The Bridgehead Sentinel is published in accordance with the terms of the 1957 agreement between the Society of the First Infantry Division and the Cantigny First Division Foundation.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND DUES

Please send DUES and ADDRESS CHANGES to:
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PO Box 2307
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SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

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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.
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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.
Greetings to all Society members across these great United States of America! I trust that all are enjoying some cooler weather after a very hot, humid summer, especially in Florida.

Our 1st Infantry Division continues to perform missions in support of U.S. National Security Objectives. Please keep their leaders, Soldiers, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Society Reunions.

a. We had a great reunion in Fort Worth this past July. During the General Membership Meeting, our members approved revisions to the Society Constitution and a Board of Directors slate for 2022 – 2025. Amendments to the Constitution included authority for Board members to vote on issues electronically, and reduced the mandatory Board Meetings from two to one.

b. This was our first reunion since 2019, with 365 in attendance, the lowest in the last decade. We are uncertain as to reasons for declining attendance at Reunions. It may be the lingering concern over COVID, inflation might have been a factor, or it may be attributable to changing demographics and an aging, less mobile population. We are also in a transition with less Vietnam-era attendees and potential Post 9-11 attendees. The War on Terror Veterans are still in their wage-earning years and have not yet discovered the benefit of reunions as we have known them in the past. The bottom line is we just do not know!

c. Our 2023 reunion is in New Orleans 9-13 August; and 2024 in Albuquerque 29 July-4 August. Both have signed contracts with hotels.

d. We decided to defer the process of selecting the 2025 reunion location until we can better understand our members preferences. The Society Reunion Committee, chaired by BG (Ret.) Randy Dragon has commenced a study to explore the opportunities and challenges that face the Society’s reunions and report to the Board and General Membership in New Orleans. In addition to informing our expectations for the 2025 reunion, the Reunion Committee will address three primary research areas:

   1. Determine if declining attendance is a short- or long-term challenge
   2. Confirm the acceptable thresholds and rational for selecting a reunion hotel
   3. Review the inner workings of reunion planning — time of year, consolidated or separate CPs, frequency and length of reunion — and recommend options

e. We need those who might attend a reunion to make their preferences known to the Committee. Please email your thoughts to randal.dragon@aol.com by the end of 2022.

f. In summary, all points of view and perspectives are under consideration. I am both confident and optimistic that we will find the best possible combination that sustains in-person reunion opportunities, serves our faithful reunion attendees, starts to attract the next generation of BRO Veterans, and manages expectations from a fiscal standpoint.

D.C. Monument Status:
Planning continues to add the 631 names of BRO Soldiers lost in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have learned that the National Park Service schedule will not permit construction in time to meet our planned dedication on Memorial Day 2023. The earliest we will be able to start construction is August 2023. We are also working our way through possible increases in construction costs. The Executive Director will keep you informed using email.

Through your loyal support and generous donations, we shall continue to provide a “rallying point” for our BRO Veterans, and reach out to BRO active-duty military and their families with financial hardships.

I wish you all continued good health and happiness. Stay safe!
Happy Fall Y’all. I hope my letter finds you well and staying healthy. Summer was a hot one. July kicked off with our 101st Annual Reunion in Fort Worth, Texas. It was wonderful to finally meet many of you at the reunion. I am already looking forward to the 2023 Reunion in New Orleans and seeing you again and meeting more attendees. Please tell your buddies about the next reunion.

This issue of the Bridgehead Sentinel contains updates on our database, membership, monument, chapters, donations, fundraisers, 2023 Reunion and much more.

I share the story of the Society and the 1st Infantry Division every chance I get. Weekly I brief during the Victory Welcome to new Fort Riley Soldiers about the Society. I also brief at many community events and different groups. This year I will be part of the Retiree Annual Appreciation Event on Fort Riley. I will have a table set up and will be presenting at three different breakout sessions throughout the day. I will share the story of the Society, our mission, how we help and take care of Soldiers, Veterans, and families, and how to become a member.

The Society continues to provide support to Soldiers and families, as you will see on these pages. Through our Big Red One (BRO) Support Fund, we provide emergency assistance to serving 1st Infantry Division Soldiers who are active members of the Society—financial support not available from other agencies supporting Soldiers. The BRO Support Fund also provides non-emergency assistance to units, active-duty Soldiers, and family members on a case-by-case basis. Please see more in the magazine.

