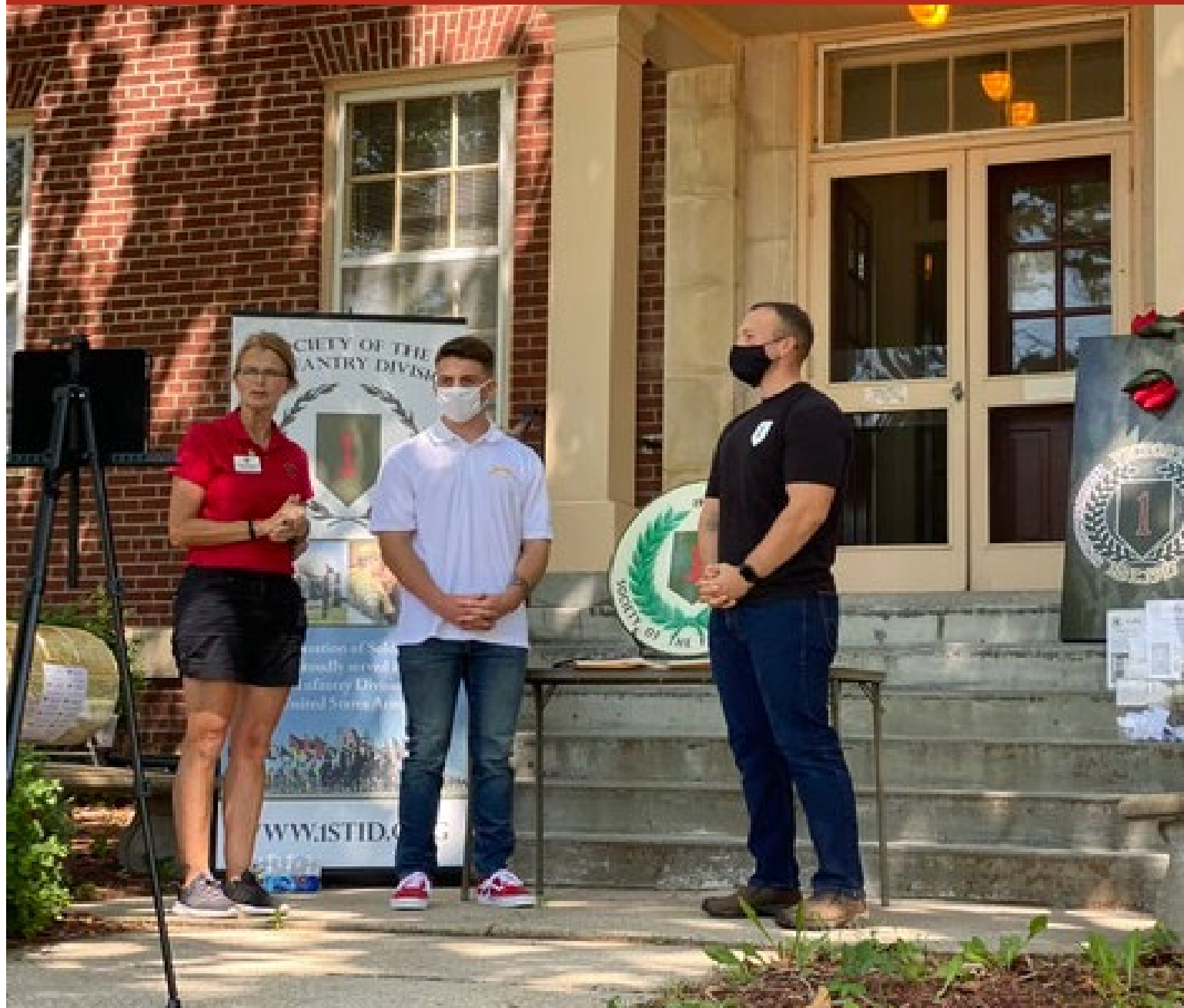


Fall 2020

Bridgehead Sentinel

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION



Above: NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year accept their awards at the Virtual Reunion event on August 15.

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Bridgehead Sentinel



Fall 2020, #3; ISSN 1092-4892

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ADDRESS CHANGES AND DUES

Please send DUES and ADDRESS CHANGES to:
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Fort Riley, KS 66442

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The purpose of the *Bridgehead Sentinel* is to serve the needs of the Society and the interests of its members by:

- Disseminating information from the Society to its members;
- Publishing articles and items of interest to Society members;
- Promoting the history and heritage of the Big Red One.

The *Bridgehead Sentinel* staff reserves the right to edit all articles for length, grammar, and content.

The *Bridgehead Sentinel* does not publish material relating to political issues or campaigns, paid advertisements or solicitations, or material that may be considered defamatory or libelous.

All stories, photos and other items sent to the *Bridgehead Sentinel* will be automatically considered for donation to the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois, unless otherwise requested.

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A U.S. First Division Artilleryman in the doorway of his bombproof shelter devotes a few peaceful moments in writing to the folks at home. March 7, 1918.



Letter from the President

by LTG (Ret.) Ron Watts

Greetings to all Society members! It's hard to believe that 2020 is almost gone. I trust that you and your family members are staying healthy and safe from the virus that has brought so much tragedy to our citizens and economy.

I missed seeing many of you at what would have been our New Orleans Reunion. It is always a pleasure to interact with members and swap tales. Please mark your calendars for 28 July – 1 August 2021 at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We have a great room rate of \$113 plus tax per night.

I am proud of the work our Society staff continues to do. Their greatest challenges continue to be increasing Society memberships,

especially among our post 9-11 vets; and keeping current information on each member. Please be sure we have your current contact information!

A special welcome to our new Commanding General, MG Douglas A. Sims II. He has assured me and the Executive Director that he is “all in” for supporting the Society.

I know some of you are disappointed that we stopped the print edition and went to a digital version of the Bridgehead Sentinel (BHS). The Robert R. McCormick Foundation generously covers the cost of printing and mailing, which amounts to about \$30,000 per year. I agreed with the Foundation that this money could better support the overall

operation of the Society.

We continue to review issues associated with digital distribution. You can help by providing the Society with a good email address, and ensuring admin@1stid.org is in your contact list so the BHS does not go to your junk or spam folder. Keep in mind that the digital BHS is also available on the Society website.

At our August 2020 Board of Directors meeting, the Directors approved a Trust Agreement between the Society of the First Infantry Division and the First Infantry Division Foundation. This agreement outlines the working relationships between the Society and the Foundation.

I would like to thank the First Infantry Division Foundation

Chairman, CSM John Fourhman, and Trustees (Society members) for their diligent work in selecting the 2020 Huebner Scholarship winners. There were 76 applicants, with six awardees receiving a \$10,000 scholarship over four years. I encourage Society members to take advantage of this program for your family members.

We continue to wait for Senate approval of our plan to add the 631 names of BRO soldiers lost in post 9-11 operations to the DC Division Monument. We still need additional funds to complete the monument renovations. Your generosity is amazing! I would also encourage you to consider including the Society in your Estate Planning. ■

2020 Fall Donation Opportunities

Cooler weather is moving in, the leaves are turning colors and, before we know it, winter will be here. This year you have several opportunities to make a charitable contribution to the Society. Our tradition fall donation drive is now upon us.

The Society is participating in the Veterans Day “Armed Forces Community Foundation Stand-To Match Day” in Junction City and

Manhattan, Kansas.

Match Day is for non-profit military affiliated organizations. What does this mean for the Society? For example, if you donate \$100 online to the link provided below on November 11, 2020, the Society will receive a 50% match that can be used for crucial needs. Your \$100 gift becomes \$150! Please be sure to select the Society of the 1st

Infantry Division from the list of participating funds.

The online link below is available November 11 from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Please visit the site in advance to learn more about the Match Day.

You also have the option to send a check to the Society of the 1st Infantry Division (**Note: your check must be dated November 11, 2020**). Checks received

at Society Headquarters will be held and turned in on Match Day.

We will share more details, as available, on our website and via email. Please call the Executive Director if you have any questions, at 785-579-6761.

<https://www.standtomatchday.com/index.cfm> ■



Letter from the Executive Director

by CW3 (Ret.) Phyllis Fitzgerald

Hello everyone, fall is in the air in Kansas. As I walk daily in my community, I enjoy seeing the trees turning to beautiful autumn colors along with the cooler temperatures. I hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this year where the COVID-19 virus has changed all of us in many ways.

