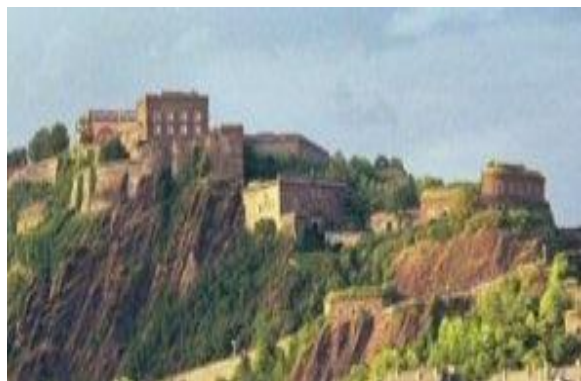


# THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 32

JAN 2019

## From the Observation Post The President's View By Gil Bernabe

My primary observations for this newsletter will concentrate on two reunions – the November 2018 reunion in Washington DC and Northern Virginia and our 2019 Reunion scheduled for the Lawton/Fort Sill Area. While in past years, we might have published a Newsletter covering our annual reunion, we were not able to print a special reunion edition because the November 2018 Reunion was too close to our January edition. We have some great pictures from our 2018 Reunion and we will try to post them to our website.

Our 2018 reunion had several high points. First of all, we had a good turnout with over 50 participants. At our Welcome Social, Association President, Gil Bernabe, recognized several members for their special work for the Association. **Tom Kurtz and Bill Dahlin** received a specially engraved 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Cross pen for their support of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Program. **Dan Reeves**, Association Treasurer, and **Jack Stroud**, Association Secretary, each received an engraved Cross pen for their dedicated work for the Association. Thank you all for your tremendous support to the Association.

Several members ventured out very early to visit Arlington National Cemetery and the Museums on the National Mall. On a rainy Friday, November 9, Richard Smith led our delegation to the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Saturday, November 10, was a day filled with major activities. Our tour bus driver, Jerry Masello, from Quick's Bus Company, drove up at 8:00 am and we were set to travel in style to the National Mall in Washington, DC. We began our Day of Remembrance to all 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Veterans who gave their life in defense of the Nation at Constitution Gardens with a Prayer Vigil. Richard Smith, our Chaplain, set the mood with gentle words asking for God's blessings on our deceased Artillerymen and to watch over their families. At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall), members spread out to find 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veteran names etched in the wall. Most of the group gathered around Panel

number 47 E Lines 45 to 58, where the names of the Charlie Battery artillerymen are located. Gil Bernabe and Bill Beers recited the story of the April 3, 1968, attack on Charlie Battery. Rich Siebe spoke briefly as he remembered Corporal Stephen Jordan, one of his artillerymen from Bravo Battery. As our comments were made, many other visitors at The Wall stopped by to listen and were very gracious as they thanked the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veterans – dressed in their black jackets and caps – for their service.

After our visit at The Wall, we proceeded to other monuments: the Three Servicemen Monument, Vietnam Women's Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, and The Korean War Veterans Memorial. From the National Mall – off we went to lunch at Pentagon City before we made the trek to Mount Vernon. By the time we made it to Mount Vernon, the wind chill temperature had dropped to the 30's. Nonetheless, our group moved around and took in all the sights at the home of our Nation's First President. If you have never been to Mount Vernon, you have to put it on your "Bucket List." Your visit to Mount Vernon will convince you that it is the most popular historic home in America. Clearly, the most popular activity is a tour of George Washington's mansion. The lines are always long, but the tour is worth the wait. Other very popular activities include the Ford Education Center and the Museum where the "quest for independence comes to life in the Revolutionary War Theater; where seats rumble with cannon fire and snow flakes fall every day." Everyone seemed to enjoy the very busy day. One of the best features of the day was the comfort of the bus without any worry about following a GPS or hassling with traffic. Our day ended back at the hotel by 6:00 pm.

At the Reunion Banquet, held at the Blackfinn Ameripub Merrifield restaurant, our newest Associate Member, Jeff Bernabe, conducted the POW Memorial ceremony. Association President, Gil Bernabe, took the opportunity to recognize all wives and special guests and presented each one with a 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association coin for their dedicated support of the Association and especially in making each reunion successful.

