



FIRST TO FIGHT

Taro

Leaf

63rd Annual Reunion Rapid City, SD



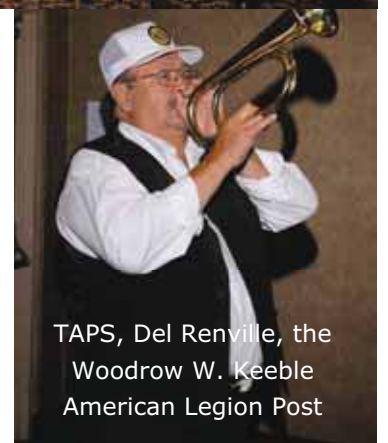


Butch Felix

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Vietnam Veterans Organization Color Guard *

The Woodrow W. Keeble American Legion Post 314

The Rapid City reunion was dedicated to Woody Keeble, and his thirteen fellow Medal of Honor recipients who served in the 24th Infantry Division: Francis B. Wai, Harold H. Moon, Jr., Charles E. Mower and James H. Diamond in WWII; and William F. Dean, George G. Libby, Melvin O. Handrich, Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., Carl H. Dodd, Nelson Brittin, Ray E. Duke, Stanley T. Adams, [Woody Keeble] and Mack A Jordan in the Korean War.



TAPS, Del Renville, the Woodrow W. Keeble American Legion Post



Memorial Banquet Head Table (from left): Chaplain Glen and Mary Carpenter, President Mel and Donna Frederick, Past President Gene Spicer, Vice President Sal and Rita Schilaci, and Sec/Treas John and Kathleen Dunn.



National Anthem rendered in Oyate and in English by Butch Felix

* **Cover Photos.** Top: Posting of colors by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Vietnam Veterans Organization, Lincoln DeMarías, Dayton Seaboy, John Twostars and Gerald Thompson; Bottom Left: Merry Helm was granted full Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Association, as well as several nice gifts, for her contributions leading to Woody Keeble receiving the Medal of Honor and to the Association; Center: MOH flag by John Feathers, The Woodrow W. Keeble American Legion Post 314; Right: Russell Hawkins, stepson of Medal of Honor Recipient, Woody Keeble, after whom the Rapid City Reunion was themed, speaking about his stepfather.



555TH ARTILLERY (TRIPLE NICKEL), 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION											
B BATTERY				A BATTERY				C BATTERY			
SGT PARKER, PAUL OWEN B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT BRITT, ROBERT EDWARD B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT CLAIRBURN, DONALD JOSEPH A BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID POW 27 APR 1951 NEAR POCHON			
SGT BROWN, RALPH FRED C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT EDWARDS, ALBERT C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT VERA, ERIC ARTHUR A BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 12 AUG 1950 NEAR KAYA			
SGT HERRON, HENRI EARL B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT HOPPER, CHARLES THOMAS C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT WAX, ROBERT ISAAC A BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 11 AUG 1950 NEAR SAEWON			
SGT KINGSLEY, JOHN ELSWORTH B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT HOPPER, CHARLES THOMAS C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT WATT, GEORGE WESLEY B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 12 AUG 1950 NEAR KAYA			
C BATTERY				HEADQUARTERS BATTERY				SERVICE BATTERY			
SGT BUCHS, CHARLES ROBERT C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT AKI, CLARENCE HALONA HQ CO, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID POW 12 AUG 1950 NEAR PONGYANG				SGT METZGER, B MAURICE B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID POW 25 APR 1951 NEAR POCHON			
SGT MCGRUFF, GROVER JEFFERSON C BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 14 JUL 1951 NEAR PANGTONGNI				SGT WATT, GEORGE WESLEY B BTRY, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 12 AUG 1950 NEAR KAYA				SGT WINDHAM, WELLS EDWARD SERVICE BN, 55TH ARTY BN, 24TH ID MIA 12 AUG 1950 NEAR KAYA			

JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND (JPAC)
 "UNTIL THEY'RE HOME"



Patricia Quintero, Hazel Park, MI, "Sew Much Comfort," wounded and injured veterans

Display by the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command, Hawaii; they had many displays totaling perhaps a 100 feet or longer.