I was looking forward to New Orleans and seeing many of you but, as we all know, the reunion was cancelled. The good news is that our next reunion is all set for Albuquerque from 28 July to 1 August 2021. I hope you will attend, so I can meet you in person.

We have been busy at Society Headquarters on Fort Riley, working hard for our members, Soldiers and their families. We bid farewell to Crystal and said hello to Vera, who is working with quartermaster orders and our database. She's a great addition to

our staff!

On 15 August, we had our first-ever live Facebook event at Society Headquarters. During this event the 2020 1st Infantry NCO and the Soldier of the Year were presented with plaques, challenge coins and membership in the Society. They also assisted us with the raffle drawing. COVID may have kept us from meeting in person, but it did not stop us from some of the annual traditions. Our new 1 ID Commanding General, MG Sims II, attended and greeted those present on ground and those watching on Facebook. We extend a special welcome to MG D.A. and Fay Sims II and look forward to future engagements.

We continue to update our member database. We've spent a significant amount of time updating records but still have a long way to go. You will soon receive a letter in the mail along with an information sheet to fill out and

send back. Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our membership information accurate and current.

Chapters are still in the process of setting up. So far seven Society members have stepped up in their communities to get a chapter going. If one of the new chapters is near your home, please consider joining. There is more chapter information in this issue of the magazine and on our homepage: www.1stid.org

Speaking of our website, please check it often as the information is updated regularly. You will find valuable information about the Society, and you can read or download the Bridgehead Sentinel from the home page. Also, a reminder, once published, the magazine is distributed by email. We will have a limited number of copies that can be ordered from the quartermaster tab on our website.

In addition to standing up new chapters, we are working to grow membership in several ways. Our own members are sponsoring Active Duty Soldiers, working with Fort Riley to give soldiers a free one-year membership from your donations. We're also promoting the Society at community events and through social media, local radio, TV and newspapers. It takes all of us to tell the story of the Society and to encourage others to be a part of this great association.

I am thankful to be your Executive Director and I enjoy engaging with all of you whether by phone, email, mail or social media. I appreciate your generous support of the Society and I look forward to meeting you soon. My staff is wonderful, and I appreciate the hard work that Linda and Vera do to support the Society and our members. ♥

1st Division Face Masks Available

We're partnering with US Wings CEO/owner and Society of the First Infantry Division lifetime member SFC (Retired) David Hack to bring you Big Red One face coverings. "Sarge" served with A/1-16 Infantry Battalion/1st Infantry Division during Vietnam.

Sarge is donating 15% of the

purchase of each face mask to the Society of the First Infantry Division.

Order directly from US Wings using this link:
uswings.com/product/us-made-custom-military-face-mask-big-red-one/

Or go to 1stid.org and click

on the BRO face mask link on the homepage. Our site will take you to US Wings to complete your order.

Thank you "Sarge" and US Wings for this partnership and thank you members for supporting the Society of the First Infantry Division. ♥



Local Society Chapters

The effort to get local chapters going in our communities continues. So far, we have seven (7) areas across the United States where a chapter has been stood up. However, due to COVID, the chapters have not been able to get together much.

We now have an area in the

magazine designated for chapter updates. Beginning with this issue you will learn more about the chapters, including who the leaders are and upcoming plans.

The Society is available to assist. We help by reaching out to our members and advising them that a chapter is being formed in

their area and providing point of contact information.

If there is not a chapter in your community and you want to start one, please email or call us. And if you receive an email from the Society about a chapter forming and you want to be a part of it, please reply!

Thank you to our members that have offered to get a chapter going in their communities.

Chapters with POC information are listed below and on our webpage: 1stid.org/chapters ▀

KANSAS

Junction City Kansas Chapter

POC: Phyllis Fitzgerald

Email: sfid1919@gmail.com

Phone: 785-579-6761

INDIANA

East Central Indiana Chapter

POC: James Allen

Email: Jallen5749@gmail.com

Phone: 765-969-7977

NEW MEXICO

The Albuquerque/

Sante Fe Chapter

POC: Manuel Alzaga

Email: manuelalzagajr@gmail.com

Phone: 505-270-4068

NEW YORK

Buffalo

Western New York, SSG David

Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter

POC: John B. Long

Email: marinawoolcock54@gmail.com

Phone: 716-877-6818

NEW YORK

New York/Fort Dix New Jersey

New York/Fort Dix Branch

POC: Antonio Maria

Email: black_lions66@yahoo.com

Phone: 973-477-9360

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Chapter

POC: Jeff Anderson

Email: jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com

Phone: 608-381-3791

Update from Jeff: He is happy to be assisting in getting a chapter going in his area. He has not received any inquiries about a Wisconsin Chapter. If you live in the Wisconsin area and want to learn more about the Chapter please reach out to Jeff.

Western New York SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter Update

The Western New York SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter, Society of the First Infantry Division, has 28 members who communicate by email and phone. Dr. John Long (Retired WWII) is the temporary president of the chapter. He said plans call for having a meeting at the Naval Park in November.

In the meantime, Dr. Long was recently interviewed by the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park on the topic of; "What it Means to be An American." <https://youtu.be/VnHEK2sdqAM>

Attending the interview were the President of the New York State Chapter of the Gold Star mothers, Holly Baker, and Marina Woolcock, a Blue Star Mother whose son served in Iraq at the same time as Holly Baker's son, Brian Baker, who died in April 2004.

"Their stories are a powerful reminder for all of us who have carried the banner," Dr. Long said.

Due to the virus, our chapter's committee activities have been limited. We hope to have Staff Sgt Bellavia as our first speaker to share with us his service as a Medal of Honor recipient from the War on Terrorism. Details about the November meeting will be shared when finalized. ▀



Pictured:
SSG David
Bellavia and
Dr. John Long.

**Fellow members, please use this membership form to approach businesses
in your community to join the Society as a corporate member!**

As Of: September 2020



SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442

Phone: 785-579-6761 FAX: 785-209-3022 www.1stid.org



Corporate Membership Application or Renewal

TITLE: _____ NAME: _____ DATE: _____
First MI Last Suffix Jr., II, Etc.

Please check if you **do not** want your contact information listed in the "Members Only" online directory in our website.

COMPLETE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OR TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS:

**MAILING ADDRESS (ADDRESS WHERE YOU WANT YOUR MEMBERSHIP
MATERIAL MAILED TO.)**

Corporate Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

(Will **not** be released for any purpose, including the website.)

Platinum Level:

With a donation of \$2,500.00 or more, each Platinum Level membership will receive a 100th Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative numbered print, a 100th Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative Stein, a certificate of membership and window peel decals for each business building, three copies of our Veterans e-magazine "The Bridgehead Sentinel" (BHS), and free advertisement space in the BHS. Additionally, we give you (4) Banquet Dinner tickets served our annual veteran reunion.

Gold Level:

With a donation greater than \$1,500.00 and less than \$2,500.00 each Gold level membership will receive a 100th Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative number print, three copies of our e-magazine The Bridgehead Sentinel (BHS), a certificate of membership to the Society, free advertisement space in the BHS, and two (2) Banquet Dinner tickets at our annual veterans reunion.

Silver Level:

With a donation between \$500.00 and \$1,500.00 a Silver Level each Silver level membership will receive a 100th Anniversary First infantry Division commemorative numbered print, three copies of our e-magazine, The Bridgehead Sentinel (BHS), free 2"x5"advertisement space in the BHS, a certificate of membership to the Society, window peels to show membership for each organizational building, and a banquet dinner ticket at our annual veterans reunion.

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THE **SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION**

- or -

PLEASE CHARGE MY (CIRCLE ONE): VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

CARD #: _____ EXP DATE: ____/____/____ CVC: _____
(month) (year) (code on back of card)

SIGNATURE: _____ (CVC CODE & SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

Return this form and your check, if applicable, in the pre-addressed envelope provided. If paying by credit card, you may fax this form to (785) 209-3022.

*** THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT ***

Albuquerque/Sante Fe Chapter Update

Hello and greetings from Albuquerque, New Mexico. My name is Manuel Hernandez Alzaga and I am your new Albuquerque/Santa Fe Chapter Leader. I served with the Big Red One from 1981 through 1983 as an artilleryman, and my unit was C Btry, 3/6 FA up on Custer Hill as part of Divarty (Division Artillery). For those "gun bunnies," we were an 8 inch M-110 unit and then we converted to MLRS at the end of 1982.

The Big Red One, and the US Army in general, made a positive impact on me and on my accomplishments throughout my life. Thanks to the military, I HAVE LIVED THE AMERICAN DREAM!

