



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com

Volume 5

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

April 2015

Commanders Corner: From Uncle Sam--Greetings: Your friends and neighbors have selected you to become a veteran of the Vietnam War. Flat feet are not an option! While I have your attention, I'd like to remind all members that we strongly request that you join the Americal Division Veterans Association (only \$15/yr with lifetime memberships available). All of you are the backbone of the chapter but, the ADVA made the body possible. I've added a new link to the Indiana Military Museum web site; check it out on the "Links" option and go to the 2nd page. Also, this month, I have added some more slide shows in the "Video Gallery" section. I am planning on getting some set up showing various reunions we have had throughout the years as soon as I get everything organized. I would love to get photos from veterans of all companies if possible. You can email photos, send them on a thumb drive or CD. I would prefer .jpg format, if possible. I would also like to get reunion photos; even if they are only your company or just a get together with your comrades in arms. I hope you are all saving up some \$ for the reunion in Norfolk this year. It should be a good one and our hospitality room should be lively, as usual. I know it's only April but, the reunion will here before you know it. Remember, we will have chapter officer elections this year so, have some candidates in mind. Up for election are the positions of Commander, Vice-commander, and Secretary/Treasurer. There are all 2 year appointments. Also, we still would like to get some submissions to the newsletter from you guys. Don't worry about not being a "writer", if you want it edited, we will provide that service (free of charge, naturally). Just let us know. I want to welcome **Geoffrey Davis** from Delta Company, (68-69) to our Chapter. I'm sure most of you are aware of "Challenge" coins and have probably seen some. A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they were presented to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. Currently, they are used as a symbol of membership in a group, presented by the owner to other service members whom they have met, and are collected by military service members. See follow-on article; COINS.

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Chuck



Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.



Seven Korean War Soldiers Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced the identification of remains belonging to seven Army soldiers who had been lost and unaccounted-for since the Korean War. Returned home for burial with full military honors are:

- Sgt. 1st Class Donald R. Strum, Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, who was lost in North Korea on Nov. 4, 1950.
- Cpl. Robert Higgins, 21, of Bucks County, Penn. He was assigned to Battery C, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when lost in battle in South Korea on Feb. 13, 1951.
- Sgt. Floyd J.R. Jackson, 20, of Warrensburg, Mo., died while a POW in North Korea on Feb. 13, 1951. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, which made up part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team.
- Pfc. John R. Bowers, of Greenville, S.C. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when lost in South Korea on Feb. 14, 1951.
- Sgt. Arnold V. Andring, 25, of Gary, Minn., died while a POW in North Korea after being captured on Feb 14, 1951. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 8th Army.
- Pfc. Lotchie J.R. Jones, 18, of Jasper, Tenn., died while a POW in North Korea on Feb. 28, 1951. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.
- Cpl. Lindsey C. Lockett, 25, of Henrico, Va., died while a POW in North Korea on May 31, 1951. He was assigned to Medical Detachment, Headquarters Battery, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division.

Airmen Missing from WWII Accounted For: "The remains of U.S. servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been accounted for and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Army Air Forces 1st Lts. William D. Bernier of Augusta, Montana; Bryant E. Poulsen of Salt Lake City; Herbert V. Young Jr. of Clarkdale, Arizona, and Tech Sgts. Charles L. Johnston of Pittsburgh; Hugh F. Moore of Elkton, Maryland; and Staff Sgts. John E. Copeland of Dearing, Kansas; Charles J. Jones of Athens, Georgia; and Sgt. Charles A. Gardner of San Francisco, have been accounted for and buried, or scheduled to be buried, with full military honors." Welcome home.

