



VOLUME LXXXIV NUMBER NO 1

THE IVY LEAVES

Official Publication of the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

4th Infantry Division Monument Officially Dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery



Monument Dedication: Gerry Howard addresses attendees. Seated are Bob Babcock, Roger Barton, and General Kern. Photo courtesy of Greg Rollinger.

By Bob Babcock

With Medal of Honor recipient 1st Sergeant David McNerney and Arlington Monument Committee Chairman Gerry Howard, both Vietnam veterans of Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division placing a wreath in front of the long awaited 4th Infantry Division Monument, the dream started by our fellow

“The 4ID soldiers, past and present, are ordinary men and women who were called on to do extraordinary things, and they did them well.”

...Brigadier General Joe Taylor

Ivy men at the end of World War I became an official reality. On the overcast, pleasant afternoon of July 5, 2001, approximately 1,000 4th Infantry Division veterans, active army soldiers, family, and friends applauded this long awaited event. Emotions were high and many eyes filled with tears as the long line of 4th Infantry Division veterans from 1917 to the present day were remembered, both living and dead.

The cover story of the vintage May 1920 Ivy Leaves, presented to our Association’s archives by Lloyd Kantor, Vietnam veteran of the division, stated, “Arlington Monument Taking Definite Shape.” A picture of the design work of Corporal Edmond J. Amateis, formerly of the 77th Field Artillery was prominently displayed on the cover. The article stated, “Upon the definite adoption of plans, the

financing of the monument and work upon its construction will begin.” Little did our World War I veterans know that it would be 81 years before their dream would become a reality, that the division and our country would survive a great depression, another World War, a Cold War, and a war in Vietnam. The design drawn by Corporal Amateis, appropriate to the times in 1920, was replaced by the strikingly simple and powerful 4th Infantry Division shoulder patch design created by Emory Kirkwood & Associates. From now on, anyone entering Arlington National Cemetery will pass the 4th Infantry Division Monument, a fitting tribute to all past, present, and future 4th Infantry Division veterans.

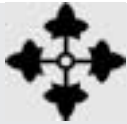
Gerry Howard served as master of ceremonies for the fifty-minute monument dedication program. After placing of the POW flag by Conrad “Frenchy” Adams and national president Bruce Wesley, and posting of the colors by the 4th Infantry Division color guard, the Old Guard band

Please turn to **DEDICATION** on page 5



Photo: Greg Rollinger.

1st Sergeant David McNerney, our living Medal of Honor recipient; pauses by monument.



FROM THE EDITOR...

Gregory A. Rollinger

National Reunion

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the National Reunion in Washington D.C. this past July. Thanks to Roger Barton and the Capital Chapter for making it such a memorable event. You will find many pictures and stories about the reunion in this issue of *The Ivy Leaves*.

US Postal Service

I received a few complaints from members whom had not received the June issue of *The Ivy Leaves*. Especially from people who live in the upper mid-west for some strange reason! Hopefully, everyone has received his or her copy by now. I have no idea why it took so long for those issues to be delivered. But I knew we were in trouble when my copy finally arrived on July 21st. So you can see what kind of special treatment I get. I also received a Colorado Chapter report for last November on May 15th, after I had already sent the June copy to the publisher. The report had been written in December and the envelope was post-marked in January so I have no idea where it was sitting for 5 months. I've included that report in this issue since I don't want Bob Gasset and the Colorado Chapter to think I'm excluding their reports.

December 2001 Deadline

Deadline for articles for the next issue is November 1, 2001.

Office of the Chief of Staff, Army General Officer Announcement 02 August 2001

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today that the President has nominated: Lieutenant General Paul J. Kern, United States Army, for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Virginia. He is currently serving as the Military Deputy/Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Washington, DC.



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Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Gregory A. Rollinger, Ivy Leaves Editor, 13507 Danube Lane, Rosemont, MN 55068 <g.rollinger@gte.net>. Deadline for submission is the first day of the month prior to publication.



What a great honor it was to be elected as National President in Washington D.C. this past July. With the dedication of our National Monument it proved to be one of the best weeks of my life. I am looking forward to serving the Association for the next year.

Linda and I would like to thank the Capitol Chapter for putting on a great reunion and dedication ceremony in Arlington Cemetery. From now on we will no longer be known as the *Forgotten Division* as every person that enters Arlington will pass by our monument. I believe that this monument says a lot about the character of our membership. We can all be very proud of this monument knowing that it represents past, present, and future members of our Division.

Linda and I will try to attend mini-reunions in other states and meet as many members of the association as we can in the next year. It was great to see so many new faces at this year's reunion and we hope to see them again in Spokane next September. Its not too early to start plan-

From now on we will no longer be known as the *Forgotten Division* as every person that enters Arlington will pass by our monument.

ning for next year and Bob Reilly plans on putting on a good show for us when we get there.

I would like to thank all the members who were on our committees this year and gave a few hours of their time to ensure the smooth running of the association. The more members that participate, the easier it is for all. Think about getting on a committee this next year, its fun and a good way to meet your fellow members.

A special thanks goes out to Paul Brunnelle and Gerhard Gramp recipients of the Ralph Lingert Service Award for they're many hours of service to the Association. I can't think of two people more deserving.

Steadfast & Loyal
Roger R Dufek

Report

Monument/Memorial Committee

By Gerry Howard

At the National meeting in Arlington, Virginia, the executive board voted to carry forward the committee and both the Monument and the Memorial funds. The goals of the committee will be to grow the funds to support Monuments/Memorials everywhere for the 4th ID.

With the resignation of Gerry Gramp as treasurer, and the deletion of one committee member, the following were appointed.

Retired Major General Henry Cobb has joined the committee. Henry has extensive business credentials and currently heads up a major development company on the Florida Gulf Coast.

John Kapor of Chicago has accepted the treasurer's job and will oversee our monies in both funds. John will also be a committee member.

The committee sees its' role over the next few years to support the Arlington Monument and the acceptance thereof into the Washington DC tourist publications etc. There are also other monuments/memorials around the country that need our support as well as needing improvements. At the National Infantry Museum, at Ft. Lewis, Ft. Hood, and at Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida are but a few.

Our first new goal will be to have a committee of three look into the land in and around Carrabelle, Florida where the 4th ID trained for Utah Beach at Camp Gordon Johnston. In August, Ray Dunkel, Jr. VP, Henry Cobb and I will travel to Carrabelle to meet with Camp Gordon Johnston Association officers and local real estate folks as well as the current owners of the acres actually

See COMMITTEE on page 17

WPA Chapter places wreath at "The Travelling Wall"

Submitted by Chuck McKee,

Members of the Western PA Chapter, National 4th Infantry Division Association, assisted in placing a wreath at the site of the "Travelling Wall" in Pittsburgh, PA. on July 14, 2001. The "Travelling Wall" is a replica of the actual Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. The quarter size model travels throughout the United States annually. The "Travelling Wall" was created in 1984 by Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. to assist in bringing closure to the many families who have lost loved ones during the war and are unable to visit the actual memorial. It first visited Pittsburgh in 1987.

The "Travelling Wall" was created in 1984 by Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. to assist in bringing closure...

The beautiful green and white wreath was placed near panel 16E. This panel, but for a very few, is entirely 4th Division names, from the initial engagements in the Central Highlands

of Vietnam. The wreath was placed by Chuck McKee (4 ID RVN 66-68), Rich O'Malley (4 ID RVN 68-69) and other WPA Chapter members.

Also assisting in the wreath presentation were members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Allegheny County, PA. The AOH is a nationally known Irish Catholic fraternal organization, with more than a dozen chapters in the southwestern PA area. There are currently 20 Irish immigrants whose names appear on the "Wall". Of the 20 names, 19 are men: 13 are Army, of which 6 were 4ID personnel, 6 are USMC, and one Army Nurse, 2LT Pamela D. Donovan of Dublin, Ireland. These service members came to America from Ireland, intent on entering the military service. They then volunteered to serve in the Republic of Vietnam, with the hope of expedited citizenship. One such was CPL Philip Sean Bancroft, USMC, of Belfast, Northern Ireland, who entered the service from Pittsburgh, PA.

See WALL on page 17



Annual Report

This has been a very productive year for the 4th Infantry Division Association's National Service Office. We have been able to provide assistance to 84 veterans and 15 dependents or survivors regarding problems or benefits they are entitled. The problems have ranged from the obtaining or the replacement of awards and decorations to filing of claims for compensation or other entitlements from the VA.

Of the 84 veterans we served, we were able to assist with either new or reopened compensation or pension claims with the VA for 23 of those veterans. We were able to assist 7 of dependant/survivors in VA benefits to which they were entitled. As a result of our efforts, in conjunction with various Veterans Service Organizations, we have been able to collect \$184,534.00 due these veterans or their survivors from the VA or State/local organizations.