My parents migrated to Los Angeles from Mexico City in the late 1950s to look for a better life. As a young man, I was not the best of students and hung out

with the wrong people. We were poor, but my dad tried his best to provide for us. For example, we didn't have a car and we finally got a phone in the 1970s. During my last year of high school, I just wanted to get out of the "barrio" and go to college. Well, college was out of the question—it costs money and we had none. I was also in trouble a lot back in those days (let's leave it at that). So, I enlisted in the US Army at age 17.

My time in the military was a positive one. I was one of the youngest soldiers in boot camp to complete what was then a 12-week training course at Ft. Sill, OK. It was brutal, but I am still proud of that accomplishment.

Ft. Riley was my first duty station and I served with many great troopers, some of whom I am still in contact with today;

sadly, some have already passed away. In addition to the Big Red One, I also served in Germany (81st USAFAD) from 1983-1986 and at Ft. Bragg (A Btry 5/8 FA, XVIII Corps Artillery) from 1986-1987. I also served in the California National Guard (1987-1990) and in the New Mexico National Guard for a short time (1991-1992). When I was discharged from active duty, I went on to become a special education teacher, vice principal, principal, and commodore of a military charter school. I am currently a vice principal at Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque.

My degrees include an AA in General Education from Riverside City College; a BA in Special Education from the University of New Mexico; and a MA in Educational Leadership, also from UNM.



Above: Manuel Hernandez Alzaga, New Mexico Chapter of the Society.

I hope to retire in 2 years, God willing.

I look forward to serving as your point of contact in New Mexico, and I encourage you to get in touch. Although I am new to the chapter, I plan to learn and work hard for you, my fellow veterans. ■

South Eastern Ohio Chapter

Our last meeting was held on September 20, 2020, with four in attendance and several other members joining us online.

We had some good discussion on ways to increase meeting attendance. Offering virtual meetings will allow those who can't attend in person to still participate.

Our next meeting is October 25. This is an important meeting because we will be setting up a Gun Raffle. Our goal is to raise enough funds to pick a few kids from the Angel Tree this Christmas.

We are looking at a way to communicate with the entire group with a messenger system.

As always, if you have any

questions or ideas. Please post to our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/832412657179987/about>

Mike Casapini served in the 1st Engineers; Jon Haney served in A.2-2 Infantry/3rd Bde; Joe York served in D/4-3 ADA in Iraq; and Mike DeBolt served in C/2-2 Inf and HHC 1/26 Infantry – Afghanistan.

Mike DeBolt received the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest valor decoration, awarded for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. His Silver Star was upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross at a ceremony at Fort Riley on March



From left: Mike Casapini, Jon Haney, Joe York and Mike DeBolt.

28, 2019. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and previously received the Silver Star for his actions in 2008 in Afghanistan.

Please click on the link to learn more about Mike at the Army Times article [here](#). Mike, an

Ohio native, volunteered to stand up the chapter in South Eastern Area of Ohio and serves as point of contact. Please contact him to get involved with the chapter. ■

Reunion 2021: Albuquerque, New Mexico

I hope that you will be coming to the 2021 Reunion, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 28 to Aug 1, 2021. Our hotel is the Hyatt Regency located at 330 Tijeras NW in Albuquerque.

We will be working diligently on the events in early 2021—and since we didn't get to have a reunion in 2020, let's make 2021 a bigger reunion and gathering of our members. I look forward to

meeting everyone in the state of beautiful sunsets.

Visit our website periodically (1stid.org) where information will be shared regarding the reunion and various other topics.

In the meantime, you can always call our office at 785-579-6761 or email us at sfid1919@gmail.com if you have any questions. ▀



Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year (SOY) 2020

The Society of the 1st Infantry Division 2020 NCO and SOY award presentation was different this year. We held a live Facebook event on Saturday, August 15, at Society Headquarters on Fort Riley, Kansas. The new 1st Infantry Division Commander MG D.A. Sims II welcomed everyone and shared how proud he is to be in the 1st Infantry Division and how proud he is of the Society. On Facebook there was a greater audience watching. Since then there have been over 3700 views of the event. Click this link to watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/306697372768699/videos/313786043157185>

The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley 2020 Soldier of the Year is: SPC Gavyn Burns, HHD/97th MP BN. The Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year is: SSG Kevin Ruiz, DIVARTY

Both Soldiers received a plaque, Society Challenge Coin

and membership in the Society. Congratulations to these outstanding United States Army and 1st Infantry Division Soldiers. ▀



Above: NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year accept their awards at the presentation on August 15.



Raffle Winners

The 1st Infantry Division NCO and Soldier of the Year drew the winning tickets. Thanks to all that participated in the raffle this year.

The winners were:

1st - Joseph Keil \$2,000
(Donated it back to Society)
(B CO/2-18 Infantry – VN)

2nd - Robert Daehnke \$1,000
(HHC/701 MT – VN)

3rd - Phillip Finerson \$500
(1-1 AVN – Peacetime)

In addition, one of our local Business Friends – City Cycle Sales (Junction City) Manager Scott Templeton (11D Retiree and Society Member) presented the Society with \$276 from proceeds raised from the raffle

of a specially made 1st Infantry Division Bean Bag/Corn Hole Toss Game.

The winner was our own Executive Director Phyllis, who graciously donated the game to SPC Atehortua for the Soldiers of his unit.

We regret not being able to present these awards at the annual reunion, but we did not let COVID win everything. It was a great day! We had our plaque presentation to the 2020 NCO and SOY; we conducted our annual drawing; our new 1st Infantry Division Commander MG Sims was in attendance and spoke to everyone; we had an extra drawing and donation presented to the Society; and a large audience participated in the event virtually. ▀

Major General Neal Creighton 1930 - 2020

MG Neal Creighton, the 46th Commanding General of the First Infantry Division, passed away on 15 September 2020. MG Creighton commanded the 1st Infantry Division from December 1982 until June 1984.

After a Memorial Service at Fort Riley, KS, MG Creighton will be laid to rest at West Point, New

York. His obituary may be found at <https://cutt.ly/vfXE9z5>

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to The Society of the First Infantry Division. You may send your contribution to The Society of the First Infantry Division, P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442.



General William Hartzog 1941 - 2020



Retired Gen. William Hartzog, whose 35 years in the Army included command of the 1st Infantry Division, Army South and Army Training and Doctrine Command, died Oct. 15 at the age of 79.

The family will not be holding an in-person public visitation due to the ongoing pandemic. A funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in General Hartzog's name to either: the Army Historical Foundation

(supporting the National Museum of the United States Army) at <https://armyhistory.givingfuel.com/in-memory-of-general-hartzog> or by mail (noting GEN Hartzog's name in the memo line) at Army Historical Foundation, 1775 Liberty Drive, Suite 400, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 or to the General William W. Hartzog, '63, Armed Forces Scholarship through the Citadel Foundation, 171 Moultrie Street, Charleston, SC 29409 or at <http://foundation.citadel.edu>.

Membership Sponsorship Program

Thanks to our membership, 2020 has been a great year for our sponsorship program. Since the Summer issue of the Bridgehead Sentinel, our members have donated funds to sponsor over 400 Active Duty Soldiers.

At the Society Headquarters on Fort Riley, we've been working hard to give out those sponsorships.

It really does take all of us to have a successful Society and we thank our members for such generosity. I encourage everyone

to share your Big Red One Story and the Story of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division with others and invite them to join.

Many thanks to the members listed below:

Arthur DeGroat
Greg Fontenot
Monty Fritts
Larry Meiners
Bob Morris
Michael Pavese
Allan Rothlisberg
Covenant Broker Real Estate LLC

Growing Society Membership Opportunity.

Support an Active duty E-1 to E-7 with a one year membership (\$15.00) into the Society.

Make checks payable to the
Society of the First Infantry Division
"Sponsor Active Duty Soldier"

Mail to: Society of the First Infantry Division
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

As Of: September 2020



SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442
 Phone: 785-579-6761 FAX: 785-209-3022 www.1stid.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

TITLE: _____ NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 First MI Last Suffix Jr., II, Etc.

☐ Please check if you **do not** want your contact information listed in the "Members Only" online directory in our website.

COMPLETE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OR TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS:

MAILING ADDRESS (ADDRESS WHERE YOU WANT YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL MAILED TO.)

Street City State Zip
 PHONE: _____ Cell: _____ EMAIL: _____
 (Will **not** be released for any purpose, including the website.)