WORLD WAR II TRIVIA:

The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old: Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

COINS 2nd Bn. 1st Inf ADVA: The Commander, Chuck Holdaway, has designed and has in his possession 100 challenge coins representing our 2/1 Chapter, ADVA. The coins were paid for by the commander and they are available to anyone who wishes to own one. The cost of a coin is \$10. The cost will cover the expense of making the coin and covers shipping. The actual expenditure is a little less than \$10 but, after he recovers the cost of the initial casting and shipping, all excess monies will be given to our chapter fund. "At the expense of being a little biased, I think they are one of the best looking coins I have seen", Chuck says. To order your coin (s), send an email, a phone call or a snail mail to The Commander, 2/1 Chapter, ADVA. His address and phone number is available by looking at the 2/1 Roster on the website. Here's what they look like:



Army Charges Bergdahl with Desertion, Could Receive Life Sentence: U.S. Army has charged Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy nine months after he was released by Taliban captors, an Army official said. Bergdahl, who spent five years in captivity after going missing from his post in Afghanistan in 2009, faces a maximum sentence of "confinement for life," Col. Daniel J. W. King, a spokesman for the Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., announced. The Army charged Bergdahl with "desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty" under Article 85 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and "misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place" under Article 99. The Army's charges against Bergdahl were first disclosed by his lawyer, Eugene Fidell, a military law specialist. Bergdahl will next face an Article 32 hearing under the UCMJ, often compared to a grand jury proceeding in civilian law. The hearing was expected to begin April 22 at Fort Sam Houston. The officer presiding over the Article 32 hearing will make a recommendation to the Army's convening authority on whether there is sufficient evidence to send Bergdahl to a general court martial trial. The convening authority could refer the charges to a general court martial or a lesser special court martial. The officer could also choose to dismiss the charges, or "take any other action deemed appropriate." Bergdahl went missing from Command Outpost Mest-Lalak in Afghanistan's Paktika province on June 30, 2009. He is believed to have been held mostly in Pakistan by the Haqqani network, an insurgent group allied with the Taliban. He was released last spring in a controversial deal that resulted in the release of five Taliban commanders who were being held in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Members of Bergdahl's unit in Afghanistan have charged that he willingly left his post and that other soldiers were killed or wounded searching for him. "Bowe Bergdahl deserted during a time of war, and his fellow Americans lost their lives searching for him," Sgt. Matt Vierkant, who was in Bergdahl's unit, told CNN. "

COMBAT STORIES:

Corporal James C. Nau: A soldier – Once and Always: Here is a short statement from the son of one of our members who was killed in combat operations on 27 August 1968 in the Republic of South Vietnam. Although the son, James Nau Jr, was not born until after the soldier was killed, he is compelled to visit the location where the battle took place and see for himself where his father served. A letter was sent to our Chapter by his uncle Major Brad Fisher, currently serving at Fort Eustis, VA. He states in part; "I'm writing to ask you and perhaps the other members of the B/2-1 INF chapter if any of you happen to remember my uncle, James C. Nau. He was killed 27 August 1968 in the former Quang Tin province after being in country for just over a month. He left behind a pregnant wife, my aunt, who gave birth to his son Jim (my cousin). Jim is taking a trip to Vietnam in a couple weeks with a UXO mitigation outfit and will take a side trip to the grid coordinate found on the B/2-1 INF chapter website indicating the location of his and another Soldier's death. Jim reached out to me to help him find the grid coordinate and other information. I informed him that I stumbled upon your chapter website and gained his permission to contact you. I'll leave it at that, please see the attached document as a verification of sorts. I appreciate any insight you can provide." After receiving the initial letter a response was prepared where an attempt was made to contact several Chapter members who were present during the battle. The members in turn talked to the soldier's son providing as much information as possible concerning the circumstances surrounding his father's death along with map locations. Jim Nau II was happy to receive the information. He told the Chapter that he will take pictures and report back to us when he returns to the U.S.. Major Fisher thanked the Chapter for their efforts in assisting his nephew in his quest



VA Eliminates Net Worth Eligibility Factor The VA has eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income Veterans. Instead of combining the sum of Veterans' income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and copayment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Elimination of the consideration of net worth for VA health care enrollment means that certain lower-income, non-service-connected Veterans will have less out-of-pocket costs. **Last March**, VA eliminated the annual requirement for updated financial information. VA now uses information from the IRS and Social Security, which reduces the burden on Veterans to keep their healthcare eligibility up to date. For more information, visit **VA Health Benefits** or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS.

