

Florida 24th IDA Vets

August 3, 2014

24th Infantry Division Association



FIRST TO FIGHT

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

Florida 24th IDA Dutch Treat Luncheons

September 9, 11:30 a.m.

Ruby Tuesday, 9616 US441 (across from
Lake-Sumter State College, Leesburg, FL

Space limited – contact:

352-750-6741 wsswriter@centurylink.net

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



We last met May 7 at the Golden Corral on Highway 441 in Eustis.

As you can see from the photo, the turnout was low. But the enthusiasm was not; we had a very good time.

From left in the photo: Darlene and Sam Irwin, Paul Boulay, Bill Simunek, Tom Thiel and Marilyn and Ted Jansen.

We decided the Florida 24th IDA Group will continue.

And also as you can see, our next Dutch Treat

Luncheon will be on September 9, at Ruby Tuesday, 9616 US441 in Leesburg.

It is directly across US441

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RESTAURANT MANAGER LEESBURG, FL 32798
W 352-360-0455
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RubyTuesday

from the Leesburg Campus of
the Lake-Sumter State College

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Free Baseball, Free food, Recognition for your Service

You are invited to join with us in welcoming The South Korean Collegiate Baseball team to Central Florida, the only U.S. place they are visiting. They will play two games in Leesburg's historic Pat Thomas Stadium, which has seen the cleats of Hank Aaron, Pete Rose, Johnny Bench and more.

All Veterans, especially Korean Veterans, are urged to attend these game to welcome our South Korean brothers in Democracy.

Sponsored by: The Central Florida Baseball League, The Korean War and Korean Service Veterans Association of Lake County, Chapter 169 Inc.,

The City of Leesburg, The Leesburg Lightening, and Lake-FrontTV's Salute. (I am a member of the committee doing this planning and assure you will be welcome to both games and to the Meet and Greet at 2:00 p.m. Sunday Afternoon. Please see pages 2-3, which was sent to KWVA members throughout Central Florida). TJT

The *Scuttlebutt*

The Newsletter of the Korean War and Service Veterans of Lake County (FL), Inc., Chapter 169, Chartered 1998
www.cid169.kwva.org P.O. Box 491428, Leesburg, FL 34749-1428



**Still smarting over being ignored
for what you gave in Korea?**

Then come on Friday & Sunday!



They want to recognize **us** for our service!

The City of Leesburg, the Leesburg Lightning, the Central Florida Baseball League, Salute and others want to recognize us for what we gave in Korea!

They are seeing to it that we receive special treatment, special seating and a special chance to be recognized before all in attendance at the games.

Be there to accept their offering!

I am enthusiastic about this because the thinking of the folks serving with me on the special working group planning the activities for the baseball games has evolved to being equally focused on recognizing us!

But you cannot be recognized unless

you are there!

The Friday game begins at 6:00 p.m. with 169's Color Guard presenting colors, and Congressman Webster throwing the first pitch.

But come early. Bob Peters, without whom we would not be involved in this event, will have his LakeFrontTV Salute Program cameras and be interviewing people before the game. And perhaps other media will be there too.

We will be formally acknowledged by the Press Box during the game. I'll try to get it early in the game.

That is when you need to be there!

Now lets turn to Sunday. The Meet and Greet (M&G) will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Air Conditioned Boat

Come to be recognized for your Korean Service!

Games: Friday Aug. 8 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday Aug. 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Showcase KWVA!

Meet and Greet Teams Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Air Cond. Boat House!

Free Food!

'50's Music

New Chapter videos!

Free Parking.

240 Ball Park Rd, Leesburg,

(Continued on page 3)

House Lounge on beautiful Lake Harris. You will have the opportunity to meet the players of both teams.

And there will be free Baseball Food! Hot dogs and sausages served by the Ball Park crew. Did you hear me? Free food!

Come to hear the new special audio CD that we have put together especially for this event! Music from the early 1950's. All those oldies

Come on-a my house, Dear John, You-You-You, Mockin Bird Hill, Cold-cold-heart, and about thirty more.

Included is the beautiful Korean folk Song of Arirang, which is of course "ah de dong" to most of

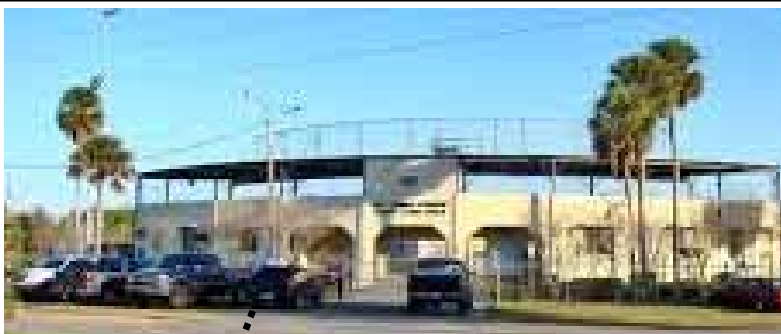
us. Chi-na Night too!

