

Fall/Winter 2023

# Bridgehead Sentinel

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION



## Remembering our Post 9/11 Fallen

*The Society is driving to complete the renovation of the First Division Monument in Washington, adding the names of 631 BRO soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. See page 30.*

Jeff Krause Photography

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT. NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST!

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# Bridgehead Sentinel



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## ADDRESS CHANGES AND DUES

**Please send DUES and ADDRESS CHANGES to: Society of the First Infantry Division  
PO Box 2307  
Fort Riley, KS 66442**

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

Scan here for the Society website



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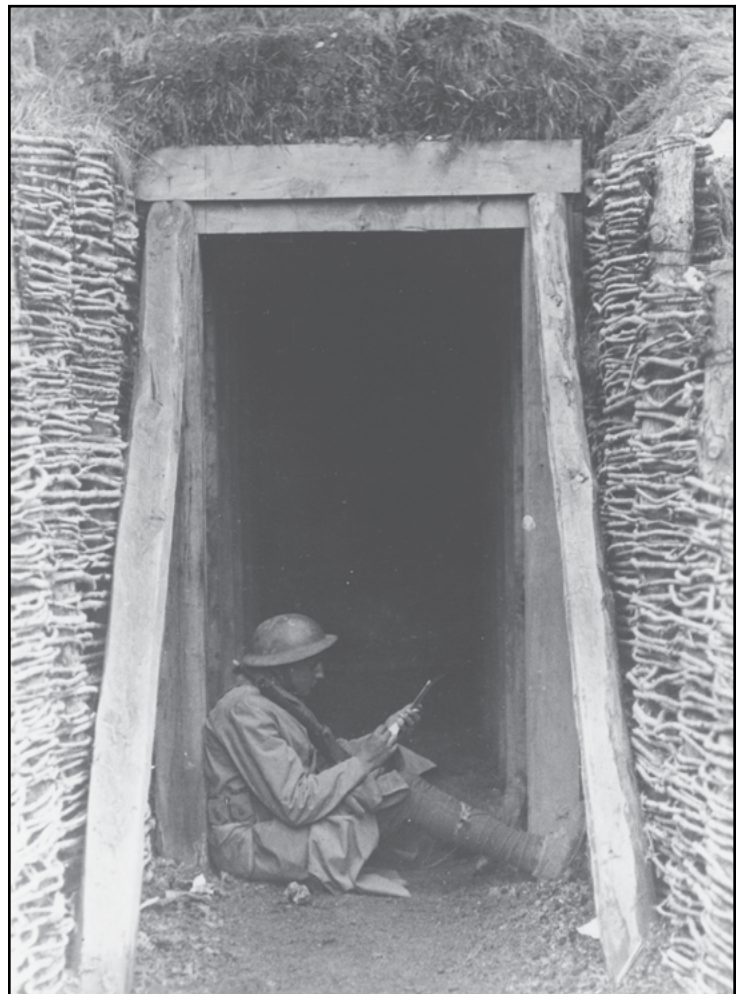
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*A U.S. First Division Artilleryman in the doorway of his bombproof shelter utilizes a few peaceful moments in writing to the folks at home. March 7, 1918.*





## Letter from the President By LTG (Ret.) Ron Watts



**In remembrance:** A great leader and dear friend, LTG Tom Rhame passed in June 2023. LTG Rhame was a professional officer and leader who cared for his troops, and our Division. Our Army, our Division, and those who served with him know we have lost a great man. May LTG Tom Rhame rest in peace knowing he made significant contributions while he was on this earth.

I have several "Good News" items to report in this letter:

### 1. Status of the First Division Monument in Washington DC: Progress!

a. The National Park Service recently approved the final design and specification package for the monument expansion and is working with the White House and Secret Service for approval of the logistics plan to support construction.

b. Concurrently, the Society project manager is in the process of reviewing proposals from selected contractors to begin the construction phase of the project soon after the permit is initiated. We expect to have a construction contractor under contract by mid-November 2023.

c. The Society is still targeting a dedication ceremony for Memorial Day 2024 to honor the 631 BRO Soldiers killed in action in Afghanistan and Iraq; update the Desert Storm plate to the same standards as other plates; and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the

First Infantry Division Monument in Washington, DC.

**2. A Successful 2023 Society Reunion in New Orleans:** The reunion hotel provided a great venue for the 325 attendees to have a good time, and share memories with old and new friends. Our Commanding General brought about 15 NCOs to the reunion and our Veterans enjoyed swapping stories. Cash raffles, and the generosity of winners in giving their winnings to the Society and the DC Monument Fund left us with a net profit of about \$24,000. The Society donated \$5,000 of this to the Monument Fund, with the remainder used to support the 2023 operating budget. As we get a better view of the Society 2023 operating budget, we will decide if more of those dollars could go to the Monument Fund.

**3. Future Reunions:** Thanks to all who participated in the online survey regarding what to do about future reunions. Your major recommendations were one hotel for all attendees, close to a major transportation hub, and room costs per night as close to \$150 as possible.

a. The **2024 Reunion** is at the Clyde Hotel (formerly the Hyatt Regency), in Albuquerque, July 31 to August 4. More details to follow.

b. The Society Board of Directors has approved the following actions:

i. The **2025 Reunion** will be held at Marriott Hotel in Oak Brook,

IL (near the First Division Museum at Cantigny).

ii. A search for hotels in the Kansas City and Washington DC areas for the 2026 and 2027 Society Reunions. Kansas City would include a day tour to Fort Riley; and Washington DC would include day tours to the Army National Museum at Fort Belvoir, VA.

**4. Huebner Scholarships:** Thanks to the many donors to the scholarship fund. With your generosity, the Scholarship Committee will increase the number of annual scholarship awards to fifteen in 2024. We received a good number of scholarship applications this year; however, only a small number of them were active-duty dependents. We would certainly like to see more children of active-duty BRO soldiers apply and could use your help in spreading the word. Also, we noted the lack of applications to accredited trade schools in this year's submissions. **As a reminder to all, the scholarship program also applies to those wishing to attend an accredited trade school.** The application process for submissions is the same packet format for both paths of education. Please encourage those eligible to apply for scholarships in 2024. Thank you for supporting your foundation.

**5. Post 9-11 BRO Veterans:** We continue to seek ways to reach out to this important era of the Society. I am seeking your ideas on the

following concept of communicating, primarily with Post 9-11 BRO Veterans but really aimed at all BRO Vets. **Concept: The Society would designate a member or group of members as the state coordinators for Society matters.** They would use social media to establish networks with BRO Vets living in their state; provide press releases to appropriate state media offices regarding Society activities; post notices of BRO Society Reunions / key events in VFW and Legion Halls; and establish other initiatives appropriate for their state. The Society Executive Director would assist by providing information to the state coordinators and respond to their questions.

I continue to be optimistic about the future of our Society. However, we need new approaches to reach out to Post 9-11 BRO Veterans to explain the Society objectives and encourage their participation. They are the future of our Society.

In summary, I ask that you continue to keep **BIG RED ONE** active-duty members in your prayers. They continue to deploy globally, accomplish missions in support of our freedom, and serve as great ambassadors of the United States of America!

### Duty First!

*Ron Watts*  
LTG US Army Retired  
President



# Letter from the Executive Director

## By CW3 (Ret) Phyllis Fitzgerald



It's been a pretty good year so far. Winter is in the air in Kansas!

It was great to see everyone at the 102nd annual reunion in New Orleans. The last time I was there was in the mid-90's when stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. I hope that everyone in attendance had a great time. Thanks to my staff and team for helping to make this a successful reunion.

LTG Thomas Rhame, a great leader, will be missed. He was my and my husband's Division Commander during Desert Storm. We completed the mission and he brought us back home to our children. He was a good friend of ours and we are forever grateful to him. Rest in peace, sir.

We are looking forward to the 103<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We will be staying at the Clyde Hotel (formerly the Hyatt Regency). The dates are July 31 to August 4, 2024. As details for the reunion are developed they will be shared by email, placed on our website, [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org), and posted on the Society Facebook page.