In Chapter news, efforts continue to try and get local chapters established. As you know from going to reunions, it is always great to see old friends and meet new friends. Chapters are a way to stay connected, reconnect and meet others. If you are interested in joining a local chapter, more information is in this issue. If there is not a chapter in your neighborhood, please consider starting one. The Society can help.

Membership remains steady. Throughout the year we receive donations to sponsor Active-Duty Soldier(s) from our members. These sponsorships help to build our active-duty component of our association. You will find in the magazine a reoccurring article on the makeup of our database. Post 9-11 Vets have replaced Vietnam Vets in numbers, but we still have a significant amount of Vietnam-era members. As time progresses, the Society looks forward to the leadership of our Post 9-11 Vets.

Anytime you have a question, comment, suggestion, or concern, please reach out to us. We are here to assist. Our website, www.1stid.org, is a good source to stay updated with the Society, Quartermaster, Reunion, Scholarships, Monument and much more. Please check your spam/junk folders often for emails that will come from these addresses: admin@1stid.org and sfid1919@gmail.com. And thanks to everyone for helping us to keep your profiles updated with correct addresses, emails, and phone numbers.

I hope you enjoy the magazine. Your phone calls, letters, and emails are appreciated. I am honored to serve as your Executive Director.
Letter from the CG
by Major General John V. Meyer, III

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

I want to first start by thanking LTG Sims for his leadership and passion for the Soldiers and Families of the Big Red One and Fort Riley. His efforts have made a lasting difference in the Division and community.

After taking command in May, I deployed forward to join our Division Headquarters in Poland. In June, a group of our Soldiers and I attended the D-Day ceremonies in Normandy for the 78th anniversary. We had the honor of meeting several 1st Infantry Division Veterans and to walk along Omaha Beach. It was an impactful visit for everyone as the Big Red One patch has returned to Europe.

Our Division has assumed multiple missions across the globe. In Europe, our Division Headquarters and DIVARTY are focused on our direct mission to support NATO and our allies abroad. Our Soldiers continue to lead efforts in the Baltics and Poland as we provide ready and postured, combat-credible forces through multinational training exercises to enhance our cohesion and interoperability.

Back on Fort Riley, 1st Brigade is home from a successful rotation in support of Atlantic Resolve and Operation Assure, Deter, and Reinforce. Thanks to the support of the garrison and our Fort Riley community, our Soldiers are successfully reintegrated with their Families.

2nd Brigade completed a rigorous summer of modernization activities and an emergency deployment readiness exercise to NTC, where they collected valuable lessons learned to improve our overall training readiness. They continue to stay ready as they prepare for deployment to Europe this winter.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade continues to fly across the Flint Hills sky, while also traveling to California, Texas, and beyond to improve readiness and master their skills.

1st Division Sustainment Brigade is busy supporting the Division with modernization, deployments, and redeployments, while focusing on their holistic health and fitness (H2F) programs and leader development.

As winter approaches, we are closing on the Big Red One Year of Family, a year-long campaign to educate, appreciate, and increase the resiliency of our Families. This campaign is a part of Operation Victory Wellness and although the year is ending, our focus on Families will not end. Our community provides an abundance of opportunities and support to our Families, for which we are very grateful.

We are eager to announce next year’s focus, the Big Red One Year of the NCO. We will emphasize the importance of the NCO Corps in maintaining accountability, standards, and training Soldiers to the standard. More information will be published in the coming months about the great year to come.

I am excited to once again wear the Big Red One patch and it is an honor to serve with 1st Infantry Division and the Fort Riley community.

Duty First! People Always…All Else Follows! ☛
1st ABCT Returns from Deployment

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, held a combined change of command ceremony on July 15, at the Cavalry Parade Field on Fort Riley following the brigade’s return from a nearly 12-month deployment to Europe. ♦

2nd ABCT Trains Ahead of Deployment

Soldiers of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, put their training to the test during the NTC rotation 22-09 in Fort Irwin, CA.

In early September, it was also announced that the 2nd Brigade will replace the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, as part of a regular rotation of forces to support the United States’ commitment to Atlantic Resolve in Europe. ♦

Keeping up with the 1st Division

Headquarters (DEPLOYED)

A portion of the DHHB joined the 1st CAB on a rotational mission in Central Europe in July 2021.

