



NEWSLETTER OF THE 31ST US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

EDITOR: DAN WOOD wooddr3@gmail.com

FAREWELL TO THE LAST LIVING SURVIVOR OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH



Sadly, we report that Paul Kerchum, Chief Master Sergeant E9 (USAF Ret.), passed away on December 17, 2022 at the age of 102. He was a young soldier serving in the 31st Infantry Regiment when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He was soon deeply committed to the defense of the Philippines along with the 31st Infantry Regiment.

Paul started his military career at 17, after joining the U.S. Army in 1938. "This was during the Depression years, and I had dropped out of high school when I was a sophomore so I could work," he said. "I enlisted in the army and went into the infantry." He first joined E Co, 27th Infantry Regiment and served in Hawaii. He then re-enlisted and became a member of B Co, 31st Infantry Regiment, serving in the Philippines from 1940 to 1942. He participated in three major battles and was wounded several times. Paul survived the Bataan Death March and three and a half years as a prisoner of war (POW), was evacuated to Japan on one of the infamous "hell ships" and worked as a slave laborer in POW camps in the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan.

After World War II, he left the army and enlisted in what was then the U.S. Army Air Corps, now the U.S. Air Force. He served in Japan and Korea from June 1952 through November 1954 during the Korean War and retired in August 1966 as a Chief Master Sergeant after 21 years with the Air Force. Upon retirement, Paul had a combined military service record of 29 years. Paul was a member of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association for many years and was the Association's last World War II member.

There are many Paul Kerchum stories. One that appears in the Regimental History tells of how he was at a bar with some of his buddies when two Japanese civilians made an offensive gesture as they departed. Paul tore after them, saw them jump into a cab, and lit into them through an open back window. When the door opened, Paul and one of the Japanese spilled into the street and were still flailing away at each other when the MPs arrived. When the matter was brought to the attention of Lieutenant Lloyd Murphy, Paul's company commander, he decided to press charges, referring Paul for trial by Special Court Martial. The trial date was set for December 7, 1941, a day that lives in infamy for other reasons. Paul was informed by the Staff Judge Advocate's office on December 15 that the charges were dropped. Japanese bombs were falling on Manila at the time.

The September-October 2022 issue of the Disabled American Veterans Magazine has a two-page article on Paul. If you'd like to check out the article and a picture of Paul a year after he was freed and another of him in his USAF uniform, go to DAV.org and click on 'site map' at the bottom. Then scroll down and click on 'DAV Magazine Archives' under Learn More. Open the Sept-Oct 2022 issue and page over to the article on pages 24-25. Paul says of himself and other former POWs that "we probably had PTSD, but it was unheard of at the time."

Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10:00 am on January 25, 2023 (Paul's 103rd birthday) at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Benson, AZ. The Rite of Committal was at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista with full military honors. An Air Force Honor Guard with joint service support led the Joint Honors detail, which included 21 Air Force Honor Guardsmen and nine Army Guardsmen. The Army contingent included soldiers from the Old Guard and a five-member Colors Guard team from the 10th Mountain Division.



SITREP FROM 4-31 POLAR BEARS: FIRST QUARTER



Happy New Year from the Polar Bears!



Polar Bear Rappel Master Course Graduates (Figure 5)

The Polar Bears had a busy First Quarter conducting training to set the conditions for success for their upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation. During October, the battalion participated in a Mountain Peak Field Training Exercise (FTX) in conjunction with the Command Post Exercise. Mountain Peak allowed the Polar Bears the opportunity to improve their capacity for mission command and planning in an austere environment. This event was the first significant test of our new concept for a mobile mission command node, that prioritized speed and mobility to allow rapid displacement. Companies strengthened their fighting capabilities with the flawless execution of Company Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes. At the end of Mountain Peak, the Polar Bears outstanding performance gained the confidence of the Brigade and Division leadership.