YOUR SERVICE WITH THE BIG RED ONE (Please check all that apply.)

☐ WW II ☐ VIETNAM ☐ COLD WAR ☐ PEACETIME ☐ GULF WAR ☐ BALKANS ☐ IRAQ ☐ AFGHAN

UNIT SERVED IN OR PRESENT UNIT: _____
 (COMPANY) (BATTALION/REGIMENT) (BRIGADE)

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please check one)

ALL MEMBERSHIP TYPES INCLUDE A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRIDGEHEAD SENTINEL

ACTIVE DUTY ONLY:

VETERANS

☐ REGULAR \$35 per year
☐ EXECUTIVE \$65 per year

(CURRENTLY SERVING WITH THE BRO)

ANNUAL
☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$15
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$20
☐ O5 TO O8 \$25

3 YEAR

☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$35
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$50
☐ O5 TO O8 \$65

LIFETIME

☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$100
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$200
☐ O5 TO O8 \$250

LIFE - VETERANS:

☐ UNDER 40 \$400
☐ 40 - 49 \$350
☐ 50 - 59 \$300
☐ 60 - 69 \$250
☐ 70 - 79 \$200
☐ 80 + \$100

☐ WIDOWS/WIDOWERS OF BIG RED ONE VETERANS: (FREE)

ASSOCIATES (Family and Friends of the BRO)

☐ REGULAR \$35 per year
☐ EXECUTIVE \$65 per year
☐ BUSINESS \$200 per year

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____, to be used for

- ☐ Where it is most needed _____
☐ the Society's General Fund _____ or
☐ the BRO Support Fund _____ that supports active duty soldiers and their families.

(NOTE: Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized as **Century Club** members in the Bridgehead Sentinel.)

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THE **SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION**

- or -

PLEASE CHARGE MY (CIRCLE ONE): VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

CARD #: _____ EXP DATE: ____ / ____ CVC: _____
 (month) (year) (code on back of card)

SIGNATURE: _____ (CVC CODE & SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

Return this form and your check, if applicable, in the pre-addressed envelope provided. If paying by credit card, you may fax this form to (785) 209-3022.

*** THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! ***

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

As Of: September 2020
SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442
Phone: (785) 579-6761 Fax: (785) 209-3022
sfidkansas@gmail.com Web: www.1stID.org

BUSINESS APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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- You will be listed as a supporter in the Bridgehead Sentinel magazine emailed 3 times a year and available year-round on our webpage: www.1stid.org
- An e-subscription to the Bridgehead Sentinel
- Certificate of Membership suitable for framing
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Annual Membership Fee: \$200

I would like to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$_____ Beyond my regular dues.

I would like to become a CENTURY CLUB member with a donation of \$_____ (\$100 minimum) to the BRO Support Fund which is used to assist Active Duty Soldiers in need.

Century Club members will be recognized in the Bridgehead Sentinel throughout the year.

**The Society of the 1st Infantry division is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
All donations are tax deductible as provided by law.**

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Please consider the following while shopping; it does not cost you anything!

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Donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. If you already use Amazon, after logging in, search for “about amazon smile” or use this link <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=Lw==>

NOTE: Only shopping at smile.amazon.com supports charity.

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Program, you will need to go online to your account and pick an organization (Society of the 1st Infantry Division).

After linking your shopper card(s) to the Society of the 1st Infantry Division, the store scan will provide 5% of eligible purchases to the Society. To learn more about the Kroger Community Rewards Program visit their website: <https://www.thekrogerco.com/community/>

USAA Credit Cards

You have the option to donate your redeemed points to your favorite military affiliate group and the Society of the 1st Infantry Division is one of them. Check with USAA to learn more about how this program works. Their toll-free number is: 800-531-8722 or visit their website: usaa.com/ ■

Welcome Vera Gaer!

When you call Society Headquarters on Fort Riley and hear a new voice, it's probably Vera Gaer, our new administrative assistant. Vera fulfills quartermaster orders, fine tunes the membership database, and performs various other duties on a part-time basis.

Vera hails from Washington and is an Army spouse. She and

Captain Chris Gaer have five children. The family loves Junction City, Kansas, and have made it their home.

Vera is involved in our community and loves working at The Society of the 1st Infantry. She is a pleasure to be around and works hard. ■



2020 Scholarship Recipients

The 1st Infantry Division Foundation has the mission of awarding scholarships to the most deserving high school senior students of 1ID veterans. This is a competitive scholarship program made possible by the generous donations of members and friends of the 1ID.

This year, we were fortunate enough to sufficiently fund six scholarships of \$10,000 each, to be distributed over a four-year period.

Matthew Deutschmann, majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science at Washington University in St Louis. He is the grandson of John Riedmeyer, 1st Admin Company, Vietnam.

Alexander Kristian, majoring in Computer Science at Loyola University of Maryland. He is the son of Michael Kristian, C/5/15 and B/1/16, Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

John Dubia III, majoring in Political Science at Elon University. He is the grandson of John Dubia, 1/7FA, Vietnam.

Sydney Cook, majoring in Engineering at North Carolina State. She is the daughter of Aaron Cook, 701st Main Support Battalion.

Ronan Stackpole, majoring in International Studies, at Texas A&M. He is the son of Thomas Stackpole, DISCOM: Main Support BN.

Anna Miles, majoring in Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is the daughter of Stephen Miles, 1st Infantry Division Band.

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship recipients! We look forward to continuing this important program and encourage students to apply in the 2021 school year. Visit 1stID.org under the "Foundation" menu for more details on how to apply.



1st Division Monument Update

The 1st Division Monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division to honor the valiant efforts of the Soldiers who fought in World War I. Later additions to the monument commemorate the lives of First Division Soldiers who fought in subsequent wars. The World War II addition on the west side was dedicated in 1957, the Vietnam War addition on the east side in 1977 and the Desert Storm plaque in 1995.

The National Park Service has overall responsibility for the maintenance of the Monument. However, the Foundation funds selected maintenance costs that cannot be borne by the National Park Service, such as changes to the name plaques that are on the monument.

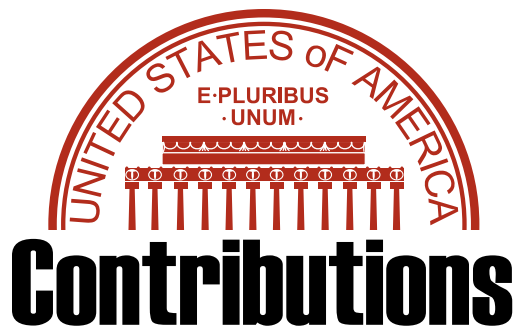
The Society of the First Infantry Division is developing a plan to add the names of 1st Division Soldiers killed in action since Desert Storm, and also facilitate space for those who might be killed in action in future conflicts.

Several actions are required to support this plan such as develop the architectural design for modifying the existing Monument, obtaining National Park Service approval of the design and construction, and employing a contractor to complete the work, then adding the names for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

The bill to approve the work has to pass a resolution in the House and the Senate. The Resolution is known as "The First Act (HR1088)."

The Bill passed the House in 2019 and once it passes the Senate, then we meet with the National Park Service and hire a firm to make the modification to the Monument.

If you would like to help the Bill along, contact your local Senator and let them know you would like them to support the FIRST Act H.R. 1088! Click here for details. ▀



We thank all who have responded to our requests for support of our SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Your generosity will enable us to fulfill our obligation to the children of all Big Red One Soldiers who have lost their lives in combat—over 180 children to date—and to the children and grandchildren of our 1st Infantry Division Veterans.

Following is a list of contributors to the 1st Infantry Division Foundation Scholarship Fund and 1st Division D.C. Monument Fund since July 2020. Duplicate names indicate additional contributions.