My plan is to have registration open early in 2024 so everyone can make plans for the reunion. I would ask everyone to please share details about the reunion with fellow BRO

Veterans who may not receive our emails, and please ask them to visit our website.

Work continues daily on building membership, promoting, and sharing the story of the Society of the First Infantry Division.

Our 4th Annual Armed Forces Community Foundation Match Day took place November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Wow, thank you to all that donated to this year's Match Day. We received a total of \$14,927. The annual match days are important for the Society, as it helps with the annual budget.

We have stocked our Quartermaster with new hoodies, hats, and polo shirts. Please check out the Quartermaster link on our website <https://www.1stid.org/quartermaster> to learn more and place an order. If you use the magazine to send in a Quartermaster order, please call us first (785-579-6761) to make sure we have not sold out of an item.

As you may know, postage rates appear to go up annually, sometimes twice a year. The Society's budget is small. For members who pay annual dues, please let us know if we can send your membership card via email. It costs 62 cents to mail an envelope. For those who order a hard copy Bridgehead Sentinel (we receive 50 in the office after each printing),

the price to mail one is \$3.00. We will likely have to raise that price to \$3.50 beginning January 2024.

In this edition of the magazine, you will find updates on membership status in our database; Monument Fund status on our quest to get the 631 Post 9/11 names added and a new Desert Storm plate; donations, fundraisers, 2024 Reunion and much more.

Please continue to keep us updated on any changes in your contact information. We want to be able to stay in touch with you.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, the Society continues to provide support to Soldiers and families. We will again this year be providing commissary gift cards to the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Post Chaplains office for Soldier families who need extra help during the holiday season.

If you are interested in standing up a Society chapter in your community, send me an email at [sfd1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfd1919@gmail.com) and I will share how to get it going. You will find more in the magazine about chapters. We are looking at new ways to engage our Post 9/11 Veterans/ members—the future of the Society.

Membership remains steady. You can read the statistics in the

magazine. There is also information on how you can sponsor a Soldier or Soldiers inside the magazine. The trend over the last several years is that Post 9-11 Vets are replacing Vietnam Vets in numbers, but we still have a significant amount of Vietnam Vets. The Society looks forward to the leadership of our Post 9-11 Veterans.

Anytime you have a question, comment, suggestion, or concern, please reach out. We are here to assist. Our website, [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org), is a good source to stay updated with the Society, Quartermaster, Reunion, Scholarships, Monument Fund, and much more. Please check your spam/junk folders often for emails that will come from these addresses: [admin@1stid.org](mailto:admin@1stid.org) and [sfd1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfd1919@gmail.com)

Please enjoy this issue of the Bridgehead Sentinel. Your phone calls, letters, and emails are appreciated. I am honored to serve as your Executive Director.

### Duty First!

*Phyllis Fitzgerald*  
CW3 US Army Retired  
Executive Director



# 2024 BRO Reunion



## See You in Albuquerque!

Save the date: The 103rd Annual Reunion will be held in Albuquerque, NM, July 31 to August 4, 2024.

I recently made a coordination trip to Albuquerque to check out our hotel and the area. The Hotel Clyde is wonderful and so is the staff. Our plan is to have all parts of the reunion on the hotel's 2nd floor. This includes registration, quartermaster store,

Society office, First Division Museum, regimental command posts, Memorial Service, Conflict Breakfast, general membership meeting, board meeting, scholarship meeting, cocktail hour, and banquet.

The Clyde has a restaurant, bar, fitness center, swimming pool, sitting areas, and a gift shop. A coffee shop is attached to the hotel. I received a wonderful

tour of Albuquerque and will be planning events based on the tour. As plans are finalized, we will keep everyone informed via email and on our website: [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org)

Please enjoy some of the pictures from my visit.

*Phyllis Fitzgerald*







## Society of the First Infantry Division Member Profile Update

Our database is refreshed daily by either updating a profile, taking a membership payment, creating a new account, or looking up a member in response to an inquiry.

The composition of our membership is presented below. It changes daily but generally the total numbers stay close.

On October 1, 2023, we had a total of 8991 active members, not including business partners and corporate sponsors. Some of our members served in more than one era but this does not change the percentages.

### Members:

Life.....	8215	91%
Active Duty.....	178	1.97%
Regular Veteran.....	464	5.1%
Executive Veteran.....	27	0.3%
Associate .....	47	0.52%
Business Partner.....	39	0.4%
Corporate Sponsor.....	15	0.16%

### ERA Served:

Post 9-11.....	4265	47.0%
Vietnam *.....	2036	22.6%
Peace Time.....	1041	11.5%
Unknown/NA.....	154	1.7%
Balkans.....	551	6.12%
Cold War.....	387	4.3%
WW II *.....	223	2.48%
Desert Storm/Gulf War.....	221	2.45%

\*Includes widows

Data indicates that Post 9-11 era membership as passing the Vietnam era. Given the current composition of our member database, our general fund operates on approximately 5% of member annual dues. The remainder of the Society annual budget is supported by funds from business partners, corporate sponsors, quartermaster sales, donations, and fundraisers.

U.S. Army Photo



## Letter from the CG by Major General John V. Meyer, III



Dear Big Red One Soldiers,  
Families, and Friends,

What a wonderful time of year to be a resident of the Flint Hills region. The fall foliage and the incredible landscape grant us inspiring views, reminding us that Fort Riley is an amazing place to call home. With the change in seasons comes a rigorous glide path for the Division as we prepare for our Division level command post exercise this winter, deploy the Combat Aviation Brigade, support multiple gunneries, and celebrate the conclusion of the "Year of the NCO."

Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division remain a focal point for key leaders across the Army and the State of Kansas. We hosted visits by the FORSCOM Commander, Sergeant Major of the Army, both United States Senators for the state of Kansas, and most recently the Secretary of the Army. Their visits highlight our incredible formations, schools, and community support.

The Division had all the unit colors uncased on the Cavalry Parade Field early this fall, signifying the Division being home and together for the first time in over two years. We welcomed home 2nd Brigade who, over the last nine months, worked closely with allies and partners to train forces and enhance interoperability across Eastern Europe. Our Soldiers were instrumental in the combined arms training of Ukrainian Soldiers and formations. We are incredibly proud of the team as they tackled a rigorous training plan and set conditions for the success of Ukrainian forces.

Concurrent with the uncasing of the colors and welcoming home of the 2nd Brigade, we cased and farewelled the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade. The Brigade will execute a nine-month-long tour in Europe, providing world-class support and continuing to represent Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division in Europe. Our

Soldiers will make a difference, and we remain proud of their commitment to the mission and support of our allies.

In addition to our operations in Europe, the 1st Division Sustainment Brigade is preparing units for deployment to the Middle East. The Brigade remains engaged with deployment and redeployment operations, continually supporting the Division while completing rigorous training to build on their expertise as a combat enabler.

The booms you hear across the Flint Hills is our 1st Brigade conducting training and completing their gunnery qualifications on Tanks, Bradleys, and Paladins. Over the next six months, the Division will complete multiple iterations of gunnery across the two combat brigades; our Soldiers and leaders are engaged in tough, realistic training to ensure we are fit to fight and win our nation's wars.

As we close out the year, we will commemorate the "Year of the NCO" with a winter formal ball. This year, we focused on the "Backbone of the Army." The Division hosted multiple panels, ceremonies, and guest speakers over the last year to highlight our incredible NCO Corps. We are honored to have SMA (R) Daniel Dailey as the guest speaker for the ball and look forward to next year's focus, the "Year of Victory."

Lastly, Fort Riley is more than just an Army post—Fort Riley is our home. Our community support is incredible, and a key component to the success of our Soldiers and families. We recently hosted Fall Apple Days, allowing families and friends to enjoy food, fun, and music with support from our partners across Kansas. We couldn't do what we do every day without their support to our Soldiers and families.

**Duty First!** People  
Always...All Else Follows!



## Membership Sponsorship Program

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the Membership Sponsorship Program. We continue to provide paid memberships to many Active-Duty Soldiers thanks to your generous contributions.