Before we discuss the 2019 Reunion, we owe our heartfelt gratitude to many key players who helped make our 2018 Reunion a very enjoyable event. **Ed Dingman and James Will** surprised us with two new 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association decals. We are inserting a picture of the decals in this newsletter. More decals are available at \$5.00 each with profits going to support our scholarship program. Just contact Gil Bernabe or Ed Dingman for your decal. **Richard Flowers** was our “Honorary Bartender” and he did a “cool job” putting our refreshments on ice in the Hospitality Room bathtub and kept everyone properly hydrated. **Dan Reeves and Phyllis Flowers** established a well-organized system for the auction and the new system made tracking purchases very efficient. Of course, our shy, retiring **Bill Beers** did his usual fabulous job as the Auctioneer. The Courtyard’s Event Coordinator **Olivia Chang** spearheaded the hotel’s superb hosting efforts. The breakfast buffet was always delicious and properly prepared with great choices for our hungry guests. The hotel’s Bistro offered a good selection of dinner, snacks and beverages; and, gave our members the opportunity to eat at the hotel instead of driving elsewhere to eat. Actually, the Bistro served as an annex to the Hospitality Room, as we had a sizeable group there every evening. The hotel staff assistance was professional in meeting all our requests for support and did it with a smile. **Annet Hallacoglu**, the event coordinator for The Blackfinn Ameripub Merrifield restaurant, provided our Association two wonderful experiences at their restaurant. We held our Welcome Social and our Annual Banquet at the Blackfinn. The best thing about this restaurant was its location - one block from the hotel. Of course, the Blackfinn provided our group with delicious food choices and the service was fantastic. During the week, several members took advantage of the restaurants’ close location and treated themselves to other tasty Blackfinn meals.

At the 2018 General Membership Meeting, the Association members voted to meet in the Lawton/Fort Sill area for our 2019 Reunion. Since Fort Sill is the Home of The Field Artillery, I know we are all looking forward to a special time at this reunion and expecting a large gathering of 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery veterans. Our 2019 Reunion Schedule of Events is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. As usual, we will begin the week with a catered Welcome Social at our Hospitality Room. Of course, we are planning to spend time at Fort Sill, visiting Artillery units and the Field Artillery museum. A high point of the reunion will be our visit to the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum. In planning our reunion, Jerry Cody and Gil Bernabe, along with Johanna Cody and June Bernabe, were very impressed with all the features that the museum has to offer. Later in the newsletter, I will provide a short biography on General Tommy Franks.

Some of the highlights of the 2019 Reunion include: at our Welcome Social - a raffle where the winner receives a signed copy of General Tommy Frank’s autobiography, **American Soldier**. The second winner will receive a museum coin. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate.

Chances for the raffle are \$5.00 and Dan Reeves will collect your money before the Social.

On Wednesday evening, we will host a book signing where author Towana Spivey will discuss his book, “Silent Witness,” which is a history of Fort Sill and the surrounding area. A book review describes the book:

“Silent Witness - The Diary of a Historic Tree at Fort Sill” is both a narrative and graphic history of this very important frontier army post that was established in the Indian Territory in 1869 and continues as a major military training center today. What makes the history so unique is that it is presented from the perspective of a 250-year-old bur oak tree situated along the banks of the Medicine Bluffs Creek at Fort Sill.

We are working on raising funds to provide everyone a copy of his book. If that is not possible, then we hope to obtain the books at a “reasonable price.”

Thursday is our travel day, as we head West to the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum, in Hobart, OK. You will be captivated by the many unique artifacts that this museum holds. You will see many military weapons; gifts from countless world leaders, gifts from famous singers, and a jersey from a professional NBA player. The September 11 Exhibit will intrigue you and capture your full attention. You will also be impressed with the details of General Franks’ Four-Star Leadership Program. Every summer 70 top high school students attend the Institutes Leadership program, free of charge, and have face-to-face experiences with inspirational leaders that are shaping our world.

For our Annual Banquet - we are working to schedule a Chuck Wagon Dinner on the grounds of The Museum of the Great Plains. Of course, in between all these exciting events we will have plenty of time to socialize and enjoy each other’s company.