SOCIETY DONATIONS

Contributions in Memory of Neal Creighton

Neal Creighton Jr
Dr. Dukhee Rhee
Ron Watts
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D.C. MONUMENT FUND

Platinum Contributions \$1,000

Fred Calenda Memorial Gifting Fund
Artillery Association of the 1st Infantry
Division Association

Silver Contributions \$100 to \$499

Terry and Leslie Alvarez
in memory of
1LT Doyle Hufstader III

Leonard Wishart

Bronze Contributions \$1 to \$99

Jasper Fisher

NY FT Dix Branch
in memory of Frank Simko
C&F/2/16 WWII

First Infantry Division Monument Fund Drive

Redesign and Add Names

- First Division Monument located west of White House
- Each Conflict contains names and units of 1st ID KIAs
- 12,947 Names on Monument (WWI–Desert Storm)
- Modifications needed to add Iraq and Afghanistan BRO KIAs
- Fund Drive Goal: Raise \$400,000 for modifications
- Donations are Tax Deductible

I want to do my part in reaching the Society Goal

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Letter from the CG

by MG Douglas A. Sims

My name is Sims and I am a Big Red One Soldier—Brave, Responsible, and On Point for the Nation. Every time I hear or say those words, it reminds of the men and women who came before me, the Big Red One Troopers who bravely forged the legacy of this storied division over the past 100-plus years. I am incredibly proud to serve as Danger 6, and equally proud to wear the Big Red One on my left shoulder and call Fort Riley home.

Although I've only been on Fort Riley for about three months now, it's clear the 1st Infantry Division remains one of the most active and engaged divisions in our Army. Through demanding

home-station training events, multiple rotations at Combat Training Centers, and rotational deployments in support of our Allies and Partners, Big Red One Soldiers continue to strive for mastery of their profession and maintain the level of combat excellence displayed by this division over the past century.

The division just returned from California after completing National Training Center (NTC) Rotation 20-10. NTC 20-10 was a new concept for the Army, where a division, rather than a brigade, was the focus of the training event. Over 4,000 Big Red One Soldiers deployed for a month to the California desert to participate

in the exercise. The Division Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Sustainment Brigade, and Combat Aviation Brigade all played major roles. Both the Army and the division invested a vast amount of time and resources into NTC 20-10, as it is informing future decisions on force structure, training programs, and the integration of new technology. Once again, the Big Red One is on the front lines!

Next, we are thrilled to welcome home our 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the Dagger Brigade, from their nine-month deployment to the Republic of Korea. From participating in training exercises with our United

States Forces Korea partners, to assisting in the United States Army's response to COVID-19, the Brigade never faltered, and accomplished each of its missions with overwhelming success. While the COVID-19 pandemic limits the extent of traditional welcome home ceremonies, it certainly does not limit our excitement to have everyone back at Fort Riley. Welcome home!

Finally, I would like to thank the Society, along with a host of other organizations, for their unfaltering support of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley. I really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this year's virtual reunion! ■

National Army Museum Installs Plaque to the 1st Infantry Division

The National Museum of the United States Army, a 185,000-square-foot steel-clad building at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will open to the public on Nov. 11. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said the museum "will be a place for members of the Total Army family to gather and share stories while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation's history through the eyes and voices of individual soldiers."

Information is available here for visiting the museum: <https://info.ausea.org/e/784783/visit-/4rwr/333821937?h=1eA-qXagZ-WVrJJwJoFWBGgIVYinMfO-CbX0d5liGzcnY>

Pictured at right, is the Division Plaque that members of the Society had installed along the walkway at the Army Museum. It really looks great! We can all be proud that we gave this honor to the Division. Duty First. ■



Big Red One & Fort Riley Welcome New Commanding General

Story by Spc. Alvin Conley
19th Public Affairs Detachment

The 1st Infantry Division hosted an assumption of command ceremony Aug. 14, 2020, at the Cavalry Parade Field on Fort Riley, Kansas.

The ceremony was held to honor the division's outgoing Commanding General, Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, and to welcome the division's incoming commanding general, Maj. Gen. Douglas A. Sims II.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the ceremony was streamed live through the division's Facebook page for virtual attendees to

observe.

Kolasheski, who served as Fort Riley's commanding general for a little over two years, expressed what it meant to him to hold such a position.

"Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of commanding the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley," he said. "No other installation has the support that Fort Riley enjoys."

Moving forward in his career to become the commanding general of the U.S. Army's Vth Corps based in Fort Knox,

Kentucky, Kolasheski spoke highly of and welcomed Sims to the position of 1st Inf. Div. commanding general.

"I am really excited that Maj. Gen. Sims and his wife, Fay, are taking the reins of the division and installation," he said. "The Sims are unequivocally the right team for the organization."

Sims, the former deputy director for regional operations and force management with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked Kolasheski and the Big Red One for welcoming him to Fort Riley.

"To be here today, and to be joining such an amazing team, is an unbelievable honor," he said. "Joining an organization and installation of such phenomenal consequence is extremely extraordinary."

Sims officially assumed command with the passing of the colors, a historic military tradition that demonstrates a symbolic transfer of responsibility to a new leader.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to command and be a part of this proud legacy," he said. ■

Keeping the Spirit of the Old West Alive in the Heartland

By Thomas Reust, Fort Riley Public Affairs

A unique unit on Fort Riley is keeping the spirit of the old west alive in the Heartland of America. The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard was founded in 1992 and uses techniques and equipment used by the cavalry in the 1850s. The CGMCG is comprised of soldiers selected from units across Fort Riley.

One of the unique features of the unit is its uniforms. They are comprised of wool coats with stiff collars, suspenders, and the prized cowboy hat — all which closely match the design worn in the past by the American Horse Soldier.

"(The uniforms) are called periodics, and are set to standards from 1851," said Spc. Samantha Ugarcina, CGMCG Trooper.

The CGMCG has a unique set

of skills and facilities to maintain their horses and gear. The unit even has a leather room, barn, and a farrier shop.

The leather room houses the tools to handle any of the saddle, bridle, or other repairs needed by the team.

"We can repair any leatherwork either here, or on a trip to one of our outside events," said Spc. Gavin Martin, CGMCG Trooper.

In place of a standard motor pool, the CGMCG has a historic barn.

"Here in the barn we maintain the horses' medical readiness by performing preventative maintenance checks and services, and also treating their injuries and illnesses," said Sgt. Jeffrey Cross CGMCG stable master. "The barn



was built in 1889 for \$9,000. Due to inflation, that would be about \$246,000 today. The barn was originally constructed to house the 70 horses for the United States Cavalry School, but it was renovated to support the 26 horses we have today."

Soldiers shape the horse's feet to help them travel in the best manner possible.

The CGMCG performs for professional rodeos, community events, parades, school groups and official ceremonies. ■

"Dagger Brigade" Soldiers Redeploy

On October 10, soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division returned home to Fort Riley after a very successful nine month rotation to the Republic of Korea. Their presence on the peninsula assured our partners and allies of the United States' commitment to

the ROK. The 1st Infantry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Douglas A. Sims II, welcomed the Dagger Brigade soldiers home with a recognition of redeployment speech before they were dismissed to greet their families and friends waiting close by. ▀



Medics Train at NTC Rotation

During the Division's rotation to the National Training Center, medic exercises were practiced to prove that a U.S. Army division headquarters and combat enablers can prepare for large scale combat operations by employing the NTC's decisive action training environment. Pictured at left, Sgt. Jason Cho, a

combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division demonstrated to Sgt. Justin Johnson, a combat medic with the Commanding Generals Mounted Color Guard, 1st Infantry Division how to suture a wound at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, Sept. 23, 2020. ▀

1-4 Cavalry Troopers Awarded Order of St. George

On August 14, three Troopers of Task Force Quarterhorse were honored in a ceremony bestowing the Order of St. George. 1LT Hall, 1LT Lister and SFC Deleon were recognized for their extraordinary commitment to the Squadron. The Order of St. George is presented

to Officers and NCOs of the Cavalry and Armor branch who provide a marked impact on their formations and perform meritorious service to the mounted arm of the US Army. Congratulations to the latest recipients! ▀





"Devil Brigade" Conducts Live-Fire Training

Big Red One soldiers with 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division infiltrated a building on a simulated battlefield and attacked simulated targets on a live-fire range. These training events are part of the "Iron Rangers" annual platoon

live-fire exercises.

1st Infantry Division's Command Sergeant Major Raymond S. Harris observes the training to help ensure that our Soldiers are ready to deploy on a moment's notice to support U.S. and partnered missions around the globe. ▀

Keeping up with the 1st Division

Headquarters (REDEPLOYED)

The DHHB welcomed home its 1st ID Forward soldiers serving in Poland on June 7.

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED)

In early 2019, 1st ABCT soldiers deployed to Europe in support of Atlantic Resolve. In fall of 2019 the brigade redeployed back to Fort Riley. The 1st ABCT continues to train for future deployment.

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED)

On October 10, soldiers from the 2nd ABCT, 1st ID returned home to Fort Riley after a very successful nine month rotation to the Republic of Korea.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade (REDEPLOYED)

In January 2019, soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade deployed in support of Atlantic Resolve in Europe. The 1st CAB also continues to train and ready for future deployment.