**A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN'
HE'S JUST HOPIN'**

Burma Shave

For Vietnam POWs, Resistance Wasn't Futile: Retired Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez Jr. flew one of the first combat missions of the Vietnam War in August 1964, soon after President Lyndon Johnson told the nation that the United States would strike targets in the north following the Gulf of Tonkin incident. But Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk was crippled by ground fire and went down. Moments later, one of the Navy's few Hispanic pilots had become the war's first American POW. Six weeks of intensive interrogation followed. It was pretty easy to convince them that I was a very junior j.g.," said Alvarez, a Silver Star recipient, referring to his rank as a lieutenant. "I didn't know anything, I just arrived at the ship and my primary duty was I was in charge of the popcorn machine." Alvarez's strategy illustrates how hundreds of American prisoners of war endured brutal living conditions and sadistic interrogation techniques during a long and increasingly unpopular war. Their captors' goal was to break the prisoners in a quest for tactical information, but the POWs -- often in solitary confinement but united in the face of increasing torture -- found ways to resist. Many former prisoners came to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph after the war to re-qualify as Air Force pilots. Last week, they returned for the 42nd annual Freedom Flyers Reunion at Randolph, where young Air Force pilots, family and friends saluted old heroes and remembered and 1,636 Americans who still are missing in action. The ranks of Vietnam's POWs are thinning, prompting retired Marine Lt. Col. Orson Swindle III to think back on comrades who've died in the last year or two, among them Air Force Col. Bud Day, a Medal of Honor recipient, and Brig. Gen. James Robinson "Robbie" Risner, who was senior ranking officer and later vice commander of the 4th Allied Prisoner-of-War Wing. A Korean War ace who lived for years in San Antonio, Risner died in 2013. Like other prisoners at Hoa Lo Prison, dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton," he was in solitary confinement. .

Pentagon Might Unearth USS Oklahoma Remains From Punchbowl: The Pentagon is considering ordering the exhumation of nearly 400 sailors and Marines who died on the battleship USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, and were buried as "unknowns" at Punchbowl cemetery, so they can be identified and returned to families. Those exhumations could be followed by the disinterment of unknowns killed on the battleships California and West Virginia, and other World War II losses, as the U.S. military tries to increase its annual identification of Americans missing from past wars. "No decision has been made on USS Oklahoma disinterment yet, but it is under review and has been discussed at the highest level," said Air Force Lt. Col. Melinda Morgan, a spokeswoman for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The move would be an unprecedented step toward the identification of Pearl Harbor defenders whose remains were unidentifiable three-quarters of a century ago in the aftermath of the bomb blasts, flames, oil and twisted ship metal from the Japanese aerial attacks. A decision to exhume the Oklahoma casualties would go against the Navy's wishes, with the service stating it wanted to maintain the "sanctity" of the graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the formal name of Punchbowl. The cost of disinterment also was raised as a concern. However, officials with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, tasked with investigating, recovering and identifying missing American war dead, use words such as "favorable" and "optimistic" to describe the expected outcome of the current Oklahoma exhumation review. "The families really want this," said Indiana resident Lisa Ridge, whose grandfather Paul Andrews Nash was 26 when he died on the Oklahoma and is buried as an "unknown" at Punchbowl. "My mom and granny never had closure," Ridge said. "Neither of them could ever really speak of it or ever really feel like it was for sure. I think they always had doubts. So my brothers and my dad and I, we just need to know for sure."