It takes all of us to have a successful Society and we thank

our members for such generosity. I encourage everyone to share your Big Red One story and the story of the Society of the First Infantry Division with others and invite them to join.

Thank you for sponsoring Active-Duty Soldiers.

## Society of the First Infantry Division Support Activities

Thank you to all our members and sponsors who donated to the Big Red One Support Fund. Your generous donations enable various activities, events and programs for our 1st Infantry Division soldiers and families. Here are some examples:

- Donated \$100 to the May 2023 Volunteer of the Year on Fort Riley.
- Provided cake for the Army Birthday Celebration
- Supported the annual Fort Riley Day at K-State Football 2023 with food ticket vouchers to 11ID active-duty soldiers and veterans.
- Sponsored the Black Tie Tactical annual fundraiser. Black Tie Tactical is a non-profit organization that provides formal wear, job interview attire and uniforms for soldiers, family members and veterans free of charge.
- Sponsored the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley team (soldiers) that competed in the annual AUSA 10-miler event in Washington, D.C.
- Partnered with Stronghold Food Pantry (a charitable organization founded by a former 1st Infantry Division spouse). We donated perishable foods along with dry goods (from Stronghold) and helped deliver the items to military families on Fort Riley and in local communities.
- Donated toys to the annual Operation Santa Clause program to assist military families (ranks E-1 to E-5) who may face

### Growing Society Membership Opportunity

Support an Active-Duty E-1 to E-7 with a one-year Membership (\$10.00) into the Society.

Make checks payable to the SFID "Sponsor Active-Duty Soldier"

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

**Or go to our website:** [1stid.org](http://1stid.org)  
(select the Sponsor New Member link on the home page)

financial difficulties during the holiday season. Toys and gift cards are provided for children from birth to 18 at no cost to the soldiers.

Finally, once again, the Society will be providing Commissary Gift Cards this holiday season. The cards will be donated to the First Infantry Division and Fort Riley Chaplain's office for distribution to families in the ranks of E-1 to E-6 who need extra help this time of year.



## Request for Help

Dear 1st Infantry Division Vietnam Veterans,

I served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in combat with the 1-18 Infantry, Company D, Mike Platoon, 2nd squad. My job was a Point man. I was wounded on November 11, 1969, tripping a hand

grenade booby-trap.

The VA sent a letter out years ago that the heaviest sprayed area of Agent Orange in Vietnam was Core 111. I have type 2 diabetes and stage 3-4 kidney disease, connected to Agent Orange.

In 2014, I was tagged with bone cancer, called

Chondroplasty Osteosarcoma. The VA says it's not connected to Agent Orange. My cancer has traveled from my left leg to my lungs, and in 2019 it went to my thyroid. It's a rare cancer, especially traveling to three parts of the body.

I'm looking for anyone

who served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam who is suffering from the same bone cancer. You can reach me at **513-745-9073** or **bbcardcorner@fuse.net**.

**Tom Pfirman**

(nickname "Cincinnati" in Nam)

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL



## SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

P.O. Box 2307

Fort Riley, KS 66442

Phone: 785-579-6761

[www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org)



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
First MI Last Suffix Jr., II, Etc.

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

#### COMPLETE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OR TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS:

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

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

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

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

**UNITSERVED IN OR PRESENT UNIT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(COMPANY) (BATTALION/REGIMENT) (BRIGADE)

#### SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please check one)

ALL MEMBERSHIP TYPES INCLUDE AN E-SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRIDGEHEAD SENTINEL

#### ACTIVE DUTY ONLY:

(CURRENTLY SERVING WITH THE BRO)

#### LIFE - VETERANS:

#### VETERANS

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

ANNUAL  
☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$10  
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$15  
☐ O5 TO O8 \$20

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

#### ASSOCIATES (Family and Friends of the BRO)

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

3 YEAR  
☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$25  
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$40  
☐ O5 TO O8 \$50

LIFETIME  
☐ E-1 TO E-7 \$75  
☐ E-8 TO O4 \$200  
☐ O5 TO O8 \$250

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ (CVC CODE & SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

Return this form and your check. If paying by credit card, call us at (785) 579-6761

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





## Supporting Our Youth



The Society's Phyllis Fitzgerald presented four Junior ROTC students with a coin and a certificate at the annual Junction City High School Awards night.

## "JC" Statue Unveiled in Junction City

On Veterans Day, Soldiers of the 1st Infantry DIVARTY assisted the Society's executive director, Phyllis Fitzgerald, in

the unveiling of the Big Red One "JC" statue in Junction City, Kansas. Both sides of the statue capture the history

of the 1st Infantry Division. There are 10 JC statues in the downtown area. This is No. 8, sponsored by the Society of the

First Infantry Division. The artist was Mindy Allen from Mindy's Murals in Junction City.



## Keep Your Contact Info Up-to-Date!

Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? If so, please let us know.

We value our members and want to make sure that we keep in touch with you. It is especially important that if you move, change your phone number or your email address that you inform us so that we can update your member profile.

When we send out emails or post office mail, we get a significant number of returns, whether it is from a bad address, or a bounced/bad email address. The same is true with phone numbers, if we need

to call you and the number is no longer in service, we have no way of talking to you.

We want to be able to stay in touch with you, but we need your help.

Please contact us with any changes in your status as soon as possible so that we can update your member profile.

**Email us at:** [sfidkansas@gmail.com](mailto:sfidkansas@gmail.com)  
Or: [sfid1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfid1919@gmail.com)

**Or call us at:** 785-579-6761

**Or Mail us at:**  
Society of the First Infantry Division  
P.O. Box 2307  
Fort Riley, KS 66442



# Stronghold Community Food Bank Partnership

The Society of the First Infantry Division recently partnered with Stronghold Community Food Bank to deliver perishable food items and dry goods to military families on Fort Riley. Monica Bassett, Founder and CEO of Stronghold, contacted Executive Director Phyllis Fitzgerald to initiate a partnership and collaboration. Together with Stronghold, we will be reaching out into the local communities to reach military families who live outside Fort Riley.

Thank you to our members for donating to the Big Red One Support Fund. The money allows us to help soldiers and their families. For more information, please see the *JC Post* article below.

## Food aid delivered to Fort Riley families today

*June 7, 2023 -- The organization "Stronghold" is expanding its operations to Fort Riley in partnership with The Society of the First Infantry Division to aid the one in four military families facing food insecurity.*

*Monica Bassett, Founder and CEO of Stronghold, delivered \$50 worth of nonperishable groceries and \$75 worth of basic necessities to Fort Riley families in need today. Phyllis Fitzgerald (CW3 Retired) and Executive Director of the Society of the First Infantry Division and Bassett purchased fresh protein and produce, dairy items, and bread for the community to ensure nutritious foods are available for patrons. Through this partnership, military families will be able to stock their shelves and refrigerators to alleviate food stress during the summer, according to Fitzgerald.*

*Basset said, "We are grateful that the Society of the First Infantry Division is linking arms with Stronghold to stand in the gap to ease the burden of this silent crisis within our military community."*





## Task Force Centurion (1-34 Armor) 20th Anniversary Reunion

In September, Veterans, Soldiers, family members and friends of 1-34 Armor gathered at Fort Riley for the 20th Anniversary of their deployment to Iraq. This deployment was the first for the 1st Infantry Division as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and lasted one year starting in September 2003, in the al Anbar Province of Iraq. Over 200 Veterans and family members attended the anniversary, the first time the unit had gathered since returning from the deployment.

Events included an open house and static display on Fort Riley, sponsored by 2-34 Armor, and a dinner sponsored by the Junction City American Legion Post. A formal memorial service was held to honor the 23 lives lost during the deployment.

The reunion allowed members of the unit to reconnect, share stories, and remember the sacrifices that were made two decades ago. Initial plans are already underway for a 25th Anniversary Reunion in 2028.

Phyllis Fitzgerald (Executive Director of the Society of the First Infantry Division) gave an update regarding getting the 631 Post 9/11 names added to the First Division Monument. She advised the Society will be using all means available to get the word out on the date of the unveiling of the names and the new Desert Storm plaque.