In one case we were able to assist the family of a WW I veteran who had been awarded the "wound chevron" in France. The Purple Heart medal was extended to those individuals who had been so awarded in 1936. The daughter had attempted various times to obtain the medal from the

Of the 84 veterans we served, we were able to assist with either new or reopened compensation or pension claims with the VA for 23 of those veterans.

Department of the Army; we contacted the National Archives obtaining the necessary records, which were forwarded to the Army. The Purple Heart medal was awarded to the family in a ceremony wherein the veterans great granddaughter, a PFC. in the United States Army, accepted the medal on their behalf.

We have also assisted in the obtaining of a number of High School diplomas for those WW 2 veterans who were either drafted, or enlisted into the military service, at the start of the war, thereby not receiving the opportunity to graduate. Many of these veterans, or their family members on their behalf, were able to participate in their High School commencement programs. Although many of those assisted were members of the Association, it has been our intent to assist ALL veterans and their families. The majority of the requests have come from our website, or via the Internet. This assistance has been at no charge to the veteran or the Association.

The 4IDA Archives

By Bob Babcock

As you know by now, when I'm given a project, I won't leave you alone until you help me accomplish what we are trying to do. You can expect to hear from me in each issue of Ivy Leaves as I plead with you to think about your personal archives and decide what needs to be saved in our National 4th Infantry Division Association archives. Some of the examples of great archives items that I've received in the past month are:

1) The mint condition copy of the May 1920 Ivy Leaves that Lloyd Kantor sent to us. Part of the front page of that issue is shown elsewhere in this issue.

2) Gerry Gramp sent copies of old newspaper clippings, a handbook of the 4IDA from 1939, and numerous other items that he has been saving over the years.

3) Bill Moen sent a 1938 membership card that, Michael J. Barry, a World War I neighbor gave him when he returned from Vietnam in 1967. The man was proud of this new generation of 4ID veterans and the card has been a prized possession of Bill ever since. Bill wrote, "I know Mike was very proud this past July as he looked down on the Monument dedication ceremony. I know I had a thought of Mike as we dedicated our

See ARCHIVES on page 27

Scholarship Winners selected at National Reunion

by Alex Cooker

The following individuals were picked at the National Reunion Banquet on July 7, 2001, to receive a \$1000 scholarship.

♦ Whitney Kuhn: Whitney will be attending Central Community College in Grand Island, NE. Her father Michael, who is a member of the Midwest Chapter, submitted her application.

♦ Warren King III: Warren will be attending Elon University in Elon, NC. His grandfather Warren Sr., who is a member of the Carolinas Chapter, submitted his application.

♦ Terri Boyle: Terri will be attending Bradley University in Peoria, IL. Her father Francis, who is a member of the Illinois Chapter, submitted her application.

♦ Kathryn Waggener: Kathryn will

be attending Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Her father Michael who is a member of the Capital Chapter submitted her application.

Donations can now be made to the scholarship fund. Checks should be made out to: National 4th Ivy Division Association Scholarship Fund.

Mail to: Riggs & Co. Attn: Ed Wucher 808 17th Street NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-3944

The Scholarship Committee hopes that the idea of donations will generate funds, which will supplement those, offered to our scholarship recipients.

4th Infantry Division Association ♦ ♦ 2002 Scholarship Application

Complete this form and mail it to: Alexander Cooker, 78 N. Dupont Rd., Carneys Point, NJ 08069

Member's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Chapter: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Relation to Member: _____

Name & Type of School: _____

Address: _____

One Application per student. Must be received by June 15, 2002.

DEDICATION from page 1

played the National Anthem and the 4th Infantry Division March. National chaplain George Knapp led the invocation. Executive Director Roger Barton started his brief remarks by saying what everyone in attendance was feeling, "Oh what a glorious day!" Roger went on to explain that our Association has 8,000 members on our rolls in 23 chapters. He was the first of all the speakers to point out that without the drive and passion of Gerry Howard, the Monument would not have been built.

Every member of the audience was a dignitary as far as our Association was concerned but Gerry Howard pointed out the following individuals – 1st Sergeant David McNerney, our living Medal of Honor recipient; Major General Ben Griffin, current commander of the 4th Infantry Division representing the division and the 50 active duty soldiers in attendance; Glen DeMarr of the National Park Service who told Gerry the first time he was approached that, "We understand what you said and we're going to help you build this Monument." The greatest applause went to Emory Kirkwood, who designed and took control of the project without cost to our association – he is a true patriot who saw this opportunity to thank some of those who paid for his freedom. Chuck McKee, past national president, was recognized for handling the details of the ceremony, as was Gerry Gramp who served so ably as treasurer of the Monument fund.

Keynote speaker Lieutenant General Paul Kern, who commanded the division in 1996-1997, told the crowd that MG Griffin has been nominated to receive his third star and will soon be leaving the division after leading it through more than two years of intensive training as the test bed of today's Army. He introduced Brigadier General Joe Taylor, assistant division commander who has been nominated for his second star and pointed out that many great leaders have passed through the ranks of the 4th Infantry Division. He called this a very special day, a day to reflect on with great pride. The 4ID soldiers, past and present, are ordinary men and women who were called on to do extraordinary things, and they did them well. He went on to talk through the history of the 4th Infantry

Division and the wars and battles that resulted in 21 battle streamers on our colors and 16 men who were awarded the Medal of Honor. He recognized the outstanding work of Brad Morton, the artist who built the Monument from Emory Kirkwood's design, and the Davey Tree Company who created the beautiful landscaping around the Monument. He admired the design of the 4th Infantry Division patch, the only patch in the Army that tells a story any way you look at it, always a four from any viewpoint. He talked about the disappointment of liberating Paris on August 25, 1944 and for political reasons not being recognized for that great feat. He concluded his remarks by stating that this Monument is dedicated to courageous Americans and he was very proud to have been asked to participate in the ceremony.

The placing of the wreath, in the form of a 4th Infantry Division shoulder patch, marked the official dedication of the Monument. Gerry then introduced past national president Bob Babcock. Bob started his talk by acknowledging that "God loves the 4th Infantry Division. He gave us this beautiful cloudy day when we expected it to be unbearably hot, and he gave me the inspiration to appoint Gerry Howard as Monument chairman to make this day a reality." He then talked about the stainless steel time capsule that his son, Rob Babcock, had built that was buried at the base of the Monument on June 29, 2000. Bob and Roger then recreated a shortened version of the ceremony done at the mini-dedication last year. Soil samples from 35 foreign battlefields and stateside posts where the 4th Infantry Division had trained and fought, were first poured into the WWII helmet worn by MG (Retired) John Ruggles and then were spread across the planter at the base of the Monument. As the list of places where soil samples came from was being read, a flight of four UH-1D Huey helicopters made their scheduled fly-over at low level. Few eyes were dry, espe-



Ivy Leaves, May, 1920 with cover photo of proposed monument.

cially among the Vietnam veterans, as the helicopters made their turn and disappeared over Arlington National Cemetery. I must say, it was hard for me to keep talking after seeing those Hueys in a quantity and at an angle that I had not experienced since leaving Vietnam.

Gerry Howard wrapped up the ceremony with a short talk from the heart that showed his passion and love for this project that he had just brought to completion. He said when asked what this is about and whom it is for, it is about us, about and for Americans. We do not bend our knees to anyone nor do we lower our colors to anyone. We are the 4th Infantry Division, past and present and our young soldiers stand ready, if called on, to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors to defend our American way of life. We hope no additional regimental crests ever need to be added to the back of the Monument (crests are in place for all units that have fought in combat as part of the 4th Infantry Division) but we are ready, willing, and able if that is necessary. Steadfast and Loyal.

Taps and retiring of the Colors concluded the ceremony. Less than an hour after the ceremony concluded and all our veterans had safely returned to the hotel, a torrential downpour fell across Arlington and Washington, DC. Was it the tears of pride from our veterans looking down on us from their choice seats in heaven?

CHAPTER REPORTS



A-1-8 Chapter Report

By Greg Rollinger

We had a pretty good turnout at the National Reunion in D.C. Especially considering that we are a new chapter and we are still trying to convince most of our members that getting involved with the association and attending the reunions are good things. First timers Jerry Jensen, Ken and Pat Estey and Richard "Bugs" Moran were present in D.C. and enjoyed the experience. In addition, Ken and Patty McCormack, Greg and Dee Rollinger and Gerry and Linda Howard (who has a secondary membership in our chapter) were in attendance.



A-1-8 Chapter members.

SSG Allen Durbin, from Ft. Carson where he is an Infantry Squad Leader at A-1-8 INF 4ID, attended the D.C. Reunion and acted as a personal escort for 1SG McNeerney. SSG Durbin's bio can be found in this issue's Ivyman Profile column.

