

Fall/Winter 2024

# Bridgehead Sentinel

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION



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

First Division Museum at Cantigny  
151 Winfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189

# Bridgehead Sentinel



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

## SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

### Society HQ Mailing Address:

Society of the  
First Infantry Division  
PO Box 2307  
Fort Riley, KS 66442  
<http://www.1stID.org>

### Administrative Staff:

Quartermaster  
[sfidqm@gmail.com](mailto:sfidqm@gmail.com)  
785-579-6761 (KS)  
855-236-7076 (Toll Free)

### President:

Ron Watts

### Executive Director:

Joshua Sandlin  
[sfidevents@gmail.com](mailto:sfidevents@gmail.com)  
[sfid1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfid1919@gmail.com)  
785-307-1472

## BRIDGEHEAD SENTINEL PRODUCTION

### Bridgehead Mailing Address:

Bridgehead Sentinel  
c/o First Division Museum at Cantigny  
1s151 Winfield Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189-3353

### Staff:

Melissa Gutierrez  
Jeff Reiter

### E-Mail:

[jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org](mailto:jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org)

Scan here for the Society website



## 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.

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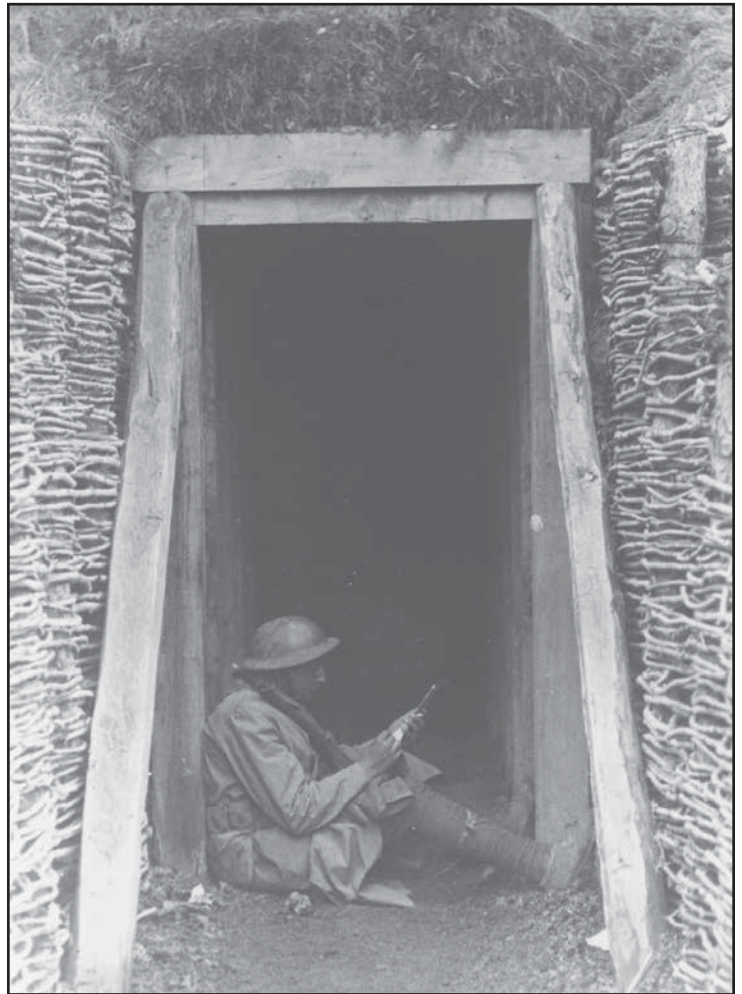


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*A U.S. First Division Artilleryman in the doorway of his bombproof shelter utilizes a few peaceful moments in writing to the folks at home. March 7, 1918.*



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



A happy, healthy, greeting to all of our ~ 9,500 Society members. Your Society is financially healthy, and working to support our members and active-duty BRO soldiers.

**Major General Monté L. Rone:** A special welcome to our new Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division. MG Rone has served in Airborne, Mechanized/Armor, and Stryker formations. His most recent assignment was Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School, Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning) GA. His bio is included in this edition of the *BHS*.

**First Division Monument Expansion:** We completed the addition of the 631 names of BRO soldiers killed in Post 9-11 operations (Afghanistan: 192; Iraq: 439); replaced the DESERT STORM plaque with one that conforms to other plaques; and installed Granite plinths that could be used to hold the names of BRO KIAs in future wars. Thank you, McCormick Foundation, for the \$500,000 grant, and 50 cents matching for every dollar donated. Also, thanks to all our members and sponsors for their generous financial contributions!

### **No debt remains!**

**2025 Society Reunion:** We have started planning for our 2025 Reunion in the Chicago area. Thanks to the McCormick Foundation's generous financial commitments, we will be able to provide our members a relatively

inexpensive reunion. The center piece of events will be the Cantigny Museum and Cantigny Park. Please look at initial details in this *BHS*; mark your calendars and tell your friends. I would love to see you at the Reunion **18 – 21 June 2025**.

**Support to BRO Active-Duty Soldiers:** The SFID has donated for the last several years \$50.00 Commissary Gift Cards at Thanksgiving and Christmas to BRO soldiers and their families needing food assistance. The Division Chaplain has identified a need for 26 of these gift cards each month. Thanks to a generous McCormick Foundation Grant, starting in September 2024, we provide 26 x \$50.00 commissary gift cards each month for distribution to soldiers and their families identified by the Division chaplains. We will also provide an addition 26 at Thanksgiving and 26 at Christmas. We hope to continue this program in 2025.

**Huebner Scholarships:** These are competitive scholarships for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of former members who have served in the First Infantry Division. **As well as children of active-duty soldiers of the division**, and attached units of the 1st Infantry Division. I need your help in spreading the word that we want to help **eligibles attend Trade School**, and College. Details for 2025 will soon be on the Society webpage.

**Post 9 – 11 BRO Veterans:** Finally,

your SFID Board of Directors approved a plan to start moving Society leadership positions to post 9 - 11 BRO veterans. Currently, the VP for Membership, the VP for Reunions, and the Society Executive Director are Post 9-11 veterans. I am encouraging Association leadership to start moving in the same direction. It is time to pass the torch from the Vietnam era to Post 9 - 11 era.

I continue to be optimistic about the future of our Society. Your Society is making a difference in the areas noted above, as well as helping our own and helping active-duty soldiers.

### **Duty First!**

*Ron Watts*

LTG US Army Retired  
President



## Letter from the Executive Director

### By MSG (Ret) Joshua A. Sandlin



I'm thrilled to share that I've settled in as the new executive director. The warm welcome I've received from the Society has been incredibly heartening, and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. I'm looking forward to working together and building a bright future for our Society!

Thanks to the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and all your generous contributions to the BRO support fund, I'm thrilled to announce that we've purchased 44 tickets for SGTs and below to attend the First Infantry Division Year of Victory Ball. Additionally, we've begun our holiday commissary gift card donations for First Infantry Division Soldiers and their families. We started in September and will continue distributing gift cards all the way through Christmas.

Society wants to stay connected with you, but we need your help. If you move, change your phone number, or update your email address, please let us know so we can keep track of our members. We often receive bounced emails and returned correspondence, and without your updated information, we can't ensure you stay informed. Thank you for your help!