# Capt. Larry Taylor Awarded Medal of Honor

On September 5, President Joe Biden awarded the Medal of Honor to Army Captain Larry L. Taylor (Retired), Vietnam Veteran and Life Member of the Society of the First Infantry Division.

Taylor received the medal for his heroic actions on the night of June 18, 1968. Flying a Cobra attack helicopter, Taylor saved a 4-person Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team that was surrounded by the enemy and out of ammo. He did so at considerable risk to his own life. In fact, the Army said that what Taylor pulled off had never been tried before.

A 1st Lt. at the time, Taylor was serving in D Troop (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division. He flew over 2,000 combat missions in UH-1 and Cobra choppers, stationed in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.

Taylor, now 81 and living in Tennessee, is the Big Red One's 38th recipient of the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military award for valor.

We are all proud of Capt. Taylor for his remarkable service to our country and fellow Soldiers. He truly lived up to the motto, "Leave No Man Behind."

To learn more about Capt. Taylor and his service career, click here: <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/taylor/>



*Vietnam chopper pilot is the 1st Infantry Division's 38th MOH recipient*



# BEYOND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

We believe there's no better way to show our appreciation  
than to make a difference in the many issues facing  
the veteran community.

And there's no challenge more urgent  
than the epidemic of veteran suicide.

USAA founded **Face the Fight™** to end veteran suicide.  
Learn how you can join the fight, find help  
and support your fellow veterans.

[usaa.com/VeteransDay](https://usaa.com/VeteransDay)



Face the Fight™ is a coalition to prevent veteran suicide by breaking the stigma  
of seeking help, increasing awareness and supporting our partner organizations.

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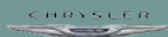
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# VALOR



# Veterans Day 2023

## Saying “Cheers!” to Our Veterans

The First Division Museum at Cantigny held a unique event for veterans on November 11. The Veterans Day beer tasting, called Brew It Forward, drew a large crowd that pitched in to make sure veterans received their drinks on the house while also supporting the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Veterans in attendance drew from a basket of beer tokens paid for and donated for their use by visitors wishing to say “thank you” on Veterans Day. Guests could

also donate directly to the shelter. More than \$2,500 was raised for MSHV, located about two miles from Cantigny.

Eight craft breweries and one veteran-owned distiller supplied the beverages, served up in the First Division Museum’s Tank Park. Fire pits surrounded by hay bales and Adirondack chairs added a fun and social element to the event. Food, lawn games and family activities to honor vets also were available.



**VETERANS DAY AT CANTIGNY**





### Local Chapters of the Society

The Society currently has six chapters, located in Indiana, Kansas, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Each issue of the Bridgehead Sentinel allocates space for the chapters to share updates about their meetings and activities.

Interested in starting a

chapter? The Society can assist. Please call 785-579-6761 or email [sfidevents@gmail.com](mailto:sfidevents@gmail.com)

We salute our members who have started or offered to start a chapter in their community.

Chapters with POC information are listed below and on the Society website: <https://www.1stid.org/chapters>



### Local Chapter Updates

*The Society's local chapters always welcome new members. To join or find out more, reach out to the contacts listed below via email or phone.*

#### Indiana

##### **East Central Indiana Chapter**

POC: James Allen  
[Jallen5749@gmail.com](mailto:Jallen5749@gmail.com)  
765-969-7977

#### Wisconsin

##### **Wisconsin Society of the 1st Infantry Division Chapter**

POC: Jeff Anderson  
[jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com)  
608-381-3791

#### Kansas

##### **Junction City Kansas Chapter**

POC: Phyllis Fitzgerald  
[sfid1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfid1919@gmail.com)  
785-579-6761

#### Buffalo, New York

##### **Western New York, SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter, Society of the First Infantry Division**

POC: Dr. John B. Long  
[marinawoolcock54@gmail.com](mailto:marinawoolcock54@gmail.com)  
716-877-6818

##### **New York/Fort Dix New Jersey New York/Fort Dix Branch of the Society of the First Infantry Division**

POC: Antonio Maria  
[black\\_lions66@yahoo.com](mailto:black_lions66@yahoo.com)  
973-477-9360

**Chapter note:** We held a brunch on Sunday, Oct. 15, Sebastian's Schnitzelhaus, in Wrightstown,

NJ. Eight of us attended including three new 1st Infantry Divisions guys. Thank you to the Society of the First Infantry Division for reaching out to BRO veterans who live in the New York/Fort Dix New Jersey area. We are aiming to have brunches on a regular basis. If we get a good response, perhaps every other month.

#### Ohio

##### **Society of the 1st Infantry Division Southeastern Ohio Chapter**

POC: Mike DeBolt  
[1infdivseo@gmail.com](mailto:1infdivseo@gmail.com)  
740-252-1485  
1434 Linden Ave,  
Zanesville, OH 43701

# Desert Storm Monument at Victory Park

In April 2022, at the annual Officers of the First Infantry Division Annual Dinner in Junction City, Kansas, the late LTG (Retired) Rhame and I had a conversation about Desert Storm. General Rhame commented that it would be nice to have a monument in Victory Park at Fort Riley to honor the 27 Soldiers who

sacrificed their lives during the 1990-91 conflict. He was very passionate about our lost and wanted to make sure that they were properly honored.

At the same dinner one year later, we unveiled the Desert Storm monument. Many had tears in their eyes on that Saturday night last spring.

Many thanks to

Lynn Peterson, owner of Peterson Monuments, Abilene, Kansas, for donating the monument. Likewise, we thank the Officer Dinner Committee for donating the bronze plate that will be on the monument with the names of our Fallen.

The monument will be placed in Victory Park next to the 1st Infantry

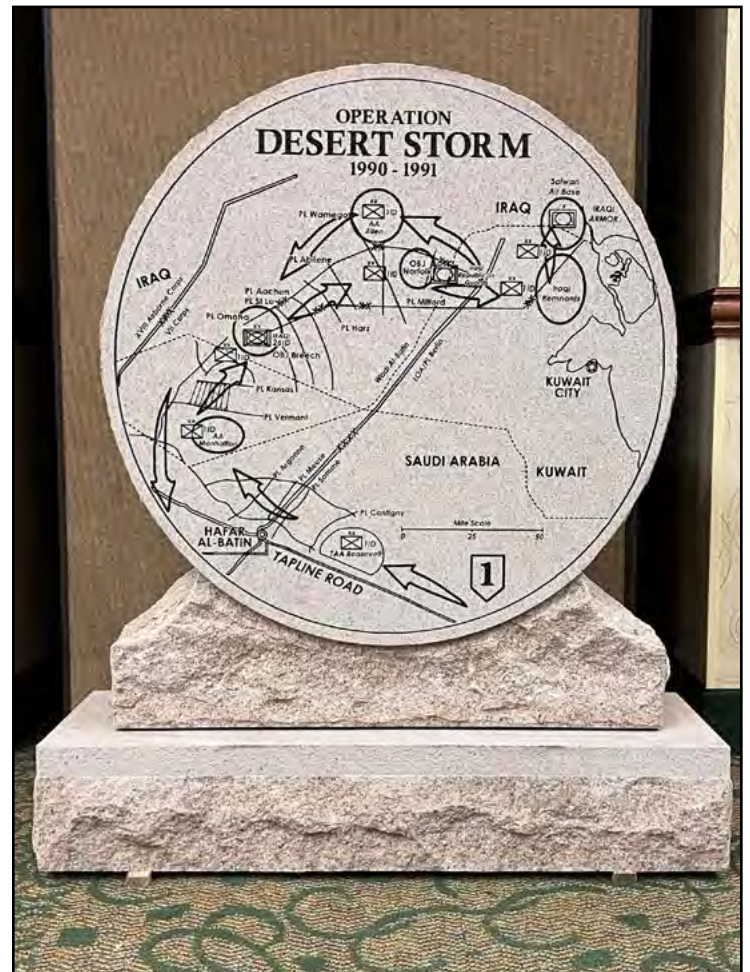
Division Headquarters.

I am honored to have been a part of the effort to complete the monument for General Rhame, who passed away on June 27, 2023. He was a leader of many, including my and my husband's Commander, during Desert Storm.