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED)

The 1st Brigade recently returned this summer from their 12-month deployment in support of Atlantic Resolve and Operation Assure, Deter, and Reinforce.

2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED)

2nd ABCT recently finished a rotation to the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, CA to train ahead of the Brigade’s winter deployment in support of Atlantic Resolve.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade (REDEPLOYED)

1st Combat Aviation Brigade continues to fly across the Flint Hills sky, while also traveling to California, Texas, and beyond to improve readiness and master their skills.

1st Division Sustainment Brigade (REDEPLOYED)

The 1st Division Sustainment Brigade Signal Troops Battalion uncased their colors in Afghanistan in February 2019 in support of Operations Resolute Support and Freedom’s Sentinel. In November 2019, the 1st ID Sustainment Brigade redeployed back from Fort Riley.

Division Artillery (REDEPLOYED)

Since the 1st Infantry Division Artillery stood up in late 2015, there has been an emphasis on the importance of partnership. The Division Artillery continues to train alongside Division elements as well as outside units. ♦
Fellow members, please use this membership form to approach businesses in your community to join the Society as a business member!

SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307, Fort Riley, KS 66442
Phone: 785-579-6761
sfidkansas@gmail.com Web: 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: ___________________________________________________________

WEBSITE: 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 website
• You will be listed as a supporter in the Bridgehead Sentinel magazine emailed when published and available year-round on our website: 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 1st 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 1ST 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 applicable, to the address above.

* * * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT * * * *
Society News

Society of the First Infantry Division

Member Profile Update

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

Below is the composition of our membership as of October 1, 2022. Please keep in mind it does change daily but generally the total numbers stay close.

On October 1, 2022, we had 8825 active members, which does not include business partners and corporate sponsors. Some of our members have served in more than one era but this does not change the percentages.

**MEMBERS:**
- Life ............. 8185 ....... 93%
- Active Duty .......... 116.......... 1.3%
- Regular Veteran ... 438 ......... 5%
- Executive Veteran .... 31 .............. 3%
- Associate .......... 53 .............. 6%
- Business Partner .... 37 ............. 0%
- Corporate Sponsor .. 17 ............. 0%

**SERVICE ERA:**
- Post 9-11 .......... 3928 ....... 44.5%
- Vietnam * ......... 2021 ...... 22.8%
- Peace Time ......... 981 ........... 11.1%
- Unknown/NA ....... 519 .......... 5.8%
- Balkans ............ 574 ........... 6.5%
- Cold War .......... 387 ........... 4.3%
- WWII * ............ 223 ........... 2.5%
- Desert Storm/Gulf War 226 ........... 2.5%

*Includes widows

Note that Post 9-11 membership now surpasses the Vietnam era.

Based on current membership levels, our general fund operates on approximately 5% of member annual dues. The remainder of the Society’s annual budget is supported by funds from business partners, corporate sponsors, quartermaster sales, donations, and fundraisers.

Giving Families a Helping Hand

The Society of the First Infantry Division is deeply committed to supporting our Soldiers and their families. One way that we do this is by providing grocery gift cards.

We will be using the Big Red One Support Fund monthly (subject to change based on availability) to provide five (5) commissary gift cards valued at $50 each to the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Post Chaplains office. The office then distributes the cards to enlisted families who are in need.

During November and December, the Society donates many commissary gift cards to the Chaplains office. We will continue this tradition as well.

Our gift card program is possible thanks to generous donations we receive from our members and sponsors.

Memorial Day in Washington

Our First Division Monument Wreath Laying Ceremony on Memorial Day 2022 was beautiful. The weather was in our favor, sunny and warm, and attendance was strong. Many watched the event via live streaming from the Society’s Facebook page.

The wreath was placed by Brigadier General Niave F. Knell, Deputy Commanding General-Support, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, along with CSM Albert Sarrano, Command Sergeant Major, Fort Riley.

We thank the Military District of Washington for providing Ceremonial Support (bugler, chaplain, and Color Guard) and the National Park Service, Liaison to the White House, for assisting us in the event.

A wreath was also placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We are looking forward to Memorial Day 2023 and will provide the timeline for all who can attend and the details to watch it live on Facebook.
Local Chapters—Society of the First Infantry Division

Currently there are local chapters in the states of Indiana, Kansas, New York, New Mexico, New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The BHS allocates space for local chapters to share updates.

