-for profit organization serving veterans and their families. Formed in 2002 in Ocala, its Mission is to assist Veterans and their families who are in need of trans-

portation, social services and information to improve their lives and to assist them in maintaining their independence.

This is accomplished through direct contact with Veterans and their families, limited financial assistance, counseling, employment referrals, a food and clothing bank, and through a network of referrals to other Veterans groups, and to government and other social service agencies.

(Continued on page 2)

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We invited Hank Whittier, Executive Director of VHV to address us at our May 2013 meeting, and I invite you to see the last *Florida 24th IDA Vets* for some of his remarks.

VHV Legal Services.

At August's meeting we had the pleasure of having Don Williams, Director, and Alma Lugo with us.

Don spoke generally about VHV, and at a bit more length about the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court, whose mission is to promote public safety while supporting combat veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veterans services, community services and the Court so that no combat veteran is left behind.

This mission is in furtherance of implementing the provisions of the "T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Intervention Act" passed by the Florida Legislature as Section 16 of Chapter 2012-159 of the Laws of Florida and signed into law by Florida's Governor and took effect on July 1, 2012.

Don gave me several copies of a brochure "Marion County Veterans Treatment Court — A Guide for Attorneys and other professionals." If you would like a copy please contact me.



Some of our contributions to VHV on August 7; From left: Ted Jansen, current leader of our charities effort, Paul Miller, previous leader, Don Williams, Director of VHV, and Tom Thiel, Co-Leader of the Florida 24th IDA group.

What might we contribute to VHV?

Ted's thinking is that we bring to our meetings those items we might otherwise take to Goodwill or another charity. Of course they will also take \$\$\$.

Ted is suggesting we clean out our closets, houses, and garages, and to bring to our Nov. 6 meeting, where Hank and Don will take the items back with them from the meeting. Since VHV is a 501c3, I presume you could have a receipt for tax purposes if you wish.

So, begin now to collect your surplus items to bring to the Nov 6 luncheon!

Future Dates

Our next Dutch Treat luncheon will be Nov. 6, at 11:45 a.m. Golden Corral, 1720 Citrus Blvd, Leesburg, FL.

We had investigated the possibility of making this a more formal sit down holiday luncheon, but the

facilities we had in mind did not provide us what we wanted.

So, please, every one come to the Golden Corral, our usual place, and we can make this our Holiday Luncheon!

What about 2014?

We agreed to continue on into 2014. Tentatively, these will be on the fol-

lowing 2014 dates: January 8, March 5, May 7, September 3 and November 5. This is to hopefully capture more of our snow bird members.

I have asked for alternative locations and would welcome anyone from say the Orlando or Tampa area to ask us to come to a site in their area. But I am no longer actively looking for alternative sites. (Also, with much chagrin, I am no longer looking for a reunion site.)

Financing

The FL 24th IDA Group has no dues; we rely on a fifty-fifty drawing to help offset mailing and other costs. Today's fifty-fifty was a total of \$55.00; \$27 to the group and \$28 to the winner. **Barbara Ames** won the drawing, and promptly donated all of it back to the group!

Thank you very much Barbara!

In addition, **Zillah Gaston** gave

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(Continued from page 2)

another special donation, thank you very much Zillah. Finally, **Harvey and Sandra Joseph** gave me a much too much donation, which I am still dealing with, thank you very much Harvey and Sandra!

Additionally, I should say that while the 24th IDA is a 501c19, the Florida group is not.

The Association's Website — www.24thida.com — which I do, now has almost 300 issues and

9,200 pages of the *Taro Leaf* going back to 1947 digitized and online.

I published the still needed issues in the latest *Taro Leaf*, and have been receiving more to scan and upload. I would like to get all of them but realize that is not likely.

We are always looking for your story for web and also the *Taro Leaf*. We also have begun digitizing and uploading *Battle Stars*, the 5th RCT newsletter on the 24th Web site.

I have asked President Maggio to

begin looking for someone to accept the web site fairly soon as I would like ensure a smooth transition.

24th Reunion Louisville, KY Sept 22-25.

The Association Reunion looks very good, See page 8 of this letter for the schedule, and your last *Taro Leaf* for details.

**Thanks to everyone today.
TJT**



Lyrics to THE ARMY SONG. It is played to the music of the Caissons go Marching Along. Go to www.24thida.com Audio to hear it to music.