We have replenished our Quartermaster with new crew neck sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats, golf accessories, and license plate frames. Unfortunately, the pictures and items are not updated in this edition

of the BHS, so please visit the Quartermaster link on our website at <https://www.1stid.org/quartermaster> to see the latest inventory and place an order. If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone to ensure availability, feel free to call us at (785) 579-6761

We are grateful for our business partners and corporate sponsors. We've been fortunate to establish valuable partnerships that play a crucial role in helping us uphold the legacy and honor our fallen comrades from the 1st Infantry Division. You can find hyperlinks to these partners in this magazine. If you're interested in becoming a partner, please reach out to us!

I'm excited to share that planning for the 2025 reunion in Oak Brook Illinois is going wonderfully! Thanks to the generosity of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Cantigny Park, and the First Division Museum, this event promises to be unforgettable. My plan is to have registration open on February 1st 2025. Please share details about the reunion with fellow BRO Veterans who may not receive our emails and please ask them to visit our website. I truly hope you can all join us from June 18th-22nd 2025, and I look forward to meeting each of you there!

I am truly pleased to serve as your Executive Director. Along with Olivia,

we will continue to work diligently for our members and their families, honoring the legacy of our fallen comrades from the 1st Infantry Division. We are here for you and appreciate every one of you.

### **Duty First!**

*Joshua Sandlin*  
MSG US Army Retired  
Executive Director

# 2024 BRO Reunion Summary

## *Group photo taken following the banquet at the 103rd Annual Reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 3rd, 2024*



The 103rd annual Reunion of the Society of the First Infantry Division was a tremendous success! With over 265 attendees, the camaraderie and shared experiences truly shone through. The variety of events—from the Nuclear & Science Museum to the Sandia Peak Tram ride—offered something for everyone.

It's wonderful to hear that spouses had a chance to connect and socialize,

fostering new friendships that will hopefully continue in future gatherings. The welcome party with live music from the band No Limitz and the generosity of the McCormick Foundation really set the tone for the weekend.

The silent and live auctions were highlights as well, with significant contributions to the Scholarship Fund and the Society's General Fund. Congratulations to John Cross

for winning the 50/50 raffle and for his generous donation!

The Conflict Breakfast, featuring Colonel Retired Roger Crombie, was a poignant reminder of shared history, especially during the memorial ceremony honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The banquet wrapped up the reunion with inspiring words from MG Monte' Rone and the recognition of the

28th Infantry Regiment for their attendance and creative theme. It's great to see the NCO and Soldier of the Year recognized with such meaningful awards.

As you all prepare for the next reunion in Oak Brook, Illinois, I'm sure everyone is already looking forward to reconnecting and creating more unforgettable memories!

*Phyllis Fitzgerald*





# 2024 BRO Reunion Summary







## 2023 NCO and Soldier of the Year

The 2023 NCO and soldier of the year are:

**NCO:** SGT Ramirez, Danilu, HHC, 1 ABCT

**Soldier:** SPC Kinzi, Dustin HHC, 1063 AR, 1ABCT

We presented a plaque and membership into the Society of the First Infantry Division during the banquet.





## SAVE THE DATES! Oak Brook, IL 18 – 22 June 2025

Society and McCormick Foundation in planning phase for the 2025 Reunion. McCormick Foundation has agreed to provide monetary support. We believe all tours, except for the Cubs game will be at no cost to attendees. Members will only pay for hotel, conflict breakfast, banquet and non-scheduled meals. Admissions to Cantigny Park and Museum will be free for registered guests. There will also be 12 rounds of golf on Thursday and Friday at no cost to attendees (limited to 12 players).

We expect to have registration open NLT 1 February 2025.

**ALTHOUGH TOURS TO CANTIGNY ARE FREE, YOU MUST REGISTER, SELECT DESIRED TOURS, AND MEAL SELECTIONS. BUS TRANSPORTATION WILL BE LIMITED SO REGISTRATION WILL BE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND THE SOCIETY WEBPAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY WILL BE POSTED AS PLANNING IS COMPLETED.**

This has the makings of a great, relatively inexpensive Reunion, so we hope you will register early and attend scheduled events.

## 2025 Tentative Reunion Program

### Wednesday, June 18

Registration Open  
Max 12 Golfers @ Cantigny Golf Course

### Thursday, June 19

Tour: Museum and Cantigny Park  
Spouses Tour: Gardens, McCormick House, Cocktails  
Max 12 Golfers @ Cantigny Golf Course  
Baseball: Chicago Cubs vs Milwaukee (afternoon game)

### Welcome Party at Hotel

### Friday, June 20

Conflict Breakfast  
Tours: Museum and Cantigny Park  
Evening: Cocktails and Musical Celebration

**\*Free admission to Cantigny for Reunion Attendees Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22**

### Saturday, June 21

All Day: Cantigny Museum and Park Free to Reunion attendees (no transportation provided)

#### Hotel Events:

0800 Board of Directors Meeting  
1000 Memorial Service  
1100 General Membership Meeting  
1400 Spouse Seminar/Discussions  
1800 Cocktails  
1900 Banquet

### Sunday, June 22

Free admission at Cantigny for Reunion attendees (transportation is on your own)  
1500: Free Concert at Cantigny (transportation is on your own)





## Society of the First Infantry Division Member Profile Update

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

Please find below the composition of our membership. Please keep in mind it does change daily but generally the total numbers stay close.

On October 1st, 2024, we had a total of 8918 active members (number does not include business partners or corporate sponsors). Some of our members have served in more than one era but this does not change the percentages.

### Members:

Life.....	<b>8230</b>	92%
Active Duty.....	<b>151</b>	1.69%
Regular Veteran.....	<b>414</b>	4.64%
Executive Veteran.....	<b>25</b>	0.28%
Associate.....	<b>43</b>	0.48%
Business Partner.....	<b>38</b>	0.43%
Corporate Sponsor.....	<b>18</b>	0.20%

### ERA Served:

Post 9-11.....	<b>4023</b>	45.11%
Vietnam*.....	<b>2049</b>	22.9%
Peace Time.....	<b>1026</b>	11.5%
Unknown/NA.....	<b>127</b>	1.42%
Balkans.....	<b>549</b>	6.15%
Cold War.....	<b>392</b>	4.39%
WW II*.....	<b>220</b>	2.46%
Desert Storm/Gulf War.....	<b>220</b>	2.46%

\*Includes widows

What we are learning is that statistics point to the Post 9-11 era membership as passing the Vietnam era.

With the composition of our member database, please note that at present time 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.





## Commanding General's Note

### By MG Monté L. Rone



Hello Soldiers, Friends, and Families of Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division! My family and I have been truly humbled by the amazing last two months I have spent in command. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for the warmth and hospitality you have shown us. We are so thankful for all you do every day and for the incredible support over the past two months. It is an honor to be part of the proud legacy you and all those who have supported the 1st Infantry Division have done to create such a storied division.

It is my continued pledge to nurture this legacy, ensuring that our Soldiers are fit, inspired, disciplined, trained, and READY to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The Big Red One is already renowned for its valor and history. We are not only one of the Army's most storied formations but also a testament to excellence and dedication. Our Soldiers embody the Army values, consistently demonstrating professionalism and commitment to their duties.