Chapter meetings allow for social time and a chance to discuss past and future chapter activities. The Society can assist you in starting a local chapter. 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 interested, call the Society at 785-579-6761 or email sfidkansas@gmail.com.

We salute our members who have offered to establish a chapter in their community. Chapters with POC information are listed below and on our webpage: 1stid.org/chapters

Local Chapter Updates

East Central Indiana Chapter
POC: James Allen
Jallen5749@gmail.com or 765-969-7977
Currently, I am the only Chapter member. Anyone in the East Indiana/West Ohio area who is interested in joining, please contact me to learn more.

The Albuquerque/Sante Fe Chapter
POC: Manuel Alzaga, manuelalzagajr@gmail.com or 505-270-4068
Nothing to report. If you live in the Albuquerque/Sante Fe area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Manuel.

Wisconsin Society of the 1st Infantry Division Chapter
POC: Jeff Anderson, jeffoakvalleyfarm@gmail.com or 608-381-3791
Nothing to report. If you live in Wisconsin and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Jeff.

Junction City Kansas Chapter
POC: Phyllis Fitzgerald, sfid1919@gmail.com or 785-579-6761
Nothing to report. If you live in the Junction City/Fort Riley area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Phyllis.

Western New York, SSG David Bellavia Medal of Honor Chapter, Society of the First Infantry Division
POC: John B. Long
Email: marinawoolcock54@gmail.com --Phone: 716-877-6818
Nothing to report. If you live in the Western New Your area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Dr. Long.

New York/Fort Dix Branch of the Society of the First Infantry Division.
POC: Antonio Maria, blacklions66@yahoo.com or 973-477-9360
Antonio reports that Chapter members recently met for lunch. The food was good and selections were the same as before Covid. They are planning another get together on January 15, 2023. Please reach out to Antonio if you live in the New York/Fort Dix, New Jersey area and want to learn more about the Chapter.

Society of the 1st Infantry Division South Eastern Ohio Chapter
POC: Mike DeBolt, 1infdivseo@gmail.com or 740-252-1485
Home office address: 1434 Linden Ave., Zanesville, OH 43701
Nothing to report this month. If you live in the Zanesville area and want to learn more about the Chapter, please reach out to Mike.

Above: Ft. Dix, NY Chapter of the Society meeting for lunch.
1st Infantry Division 2022 NCO and Soldier of the Year

The 1st Infantry Division 2022 NCO and Soldier of the Year were, SGT Espinosa, Alexander R. HHC, 2-70 AR, 2ABCT, IID and SPC Richey, Caleb J. HHC, 1-18 IN, 2ABCT, IID.

SGT Espinosa and SPC Richey each received a plaque, membership in the Society and a Society coin during the banquet. SPC Richey was unable to attend. SGT Drecker from the Combat Aviation Brigade accepted on his behalf.

2022 Fall Raffle Results

Our Fall 2022 Jeep Raffle was converted to a 50/50 raffle on October 5, 2022, due to lack of ticket sales. Five-hundred tickets went on sale on August 23 and the drawing took place on October 5.

The raffle was livestreamed on our Society of the First Infantry Division Facebook page from corporate sponsor Valor Automotive of Junction City, Kansas. We thank Valor Ford for partnering with the Society.

The winner of the 50/50 was Society of the First Infantry Division member, Barry Morrison, HHC 2-18 INF Vietnam.

2022 Annual Reunion Raffle Results

Thank you to the 1st Infantry Division NCO of the Year 2022, SGT Alexander Espinosa, for assistance in drawing the winners:

$500 - Becky Arthington
$1000 - Thomas O’Donovan
$2000 - Joseph Corteal

Regimental Command Post Competition

The theme for this year’s reunion was “Salute to the 1st Infantry Division – Post 9-11 Veterans.”

The 1st Infantry Division NCO of the Year, SGT Espinosa, Alexander R. HHC, 2-70 AR, 2ABCT, IID selected the DIVARTY Command Post as the winner.

A check for $250 was presented to DIVARTY during the banquet dinner.
2022 Reunion

A Great Time in The Lone Star State!