Helm Awarded "Honorary Membership"



Helm (left) and VP Schillaci

publications, and

- ◆ Whereas, Merry Helm was key to providing the researching, writing and reporting skills that culminated on March 3, 2008, in the White House, with President George W. Bush recognizing 24th Infantry Division member, Woodrow Keeble, with the Medal of Honor for Keeble's actions on October 24, 1951, during Operation Nomad, and
- ◆ Whereas, Merry Helm has received an ongoing stream of accolades from many in high places, including Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad of ND, and others, for her contributions and efforts, but not from the 24th Infantry Division Association.

August 28, 2009

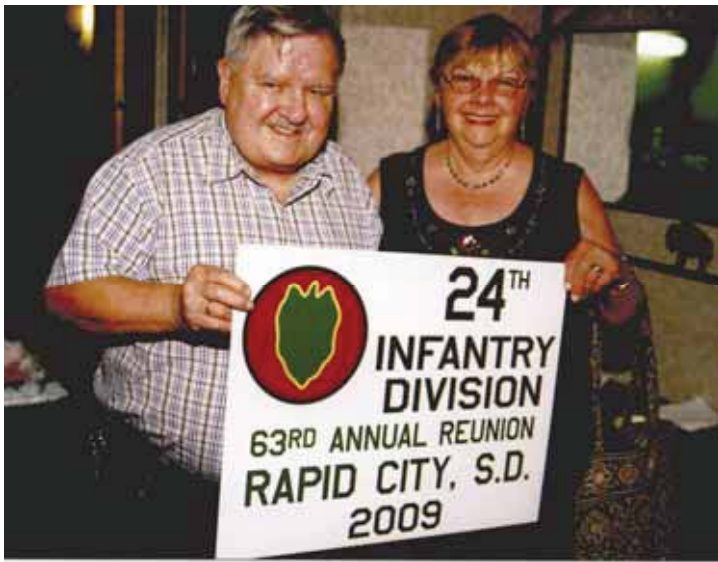
- ◆ Whereas Merry Helm has long been an ardent supporter of the 24th Infantry Division's illustrious record in Korea and elsewhere, and
- ◆ Whereas, Merry Helm has devoted extraordinary amounts of her personal time and effort in researching historical evidence of Operation Nomad-Polar, 24th Infantry Division casualties and awards, and other such materials of importance to the 24th Infantry Division Association, and
- ◆ Whereas, Merry Helm is a professional writer and producer whose livelihood depends on receiving compensation for her contributions; however, said Merry Helm has contributed numerous high profile gratis articles in many recent *Taro Leaf* Quarterly

- ◆ Now therefore be it resolved, that on this date, August 28, 2009, said 24th Infantry Division Association's duly assembled Board of Directors does hereby finally join Senators Dorgan and Conrad, and numerous others, by recognizing said Merry Helm for all her many contributions to the Association, and to its MOH recipient Woodroe Keeble, in honor of whom this Reunion is gathered, by granting said Merry Helm full Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Association, with all the rights and privileges such membership doth thereby provide.

Gene E. Spicer, Past President and Director

Approved: BoD 8/28/2009, and by the Corporation Convention 8/29/2009.