*Phyllis Fitzgerald*



*Pictured at left: General Rhame, Phyllis Fitzgerald and Lynn Peterson.*





### *Noncommissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Division attend the 102nd Society of the First Infantry Division reunion in New Orleans, Aug. 10-13, 2023.*

The 102nd Annual Reunion of the Society of the First Infantry Division was amazing. The Society staff arrived and hit the ground, making sure we were set up for the arrival of attendees. We had over 325 that attended this year's reunion. MG John V. Meyer, III 1st Infantry Division Commanding General was our guest speaker. MG Meyer introduced the Estonian 1st Infantry Division Commander who also spoke at the reunion.

There were tours set up for the WW2 Museum, City tours, and cruises along the Mississippi River. This year we had a special event at the hotel (Paint and Sip) where if you signed up for the event,

you enjoyed wine, good company and painted a canvas that included the Big Red One Patch with a flavor of New Orleans.

The Welcome Party was wonderful with entertainment by "Flavors of New Orleans". During the party we held a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle (Thank you Rene Caputo for donating the winnings back to the Society of the First Infantry Division). This year a live auction was held, with the auction item being a beautiful American Flag that was donated by one of our members. The 1st Infantry Division Non-Commissioned Officers in attendance assisted with the live auction.

The Society of the First Infantry Division is grateful for everyone that donated items and winnings at the welcome party. Your contributions help the Society's budget.

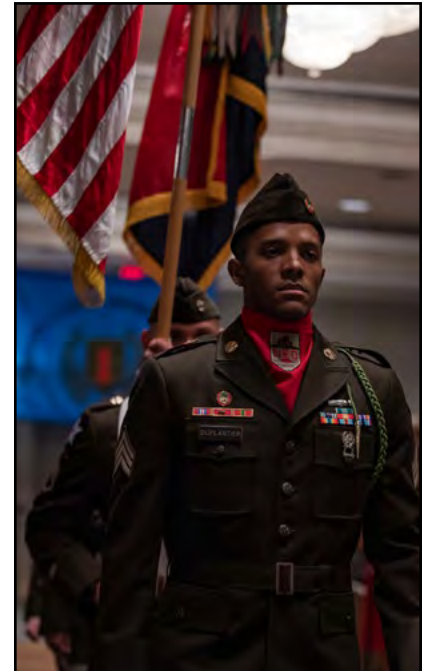
The food at the conflict breakfast was delicious. We were honored at breakfast to hear from Society members, Active Duty Soldier, SFC Jorge Fernandez. Jorge served with the Bravo Company, 1-18 Infantry, 1st ID, with deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. Jorge shared with us at breakfast, his path that led him to serve, his time being deployed and remembering those lost.

The Memorial Service was wonderful and

attended by many. Our Society President LTG (Retired) Watts spoke at breakfast about LTG (Retired) Thomas Rhame whom passed away this past June. General Rhame was the 1st Infantry Division Commander that led the Division in Desert Storm. He will always be remembered. Thank you to the readers this year and to Chaplain Cottingham for the wonderful service.

We would like to say thank you to everyone that attended the 102nd Annual Reunion and we look forward to seeing you and many others at the 103rd Annual Reunion in Albuquerque, NM, (July 31 to Aug 4, 2024).

*Phyllis Fitzgerald*





## Regimental Command Post Competition

The theme for the reunion this year was: "1st Infantry Division, World War II, North Africa - Sicily - Normandy - Germany - Czechoslovakia."

The 1st Infantry Division Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) in attendance selected the DIVARTY

Command Post as the winner. DIVARTY has won this event two years in a row. Congratulations DIVARTY Command Post.

A check for \$250 was presented to DIVARTY during the banquet dinner.

## Regiment with Most Attendees

Congratulations to the 28th Infantry Regiment. They had the most attendees at the 102nd annual reunion. The trophy was presented to Mike MacDonald at the banquet.



## 2023 Annual Reunion Raffle Results

Congratulations to the winners of the annual raffle from the 2023 Annual Reunion of the Society of the First Infantry Division in New Orleans.

**1st Place: \$2000**  
Frank Alexander  
B Battery, 1-5 FA,

ERA: Vietnam, Peacetime,  
Cold War.  
Life Member

**2nd Place: \$1000**  
Chuck Lukas  
B, 1-2 INF,  
ERA: Vietnam,  
Life Member

**3rd Place: \$500**  
Jim Lourentzos  
HHC, 2nd BDE,  
ERA: Desert Storm,  
Life Member

All three winners  
donated their winnings,  
half to the Society and  
half to the Monument

Fund. Thank you for your  
generosity.

Thanks to the 1st  
Infantry Division Non-  
Commissioned Officers  
for assisting in this year's  
drawing, and to everyone  
for supporting the annual  
raffle.

# 2023 BRO Reunion





# 2023 BRO Reunion



The Society of the First Infantry Division would like to thank the following for media coverage (pictures and video) of the 102nd Annual Reunion.

SPC Barnet and SPC Leitner from the 19th Public Affairs Detachment, 1st Infantry Division

did an awesome job of documenting our reunion.

I have received permission from the 19th Public Affairs Detachment, 1st Infantry Division, to share the video and pictures. Links are posted below.

## Video Link

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/u6xkogs1ojuywg2lk8a8a/New-Ore-Trip.mp4?rlkey=gjyqcpnqucrfjwgtbowmqkdt&dl=0>

## Picture Link

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/firstinfantrydivision/sets/72177720310518948/with/53118972131/>



# Stand-To-Match Day

## Armed Forces Community Foundation Stand-To-Match Day

The annual Armed Forces Community Foundation (part of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation) "Stand To" Match Day

was held on November 10th and on Veterans Day, November 11, 2023. Thank you for everyone's support of this opportunity to raise funds for the Society. We

received a tentative total of \$14,927. This number is expected to go up once everything has been finalized by the Greater Manhattan Community

Foundation. I will share the final number in an email to everyone later.

Thank you all again for supporting the Society of the First Infantry Division.

Albert Ruhlmann	John & LaVonne Seitz	Jim & Anne Lourentzos
Loyd Dahl	Jim & Barbara Winters	Thomas Pugh
Robert Earnest	James & Bernice Jones	Pasquale & Rene Caputo
Antonio Maria	John Ashton	Linda & Tom Rhame
Carter Ham	Daniel & Nancy Joyce	Richard & Karen Hime
Chuck & Cathy Lukas	Kenneth Good	Richard Orth
Damian Santiago	Kenneth Kuratko	Ron Atkinson
Cristino Moreno	John & Buffy Kolasheski	Ronald & Anita Watts
Dave Banner	Louis Lagos	Rudolfo Morales
Donald Weigand	Dan Frodsham	Richard Ledyard
LaMonte & Ruth Dupree	Marcia Cox	David Solomon
Joyce Santiago	Maxine Coffey	Theresa Bramlage
Keith & Phyllis Fitzgerald	Adam Treen	Thomas & Bettie Ogles
Greg Fontenot	Mahlon Hile	Thomas Conroy
Frank & Ann Swinford	Melvyn & Julie Gardner	Mike Goudey
Glenn Hanson	Major & Kyong Blake	Anthony Moscicki
George Harness	Greg & Elizabeth Glaze	Joe & Rosemary Rothermund
Howell Bryant	Nancy Morales	Albert Turner
Luis R & Luz Burgos	Richard Nau	Usha Reddi
Terrence Hueser	Thomas & Lorrie O'Donovan	Wilmer & Carol Benson
Terry Hueser	John Michalak	Vincent McPartland
James & Wanda Williamson	Paul Caldwell	William Kania
LTC (Ret) & Janet Nichols	Paul Goddard	William Gates
James & Martha Fisher	Andrew Petrella	William Watson
James C. & Olga P. Madigan	Chris Piquard	William Vonderschmidt
Jeff Jones	Pietro & Susan Piraino	
John Cottingham	Ronald & Brenda Piper	



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

**SOCIETY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**

P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Phone: (785) 579-6761

[sfidkansas@gmail.com](mailto:sfidkansas@gmail.com) Web: [www.1stID.org](http://www.1stID.org)

**BUSINESS APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(RANK OR MR./MRS./MS.) (FIRST) (MI) (LAST) (SR./JR./II/III etc.)

