

*Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*



www.15thInfantry.org

15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association Newsletter

October 2005

## The Changing Of The Guard



Chaplain Trout administers the oath of office to (L to R) President Tad Davis, Vice President Mike Horn, Secretary Ed Dojutrek, Trustee Henry Burke, Trustee Charles Crain, and Trustee Bart Viruso

SAN DIEGO, SEPTEMBER 16, 2005. In case you missed it, this issue will highlight the Regiment's Annual Meeting in San Diego; We'll introduce you to our new officer's elected by the general membership; Highlight the events and happenings at the Annual Dinner; Inform you of Regimental issues contained in the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting; Educate you with the data found in the Annual Membership Report; and, of course, we'll welcome the newest members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association.

In short, if you couldn't make it to San Diego, we'll bring San Diego to you in this issue of *The Dragon*.

So, bring your seats and tray tables to their full upright and locked positions; we're on our way!

# The Dragon

# Officers

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association. It is published in January, April, July and October. Neither its editorial nor articles content carry official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing.

Tad Davis, IV.....President  
David Adams.....Editor  
Lloyd D. Whitmer.....Treasurer

### Objectives of the Association

- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To provide opportunities for uniting past and present members of the Regiment into a close and cooperative alliance.
- To promote morale and high esprit de corps among members of the Regiment.
- To acquire and maintain a repository of regimental historical memorabilia.
- To assist in the maintenance of monuments dedicated to the units of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

### Send dues and new addresses to:

Lloyd D. Whitmer  
7500 Mose Road  
Navarre, Ohio 44662  
330-756-2803

Annual dues \$10 for regular members and \$5 for active duty members, due October 1 each year.  
Life membership: To age 60 = \$150; Age 61-69 = \$120; Age 70-79 = \$100; Age 80 and above = \$50.

### Send or Email news items to:

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703-912-7999

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**CPT Lee Gerber, S2**  
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HQ 3-15 IN, Bldg. 522  
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### Tad's Message

I would like to start out my first "President's Message" with a heartfelt thanks to the membership of our great Association for allowing me the privilege of leading you wonderful guys over the next two years. As an infantryman for over 26 years and former commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, I know of no greater honor than to continue the work begun some sixteen years ago by the charter members of our Association. It is truly fitting this year that we reflect back on the selfless service of those who have come before us, particularly our members of the "Greatest Generation" who this year are commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

My first official order of business is twofold, to thank the outgoing leadership for their dedicated service to the Association and congratulate the incoming leadership on their selection to serve. Can't begin to tell you how much we all appreciate the tremendous accomplishments of Ed Dojutrek and his team. They have increased our membership, put us on sound financial footing, and most importantly really reached out to connect with the soldiers of the active force. In addition to the superb work of Jim Drury, Richard McKiddy, Rich Guimond, and our trustees Henry Burke, Roger Lochman, Whit Mullen, and Opal Keys, would like to pay special recognition to John Burke for his unparalleled efforts on membership and to Lloyd Whitmer for another truly outstanding Regimental Dinner at this year's 3ID Reunion. Also, I'd like to express the grateful appreciation of the entire Association to Mike Horn for his selfless service these past several years as the Editor of the Dragon. As Mike hands off the responsibility to David Adams he has shifted gears to become Vice President of the Association. I can assure each and every one of you that the entire incoming leadership team is fully committed to continuing their great work in the weeks and months ahead. (The complete roster of the incoming leadership can be found on page 2.)