Our installation continues to stand as one of the premier facilities in the nation. Fort Riley's world-class facilities were recently showcased during the Mobilization Force Generation Exercise III, which involved units and Soldiers from Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and across the United States. This exercise

tested Fort Riley's ability to mobilize and deploy reserve units for large-scale combat operations anywhere in the world. These opportunities highlight Fort Riley's role not only in supporting Soldiers stationed here but also in enhancing the readiness and capabilities of Soldiers nationwide.

As we look ahead, the 1st Infantry Division is continuing a year filled with premier training events and inspirational leadership. Our Soldiers are engaged in essential exercises that sharpen their skills and readiness. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team is dedicated to gunnery training, ensuring our tank and Bradley crews are mission-ready. Meanwhile, the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team is preparing for an upcoming rotation at the National Training Center, where they will be rigorously tested and certified for operations. The Combat Aviation Brigade, recently returned from their deployment in Europe, continues to excel, providing critical support across a wide geographical area. Our Sustainment Brigade is also hard at work, supporting missions worldwide and showcasing the indispensable role of logistics and sustainment in our operations.

I am also immensely proud of the division staff for their outstanding work during the command post exercise, Danger Gauntlet I. Their efforts to

redefine how divisions fight, embracing true innovation and new initiatives, have been nothing short of impressive. This dedication to excellence and forward-thinking approach is what sets our division apart.

The efforts of these Soldiers enable the 1st Infantry Division to remain a formidable force, ready to answer the nation's call at a moment's notice. Through these premier training events and the inspirational leadership of our teams, we continue to uphold our legacy of excellence and preparedness.

The bond between Fort Riley and the Flint Hills community remains exceptional. July and August have been particularly eventful months. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who attended the BBQ on Berry at my home, Headquarters 1, on Berry Street. Your presence made the event truly special and highlighted the strong connections we share, creating an environment where Soldiers and Families feel valued and supported.

Our division's success is deeply rooted in the support and collaboration of our community. Recently, we hosted a Staff Delegation visit, welcoming Military Legislative Assistants and staff from the offices of elected Kansas officials. This visit was an opportunity to share information and cultivate inspirational leaders, fostering a shared understanding

of military operations and how our systems can further support the American people.

Our recruiting and engagement efforts have extended beyond the Flint Hills region, reaching Missouri, Iowa, and Wyoming. This demonstrates our commitment not only to local support but also to enhancing Army recruiting operations nationwide. Through these efforts, we continue to showcase the ongoing transformation and dedication of our unit.

Looking ahead, we have exciting opportunities to strengthen our bonds further. On October 5th, we will host the Fall Apple Day Festival at Fort Riley, inviting the community to explore our installation and learn more about our mission. It's a chance for you to see firsthand the dedication and professionalism of our Soldiers and to deepen the connection between Fort Riley and the surrounding area.

As we move forward, we must also acknowledge the challenges we face. One of my primary concerns is ensuring that our single Soldiers have a fulfilling and engaging experience here. While we do an excellent job supporting our Families, we must find innovative ways to provide activities and opportunities for our single Soldiers. Their well-being is crucial, and I am committed to working with the community to address this need. I am inspired by the potential of our partnership and confident that together, we can create an environment where all Soldiers thrive. Whether through community events, volunteer opportunities, or simply opening our doors to foster interaction, we will find ways to enrich the lives of every Soldier at Fort Riley.

In closing, I want to reiterate my gratitude for the warm welcome my family and I have received. This is truly the best hometown in America, and I

am honored to serve as your division commander. Together, we will continue to build on the proud legacy of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, ensuring we remain a vital and vibrant part of the Flint Hills community. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. I look forward to the journey ahead and to making a positive impact alongside each of you.

## **Duty First!**

***MG Monté L. Rone***  
Commanding General  
1ID and Fort Riley

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## **2024 Best Squad**

Executive Director Phyllis Fitzgerald presented the 2024 1st Infantry Division Best squad winners with specialty embroidered hats during the annual Victory Week events (June 14, 2024). The squad is from the 1BEB, 1ABCT.

**SSG Elisamuel Suarez**  
**SGT Renato Depradines**  
**SPC Elias Geary**  
**SPC Carter Guzzi**  
**SPC Oscar Albillo**



# Walking the Path of Others



**CARENTAN, France** - It is difficult to describe the great weight hanging over the National American Cemetery on the bluffs of Colleville-sur-mer overlooking Omaha Beach, where Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division landed eighty years ago.

A calm exists here. The sound of the waves below, the birds and the wind, like whispers from the souls who were there laid to rest; those who fought along the beaches, through the draws and up the hills. It is not the sounds of silence, but of the endless rhythm of time, of the natural world now at peace because of those who fought and died there.

Soldiers of today serving in the 1st Inf. Div. traveled to Normandy, France, during the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in order to gain a better understanding of the unit's history and the weight now permanent in the sand and soil of Europe.

"There's no difference between the Soldiers of today and the ones in that cemetery because they all volunteered to serve," said Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div.

These Soldiers, who were invited to Normandy because of their accomplishments, traveled along the beaches and bluffs overlooking Omaha, they stood in the same tide where Soldiers, much like them, assaulted the beach below. They felt with their hands the places where ordinance had ripped apart the earth and where bullets drove themselves into the walls of concrete bunkers after having found their mark.

During a tour led by Col. (ret.) Paul Herbert, a historian and veteran of the 1st Inf. Div., the Soldiers heard stories of some of those who landed on the beaches 80 years ago. They asked questions, eager to know more about those ordinary people tasked to accomplish extraordinary things. They learned of Cpt. John M. Spalding, whose actions helped clear German defenses allowing for Allied troops to get off the beaches and move further inland; Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith, a draftee whose gallant efforts to direct fire towards enemy combatants before being killed in action earned him the Medal of Honor; Pvt. Charles N.

Shay, a combat medic who landed with the first waves at Omaha, saved the lives of 20 Soldiers and earned the Silver Star for his heroic actions that day; and many others who wore the Big Red One patch on their shoulders.

"The life I've lived, the freedom I've had, the opportunity I've had, the prosperity I've enjoyed, everything that is good about my life is in some way derivative of the fact that we did not lose WWII," said Herbert. "Know this history, because particularly for those fellas that wear a Big Red One patch on your shoulder, or a Screaming Eagle, or an All-American, or an Ivy, or whatever the outfit is that served here or elsewhere, you've inherited a hell of a legacy. These guys set the standard. This is what we're living up to. When we walk around with that patch on our shoulder, that's what it means."

Prior to Operation Overlord and the Allied invasion of Normandy the Nazi war machine had cleared the bluffs adjacent to the beaches of Normandy entirely. They removed all the trees and vegetation, killing as much of the natural landscape as possible in order to build their Atlantic Wall. These efforts created the perfect landscape for German troops manning machine gun nests and artillery emplacements to capitalize on uninhibited fields of fire.

"It's incredible to hear what [they] were able to accomplish," said 1st Lt. John Pezzolanti, an engineer officer serving in the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. "How fortified this area was and what they went through it's just amazing what they were able to accomplish. Thinking about what it would have been like to do it; I can't even put myself in their footsteps. It's really remarkable."

Landings began soon after 6:00 a.m., just as the sun began to present itself over Europe to the east. In the ensuing minutes, Allied forces braved a maelstrom of German fire taking thousands of casualties in the first few hours alone.

Despite the German efforts, this “impenetrable” wall was breached in a single day due to the efforts of a massive Allied force with a singular mission; to liberate France and enact the beginning of the end of Hitler’s regime.