In this Newsletter, you will also find our regular contribution from our Historian Tom Kurtz. He provides

- Summary of scholarship number and total funds that our Association has presented to our children, grand-children, and great grandchildren.
- The results of his research as he lists “Deaths from 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 2003 – 2008,” during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regimental Milestones for 2019.

Our Chaplain’s article gives us some good advice about how to handle frustration and stress. He also lists the names of the Artillerymen who have passed away in 2018 and those who are dealing with sickness and distress.

Of key importance to many of our high school followers is the announcement of the **2019 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Program**. **For a scholarship application**, contact Dr. Gil Bernabe either by phone or email: Cell: (903) 421-6266; email: [Gilbernabe29@aol.com](mailto:Gilbernabe29@aol.com).

**Applications are due – postmarked – No Later Than March 20, 2019. Mail your completed application to: Dr. Gil Bernabe – 2916 Sedalia Trail – Sherman, TX 75092.**



**17th Artillery Regiment Association's Twenty-  
First Annual Reunion  
Lawton/Fort Sill, OK  
September 17 to 21, 2019  
2019 REUNION INFORMATION**

**What we know for Sure.**

**When:** The 2019 Annual Reunion will be held in the Lawton/Fort Sill, OK, from Tuesday, September 17 to Friday, September 20, 2019. Check out on Saturday – September 21, 2019. The Board members will arrive on September 15 and 16 for the Annual Business Meetings.

**Where: Reunion Headquarters** will be at the **Fairfield Inn & Suites, 201 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawton, OK 73501.**

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Marriott Reservations 1 (800) 321-2211 or 1-580-248-5500 using the group name “17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Association Reunion” and Group Code – AAK.

**Room rates:** \$89.00 per night plus tax. Room rates are from September 15 to September 21, 2019..

Link for reservations: **Book your group rate for 17th Artillery Reunion at Fairfield Inn and Suites**  
(Right click, Open hyperlink)

The hotel rate for a king and double room are **\$89.00**. The **king and double suite** rate is **\$94.00 per night plus tax**. Reservations must be made by **August 15, 2019**, to receive the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery room rate of **\$89.00/\$94.00, respectfully.**

**Hotel deadline: Reservations made after August 15, 2018 will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only.** Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check out time is 12:00 Noon. The hotel provides a complimentary daily breakfast; free high speed internet, and free parking. If you make a room reservation and have to cancel, the cancellation must be made prior to 3:00 PM on September 16, 2019 ( 1 day before your scheduled check-in), to avoid being charged. The hotel website is: <http://www.marriott.com/LAWFI>

**Still in the planning phase:** At this time, we estimate that the Reunion Registration Fee will be approximately \$80.00 per person. This fee will cover the Welcome Social, Hospitality Room refreshments, bus rental, the “Banquet Meal,” and one book raffle ticket.

**During the spring time, I will travel to Fort Sill again to coordinate the remaining activities for our group. By our next Newsletter, we will firm up the “TBD’s.”**



Gil Bernabe & Jerry Cody establish  
Fairfield Inn & Suites Headquarters for the  
2019 reunion Fort Sill



Lieutenant. After graduation, he was immediately sent to Vietnam.

His distinguished service in Vietnam earned him six Valor awards and three Purple Hearts. His Vietnam assignment was the beginning of a long and distinguished career that would take him from one world hot spot to another. With each assignment, he gained the knowledge and experience that prepared him for important leadership role that would earn him a unique honor in the annals of American history.

In June 2000, he was promoted to four star General and assigned as Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command. It's in this position that the world knows Tommy Franks best. His assignment as Commander, U.S. Central Command, was the culmination of an almost four-decade military career during which he led American and coalition troops in two strategically unprecedented campaigns in two years – Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

General Franks' awards include five Distinguished Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts plus numerous foreign awards. On December 14, 2004, President George W. Bush awarded him the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Since his retirement in 2003, General Franks has traveled the world, speaking on leadership, character, and the value of Democracy. His autobiography, American Soldier, debuted as Number 1 on the New York Times Best Seller list in August 2004. General Franks and his wife, Cathryn Carley Franks, have one daughter, who is married to a military officer, and three grandchildren. The Franks live at their ranch in Roosevelt, Oklahoma, with longhorns, buffalo, Angus cattle, horses and their cat, Bailey. President George W. Bush calls General Franks "a down-to-earth, no nonsense guy." His troops call him "a Soldier's General."