Verse: March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

Chorus: First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain: Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Photos left: Top, Tom Thiel shows his *Taro Leaf* walking stick hand made for him by Norm Smith, 24th/19th/Easy Company 1951, immediately after the 2011 Dayton OH Reunion. Center: Ken Dillon, Mel Frederick (then 24th IDA President), Norm, and Tom who all were in Easy company at the same time in October 1951, were at the Dayton Reunion. Bottom: *Taro Leaf* engraving on the walking stick. Sadly, Norm passed away earlier this year. I am working on uploading his story to the web.

Bill Allen teaches history at Armed Forces History Museum

Bill Allen, C/19th/24th 1950-53, POW 1/1/1951-8/11/1953, 24th IDA Life - #1695, FL Suncoast KWVA Chapter 14, is a featured guest speaker and regular volunteer tour leader at the Armed Forces History Museum, Largo, FL.
<http://armedforcesmuseum.com/>

the Yalu River on the Chinese and North Korean border where he was held until August 11, 1953.



Bill Allen with Brooker Creek Elementary Kids 2013



Bill volunteers every Tuesday and responds to special requests for tours and other events, taking as many as 60 children or adults at a time on tours of the facility where he explains our military history.

Bill also works with the "Out Reach" program at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital in Tampa, FL. This program supports men and women returning from combat having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by educating these brave warriors on the lifelong effects of PTSD, not only on themselves but their families as well.

On January 1, 1951, at just 19, Bill was captured by the Chinese and marched to a POW camp located on

combat, Bill was filmed by a Korean TV station at the museum while he was taking a group of children on tour. This has been broadcast on Korean Pub.T.V.

See Thank you email next page.

While in service, Bill received the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Japanese Occupation National Defense Medal, South Korean Defense Medal, United Nations Defense and United Nation Service Medal.

Bill is also the author of the book, "My Old Box of Memories," in which he describes his 31 months

as a prisoner of war. *

* \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to: Bill Allen, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730, email: wallen2@tampabay.rr.com, phone 727-866-8337

* also see "My Old Box of Memories; Thoughts of the Korean War" by Bill Allen, the Taro Leaf, Summer 2011, Volume 65 Issue No. 3, pages 10-11.

* http://24thida.com/books/allen_box_of_memories.html

Wanted— I would like someone consider leading the Florida 24th Group. It does not require that much time. And I have a situation wherein I may suddenly not be able to serve in this role. Call me at 352-408-6612.
 TJT

Mya from KBS Seoul, Friday, August 09, 2013

"Dear Bill [Allen]:

I am writing this email on behalf of the KBS Documentary Team to express our sincerest gratitude for the outpouring of support we received from you.

We have learned during our production how cruel it can be to ask POWs to recall memories of their experiences in prison camps, yet you not only showed us how well a POW could overcome affliction and pain of the past but rather make good use of them in a very productive way.

We were in some ways very relieved and thankful for how you came to terms with the most excruciating pain any human being can endure, the War and being taken POW.

Thank you again for sharing your stories to remind our older generations and to teach our young people in Korea (of course, young generations of the US as well) about the War of its significance as even we, ourselves, became rather numb to [it] and some people who thought June 25th (we commemorate the day the North invaded our country) was just another holiday.

I remember some famous people telling something such as "those who forget the past or do not know history are doomed to repeat it."

We believe it was the right time to tell our people about the War many described as "the Forgotten War" or as President Obama put it, the War (American) people "desired to forget



Korean Film Crew with Bill (third from left) at Museum on July 16, 2013.

and just move on."

However, no matter who chooses to forget or naturally forgets it living in this busy world, we as Koreans should not forget the Korean War and remember that there were people who sacrificed their all and even became prisoners of war and suffered dearly in prison camps.

Bill, you and other POWs have told us what you all had to go through in those prison camps so vividly (like it happened just yesterday), we are all very confident that many people in Korea learned about your existence and your service will be looked at from a totally different perspective.

The documentary film titled (a rough translation into English, an official version will be made into a DVD shortly) "*My Story of the Korean War: eleven US soldiers' narratives of personal experiences as prisoners of war*" was aired on July 26 of Friday in Korea. TV ratings were good and we are getting positive feedback from viewers.