Estimates suggest that nearly 160,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, a small fraction of the more than two million soldiers, sailors, pilots, medics and others from dozens of countries supporting the invasion effort elsewhere.

“The Soldiers who fought here, and especially the Soldiers who died here saved the world from Hilter’s vision and from what the world might have been had he won the war,” said Herbert. “Everyone of us that is alive today owes them because we’ve grown up in a freer and more prosperous world because of what the Soldiers did here.”

Of the 4,414 Allied troops killed on D-Day, 2,501 were American. Between June 6 and July 24, 1944, the 1st Inf. Div. lost 657 Soldiers. Their names are etched in the stone on a monument overlooking the beach taken by the Big Red One during the conjoined effort to liberate France and the rest of Europe. By the end of the Second World War the 1st Inf. Div. had lost 5,516 Soldiers.

Reflecting on those losses, Soldiers serving with the 1st Inf. Div. visited these sites alongside other military service members from across the United States and the world. Between ceremonies hosted by the Big Red One were others conducted by Soldiers of the British, Belgium, Canadian, Dutch, French, and German armies all taking moments to memorialize the same events and the people who participated in them.

“The French do an incredibly good job of preserving these historic sites and preserving the legacy of D-Day and the importance of D-Day,” said Herbert.

Today, these sites, once plagued by some of the most horrific acts of combat ever recorded, are now known in French



as a, “site naturel protege,” land protected for its natural biodiversity and beauty. Places as diverse as people who landed upon them eighty years ago; a place no longer vibrating to the sounds of bullets, artillery and war, but to the sounds of the waves, the wind, the birds and the quiet calm of peace these souls earned.

Approximately 180 veterans who served in the Second World War attended celebrations across Normandy during the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. As the months and years go by and as with all

living things these veterans will move on to the next, taking with them their vivid recollections of the events they experienced first hand.

The veterans living and dead, adorned and celebrated by the French and world alike, are owed a magnificent debt, one that can only be paid by the sharing of their stories, so that the world might never know such horrors again.

*SPC Kenneth Barnet*



## Big Red One Welcomes New Leader

FORT RILEY, Kan. -- The 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley hosted a division change of command ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field, Fort Riley, Kansas, June 27, 2024.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe, commanding general of the III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos, presided over the change of command ceremony held to honor Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer, III, the division's outgoing commanding general, and to welcome Maj. Gen. Monté L. Rone, the division's incoming commanding general.

The change of command ceremony is a military tradition representing a handover of authorities and responsibilities within a unit or command. The colors flown at every ceremony represent the history, tradition, and accomplishments of a unit throughout its history. The passing of the colors signifies more than a change in power and authority, it signifies a new chapter for the division in its long history of service to the nation and the American people it has sworn to defend.

Meyer, who assumed command of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley in May of 2022,

expressed his appreciation of the Soldiers in formation and the importance of the oath taken and upheld by all Soldiers.

"We often talk about that Soldiers take an oath and serve something larger than themselves without ever articulating what that something is," said Meyer. "That something that these Soldiers standing in front of you took an oath to, are the ideals of our country, contained in the constitution. They have raised their right hand and vowed to support and defend those ideas and all of them give us hope that tomorrow will be better than today. So, to all those Soldiers who have served with me these past 25 months, thank you."

Meyer has proudly served the 1st Inf. Div. for over two years and expressed confidence and appreciation for the incoming commanding general and his family. Meyer will move forward as the Chief of Staff at United States Northern Command, at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

"Now as we bid farewell to team Meyer, we are welcoming a fantastic team in Monté and Michelle Rone," said Bernabe.

"Monté is coming to us from the Maneuvers Center of Excellence, where he was the commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School. I'll tell you, he is a leader with a reputation of excellence."

Maj. Gen. Rone was commissioned in the Infantry upon graduation from Eastern Michigan University in 1995. Rone has served in Airborne, Mechanized/Armor, and Stryker formations. His first assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"My family and I are humbled and grateful to Army senior leaders for allowing us and entrusting us with command of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley," said Rone. "It is an honor to join the ranks of this storied division with its tradition of excellence, mission success and enduring commitment to caring for Soldiers, their families and civilians."

*SPC Kenneth Barnett*



## 2024 Scholarship Recipients



- **Joshua Isfan** will be attending the University of Alabama majoring in Biology (pre med)
- **Benjamin Soyka** will be attending the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities majoring in Computer Science
- **Abigail Coakley** will be attending the University of Tulsa majoring in Communications Sciences & Disorders
- **Samantha Guenther** will be attending Grinnell College majoring in Chinese & Linguistics
- **Dawson Bice** will be attending the University of Florida Honors Program majoring in Economics with a pre-law minor
- **Jonathan Corrigan** will be attending Tufts University majoring in Environmental Engineering
- **Katie Elgan** will be attending Brigham Young University majoring in Elementary Education
- **Kaitlyn Medeiros** will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park majoring in Biological Sciences
- **David Van Wagenen** will be attending Princeton University majoring in International Security Studies
- **Nathan Miles** will be attending the University of Tennessee majoring in Journalism & Electronic Media-Sports Concentration
- **Allison Brooke** attending the University of Virginia majoring in Foreign Affairs, Russian Language and History
- **Martin O'Hara** attending Texas Christian University majoring in Business & Finance
- **Isaak Winkle** attending the University of Florida majoring in Pre-Med
- **Christopher Battiloro** undecided between James Madison University, Clemson and Virginia Tech majoring in Engineering & Finance
- **Gracyn Jones** attending Kansas State University majoring in Animal Science (Pre-Vet)

### Griffin Scholarship

#### 1st Annual Griffin Scholarship

- **Connor Durham** attending Reinhardt University majoring in Pre-Athletic Training

## 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 1st Infantry Division with others and invite them to join.

Thank you for sponsoring Active-Duty Soldiers.

Richard Baker  
Trent Laviano

### 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".

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(there is a link on the right-hand side of the homepage under quick links – Sponsor New Member)

## Society of the First Infantry Division Support and Donations

Thank you to all our members and sponsors who donated to the Big Red One Support Fund. Thanks to your generous donations, we provided support to various activities and events that support our 1st Infantry Division Soldiers and families. Below is a summary of some of the events.

- Donated \$100.00 for the Fort Riley, 1st ID Volunteer of the Year
- Donated \$500.00 to B Company 1-16 Infantry, Family Resource Group event for dependents and Soldiers.
- Sponsored the best 1st ID Squad Competition with embroidered hats.



## 2024 Spring Raffle Results



Our Spring 2024 (4th annual Raffle – Ford F-150 4x4 Super Cab Truck) was converted to a 50/50 cash raffle, due to lack of ticket sales. Tickets (600 tickets) went on sale on February 19, 2024 and on March 19, 2024 the truck raffle was converted to a 50/50 cash drawing and the drawing was conducted and livestreamed on our

Society of the First Infantry Division Facebook page from our platinum corporate sponsor Valor Automotive of Junction City, Kansas. Thank you, Valor Ford, for partnering with the Society of the First Infantry Division.

The winner of the 50/50 cash drawing was Joe Martin. He is a lifetime member of The Society of

the First Infantry Division member. He served in 4/37 Armor during Desert Storm; HHC, 2nd Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and HHBN during Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).

Thank you all for participating in this year's fundraiser.