For those of you that missed the recent 3ID Reunion in San Diego, it was a wonderfully well planned and executed couple of days that we all enjoyed tremendously. We had a number of interesting excursions in the local San Diego, ate like there was no tomorrow, hung out and regaled each other with war stories in a well-stocked hospitality suite, participated in a world class lottery for gifts and prizes, and for only the strong at heart participated in the longest 3ID Association Business Meeting ever on record. Additionally, selected members of the Association participated in a series of night operations in and around a series of well-stocked watering holes in the greater San Diego area. All in all a great time was had by all. Clearly one of the highlights was the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association banquet. We were so over booked with walk ins that we had to have additional seating set up in order to accommodate everyone. Another marathon event that included installation of our new officers, recognition of exemplary service to the Association, lovely music by Penny Burke, and a first rate account of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry's "March to Baghdad" by Colonel (Promotable) Dan Allyn who commanded the Third Brigade Combat Team of the 3ID which included the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. In particular would like to recognize the outstanding support provided by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. CPT Hauquitz led the active duty contingent who went a long way to bond with the veterans in attendance. Their posting and retiring of the colors at the Regimental dinner was in the finest traditions of the infantry. As a footnote, once the 3ID society leadership heard the 15<sup>th</sup> Color Guard was present, they were pressed into service for both of the Division Society's evening events. They're a truly great group of young Americans, all of whom became members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association during the reunion.

In the weeks and months ahead your Association leadership will be focusing on developing ideas to support the redeployment of our two active duty battalions from combat in early 2006, and initiating the planning and coordination process for the next "Can Do" Rendezvous tentatively scheduled for May 2006. Preliminary details on both of these important projects will be available on our website at [www.15thInfantry.org](http://www.15thInfantry.org) and in the next edition of the Dragon. Your leadership has already put in motion the necessary action to purchase 300 additional Can Do bandanas and 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry stationary for the soldiers that have joined each of the battalions since they deployed to Iraq.

We as Americans can and should be thankful for the many wonderful things we have been afforded. As we reflect on the past, it is important that we remember the service, sacrifice and valor of the young Can Do warriors currently taking the fight to the enemy on a daily basis. We can never lose sight that we are a Nation at war. The men and women of today's Army are tough, dedicated young Americans out there on "the edge" enabling democracy to gain a foothold on foreign soil while preserving the freedoms we hold so dear back at home. They represent the future not only of the Regiment but of this great land. As time moves forward the names and the faces may change but the Regiment lives on in the lives of these young Can Do Warriors. We have the utmost admiration for their leaders, LTC Gary Brito of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and LTC Gary Luck of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers each and every day.

CAN DO Tad Davis

### Veterans Day 2005

By Michael J. Horn

By the time each of you read this, Veterans Day 2005 will have come and gone. I ask you to think about my idea as something you can do anytime.

My Grandfather was a veteran of France in WWI. My Dad was a WWII vet. My Father in Law was a Korea and Vietnam vet. One of my Uncles was a WWII vet and another a Korea and Vietnam vet. All my life I've been surrounded by and known veterans. When I was a boy, my Dad would describe other men by their veteran status. That guy flew B-17's or that guy

Veterans Day continues on Page 9

**Mail Call**



I was with the 3rd Inf. Div, 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Batt. Co. I in Korea from April 1952 to March 1953. We had two BAR men in our company who I were named George Visnosky, from Cleveland and David (I think that was his first name. We called him Mosky) Moskowitz from N.Y. During a raid in the area of the Little & Big Nori outposts on the Imjin River, I heard both had received Silver Star awards. I was a commo man who missed that raid because I was attending a two week class to learn about a new code machine at the School of Standards at Camp Casey. When I returned to the Company. I heard they were assigned to Japan with a lot of other guys from our regiment. Is there any info you know of regarding them? Thanks. Sal DiFranco. Email: [saldi@aol.com](mailto:saldi@aol.com).

**Cold War Service Medal Update**

Below is a portion of a letter I received from Senator Saxby Chambliss (R, GA) re: the authorization of a military medal for all Cold War veterans. As you know, the majority have felt that the commemorative medal approved by Secretary of State Rumsfeld did not go far enough. While never engaging in hostile actions, we Cold War vets know what we went through to maintain a 100% state of combat readiness 24/7/365. It may interest you to know, also, that the House has a similar bill, H.R. 1815, on the table as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2006. Senator Chambliss writes:

“Dear Mr. Adams: Our victory over the forces of Communism in the Cold War stands as a testament to American determination, farsightedness and the strength of our fundamental values. Beginning with the first American plane carrying desperately needed supplies to the people of a blockaded West Berlin and ending with the fall of the ultimate symbol of Soviet oppression and brutality, the Berlin Wall, the Cold War required the services of 17 million Americans in uniform and cost approximately \$14.4 trillion, making it the longest and most expensive military effort in history. Every American soldier, sailor, airman or marine who served in this struggle helped make possible the unprecedented national security and economic prosperity that we enjoy today.