1st Division Sustainment Brigade (REDEPLOYED)

The 1st Division Sustainment Brigade Special Troops Battalion uncased their colors in Afghanistan in February 2019 in support of Operations Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel. In November 2019, the 1st ID Sustainment Brigade redeployed back from Fort Riley.

Division Artillery (REDEPLOYED)

Since the 1st Infantry Division Artillery stood up in late 2015, there has been an emphasis on the importance of partnership. The Division Artillery continues to train alongside Division elements as well as outside units. ▀



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In Memoriam

You will notice there are many on this list for the fall magazine. Many 1st Infantry Division Veterans have been gone for a while. We conducted an extensive record maintenance of our Society Data-

base of over 9,100 members.

We took on the task of reaching out to our WWII Veterans (we had over 600 records) and learned that many had passed away. You may have served

with them during peacetime or combat. They may be people that you met at one of the reunions or they could be a widow of one of our Veterans.

Please take a moment and remember all our 1st Infantry Division Veterans who are no longer with us, and their families. May they all Rest in Peace.

Vietnam and Peacetime

HOWARD A. SHANEBERGER, EASTON, PA, OCT 19, 2019, 701ST MAINT, VN
THOMAS GRECEK, PALO HEIGHTS, IL, APR 1, 2020, 1ST ADM, PEACETIME
GEORGE BASSO, PEORIA, IL, FEB 19, 2019, D CO 2-16th INF, 4-16 INF VN
ALEXANDER J. SAJO, JUNCTION CITY, KS, JAN 9, 2014, HHC 1ST ID, VN
FRANK SIMKO, SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ, SEPT 8, 2020, C CO & F CO 2ND/26TH INF, WW2
JAMES VAUGHT, LORIS, SC, DEC 14, 2019, B. CO 2ND/28TH INF, VN, INTERRED ARLINGTON CEMETERY JAN 22, 2020

As a result of updating the Society Database, we report the following WWII deaths:

FRANK W. BROJAKOWSKI, HUNLOCK CREEK, PA, MAY 1, 2018, F CO 26TH INF
BERGE A. BROOKE, HAWTHORNE, NJ, MAR 12, 2008, 3 ADA
LAWRENCE BROPHY, S. MILWAUKEE, WI, OCT 22, 2016, H CO 18TH INF
A. DOUGLAS BROWN, FRANKLIN, WV, DEC 2, 2019, B CO 18TH INF
ROGER L. BRUGGER, CLYDE, OH,

AUG 12, 2011, K CO 16TH INF
CLYDE E. BELL, LANSDALE, PA, DEC 17, 2017., E CO 16TH INF
JACK B. BENNETT, RICHARDSON, TX, 2-18 INF
DENNIS L. BERGER, DAYTON, OH, MAR 13, 2019, 191ST TNK BATTALION
GEORGE BOGAS, DUBUQUE, IA, JULY 16, 2013, 745TH TNK BN
EUGENE D BOST, JOSHUA TREE, CA, OCT 16, 2016, 745TH TANK BN
LAWRENCE J. BOUR, WILLIAMSBURG, PA, AUG 24, 2005, 1-16TH INF
JAMES A. BOWERS, MOALAND, VA, MAR 18, 2019, I CO 18TH INF
WARREN L BRIESACHER, BELLVILLE, IL, MAY 18, 2015, 16TH INF
WILBUR BAUGHAN, MIDDLE RIVER, MD, JULY 14, 2012, 18TH INF
JACOB A. BEAN, DENTON, NC, FEB 6, 2016, 3-16TH INF
COL. MAURICE A. BELISLE, FORT MYERS, FL, FEB 3, 2009, 26TH INF
ROBERT E. BLETT, WESTERLY, RI, JULY 30, 2018, 1-16 INF
ALLEN E. BOGOA, ORMON BEACH, FL, APR 16, 2013, A CO 18TH INF
JAMES W. BRANNEN, SYLVANIA, GA, JUN 1, 2012, I CO 18TH INF
PAUL BUCCHEN, STUART, FL, FEB 4, 2013, 16TH INF

PAUL BYSTRAK, MANCHESTER, MD, JUN 1, 2010, 1 QM
ARTHUR BICKFORD, GARDEN GROVE, CA, FEB 2017, 33RD FA
JOHN C. CRAWFORD, OWENSBORO, KY, DEC 9, 2014, M CO. 3-26 INF
RICHARD C. CRUM, JENNISON, MI, JULY 19, 2016, C CO. 1-26 INF
DANIEL L. CURATOLA, BETHLEHAM, PA, JAN 9, 2018, HHC 3-16 INF
JAMES D. CURRAN, CHICAGO, IL, MAR 10, 2010, L CO 26TH INF
HOWARD J COX, DALLAS, TX, JUNE 18, 2018, HHC
JAMES A. CALDERONE, DOREEN, IL, FEB 22, 2020, 745TH TNK
MARY G. CALEND, PLEASANT BEACH, NJ, APR 22, 2011, WIDOW
BEVERLY L. CALHOUN, GULDERLAND, NY, SEPT 12, 2008, WIDOW
JOSEPH CAIAZZO, HICKSVILLE, NY, JUL 2, 2008, 2-16th INF
GREGORY CAMPBELL, ORMOND, FL, SEPT 17, 2010, G CO 26TH INF
DONN CAMPBELL, ST PETERSBURG, FL, JULY 14, 2012,

G CO 2-16 INF
EDWARD W. CANIS, ORLANDO, FL, JUN 17, 2011, I CO 18TH INF
WILLIAM R. CARL, MT HEWELL, PA, APR 14, 2017, HHC 18TH INF
JOHN B. CARROLL, POTOMAC, MD, APR 1, 2012, HHC 16TH INF
PHYLLIS M. CARROLL, ROCKFORD, IL, APR 5, 2020, WIDOW
WILLIAM G. CHAMBERLIN, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT, FEB 13, 2012, A BATTERY 18TH INF 32ND FA
WILLIAM M. CHANEY ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, MAY 29, 2002, 1ST INF
EARL L. CHELLIS, BEACON FALLS, CT, JUNE 30, 2014, E CO 2-16th INF
FEDERICK FOTIS CHIRIGOTIS, ANNAPOLIS, MD, SEPT 2, 2013, 745TH TNK
ALBERT CIMPERMAN SR, CLEVELAND, OH, AUG 18, 2014, 2-16th INF
EDWARD H. CLOONAN, SCUBA, NY, FEB 5, 2009, 2-18 INF
JOSEPH M. COGGINS, BELMONT, CA, JAN 17, 2018, 701ST MAINT
HYMAN COHEN, ADVENTURA, FL, FEB 26, 2012, 1ST SIGNAL

Unfortunately, the names of all the deceased WWII Veterans we identified in our database scrub resulted in more than we can easily fit in this section. We will add as many of these names as we can in each print issue, however **click here** in the digital edition for a full list of the WWII Veterans who have passed.

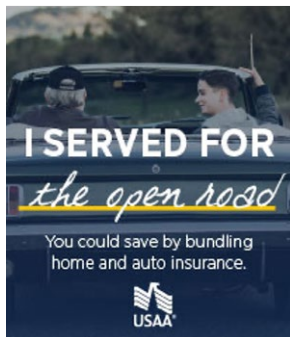
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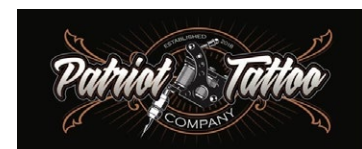
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Patriot Tattoo Company
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R2B4 Bramlage Family
Foundation
jcatc.com/foundation/

Silver Level



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briggsauto.com

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Centralnational.com/

City Cycle Sales Harley Davidson,
Kawasaki and Suzuki,
Junction City, KS Citycyclesalesinc.com

D.E.L. Motors, Junction City, KS
Delmotors.com/index.cfm

Dibben Tax and Accounting,
Junction City, KS 785-304-4505
dibbentax@tctelco.net

EAE Enterprises, Junction City, KS
785-238-1854

Exchange Bank, Junction City, KS
<https://eb-us.com/branch-location/junction-city-kansas/>

Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter of
AUSA AUSA.org/chapters/fort-riley-central-kansas-chapter

Geary Rehabilitation and Fitness Center,
Junction City, KS Gearyrehab.com/

Hampton Inn, Junction City, KS
Hilton.com/en/hotels/mhkjchx-hampton-junction-city/

Hi-Tech Interiors, Manhattan, KS
Hitechinteriors.com

Hometown Insurance Agency, Junction
City, KS <https://www.hometownins.net/>

Hoover, Schermerhorn, Edwards, Pinaire
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Hooverlawfirm.com

JC Abstract & Title Company,
Junction City, KS
todd.fawcett@jcabstractandtitle.com

Junction City Chamber of Commerce
Jcacc.org

KS State Bank, Junction City, KS
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MAC'S Trophies, Junction City, KS
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Facebook.com/Macs-Trophies-345968753496/

Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce,
Manhattan.org/1

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THE BRO SUPPORT FUND

The Big Red One Support Fund is the Society's own fund that provides assistance to serving 1st Infantry Division soldiers and their families in non-emergency situations—our 1st Infantry Division Foundation's McCormick Grants program handles the emergencies. As the Global War on Terror has progressed, the number of needs and assistance programs have multiplied dramatically, yet there are often needs that fall between the cracks. These situations are the reason the BRO Support Fund exists.