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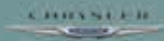
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## Free 1-Year Memberships

Executive Director Phyllis Fitzgerald presented coins and an honorary membership in the Society of the First Infantry Division to 5 Junction City High School Junior ROTC Cadets at the annual awards ceremony on May 14, 2024 at the Junction City High School.

Cadets receiving coin and honorary membership in the Society of the First Infantry Division were:

- C/CPL Aspen S. Bailiff
- C/MSG Frankie Sandoval
- C/SGM Caeler J. Rayburn
- C/MSG Gabriela E. Quinones-Rodriguez



## 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.

Here are the ways to submit changes:

**Email us at:** [sfdkansas@gmail.com](mailto:sfdkansas@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

## 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!

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Frederick & Catherine Dunford | James Jensen |
| Keith Erickson                | K-State Bank |
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Yes . . . I want to help our Society help the Soldiers of the BIG RED ONE!

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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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P.O. Box 2307  
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Phone: 785-579-6761 [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org)



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- Where it is most needed \_\_\_\_\_  
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 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.)

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# At the Front of the Fight: The 745th Tank Battalion, Summer 1944



Prior to D-Day, Company B practiced disembarking their tanks from the Landing Craft Mechanized. The LCM could carry one M4, such as this one, "BOTTOMS UP II." Photo taken by SGT Bill Moreland of Company B.

## The Initial Landings:

Officially attached to the Division in April, the landing on Omaha beach and the subsequent fighting in the weeks after were the Battalion's first combat experiences.<sup>1</sup> The order was given for the Landing Ship Dock HMS Oceanway to begin unloading the 20 LCMs loaded with Company B's tanks.<sup>2</sup> This was unique, as they were the only Allied tanks landed using LCMs. The rest of the battalion was brought in using LSTs on June 7th.<sup>3</sup> The battalion suffered its first casualties on Omaha Beach with Charles Donoghue, a tank commander in Company B, being the first man killed.<sup>4</sup> Donoghue wasn't the last, as Company C lost an entire tank crew the

next day when German Panzerfaust weapons detonated ammunition in SSgt. William E. Hinton's tank.<sup>5</sup>

## Fighting in the Hedgerows:

The 745th played a crucial role in the Division's operations, holding an important distinction amongst units in Normandy. The 745th, and the accompanying infantry were the furthest South units of the Allied Expeditionary Force. After five days of constant attacks, they arrived at the La Vacquerie-Caumont highway. Alongside the 26th Infantry Regiment, the tankers linked up with the British 50th Infantry Division that landed at Gold Beach.<sup>7</sup> By linking up the two beachheads, the 745th had assisted strengthening the Allied

position in Normandy. Company B was also involved in taking two important towns, specifically Hamel and Formigny located less than three miles inland of Omaha Beach.<sup>8</sup> Taking these towns greatly improved the Division's hold on the beachhead. The 745th support gave the infantry advantages over the Germans, however, the hedgerows were a major obstacle for the tanks. As Eddie Ireland put it, "we'd have to hunt for an opening to get through, because some of our tanks that tried to make the hedgerow, they would turn over ... and also they would expose the tank to fire."<sup>9</sup>

## Operation Cobra:

The 745th had been taken off the front line to prepare

for Operation Cobra, training and re-equip themselves for the Normandy breakout. This included the testing of the Rhino attachment used for breaking through the hedgerows. The tankers performed these tests with Major Gen. Huebner, the Division's CG, present<sup>10</sup> and they found that the attachment required further reinforcement in certain areas.<sup>11</sup> The 745th fought its way to Marigny alongside the 18th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Armored Division's Combat Command B,<sup>12</sup> with Company C cutting off German troops from escaping at Coutances.<sup>13</sup> Lt. Col. Wallace Nichols, the Battalion's CO, noted in the After-Action Reports that mounting 1st Division soldiers

on the tanks was immensely successful.<sup>14</sup> This provided greater mobility to the infantry, as they could move and deploy into battle faster with greater coordination with the tanks. July 28th saw Company A engage German Armor, destroying two Panther tanks, suffering only light losses with four M4s temporarily knocked out.<sup>15</sup> Captain Leonard S. Wilds of Company D was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in this engagement.<sup>16</sup>

### Outside of Mons:

Lt. Col. Nichols was the 745th's first member to enter the town of Maubeuge, coordinating with the 16th Infantry Regiment's CO to respond to the large German force amassed about 500 yards from their location.<sup>17</sup> Company A, attached to the 16th, were the first tanks to confront the Germans. The tankers and infantry worked together, along with the 3rd Armored Division, to destroy five German divisions, taking 25,000 prisoners in two days. General Huebner noted the tanks with the 26th Infantry



*Tanks of Company C advance with Infantry from the 26th Infantry Regiment in Aachen Germany, October 1944. The teamwork developed between the tankers and infantry in the summer was critical while fighting in Aachen.*

Regiment assisted in destroying a major German column, destroying enemy tanks and vehicles, until 3rd Battalion called in an air mission to strike it.<sup>18</sup> The 745th was again at the forefront of the Division's actions, providing support and participating in the destruction of the German divisions retreating to defend the German border.

### Conclusion:

The 745th continued its service with the 1st Infantry Division for the rest of the war, being the only Separate Tank Battalion to be permanently attached to a division during World War II.<sup>19</sup> Their attachment to the Division has continued into the present as the 63rd Armored Regiment. The actions of the 745th during

the summer of 1944 had a direct impact on the war effort, as they were always involved in the critical operations.

*Matthew Fitzgerald*

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8 - Krusinski, 43.

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10 - 745th, "After action report," July 18th, 1944. Page 12.

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15 - 745th, "After action report," July 28th, 1944. Page 16-17.

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## Major General Josue Robles, Jr (Ret), 1946-2024

Major General (Retired) Josue “Joe” Robles passed away on July 4, 2024, at the age of 78.

MG Robles commanded the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley from July 1993 until June 1994. He was the 52nd Commanding General of the Big Red One.

MG Roble’s also served in the 1st Infantry Division as special assistant to the G-3 (Operations); Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; and as the

Division Artillery Commander from 1986-1988.

Gen. Robles’ military awards included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), the Bronze Star Medal (OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (OLC), the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal (OLC).

In June 1994 MG Robles retired to El Paso, Texas, and became CEO of USAA.



# In Memoriam

### Arnold “Arnie” Altaffer

Moorcroft, WY  
June 4, 2024  
A Co, 2-16 IN  
VN

### Raymond Lee Bennett

San Angelo, TX  
April 26, 2024  
SVC BTRY, 7 FA  
WW2

### Benjamin Cone

Greensboro, NC  
March 23, 2024  
1-5 FA VN  
VN

### John Conley

New Port Richey, FL  
May 2, 2024  
A, B & HHT, 1-4 Cav  
VN, CW

### Keith Eriksen

Wayzata, MN  
September 23, 2024  
11D BA  
CW

### George Gentry

Long Beach, CA  
June 7, 2024  
A, 2-18 IN  
VN

### Richard C. Ginkinger

Warren, Ohio  
July 17, 2024  
C CO, 3rd BN, 3rd BDE  
VN

### Bob Humphries

Roswell, GA  
September 5, 2024  
D Co, 2-16 IN  
VN

### George Lang

Shoreview, MN  
April 17, 2024  
11th RRU, 2d BDE  
VN

### John Lundin

Fort Mead, SD  
July 4, 2024  
B BTRY, 1-7 FA  
VN

### Pete Masset

Mandan, ND  
September 4, 2024  
A, 2-16 IN  
VN

### Arthur Moore

Junction City, KS  
July 27, 2024  
541st Maintenance

### Josue Robles

San Antonio, Tx  
July 4, 2024  
52nd Commanding  
General of the 1st Infantry  
Division  
PT