**Jerry Cody ready to tour General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute & Museum in Hobart, OK.**

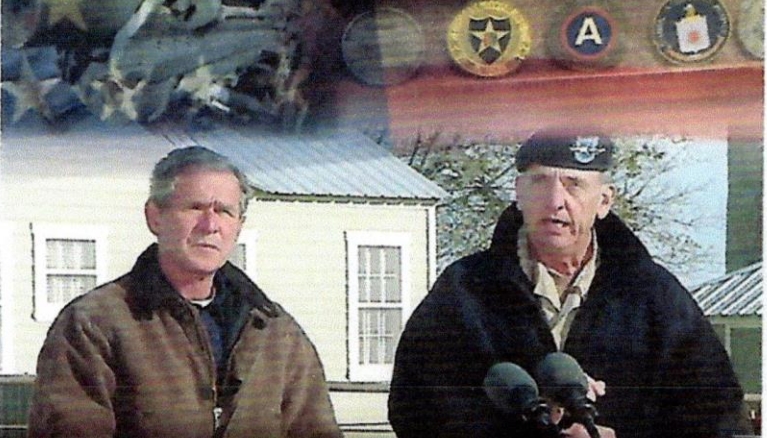


## **Who is General Tommy Franks?**

**Editor's Note:** As the members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association prepared to visit the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum at our 2019 Reunion, I thought it would be appropriate to share with you a little bit about who General Tommy Franks is. At the museum you will have the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of General Franks autobiography. The museum has been most generous and provided the Association a copy of General Frank's book and a museum coin for our book raffle. Tommy Franks was born in Wynnewood, Oklahoma; and grew up in Midland, Texas. He joined the United States Army, and after a brief stint as an enlisted soldier, he attended the Artillery Officer Candidate School. He graduated as a distinguished graduate from OCS and was commissioned a Second



TOMMYFRANKSMUSEUM.ORG



The General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum is dedicated to telling the story of the United States military and education. The world-class Museum exhibitions are ordered chronologically, following General Tommy Franks life and career, while also showcasing the changes in the American military from WWII to the present. See cultural items from around the world, unique military equipment, one-of-a-kind historical photographs, videos and much more.

**LEADERSHIP. PATRIOTISM. SERVICE.**

Hours of Operation  
Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.  
Or by appointment. Closed most major holidays.  
Proudly offering free admission.

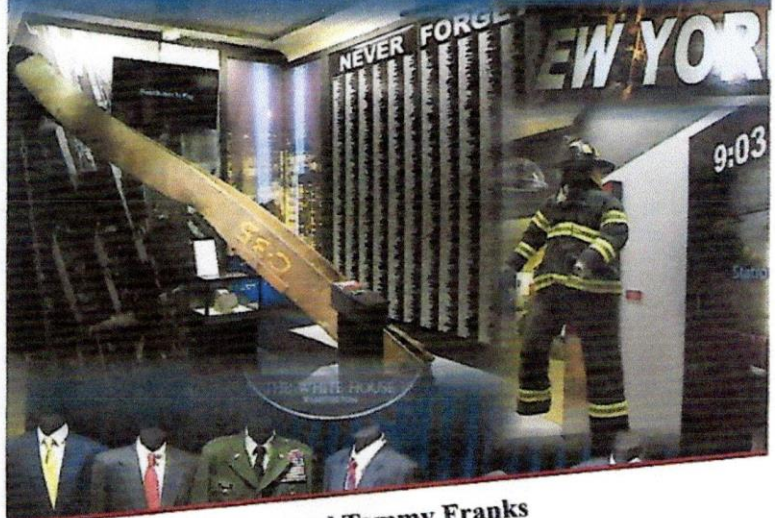
# September ★★★★ NEVER FORGET EXHIBIT

PRESENTED BY THE GENERAL TOMMY FRANKS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM

“9/11: Never Forget” is the newest permanent exhibit at the Museum, bringing an educational opportunity to all Americans with a view of the world before and after Sept. 11, 2001.