S. 1351 was introduced in the Senate on June 30, 2005, and referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services. This legislation would amend title 10, United States code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I will work to make sure these servicemembers receive the recognition they deserve...”

Can Do,  
Dave Adams, Editor  
*The Dragon*

**Application For Membership**  
*15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association*

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Co. & Bn. served in: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates served in 15<sup>th</sup> IN: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership desired:

- Regular Annual \$10.00;  Regular Associate Annual \$10.00;  On Active Duty Annual \$5.00;
- Life membership: To age 60= \$150; Age 61-69= \$120; Age 70-79=\$100; Age 80 and above = \$50.

Complete application. Mail with check or money order payable to the Treasurer, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg't Association.

Mail to:

Treasurer  
Lloyd D. Whitmer  
7500 Mose Road  
Navarre, OH 44662

# Regimental Dinner at San Diego, Sept 16, 2005

The Thirteenth Annual 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental Dinner in conjunction with the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion was held September 16, 2005 at San Diego, CA. Some photos are included in this edition. There were 115 attendees, the bulk of which were Can Do Dragons and guests. Joining the Dragons were several from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. In addition, there were representatives from the 10<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and the 753rd Tank Battalion. The periods of service represented by the attendees included World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam, Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 1st Battalion Color Guard from Fort Benning, GA performed posting of the Colors. The soldiers performed in the traditional Can Do manner. After posting of the colors the attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The Association Chaplain, Charles Trout, delivered the Invocation at the commencement of the dinner and the Benediction at the conclusion of the evening.

Program events for the evening began with recognition of the most recent new members of the Association, which were the five members of the Color Guard. They were SFC Larry Mitchell, SSG Kenneth Cloud, SSG John Fairchild II, SSG Keith Greeley and SGT Rene Gonzales.

Several distinguished Dragons who have significantly contributed to the history of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and to the Association as well were recognized. These included Founding Members present. These were Charles Crain, Edward Dojutrek, Michael Halik, Maurice Kendall, Leonard Lassar and Whitney Mullen. The Current serving officers were also introduced. Recognitions were also made of past Presidents of the Association and the current President of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

CPT Aron Hauquitz presented a greeting from LTC Gary Brito, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, and a report on the current activities of the battalion. John Burke relayed a greeting from LTC Luck, Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, with regrets that they could not attend due to operational commitments.

The principal speaker of the evening was Colonel Daniel Allyn. Colonel Allyn is an Honorary Member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, having been appointed by the Chief of Infantry in 2002. He spoke of the actions and accomplishments of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) in its march to Baghdad in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was one of the Task Force making up the 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT. Colonel Allyn's remarks of his observations of the combat leaders and soldiers in action were particularly interesting to all attendees.

President Ed Dojutrek announced several awards in recognition and appreciation to those officers who were completing their term of office as well as several appointed officer positions. For those in attendance the awards were presented on site. Others will be delivered to the deserving individuals. The awards included the following:

## Plaque of Appreciation

Lloyd Whitmer, Treasurer, January 2001-September 2005

Michael Horn, Editor, September 2001-2005

Charles Trout, Chaplain, September 1999-September 2005

Thomas Twomey, Webmaster, January 2001- September 2005

Timothy Stoy, Historian, September 1997- September 2005

### Certificate of Appreciation

James Drury, Vice President, September 2003-September 2005

Richard McKiddy, Secretary, September 2003-September 2005

Henry Burke, Trustee, September 2003- September 2005

Roger Lochman, Trustee, September 2—1- September 2005

Opal Kays, Trustee, May 2004- September 2005

Whitney Mullen, Trustee, September 2001-September 2005

Richard Guimond, Assistant Treasurer, January 2001- September 2005

Bartolo Viruso, Elections Chairman, September 2003- September 2005

(Regimental Dinner Continued on Page 8)