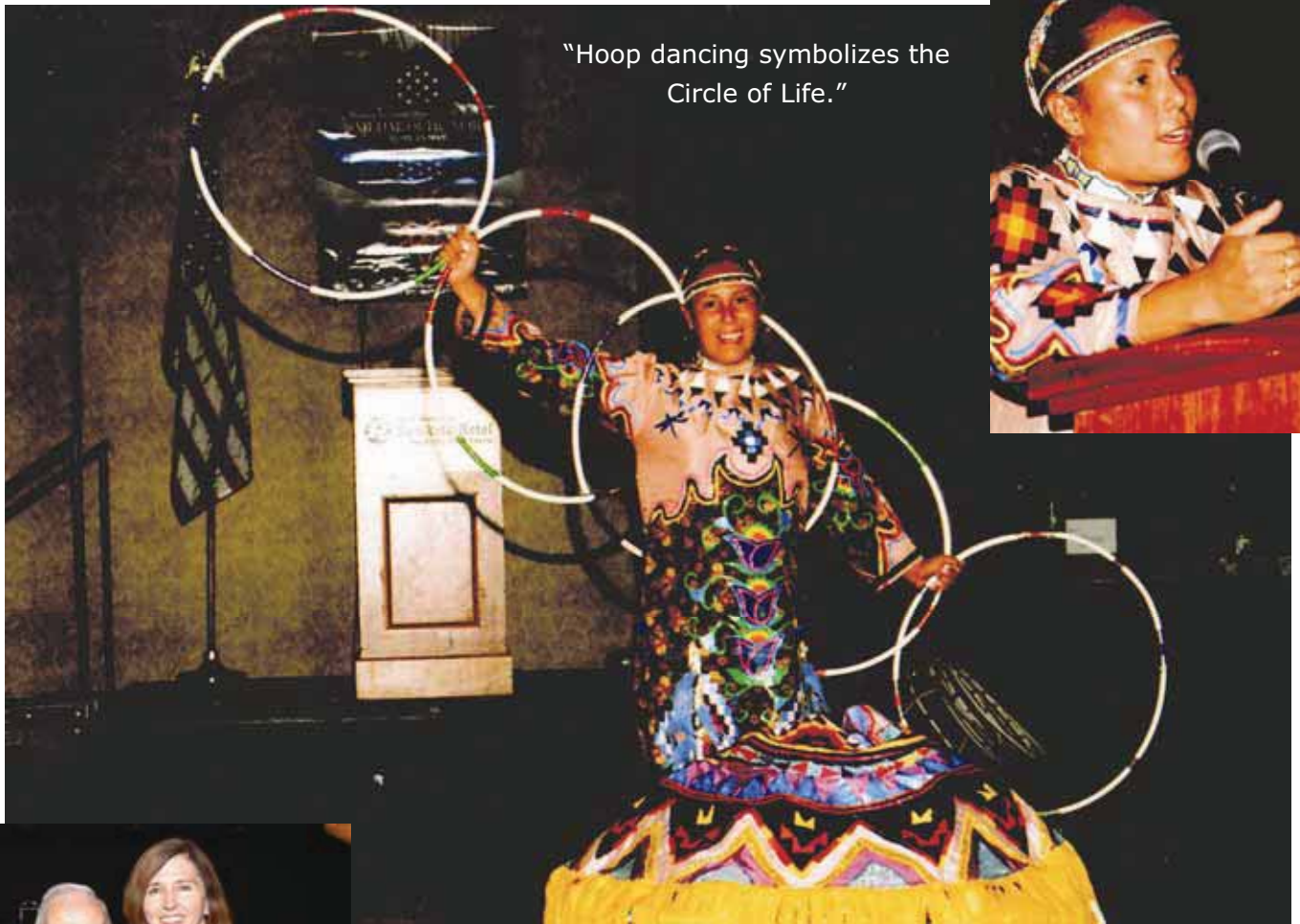
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"The Photo Guy"

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All reunion photographs including the cover and page 2 by **Bill Korhely**, with appreciation.



"Hoop dancing symbolizes the Circle of Life."



Above: Jasmine Pickner of Rapid City. Crow Creek Sioux Tribe champion hoop dancer. Jasmine was encouraged to dance from an early age by her grandmother, Theresa Red Bear. At about age 7, Pickner began hoop dancing, and she has become a leading proponent of the form. She is a member of the reigning world champion hoop dancing team and the adopted daughter of Dallas Chief Eagle.

Left: Newkirk and Jerri Glass





Keeble's Medals



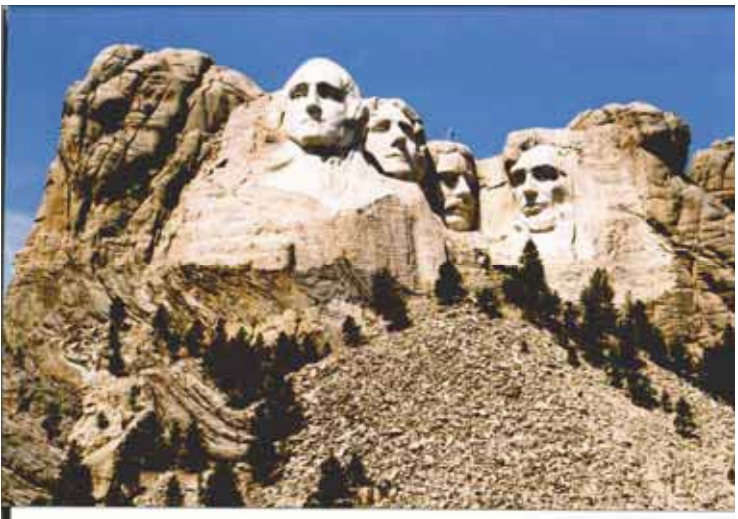
"Memorial Table"



"Gravity"



Chuck Wagon



Mount Rushmore



Gold Panning