The 101st Annual Reunion of the Society of the First Infantry Division was fun and memorable. The Society staff was busy from the day our boots hit the ground in Fort Worth! More than 270 registered for the reunion and 230 attended the banquet where General Martin, 37th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, was the guest speaker. There were many in attendance and many that watched the event live that was streaming from our Society of the First Infantry Division Facebook page.

Command Posts were up and running. Tours to the stockyards, ghost tour/wine tasting, John Wayne Museum and Texas Civil War Museum were highly popular. The Welcome Party was awesome with entertainment by the Empty Pockets Band. A 50/50 raffle took place at the party and we thank Rene Caputo for donating her winnings back to the Society! Thanks also to everyone who bidded on the silent auction items. The conflict breakfast was wonderful, keynoted by 1st Aviation Brigade/1st Infantry Division Commander COL Jason Arriaga.

COL Arriaga was also our guest speaker at the Memorial Service.

Once again, thank you to everyone who joined us in Texas and we look forward to seeing you and many others at the 102nd Annual Reunion in New Orleans (August 9-13, 2023).
2022 CP Attendance

The winner of the trophy for most attended went to the 18th Infantry for 2022. Last count was 62 in attendance.

Special Thanks

The Society of the First Infantry Division would like to thank the following for media coverage of the 101st Annual Reunion:

SSG Keagan Costello, 19th Public Affairs Detachment and Donsae Kang, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs.

More Reunion Photos Online!!

1st Division Public Affairs Photos:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/firstinfantrydivision/albums/72177720300805241

1st Division Public Affairs Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=frnTMRx-jbbo&feature=youtu.be

Society of the First Infantry Division
IS FOR VETERAN

When we’re thanked for our service we reflect on how we served.

The way we had to break in boots. The times we gathered up our nerve.

The nicknames that made us laugh. The smell of chili mac MREs.

The pride we felt with that first oath. The friendships that came to be.

So, at the game, when we’re asked to stand, it’s not applause that’s in my sight.

I’m looking around for you, my friend, to see who’s on my left and right.

Scan to learn how you can honor a fellow veteran.

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(785) 238-5114
Society of the First Infantry Division Support and Donations

Thank you to all our members, business partners and corporate 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.

- Will be providing 100 Commissary Gift Cards ($50 each) to the 11D and Ft. Riley Chaplains for the holiday season (50 cards for November and 50 cards for December). Total value: $5,000. And monthly we will provide five gift cards, also valued at $50. The Chaplains office distributes the cards to families that need a little extra help during the holidays.
- Provided a grant for a 5-4 Cav Soldier for medical reasons.
- Provided $750 to help sponsor the 1ID Army 10-Miler team to run in the Annual USA Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C.
- Provided $250 to help with providing sheets, blankets, towels, pillows, and wash cloths for returning 1st Brigade Single Soldiers from Europe who reside in the barracks.
- Provided $500 this past spring for the Kansas Gold Star Memorial Fund. The funds were used to help sponsor the placement of a Gold Star Family Monument in Topeka, the capital of Kansas. The monument was unveiled and dedicated on September 23, 2022.

Society of the First Infantry Division 102nd Annual Reunion
August 9 – 13, 2023

Astor Crowne Plaza
New Orleans French Quarter
739 Canal Street at Bourbon
New Orleans, LA 70130

Making Reservations:
Weblink: https://book.passkey.com/e/50441679
Phone: 1-877-408-9661
**Note: When calling provide the operator with the block code SFQ**

Above: Gold Star Monument, Topeka, Kansas Capital.

Above: 1st Infantry Division Army Ten-Miler team with the 16th Command Sergeant Major of the Army, CSM Michael A. Grinston, who is also a former 1st Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL Effective For 2022

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442
Phone: 785-579-6761 www.1std.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.

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: ____ /____ (month) (year) CVC: ______________________ (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! * * * *

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
P.O. Box 2307
Fort Riley, KS 66442
Phone: 785-579-6761 www.1std.org

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

UNIT SERVED IN OR PRESENT UNIT: _____________________________________
(COMPANY)                    (BATTALION/REGIMENT)       (BRIGADE)

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please check one)

ALL MEMBERSHIP TYPES INCLUDE A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRIDGEHEAD SENTINEL

VETERANS

ACTIVE DUTY ONLY:
(CURRENTLY SERVING WITH THE BRO)

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

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

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

LIFE – VETERANS:

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

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.)