In November to December, the Polar Bears focused on readiness tasks to prepare for the JRTC deployment and completing collective certification IAW FORSCOM live fire guidance. The month of November began with Polar Bears executing Section Gunnery, Squad STX, and Squad Live Fire Exercises (LFX) to further sharpen our lethality on the battlefield. Additionally, the Polar Bears conducted sensor-to-shooter training to streamline the process from observation to fire missions. The Polar Bears also rotated through various training exercises such as Platoon STX, CBRN lane training, Platoon Battle Drills, Patrol Base operations, and Short-Range Marksmanship. In celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Polar Bear's Top Five and Company Command Teams served Thanksgiving Lunch at the Dining Facility. The month of November concluded with the Change of Command for Punisher (Delta) Company as CPT Bolten relinquished command to CPT Crusha, and a Change of Responsibility for Charlie Company, transitioning from 1SG Ordaz to 1SG Avila.

The beginning of December, the Polar Bears executed Platoon, MORTEP, Scout Team LFXs, and Javelin Training. As the Companies conducted Platoon LFX, platoon leaders maneuvered their squads to achieve fire suppression, breach a mine wired obstacle, clear an objective, and defeat a counterattack. Operational priorities were geared towards administrative preparations for JRTC pack out/loadout preparations and Winter block leave. After returning from Holiday Block Leave, the Polar Bears immediately executed JRTC deployment operations.



Able Company Live Fire (Figure 3)



The month of February will start with the Polar Bears conducting a movement to Ft. Polk, LA, and anticipate returning home in March. Upon returning home, the battalion's focus will shift to Pre-Change of Command inventories with efforts emphasizing Deployment Training. In preparation for deployment, the Polar Bears will conduct PL University, TL/SL Academy, Deployment Academics, and a mission readiness exercise. To promote unit cohesion and enhance morale, the Polar Bears will hold its Deployment Week in which they will honor all Polar Bears past, present, and future and request 31st Infantry Regiment Association participation. The festivities will begin on 13 June with the 2nd annual Polar Bear Fight Club and the Polar

Bear Memorial Room unveiling. Deployment Week will conclude with an Organizational Day and the second rendition of Polar Bear Pit Master competition.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Communication Opportunity for 6th Battalion Veterans

We have heard some warriors from the 6th battalion would like to know how they can get in touch with old comrades today. Considering there is no current operational Association website, Jerry White has offered a few options we thought it important to pass on to you. There is a current 6-31st Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/66665279461> and a weekly Thursday night 6-31st Skype video chat group that has been going on for years. All veterans of the 6-31st are invited. This offers a cheerful conversational, just shooting the breeze with other Vietnam veterans. You can contact Jerry via email at jerry.white1944@gmail.com if you are interested or want more information.

Siouxland Freedom Park – Seeking Donations

Siouxland Freedom Park (SFP) is a 55-acre riverfront public park in South Sioux City, NE dedicated to remembering and honoring the contributions of veterans from all services and all conflicts. SFP also is the backdrop for special events and observances featuring veterans. The park includes, a half-scale exact replica of the Vietnam War Memorial, in Washington, D.C., and a one-of-a-kind Freedom Rock. Recently six Service Branch benches were installed around the Siouxland Freedom Rock, and a newly completed, Interpretive Center, which in the future will feature displays and state-of-the-art electronic exhibits showcasing veterans and their sacrifices.

Planning is well under way for a Korean War Memorial at SFP. This Memorial will hopefully be dedicated next year. You may send donations of any amount to Siouxland Freedom Park, 1615 First Avenue South Sioux City, NE 68776. John Mansfield, our Midwest Region Director, is our internal point of contact for those interested in donating to this veterans initiative (John's contact information is on the last page). The following links are provided for your interest.

<https://www.facebook.com/ktiv4/videos/504400797238098/>

<https://www.ktiv.com/2022/09/23/korean-war-memorial-next-project-siouxland-freedom-park/>

INITIAL DETAILS FOR REUNION 2023 – WATERTOWN, NY

31st US Infantry Regiment Association

September 14-17, 2023

Following a visit to Ft. Drum to coordinate this year's reunion and spending time on Post with a meal at the Commons, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming reunion. I am proud to have served as your commander and look forward to working with the new leadership.