The exhibit features a 14-foot-long, 3,000-lb. steel I-beam from the World Trade Center as well as numerous multi-media displays, interactives and collections placing visitors in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001 starting at 8:30 a.m. Visitors travel a chronological timeline of the day, learning about the World Trade Center, the attack and heroic rescue efforts offered by so many.

Areas are dedicated to the Pentagon and Flight 93 as well as memorials honoring the nearly 3,000 men, women and children from 93 nations who perished, a reminder that we are all impacted when anyone is lost through a senseless act of terrorism.



General Tommy Franks  
Leadership Institute and Museum  
507 S. Main Street • PO Box 222  
Hobart, Oklahoma 73651  
TommyFranksMuseum.org | (580) 726-5900

**2019 Reunion Schedule**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association**  
**Lawton/Fort Sill Oklahoma**

	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Day 7</b>
	<b>Sunday – Sep 15</b>	<b>Monday – Sep 16</b>	<b>Tuesday – Sep 17</b>	<b>Wednesday – Sep 18</b>	<b>Thursday – Sep 19</b>	<b>Friday – Sep 20</b>	<b>Saturday – Sep 21</b>
<b>Headquarters</b>							<b>CHECK OUT</b>
Fairfield Inn & Suites 201 SE 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lawton, OK 73501	Association Officers Arrive		10:00 – 15:00 Welcome Members	9:00 – 1200 Fort Sill Briefings and Tour	Tour - General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute & Museum	9:00 – 11:00 – General Membership Meeting	Breakfast  Travel back home
			Free Time	- Snow Hall - Museums	8:30 am – Bus departs for Hobart, OK	11:00 – 1:30 Auction	
	Review Agenda for Annual Business Mtg – and Reunion Itinerary	1:00 – 4:00 Annual Business Mtg	Tour: Lawton Area & Fort Sill	Lunch at Club – TBD  Tour Artillery Units  4:00 pm – Return to Hotel	9:45 – 10:00 am Welcome Brief - Tour of Museum 12:00 – 1:00 – Catered Lunch – by Kozy Diner- \$15.00	2:00 – 4:00  Banquet –  Site: TBD	
		6:00 pm – Supper with Wives	6:00 – 7:00 pm Welcome Social – Hospitality Rm – Catered - Raffle: Book & Coin	7:00 – 8:30 pm Hospitality Room - Book Signing - History of Fort Sill – by Towana Spivey, “Silent Witness”	1:30 – 2:30 – Gift Shop & Museum Time  2:30 -3:45 - - Travel to hotel	Free Time	
					Free time	Free Time	

**Area activities: \* close to hotel**

- a. \*Museum of the Great Plains – 601 Ferris Ave, Lawton
- b. \*Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center – 701 Ferris Ave, Lawton
- c. Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum, 435 Quanah Rd, Ft Sill
- d. \*Comanche Nation Casino and Apache Casino – close to hotel
- e. Medicine Park – Lake Lawtonka – Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

**Dated: January 21, 2019**

**17th Artillery Regiment Association's  
Registration Form  
2019 Reunion- September 17 – 21, 2019**

**Please fill out the Registration Form below**

The association's registration fee will cover Tuesday evening's Welcome Social, Hospitality Room refreshments, bus rental, and banquet.

Please make your check or money order payable to: 17th Artillery Regiment Association.

**Mail to the Association's Treasurer:** Dan Reeves  
5235 Laguna Court  
Byron, CA 94505

**CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER.**  
(With your check or money order to arrive NLT September 1, 2019)

Cut/tear here - - - - -

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Battery: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served (From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_)

Name (s) of Spouse, Relatives, and friends attending:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Name tags will be printed from the names submitted)

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

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

Registration fee: \$80.00 per person - X- Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number in your party)

Please donate toward the Hospitality Room Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)  
Deaths from 17th Field Artillery Regiment  
2003-2008  
KIA-Killed in Action, DOW- Died of Wounds-  
NBD-None Battle Death**