Ken McCormack, Ron Westbrook, Gerry Howard and Greg Rollinger traveled to Fort Carson for the A-1-8 active unit Change of Command ceremony on July 16. CPT Bob Kinder, who was the CO for A-1-8, has received a new assignment at Fort Lewis with the 2nd Ranger Battalion. Bob is a member of our chapter and has been an active supporter of the 4IDA and us Vietnam Vets. We wish him the best in his new assignment. We took advantage of the opportunity to meet the new 1-8 Battalion Commander, COL Battaglia, and the new A-1-8 CO, CPT Andy Kahmann.

We have developed a good relationship with the active unit and do whatever we can to support them. In return, we have received outstanding support and recognition from them. We will continue to enhance this relationship and encourage the active duty soldiers to become members of the 4IDA.

Our third annual A-1-8 reunion, first as part of the 4IDA, will be held in San Antonio, TX on October 5-7, 2001. See the schedule in the Chapter Events section of this *Ivy Leaves*.

Visit our new chapter website at www.A-1-8.org.

CAPITAL CHAPTER

by Roger S. Barton

(See Report on the National Reunion, page 12)

Carolinas Chapter Report

By Rick Adams

Please welcome the following new members to the Chapter. James R. Daniels Jr. U/1/14 INF, VN; John L. Sweeney Jr. C/1/22 INF, VN; John L. Spencer B/2/8 INF, VN; Clarence Small B/1/35 INF, VN; John I. Bruno 124/SIG, VN; and Clyde E. Comer B/2/22 INF, VN. We look forward to seeing you at Chapter meetings.

The next Chapter meeting will be held October 26-28, 2001 at the Wilson World Hotel in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Registration forms will be mailed to all chapter members in advance.

Our spring meeting was held May 4-6, 2001 at the Holiday Inn, Columbia South Carolina. Those attending were Rick Adams, Harold Birch, Richard and Sheila Bolin, Cecil Boswell, Tallie Crocker, Jim and Lucille Drennen, Carl and Joan Dry, Bill Greenlee, Nhu Hoang, Bob and Kydie Kay, Sherwood and Bonnie Locklair, Bernard Marie, Danny and Rita McPherson, Louise Miller, Carl Morris and Tracy Cohen, Sam Nelson, Walter and Alma Norman, Ray and Annie Mae Rogers, Fletcher and Audrey Ruff, Larry Simonson, Mary Smoak, George Schneider, Roy Surratt, and Dustyn, Norman and Faye Webb, Dorsey White, and John and Thelma Worthington.

Nominations for Chapter officers were approved by the membership, and they will be installed at the fall reunion. They are Roy Surratt, President, Larry Simonson, Sr. Vice President, Al Pichette, Jr. Vice President, and Rick Adams, Secretary-Treasurer. Other business handled during the meeting was the approval of donations by the chapter to the FOCH, the Montagnard Foundation, and the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

The Chapter meeting scheduled for April 26-28, 2002 will be our 10TH Charter Reunion. We are already planning for this special event. We will also be raffling a free weekend for two, so watch for your chance to win compliments of Bernard Marie.

Sadly, and too frequently, I must report the passing of three chapter members. John Sadler AT/8th INF, WWII died January 25, 2001. Harry Bailey Sr. E/2/8th INF, WWII died May 25, 2001. James T. "Tom" Waldrop C/4th Engrs, died June 10, 2001. Harry and Tom were very active in the chapter and regularly attended the meetings. We are better having known them, they will be greatly missed.

Colorado Chapter Report

By Nathaniel 'Bob' Gasset

Veterans Day was a busy one for the Colorado Chapter. We marched in the Veterans Day Parade and as cold as it was, there was a great turnout. We were ably assisted by a color guard from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry and were joined by some 4ID 8th

Infantry veterans that attended their regimental reunion in The Springs. We also had 2 JROTC Cadets that carried the 4th Infantry banner from Fountain Fort Carson High School.

After the parade, we had our wreath laying ceremony at the Retired Enlisted Association, as the weather was extremely cold for Memorial Park. LTC Salazar, Commander of the 1st BN, 8th Infantry, Bob Gasset of the Colorado Chapter, and two other soldiers of the 8th Infantry assisted us in the placing of the 4th Division wreath. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team provided the rifle squad. In spite of the cold, it was a great day for the 4th Infantry Division and the vets of the Springs area.

My appreciation to LTC Salazar, the soldiers of the 1st BN, 8th Infantry, the soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and our two JROTC cadets, Damien Madison and Nathan Pringle that carried the 4th Division banner. Special thanks to Greg Rollinger, Jerry Horton, Paul Summerlin, Bill May, Victor Renza, Jose Barrera, Vic Lopez, CSM RET Adolfo Salazar, (honorary Sergeant Major of the 8th Regiment and father of LTC Salazar), all veterans of the 8th Infantry and the Colorado Chapter members that marched in the parade; Bob Gasset, Kenny Vegoran and Robert Crawford. SSG Carl Ironeye, non-commissioned officer from the 1st BN 8th Infantry should get full credit for the success of the parade and wreath laying ceremony. What a job this non-com did when we started having problems in the organization of both the parade and wreath laying ceremony. He took the "bull by the horns" and did an outstanding job to insure that the mission was accomplished.

Editors note: See my explanation in the Editor's Column as to why this report is printed in this issue.

Eastern PA Chapter Report

by Joe Grinkewicz

Once again the Eastern PA Chapter met for their annual Spring luncheon, which always includes a great deal of laughter when this group gathers, sharing recent past stories along with distant past stories. Some of those storytellers were: Clara Van Dyke, Pam Van Dyke Jalbert, Alice Yoders, Vera Burlew, June & Al Hoffman, Lucille Fussell, Bernadette & Paul Blackstock, Marge & Wally Eastman, Charles Harrison, Patrick Creed, James McCaughan, Vince, Kaye & son Al Carrozza, Edward MacEwen, Mildred & Ed Tavener, Joan, Lukens, Ann & Joe Grinkewicz, and daughter Jeannette & Alfred Ullrich.

Ann & Joe Grinkewicz with Jeannette & Alfred Ullrich joined other chapter members Alex & Marian Cooker, and Vincent, Kaye & Al Carrozza at the National Reunion in Washington, D.C. in early July 2001 for a few days of celebration and participation in the events. The dedication of the 4th Infantry Memorial on the access road of Arlington Cemetery was an emotionally moving tribute. From presenting a 4th Infantry wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to a fly over of 4 helicopters created an effect, which will not soon be forgotten. Some Eastern PA members made the decision to drive down from New Jersey and PA for that specific day just to be a part this official dedication.

Looking forward to the Blackstock annual August picnic where I'm sure many photos of the dedication will be shared.

Illinois Chapter Report

by Rick Sover

Honors to the Capital chapter for their successful reunion. Illinois Chapter was well represented. Our chapter President Jerry Januszewski, Vice President John Kapior, National Chaplain Rev. George W. Knapp and his wife Virginia, Al "Swede" Ekstrom, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Campogni, Mr. & Mrs. Bert C. Nicholson, Robert Welk, Edward J. Sleichert, Jr., Rick Sover Sec./Treas. and family guests Jim & Pat Sover & sons Tim & Tom, Dr. Eric & Mary Ellen Sover, & son Christopher, Bob & Sally Sover, and daughter Katy and son Marc, Jim and Lil Nannini, & Mr. & Mrs. John Ipjian. If I missed members, let me know and I will report it in the next issue of "Ivy Leaves". We are nearing the end of another "Ivy" year 2001, and this means 2002 dues notices will be in the mail shortly. I have been Sec/treas. many years and have never reached 100%. So I am requesting that year 2002 will be a 100% year. I would like to thank all the officer and members for the get well cards, and telephone calls I received during my stay in the hospital and at home recuperating from my broken ankle. As of this report it is almost completely healed. Again thank you all very much. So 'til next time. Steadfast and Loyal

Mid-South Chapter Report

By Lee Rung

The Mid-South Chapter held it's annual reunion in Arlington, VA along with the Association's 83rd National Reunion. A brief business meeting was held on the morning of the 5th in the Sheraton National Hotel. The following were elected as Chapter officers for 2002: Honorary President LTG Glenn D. Walker President Herbert L. Martin Sr. Vice President, VN Gerry W. Howard Jr. Vice President, WWII Leo P. Champagne, Sr. Jr. Vice President, Korean Era Richard L. Davis Secretary/Treasurer Leon "Lee" Rung Chaplain William T. Ivey Sergeant-At-Arms Conrad A. Adams.

The Raffle prizes were drawn for and the winners were: 1st Prize- COL William Roemer of Ocean Springs, MS, a Swiss Army Watch; 2nd Prize- Paul Clark of Memphis, TN, a Swiss Army Watch ; 3rd Prize- Darrel Wandling of Cordova, TN, sunglasses; and 4th Prize- J. Holland, of Arlington, TN, sunglasses. The raffle netted the Chapter a total of \$1,641.88, which will go into our treasury. Thanks to all of our Chapter members and other friends for their support on the raffle. Conrad "Frenchy" Adams gave his report on having the 2002 Chapter reunion at the Biloxi Beach Resort, 2736 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Mississippi 39531. The membership approved the Biloxi sight for the dates of Friday, April 26, with departure on Sunday, April 28, 2002. Frenchy obtained a fabulous room rate of only \$66 a night, including tax, and this includes breakfast. Mark your calendars and you can call now to reserve your room by calling 1-800-345-1570. More information will be provided in the near future. We are looking for a big turnout.

Later on the 5th, Our outgoing Chapter President Gerry Howard, had his day, as he served as the master of ceremony for the formal dedication of the 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Monument at Arlington Cemetery. Gerry gave a loud whoop to celebrate the culmination of a lot of hard work on his part in seeing the monu-

ment completed. We only wished that more of our Chapter members could have been with us to celebrate. It was a grand affair made possible only through the efforts of all of our Chapter members, and others, who dug down deep to make this a reality.

We wish to recognize a couple of our members for their special kindness. LTG Glenn Walker's wife Margaret, informed us that the General is not well and she sent a substantial donation to the Chapter as did Mrs. Eloise Dampf and Vincent Scurich. Our continuing thanks to all others who have contributed to our Chapter.

A hearty welcome to the following new members to the Mid-South Chapter: James R. Carroll of Montevallo, AL; LTC James E. Pyle, Alexandria, AL; Jerry D. Warren of Hoover, AL; and a welcome back to Roe Baldwin of Orange, TX, who was recently transferred to the Texas Chapter only to request that he be reassigned back to our Mid-South Chapter. We also want to welcome back Michael Belis of Lafayette, LA. Michael lost his father and mother within 11 months of each other and he and his wife have weathered serious health problems and illness.

Midwest Chapter Report

by Don Kelby

A meeting was held June 9, 2001. In attendance were: President Don Kelby, Vice President Bill Perkins, and Treasurer Dick Sullivan.

Re-elected to offices were:

- President.....Don Kelby
- Vice PresidentBill Perkins
- Treasurer.....Dick Sullivan

Fall meeting to be held early October in Overland Park KS. Details to follow.

Northwest Chapter Report

By Bob Reilly

Arlington Was Inspiring: Joan and I drove back to Arlington with stops to visit friends and a daughter in the Chicago area, Louisville KY, Williamsburg VA and Regina, Saskatchewan—a long and tiring 7,000-mile journey...but so worthwhile! Along the way we experienced a number of “adventures”, including both foul and fair weather, incredibly exquisite, picturesque scenery and meetings with interesting folks. The Capitol Chapter managed to entertain, astound, impress and regale us royally. I can't say enough about the proud professionalism shown by the members of the Third Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and by our own active members of the Ivy Division. The ceremony for the Association's laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown was beyond spectacular, the finest I've ever seen...and I had six months of Honor Guard Company work in my troubled youth. Those troops don't march; they float in an effortlessly measured precise stride.

Brothers Howard, Barton and Babcock orchestrated a magnificent dedication of our new monument at Arlington National Cemetery, so strategically placed at the entrance to the Visitors Center...and including a helicopter fly-by in honor of our comrades-in-arms.

Among our other members present were Gary Brandt from Cottage Grove OR; Bernace Burgmeier (Puyallup) and son

Charles; Vern Capoean, Taholah WA; Ron & Sandy Soden (Tacoma); Larry and Florence Stromberg, Richland WA...resplendent in their eveningwear; Gord Sunde, Regina, Saskatchewan and Benny Villaverde, Honolulu HI—who keeps trying to convince me he's really a member-at-large. We were happy to be able to talk with so many other friends there. We watched the fireworks over the Nation's Capitol from the top floor of the hotel. 'Twas a dark and stormy night and whether the fireworks would proceed as scheduled was iffy but when they did go off they were more impressive than if we'd been present in the Capitol Mall, I think.

We stayed over a couple of extra days to more thoroughly explore the Smithsonian and spend more time at the monuments. While at The Wall between 0700-0800 hours one morning, I had a brief chat with Mel Gibson, who is making a film there based on the book *We Were Soldiers Once, And Young*, which I happened to be reading at the time. Though we shook hands and talked, I failed to use the camera I had in my hand.

2001 Chapter Reunion

Letters detailing our 22 September reunion in Wenatchee have been sent...if you plan to come and didn't get a letter or need directions, call Bob @ 509-667-2416. September weather is pleasant but bring a light jacket, just in case.

Spokane, Washington is the site for the 84th National Reunion and we are the hosts. Plan to welcome the rest of the nation to our incredible Northwest area. Full details will be published in the December issue but look elsewhere in this issue for preliminary planning information. We're going to need full involvement of the Chapter to make this a success. Make your hotel reservations directly with the DoubleTree Spokane Center Hotel in Riverside Park as early as possible: 509-455-9600. To get the special rate (\$88/night, single or double and \$98 for 3 or 4), be sure to mention that you are attending the 4th Infantry Division Association National Reunion. Dates are: 23-29 September 2002.

Welcome to New Members!

Extend a warm Northwest welcome to: Jerry B. Crowder and Dorothy, Tacoma WA, C/1/12 Inf, 1967-68; Michael D. Koch & Sue Stephens, Eagle ID, C/6/32 AMR, 1976-78; David A. Moloney, Rochester WA, LRRP, A/1/12 Inf, 1969 and Charles G. Young, Ballantine MT, A/3/8 Inf, 1967-68.

Fourth Division Memorabilia now in exciting new colors. Order all of our products in black, white or your preferred branch color. These are Made-in-the-USA products whenever possible: jackets, polo/golf shirts, sweat shirts, tee shirts, and baseball-style caps. [The fine print: Every color in every item may not always be available but we'll get your permission before any substitution is made. Please include your phone number(s)]. Check or money order payable to 4IDA with order, please. We are not equipped to handle credit cards. Send a SASE (\$.34 postage on a #10 envelope will do) to get our brochure from me, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Bob Reilly. I hope to get off my lazy tail soon and produce a new brochure as a matter of necessity. I'm almost out of the old ones. Address: NW CHAPTER 4th IDA; 107 Schafer St #7A; Wenatchee, WA 98801-6340.

Highlights of Arlington Business Meetings

Your new national officers are: President Roger Dufek, Sr. VP Gerry Howard, Jr. VPs Rick Adams, Ray Dunkel, Nat Gossett,

Roger Barton and Scott Moffet; incumbents fill the other slots except that PNP Paul Brunelle has stepped down from the Archivist chair. It was noted that the National Park Service now assumes responsibility for maintenance of our new monument, which was completed ahead of schedule and below cost!

Citations were read for award of the ARCOM (V) and Air Medal (V) to SP4 Joseph Shay, A/1/8, 3/22/69 and for an Air Medal (V) to SP4 Martin L. Laserby, 1969. Neither veteran was present.

We voted to lend our moral, not financial, support for the preservation of the last two slipways in England used for the D-Day invasion; to donate \$500 to the WWII Memorial to be built on the Capitol Mall and \$2000 to support the FOCH efforts for the Montagnard tribes in Vietnam's Central Highlands; Ft. Hood/Killeen was selected as the 2003 reunion site, in September to avoid the heat and it looks like we'll be going to Branson MO in 2004.

First Sergeant Joyce, representing the active division chapter, told us that his contingent of soldiers was impressed and newly motivated as a result of their association with us. All those soldiers I spoke with echoed similar sentiments.

One Man's Memorial

On the way home from DC we pulled into Lafayette IN, a city I'd never heard of, though Purdue U. is located there, to update our AAA TripTik (travel map) to accommodate a change in plans. We were treated graciously but told it would take about an hour to make the revisions. The man at the front desk directed us to the best cup of Americano we'd found since leaving the Northwest. As I sipped my java, I picked up a copy of the local Journal and Courier newspaper to discover a haunting face staring back at me, that of Sonny Bower, a 54-year-old Vietnam vet, an S&T truck driver (not an Ivyman). It told of his conversion of a corner of his farm into a Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We had to go see—and if you're close enough you should, too. It took a couple of hours to locate him because we didn't know the area but it's easy. He lives outside of Shadeland, which is outside of Lafayette. From Lafayette, head south on highway 25; you turn left onto Road 375-S, then right on 660-W, at the cemetery. His place is a half-mile or so down 660 on the right. Sonny came out to meet us. He said that there had been more than the usual traffic on the road all day but no one had stopped before us (at mid-afternoon). He was honored that we'd gone hunting for him and amazed that we were from several thousand miles away. It's a simple memorial in a corner of his front yard...US, state and POW/MIA flags fluttered in the breeze from tall poles. Two crosses, one large, one small dominate the unsophisticated triangular monument of dirt and rough boards. A boonie hat sits astride the larger cross. A 2x10 crosspiece tops the triangle, where he plans to inscribe appropriate wording, "How soon some people forget—this is for you, for I have not forgotten", and to wrap it symbolically with razor wire. He said he'd place nameplates with names of buddies, perhaps all 1200 men and women listed as POW/MIA, along the back wall. Max, a Heinz-57 dog belonging to his daughter (one of 15 children), resides on the sloping roof outside her second-floor window. Mel Gibson can feel better now...I forgot to get a picture of the dog, too.

See y'all in Spokane!!!!!!

New York – New Jersey Chapter Report

By R. M. Vaccaro, M.D.

Forty-one members and guests of the chapter attended the annual picnic at the home of Gerry and Mildred Gramp. This has been a tradition carried on for the past twenty years. Gerry and Mildred were honored with an award for their dedication and hospitality that has been afforded for these many years. Our thanks and prayers are extended collectively to Gerry and Mildred.

All attendees, including many new Vietnam War veterans and the 'Five' engineers, had a good time. Mike Horan, our current treasurer, provided monogrammed 4th Division caps gratis.

At our business session, there was a discussion of the National Reunion to be held in Washington, DC during July and the dedication of the monument in Arlington Cemetery. Tom O'Connor will remain as chapter president for another year.



Gerry and Mildred Gramp with award presented for their hospitality and dedication to the chapter over the past twenty years

Our enjoyable and poignant day was concluded with the Flames of Remembrance Ceremony.

The Chapter is planning a fall mini-reunion/social. The date and location is to be determined.

Ohio Chapter Report

By Ray Dunkel

Greetings Buckeye Ivymen: Well here it is Labor Day and fall activities are getting under way. Children are starting back to school, the days are getting cooler and the fall foliage is starting to appear. Arrangements are complete for the Ohio/Western PA Chapters, Mini- Reunion being held in Sandusky, Ohio, 4 – 7 October. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Reunion details may be found under the heading "Chapter Events". As usual a business meeting will convene at 10:00 A.M. Saturday October 6, 2001. During the same time frame activities (Towel Bingo) for the ladies is planned. A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the Association who

would like to join us in Sandusky.

My wife and I and a number of Chapter members and their families attended the 83rd National Reunion. The Capital Chapter was host and established Headquarters at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Capital Chapter Reunion Committee led by Chairman Roger Barton and Chapter President Norman Lilley performed with outstanding precision in all areas. From the time of arrival to departure this friendly and efficient Committee made us feel welcome and our needs were promptly attended to. The programs and activities they presented were well organized, entertaining and very enjoyable.

Thursday July 5, 2001 was a day that we all can be proud of, as the National Fourth Infantry (Ivy) Division Monument located on Memorial Drive near the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery was formally dedicated. Our Chapter can be justly proud of this great accomplishment, as the Chapter and individual members were a major part of making it happen. The Chapters' thanks go out to the Monument Committee, particularly to Committee member, Past National President Leo Jereb a member of our Chapter for the work he has done with the Committee.

Some highlights of the Annual Business Meeting were: The election of Officers was conducted for the ensuing year, which saw Roger Dufek elected President. All other Officers advanced and Scott Mofat was elected to fill the open Junior Vice President position. The body approved a donation of Five hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the World War II Monument Fund and a donation of Two thousand Dollars (\$2000.00) to the Friends of the Central Highlands. An amendment to the Bylaws (ARTICLE I – COMMITTEES, SECTION 1 (F), MEMORIAL) was approved. Also approved was a Resolution to support the Normandy Veterans Association. This Resolution concerns preservation of the WW II Slipways at Beacon Quay In Torquay Harbor, England. Bob Reilly Treasurer, of the Northwest Chapter gave a status report on the 2002 National Reunion to be held in Spokane, Washington, 23 – 28 September 2002. Arnold Waggoner President of the Texas Chapter provided a preliminary report on the 2003 National Reunion slated for Killeen, Texas (Fort Hood). In addition leaders of the Mid-West and Wisconsin Chapters expressed interest in exploring the feasibility of having the 2004 National Reunion in Branson, Missouri.

Finally, a plug for the book “War Stories Utah Beach to Pleiku” authored by our Past National President Bob Babcock. This book is comprised of stories written by the Veterans of the 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division who served during WW II, Cold War and Vietnam. It is an untold history of the division as told by the soldiers that served during these periods and made it happen. The proceeds from the sale of the book are placed into the General Fund of the Association. If you haven't ordered a copy yet please do so, you will benefit as well as the Association.

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm on your face, the rains fall soft on your fields and, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

In the event you want to contact me my address may be found under the heading “CHAPTERS”.

Texas Chapter Report

By Randy Simmons

The Texas Chapter met in Dallas on April 20th and April 21st for the 2001 spring reunion. Many thanks to Jean and Leonard Sternicke for all the work they did which resulted in making the reunion such a success. The weekend kicked off with guests reacquainting themselves in the Hospitality Suite on Friday. A lengthy business meeting began at noon on Saturday conducted by Arnold Waggoner, President. Highlights of the meeting included a report on the Memorial Brick project by Elaine Wells. It is hoped that the brick installation will commence in September at the Fourth Infantry Division Museum at Ft. Hood. Elaine had just returned from a dedication in Luxembourg, Europe. Her late husband was honored for his bravery and leadership in repelling the Germans from a hill in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. The chapter voted to purchase a brick to honor John Luna, a cherish member who died this past year. John's wife, Connie, and Elaine Wells were granted honorary lifetime memberships. All the chapter officers agreed to remain for another year with Randy Simmons being named as the secretary. Randy will update the email addresses of all the members and look into using emails rather than the mail for chapter announcements. A committee was formed with Leonard Sternicke as chairman to start preparations for the 2003 National Reunion that is scheduled to return to Ft. Hood. A request is made to all members of the Texas Chapter to forward tid-bits of information to the secretary, Randy Simmons, regarding other members: i.e., recognition at work or for volunteer service, health events and deaths, trips to Europe to visit 4th Infantry Division memorials, etc.

After the business meeting adjourned, Jerry Hassey conducted a great tour that included the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery and the Texas Vietnam Memorial, which is located at the Texas State Fairgrounds. The Texas bluebonnets were in full bloom everywhere we drove and were a beautiful sight to see. Thanks Jerry.

The reunion concluded with a banquet on Saturday evening. The Flames of Remembrance Ceremony started off the events. Our president, Arnold Waggoner was the keynote speaker for the evening. The title of the keynote address was “Who Moved My Cheese?” titled after the book of the same written by Spencer Johnson. The gist of the message gave some insightful information on how we as humans manage change or fail to manage change in our lives.

Thanks to the following members who attended the reunion: Walter Williamson, Ruben Ybarra, Don Tidwell, Arnold and Janelle Waggoner and Micah, David and Kathy Heallen, Col. James Van Landingham and his wife, Sue, Jerry Hassey, Doyle and Ute Volkmer, Leonard and Jean Sternicki, Dr. Sam Barrett and his son John, Randy and Judy Simmons, Elaine Wells, and Bob Williams.

Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Roger R Dufek

The Wisconsin Chapter members met the weekend of May 18th at the Fort McCoy Army base in Tomah Wisconsin. It was Armed Forces Weekend and there was an open house at the base. There

were many displays set up and a tour of the base in air-conditioned busses was very interesting. Most of our members wore something with the 4th patch on and we were treated very well.

Saturday evening we had our Flames of Remembrance Dinner at the fort then back to the hotel for our ladies raffle. The chapter made \$500 dollars at the raffle that will be used for the Amos and Betty Johnson Scholarship Fund. Thanks girls for a job well done. Members in attendance were Roger & Linda Dufek, Allan & Alice Fagley, Glen & Edna Howard, Terry & Charlene Weibel, Bob & Pat Loonsfoot, Steve & Lois Thompson, Arlen & Nancy Bliedernicht, Roger & Kay Bender, Tom & Min Mohar, Frankie Nauer, Mike, Mat & Sandy Grobelch, Claude Hockert, Steve Anderson (a Marine), Amos Johnson, Joe Nett, Dave Gehr, Joe Lenski & Joyce Hill, Gary & Barb Powley, Don & Meta Delamore, Vern & Linda Schultz, Ken & Cam Schmidt, Gordon Weber, Tom & Evelyn Truesdell and Glen Armstrong.

The Wisconsin Chapter would like to thank the Capitol Chapter for the GREAT reunion in D.C. With the dedication of our monument complete we will no longer be the Forgotten 4th. Everyone should be very proud of this Monument and what it represents.

Our next Wisconsin reunion will be the weekend of Oct 5th, 6th, and 7th. Watch for details in your chapter newsletter.

WPA/Ohio Chapters Report

**Submitted by Chuck McKee,
WPA Sec/Treas**

WPA and Ohio Chapters had a successful Mini-Reunion

More than 50 members of the Western PA and Ohio Chapters met in Meadville, PA over the weekend of May 18-19, 2001, for a very successful reunion. On Friday was an open evening, with a group of some 30 members car pooling to the local Elks Club for a fine dinner off the menu; then returning to the hospitality room at the hotel for more leisure time of cards and chatting. During the Saturday WPA Chapter business meeting, the following officers were elected for the year 2001/2002: Keith McDougall, President; Alex Hamas, Vice President; Chuck McKee, Secretary/Treasurer; and Dick Powell appointed as Chaplain.

They also enjoyed the Saturday evening banquet and the many nice prizes awarded from the raffle. The group was pleased to have also in attendance at the dinner, Mr. James Goldsmith, National Senior Vice Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, who gave a short acknowledgment to the contributions of the men of the 4th Infantry Division during WW2.

Our 4IDA Jr. Vice President and the Ohio Chapter President, Ray Dunkle brought the audience up to date on the 4 ID monument and the dedication program set for July 5, 2001, during the national convention in Washington, DC. First time member Curtis Hall and his wife Juanita from Akron, Ohio were introduced as well.

After dinner, the group was entertained by the Grove City High School Show Choir, which did an outstanding job. The members of the Show group were invited to share ice cream and cake with the veterans, enabling them to interact with a little piece of history.

Because of the excellent site location, and the great manner in which we were accommodated, the May 2002, reunion will also be

at the DAYS INN Conference Center, in Meadville, PA.

Those attending this years reunion were: WPA; Don & Mildred Barie, Vic & Zora Bonomi, Clifford & Giny Burk, Elmer & Lavonne Glenn, Alex & Mary Hamas, Patsy & Mary Mantini, Keith & Margaret McDougall, Chuck & Carol McKee, James & Natalie Messenda, Charles & Ruth Mignogna, Richard & Helen Powell, John & Mary Savanick, Donald & Tim Vitous and friends Carl Kryzniec and son Carl, Jr., William & Edith Wilson, Norman & Betty Wolcott, Raymond & Elizabeth Zaney. Ohio; Louis & Mary Berus, Ray Dunkel, Curtis & Juanita Hall, Leo & Marge Jereb, Al Kadlowec, Elmer & Stella Klaus, Rev. Richard & Betty Thompson, John Welsh. Other 4IDA Chapters; Logan & Billie Lowers, CPTL; George & Eleanor Peterman, EPA.

Co. G 12th Inf. Reunion – 2001

by Johnnie B. Newton Jr.

Co. G is holding our 6th reunion on September 26 – 29, 2001. The reunion schedule was in the June 2001 issue of *The Ivy Leaves* and is available on the Internet.

I received a phone call from Mr. George Fritz. He asked if I knew a Ronald “Windy” Ertell. I told him I did and was with him when he was killed.

I couldn’t believe after 57 years, that someone would call and ask about his uncle, Sgt. Ertell. Mr. Fritz sent me some pictures of his uncle and the last letter he wrote his mother, March 27, 1945. Following are his letter and a picture from his High School graduation.

Germany – March 27, 1945

My Dearest Mother,

I just received a grand letter from you dated Mar. 15th. I am sitting right down to answer it. I did get the photo of Millie and Lynn – but didn’t get the one of Millie and Bummie. You talked as though you thought all of that mail I didn’t get was lost forever. Well, I’ll try to explain to you about that. It isn’t lost – and I will get it eventually. You see you send the mail to the Co. and I’m not there, so then they send it to the hospital. I’m not there – for I’m already on my way back to the Co. – so – they send it back to the Co!!! Mine should be returning any day now. The packages are the same way – except to the fact that they may be broken up very bad from lots of handling. I got your cablegram the other day. Thanks!

I am glad that you have no hard feelings toward Millie. She is the only girl I ever loved and I still want her! But of course I couldn’t tolerate anymore foolishness from her. But that is done and over, if not forgotten. I hope that the baby does not look like me – for I want her to be beautiful!

I am sorry to hear that you have been ill. That changeable weather does that though. Gramma Schafer writes to me very often and I answer as many as I can.

You said in your letter that you knew that I had done something outstanding to win the Purple Heart and the Silver Star awards. Well!! Yes, I stopped a machine gun bullet with my wrist for the Purple

Continued on page 29

2001 National Reunion Report

by Roger S. Barton, Chairman

It was a great National Reunion! The Capital Chapter is pleased to announce that the 83rd National Reunion was a great success. Once we got past the multitude of problems with the hotel, things went fairly smoothly. Sunday and Monday were days dedicated to the arrival of the 4ID Veterans and to on-your-own sightseeing. On Tuesday all of our “duffers” headed for Bowie Golf club in Bowie, Maryland for a great day of golf.

The weather was more than perfect as we teed off for some spirited competitive golf. After all was said and done there was a tie for first place which was broken when we went to the scorecards for the tiebreaker. Jerry Januszewski won the closest to the pin competition and was presented with an “Executive Putter” for his efforts. The Capital Chapter gave all of our participants a 4th Infantry Division golf towel and golf balls.

Tuesday evening 210 people boarded buses for our Vietnam Veterans Memorial wreath laying and DC After Dark Tour. The buses first stop was the WALL where we placed a 4ID wreath on each wing. In front of each panel of the WALL we placed lists of 4ID KIAs appearing on that particular panel. It was a very impressive sight indeed when one looked at the WALL and saw those lists in front of almost every panel and two or three lists in front of some.

We then walked to the Lincoln and Korean War Memorials. We re-boarded the buses and each bus went its separate way for the remainder of the tour. What a lovely sight to see our nation’s monuments all lit up. Wednesday we gathered in the Grand Foyer for our All American 4th of July Picnic. Those who attended lunched on hot dogs, chip, sodas etc while listening to a jazz combo or having their picture drawn by one of our caricaturists. Patriotic bandanas and other “giveaways” were passed out throughout the afternoon.

On Wednesday night everyone went their separate ways to watch our National Fireworks display. Some chose to venture

At tree top level the “wump, wump wump” of their rotors carried many of us back to Vietnam where we had heard that sound on a daily basis. From goose bumps to tears it was easy to identify the Vietnam Veterans in the crowd

into the crowds on the grounds of the Washington Monument while others opted to watch the fireworks from their DC view hotel room. Wherever you watched them, they were magnificent!

On Thursday morning excitement filled the air as everyone anticipated the dedication of our great 4th Infantry Division National monument. Your Reunion Committee had a foolproof plan for the orderly and rapid boarding of the ten buses that would take us to Arlington National Cemetery. Well it looked good on paper... Our entire plan was thwarted when someone in the lobby yelled, “The buses are here and they’re boarding now”. The stampede was on. We did make a quick recovery and somehow managed to get all 10 of the 57 passenger buses loaded and on their way on time. As far as I know, no one was left behind.

Arriving at Arlington we were escorted to the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers where a full honors wreath laying took place. Following the wreath laying, we had some free time for everyone to look around the area. At last the moment was at hand. We boarded the buses for the short ride back to our monument site on Memorial Drive. We had 500 chairs in place and they were all filled and it was standing room only as the Dedication Ceremony started. The absolute highlight of the dedication had to be when four Huey helicopters flew down the nearby Potomac River and made a right hand turn over Memorial Drive. They paused briefly to “dress right dress” their diamond formation and then started towards us ever so slowly. At tree top level the “wump, wump wump” of their rotors carried many of us back to Vietnam where we had heard that sound on a daily basis. From goose bumps to tears it was easy to identify the Vietnam Veterans in the crowd. Slowly they passed overhead and

over our monument to put the final touch on a near perfect day.

Behind the choppers the black thunderstorm clouds were gathering and fortunately the storm held off until just after everyone was safely back in the hotel. The day started off on Friday with our first Business Meeting. The ladies gathered in the Galaxy Room on the top floor of the hotel for their brunch. The theme was the history of belly dancing and I understand that it was very tactfully presented and quite entertaining although later on no one seemed to be willing to demonstrate what they had learned. A lot of gifts and door prizes were dished out and the Capital Chapter presented each attendee with a beautiful Monument Dedication commemorative necklace.

Friday evening we pulled out all the stops for our Arlington Monument Gala. As our members entered the hotel’s Grand Foyer they were greeted with a beautiful 4ID ice sculpture. The Grand Ballroom was all decked out in preparation for our great night of entertainment. The tables were strewn with all sorts of giveaways. From kazooos to giant sunglasses to inflatable guitars and beach balls to fuzzy dice it was all there for our members and guests. The food was good and plentiful as we dined on light fare of beef, pasta and assorted other goodies.

At 7 pm the night’s entertainment took the stage. *The Fabulous Hubcaps* were just that...fabulous! It was a professional performance that would rival that of any band anywhere. They played many of the “old” Do Wop favorites from the ‘50’s and ‘60’s, and then did a dynamite floor show complete with costume changes and impersonations of some of the great Rock & Roll legends such as Buddy Holley, Tina Turner and the Shirelles. Between sets we raffled off many great door prizes. During the last set our guests were

surprised when Capital Chapter members moved through the crown passing out hundreds of glow stick necklaces. What a sight to see everyone in the room wearing these glowing red, white and blue necklaces!