NAME OF BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WEB PAGE ADDRESS: [www.](http://www.)\_\_\_\_\_ WILL BE LINKED ON OUR WEBSITE

**BUSINESS ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (SUITE#/APARTMENT#)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE +4)

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Benefits of a Business Membership are:**

- Your business name, address & phone featured in the business supporter link on our webpage
- You will be listed as a supporter in the Bridgehead Sentinel magazine emailed when published and available year-round on our webpage: [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org)
- An e-subscription to the Bridgehead Sentinel
- Certificate of Membership suitable for framing
- A window decal signifying your support

**Annual Membership Fee: \$200**

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

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

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

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

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THE **SOCIETY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**

-OR-

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

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_  
(MONTH) (YEAR) (Code on back of card)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and your check. If paying by credit card call us at (785) 579-6761

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



**SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION**

**P.O. Box 2307**

**Fort Riley, KS 66442**

Phone: 785-579-6761 [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org)



**Corporate Membership Application or Renewal**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
First MI Last Suffix Jr., II, Etc.

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

**COMPLETE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OR TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS:**

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

Corporate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Platinum Level:**

With a donation of \$2,500 or more, each Platinum Level membership receives a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative numbered print, a Society membership certificate, window decals for your business, e-copies of the *Bridgehead Sentinel* (BHS), and a full-page advertising space in the BHS. Additionally, we give you (4) banquet dinner tickets at our annual veteran's reunion.

**Gold Level:**

With a donation greater than \$1,500 and less than \$2,500, each Gold Level membership receives a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative number print, e-copies of the *Bridgehead Sentinel* (BHS), a 2"x5" advertising space in the BHS, a Society membership certificate, and two (2) banquet dinner tickets at our annual veterans' reunion.

**Silver Level:**

With a donation between \$500 and \$1,500, each Silver Level membership receives a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary First Infantry Division commemorative numbered print, e-copies of the *Bridgehead Sentinel* (BHS), a 2"x5" advertising space in the BHS, a Society membership certificate, window decals for your business, and a banquet dinner ticket at our annual veterans reunion.

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

- or -

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

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

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ (CVC CODE & SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

Return this form and your check. If paying by credit card, call us at (785) 579-6761.

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





# In Memoriam

---



**Richard Biehl**  
Wyomissing, PA  
March 17, 2023  
1-26 INF  
WWII

**Floyd Bufkin**  
July 15, 2023  
B Co. 1-7 FA  
VN

**John A. Burke**  
Lilitz, PA  
May 6, 2023  
2-16 INF  
VN

**David Christensen**  
Columbus, GA  
August 24, 2019  
C Co. 2-18 INF  
VN

**Lyn G. Cini**  
Williamsburg, VA  
March 29, 2023  
HHC 1 ID  
VN

**Ronald D. Graeser**  
Cutchogue, NY  
April 7, 2023  
B Co. 1-63 AR  
VN/CW

**Bob Graves**  
Nantucket, MA  
October 21, 2022  
A Co. 2-16 INF  
VN

**Robert H. Haley**  
Abilene, TX  
April 15, 2023  
D TRP, 1-4 CAV  
VN

**James Michael "Mike" Holden**  
Chattanooga, TN  
October 10, 2023  
C Co. 2-16 INF  
VN

**Floyd Keeney**  
Cedar Grove, WV  
June 30, 2023  
16th INF  
WWII

**Ralph J. Kownacki**  
May 15, 2020  
Powell, Ohio  
1st MP Co. 1st Bn, 3rd Brigade  
VN

**William Kreider**  
Washoe Valley, NV  
September 9, 2023  
1st MP Co.  
WWII

**Harry Rickard, SR**  
Big Sandy, TN  
March 21, 2023  
C Co. 1-18 INF  
VN

**John Swisher**  
Geneva, IL  
July 22, 2021  
F Co. 16th INF  
CW

**Don Warner**  
Lexington, SC  
February 24, 2022  
A Co. 2-16 INF  
VN

**Bill Williamson**  
Williamsburg, VA  
November 9, 2023  
HHC & A Co. 1-16 INF  
VN

## Team Steps in to Help a Gold Star Family

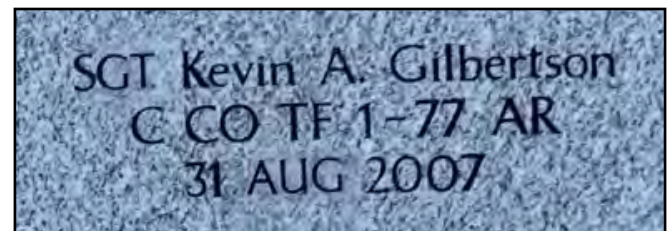
A Gold Star Mother, Keeley Frank, recently contacted the Society of the First Infantry Division to tell us the rank and date of death of her son were incorrect on a monument honoring fallen 1st Infantry Division soldiers.

SGT Kevin A. Gilbertson was 24, and from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He passed away on August 31, 2007, from wounds sustained two days earlier when insurgents attacked his unit

during combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq.

The Society of the First Infantry Division worked with Mr. Lynn Peterson of Peterson Monuments and Design Inc of Abilene, Kansas, and Mr. Chris Gorrell, owner of Gorrell Engraving LLC, Minneapolis, Kansas. The latter corrected the monument and donated its services.

The Society thanks Lynn and Chris for assisting us in this project. We were honored to work with the family of SGT Gilbertson to make things right. May he rest in peace.



## DONATIONS

### General Fund - Fall 2023

Estate of Gerald M. Anderson  
John Andrews  
Gerald Casey  
Pearl Christensen\*  
Tom Decker  
Mike Dodson\*

Randal Dragon\*  
Phyllis & Keith Fitzgerald\*  
John Gingrich\*  
Mike Goudey\*  
Andy Grubb\*  
John Hannon\*

Jennifer Houle\*  
Albert Jensen \*  
Taylor Jones  
Maggie McCombs  
Rick Orth\*  
Robert Schweigert

Antonio Vancheri  
Lynn Wilson  
*\*Donations over \$100*

### Big Red One Support Fund - Fall 2023

Russel Brons  
Richard H. Edwards\*  
Angela Fazio  
Alexandra Goebert\*

Rickey Jelen  
James Jensen\*  
James Madigan  
Timothy Maloney

Larry Meiners\*  
Paul Nelson  
Andrew Ritchie  
Joyce Santiago

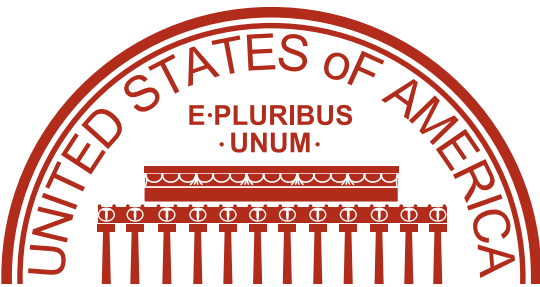
Jim and Betty Stevens  
*\*Century Club donation of \$100 or more*

### "In Memory" Donations

LTG (Retired) Thomas Rhame  
From: Jim & Betty Stevens

William F. McPartland  
From: Vincent McPartland





# Contributions

## First Infantry Division Monument Fund Drive



- First Division Monument located west of White House
- Each Conflict contains names and units of 1<sup>st</sup> ID KIAs
- 12,947 Names on Monument (WWI – Desert Storm)

- Modifications needed to add 631 Iraq and Afghanistan BRO KIAs – Update Desert Storm Plaques to conform with others.