# Repatriation of Soldier from the 1st Division 105 Years Later

In late January of 2020, Anthony Hewitt from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) sent a message to our Research Historian, Andrew Woods, in the Robert R. McCormick Research Center (MRC) at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois, concerning a World War I citation for Eugene McAllister. Andrew passed the inquiry to me for further research. In searching the Company “I” 26th Infantry rosters on our Digital Archives, I found that two soldiers had been sent to the 1st Division, with their names in alphabetical order. Both men had come over together in Company “C” of the 161st Infantry, 41st Division. Private Charles McAllister 75396 and Eugene McAuliffe 75264 were sent to the 1st Division from the 41st Replacement Depot Division on June 18, 1918 per Regimental Special Order 108. On 31 July 1918, Private Eugene McAllister 75264 was listed as “Missing in Action”.

Using Ancestry.com to search for the names led to Family Trees on the site for each of the men. Eugene Owen McAuliffe was born in Ireland in 1892. His WW II Draft Card from 1942 has the remark, “Shot thru sholder of Left Arm”. He died in San Francisco, California in 1969.

On Charles McAllister’s Family Tree, Charles was born in Wisconsin in 1893 and is Missing in Action 19 July 1918. Upon collecting all of the information available on Charles, through our Digital Archives, Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, and the National Archives Digitized Records, his military and personal service was followed through the years. The information was sent to the moderator of the Charles McAllister Family Tree on Ancestry.com., Beverly Dillon. We received a thank you and also a reply stating his remains were found on the Soissons Battlefield in France by French

Archaeologists in 2004, and then shipped to Hawaii to DPAA. France requires an archaeological survey of any building activity on any of its sensitive historical sites.

Prior to our email conversation in 2020, Beverly Dillon had been in contact with DPAA and had sent them her and also her son’s DNA to help make identification. We again contacted Beverly in September 2021 to find out the progress of identification, but there was no new progress.

In the fall of 2024, Beverly contacted us and mentioned she had successfully contacted her Congressman. He put her in contact with DPAA, and they finally explained the need for MALE family line DNA for the identification. She was also put in touch, within 48 hours, with the Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Beverly had done the male side of the family tree, as well as her side (her ancestor was Charles’ sister) The Army and Beverly went through her research on the male line for Charles. They found a line that stretched four generations. A distant cousin’s DNA was received, processed and a positive linking identification was made. Due to the Research at the McCormick Research Center, Charles’ designated next of kin received the WW I Victory Medal, Purple Heart and Silver Star.

When the Alaska Airlines Honor Flight with Charles’ remains arrived from Hawaii, 45 relatives, who had never previously met each other, were there at the airport for the arrival of his remains. On August 21, 2024, he was buried with full military honors at the Acacia Cemetery in Seattle, Washington, 106 years after his death at Soissons. Over 50 people attended the burial. In addition to Charles’ great nephew receiving a burial flag, the family decided Beverly

should also receive a flag for all of her efforts to bring Charles home. The burial service included information about Charles’ military service from the research done at the First Division Museum’s MRC at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois. Copies of the all the research, were given to all people attending the burial.

Recently, Beverly wrote in a note thanking those involved in researching Charles McAllister, “The information you have sent me in the last 4 years has helped me to understand the circumstances of his time in the Army. Equally important, it has shown him as a real person, well identified and moving through life during an exceptionally tragic time of war. While his remains were pretty much just a box of unidentified bones to DPAA, real life mentions of his time in the Army helped me see him as a real person, not a fictional character that may or may not have been a real person, distantly related to me at that!”

## *Thomas “J” Perkins*

*Thomas “J.” Perkins has been a volunteer at the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park since early 1992. Originally a Vehicle Volunteer, he added researching at the MRC to his duties in 2012.*

### Local Chapters of the Society

Currently there are five (6) chapters in the states of Buffalo New York, Indiana, Kansas, New York/New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The BHS allocates space for local chapters to share updates. As chapters meet, they can share with everyone what their chapter is involved in and up to.

The Society is available to assist in getting chapters going. We help by reaching out to our members and advising them that a chapter is being formed in their area, along with point of contact information. If you are interested in getting a local chapter going in your area, email or call us (785-579-6761) at Society

Headquarters; or you can email: [sfidevents@gmail.com](mailto:sfidevents@gmail.com)

We salute our members that have offered to get a chapter going in their community.

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

---

### Local Chapter Updates

*Our local chapters always welcome new members. To join one 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

#### Buffalo/Western New York

##### SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter

POC: Dr. John B. Long

[marinawoolcock54@gmail.com](mailto:marinawoolcock54@gmail.com)

716-877-6818

#### Kansas

##### Junction City Kansas Chapter

POC: Joshua Sandlin

[sfid1919@gmail.com](mailto:sfid1919@gmail.com)

785-579-6761

#### Eastern New York

##### New York/Fort Dix Chapter

POC: Antonio Maria

[black\\_lions66@yahoo.com](mailto:black_lions66@yahoo.com)

973-477-9360

#### Ohio

##### Southeastern Ohio Chapter

POC: Mike DeBolt

[1infdivseo@gmail.com](mailto:1infdivseo@gmail.com)

740-252-1485

1434 Linden Ave

Zanesville, OH 43701

#### Wisconsin

##### Wisconsin Chapter

POC: Jeff Anderson

[jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com)

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



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- 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**

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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 \*\*\***

## DONATIONS

### General Fund - Fall/Winter 2024

Frank Alexander  
Richard Airoidi  
Thomas Boyd  
Pasquale Caputo\*  
Jim Champagne  
Lisa Champagne  
Steve Clay  
Thomas Conroy  
Randy Dragon  
Jack Durham  
Gabriel Espinosa  
Greg Fontenot\*  
John Fourhman

Mel Gardner  
Dale Greenfield  
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Michael Guinn  
Lawrence Grzywinski  
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Larry Thompson\*  
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William Vonderschmid  
Jessica Waszak  
Ron Watts  
David Williams  
*\*Donation of \$100 or more*

### Big Red One Support Fund - Spring 2024

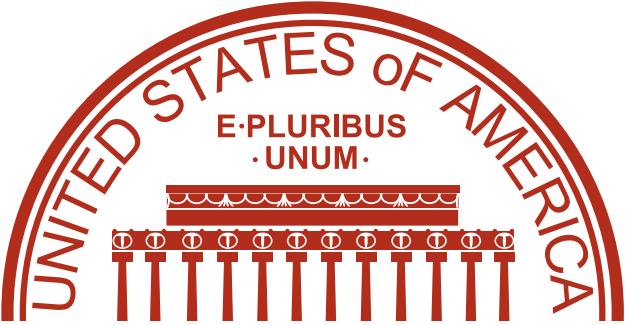
Richard Baker  
Steven Dominquez  
Frederick Dunford \*  
James Jensen\*

Larry Martin  
Lou Murray \*  
*\*Century Club donation of \$100 or more*

### "In Memory" Donations

Robert Humphries, U.S Army  
From LTG (Ret) Ron Watts  
LTG (Ret) Thomas Rhame  
From Jerris Cummings