**New Association Members**

BOBBY L VENTRY  
4208 SURREY LANE  
PHENIX CITY, AL 36867  
CO E, 1 BN  
RF JUN 2004- PRESENT

KEITH GREELEY  
19504 CAROLINA CIR  
BOCA RATON, FL 33434  
1 BN  
CW 1966-68

JOHN W FITZPATRICK  
119 FIVE CROWN ROYAL  
MARLTON, NJ 8053  
CO A, 1 BN  
CW AUG 66- FEB 68

JOHN FAIRCHILD II  
4311 CHALFONTE DR  
COLUMBUS, GA 31904  
FSC, 1 BN  
RF JAN 2002- PRESENT

KENNETH CLOUD  
33 LEE RD  
PHENIX CITY, AL 36870  
CO B, 1 BN  
RF DEC 2003- PRESENT

BEN C YARBROUGH  
2427 MCDOWELL ST  
AUGUSTA, GA 30904-4682  
HHC, REGT  
KW NOV 48- JAN 50

RENE C GONZALES  
404 B CRAIG DR  
FORT BENNING, GA 31905  
CO C, 1 BN  
RF MAY 2004-PRESENT

JOHN C PETERS  
P.O.BOX 344  
LINCOLNDALE, NY 10540  
HQ CO, 2 BN  
CW 1966-1977

EDWARD TJ SUTTON  
P.O. BOX 1843  
SUNSET BEACH, CA 90742  
CO I, 3 BN  
KW 1953-1954

ROGER W HOWELL  
2343 WEST SIMPSON AVE.  
FRESNO, CA 93705-3634  
CO B, 1 BN  
CW JAN 71- JAN 73

ROBERT E DODGE  
P.O. BOX 67  
DAVISBURG, MI 48350-0067  
HQ CO, REGT  
WWII JAN 44- JAN 45

LARRY A MITCHELL  
3002 SLIPPERY ROCK CT  
COLUMBUS, GA 31909  
HHC, 1 BN  
RF MAY 2002- PRESENT

SAM H DIXON  
1312 MICHAEL AVE  
CELINA, OH 45822  
CO E, 2BN  
KW OCT 51- AUG 52

ALFRED E CORNEBISE  
1815-24TH AVE. PLACE  
GREELEY, CO 80634-6033  
ASSOCIATE

HAROLD L JACKSON  
2110 FULTON DR  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35810  
CO L, 3 BN  
KW OCT-52- NOV 53

**Membership Report**

September 15, 2005

**Current Membership by Type**

Regular Life	210
Regular Annual	456
Associate Life	2
Associate Annual	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>680</b>

**Periods Represented**

China Hands	5
World War II	165
Korea	320
Cold War	74
Current Forces	102
Associate	14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>680</b>

Gains/Losses Since Last membership

Meeting May 2004:

Gains: 138 new members (includes 50 from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion)

Losses: 74 (Deaths, Delinquent.)

Annual Memberships expire October 1<sup>st</sup> annually. All are kept on rolls until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Those not paid by January 1<sup>st</sup> are dropped from rolls. This year, in addition to notices in The Dragon, Dues Notices were sent the first of September with a detachable form and a preaddressed return envelope. The method appears to be fairly successful as the Treasurer reports dues payments are being received more promptly than in the past years.

*Army: A body of men assembled to rectify the mistakes of the diplomats.*

**--Josephus Daniels--**

**You just might be an Infantryman if.....**

- **You say "Hooah" whether you understand or not.**
- **You creatively acquire things you need.**
- **Your favorite beer is someone else's.**

**Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
San Diego, CA**

**September 15, 2005**

President Ed Dojutrek called the meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

There were 21 members present.

Chaplain Charles Trout gave the Invocation.

Richard Guimond, Assistant Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. After discussion the President asked for approval of the report. All members approved.

Richard Guimond, seconded by Mike Horn, made a motion to transfer \$500.00 from the General Fund to the Life Membership Fund. The motion was approved.