**STEPHEN EUGENE WYATT, Specialist** (Promoted Posthumously)  
Battery C, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, attached to 4th Infantry Division  
Home Town: Kilgore, Texas  
Age: 19 (Born June 14, 1984)  
MOS: 13B10 Cannon Crewman  
Date of Death: KIA (DOW), October 13, 2003, Balad, Iraq  
Reason: SPC Wyatt served in the 2nd Platoon, 5th Section, Battery C. On 13 October 2003 a convoy departed FOB Carpenter at 9 a. m. on a routine mission. Shortly thereafter the convoy encountered an improvised explosive device (IED) that injured SPC Wyatt and two other soldiers and an interpreter. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the nearest combat support hospital and tragically SPC Wyatt did not survive.  
Buried: Kilgore Memorial Gardens, Smith County, Kilgore, Texas



**ERIC LEWIS ALLTON, Captain**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Houston, Harris County, Texas  
Age: 34 (Born April 15, 1970, Alton, Illinois)  
MOS: 13A00, Field Artillery Officer  
Date of Death: (KIA), September 24, 2004, Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Reason: Was hit in the chest by an enemy mortar round.  
Buried: Section 52, Site 14, Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas



**JEUNGJIN NA KIM, Private First Class** (Promoted Posthumously)  
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Honolulu, Hawaii  
Age: 23 (Born in South Korea December 11, 1980 and Posthumously Granted US Citizenship)  
Date of Death: (KIA), October 6, 2004, Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Reason: Was killed when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small arms.  
Buried: Plot: Section V, Site 264, Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Honolulu County, Honolulu, Hawaii



**BRADLEY SCOTT BEARD, Specialist**

Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Age: 22 (Born: September 13, 1982)  
MOS: 63D10, Artillery Mechanic  
Date of Death: (KIA) October 14, 2004, Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Reason: Died of Shrapnel wounds to his head. When an Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) detonated near his vehicle at a fortified over watch position, while on reconnaissance for explosives at Camp Ramadi.  
Buried: Section 60, Site 8008, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington County, Arlington, Virginia



**CHRISTOPHER ANDREW MERVILLE, Specialist**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Age: 30 (Born August 25, 1978)  
MOS: 13B10 Artillery Crewman  
Date of Death: (KIA), October 17, 2004, Baghdad, Iraq  
Reason: Died when unit came under small arms fire while conducting combat operations.  
Buried: Sunset Memorial Park, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, New Mexico



**MARURICE KEITH FORTUNE, Sergeant**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Forestville, Prince George’s County, Maryland  
Age: 25 (Born: October 7, 1979)  
MOS: 13C20 Tactical Automated Fire Control Systems Specialist  
Date of Death: (KIA), October 20, 2004, Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Reason: When a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VIED) detonated near his military vehicle.  
Buried: Former U.S. Air Base, Clark Cemetery, Clark, Pampanga, Northern Philippines



**STEPHEN PAUL DOWNING II, Private First Class**

Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Burkesville, Burkesville County, Kentucky  
Age: 30 (Born: May 8, 1974)  
MOS: 88M10, Motor Transport Operator  
Date of Death: (KIA) October 28, 2004, Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Reason: Killed by small fire, while conducting combat operations.  
Buried: Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana



**FRANCISCO GREGORIO MARTINEZ, Specialist**

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (Fire Support Team assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry)

Home Town: Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Age: 20 (Born December 16, 1984)

MOS 13F10, Fire Support Specialist

Date of Death: (KIA), March 20, 2005, Tamin, Iraq

Reason: Died as the results of enemy small arms fire.

Buried: Plot: Section 26, Site 308A, Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas County, Dallas, Texas



**TROMAINE KEON TOY Sr., Sergeant**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Eastville, Virginia

Age: 24 (Born September 7, 1980)

Date of death: (KIA), April 16, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: His section's M109A6 Paladin, 155mm howitzer took a direct hit from a 122mm rocket while in the battery's firing position.

Buried: Bethel AME Church Cemetery, Northampton County, Eastville, Virginia



**ANGELO LUIS LOZADA Jr., Sergeant**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Brooklyn, Bronx Borough, New York

Age: 36 (Born August 8, 1968)

MOS: 13B20, Cannon Crewman

Date of Death: (KIA), April 16, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: His section's M109A6 Paladin, 155mm howitzer took a direct hit from a 122mm rocket while in the battery's firing position.