WIDOWS/WIDowers OF BIG RED ONE VETERANS: (FREE)

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

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* * * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! * * * 
Standing Tall in Washington

The First Division Monument is the basis of a plaza in President’s Park, west of the White House and south of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) at the corner of 17th Street and State Place, NW. (The EEOB was originally known as the State, War, and Navy Building and then as the Old Executive Office Building.) The monument that stands today was built by veterans of the Division. Soon after the end of the Great War the First Division Memorial Association set about raising $150,000 dollars to build a monument to commemorate more than 6,000 First Division soldiers who paid the ultimate price. On October 4, 1924, the association dedicated the monument. President Calvin Coolidge and General Charles P. Sommerall, war time Commanding General, were the chief speakers. Approximately 6,000 veterans attended.

The monument stands some 78 feet high on base of white granite with a column of pink granite and gold leaf bronze statue of Winged Victory at the top. It is a graceful addition to a city full of beautiful monuments. In the spring red tulips arranged in the shape of a “Big Red One” grace the approach to the monument followed by red begonias in the summer. The flower garden came in 1965 at the behest of Lady Bird Johnson’s efforts to “beautify” the national capital. Although the monument remains within the authority of the Society it has, since 1939, been administered by the National Park Service.

During World War II the government built a temporary barracks to house troops that guarded the White House. This building blocked the view of the monument from the south, the direction in which the monument faced. After the war this “eyesore” remained in place for years while the Society of the First Division fought to remove the barracks. In 1954, the building finally was torn down. The Society then raised the $60,000 needed to add tablets to list the names of the Big Red One soldiers killed in action during World War II.

In 1957, Lieutenant General Clarence R. Huebner, one of three officers who commanded the 1st Infantry Division in World War II, dedicated the renewed monument to the 4,325 Big Red One Soldiers killed in action in three amphibious assaults and campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and across France, Belgium and Germany ending in Czechoslovakia. World War I veterans led the initial effort to add a Vietnam War addition to the monument. R. L. “Dick” Major who served in the 1st Engineer Battalion during the Great War helped raise thousands of dollars as head of the committee to memorialize the Vietnam War. Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina introduced the necessary legislation in 1973. Ervin served in the ranks during the First World War. Teno Roncalio of Wyoming, also a WWI veteran, introduced the legislation in the House. Fred Bramlage, a Junction City booster of the 1st Division and a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission, ably supported the campaign to add to the monument. The chairman of the commission carried the monument addition paperwork through the nine government agencies that had some measure of approval authority.

The dedication of the Vietnam addition to the memorial occurred on August 20, 1977, completing the layout that exists today. General William E. DePuy (USA Retired), president of the Society of the First Division, and General Bernard W. Rogers, Chief of Staff of the Army, spoke. Present were Mary Francis Allen, daughter of LTC Terry de la Mesa Allen Jr., who was killed in action commanding an infantry battalion; Mrs. Rudolph Nunes, whose husband was killed in action while leading a long-range reconnaissance patrol; and Mrs. Joseph Venable, whose husband was killed in a helicopter crash while serving as Division Sergeant Major.

The post-World War II design remains in place with the exception of a small tablet that added the names of those who died in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Lieutenant General Thomas G. Rhame and Major General Jerry R. Rutherford dedicated this addition on May 29, 1995.

The time has come for those of us who served during the Cold War, Desert Shield/Storm, the Balkans, and post 9-11 operations to carry the cudgel to memorialize our brothers and sisters killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. We have a design to accommodate the means to recognize the sacrifice of 631 Big Red One Soldiers killed in action since 9-11 as well as correct errors on the Desert Storm plaque. The Kansas Delegation to the Congress has cleared the way, the National Park Service has approved the plan. All that remains is to raise the necessary funds, a process that is well underway.

Donation opportunities are available online or by mail.

Please go to our website: www.1stid.org or mail checks to: 1st Inf Division FDN
P.O. Box 607
Ambler, PA 19002

Please go to our website: www.1stid.org or mail checks to: 1st Inf Division FDN
P.O. Box 607
Ambler, PA 19002
BRO Veteran Exemplifies Division Motto

By Jon Sharkey

Presently, I am in Ukraine helping against the Russians. I do Night Patrols, Checkpoints and actually bodyguard my wife Oksana who is a RN, when she is treating patients, because since they are from the Eastern Part of Ukraine, they could be Russian loyalists...