John Burke, Membership Chairman, presented a membership report. Mike Horn, seconded by Bart Viruso, made a motion to accept the report. The motion was approved.

Mike Horn, seconded by Henry Burke, made a motion to accept nominations from the floor for election of officers. The motion was approved.

John Burke, seconded by Whitney Mullen, nominated Barto Viruso for Trustee.

Mike Horn, seconded by John Shirley, nominated Charles Trout for Trustee.

John Burke, seconded by Richard Guimond, made a motion to accept the entire slate of officers, announced in *The Dragon* and nominated from the floor. The motion was approved. The Officers elected for the 2005-2007 term are:

President, Addison D. Davis, IV, Vice President, Michael J Horn, Secretary, Edward E. Dojutrek  
Treasurer, Lloyd D. Whitmer, Trustee, Henry H. Burke, Trustee, Charles R. Crain  
Trustee, Charles C. Trout, and Trustee, Bartolo Viruso

A discussion ensued on making a donation to victims of Hurricane Katrina. A motion was made and approved to table the discussion until later.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. John T. Burke, Recorder

**DUES NOTICE-TO ANNUAL MEMBERS**

If your address label shows 2005 your dues are paid to October 2005. You can help significantly reduce Association expenses by remitting your annual dues now and eliminating the need to mail out dues notices just a short time later. Please help us reduce the costs for printing and mailing dues notices for annual members. This edition will be the last publication prior to October. Please send your dues payment right away to the Treasurer: address and dues amounts shown on Page 4.

**(Certificate of Appreciation continued)**

Richard Martinet, Auditor, September 1997- September 2005

**Special awards**

Past President John Burke presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Ed Dojutrek for his service as Vice President, September 2001-January 2003 and President September 2003 –September 2005.

Chaplain Charles Trout conducted the official ceremony for Installation of the Association Officers for 2005-2007.

The outgoing President, Ed Dojutrek, and the incoming President addressed the assemblage with pertinent remarks. The lovely Pennie Burke singing “America The Beautiful” then entertained the attendees.

Richard Guimond, Assistant Treasurer, conducted the annual Raffle Drawing. The winners are shown in another section of this edition.

Retiring of the Colors and the Benediction by Chaplain Trout concluded the evening.



Ed Dojutrek presents a 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment Wall Clock to MG (Ret) Maurice Kendall, the Association Founding Father.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Color Guard retires after Posting the Colors

Association President Tad Davis addresses the audience.

Master of Ceremonies, John Burke, presenting Certificates of Appreciation to some well-deserving Can Doers.





## Open Letter From The Editor

To the Board, Members, and Associates:

I was thinking the other day how fortunate I was that my father, his friends, and other veterans who have crossed my path were good enough to share their memories of WWII and Korea with me. My dad was a Flight Surgeon with the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Air Corps who checked out pilots knowing many of them would never return; our neighbor, Chuck Shockley, a machine-gunner with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne at Bastogne who lost a leg, but laughed in spite of it when General McAuliffe said “Nuts” to the Germans; Jay Kloff, one of Dad’s golfing buddies, was a Marine who made it through Guadalcanal and Peleliu only to be seriously wounded at Iwo Jima and sent back stateside; Charlie Carpenter, my former father-in-law, who fought with the Big Red One from North Africa to France only to be captured by the Germans in a bushwhack and spent 9 months as a POW; and the late General Ray Davis of Stockbridge, GA who recounted his “predicament” as he called it with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines at the “Frozen Chosin” Reservoir for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The memories they left with me were gifts in every sense of the word. These old soldiers, including Dad, are all gone now. But the legacy they felt compelled to pass on has enriched my life simply by having known them.

When I was honored to be appointed as editor of *The Dragon*, I began to wonder how many other “legacies” are out there with the members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association. Only you Regimental vets of WWII and Korea know the answer to that; I don’t. But, when we reflect on the objectives of our Association, we see that we’re dedicated to perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment and to acquire and maintain a repository of regimental historical memorabilia.