Charlie Tapp

We will return to Watertown, NY, and Ft. Drum this coming September. The weather in the North Country should be splendid as summer ends and fall begins. Ivan Barker (NE Director) and Judy Bettis (Association Secretary) have the lead in coordinating the basics as Reunion Hosts for this year's gathering. While the bulk of 4-31 will be deployed, we will have opportunities to engage with the Rear Detachment and to meet with and support family members. The Thousand Islands region on the St. Lawrence River and quaint towns on the banks of Lake Ontario offer opportunities for enjoyable day trips with comrades and family members. The new command team has been busy renovating the battalion headquarters and of course "George," the Polar Bear statue, has likewise received an impressive restoration. You are encouraged to do some research on your own to begin your plan for this reunion. Below are a few important details to help.

Dates: September 14-17, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn Watertown/Thousand Islands: 1290 Arsenal St. Watertown, New York; Cost is \$139/night for single or double occupancy; \$149/night for triple; and \$159/night with 4 guests. Breakfast included.

Group Name for Registration: 31st Infantry Association Reunion

Reservations are being accepted now. Call (315) 788-1234 or use the booking link below.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=ARTGIGI&arrivaldate=2023-09-14&departuredate=2023-09-17&numAdults=2&numChildren=0&numRooms=1&srpCodes=31INF>

Note: We are beginning a new initiative for this year's reunion. For those who are able and desire to participate, we are seeking members who would be willing to sponsor (cover the meal cost) a Polar Bear soldier for our reunion dinner. More details will follow in the next edition of the newsletter.



Unknown Author: Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

HISTORICAL

Colonel Young Oak Kim – Follow Up



Colonel Kim enlisted in the U.S. Army in late 1941 and was selected to attend the Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, graduating in January 1943. COL Kim was assigned as a platoon leader with the 100th Infantry Battalion, a unit of Japanese Americans from Hawaii which was soon to receive the nickname “the Purple Heart Battalion” based on their deployment to Italy with the 34th Infantry Division. COL Kim received his first Purple Heart and first Silver Star and then the Distinguished Service Cross for actions against enemy forces in Cisterna, Italy in 1944. In addition, he received the Italian Military Valor Cross. The 100th Infantry Battalion joined with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and then deployed to France where it gained fame as the “Go for Broke Regiment.” It was there that COL Kim received his second Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre. The 442nd was the most highly decorated unit in WWII for its size.

Colonel Kim left the army after WW II but reentered as a captain at the outbreak of the war in Korea. He was sent to Korea where he joined the 31st Infantry commanded by Colonel (later General) William McCaffrey and was assigned as the Intelligence Officer and then Operations Officer. He received his second Silver Star, was promoted to major, and became the first Asian American to command a battalion in combat, the 1st Battalion 31st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division.

He returned to the US and served as an instructor at Ft. Benning and then to the Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth. He retired from service in January 1972.

His military citations and honors include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, UN Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge with Star, 6 overseas bars, French Croix de Guerre (3rd) and Italian Military Valor Cross.

Colonel Kim will be inducted in the 2023 OCS Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 1st in the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an appropriate time to honor Colonel Kim.

COMMANDER’S UPDATE

Greetings to all veterans and currently serving Polar Bears, family members, and supporters of the 31st Infantry Regiment. My name is Dan Wood, your newly elected commander of the association. I am honored to serve you in this capacity for the next two years. During my 28 years of serving our nation, I was privileged to deploy to Afghanistan with 4-31 as the battalion CSM at the onset of the Global War on Terror and to return about five years later as the theater CSM with Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan. Having been blessed to experience the support of the Association for our active duty warriors and honored to be appointed as the Honorary CSM for the 31st Infantry Regiment upon retirement, I am distinctly humbled to serve you in this current capacity and ask your indulgence with this rather lengthy first message.