I entered Active Duty on 28 October 1981. I was 17 years old. My Basic and AIT was at Ft. Sill. My MOS was 13 Bravo - Artillery (1 race with the number 13).

I completed AIT in February 1982 and was sent to Ft. Riley, KS and assigned to C, 3/6FA.

While at Ft. Riley, I suffered severe injuries to my knees, which required surgery at Irwin Army Hospital. I was then found unfit for duty.

I was never deployed. It took Russia invading my second home (Ukraine), for me to make it to a warzone.

After being discharged, I started dealing with the VA, and had multiple surgeries on my knees. During that time, I also attended Kansas State University.

I am 100% VA S/C T&P. I have endured 23 knee operations as a result of my injuries—13 on my left knee.

10 weeks after surgery in 2018, I returned to racing and won. However, I had to be pulled from the seat, because I did not have the strength in my right leg to get out.

I have been with an IndyCar Team before trying to race the 500, Project Indy was their name. They were a CART Team.

My goal is to become the first disabled American Veteran to race the Indy 500, as well as the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and do it 2 months apart.

In FL, I have won 5 racing series championships since 2016, against racers half my age!

From racing, I like to inspire disabled veterans, and civilians with disabilities to live their lives and make their dreams come true. Live life on your terms.

I belong to the Society of the 1st Infantry Division. I am also a member of St. Michael’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Pinellas Park, FL.

However, I am no saint. Like the one reporter stated, I am prone to wearing the...
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

**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:**

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(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 100th 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 100th 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 100th 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**

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(month)  (year)             (code on back of card)

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

* * * * THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT * * * *
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 really does take all of us to have a successful Society. Please 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.

William Strusinski sponsored seven new Active-Duty Soldiers with a 1-year membership.

Growing Society Membership Opportunity

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

Make checks payable to: 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 (Click on “Sponsor New Member” link located on the right side of home page under quick links)

2022 Scooter Raffle Results

Our first Scooter Raffle took place last summer, made possible by our generous business partner City Cycle Sales Harley Davidson, Kawasaki and Suzuki, of Junction City, KS. We thank them for partnering with the Society of the First Infantry Division.

Three-hundred tickets went on sale on June 27 with the 100th ticket sold on July 5. The drawing winner was Verna Henderson, a lifetime member of the Society who served with HSC 216 Engineers during Iraq. The 216th Engineers were assigned to and supported the 1st Infantry Division during their deployment to Central Iraq from March 2004 to Feb 2005. The 216th is a Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion from the Ohio Army National Guard which provided force protections, upgrades, FOB construction, and route security clearance missions throughout the 1st ID AOR.

BRO Veteran Article

Continued from page 20

Black Hat like Dale Earnhardt, Sr. did. I will not back down from any fight. That is why I am here in Ukraine right now.

I am also a member of the American Legion, and feel betrayed that in January 2020 I made a sponsorship request to them, that they denied, and then months later, they sponsored Jimmy Johnson and Tony Kanaan neither of whom are Veterans.

I will be returning to my home in Tampa Bay soon. My goal for the race season is to race at least Formula E2 and TaG 125.

I do wear a 1st Infantry Division insignia on my cars when I race. I just need love and support! My email is: jonathontepes@yahoo.com. Any and all support will be appreciated. I am looking for major sponsors to help me make history!
We thank all who have responded to our requests for support of our SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Your generosity will enable us to fulfill our obligation to the children of all Big Red One Soldiers who have lost their lives in combat—over 180 children to date—and to the children and grandchildren of our 1st Infantry Division Veterans.

Following is a list of contributors to the 1st Infantry Division Foundation Scholarship Fund and 1st Division DC Monument Fund since May 2022.
By C. Mark Sollars
Available at Amazon.com

His father never spoke much of Vietnam, and Mark Sollars had always wondered why. His curiosity grew over the passing years until one day, compelled by a rising unease for a failure to get a full account of his dad's military experience, Mark asked him to talk about what he did there. The ensuing conversation covered war, friendship, and a divisive American era. And it underscored the importance, and urgency, of asking the most important people in our lives to sit down and tell us their story.

Sollar’s father was a 2LT in the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment and was one of the officers in the advance party that deployed to Vietnam in September 1965.

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 Veterans Day, November 11, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supported this opportunity to raise funds for the Society.