If you would like to donate to the BRO Support Fund, please use the coupon below or the membership renewal application on page 18 to do so. With your generosity, help and support, the Big Red One continues to take care of its own!

CENTURY CLUB

Welcome to the new members of the Century Club! These are members who have donated \$100 or more toward the *Big Red One Support Fund*. Thank you for partnering with us to support our division!

THOMAS	EVERS	NEILSON
BARNES	JAMES FISHER	GEORGE
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Desert Storm Remembered: 1991

By COL (Ret) Greg Fontenot



This is a summary of the briefing Colonel Greg Fontenot (USA Ret) presented to the officers of the battalion he once commanded, the 2nd Battalion 34 Armor, regarding the 1st Infantry Division in Desert Storm.

Alerted on the evening of 8 November 1991, the 1st Division began loading before Thanksgiving. Division Support Command loaded first along with other units essential to receive the Division. On 5 December the Big Red One loaded tanks that it never expected to use in combat as its combat tanks were prepositioned in Germany. Equipment at Fort Riley ranged from ancient to rela-

tively new but all of it was maintained at a lower tier of readiness than units in Europe and Korea. Intensive maintenance occurred including replacing the track on every tank in the division.

Maintenance, packing and preparing soldiers all occurred simultaneously with operation planning. The process that began on 9 November continued in parallel from Division to Battalion and below until the end of January 1991.

The breach effected by the 1st ID on 24 February 1991 was a task, not a mission. It was merely a means to an end. The Division mission read, "At BMNT (Basic

Morning Nautical Twilight), G + 1 [the Division] attacks as VII Corps main effort, to penetrate Iraqi defensive positions: defeat first tactical echelon forces and conduct the forward passage of VII (US) Corps' forces. On order, continue the attack in zone to destroy the RGFC (Republican Guards Forces Command)."

General Rhame chose to attack on narrow front of only eight kilometers using four assault battalion task forces. The Task Forces were built around two tank battalions (2-34 and 3-37) and two infantry battalions, (2-16 and 5-16), each with two tank and two infantry companies. Two pure

tank battalions (1-34 and 4-37) and the 1-4 Cavalry expanded the breach.

The Division began offensive operations at 0530 on 24 February. On reaching their G-Day objectives the 1st ID assumed hasty defensive positions only to be told to resume the attack. That attack against the main Iraqi positions was moved up nearly 24 hours. The Division Artillery prepared the breach objectives with a 30-minute preparation fired by 13 battalions of artillery and several separate rocket artillery batteries. The artillery preparation amazed veterans including Colonel Tony Moreno,



a combat veteran, who described it as, “the most awesome artillery prep I have ever seen.”

On the 25th the Division expanded the breach with 3rd Brigade, 2nd Armored Division (Forward) making the main effort with its three battalions. That afternoon the Division began the forward passage of Corps units including 1st UK Armoured Division as well as artillery brigades moving to support future operations.

The 4th Brigade’s attack helicopters fought forward of the Division for most of the fight. The aviators also supported lift requirement and air medical evacuation. The Division Support command’s forward support battalions and the main support battalion managed the remarkable feat of keeping the Division in fuel and ammunition—a feat that other support commands did not fully achieve.

The BRO was heavily commit-

ted in the last few days of combat operations. Late on the afternoon of the 26 February VII Corps ordered the Division forward to attack the RGFC. During an all-night tank battle Big Red One tankers and infantry defeated a brigade of Tawakalna Division and part of the 12th Armored Division; the attack continued the next day without a halt. In the early morning hours 1-4 Cavalry cut the Kuwait City to Basrah highway effectively ending the tactical operation. Cease fire came on the 28 February.

The 2nd Brigade fought the last “battle”—“The Battle of Safwan”—which they concluded without firing a shot. Just before the cease fire, General Schwarzkopf chose Safwan as the site for negotiations. The Big Red One, the unit closest, got the mission with the proviso to get it done without killing anyone. The Dagger Brigade convinced the Iraqi RGFC brigade at Safwan to withdraw. ■



Kit Carson Scouts in Vietnam with the Big Red One

By Bruce E. Herczogh

I graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1965. I was in Army ROTC and specialized in Armor. We had an old Korean War tank that we learned on and worked Armor tactics.

In March 1967 I attended Armor Officer Basic at Fort Knox and in June 1967 was assigned to the 1st Bn 63rd Armor, Fort Riley, Kansas. This battalion was the first to have the new General Sheridan M551 light tank. Every bit of my training was in Armor.

Orders to Vietnam arrived December 1967 and I arrived in March 1968, a few weeks after the Tet offensive had died down in our area. I was at 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, DiAn, Vietnam.

I will never forget the warrant officer at S1. I asked for an Armor assignment and his reply was, "Lieutenant, I need 50 captains of Infantry and 80 lieutenants of Infantry." I was assigned to an infantry battalion but the commander saw my Armor insignia and refused to accept me.

I was then assigned to the 2nd Bn, 16th Inf. The commander looked at me and said "Lieutenant, there are only 12 hours difference between an Infantry officer and an Armor officer! CAN YOU DO IT?"

I was foolish enough to say "Yes, sir!" After all, an Army officer can do anything.

Charlie Company, 2nd Bn, 16th Inf, 1st platoon leader. I was

fortunate that the company XO, a very fine Infantry officer, showed me some things during my first two weeks. Understand that I was used to five vehicles with radio communication and now I am leading a half-size (24 men) Infantry platoon in Vietnam. My platoon sergeant was just out of instant NCO school, and my squad leaders were the better soldiers in basic. We hadn't trained together. We had no standard operating procedures if we were ambushed or had to attack. On a day when my platoon was on stand down, I planned to work on some SOPs but we were called to sweep a mine field and it never got done.

On one patrol my platoon was assigned to protect a section of Rhome plows along with a section of M113s. The platoon was riding on top of the tracks until we arrived at the race course when we then dismounted and provided security.

The battalion commander flying overhead lands his chopper near my M113. I wait until the blades stop and then go to meet him. His orders were that the Infantry will not ride on the tracks. We then marched behind the M113s, slowing them down.

After my platoon returned from a night ambush the battalion Sgt Major landed in the company area and informed me that I was going back into Brigade headquarters and to report to the



Above: Graduation Ceremony for the first class of "Kit Carson" Scouts of the 1st Division in Vietnam.

Brigade commander, which I did. I am proud to say that during my time as an infantry platoon leader none of my men were killed or wounded.

The Brigade commander had assigned two battalions to provide sergeants and my battalion to supply an officer for a special assignment. Any battalion commander, when given this order, is going to provide his very best officer for the assignment. RIGHT! The only other Armor officer in the 2nd 16th was the motor pool officer.

The Brigade commander was a Korean war veteran who had experience with what he called "KATUSA," Korean Augmentation to US Army. He wanted to start something in his brigade. The US Marines were the first to start a Kit Carson program up north.

The first class was recruited by the intel people. They wore uniforms with no rank or insignia.

Former VC were brought to DiAn brigade headquarters and questioned, then selected or rejected.

Two large tents were setup between the TOC and the officers club for these men. The intel people wanted to put armed guards on the tents but the Brigade commander refused, saying that he wanted to show trust in these men.

We were to train about 20 individuals in very basic English, weapons (rifles, claymores, hand grenades), tactics, marching, and entering and exiting helicopters. This would be done by the two sergeants who were assigned using two Vietnamese sergeants as interpreters. Vietnamese Sgt Thack was about 5' 7" and weighed about 150 pounds. The other Vietnamese sergeant, who always wore a smile, was a big barrel-chested individual, about 5' 7" weighing maybe 175. Both sergeants were very professional

and a credit to their unit.