As we now have a well-documented

version of your testimonies to brutality of the Korean War and the prison camps, the documentary film will be kept in our KBS Archive for future generations, made into a DVD and sent to you around next week.

In the meantime, I think I'll have to tell you about the two people whom we interviewed and were included in those eleven US soldiers. My producer will tell you more in detail but as a young Korean reader of their books on their lives in China, and having had the opportunity to speak to them over the phone, I think they were just as good as victims of the War, no different from other soldiers.

I feel bad because so much of their stories were cut out from the film but I hope you will try to understand them from a viewpoint of a friend who was just taking a chance to live a better life.

Political ideology meant nothing to them. I will leave the decision to you.

Finally, thank you again and may GOD BLESS YOU and YOUR FAMILY!! Peace and Blessings, Mya"

Please contact your U.S. Senators and Congressperson to ask them to support H.R. 2794 -- Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act (Introduced in House - IH)

This is another cause initiated by and being aggressively pursued by Bill Allen, 24th IDA Life 1695, KWVA CID14; the U.S. Postal Service has rejected this simply as a request of Cong. Bilirakis and Cong. Young, congressional action is necessary. Call or write your U.S. Sen. and U.S. Rep. to ask them to support HR2794 NOW! (You could simply mail this sheet with your request.)



HR 2794 IH
113th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 2794

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 23, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are still prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Con-

gress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the `Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that--

- (1) the Department of Defense reports that more than 83,000 service members remain missing since World War II;
- (2) the United States Government has an obligation to achieve the fullest possible accounting for the Americans who have gone missing while serving the country and to leave no one unaccounted for in future conflicts;
- (3) in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the first flag other than the Flag of the United States to fly over the White House in Washington, DC;
- (4) on August 10, 1990, Public Law 101-355 designated the POW/MIA flag as `The Symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.'; and

(5) the POW/MIA flag should maintain continued visibility as a constant reminder of the plight of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

SEC. 3. PERPETUAL POW/MIA STAMP.

(a) In General- In order to continue to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who have been prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for, the Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp suitable for that purpose and depicts the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

(b) Definition- For purposes of this Act, the term `forever stamp' means a definitive stamp which meets the postage required for first-class mail up to one ounce in weight, and which retains full validity for that purpose even if the rate of that postage is later increased.

(c) Effective Date- The stamp described in subsection (a) shall be issued beginning as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall not thereafter be discontinued.



The 24th Infantry Division Association

Founded August 1945 on a Philippine Island beach

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24th Division

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POW/MIA

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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

Recent Additions: [USA Today's 60th Anniv](#) [Bill Funchess](#) [Lady Tigers, by Estabrook](#) [Hist of 24th Desert Storm](#) [24th 2013 Reunion](#) [5th RCT, incl. Battle Stars](#)

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www.24thida.com

What do you know about your website?

How often do you use it?

If you do not have a computer, have you ever gone to your local library and asked them to bring it up for you to look at? Or asked your grandchildren to let them examine "Grandpa's Division?"

You should.

This describes some of what is on your site, the largest online source of material on the 24th Victory Division ever assembled.

We have no idea how much stuff there is, for example, the Taro Leaf section alone has nearly 10,000

pages of about 300 Taro Leafs, each as a separate document!

The Home Page, where you go when you log on to www.24thida.com, is shown above.

Note the brown buttons on the left margin. Each takes you to a separate section. For example, the Taro Leaf button takes you to the page listing in tabular form by year (columns) and Number or Month (rows). By merely clicking on the issue you want it will then be downloaded for you to view or to print if you wish.

The "24th Division" page contains much of the History of the 24th.

Also, note the bold lettered and underlined phrases in the lower third of the page. Each of these goes to a document or set of documents associated with that phrase.

These all should be fairly obvious, but I should say that those marked "Recent Additions:" are intended to call the viewer's attention to new items. These will be moved to another site later on.

I also need to say that if you do not have high speed internet, this site is not for you.

Try your site today; let me know what you think about it! TJT

Mark Your Calendars

Sept. 22-25, 2013. 24th IDA Reunion, Louisville, KY. (see website or TL)

Nov. 6, 2013. FL 24th IDA Holiday Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral, Leesburg.