James "Duke" Schneider, US Coast Guard  
From brother-in-law John Ciak



# Contributions

## HUEBNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Gold

DePuy Family Foundation  
Charlene and Jack Durham in  
memory of their son Kelly  
Weinstein Family

### Platinum

John Cross

### Silver

Ted Nordstrom  
West Point association of Graduates  
in memory of Anthony Jezior  
Lyman Charitable Fund

## GRIFFIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Gold

William Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Clay

### Platinum

Roger Meadows  
William Powell, Jr

### Silver

Steve and Elizabeth Clay  
Brent and Laura Cummings  
Roger Crombie

## D.C. MONUMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

### Commanding Generals (\$1,000 or more)

John Abizaid  
Joe Martin

### Gold (\$1,000 or more)

McCormick Matching Funds  
Go Fund Me  
Fred Calenda Memorial  
Gifting Fund  
COL and Mrs. Curt Torrence  
16th Infantry Regiment Association  
John Cottingham  
Henry Eng in memory of Charles  
Horner III  
Theodore and Joan Fuller  
34th Armor Association  
18th Infantry Association  
Freed Calenda Memorial  
Gifting Fund

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

LJP Richards

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

Bob Humphries  
Die Alte Herren des Cannstatters  
Richard Ledyard  
John Seitz  
Mr. and Mrs. Mayville  
David Soloman  
Tom Branz  
Aric Raus  
¼ CAV Association  
Artillery Association  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Murray  
Trent Lavino  
James O'Donnell, Jr  
George Ulrich  
Ricky Jeter

### Bronze (up to \$99)

Lee Overton  
Jim Winters  
John Spiszer  
Anonymous  
Terrance Ford

# CORPORATE SPONSORS

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors! If you'd like to become a Corporate Sponsor of the Society of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, see the registration form on page 29.

## Platinum Level



Caputo Cheese  
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AUTOMOTIVE

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R2B4 Bramlage Family Foundation  
Junction City, KS  
785-762-2019  
[clintfrancis40@gmail.com](mailto:clintfrancis40@gmail.com)



Boundary Oak Distillery,  
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## Gold Level



**KAW  
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# Silver Level



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Briggs Auto  
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[briggsauto.com](https://briggsauto.com)



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[frontierspiritsjc.com/](https://frontierspiritsjc.com/)



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<https://icon-structures.com/>



D.E.L. Motors  
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## BUSINESS FRIENDS

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Dibben Tax and Accounting  
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Email: [dibbentax@tctelco.net](mailto:dibbentax@tctelco.net)

Exchange Bank, Junction City, KS

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JC Abstract & Title Company  
Junction City, KS Email:  
[toddfawcett@jcabstractandtitle.com](mailto:toddfawcett@jcabstractandtitle.com)

Junction City Kansas Area  
Chamber of Commerce

KS State Bank, Junction City, KS

Manhattan Kansas Area  
Chamber of Commerce

Manhattan Town Center, Manhattan, KS

Mary's Floral, 1034 W. 6th St  
Junction City, KS, 785-762-3355

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Midwest Coachworks, Junction City, KS

Military Outlet, Junction City, KS

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Junction City, KS

Navy Federal Credit Union  
Junction City, KS

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Junction City, KS

Tom's Men's Wear, Junction City, KS

Twin Valley, Clay Center, KS

Twitches Awards & Trophies  
Junction City, KS, 785-226-0815

Twitches Gallery & Gifts LLC,  
Junction City, KS

Valor Network, Metuchen, Seaside, NJ

Walsh Custom and Collision,  
1732 N. Jefferson St., Junction City, KS,  
785-238-8606

# QUARTERMASTER

Order online at [1stID.org/Quartermaster](http://1stID.org/Quartermaster)

1 - Big Red 1 Insulated Coffee Mug 15oz



2 - Auto License Plate



3 - Baseball Cap Society



4 - 1st ID Baseball Cap Desert Storm



5 - Baseball Cap - Gray 1 ID



6 - Baseball Cap - 1 ID (Black, Tan or White)



6a - Baseball Cap - OIF/OEF



7 - 1 ID or FID Visor (Black or White)



8 - BR1 20oz Tumbler



9 - Bumper Stickers (DS/Iraq/Afghan)



10 - Desert Storm Coin



11 - Ladies Charm (Chain not included)



12 - 1st ID Brooch



13 - Lady Victory Brooch (2")



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



15 - Lady Victory Necklace



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



17 - Miniature Badge CAB



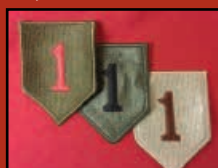
18 - Miniature Badge CIB, CIB 2nd



20 - Tie w/ 1 ID Patch



21 - Shoulder Patch (Red, Subdued or Desert)



22 - Coin 1st Infantry Division/Lady Victory



23 - 2023 New Men's Polo Shirts (Red/Black)



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



25 - 100 Year Print (Unframed)



26 - 1 ID Duty First Socks



27 - Tie Tack Lady Victory



28 - Older Version Pull Over Hoodies



29 - 2023 Version Pull Over Hoodies



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



31 - Ultra Men's Polo Shirts



32 - Women's Golf Shirts (Port Authority - Older Version)



35 - Zipper Hoodie



# FALL/WINTER 2024 ORDER FORM

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

Mail to: Quartermaster Society of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division  
 P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item #	Cost	Qty	Circle Size/Type	Circle Color	Total	
1	"THE BIG RED ONE" Insulated coffee mug 15 oz (red)	22.00	11		Red	
2	Auto License Plate	15.00	58			
3	Baseball Cap-- SFID w/wreath	20.00	6/5		White/Tan	
4	Baseball Cap-Desert Storm	20.00	1		Black	
5	Baseball Cap-11D Gray	20.00	11		Gray	
6	Baseball Cap-11D (writing)	20.00	11		White/Black/Tan	
6a	Baseball Cap -- OIF/OEF	20.00	10		Black	
7	1 ID/SFID Visor	22.00	4	1 ID/SFID	3 White/ 1 Black	
8	"THE BIG RED ONE" Insulated Tumbler 20 oz (black)	12.00	24		Black	
9	Bumper Sticker Afghanistan	5.00	22	DS/Iraq/Afghan		
	Bumper Sticker Iraq	5.00	2			
	Bumper Sticker Big Red 1	5.00	19			
10	Coin-Desert Storm	4.00	9			
11	Charm Women's 11D (no chain)	10.00	85			
12	1 <sup>st</sup> ID Brooch	20.00	8	Various styles of 1 <sup>st</sup> ID brooch		
13	Lady V Brooch	15.00	35			
14	Lady Victory or 1 ID Lapel Pin	8/10	8/211	Small 3/4"/Regular 1"		
15	Lady Victory Necklace	11.00	3			
16	1 ID Lapel Pin	10.00	11	Regular (1 1/4")		
17	Miniature Badge	12.00	9	CAB		
18	Miniature Badge	12.00	5	CIB/CIB 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
20	1 ID Red Blanket	20.00	3	11D	Size is 50" x 60"	
21	Shoulder Patch	4.00	582	Red/Subdued/Desert		
22	Coin-1 <sup>st</sup> 11D/Lady V	15.00	16			
23	Ultra Men's Polo Shirts	40.00	43	Red/Black		
24	Coffee Mug (11 oz) 11D-Lady Victory	12.00	9	Additional options on website		
25	100 Year Print	20.00	34	Approx.: 18"x36 1/2"	Unframed	
26	11D Duty First Socks	12.00	63			
27	Tie Tack	10.00	9	Lady Victory only		
28	2022 Pull over Hoodie	32/35.00	3	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes* limited amount	
29	2023 pull over Hoodie	35/38.00	38	Red, Black, Green White	*Call For Sizes*	
30	Golf Shirt Men's Port Authority	40.00	11	Red, Black, Green, Gray	*Call For Sizes* *Call For Sizes*	
31	Polo Shirt Men's Ultra	40.00	2/1	Green or Gray		
32	Golf Shirt Women's Port Authority	35.00	48	Red, Black, Green	*Call For Sizes*	
33	Zipper Hoodie (Unisex)	35.00	1	Black	*Call For Sizes* limited amount	