We worked with these men for 3 or 4 weeks before we had a graduation ceremony. We awarded them a "Kit Carson Scout" patch for their uniform and assigned them to companies within the Brigade.

We ran into a lot of resistance when the Scouts were first placed in the field. Some companies used them just as ammo bearers. Many would not assign them to the point for fear that they would be leading the company into an ambush. Often the Scouts would go into the nearby village and this brought fear to the US men who thought they would betray them. In reality, the Scouts did not like US food and wanted some of their own food. They were also able to get vital information from the villagers.

The Kit Carson Scouts were men who fought with the VC (some were forced to do it) but then surrendered under the Chieu Hoi program. This program gave VC soldiers an opportunity to stop fighting, surrender and not be hunted men. These Chieu Hoi were hated by the VC and would be killed if captured. It is interesting to note that while Chieu Hoi centers were often attacked, there was no traitor within the walls.

For the second class, the intel boys wanted no part in questioning and selecting future Scouts. This responsibility fell to me. During the first training session it became apparent that using US sergeants with Vietnamese interpreters wasn't the best way to do the job. The two Vietnamese sergeants were so good that they took over all training. My staff then consisted of me and one US sergeant. We'd go to the Chieu Hoi centers and question each

man--What did he do for the VC, why does he want to fight? Men with no fighting experience were not selected.

It also became apparent that with the second class we needed someone who was with the Scouts at all time when the staff was not present at night. In the first class we had an older gentleman who we subsequently chose to remain in camp, be part of the cadre and live and sleep with each future class. He was very, very useful in working with future classes.

The Brigade commander wanted these men accepted as much as possible. There was an NCO club at DiAn that the Scouts would frequent but one night I was called to quell a disturbance. Some US did not want the Scouts present and a fight ensued. After that we set up a small rec center in our tent area—no liquor but plenty of soft drinks.

Reports started coming in about the effectiveness of the Scouts. One report said how a Scout found booby traps. Another said a platoon was involved in a fire fight when a Scout told the platoon leader that the main attack was coming from his right and not from in front of him. The platoon switched positions and overcame the attack.

Kit Carson Scout Vo Van Bom was recruited by the VC after the VC had killed members of his family. He had a terrible hatred for the VC. On ambush patrol with his assigned platoon in the delta area, a group of VC were moving in the area but were not in the killing zone of the ambush. Vo Van Bom stood and talked to the VC, calling them over to his position. The ambush was successful, and afterwards I never heard so much praise for any Kit Carson Scout.



Above: Graduation Ceremony for the first class of "Kit Carson" Scouts of the 1st Division in Vietnam.

Once a month I had to travel to Saigon to pick up Vietnamese currency to pay the Scouts. Once I was standing in line listening to the Vietnamese money clerk talk in broken English to a South Korean soldier who was also speaking in broken English. You cannot imagine how funny that can be!

One day, the training schedule called for throwing hand grenades. At one end of the base was a small training area used to refresh incoming US personnel. Engineers used it to practice setting off charges so there was a small hole in the ground that two people could get into but not deep enough to be completely protected. I felt I could not ask my staff to do this so I jumped into the hole and one by one the Scouts joined me. I could not understand him and he could not understand me. All I did was keep a very close eye on the hand grenade pin and gestured for him to pull and throw.

Several weeks later an

accident happened at this same spot. Ten US were lined up with grenades. The order was to prepare to throw, but one man accidentally pulled the pin. That grenade and others exploded, killing or injuring many. This was big news back home. The next time I took the Scouts to throw there were 10 sand-bagged positions.

I left Vietnam in February 1969, and by then had graduated 133 Kit Carson Scouts. I was told to attend the daily brief at the TOC and extremely surprised when the Brigade commander awarded me the Bronze Star for my work.

In between Scout classes I had another assignment. The S5 shop (I worked out of the S5 under Major Taitano) had a psy ops officer who rounded a curve in a jeep and came face to face with a South Korean 2 ½-ton truck driving on the wrong side of the road. He went home and I then became the S5 psy ops officer.

We can do it all! ■

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Museum Notes

FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY PARK MCCORMICK RESEARCH CENTER

First Division Museum Launches New Travel Program

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park has introduced “Footsteps of The First,” a small-group travel program combining cultural exploration and military history in partnership with Academic Travel Abroad (ATA).

The new program offers powerful learning opportunities packaged with the lure of comfortable, hassle-free overseas travel. Destinations will include battlegrounds, museums, cemeteries, monuments, and other venues important to the history of the U.S. Army’s illustrious 1st Infantry Division, to which the First Division Museum is dedicated—with a solid mix of local culture weaved into the trip.

“We believe ‘Footsteps of The First’ is an ideal way to leverage the expertise of our museum professionals and extend the First Division Museum’s reach,” said Krewasky A. Salter, who joined the museum in 2019 as executive director and previously served as a Smithsonian Journeys Expert. “This is an exciting new direction for us and something we are uniquely qualified to do. Having worked with ATA before, I am confident we’ve secured the professional travel planning that’s essential to an outstanding experience. ATA and our selected expert for this inaugural ‘Footsteps of The First’ will collectively offer an enlighten and memorable



experience.”

Salter envisions the First Division Museum hosting a trip annually or every 18 months. “Footsteps of The First” is intended for audience enrichment, engagement and public outreach; the program does not benefit the museum financially.

Our initial “Footsteps” destination is Western Europe, September 5-16, 2021. With First Division Museum historian Jacquelyn Gillaspie serving as expert guide, travelers (limited to 25) will explore sites where the “Big Red One” made history

during World War II, leading the way to Allied success.

“The trip will be educational, but also deeply meaningful for all of us who believe in freedom and want to experience the places where so many brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice to protect it,” said Gillaspie. “Some days, we’ll literally be standing on hallowed ground.”

Highlights of the 12-day journey include Omaha Beach in Normandy; the city of Aachen, Germany; the Hürtgen Forest; and several key Battle of the Bulge sites. Impressive war cemeter-

ies, monuments, cathedrals and museums are on the itinerary, too, many located in spectacular settings.

“Footsteps of The First” offers well-rounded travel, with time set aside for enjoying local attractions and culture. The trip begins and ends in Paris. Along the way, travelers will enjoy special dining experiences, 4-star accommodations and ground transportation via luxury motor coach.

A full itinerary, travel details and pricing are posted online at FDMuseum.org. Reservations are now being accepted. ▀



Back Issues of Bridgehead Sentinel Available for Free Online!

As part of the ongoing digitization process of the 1st Division archives, the "Bridgehead Sentinel" collection has recently been digitized and is online at the McCormick Research Center's Digital Archives on the First Division Museum website.

The digitized collection consists of 197 issues of the official publication of the Society of the First Division which go from 1929 through 2019! The archive is fully word-searchable and visitors to the online database can view, download or print the

publications free of charge.

Simply visit Fdmuseum.org/researchers/digital-archives/ and click the "About Collections" section and then click "The Bridgehead Sentinel" to start reading! ▀

Museum Honors Veterans Day Virtually

This year, the First Division Museum invites Veterans and their families to celebrate Veterans Day with at-home "virtual" programs that pay tribute to all those who served and continue to serve.

They Served: Stories from Veterans

November 11 - 7 to 8:30 pm
Live presentation via Zoom
Register at FDMuseum.org

Join us online as two veterans of the 1st Infantry Division share the stories of their service. Major Casey Wolfe is a proud second generation Big Red One soldier. He served from 2011 to 2015,

deploying with the Division to Afghanistan. His final assignment was company commander for the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard. Currently an Army reservist, Major Wolfe serves as logistics officer for a Regional Support Group based in Kansas. '

Sergeant Tom Brown served with the 1st Infantry Division, 10th Cavalry, from 1966 to 1968. While in Vietnam, he served as a combat

infantryman and as a mortar crewman. A Purple Heart recipient, Brown today shares the story of his service with local students as a member of the First Division Museum's Speaker Bureau.

Conduct an Oral History

At-home Activity for Students

Students are encouraged to record and preserve history by interviewing a Veteran in their

life, such as a parent, grandparent or neighbor. A Student Question Guide with instructions, tips and suggested questions is available at FDMuseum.org. Ideas for sharing and supplementing an oral history interview are offered as well. ▀