Jan. 8, 2014. FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Mar. 5, 2014. FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

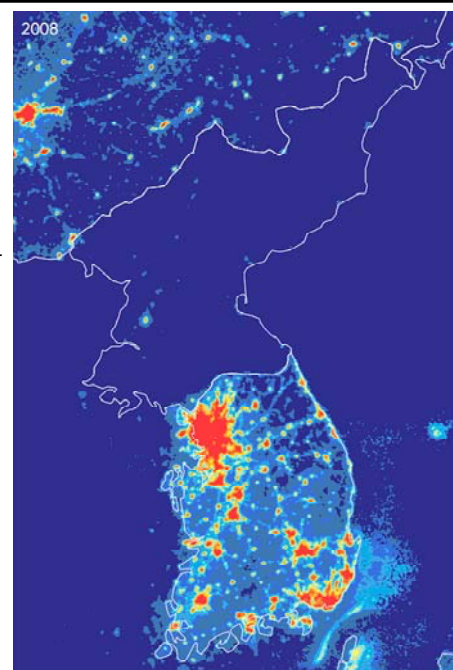
May 4, 2014. FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Sep. 3, 2014. FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Nov. 5, 2014. FL 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheon, Golden Corral Leesburg, or TBD.

Note: All 2014 dates yet to be validated.

In his keynote speech at the 60th Anniversary Celebration in Leesburg on July 27, Tom Thiel used the 2008 night satellite image of the Korean Peninsula (shown at right) to illustrate one of the great benefits resulting from the Korean War—a stark contrast in economic vitality between communist North Korea, and a free, elected republic in South Korea.



24th IDA REUNION AGENDA *See Taro Leaf for full description and registration.*

Sunday, 9/22 Arrivals All Day

- 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
- 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
- 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. RECEPTION - HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
- 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE

Monday, 9/23

- 8:00 a.m. to Noon REGISTRATION LOBBY AREA
- 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon CITY AND CHURCHILL DOWNS TOUR
- 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MESSANINE
- 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, 9/24

- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. LADIES BREAKFAST
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. MEN'S BREAKFAST
- 10:00 a.m. to Noon MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING
- Noon to 9:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. FRAZIER AND LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM
- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. VIEW HISTORIC AND MODERN MILITARY VEHICLES

Wednesday, 9/25

- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. FORT KNOX MUSEUM/LUNCH WITH A SOLDIER
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. HAWAIIAN BANQUET
- 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. HOSPITALITY ROOM - MEZZANINE



THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I desire to be: Enrolled (or) Reinstated ; as a Member (or) Associate Member
(please check the proper two boxes)

of the
24th "Victory Division" Association
The Greatest Combat Division the United States Army has ever known.

Annual Dues - \$15.00 (1) Year From date of joining in The Association.

Life Member - \$200.00 Payable in one sum or 5 yearly payments of \$40.00 each.

~~~~~

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE+4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Served IN the 24th Division, OR was Member of Any Unit Ever Attached TO the 24th at any time.**

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Plt/Bat \_\_\_\_\_ Co \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., 5th, 19th, 21st, 3rd Eng, etc.)

Location Served: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Pearl H., WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stewart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc.)

POW: From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (not necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks in above amount payable to the "24th Infantry Division Association"  
And mail with this completed application to:

**John A. Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**24th Infantry Division Association**

**9150 Hwy. 51**

**Westover, AL 35147-9527**

**FLORIDA 24TH IDA**  
January 2012, 24th IDA WEB

# Florida 24th IDA Group 2013 Dutch Treat Luncheons

**Nov. 6, 2013 11:45 a.m. Golden Corral  
1720 Citrus Blvd, Leesburg, FL 34748**

Space limited to about 50—please contact: Tom Thiel, 352-408-6612 or [fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com)  
or Bill Stokes, 352-750-6741 [wsswrit-er@centurylink.net](mailto:wsswrit-er@centurylink.net) to reserve.

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 [fl24thida@gmail.com](mailto:fl24thida@gmail.com) or call at 352-408-6612



Golden Corral  
1720 Citrus Blvd  
Leesburg, FL 34748-3424  
(352) 728-3911

## FL 24th IDA Web Page

[www.24thida.com](http://www.24thida.com) — click on Florida 24th IDA at bottom of home page



*The Florida 24th Vets*  
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