Obama Halts Afghanistan Drawdown at 10K US Troops through 2015: President Obama altered his Afghanistan withdrawal plan Tuesday by keeping the number of U.S. troops at 9,800 but sticking to his goal of lowering that number to about 1,000 by 2017. Obama said Wednesday at a White House news conference with new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that the drawdown would be halted only temporarily and the timeline to reduce the U.S. troop presence to embassy security in Kabul and other duties "remains the end of 2016." "That hasn't changed," Obama said. The U.S. president had said he wanted to reduce the U.S. troop presence to 5,500 by the end of 2015, but the withdrawal schedule was changed to allow for "flexibility" to counter threats at the urging of Ghani and Army Gen. John Campbell, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Obama acknowledged that the new plan for 2015 would involve keeping some troops in Afghanistan longer than they had expected. "This will mean that there's going to be some of our folks in Afghanistan under the new schedule (who) will not be going home" as soon as they thought they would, Obama said. "We want to make sure we're doing everything we can to make sure Afghan security forces succeed so that we don't have to go back." On Monday, a U.S. official told Reuters that the plan under consideration likely would mean that U.S. bases in Afghanistan in southwestern Kandahar and in eastern Jalalabad would remain open at least through the end of this year. "The specific trajectory of the 2016 U.S. troop drawdown will be established later in 2015 to enable the U.S. troop consolidation to a Kabul-based embassy presence by the end of 2016," according to a joint statement released by Obama and Ghani. Obama's announcement of resolve to stick with a date for a final withdrawal from Afghanistan drew criticism from Republican lawmakers.

Marines Old and New Return to Iwo Jima: One by one, they descended the steep incline, past the beach grass and lush vegetation that whispered in a melancholy wind. Past the destroyed pill box and rusted machine gun that still peered toward the black sand beach as it did when it fired on their fellow Marines 70 years earlier. As they hit the volcanic powder below, they sunk up to their ankles, surrounded by rusty shrapnel from devastating Japanese mortar fire. Some faltered, their bodies stiff with age, but they were immediately propped up by the latest generation of Marines. Nothing was going to keep them from once again hitting the beach. Nothing would keep them from honoring their fallen comrades, perhaps for the last time. Though it seemed as if eons had passed, the battle for Iwo Jima came alive in their minds. On Saturday, a couple dozen survivors of the fight returned to battlefield for a ceremony marking its 70th anniversary. Many of the attendees, now in their late 80s and early 90s, said it would be their last journey back to the "sulfur island," now referred to as Iwo To by the Japanese, who maintain the small scrap of land between the Mariana Islands and the Japanese mainland as a military base. "When I saw ... the carnage on that beach, and everything just torn to hell all over the place, this is when I went from boyhood to manhood," said Norman Baker, who was 18 when he hit Red Beach 2 with the 4th Marine Division on Feb. 19, 1945.



Bugle Calls: The bugle is an outgrowth of a medieval hunting horn. The present design has remained unchanged since the mid-1700s. Prior to the Civil War troop movements were controlled by fife and drum calls. It was during the Civil War and years immediately following that saw the greatest development in American bugle calls. Most of the calls used today are adaptations of British and French calls, some dating back to the Crusades. "Tattoo" or "Call to Quarters" for example originated during the Thirty Years War to stop nightly drinking. The word tattoo comes from "tap to," which meant "close the beer barrels." "Taps" or "Lights out" is an entirely American innovation. In July 1862, Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield of the Army of the Potomac composed a short tune to be used preceding all the calls used in his brigade. A few months later the call would take on a different role. Almost all bugle calls used today have words associated with them, composed by soldiers whose daily lives were run by the horn's loud clarion. Some like the words to "Reveille" for example the dreaded of all calls, were humorous.

I can't get them up,
I can't get them up,
I can't get them up,
In the morning.

While the words penned for "Taps" reflect the call's quieting tone.

Fades the light,
And afar
Goeth Day
Cometh Night;
And a star
Leadeth all
To their rest.