### Society Goal: Redesign, Add Names

I want to do my part in reaching the Society Goal:

Check Payable to: Society of the First Infantry Division

\_\_\_ \$1,000. \_\_\_ \$500. \_\_\_ \$300. \_\_\_ \$100. \_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_

**Donations are Tax Deductible**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 1<sup>st</sup> Inf Division FDN, PO Box 607, Ambler, PA 19002;

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVD \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Gold

- Weinstein Family Charitable Fund
- In honor of H.B. Carrel from Nicholas Houk

### Platinum

- Dr. Patricia Tucker in memory of her husband Gary
- Artillery Association
- Dr. and Mrs. Burrell

### Silver

- In honor of H.B. Carrel from Terri Irons
- In memory of Mrs. Charolette Behrenberg Walker from Dan and Carol Turner

## D.C. MONUMENT FUND

### Gold (\$1000 or more)

- Rick Orth on behalf of the Officers of the 1st Division in memory of LTG Rhame
- Diane Helper in memory of John Helper
- Fred Calenda Memorial Gifting Fund
- Estate of Gerald Anderson
- Society of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division

- Phil Hall
- Frank Alexander

### Platinum (\$500 to \$999)

- Joseph Repya Jr
- LTG and Mrs. Rhame
- LTG and Mrs. Ron Watts in memory of LTG Rhame
- Group donation from Paula Ann Mancini in memory of LTG Rhame
- Chuck Lucas
- LTG and Mrs. Watts

### Silver (\$100 to \$499)

- Michael Fuller
- COL and Mrs. Williamson
- NY/Ft Dix Branch in memory of branch members
- Gary and Jan LaGrange in memory of LTG Rhame
- VII Corps Desert Veterans Association in memory of LTG Rhame
- James Sack in memory of LTG Rhame
- COL and Mrs. Ryan in memory of LTG Rhame
- Ron Heller
- HQ/Support in memory of Bridget Heiser
- Jim Lourentzos
- LTG and Mrs. Watts in memory of LTG Rhame
- HQ/Support in memory of LTG Rhame

- Jen and Keith Sanford in memory of LTG Rhame
- Keith and Phyllis Fitzgerald in memory of LTG Rhame
- Frank and Gwen Brittain in memory of LTG Rhame
- Lisa Taylor and Pamel Philpott in memory of LTG Rhame
- Terry Bullington in memory of LTG Rhame
- Terry Ford in memory of LTG Rhame
- Ronald Rhame in memory of LTG Rhame
- Clara Adams-Ender in memory of LTG Rhame
- Paul Herbert in memory of LTG Rhame

### Bronze (\$1 to \$99)

- Roberta Hartzog in memory of LTG Rhame
- Richard and Sharon Riley in memory of LTG Rhame

# First Division Monument

## The First Division Monument - Washington D.C.

The monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division to honor the valiant efforts of the soldiers who fought in World War I. Located on the corner of 17th and E streets, NW, in the shadow of the White House, the monument was constructed in 1924.

- The center pillar, erected after World War I, contains the names of the Division's 5,516 killed in the Great War.
- The West Wing was dedicated in 1957, with the names of the Division's 4,325 killed in World War II.
- The East Wing was dedicated in 1977 with the names of the Division's 3,079 killed in Vietnam.

- In front of the Vietnam Wing, a tablet was dedicated in 1995, with the names of the Division's 27 killed in Desert Storm Gulf War, including the first female soldier and the first civilian.

The United States Congress has approved adding the names and units of 631 First Infantry Division soldiers killed during Operating Iraqi Freedom (439) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) (192); and provide space for future conflict BRO KIAs.

Planned modifications to the monument:

- Add granite pillars to hold the plaques containing name, rank and unit of each KIA from Operation Iraqi Freedom,

and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

- Rework and properly mount on a granite pillar the names of those KIA in Desert Storm.

- Add granite pillars that could hold plaques of BRO soldiers KIA in future wars.

**Those wishing to contribute to this worthy effort may mail a check to 1st Infantry Division FDN, PO Box 607, Amber PA 19002. To donate by credit card, go to Society of the First Division website [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org), click on "Foundation." You will see a donation button on the right. Thank you for your generosity.**

## Monument Construction Summary

The basic design of the First Division Monument in Washington DC will not change. Granite pillars, similar to those already holding plaques listing those lost in WWII and Vietnam, will be added,

along with the BRO KIA name and unit on plaques mounted on top of the granite pillars. The existing Desert Storm plaque will be replaced with one that is of identical design to the existing plaques.

Additional granite pillars will also be added to accommodate BRO KIA in future operations.



**Current Monument Overhead View:** WWI KIA in the center; WWII KIA to the left; and Vietnam – Desert Storm KIA on the right.

**New Construction:** OIF, OEF, Desert Storm names, along with their units located at "proposed monument." Pillars for future operations located at "future expansion monument."







**Monument Construction Summary continued.... Replicas of the new plaques:** Individual names, along with their units will be displayed by OIF, OEF, and Desert Storm mounted on top of the granite pillars.

## 631 Soldiers Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

In an April 2017 memorandum, the First Infantry Division Commander established the policy for adding names to the First Division Monument in Washington, DC.

**Criteria:** Department of Defense service member and civilian names may be added to 1st Infantry Division monuments when their deaths occurred in the line of duty (or equivalent circumstances for civilians) while assigned, attached, or belonging to 1st Infantry Division Training and Readiness Authority units during overseas deployment service or their

deaths occurred as a result thereof. Names of civilian contractors may not be added to 1st Infantry Division monuments. Qualification for adding names of fallen personnel to monuments will be interpreted broadly to mean incident to overseas service, rather than narrowly to mean direct combat engagement with an enemy.

The Department of the Army approved the 631 names on 19 October 2021.

Each name is listed with rank under the unit they were serving. They include not

only those assigned to the First Infantry Division, but those from units attached to the First Division during combat operations. Examples:

### 1<sup>st</sup> BRIGADE

**1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 16<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY**  
CPT JOHN E. TIPTON  
SPC CHRISTOPHER K. HILL

### 2<sup>nd</sup> BRIGADE

**1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 18<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY**  
SFC RAYMOND R. BUCHAN

## BRO SUPPORT FUND

### The Bro Support Fund

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

If you would like to donate to the BRO Support Fund, please use the coupon on the left or the membership renewal application on page 10 to do so. With your generosity, help and support, the Big Red One continues to take care of its own!

### Century Club

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

Richard Edwards  
Alexandra Goebert  
James Jensen  
Larry Meiners

## BRO SUPPORT FUND

**Yes** . . . I want to help our Society help the Soldiers of the BIG RED ONE!

Here is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution to the BRO Support Fund!

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Please make your check payable to: **Society of the First Infantry Division.** Mark it "BRO SUPPORT FUND" and mail it to: Society of the First Infantry Division, PO Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442.

*Your contribution is 100% deductible for income tax purposes.*

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3a - Baseball Cap - White w/ wreath



4 - 1st ID Baseball Cap Desert Storm



5 - Baseball Cap - Gray 1 ID



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6a - Baseball Cap - OIF/OEF



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8 - 1 ID Flag



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10 - Baseball Cap - Vietnam Veteran



11 - Desert Storm Coin



12 - Society of the 1st ID Coin



13 - Ladies Charm (Chain not included)



14 - Lady Victory Brooch (2")



15 - Lady Victory Lapel Pin (3/4" or 1")



16 - Lady Victory Necklace



17 - Lapel Pin (1 1/4" or 2")



18 - Miniature Badge CAB



19 - Miniature Badge CIB, CIB 2nd



20 - Tie w/ 1 ID Patch



21 - 1 ID Red Blanket



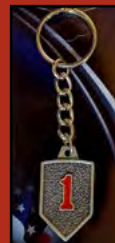
22 - Shoulder Patch (Red, Subdued or Desert)



23 - Coin 1st Infantry Division/Lady Victory



24 - 1 ID Key Chain



25 - 2023 New Men's Polo Shirts (Red/Black)



26 - Coffee Mug (11 oz) 1 ID - Lady Victory



27 - 100 Year Print (Unframed)



28 - Brooch Style (#5, #10, #11)



29 - 1 ID Duty First Socks



30 - Tie Tack 1ID and Lady Victory



31 - Older Version Pull Over Hoodies



32 - 2023 Version Pull Over Hoodies



33 - Men's Golf Shirts (Port Authority - Older Version)



33a - Men's Polo Shirts (2023 Version)



34 - Women's Golf Shirt



35 - Zipper Hoodie





# FALL/WINTER 2023 ORDER FORM

PLEASE NOTE: Previous order forms are no longer valid. Please use this form only until next issue.