Another highlight was when the *Hubcaps* performed "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" which was one of the Vietnam "standards." After the *Hubcaps* had played the "last song" and had been called back for an encore, I was deeply touched when one of the band members approached me and asked if they could please sing their version of the National Anthem for our Veterans. I had heard their version of the National Anthem and had purposely omitted it from the program as it was a Do Wop version and I knew that our Veterans preferred the traditional version. But what could I say but yes when they specifically asked to perform it. They took the stage once again and did their version of the Star Spangled Banner. What a rousing cheer went up when they finished. They had put on a great show and it was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

What a night! Saturday was started with our second Business Meeting and election of officers. Following the meeting, Frank Bradley assembled his Banquet Seating Committee to begin the arduous task of making sure that everyone had a seat at the Grand Banquet. At 4pm, Church services were conducted by Father Harris and Reverend Knapp. Social Hour started at 5pm in preparation for the Grand Banquet. At 6pm the doors to the Ballroom were opened and 444 people headed for their tables. Arriving at his or her table each person found either a 4ID Monument Dedication coffee mug or a canteen of GI Joe "kool aid" as a gift from the Capital Chapter. Capital Chapter President Norman Lilley opened the Grand Banquet with the posting of the colors. The 4ID Honor Guard was once again flawless in the performance of their duties. Conrad "Frenchie" Adams and Herbert Martin placed the POW/MIA flag on the "missing man" chair.

Capital Chapter Past President Andrew "Andy" Jurcak conducted the Flames of Remembrance Ceremony with John Kapor and Gerhard "Gerry" Gramp lighting the candles. After dinner we

heard from our new National President, Roger Dufek. We then started the awards portion of the program. The Ralph E. Lingert Service Award was given to two of our most distinguished and deserving members. Past National President and Archivist Paul E. Brunelle and Past National President and Memorial and Monument Treasurer Gerhard O. Gramp were honored for their Steadfast & Loyal service to our Association. Some special awards were then presented.

Both Gerry Howard and Gerhard Gramp were given plaques for their great work while serving on the Arlington Monument Committee. Gerry Howard as Chairman and Gerry Gramp as Treasurer of that committee.

Gerry Howard presented architect Emory Kirkwood with an award. The Association also presented Emory with a plaque and a life membership in the Association in appreciation of his great work on our monument. Past National President Bob Babcock was recognized for his tireless work on our book "UTAH BEACH to PLEIKU" and Association member Chuck Boyle was given a life membership for his work on the book. Past National President Alex Cooker oversaw the drawing for this year's scholarships.

Swede Eckstom conducted a raffle drawing for two SAVING PRIVATE RYAN movie posters autographed by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. A special raffle drawing was also conducted for a beautiful painting donated by Harry "Bud" Evans and that painting was won by Bob Babcock. The 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers presented our new First Lady, Linda Dufek with a "Buffalo" print and made her an honorary "Buffalo Girl". After the retiring of the Colors, Capital Chapter President Norman Lilley turned the festivities over to our DJ for dancing into the night. Some members opted to head for their hotel rooms to prepare for



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an early departure on Sunday, while most stayed for dancing and socializing.

Sunday morning found most people either leaving for home or preparing to. The Reunion Committee was busy packing up the Hospitality Room as the 2001 National Reunion came to a close.

Special thanks go out to Butch and Chris Maisel for the great display of 4th Infantry Division memorabilia from Butch's personal collection. Not too many people knew it at the time, but Butch actually postponed open-heart surgery so that he could participate in the reunion (Butch has now had the surgery and everything went well). Mike May also gets a special thank you. Mike is an attorney and he attended the Monday morning meeting that I had with the hotel people and struck the fear of God into them. Without his assistance I'm sure that things with the hotel would have been a lot worse than they were.

Another special thank you goes out to Joe Motil for allowing us to invite his granddaughter Jennifer Sellman to sing at our Friday night Gala and at our Grand Banquet. Jennifer opened both events by singing our National Anthem and it was simply beautiful. A beautiful lady with a beautiful voice! Thank you Jennifer, you were wonderful, and Grandpa Joe should certainly be very proud of you, as should your other family members who were in attendance.

Chuck McKee gets an extra special

thank you for his work in planning the Monument Dedication Ceremony. Chuck was responsible for coordinating all of the events at Arlington National Cemetery and what a fine job he did! His attention to detail is unsurpassed. He certainly has the "contacts" to cut through much of the red tape and get things done. He truly is Steadfast & Loyal. Thanks Chuck.

As Chairman of the 2001 National Reunion I would like to thank the Capital Chapter National Reunion Committee members. Without their Steadfast & Loyal support we would not have had a successful National Reunion and 4th Infantry Division National Monument Dedication. The "worker bees" who manned the Hospitality Room and Registration tables worked many hours and certainly went above and beyond the call of duty. It was truly a group effort, and unless you have hosted a National Reunion in the past, you just can't imagine the stress and work involved.

All in all it was a great reunion and we've gotten a lot of positive feedback. We had a lot of "first timers" in attendance and hopefully we will see them again.

Your 2001 National Reunion Committee:

Roger & Shirley Barton, Norman & Connie Lilley, Andy & Lucy Jurcak, Logan and Billie Lowers, Bill & Midge Gay, Helen Berry, Mike May, Bill & Betty Hanger, Steve & Pat Shlagel, Larry Schwartz & Ruth Sparks, Mike & Jean Robinson, Bud & Sis Whelan, Butch & Chris Maisel, Ken & Dottie Freeland, Stan & Jo Tarkenton, Bill & Rachel Thompson

As reunion attendees, you can greatly help future reunion committees if you register early and keep an accurate record of what you have signed up for and when and how you paid.

Please keep in mind that walk ins and late registrations create a multitude of problems, especially when dealing with tours and buses. Final accurate guaranteed counts must be given well in advance and it is nearly impossible to add buses and meals on short notice. Problems do and will pop up no matter how well planned things are, and they can be more easily solved if all parties react with patience and understanding.

First Edition of "War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku" will soon be sold out

Order your copies today!

By Bob Babcock



We are very pleased with the response on "War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku", our book of war stories told by our veterans of WWII, the Cold War, and Vietnam. As of July 31, we had sold over 1,800 copies and orders continue to come in. This 720 page book has 325 stories from WWII, 25 from the Cold War and 100 from Vietnam, plus a glossary, index, bibliography, order of battle, and other items in the appendix. Feedback from our readers has been excellent.

I will start a sales blitz of the active army 4th Infantry Division units in early September so expect to sell out of our supply of first edition copies well before the end of this year. Now is the time to start placing your orders for those copies that you want to give to family and friends as Christmas and holiday presents - don't take a chance that we'll run out. Also, don't forget that your local public library, school library, museum, church or synagogue

would like to have a copy - not to mention your friends in your local veterans organizations.

The price continues as advertised in the June *Ivy Leaves* - \$25 for one or two copies, \$70 for three copies, and \$22 each for all copies over three (shipped to same address). If you want to buy a full case of 12 books, you can get a case for \$250. All prices include shipping costs. An order form is included below

And, yes, I may very well have another version of "War Stories" in me for some more of the stories that need to be told. I won't commit yet, and definitely won't do it for at least three years, but I will start collecting your stories and, worst case, preserve them in our archives for someone else to compile a book if I choose not to tackle this task again. So - as I've said many times before - Send Me Your Stories! They need to be told and they deserve to be preserved for history.

For those who haven't read "War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku," here are a few comments that have come in from your fellow veterans and their families:

"I have read oral histories by Stephen Ambrose and others pertaining to D-Day, the

Order Form

Yes, I want my first edition copies of "Utah Beach to Pleiku" so I can read the stories from our 4th Infantry Division veterans. Mail your order and check, made out to National 4th Infantry Division Association, to: **PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068.**

Please send me the following:

One or two copies at \$25 each (incl. shipping) (1) or (2) x \$25 = _____

Three copies at special rate of \$70 (incl. shipping) (3) books = _____

(Great gift for family members or to give to your local school or library - share your 4ID history with your community. You made history, let it be known.)

Add'l copies, beyond three, at \$22 each (incl. shipping) ___ x \$22 = _____

Please enclose your check for total amount **Total Enclosed** = _____

For special rates, multiple copies of books must all be mailed to same address.