Donations by our members totaled $5,160. Of this amount, $1000 will be matched at 50 cents on the dollar by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. We estimate the Society will receive $6,160.
Remembering Andy Anderson

Gerald "Andy" Anderson died 23 August 2022 at the age of 99. Andy was an active member of the Society of the First Infantry Division, and the 16th Infantry Regiment. He attended most Society Reunions and had planned to attend the Fort Worth event in July but was unable to travel due to health issues.

Andy joined the Big Red One in Sicily, and was assigned to the 16th Infantry Regiment. He fought with the BRO in Sicily before training in England for D-Day. On June 6, 1944, Andy landed on Omaha Beach, then fought with the Division until the end of WWII.

Andy Anderson's decorations included two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Heart Medals, a Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).
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Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors! If you’d like to become a Corporate Sponsor of the Society of the 1st Infantry Division, see the registration form on page 8.

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Email: toddfawcett@jcabstractandtitle.com
Junction City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce
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KCDX-100.9 Radio, Clay Center, KS
KS State Bank, Junction City, KS
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Muddy Creek Flowers and Gifts LLC
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Email: taylorroberts@rocketmortgage.com
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Spin On Fitness Studio, Junction City, KS
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773-790-1714
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Silver Level

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Homes By Heidi for Sale
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Fall/Winter 2022
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P.O. Box 2307 Fort Riley, KS 66442

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State: _______ Zip: ________________ Phone: _________________________ Email: ___________________________________________________

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Signature ____________________________
The First Division Museum’s inaugural battlefield tour, led by museum staff members Jackie Gillaspie and Gayln Piper, took place October 6 – 15, 2022. Fifteen travelers from five states joined the museum, following the footsteps of the First, from D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge. The tour started in Normandy, visiting key D-Day locations such as WN-60, Dawson’s Draw, and the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer before traveling across France to stop in the village of Cantigny. The group continued towards Germany, touring a Belgian microbrewery, before reaching Aachen, Germany. In Aachen, the group visited Crucifix Hill and the Laufenberg Castle before enjoying a private tour of the Hurtgenwald Museum. Then, a hike in the Hurtgen Forest to see the remnants of the Siegfried line. Before departing for France, travelers toured the Bastogne War Museum, and made a quick trip to Butgenbach, Belgium. The final stop before returning to Paris was a tour and tasting at the Taittinger Champagne Cellar in Reims, France.

The group was joined by two veterans of the 1st Division, Michael Feltes and Darnell Perkins, who represented the Division during a wreath laying ceremony at Margraten American Cemetery in The Netherlands.

Top: One stop on the trip was the location of the BRO's first victory in World War I, the village of Cantigny.
Bottom: Museum staff members Gayln Piper and Jackie Gillaspie.

Top: The group paid respects to the fallen at 1st Infantry Division cemeteries along the tour.
Bottom: Group photo at the 1st Infantry Division monument honoring the Soldiers lost at the D-Day battle in Normandy, France.
A Special Welcome Home

By Laura Sears

This year Cantigny Park hosted “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World,” an outdoor art exhibit that brought together the gardens of Cantigny Park and artists from Mexico. The First Division Museum participated in the popular art display with the special exhibit, “The Mexican American Military Experience,” which offered insights into their experiences from the American Revolution to the present.

Through all the conflicts the United States participated in, from the beginning of the nation, Mexican Americans numbered among America’s patriots. The exhibition also specifically highlights Soldiers who served in the 1st Infantry Division.

The outdoor art exhibit closed in early November in line with the Mexican heritage celebration, Día de Muertos. During the first two days of November, families in Mexico welcome home the spirits of their loved ones who have passed away with altars called ofrendas to help guide their ancestors home.

The First Division Museum displayed its own unique ofrenda throughout October to welcome home the 1st Infantry Division and Mexican American veterans who have passed away. Offerings representing Earth, wind, fire, and water are traditionally placed on the ofrenda, as well as marigolds, colorful banners, photographs, and items the person used in life. The offerings on the First Division Museum’s ofrenda featured items used by Soldiers, including helmets, patches, canteens, American flags, MREs, and C-rations.

The ofrenda at the First Division Museum was assembled by the Girls Scouts of Greater Chicagoland and Northern Indiana during a unique evening program where the Scouts learned about the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and the importance of thanking and welcoming home those who have served us.