The Boat House is about 450 feet from Pat Thomas Stadium where the games will be played, but if that is too much there will be golf carts to take us there instead.

So, please come. For your chapter. For yourself.

If you or your other half does not want to be in the "game elements" come to the M&G. Meet up with your fellow KWVA vets.

The Korean-American Community will be there; both at the



games and at the M&G.

Come to Sunday's game, where the 169 Color Guard will present Colors again this time at 5:00 p.m. See member Frank Keaser throw out the first pitch from your reserved chair seating behind home plate.

Pat Thomas Stadium, 240 Ball Park Rd, Leesburg, FL 34748, has an historic past. Built in 1937 under the W.P.A. it has seen the cleats of the likes of Hank Aaron, Pete Rose, Johnny Bench and others.

Free parking is available in the Boat Ramp Parking area has been reserved for us.

Free admission to everything. Free food!

What else can I do to persuade you? Did I say Free Food at the M&G? Beautiful lounge seating? Air Conditioned? Good folks!

You all come and make us look good! Make you look good!

Tom Thiel



(**August 3** Continued from page 1)

near Lake Square Mall and Leesburg International Airport.

We were also considering the AMVETS Post 2006 in Leesburg. They were also anxious to have us, but after consulting with a couple of “advisors,” we settled on Ruby Tuesday.

I spoke with the manager Chris Howe who was very excited to have us. They do not have a separate room but he promised to seat us at specially-arranged tables at the front extreme which will isolate us some.

We will select from the menu, which provides a good range from salad bar to full meal (roughly \$7 to \$15).

You can look at their menu at <https://ww.rubytuesday.com/> Click on Locations and enter Leesburg, FL.

Change Meeting Date

Don Van Beck asked us to change our meeting date from the first Wednesday to another week day. That’s why we chose the **second Tuesday, Sept 9**. I hope this works out for everyone; if not we will consider other options.

Other Meeting Venus

I would like to explore meeting at another location. That would allow us to visit other parts of Florida.

If you’d like to sponsor one please let me know. I’d really like for someone to do that as that may be a way to grow our group.

Please Bring Donations to Veterans

Ted Jansen will still accept our donated items, which are presented 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 thank Ted for this.

We will discuss this arrangement on Sept. 9, and seek alternative recipients if you so wish,

Carol Becker Donates 24th Patch

Carol Becker made the nice replica of the 24th Division Patch shown in all the photos.

As usual Carol goes well above and beyond—thank you Carol. And thank you for always bringing your cam-

era! Oh, BTW we asked for a similar POW/MIA Patch.

Bob Peters Salute TV

You recall Bob Peters, moderator of Salute (to veterans) which airs on LakeFrontTV in Leesburg. Bob came to our Nov 2013 luncheon.

Bob tells me that he would like to have our group come in to record one of his Salute programs. I will contact him for a date.

Thank you!

Thanks to those of you who have been coming to our Luncheons; I appreciate your efforts.

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

If you have suggestions for enhancing and growing our attendance please let me know.

Tom Thiel

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



Governor Scott Signs License Plate Legislation

On June 12, 2014, Governor Rick Scott announced he has signed House Bill 559, which further honors and recognizes Florida's veterans for their service and sacrifice. House Bill 559 changes statutory references from the Korean Conflict to the Korean War and Vietnam Era to Vietnam War, a change requested by veterans to more accurately reflect the nature of the fighting in these two wars.

The change in the name is also reflected on the Korean War Veteran license plate. This legislation also redesigns Florida's military and veteran special use plates to include images of the awards and decorations on the plate. This allows the plates to be more recognizable and increases awareness of the special use plates.

Governor Scott said, "I am

pleased to sign this legislation that properly honors the service of our heroes who served our nation in Korea and Vietnam. With more than 1.5 million veterans in Florida, we have the third largest population of veterans in the nation, and I am proud to sign H.B. 559 that will redesign the Korean War license plate and establish eligibility guidelines for other veterans' license plates. This legislation is one more way we thank our veterans for their service and sacrifice."

Representative Larry Metz, House bill sponsor, said, "Our Korean War veterans fought courageously in dire conditions to stop the march of communism and preserve freedom, ensuring the survival and success of the Republic of Korea. Over 36,500 of them made the ultimate sacrifice while an-



Tom Thiel, left, thanks Congressman Larry Metz for responding to his letter requesting the change from Korean Conflict.

other 7,900 are still missing in action. Therefore, it is imperative that we honor them by calling it what is really was – a war. The same principle is true for our Vietnam War veterans; with 58,272 names etched in granite on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, how could we not call it a war?"