Buried: Plot: Section 4, Row E, Site 188, New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, Merrimack County, New Hampshire



**RANDY LEE STEVENS, Specialist**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Swart Creek, Genesee County, Michigan

Age: 21

MOS: 13B10, Cannon Crewman

Date of Death: (KIA), April 16, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: His section's M109A6 Paladin, 155mm howitzer took a direct hit from a 122mm rocket while in the battery's firing position

Buried: Sunset Hills Cemetery, Genesee County, Flint, Michigan



**LOUIS E. NIEDERMEIER, Specialist** (Posthumous promoted as indicated)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Largo, Pinellas County, Florida

Age: 20 (Born June 15, 1984)

MOS: 13F10, Fire Support Specialist

Date of Death: (KIA), June 1, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: When his unit was conducting combat operations he came under small arms fire.

Buried: Plot: Section 60, Site 818, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington County, Arlington, Virginia



**LARRY ROBERT KUHNS Jr., Sergeant**

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Austintown, Mahoning County, Ohio

Age: 24 (Born April 9, 1981)

MOS: 13F20, Fire Support Specialist

Date of Death: (KIA), June 13, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: When his vehicle came under a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) attack while conducting combat operations

Buried: Paradise Cemetery, Mahoning County, North Lima, Ohio



**NEIL ARMSTRONG PRINCE, Sergeant First Class**

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Baltimore, Pinellas County, Maryland

Age: 35 (Born in Jamaica)

MOS: 13D40, Field Artillery Tactical Automated Fire Control Systems Specialist

Date of Death: (KIA), June 11, 2005, Taqaddum, Iraq

Reason: When an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated his military vehicle

Buried: Section 60, Grave 8192, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington County, Arlington, Virginia



**ANTHONY DAVID KINSLOW, Specialist**

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Westville, Delaware County, Ohio

Age: 21 (Born October 1, 1983)

MOS: 13F10, Fire Support Specialist

Date of Death: (KIA), June 13, 2005, Ar Ramadi, Iraq

Reason: When his vehicle came under a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) attack while conducting combat operations  
Buried: Resurrection Cemetery, Delaware County, Lewis Center, Ohio



**JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN, Sergeant**  
Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Nixon, Tennessee  
Age: 22 (Born April 3, 1984)  
MOS: 13B20, Ammunition Team Chief  
Date of Death: KIA, Died of Wounds (DOW) December 30, 2006, Baghdad, Iraq  
Reason: Died of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his vehicle while on a combat patrol in Baghdad  
Buried: Plot: Section FF, Site 676, Chattanooga National Cemetery, Hamilton County, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
A segment of State Route 153 was named as the SGT JOHN M. SULLIVAN MEMEORIAL HIGHWAY from the intersection of Northpoint Boulevard to Hamill Road.



**BRETT ANDRE WALTON, Private First Class**  
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Hillsboro, Oregon  
Age: 37 (Born January 30, 1970)

Date of Death: (KIA), April 9, 2007, Baghdad, Iraq  
Reason: Died when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his Humvee he was driving.  
Buried: Plot: Section A, Site 1153, Willamette National Cemetery, Multnomial County, Portland, Oregon



**ISMAEL GALVIN SOLORIO Jr., Sergeant** (Posthumous Promoted as indicated)  
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: San Luis, Arizona  
Age: 21 (Born: San Luis Rio Colorado Sonora, Mexico May 15, 1985)  
Date of Death: (KIA), April 9, 2007, Baghdad, Iraq  
Reason: Died when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his vehicle  
Buried: Sunset Vista Funeral Home and Cemetery, Yuma County, Yuma, Arizona



**BRIAN LEE HOLDEN, Specialist** (Promoted Posthumously)  
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division  
Home Town: Claremont, North Carolina  
Age: 20 (Born in Ivory Coast, Africa, January 15, 1987)  
Date of Death: (KIA), April 9, 2007, Baghdad, Iraq

Reason: Died when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near his vehicle.