First, this is your association and the Board of Directors serve at your behest. Thus, it is my intention to ensure your thoughts, concerns, desires, and expectations are heard and responded to as much as possible. Therefore, I ask you to reach out to your regional directors (listed on the Association Officers page) to pass along your thoughts. To clarify, this does not only pertain to what is going well but also regarding what we can do better or different in our capacity to serve you. Two relevant examples of where your input is desired are what would you

like to see as part of this year's reunion in Watertown, NY and what would you be interested in seeing more or less of or what is missing in these periodic newsletters. We can add an opinion section where we can post the good, bad, and new ideas regarding your association experience. Perhaps you would like to write an article or create a cartoon for the newsletter that reflects your experiences when serving with the Regiment. Open communication and transparency are important for our future as an organization.

Your board has recently met virtually to review updates to our constitution and by-laws. We will meet repeatedly prior to the reunion in September to ensure we have a proposal for changes that will be presented for discussion/acceptance at our annual membership meeting. While this might not sound exciting, this administrative work is an important part of our operational existence and is long overdue. We are also working on a swift initiative that will provide an association webpage that we can grow over time. An Association facebook page is another initiative that is ongoing. The capability for warriors to reach out to comrades they have served with and make new connections is a need that has not gone unnoticed. There is also the impending need to identify a location for our 2024 reunion. If you desire the opportunity to lessen the distance you need to travel and think an area near you would be of interest and could support a future reunion, reach out to your regional director who can float the proposal to the board. The same goes for any of the initiatives noted above.

Additionally, as your elected and appointed leadership, we have the inherent responsibility to be good stewards of your finances. While some past reunions were break even or slightly profitable, some have cost the association. We are currently seeking to emplace measures for our reunions that are fiscally responsible and will ensure our ability to gather annually to enjoy one another's company and strengthen old relationships while keeping the proud history of this incredible Regiment alive. This may result in less formalized tours and more opportunities for free time to enjoy the fellowship with friends and family while seeing the sites at your own pace. You may also notice a couple of new initiatives within this issue. One is an opportunity to become a newsletter booster to help defray the cost of printing and mailing newsletters and another is the annual invitation to cover the meal cost of an active duty Polar Bear to attend our main event dinner.

Thank you for your patience in reviewing this initial blast of information. Every member of the association is on equal footing, whether veteran or currently serving, regardless of the Battalion within which you or your loved one or friend has served. You are all greatly appreciated and encouraged to be involved and to make your voice heard. Feel free to reach out to your regional director or me via email if you have any questions.

Pro Patria

Dan

LOST POLAR BEAR ACCOUNTED FOR

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced U.S. Army Pvt. James R. Tash, 20, of St. Louis, MO who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for on September 27th, 2022. According to the prison camp and other historical records, Tash, a member of F Co, 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, survived the intense fighting against Japanese forces on Corrigidor Island, endured the 65-mile Bataan Death March, and was subsequently interned at the Cabanatuan POW camp. Private Tash died July 19, 1942 and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 312. Rest well our fallen comrade, you are not forgotten.

TAPS



Deceased members identified since Newsletter # 104, November 2022

WORLD WAR II

Paul Kerchum, Chief, MSG, USAF ret, Benson, AZ, died Dec 17, 2022, Co B, 1st Bn, 1940-1945, POW
Last survivor of the Bataan Death March

PRE KOREAN WAR

Robert A. Baumgartner, PFC, Florissant, MO, died Dec 12, 2022, Co B, 1st Bn, 1946

KOREAN WAR

William “Bill” Albert, SSG, Daniels, WV, died Oct 3, 2022, Co I, 3rd Bn, 1953-1954
Ray “RP” Ferreira, CPL, Twin Falls, ID, died Oct 28, 2022, Co C, 1st Bn, 1951
Charles E. “Babe” Geitner, CPL, Fullerton, CA, died Jul 3, 2021, Co C, 1st Bn, 1951-1952
Eddie “Joe” Holson, SFC, Olney, IL, died Oct 8, 2022, Co L, 3rd Bn, 1950-1952
Tiburcio “Marty” Martinez, SFC, Carson City, NV, died Nov 11, 2022, Co C, 1st Bn, 1951

POST KOREA WAR

Jack R. Logan, COL Ret, Reno, NV, died Jan 21, 2023, HHC 6th Bn, 1967-1969, Battalion Commander
Robert R. Ronish, COL Ret, Great Falls, MT, died Nov 5, 2022, Co C, 1st Battle Group, 1960-1962

VIETNAM

Kirby, Michael, J., SGT., Temecula, CA, died Oct 7, 2022, Co A, 6th Bn, 1969-1970

ASSOCIATE

Franklyn, M. Shapira, Skokie, IL, died Dec 5, 2022, Father, Co H, 3rd Bn, Siberia, 1918-1920

NOTE: No deceased members reported from the United States era

NEW MEMBER

Mary D. Olson, Boone, NC, wife of Ralph A. “Al” Olson, C Co, 6th Bn, VN 1967-1968

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Cat #	Description	Price	Qty	Total
B 102	Book, 31st Infantry Regiment "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War (Includes shipping) <u>Do not include this item in shipping cost at bottom of form</u>	\$ 40.00	X ____ =	_____
C 100	Coin, Commemorative, 100th Anniversary (if you order 10 or more the price is \$6.00 each).	\$ 8.00	X ____ =	_____
C100AT	Airtight capsule for 100th Anniversary Commemorative coin	\$ 1.00	X ____ =	_____
C100EB	Easel, black both the black and clear easels are for Airtight capsule with 100th	\$ 1.00	X ____ =	_____
C100EC	Easel, clear Anniversary Commemorative coin or the Commemorative coin alone	\$ 1.00	X ____ =	_____
C RB 01	Cap, Royal Blue, 31st INFANTRY REGIMENT, POLAR BEARS, and crest embroidered directly on cap a waving US flag on the left side and US ARMY embroidered on back.	\$ 24.00	X ____ =	_____
C RB	Cap same as C RB 01 above with the addition of a combat patch on the right side (Philippines Div., 7th Inf. Div., 196th Light Inf. Bde., 9th Inf. Div., 10th Mt Div .) (Circle the patch)	\$ 24.00	X ____ =	_____
C K 01	Khaki CAP! same as C RB 01 above but in Khaki and all embroidery is subdued.	\$ 24.00	X ____ =	_____
CK	Cap, Khaki; Same as CRB above except in Khaki with subdued embroidery on the right side. (Philippines Div., 7th Inf. Div., 196 Light Inf. Bde., 9th Inf. Div., 10th Mt. Div.) (circle the patch)			
SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31st INFANTRY REGIMENT and Polar Bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL White, Brilliant Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 32.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size 2XL White, Brilliant Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 34.00	X ____ =	_____
SP100	Same as above with 100th Anniversary logo in <u>White only</u> . Size: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, & 3XL Close out!	\$ 12.00	X ____ =	_____
ST	Shirt, Tee, w/31st INFANTRY REGIMENT and Polar Bear crest on left chest, no pocket (Circle color & size) Size : S, M, L, XL Color: Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 22.00	X ____ =	_____
	Size: 2XL Color: Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 24.00	X ____ =	_____
SLSVC	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Dress in various colors w/31st INFANTRY REGIMENT and Polar Bear crest on left chest above pocket. (Circle color and size) Size S, M, L, XL Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White, Texas Orange, Size: 2XL Colors: Burgundy, classic Navy, or Denim	\$ 37.00	X ____ =	_____
DCL 01	Bumper sticker, 31st Infantry crest (Polar Bear), 4-3/8" tall, 4-1/4 wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 01	Pin, 31st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear), regulation size, facing set.	\$ 8.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 02	Pin, 31st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear), lapel/hat pin 7/8" tall, 3/4" wide	\$ 4.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 73	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, lapel/hat pin. 3/8" tall, 1-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 74	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, regulation size, 1-1/4" tall, 3" wide	\$ 4.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 82	Pin, Purple Heart, lapel/hat pin, 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 85	Pin, Silver Star, lapel/hat pin, 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____
PN 71	Pin, Bronze Star, lapel/hat pin, 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X ____ =	_____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

SHIPPING CHARGES – add to your order: Orders under \$10.00 add \$3.00; Orders \$10.01 - \$25.00 add \$7.00.

Orders \$25.01 - \$50.00, add \$8.00; Orders over \$50.00, add \$9.00 to the subtotal line above: **SHIPPING** \$ _____

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: **31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION** **TOTAL** \$ _____

For Credit Cards (American Express, Discover, Master Card, or Visa) or Debit card (with Master Card or Visa logo) please include

NAME (on card): _____ **CARD #**: _____ **EXP DATE**: ____/____/____

SECURITY CODE (on back of card): _____ **ZIP CODE** (where credit card bill is to be mailed): _____

Mail the order form and payment to: **Ivan Barker III, Quartermaster 3127 Cataract St, Copenhagen, NY 13626**

If you have questions or would like a complete catalog, send your e-mail to Ivan at: barker_ivan@hotmail.com

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment 12 Randall Dr, Enola, PA 17025	<u>GEN (Ret.) Stephen Townsend</u> (Bn Cdr/4th Bn, Ft Drum, 2000-02) unlisted sjtownsend83@gmail.com
Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment 212 SW 15th St, Oak Island, NC 28465	<u>Dan Wood</u> 910-633-8397 (CSM/4th Bn, Ft Drum, 2000-02) wooddr3@gmail.com
Commander: 212 SW 15th St, Oak Island, NC 28465	<u>Dan Wood</u> 910-633-8397 See above
Vice Commander: 706 SE 34 th , Homestead, FL 33478	<u>LTC A.J. Brong, Jr.</u> 248 202-6559 (CPT B, HHC 4th Bn, Ft Drum 2004-08) ajbrong@gmail.com
Adjutant: 9676 159th Ct N, Jupiter, FL 33478	<u>Vin Zike</u> 914-850-0095 (SGT, D 6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) vinzike@gmail.com
Treasurer: 8507 Covina Ct., Chesterfield, VA 23838	<u>Don Carden</u> 210-413-3315 (1LT, HHC 4th Bn, 1999-01) 31stpropatria@gmail.com
Membership: 1484 Loretta Dr., Penn Hills, PA 15235	<u>Jim Tierney</u> 412-793-7214 (SSG, A 6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) jtier64999@aol.com
Editor:	<u>Dan Wood</u> 910-633-8397 See above
Quartermaster: 3127 Cataract St, Copenhagen, NY 13626	<u>Ivan Barker III</u> 315-286-7696 (1st SGT, F&HHC 4th Bn, Ft Drum, 2012-17) barker_ivan@hotmail.com
Sergeant at Arms: 4114 S. Lava Springs, Nampa, ID 83686	<u>Jim Jagers</u> C 916 802-7750 (SGT, B 6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) jim@jagers.me
Historian: 2321 S. Queen St, Arlington, VA 22202	<u>Grady Smith</u> C 703 927-6261 (CPT, D 6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-68) smithga@verizon.net
Senior Director: 108 Mershon Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185	<u>Ron Corson</u> C 757-810-4155 (CPT, A 6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) jrcorson@aol.com
Northeast Region: (CT, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT) 3127 Cataract St, Copenhagen, NY 13626	<u>Ivan Barker III</u> 315-286-7696 See above
Mid-Atlantic Region: (DC,DE,MD,NJ,PA,VA,WV,AE,GM,PR) 104 Cumberland Dr., Carlisle, PA 17013	<u>Jim Simms</u> 717-243-5570 (LT, C & HHC 4th Bn, VN, 1969-70) jnpsim50@gmail.com
Southeast Region: (AL,AR,FL,GA,LA,MS,NC,SC,TN) 1116 Dundee Ct ,Murfreesboro, TN 37129	<u>Paul Fisk</u> 315-921-5392 (SSG, HHC, C & D 4th Bn, Ft Drum, 2005-13) pffisk@yahoo.com
Great Lakes Region: (IL, IN, KY, MI, OH, WI) 788 Eagledale Circle, Kettering, OH 45429	<u>John Howdeshelt</u> 937-435-0669 (SGT, D 6th Bn, VN, 1969) mamahowdy@yahoo.com
Midwest Region: (CO,IA,KS,MN,MO,ND,NE,NM,OK,SD,TX) 3100 Chambers St, Sioux City, IA 51104	<u>John Mansfield</u> 712-277-4498 (LT, A&B 4th Bn, VN 1967-68) arctic6@aol.com
Western Region: (AK,AZ,CA,HI,ID,MT,NV,OR,UT,WA,WY) 3035 El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID, 83642	<u>Joe DeAngeles</u> 208-362-9468 (SGT, C 6th Bn, VN, 1967-68) 31stpolarbear@gmail.com

LATE BREAKING NEWS

The last surviving Commander of the 6-31st in Vietnam, Colonel Jack R. Logan, passed away on January 23, 2023. Colonel Logan was a graduate of West Point, class of 1954. During his 23-year career as an Army infantry officer, highlights of his service included, Commander of the United Nations Honor Guard in Korea, teaching West Point cadets, and in 1968, he commanded 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry. His decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Wings, two Legion of Merit Awards, a Silver Star, two Bronze Star Medals for Valor, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star. He is survived by his wife Jenny. There will be a Celebration of Life at 3:00 pm March 2nd at Mountain View Mortuary, 425 Stoker Avenue, Reno, NV with a reception to follow. His remains will be interred at West Point later.

Call for Newsletter Boosters

We are seeking association members who would be willing to become newsletter boosters to assist in defraying the cost associated with producing and mailing our newsletters to members. We have heard many say they enjoy receiving and reading the Pro Patria Press. Boosters would be considered those who contribute a minimum of \$20 annually toward the cost of generating and distributing this publication. The names of newsletter boosters will be listed in each edition of the newsletter for the calendar year within which they contribute.

To become a Newsletter Booster, simply mail a check to the association treasurer and place “Newsletter Booster” on the “For” line at the bottom of your check. Your contribution can be mailed to the Association Treasurer, Don Carden at 8507 Covina Ct. Chesterfield, VA 23838.

• • • • •

NEWSLETTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Cut along dotted line. Fill in requested information and mail to The Membership Chairman, address below.
or email Jim Tierney with this information to jtier64999@aol.com **SUBJECT: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

Name: _____		Phone number if new: _____
<u>Old Address</u>	<u>New Address</u>	<u>Mail To:</u>
_____	_____	Jim Tierney, Membership Chairman
Street or P.O. Box	Street or P.O. Box	1484 Loretta Drive
_____	_____	Penn Hills, PA 15235
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip	

Membership Application–31st US Infantry Regiment Association



First Name Nickname Middle Initial Last Name

Street Address City State Zip Code Phone Number

E-mail Address Alternate E-mail Address

Please fill in as much information about your service/connection with the 31st Infantry Regiment as possible:

Battalion _____ Company _____ Platoon _____

Highest Award Earned

Rank & Duty Position when serving with the 31st Regiment

Where did you serve with the 31st?

Period served month/year to month/year?

Philippines _____ _____

Japan _____ _____

Korea _____ _____

Vietnam _____ _____

Iraq _____ _____

Afghanistan _____ _____

Other Overseas _____ _____

USA _____ _____

If currently on active duty, rank: _____. If retired from the military, retired rank _____.

Life Membership

Active Duty ___\$25

Age 49 & under ___\$60

Age 50 – 59 ___\$45

Age 60 & over ___\$35

Associate ___\$25

Member (family)

Make your check out to **31st Inf Regt Assn** and mail it to the Membership Chairman:

Jim Tierney, 1484 Loretta Drive, Penn Hills, PA 15235.

31st Infantry Regiment Association
Jim Tierney
1484 Loretta Drive
Penn Hills, PA 15235
Newsletter 105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If the Addressee no longer
lives at the below address
Please RETURN this to the above

REUNION 2023
WATERTOWN/Ft. DRUM, NY 14-17 SEPTEMBER 2023