New forms are available at DMV offices to request the new plate, but I do not believe that the new plates have been produced yet.

Ping provides free golf clubs to wounded Vets!

On Monday, I played the Disney, Lake Buena Vista course. The starters matched me with three other players.

After a few holes we began to get to know each other a bit.

One fellow was rather young and had his wife riding along in the

golf cart with him. I noticed that his golf bag had his name on it and after closer inspection it also said "wounded war veteran."

I asked him about the bag. His response was simply that it was a gift.

Over a few holes I learned that he

had spent the last 15 months in an army rehabilitation hospital in San Antonio TX. His wife moved there to be with him.

He was quiet but he did say that he wanted to get good at golf.

(Ping Continued on page 6)

24th IDA 67th Annual Reunion Sep 17-21



- **Greet your fellow Taro Leafers**
- **Local Field Trips in area**
- **Banquet**
- **Free Hospitality Suite**
-

Make your plans now to attend the 2014 Annual Reunion to be at Omaha, NE on September 17 - 21, 2014.

24th Infantry Division Association
Pres. Don Maggio
828-684-5931
the24thidavp@aol.com

(Ping *Continued from page 5)*

I asked him about his set of Ping woods and irons he was playing. Some looked like they had never been hit.

His response was simple; this round was the first full round he had played with these clubs. As a part of the discharge process from the rehabilitation hospital, Ping provides three days of golf instruction, followed by club fitting.

Upon discharge from the hospital, Ping gives each of the discharged veterans, generally about 40 soldiers, a brand new set of custom fitted clubs along with the impressive

golf bags.

The fellow I met was named Ben Woods and he looked me in the eye and said that being fitted for those clubs was one of the best things that ever happened to him; he was determined to learn to play golf well enough to deserve the gift Ping had given him.

Ping, whose products are made with pride here in America (Arizona), has the good judgment not to advertise this program.

God Bless America and the game of golf.

Thank you PING !!!

/S/Unknown

Snopes verifies this as true.

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.

Badge of Glory

*Of all the medals upon our chests
From battles and wars we knew
The one admired as the very best
Is the one of infantry blue*

*It's only a rifle upon a wreath
So why should it mean so much?
It is what it took to earn it
That gives it that Touch.*

*To earn this special accolade
You faced the enemy's fire
Whether you survived or not
God dialed that one desire.*

*For those of us who served the cause
And brought this nation glory
It's the Combat Infantryman's Badge
That really tells the story.*

CIB Association Website

The 24th Infantry Division Association
 Founded August 1945 on a Philippine Island beach

Florida 24th IDA Group

The Florida 24th IDA is a group of Association members that has been getting together for lunch on a quarterly basis. They held their first quarterly luncheon at the Golden Corral in Leesburg on July 1, 2009, where they decided to keep getting together every quarter and to hold an annual Mini-Reunion in Florida.

To date all Quarterly luncheons have been held in the general Leesburg area. But, the Leesburg Golden Corral has closed and we have held a couple at the Eustis Golden Corral. And now we are seeking other venues to try to strengthen interest in our Florida 24th IDA efforts. Attendance has varied from over 50 to a low of seven last time. We are seeking other Florida Venues. Newsletters commemorating our past events may be seen by clicking on the links below.

24th IDA Vets and other reports:

	Mar 5, 2014		
Jan-Apr 2013	May-Jul 2013	Jul-Sep 2013	Oct-Dec 13
Jan 2012	Apr 2012	July 2012	Oct-Dec 2012
Feb 2011	May 2011	Aug 2011	Nov 2011
Feb 2010	May 2010	Aug 2010	Nov 2010
	Jul 2009	Sep 2009	Dec 2009

How often do you use your Association Website?

How about the FL 24thIDA Group page of the Association Website?

A lot of work is involved in maintaining the site; I hope our members are using it. I receive contacts from the outside world that others are.

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?"

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

The above webpage is our FL

24thIDA Group page. You get to it by going to the main site: www.24thida.com and then finding **Florida 24thIDA** among the many links at the bottom of the Home Page.

You are able to view and print all of the FL 24thIDA Newsletters so far. That's about all I have put up there, but that still is not too bad.

Back to the main site, the Taro Leaf section alone has 9,901 pages of more than 300 Taro Leafs, each as a separate document! And we are still missing some!

Taro Leafs are listed 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.

You can find information on the site, including all 9.901 pages of Taro Leaf by using Google.

Enter into the Google search line the following: the character string you want followed by + "www.24thida.com"

E.g. if you wanted to find me enter the following in the Google search box

thiel + "www.24thida.com"

This is what I have done. I am proud of it; I hope you are also.

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

TJT

**Florida 24th IDA Group
Dutch Treat Luncheon**
Sept. 9, 2014 11:30 a.m.
**Ruby Tuesday, 9616 US441 in
Leesburg.**

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
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



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