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2	Auto License Plate	15.00			
3	Baseball Cap- SFID w/wreath	20.00		White/Black/Tan	
3a	Baseball Cap w/wreath	12.00		White	
4	Baseball Cap-Desert Storm	20.00		Black	
5	Baseball Cap-11D	20.00		Gray	
6	Baseball Cap-11D	20.00		White/Black/Tan	
6a	Baseball Cap - OIF/OEF	20.00		Black	
7	1 ID/SFID Visor	22.00	1 ID/SFID	White/Black	
8	1 ID Flag	12.00			
9	Bumper Sticker	5.00	DS/Iraq/Afghan		
10	Baseball Cap-Vietnam	20.00			
11	Coin-Desert Storm	4.00			
12	Coin-Society of the 1 <sup>st</sup> ID	11.00			
13	Ladies Charm (no chain)	10.00			
14	Lady Victory Brooch	15.00	2"		
15	Lady Victory or 1 ID Lapel Pin	8/10	Small ¾"/Regular 1"		
16	Lady Victory Necklace	11.00			
17	1 ID Lapel Pin	10/15	Regular (1¼") / King (2")		
18	Miniature Badge	12.00	CAB		
19	Miniature Badge	12.00	CIB/CIB 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
20	Tie 11D	20.00	Black with 11D patch		
21	1 ID Red Blanket	20.00	11D	Size is 50" x 60"	
22	Shoulder Patch	4.00	Red/Subdued/Desert		
23	Coin-1 <sup>st</sup> 11D/Lady V	15.00			
24	11D Keychain	8.00			
25	2023 New Men's Polo Shirts		Red/Black		
26	Coffee Mug (11 oz)	12.00	Additional options on website		
27	100 Year Print	20.00	Approx.: 18"x36 ½"	Unframed	
28	Brooch - 1 ID or Lady V	25.00	Style 5, 10 or 11(Additional styles on website)		
29	11D Duty First Socks	12.00			
30	Tie Tack	10.00	11D / LV		
31	Pull over Hoodie "Older Ver"	32/35.00	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes*	
32	2023 pull over Hoodie-New	35/38.00	Red, Black, Green White	*Call For Sizes*	
33	Golf Shirt Men's "Older Ver"	40.00	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes*	
33a	Polo Shirt Men's 2023		Red or Black	*Call For Sizes*	
34	Golf Shirt Women's	35.00	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes*	
35	Zipper Hoodie (Unisex)	30.00	Black	*Call For Sizes*	

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# Museum Notes

PART OF THE MCCORMICK FOUNDATIONS

FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY

MCCORMICK RESEARCH CENTER

## Susan Eisenhower Visits Cantigny

Susan Eisenhower headlined September's Date with History, the First Division Museum's acclaimed lecture series. Addressing a packed house, she discussed "How Ike Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower's Biggest Decisions."

The book, published in 2020, is a retrospective of Dwight D. Eisenhower's wartime and presidential years. "How Ike Led" is part leadership book, part history and part memoir with new insights on the man that only a family

member could offer.

Eisenhower, granddaughter of the 34th U.S. president, is a policy analyst, business consultant, speaker, and writer with over 30 years of experience in national security, leadership, and related strategic issues. She is chairperson emerita of the Eisenhower Institute and founder of The Eisenhower Group, Inc, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting company.



*Above: Susan Eisenhower, center, is pictured on the front porch of the Robert R. McCormick House at Cantigny, flanked by senior leaders and staff of the McCormick Foundation and First Division Museum.*

## First Shot by the First



*Above: Sergeant Alex Arch*

October 23, 1917, is a significant date in our beloved Division's history. That day, at 6:05 a.m., the First Division fired its first shot at the enemy in World War I. The soldier responsible was Sergeant Alexander "Alex" Louis Arch from South Bend, Indiana, serving with Battery C of the 6th Field Artillery Regiment. His post-war portrait, shown here, is part of the First Division Museum's extensive photograph collection.

Born "Sándor Ács" on March 19, 1894, in what is Romania today, the Great War veteran immigrated to America with his family in 1903, anglicizing their names upon arrival. He enlisted in the Army in 1913 and rose to the rank of Sergeant during the Mexican Border War.

Before the Mexican conflict ended, Arch was heading overseas with the American Expeditionary Forces aboard the S. S. Henry R. Mallory in July 1917, to begin training for the battles to come. Just a few months later, on

that historic day in October, Captain Idus R. McLendon, Commander of Battery C, yelled "Fire!" Arch was the first to pull the unit's French 75mm lever sending the explosive into the enemy-occupied territory of Xanrey in northeastern France.

Arch was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his actions during the war and continued to serve with the Division until 1923. He returned to South Bend after his service, settling down and raising a family.

The man who fired the first shot passed away on December 9, 1979. He was 85.

All five generations of Arch's family have served in a branch of the military. Alex III is currently the steward of his grandfather's uniform and the casing from that first shot fired.

Many thanks to Meg Wozniak, Collections Manager at the First Division Museum, for sharing this story.



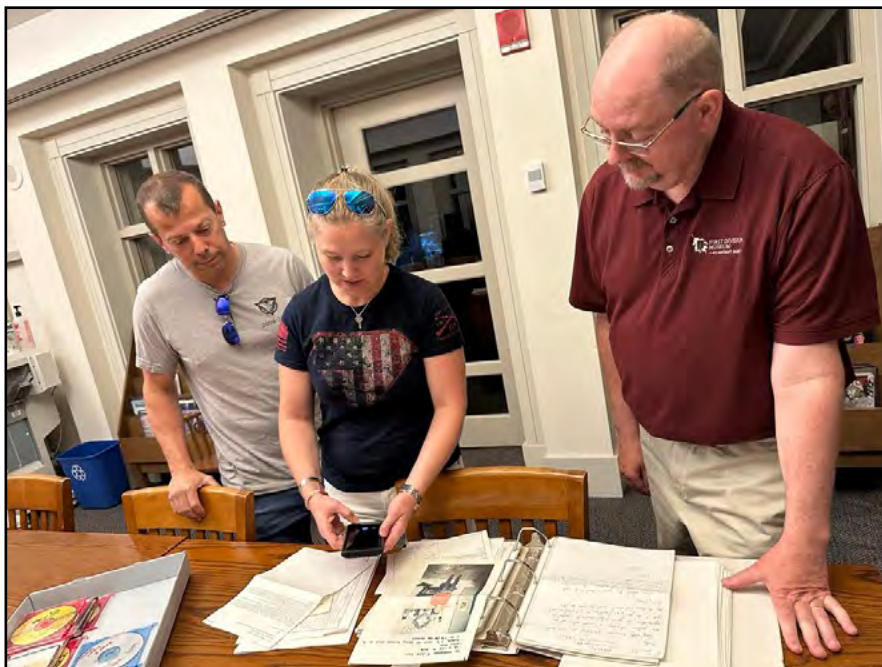
## A BRO Nurse Returns

Col. Jodelle M. Schroeder and her family visited Cantigny in July to tour the museum and view personal artifacts she donated in 2014. A decade earlier, Schroeder served with the 1st Infantry Division as a battlefield nurse in Iraq. She was a commissioned Army Nurse Corps officer at the time, with the rank of Captain. She enlisted with the Corps in 1997 and still serves today, currently assigned as the Deputy Corps Chief of the Army Nurse Corps in Falls Church, Va.

Schroeder generously donated a complete field uniform and several pieces of medical gear to the museum, along with some archival artifacts. Her uniform and medical bag are displayed in the museum's Duty First gallery in the "Women in Combat" section.



*Above: Col. Schroeder (middle, with sunglasses) and family members at the First Division Museum's McCormick Research Center.*



*Left: Schroeder and her husband Brian look at donated items with McCormick Research Center's Research Historian, Andrew Woods. The MRC is located on the lower level of the First Division Museum.*





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