I can think of no better means of perpetuating our history than by passing it on to the other members. I can think of no finer “repository” than that of the human mind. Each of you has your own collection of memories and stories of the 15<sup>th</sup> tucked neatly away in the repository of your past.

I invite you to share those events with me. Believe me, too, when I tell you that many of us “youngsters” are anxious to hear what life was like for you in the 15<sup>th</sup> whether in war or in peacetime. And, when you stop to think, we Cold War and Vietnam Era vets have a little recounting to do ourselves, too. After all, some of us are approaching the ripe, young age of 60! And, those young 15<sup>th</sup> troopers currently carrying on the regimental tradition in Iraq just might like to know what it was like in the “old days”. That’s the least we can do as they place themselves unselfishly in Harm’s Way everyday.

That being said, I would like to launch what I call, **Operation Recollection**. Simply stated, starting with the next quarterly issue of *The Dragon*, I would like to include a column with the same name to relate those recollections of our members, especially those of you members of the “greatest generation”. You can send them to me via email or “snail mail”. You can write them out, or type them out, or send them on a cassette tape and I’ll transcribe them. No matter how you do it, won’t you please share them with us? CAN DO! David

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### Veterans Day continued from Page 3

was a Peal Harbor Survivor. In junior high school my principal was a Marine in Korea. My history teacher was a Silver Star recipient. I learned from my Dad that veterans are special people and we should make it our business to know and share that.

Each Veterans Day since I’ve retired from our Army, I’ve made it my business to know each veteran in the company in which I work. I then send them a short note thanking them for their service.

This Veterans Day I ask each of you to think about all of our new veterans sitting in Iraq or any other place they probably prefer not to be. I ask you not only to think about them, but consider dropping one of them a line in a card or letter. Some of you may think that they should be dropping you a line since you are the old guy who survived. Well, I can’t really argue with that, but I’ll tell you that our new veterans would appreciate receiving a note of support with words of encouragement.

Give me a call if you don’t know where or to whom to send your letter,. My contact info is on page 2. I can get you the name and address of guys in our Battalions currently deployed to Iraq. If you just want to send a letter to the Squad Leader of 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, I will get you a name and address.

Most of these young guys don’t even know or think of themselves as veterans. They have joined a special group and I think we need to remind them of that. Can Do.

## World War II vets honored at 60th anniversary of war's end

by Army Sgt. Sara Wood  
American Forces Press Service  
(Reprinted from Air Force Link)

9/4/2005 - WASHINGTON (AFP) -- World War II veterans gathered with military, political and diplomatic leaders and the public to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the war's end Sept. 2 at the World War II Memorial on the National Mall here.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld sponsored the event, and military leaders from every branch of service as well as other countries attended, along with diplomatic representatives from more than 50 countries.

In his speech, Secretary Rumsfeld thanked the veterans for their service, saying that the young Americans who fought in World War II played an important role in history.

"With faith, they entered a fierce and blinding storm, and from their blood and sacrifice, the world was made anew," he said.

It is hard for anyone of this generation to fully understand what this anniversary means to the veterans who experienced it firsthand 60 years ago, Secretary Rumsfeld said, but he pledged that this country will never forget the sacrifices they made or the lessons they learned.

"As long as we have freedom and as long as our flag still waves, our country will honor you," he told the veterans. "With civilization again in peril, we pledge to remember those lessons forged amid the tumult and triumph of that world war, and we pledge to ensure the survival of the freedoms entrusted to us."

Retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a World War II veteran himself, called World War II the defining event of the 20th century.

Allied victory in the war unleashed unprecedented forces for political, economic and social change, General Vessey said. Veterans who returned to America revitalized the country by attending colleges and universities, building new homes and businesses, sparking a technological revolution and providing political leadership, he said.

"Today, both the hairlines and the ranks of the World War II veterans are thinning rapidly," he said. "We know that whatever we accomplished was built on the foundation our forbearers had laid for this great nation."

General Vessey said he hopes the men and women who fought in the war will not be forgotten and that lessons learned during the largest and costliest war in history will live on and be taught to future generations.

"We hope that this memorial will be a perpetual reminder of the blood and sweat that our generation contributed," he said.