New Items Coming to Our  
 Quartermaster Web Store! Check it out:  
[1stid.org/quartermaster](http://1stid.org/quartermaster)

SUB-TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

KS Residents Only ADD 7.75%  
 for state sales tax +(x .0775) \_\_\_\_\_

Overseas Orders ADD 10% +(x .10) \_\_\_\_\_

+\$10.50 Shipping Charge \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*NOTE\*\* Shipping Charge is \$10.50 3

Make checks payable to: Society of the First Infantry Division

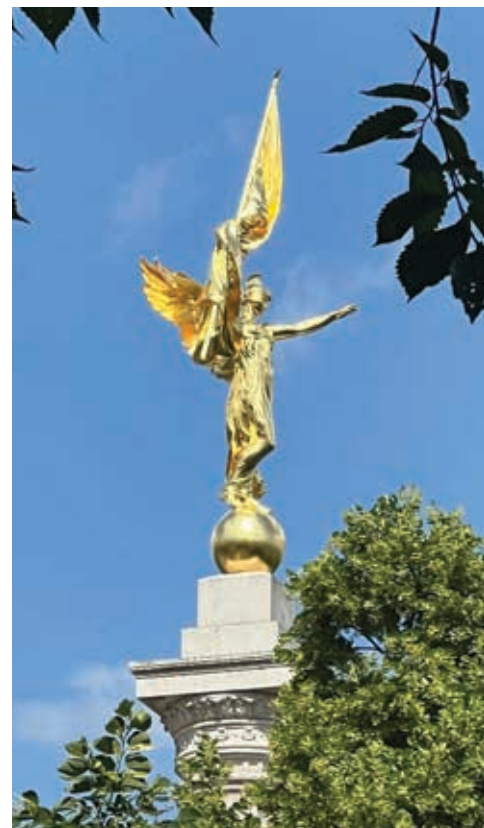
Payment method (circle one): Cash, Check, Visa, MC, Amex, Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 08 25) Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Back of card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# First Division Monument Expansion Dedication



WASHINGTON D.C. — 1st Infantry Division Soldiers supported the Society of the First Infantry Division (SOFID) by participating in the First Infantry Division Monument Expansion Dedication Ceremony, May 26, 2024 in President's Park, Washington, D.C.

To mark the 100th Anniversary of the First Infantry Division Monument, the 1st Inf. Div. honored 631 Big Red One Soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq and unveiled a new Desert Storm plaque containing the names of the 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers killed in Operation Desert Storm.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ron Watts, 47th commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and current president of the SOFID, shared a brief history of the monument, the new features that make up the expansion, and sympathized with the families in attendance.

"Today we continue the proud heritage of the First Division Monument. To your front are the granite plinths with name plaques, containing the names of the 631

Soldiers killed in action: 439 killed in Iraq and 192 killed in Afghanistan," Watts said. "We mourn your [Gold Star Families] loss and pray that you find comfort in the memories of your loved ones, whom we honor here today. They made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with the 1st Inf. Div."

U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, who supported the SOFID with their monument expansion project, joined the Kansas Gold Star Families, Big Red One Soldiers, and veterans in the celebration.

"Today we honor the lives of our heroes and humbly add their names to the First Division Monument. These warriors' names now join the 12, 947 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers who preceded them, each of them too having made the last full measure of devotion," Marshall said. "Our national anthem concludes with a question not a statement: 'Oh say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave?'" Marshall said. "The lives of the 631 Soldiers we honor today answer a resounding, 'Yes.'"

Maj. Gen. John V, Meyer III, the 1st Inf. Div. commanding general, delivered remarks on the division's legacy throughout the past century, and thanked the families for their loved one's sacrifice.

"For 107 years this division, the First Division, has defended the values that make our country great," Meyer said. "I'd like to thank all of the family members for coming here today and all of the Soldiers you represent with your presence here today. We honor your sacrifice and we stand in remembrance. No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty first."

Gold Star Spouse, Sierra Herring, spoke about her late husband, U.S. Army Spc. Josph Lister, who died on November 20, 2003 from an improvised explosive device in Iraq. While sharing her personal story about loss and resilience, she emphasized the importance of remembering fallen Soldiers.

"The monument and adding Spc. Josph's name and adding the Gold Star Families Soldier's names to the monument, means

that their legacy will live on,” Herring said. “People will see his name and be able to find out who he is, that means that you all have guaranteed that Joe will be able to live on forever. People will be able to talk about him, they will look him up and know his story.”

All attention turned to the new granite plinths as the removal of the black cloths unveiled bronze plaques containing the name, rank, and unit of the Soldiers killed in action from Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Veterans, friends, families and Big Red One Soldiers interacted and embraced each other following the conclusion of the ceremony. A mix of emotions could be seen as they remembered their loved ones and searched for their names on the newly unveiled plaques.

The 1st Inf. Div. and the SOFID will continue to recognize past, current and future Big Red One Soldiers for their dedication and selfless service and remember the fallen Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice defending the nation.

*SGT Daniela Lechuga*



## Documentary Film – Vietnam War

The Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association Foundation is proud to present a 47-minute documentary film entitled “Truths and Myths About the Vietnam War” with introduction by actor Sam Elliott. The purpose of the film is to honor those who served in the Vietnam War by providing factual information to address the decades of misinformation that have presented a skewed historical perspective of the war – a very important and long overdue film that presents the information and lessons learned that most Vietnam War veterans want reported about the war. Some of the truth we now know

comes from Vietcong and North Vietnamese archives and other disclosures made available over the last 50 years since the war ended.

The film features Medal of Honor recipient Patrick H. Brady and 7 historians including 5 of the 6 historians featured on the Fox Nation documentary films entitled “The Unauthorized History of the Vietnam War” moderated by Bret Baier – and 2 of the 7 historians are Distinguished Fellows at the University of Virginia School of Law.

The film has been seen by a large number of veterans of the war and generated considerable enthusiasm – many consider the film to be the

best ever produced about the war.

We are a very credible veteran organization and were recently made honorary partners with the Vietnam War Commemoration Office at the Department of Defense. The film was shown at the National Infantry Museum on March 29 - National Vietnam Veterans Day - and Georgia Public Broadcasting on May 27 - Memorial Day.

We consider the film to be our enduring legacy for future generations.

**To view or download the film, go to the website [AVVBA.org](http://AVVBA.org).**



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FORT RILEY, KANSAS • SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION • FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY

