

ProPatriaPress



#99 May 2021

NEWSLETTER OFTHE 31ST US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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Hail! Hail! The GANG'S ALL HERE! - At Reunion 2021 in the QUAD CITIES

The year of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 have presented our country and the world with a series of difficult challenges cap stoned by the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine has given us the capability to attack the virus and win the battle. Now is the time to stand up as veterans and shake the elements of fear induced



by the virus and celebrate the restoration of our guaranteed freedoms that were restricted over the past year. What better way than to plan to join your buddies who years ago fought for our freedoms and a better world. The Quad Cities located along the Mississippi is the ideal location and September is the right time to

reunite as Soldiers along with our families. Make the time, make the promise: "This Polar Bear will be there", and shout out: "You All Come to Reunion 2021in the Quad Cities. You Hear?"

A SPECIAL REQUEST

The pandemic has displaced or interfered with many of our daily routines. The restrictions have had an impact on the activities of the Association as well. The reunion in September is long overdue. All of us, as Army Veterans, expect a strong turnout, but the Association leadership needs your help. To facilitate the process of locking in all the details of Reunion 2021, we request that members make a special effort to register early to let our leaders know that you are onboard to be part of this year's Reunion – **Pro Patria!**

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Pictured to the right is a rendering of a Wall of Remembrance to be added at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. In mid-March, the National Park Service and the Korean War Memorial Foundation announced that

a Wall of Remembrance would be added to the Memorial on the Mall. The Wall will have all 43,000 names of those killed in action during the war—36,574 Americans and more than 7,200 Koreans who served as part of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, referred to as KATUSAs. The project, with a price tag of \$22 million, will be paid for by contributions from persons in the United States and South Korea. In addition, the Memorial itself, already twenty-five years old, will receive a sprucing up while the work on the new Wall of Remembrance is under way. The project is expected to take a year and a



half. Out of those 43,000 names, 1,152 belong to 31st Infantry Regiment soldiers who gave their lives. The names of those 1,152 Polar Bears are listed in Appendix 4 of "The 31st Infantry Regiment: A History of 'America's Foreign Legion' in Peace and War."

Seventy-Nine Years Since the Bataan Death March

This year marked the 79th anniversary of the Bataan Death March, which took place April 9 to April 17, 1942. Between 60,000 and 80,000 Americans and Filipinos, including 31st Infantry members, were forced to walk the 66 miles from Bagac to Camp O'Donnell. The Marchers suffered beatings, deprivation of food and water, and even summary execution. This was followed by nearly three years as prisoners of war.

The March capped four months of unrelenting combat, a long enough period to disrupt the Japanese timetable for their continuing conquest of the Pacific. In consequence, neither New Zealand nor Australia suffered Japanese invasion. Once active combat began in December of 1941, the resupplies of men, food, ammunition and medicines were completely cut off. It came down to raw combat. Twenty-eight Polar Bears were recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross in January 1942 alone. A single instance illustrates the intensity of battle. CPT John J. Brennan, the Battalion Surgeon of 3rd Battalion, continued to treat wounded Polar Bears during the three-day fight at Abucay Hacienda, even though his aid station was exposed to enemy fire including artillery and aircraft bombing attacks. His citation reads as follows:

CPT John J. Brennan, (Waterloo, Iowa), 3d Battalion Medical Detachment, Abucay Hacienda, 22-24 Jan 1942. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Medical Corps) John J. Brennan, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the Medical Detachment, 3d Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, in action against enemy forces during the period 22 - 24 January 1942, at Abucay Hacienda, Bataan, Philippine Islands. Captain Brennan maintained his battalion aid station in operation even though it was repeatedly under heavy artillery fire and dive-bombing attacks. Even when shells fell in the immediate vicinity of two officers who had been wounded by enemy 105s, he continued to administer first aid to save lives. Captain Brennan's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.







REUNION 2021 - QUAD CITIES – SEPTEMBER 18-22

At Various Times:

Channel Cat Water

Taxi Various Sites:

\$8.00 Hop on Hop Off

REUNION 2021 – DAY ONE - (Saturday: September 18, 2021)

1200 - 1700 Arrival -- Registration Desk/Welcome - Holiday Inn Rock Island 2nd Floor

1200 - 1700 The Association Hospitality Room - Salon 3

Evening: Company Dinners - On your own/Unit Dinners.

REUNION 2021 - DAY TWO - (Sunday: September 19, 2021)

0700 - 0930 Breakfast Served in Bennigan's

0800 - 1100 Quartermaster Store Open

0900 - 1600 Registration Desk & Welcome Table open

1000 - 2100 The Association Hospitality Room - Open

1000 - 1200 Board Meeting

1130 - 1330 Lunch - You are on your own.

1600 - 2000 Visit Quad City info booth Hallway 2nd Floor

1730 - 1830 Welcome Cocktail Reception- Hotel Ballroom (Local Mayors to attend) (Cash Bar)

1830 - 2030 Arrival Dinner - BBQ local Flavor Dinner - Hotel Ballroom (Cash Bar in the Buffet Location)

REUNION 2021 - DAY THREE- (Monday: September 20, 2021)

0700 - 0930 Breakfast Served in Bennigan's

0900 - 2100 The Association Hospitality Room Open

0900 - 1200 Registration Desk & Welcome Table - Open.

0900 - 1000 31st Infantry Memorial Service - Salon 1&2

1000 - 1130 General business Meeting

1130 - 1300 Lunch - Once again - You are on your own.

1200 - 1600 Quartermaster Open

1230 – 1630 Rock Island Arsenal Tour Meet in Lobby first floor

1500 - 1530 Raffle Drawing & Silent Auction (Last chance to bid in Silent Auction).

1700 - 2100 Celebration Belle Caption & Dance Cruise, Cruise the mighty Mississippi

REUNION 2021 - DAY FOUR - (Tuesday: September 21, 2021)

0900 - 1100 John Deere Factory and Pavilion & Store

1830 - 1835 Reunion Dinner Posting of the Colors & Invocation

1835 - 2030 Dinner - After Dinner: Announcements. Introduction, and Guest Speaker

2030 - 2200 Shanghai Bowl Ceremony and Formal Toasts to the 31st US Infantry Regiment

At the Dinner: Salads will be on each table – Multiple Buffet lines will be in service

DEPARTURE DAY - (Wednesday: September 22, 2021) - Goodbyes and Check out

REGISTRATION FORM REUNION 2021 - Rock Island, IL 31st US Infantry Regiment Association September 18-22, 2021

Name:				
Guest(s):				
Home Street Address:				
City:		State:	ZIP Code: _	
E-mail:		Phone:		
Company & Battalion of the 3	31st Infantry:		When:	
If active duty, Current Rank:		_ Post stationed at: _		
Served in Combat Zone: Yes	/ No (Circle)	f Yes, where:		
Will you be staying at Holiday	/ Inn Rock Island Yes	/ No (Circle)?		
Have a car at the reunion? Ye	es / No If needed, are	you willing to assist ir	local driving?	Yes / No
Reunion Activity	Cost per Person	X # Participating	=	Event Cost
Reunion Registration	\$40	х		\$
Reunion Arrival Dinner	\$27	х		\$
Rock Island Arsenal Tour	\$15	х		\$
Celebration Dinner Cruise	\$60	х		\$
Reunion Banquet	\$40	х		\$
John Deere Factory Tour	\$15	x		\$
Grand Total				\$

Make checks payable to: 31st US Infantry Regiment Association

ATTN: Joe DeAngelis 3035 S. El Rio Dr., Meridian, ID 83642

Hotel and Travel Information: Total Cost is \$85.00/night with tax and a Hot Breakfast every morning

Holiday Inn & Conference Center Quad City International Airport (MOL)

226 17th Street Free airport / Hotel Shuttle

Rock Island, IL 61201 Moline Airport serviced by all major carriers. www.holidayinn.com/rockisland

Reserve Room at (309-794-1212)

Suspense date for Hotel and Reunion 2021 Reservations is September 1, 2021

THE 4th BATTALION SITREP



DEPARTMENTOFTHEARMY 4th BATTALION, 31st INFANTRY REGIMENT 2nd BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION CL DWYER, AFGHANISTAN 09354



To the members of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association:

Over the past five months, the Polar Bears have deployed in support of the Global War on Terror for the 11th time in our storied history. This time, the Polar Bears have been operating as the only conventional infantry unit in Afghanistan, spread out between nine different geographical locations in theater as a part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. In typical 4-31 fashion, the Polar Bears have distinguished themselves through their tireless efforts, being utilized by Resolute Support Headquarters for everything from mission planners, to augmented infantry support, to theater-wide Contingency Response Forces. Never forgetting our Regiment's long and storied history, members of our



Headquarters "Head Hunter" Company and Charlie "Rock" Company completed the 26.2 mile ruck march while downrange to show solidarity and respect for the thousands of lives the Regiment lost during the Bataan Death March. Every day, we strive to live up to the 31st Regiment's tradition of excellence, executing operations that are essential to accomplishing the United States' mission in Afghanistan and keeping our homeland safe.



Not to be outdone, our Home Station Mission Command "Ready Force" has been relentlessly training, maintaining their ability to deploy worldwide and accomplish our Nation's missions. The Ready Force completely reconstituted their task organization, resulting in three brand new, full strength infantry platoons. Through the steadfast leadership of our Non-Commissioned Officers and staff sections, these platoons were able to execute training through platoon live-fires in record time. They were recognized by the 10th Mountain Division Commander, Major General Brian J. Mennes, for "Burning it Down" with their excellent performance throughout their training cycle. Polar Bears stand ready to deploy, fight and win our Nation's wars, setting the standard as the greatest fighting force in the US Army. *Pro Patria!*



Late Note: Officially it was released that 4-31 will redeploy by 11 September.

Task Force Polar Bear Scouts pose for a photograph prior to a combat patrol in Parwan, Afghanistan

Task Force Polar Bear Mortarmen fire 120mm mortars in Helmand, Afghanistan



TAPS



Deceased members identified since Newsletter # 98, Feb 2021

PRE-KOREAN WAR

Robert M. Bird, PFC, 1948 Roanoke, VA, died Jan 26, 2021, C Co, 1st Bn, 1946-1947 Sidney S. Blank, T-5, Long Island, NY, died Jul 20, 2020, I&R Co, Rgt, 1945-1946

KOREA WAR

Robert Heuerman, CPL, Los Angeles, CA, died Nov 27,2020, Co C, 1st Bn, 1951 Edward R. Piana, SGT, Canton, MA, died Feb 13, 2021, Med Co, Rgt & Co B, 1st Bn, 1952-1953 Raul A. Salaverria, SFC, Lebanon, OH, died Mar 23, 2021, Co M, 3rd Bn, 1952-1953 Joseph M. "Joe" Vieck, SFC, Vincennes, IN died Mar 23, 2021, Co F, 2nd Bn, 1952

POST KOREAN WAR

John J. Fatum, COL ret, Columbus, GA, died Nov 25, 2020, HQ, 1st Bn, 1969-1970

VIETNAM

Gerard E. "Jerry" Olson, SFC ret, Goldsboro, NC, died Dec 6, 2020, Co D, 6th Bn, 1969-1970 Derrell J. Savage, LTC ret, Layton, UT, died Jan 29, 2021, HHC, 4th Bn, 1966-1967

ASSOCIATE

Alice Considine, Torrington, CT, died Feb15, 2021, widow of CPL John L. "Jack" Considine, Co B, 1st Bn, 1952-53

NOTE: There were no deceased members reported from World War II or USA eras

NEW MEMBERS

Carl "CJ" Abendroth, 1LT, Hutchinson Island, FL, HHC, 2nd Battle Group, 1962-1964

LEADERSHIP NOTICE: The Association has leadership positions that need to be filled at the 2021 Reunion. The Board is developing a slate of officers and is in need of volunteers who have the time and the desire to join the Board of Directors. Election of officers will occur at the General Membership meeting. Potential positions include Regional Director, Quartermaster, Treasurer, Adjutant, and Committee Slots. If you willing and able to be part of the Association leadership team please contact Charlie Tapp or Ron Corson. (See Page 10)

In 1898, during the Spanish-American the United States Army and militias were the state staffed inadequately to support overseas operations. This led to the creation of three volunteer cavalry regiments, including the 1st Volunteer U.S. Cavalry Regiment. Better known as the "Rough Riders," it was the most famous of the three regiments and the only one to serve in combat. While commanded by COL Leonard Wood, an Army



surgeon. who had won the Medal of Honor for actions in an Indian War campaign years earlier, the regiment was in fact in action led by LTC Theodore Roosevelt who would later become President of the USA.

Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day.

On 6 June 2020, British artist Jamie, accompanied bv numerous volunteers, took beaches to the of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people into the sand. Titled The Fallen 9000, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of those who died during the landings D-Day beach Arromanches on June 6th, 1944 during WWII. The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help with the temporary installation that lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide. Editor Note: Isn't it good to hear there are people in the World who still remember the greatness of America and our WWII Allies.



9,000 Fallen WWII Soldiers Etched in the Sand on Normandy Beach.

The 31st US Infantry Regiment Enters the Korean War

The following write-up was extracted and edited from the book: The 31st Infantry Regiment A History of "America's Foreign Legion" in Peace and War

When North Korean troops invaded the Republic of Korea on June 25, 1950, the 31st Infantry Regiment, stationed at Camp Crawford, Japan, had only two battalions due to a general manpower shortage that affected nearly all regiments in Japan. The 7th Infantry Division that the 31st Infantry Regiment was part of was stationed closer to the Soviet Union. than any other unit in Japan. It was to continue occupying and protecting Japan while the other three divisions in Japan deployed to Korea.

Replacements from the US arrived in Japan and Korea slowly because the Army only had ten active divisions, all under strength. Meanwhile in Korea, the situation quickly grew desperate. In August 1950, large numbers of replacements were arriving, but not enough to replace the losses of the early deployed forces. Other units, the 2nd Division from Fort Lewis, 1st Marine Brigade from Camp Pendleton, the 5th Regimental Combat Team from Hawaii, and the 29th Infantry Regiment from Okinawa were deployed to Korea to fill gaps in the line. Although the 7th Division was closer to Korea than any of these units, it was not as combat ready. After being scattered all over Japan to secure vacated garrisons of divisions that had deployed to Korea, the barely half strength 7th Division was assembled for pre-deployment training at Camp Fuji. To help fill the manpower void over 8,000 Koreans were gathered off the streets of South Korea and shipped to Japan at join the 7th Division. They were called Korean Augmentation to the US Army (KATUSA). The 31st Infantry received 1,857 Koreans, roughly half the regiment's strength. Most of the KATUSAs spoke no English and received little military training. The KATUSAs were paired in squads of the 31st Infantry. With little training and no time, the 7th Division was ordered on the 7 September to move to and board ships at Yokohama and on the morning of 10 September a fleet of troop ships departed for an unknown destination.

Once under way, unit commanders opened Top Secret orders informing them that Inchon was their destination. The 1st Marine Division would go ashore on 15 September. The 7th Infantry Division would follow, landing just south of the port. While at sea, last minute replacements from the States and KATUSAs were being assigned to units in the 31st. The fleet of troop ships anchored ten miles from Inchon, while on September 16 the battleship USS Missouri, five cruisers, and six destroyers pounded enemy positions deeper inland. No landing craft were immediately available to land the 7th Division, finally on 19 September LST landing craft ferried the 31st Infantry ashore. By 20 September, the 31st Infantry, less its 3rd Battalion left to protect Inchon,



Troops of the 31st Infantry Regiment Land at Inchon Harbor

had moved to and established hasty defensive positions south of Seoul. Its mission was to stop North Koreans from getting into Seoul from the south. The next morning, two battalions of the 31st Infantry following the 7th Reconnaissance Company and the 73rd Tank Battalion advanced to Suwon airfield to the south. The mission was now to secure and defend the airfield and its 8,000 foot concrete runway. Suwon was to be an important site for aerial resupply and fighter operations. Intelligence reported that there were enemy troops in the high ground south of Suwon with more enemy troops arriving including tanks. Thrown together, untrained, and untested with half its complement unable to speak English the 31st Infantry Regiment was once again going to War.

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM

Visit 31stinfantry.org and click on 31st Infantry Store to see a full color catalogue of these and many more items

Name:		Telephone	#	
Address:				
City:	State:	Zip:	Email:	
Cat #	Description		Price	
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		Size 3XL	Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 21.00 X=
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·		337 Carillon Lane		

Association Officers

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment		Robert "Sam" Wetz	el LTG Ret (LTC, Cdr, 4th Bn, VN 1968)
1425 Dartmouth Rd, Columbus, GA 31904		706-576-4204	wiint322@aol.com
Commander:		Charlie Tapp	(SSGT, D-6thBn, VN, 1970)
215 Waterford Drive, Inman, SC 2	29349	H 864-473-1999	ctapp94@gmail.com
, ,		C 864 680-9165	
Vice Commander:		Dan Wood	(CSM/4th Bn, Ft. Drum, 2000-02)
1484 McGill Road, Vass, NC2839	4	910-633-8397	wooddr3@gmail.com
Adjutant:		Vin Zike	(SGT,D-6th Bn,VN, 1969-70)
9676 159 th Ct N, Jupiter, FL 33478		914-850-0095	vinzike@gmail.com
Treasurer:		Joe DeAngelis	(SGT,C/6thBn,FtLewis&VN,1967-69)
3035 South El Rio Dr., Meridian, I	D 83642	208-362-9468	jangels10@gmail.com
Membership:		Jim Tierney	(SSG, A-6th Bn, VN, 1969-70)
1484 Loretta Dr., Penn Hills, PA 152	235	412-793-7214	jtier64999@aol.com
Quartermaster:		Dale Mills	(SGT,C-6thBn,VN,1967-69)
337 Carillon Lane, Macon, GA 312	10	478-787-2679	sdalem@bellsouth.net
Sergeant at Arms:		Jim Jaggers	(SGT,B-6th Bn,VN, 1968-69)
5638 Camellia Ave, Sacramento,	CA 95819	H 916-455-7879	jim@jaggers.me
I Control of the Cont		C 916 802-7750	(CDT_D_C+ - D= E+
Historian:	2202	Grady Smith	(CPT, D-6th Bn, Ft Lewis &VN, 1967-68)
2321 S. Queen St, Arlington, VA 2 Senior Director:	.2202	C 703 927-6261	smithga@verizon.net
	22425	Ron Corson	(CPT, A-6th Bn, VN, 1969-70)
108 Mershon Way, Williamsburg,		757-253-1311	jrcorson@aol.com
Northeast Region (ME,NH,VT,MA,RI,CT, NY		<u>Ivan Barker III</u>	(1st SGT,F&HHC-4th Bn,Ft Drum,2012-17)
3127 Cataract St, Copenhagen, N	Y 13626	315-286-7696	barker ivan@hotmail.com
Mid-AtlanticRegion (NJ,PA,DE,MD,DC,VA,W	'V)	Jim Simms	(LT,C& HHC-4thBn,VN,1969-70)
104 Cumberland Dr., Carlisle, PA	17013	717-243-5570	<pre>inpsim@comcast.net</pre>
Southeast Region (NC,SC,GA,FL,AL,MS,TN,		Noah Halfacre	(LT,E-6thBn,VN, 1970)
1116 Dundee Ct ,Murfreesboro, TN	N 37129.	615-892-9246	gimlet3a@gmail.com
GreatLakesRegion(KY,OH,MI, IN,IL,WI)		John Howdeshelt	(SGT,D-6th Bn,VN,1969)
788 Eagledale Circle, Kettering, OF	1 45429	937-435-0669	mamahowdy@yahoo.com
MidwestRegion (MN,ND,SD,NE,IA,MO,KS, C	OK,TX,NM,CO)	John Mansfield	(LT, A&B-4th Bn, VN 1967-68)
3100 Chambers St, Sioux City, IA 5	1104	712-277-4498	arctic6@aol.com
Western Region (HI,AK,WA,OR,CA,NV,AZ,U	T,ID, MT,WY)	Ron Belloli	(LT,C-6thBn,VN,1967-68)
1250 American Pacific Dr, Apt 214, Henders	on, NV 89074	928-380-9577	ronbob22631@gmail.com
	NEWSLETTER	CHANGE OF ADDRES	<u>s</u>
Cut along dotted line. Fill in requested info	rmation and mail to	o The Membership Ch	airman, address below.
or EMAIL Jim Tierney with this information	at <u>jtier64999@aol</u>	.com SUBJECT: CHANG	GE OF ADDRESS.
Name:		Phone number i	f new:
Old Address	New Address	_	Mail To:
			Jim Tierney, Membership Chairman
Street or P.O. Box	Street or P.O. Bo	 OX	1484 Loretta Drive
		-	Penn Hills, PA 15235
			,

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Membership Application-31st US Infantry Regiment Association

R
PATRI

First Name	Nickname	Mi	ddle Initial	Last Na	ame
Street Address	City		State	Zip Code	Phone Number
E-mailaddress		Alt	ternate E-mai	l Address	
Please fill in as much info PlatoonCompa	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			31st Infantry F	Regiment as possible:
Highest Award Earned					
Rank & Duty Position whe	en serving with the	31st Regiment		Rank	When Retired/Separated
Where did you serve with	h the 31st?	When?			
Philippine					
Japan					
Korea					
Vietnam					
Iraq					
Afghanistan					
Other Overseas					
USA					
Membership Desired Life Membership					
Active Duty	\$25				
Age 49 & under	\$60				
Age 50 – 59	\$45				
Age 60 & over	\$35				
Associate Life Member (family)	\$25				
Make your check out to 3	1st Inf Regt Assn ar	nd mail it to the N	Membership (Chairman:	

11

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

31st Infantry Regiment Association Jim Tierney 1484 Loretta Drive Penn Hills, PA 15235 Newsletter 99

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REUNION 2021 QUAD CITIES, IL/IA18-21 SEPTEMBER 2021