Veterans at the ceremony were treated to performances by the U.S. Navy Band and its vocal chorus, the Sea Chanters, as well as the Liberty Belles, a United Service Organizations 1940s-style troupe. General Vessey and Secretary Rumsfeld then laid a wreath at the memorial's Field of Stars, which honors all those killed in World War II. Fireworks followed the ceremony.



WASHINGTON -- August Offer and Roberta Mahan, both 88, dance to the music of the U.S. Navy Band at the World War II 60th Anniversary Commemoration on Sept. 2 at the World War II Memorial. Mr. Offer, a World War II veteran who served in the Army Air Corps for two years, and Ms. Mahan are engaged. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sara Wood)



John R. Garzia, G Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1950-1951  
1514 Pine Tree Drive  
Edgewater, FL 32131-2508  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green on July 17, 2005  
Reported by Alice Garzia to John Burke

William G. Whitaker, I Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, July 1944-April 1946  
1617 Atlanta Drive, Lexington, KY 40505  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green on March 2, 2005  
Reported by this Wife, Jonelle Whitaker

George Ogden, H Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, Feb 1952-Dec 1953  
400 SW Park Street  
Grant's Pass, OR 97527  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green on July 4, 2005  
Buried at Eagle Point Veterans Cemetery  
Reported by Shirley Ogden

Clayton Craig, G Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, August 1940-August 1943  
3733 Hunter's Glen, Cibolo, TX 78108  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green June 5, 2005  
Clayton served with the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Korea and was both a Distinguished and Life Member of the Regiment.  
Reported by John Ethen to John Burke

Frederick Pechin, F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, July 1942-September 1942. Mr. Pechin was a Charter Member of the Regiment  
POB 460  
Wicomico, VA 22529  
DoD Unknown

John L. Knight, HQ Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, March 1944-April 1945  
99 Sheep Pond Drive  
Brewster, MA 0261  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green on June 6, 2005  
Reported by his Wife, Marie Knight

Robert J. Barber, CSM, 15<sup>th</sup> Unit unknown, Korean War 1951-1953. Retired 38 year Veteran of the United States Army  
Torrance, CA  
Called to Assembly at Fiddler's Green on June 12, 2005.  
Buried with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery



## 15<sup>th</sup> Trooper KIA in Operation Iraqi Freedom

SGT Monta S. Ruth, 26, of Winston-Salem, NC was killed in action on August 31, 2005 in Sammara, Iraq. SGT Ruth was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division from Ft. Benning, GA. He was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) that exploded near his vehicle. Ruth, an engineer on security patrol, was enroute with an emergency ordinance disposal team to the site of another attack. His sister, Nakela Ruth, said Monta had always wanted to be a soldier since he was young. With one previous overseas tour to his credit, Nakela said the SGT Ruth believed strongly in the military mission of his unit as well as that of the entire U.S. Armed Forces contingency. SGT Ruth was scheduled to return Stateside on leave in October. SGT Ruth is survived by his wife, Aylin Ruth, of Hiram, GA. A memorial service for SGT Ruth was held at Ft. Benning and he was buried with full military honors in his hometown of Winston-Salem, NC.

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### Gardens of Stone

Every military cemetery has its own name,  
But all could be called gardens of stone.  
With row after row of white granite markers,  
Bearing names of fallen soldiers, except for the unknowns.

These places are quiet and always well tended  
And a reverence and stillness prevails at the scene.  
It's almost as if GOD has willed it to be,  
to ensure those resting here, have a place that's serene.

For many of these dead, who have given their all,  
Took part in campaigns that did not go well.  
And so paid the price that some battles charge,  
leaving each cross and star with its story to tell.

These tales will not be of sought after glory,  
for in warfare, only fools have such dreams.  
No, the stories will speak of the unfulfilled lives,  
as many lying here, were still in their teens.

The years will pass by and the gravestones take on age,  
and only spirits of sleeping warriors will now roam.  
But homage will be paid, down through the years,  
by those who know the meaning of these gardens of stone.

Donald A. Chase  
15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
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Smyrna, GA 30082-5223

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