Mail to:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

European Theater and the Hurtgen Forest, and this book certainly appears to be just as riveting. There is something about hearing veteran's accounts in their own words that hits home in a way that no work of fiction can approach. It certainly looks like a tremendous amount of information..." Michael Murphy, son of WWII vet

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"This is a perfect book for a traveler to read...you can pick it up anytime and read as many fascinating stories as time permits...put it away...and then resume whenever...The individual vignettes are both historically informative as well as entertaining. I plan on purchasing several of the books and giving them as Christmas gifts. This book is a real sleeper...it needs to be discovered by reading Americans who care about historical relevance." John Tatum, CEO, Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Nebraska

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"What a fantastic job you did on 'War Stories'. I found over 80 people with whom I had personal contact during my time in the 4th Division. It's interesting to hear how they remember things. It certainly adds to and embellishes my memories and makes them richer and dearer to me. You've done a wonderful service for all of us who will read and remember those tumultuous times that we shared." Jim Burnside, WWII

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"WONDERFUL Book!!!!" Chaplain George Knapp, WWII

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"WOW! What a great job! I could not believe the size of that book and the extensive table of contents and the copious index. Those two items alone indicate some of the care and planning that went into it. A magnificent job most worthy of the 4IDA would be my description of your book." Frank Bradley, WWII and former President and Ivy Leaves Editor

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"Well done! It is a tough book to put down. The stories are powerful and yet so sincere. Anyone who served in the Army can relate to many of the happenings." Lew Gray, Cold War

"I just finished reading your book. I was overwhelmed. It goes to show that the best

Continued on page 29



Book Corner

The Will To Win

The life of General
James A. Van Fleet



By Paul F. Braim

Called the nation's greatest combat general by President Harry S. Truman, James Van Fleet led American and allied forces to battlefield victory during a career that spanned World War I and the Cold War. In this biography, Paul Braim, a military historian who commanded a rifle company under Van Fleet in Korea, relates this legendary leader's unique story and draws parallels to the U.S. Army's history of diverse challenges met in the twentieth century.

Defining the root of Van Fleet's success as devotion to his men and dedication to rigorous field training and mental conditioning, Paul Braim describes Van Fleet's ability to inspire his men with the will to win through two world wars and in the limited wars that followed. He chronicles Van Fleet's command of III Corps in its drive into the heart of Nazi Germany in World War II and his training of allied soldiers in the Cold Wars, including his development of the Greek National Army into a fighting force capable of driving off a strong communist insurgency. He tells how as commander of the Eighth Army in Korea Van Fleet applied his winning tactics so successfully within the constraints of the limited war that the South Korean Army was able to assume a major fighting role. Finally, he explains that Van Fleet was one of few senior military leaders to argue for training the Vietnamese instead of committing U.S. combat forces in Vietnam. This tribute to an outstanding American—a poor boy from rural Florida who rose to the rank of four-star general—will fascinate everyone who enjoys reading biographies and those who like military history.

Publication date: June 2001, 456

pages, 37 photographs, 18 line drawings, ISBN: 1-55750-219-6, List price: \$42.50.

Signed copies may be ordered from: Customer Service, USNI Operations Center, 2062 Generals Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401, 800-233-8764 or 410-224-3378



Reprint of

History of 12th Infantry Regiment in WWII

by Colonel Gerden F. Johnson

Place Your Order Now!

By Bob Babcock

Several of our members are looking for a copy of Gerden Johnson's "History of the 12th Infantry Regiment in WWII," written in 1947. This excellent book has 443 pages and covers the entire operations of the 12th Infantry Regiment in WWII. Included are 92 pages of appendix which shows organization, citations and letters of commendation, commanders, command posts, and a roster of each company. In response to those requests, I have arranged to have the book reprinted by a 'print on demand' facility. I will place the order for printing the books on October 20. My intent is to print as many copies as I have orders for, plus 10%. So, if you want a copy of "History of the 12th Infantry Regiment in WWII" by Gerden Johnson, please send your check for \$25, which includes shipping charges, to Bob Babcock at PO Box 682212, Marietta, GA 30068 to arrive no later than October 15, 2001. Please act now if you want the book as I want to order as many as possible in this one reprinting job. (Be sure to indicate this is for Gerden Johnson's book so I won't confuse it with orders for "Utah Beach to Pleiku".)

P.S. I also have available the "History of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in WWII" written by Dr. (Chaplain) Bill Boice in 1956. That book is available now for \$14, including postage. I am not aware of a history of the 8th Infantry Regiment. If there is one, I would love to have a copy.



SGM McKee,

It was our sincere pleasure to execute the “diamond” for the 4th ID memorial dedication. It was a great honor to be a part of this tremendous event. All of the officers and soldiers who flew the mission understand that your service and sacrifice to our great nation gave us the freedom we enjoy so much. We will never forget what you have done for us! God Speed and God Bless!

Danial J. Miller
1LT, AV
2nd Flight Platoon Leader
A Co., 12th Aviation Battalion



Hi Greg,

In the June issue of *Ivy Leaves* there is a story about the sad passing of Bill Aruda in which you refer to him as the-second-most-decorated veteran of WW II. The 28 medals, awards, and citations he received qualifies him numerically for that designation. However beginning on the previous page there is a story about a letter from George Mabry, Hq./2/8th infantry. Mabry was one of 5 men of the 4th Infantry Division awarded the Medal of Honor in WW II and is generally considered by US Army historians to have been the second most highly decorated soldier who served in WW II. George Mabry continued his army career after WW II and eventually retired as a Major General. His Medal of Honor was for an action in the Hurtgen Forest. He was the first soldier who landed on Utah Beach to make contact with the paratroopers of the 101st Division on D-day.

Both Aruda and Mabry are deserving of the honors they received and the designations given them. The difference between those designations is the word highly. Those of us who served in WW II and especially those of us who are D-day veterans are well aware of George Mabry's actions on that day and beyond.

Since my 29th Field Artillery Battalion and the 8th Infantry Regiment comprised the 8th Combat Team we have created a page of tribute to General Mabry on our 29th Field Artillery website. The URL is: [/members.tripod.com-msg_fisher/mabry.html](http://members.tripod.com-msg_fisher/mabry.html)

I know that George Mabry is given much space In Utah Beach to Pleiku but my feeling is that not all members might have copies of the book so using the material on that web page, you might seriously consider doing a story about George Mabry in a future edition of *Ivy Leaves* so that others of our association who might not be familiar with his exploits could learn of his considerable contributions to our final success in the victory over Nazi Germany.

Steadfast and Loyal, Deeds not Words

Irving Smolens
New England Chapter



To all my 4th Infantry Division Association members:

I would like to say job well done. Our reunion and dedication of our monument were a success. Another page gone by in the history of the 4th Infantry Division Association. My most memorable experience was at Arlington National Cemetery. Not many people get a chance to walk down those hollowed steps to place a wreath from our division at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This alone was a great honor for me to do this. I had to keep my sunglasses on because of the emotion that was felt as I along with MG Griffin placed the wreath. Being a Vietnam Veteran and given this honor will be remembered always. Respect for all of my brothers who faced death and held their ground. This was for those who had not come home yet and those men and women who gave their lives for this country. Bob Babcock's book is certainly a living memorial in itself. With the stories of 4th Infantry Division veterans in time of war, I only hope that more people continue to buy it and learn what sacrifices these soldiers have made. Please be with and help Roger Dufek our current National President to succeed in his current office for this year. Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you for one year. Steadfast and Loyal

Bruce Wesley,
Past National President
(Redleg out!)



Dear Gregory,

The enclosed article “Hero” is sent in memory of the Esprit de’ Corp shown by 4th Infantry Division Soldiers. I know first hand about this Esprit de’ Corp. I landed on D-Day at H-Hour on Utah Beach with the 8th Infantry, among the first to hit the beach. From D-Day until WWII ended, this Esprit de’ Corp is unforgettable, ever remains in my heart. My granddaughter, Caroline Stevens Schuernan’s 6th grade class was assigned to write a paper on “Hero”. She is only 11 years old but already understands loyalty and love of America. If her paper is published in ‘The Ivy Leaves’, it is dedicated to all 4th Infantry Division Soldiers. “God Bless them and God Bless America.”

Sincerely,

John C. Swearingen
(Lt. COL. Ret.)

Editors note: Sadly, John C. Swearingen appears in this issues TAPS section. It would have been nice if he could have seen his granddaughter's paper in print. Our sympathy goes out to his family from all his 4th Infantry Division friends.



Hero

By Caroline Stevens Schuernan

My grandfather, John Copper Swearingen, is my hero. The reason why he is my hero is because he fought to save our country, the United States of America. My grandfather fought in World War II and played many important roles during his military career. He risked his life to save our country and our people, and I believe that this alone makes him a true hero. His military career lasted for 23 ½ years and he retired as a Colonel.

After graduating from college, he began as a Second Lieutenant, then Company Commander, Battalion Operations, and Training Officer. My grandfather survived through the hardest times anyone could have endured. He took a bath only every two weeks, and got to wear new clothes only after every bath. He and his fellow soldiers had to sleep in a hole dug in the ground. He had to go to a Concentration Camp and help assist shutting it down. He