Bergdahl Faces Little-Known, Rarely Used Misbehavior Charge: If Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl were convicted of "misbehavior before the enemy" two centuries ago, he might also have been subject to a humiliating send-off. His sword might be broken or his insignia ripped from his uniform in front of his unit. Along with desertion, Bergdahl was accused of violating the little-understood Article 99 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice -- misbehavior before the enemy -- for abandoning his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and thereby endangering his unit. Although desertion cases are not uncommon, few military lawyers have ever prosecuted, or defended, a misbehavior before the enemy charge. In a 19th-century treatise, Col. William Winthrop, one of the most important influences in the formation of U.S. military law, wrote that officers convicted of misbehavior before the enemy were "paraded in front of the command bearing a placard inscribed with the word 'coward,' " and then "drummed out of the service." The last time Article 99 was raised in such a high-profile case was in the wake of the 1968 seizure of the spy ship USS Pueblo by the North Korean navy. The skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher, surrendered the Pueblo without firing a shot, becoming the first American officer to give up his ship since the War of 1812. After the crew was released, a Board of Inquiry composed of five admirals recommended that Bucher be court-martialed under Article 99 for surrendering the ship, which was armed with only two .50 caliber machine guns. According to his charge sheet, Bergdahl misbehaved in front of the enemy by leaving his observation post in Paktika province on June 30, 2009. His absence endangered his fellow soldiers and those who were ordered to search for him in hostile territory, according to the charges.

Senate Votes to Expand Veterans' Access to Private Care: The Senate on Thursday unanimously passed legislation instructing the Veterans Affairs Department to allow [veterans](#) living within 40 miles of a VA facility to get non-VA care if the department hospital or clinic cannot provide the service. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, filed the bill as an amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution, Moran spokeswoman Garrette Tuner said. The vote was 100-0. "We [expected] it to pass with broad support from both sides of the aisle," she said. Moran and other lawmakers backed the legislation even though many maintain the VA already has the authority to allow veterans within 40 miles of a VA clinic to use non-VA care when needed. The VA has claimed otherwise, however, arguing that Congress' intent -- as spelled out last year in the conference report on the Veterans Choice Act -- allows exemptions to veterans only when there are geographic problems accessing a VA facility. VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson cited that restriction on Wednesday after Moran pressed him on language in the same report stating that lawmakers "do not intend the 40-mile eligibility criteria ... to preclude veterans who reside closer than 40 miles from a VA facility from accessing care through non-VA providers, particularly if the VA facility the veteran resides near provides limited services." Turner said that Moran's amendment will ensure VA administers the Choice Act "as Congress intended." It calls on the VA to provide veterans access to non-VA health care when the nearest VA medical facility within 40 miles drive time is incapable of offering the care the veteran seeks, she said. Lawmakers have been fighting with VA leadership over this issue at least since last September, when then SVAC chairman Sen. Richard Burr, R-North Carolina, along with Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Florida, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and then committee ranking member Rep. Michael Michaud, D-Maine, challenged VA on its narrow interpretation of the restriction. VA has always had the authority to permit care at non-VA facilities, they wrote on Sept. 25, 2014, and nothing in the Veterans Choice Act negates that. Lawmakers "did not intend for a veteran to travel hundreds of miles or be required to experience an unreasonable number of driving hours to receive a service or treatment immediately available within the community," they wrote. On Wednesday, in advance of the Senate hearing, the VA did reinterpret one part of the 40-mile restriction, changing it to mean "driving time" instead of straight line, "as the crow flies" distance. Gibson told lawmakers that the VA had the flexibility to make that change, but not to with regard to allowing non-VA care within the 40-mile range only because a local VA facility could not provide the care or service.

Stolen Valor: Vet Tells Panhandler, 'Take Off My Uniform': A Florida veteran posted video of his confrontation with a panhandler he suspected of stealing valor by wearing a fraudulent U.S. Army uniform. Garret Goodwin, a Tampa resident who served as an Army combat medic from 1994 to 2003, said he was driving Sunday to MacDill Air Force Base when he spotted a panhandler in South Tampa wearing a yellow high visibility vest over an Army uniform. Goodwin said his suspicions were raised when he noticed a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, or JROTC, patch on the man's uniform. "Show me your veterans ID card," Goodwin demands in the video, which he posted to Facebook and YouTube. "I don't have one, sir," the unidentified panhandler replies. "Then take off my uniform!" Goodwin shouts. "Yes, sir," the man replies, while hurriedly walking away from Goodwin.

MAKE IT TOUGH ENOUGH FOR THE ENEMY TO GET IN AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT!"