Buried: Catawba Memorial Park, Catawba County, Hickory, North Carolina



**ERIC A. LILL, Sergeant**

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Chicago, Illinois

Age: 28 (Born: Chicago, Cook County, Illinois June 21, 1979)

Date of Death: KIA, Died of Wounds (DOW), July 6, 2007, in Rustamiyah, Iraq

Reason: Died of wounds in suffered when an improvised explosive device (IED) near his vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad

Buried: Resurrection Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleums, Cook County, Justice, Illinois



**CHRISTOPHER DAVID ALLEN KUBE, Specialist** (Posthumously Promoted)

Company G (Forward Support Company, 2nd Brigade Support Battalion), 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Home Town: Sterling Heights, Michigan

Age: 18 (Born in Oakland County, Royal Oak, Michigan on September 7, 1988)

Date of Death: KIA, Died of Wounds (DOW), July 14, 2007, Baghdad, Iraq

Reason: Died of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device (IED)

Buried: Plot: Section I, Site 159, Great Lakes National Cemetery, Oakland County, Holly, Michigan



**REGIMENTAL MILESTONES for 2019**

**By: Thomas R. Kurtz**

**1919: (100 years ago),**

\*February 4, 1919, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment motored from Bendorf, Germany to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, Koblenz, Germany arriving on February 5, 1919. The regiment's motor school started at Bendorf was re-designated "Corps Motor School" upon completion of the move and was established at the east end of the fortress.

\*July 4, 1919, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment fired a 48-gun salute from Ehrenbreitstein- Fortress for each state of the union, first American artillery unit to fire from the fortress.

\*July 18, 1919, the 17th Field Artillery Regiment stated their move from Fortress Ehrenbretstein to Brest, France. The regiment sailed from Brest, France, on July 30, 1919, to New York City, arriving there on May 4, 1919. After the 2nd Division parade in New York, the emergency men were discharged and the remainder of the regiment along with the 2nd Division was sent to Camp Travis, Texas.

**1929: (90 years ago),**

\*July 22, 1929, (Fort Bragg) the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was relieved from assignment to 2nd Division and assigned to 1st Division.

**1939: (80 years ago),**

\*October 16, 1939, (Fort Bragg) the 17th Field Artillery Regiment was relieved from assignment to 2nd Division and designated a Corps Artillery unit.

**1944: (75 years ago),**

(World War II) \*March 1, 1944, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is re-organized; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is re-designated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Group; 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is re-designated 17th Field Artillery Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment is re-designated 630th Field Artillery Battalion; the 17th Field Artillery Regimental Band is separated from the regiment, reorganized and re-designated 245th Army Band and assigned to Headquarters, 5th Army.

(World War II) \*August 13, 1944, the 17th Field Artillery Group arrives at the staging area Qualiano, Italy for preparation for movement to France.

(World War II) \*September 2, 1944, 17th Field Artillery Group sailed from Naples, Italy on two LSTs for France.

(World War II) \*September 10, 1944, 17th Field Artillery Group lands at Cavaliere, France moves quickly forward to enter the line attached to VI Corps in support of the 35th Infantry Division. The trip north from the landing in Southern France took the Group through Grenoble, Bourg and Lons-le-Sannier.

**1949: (70 years ago),**

\*In 1949, the 537th Field Artillery Battalion (Fort Carson) participated in "Operation Hay Lift" a disaster relief project in the snowbound states of Wyoming and South Dakota

**1954: (65 years ago),**

\*March 25, 1954, after a three day road march, the 537th Field Artillery Battalion arrives at Fort Sill, Oklahoma after being transferred there from Fort Carson, Colorado.

**1959: (60 years ago),**

\*March 19, 1959, Battery B, 537th Field Artillery Battalion (Fort Sill) is inactivated and re-designated as Headquarters Battery 5th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, concurrently, withdrawn from Regular Army and allotted to Army Reserve, and assigned to 90th Infantry Division (organic elements concurrently constituted) activated April 1, 1959 at Beaumont, Texas

\*March 29, 1959, Battery C, 537th Field Artillery Battalion (Fort Sill) is inactivated and re-designated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery concurrently, withdrawn from Regular Army allotted to the United States Reserve and assigned to Fourth United States Army (organic elements concurrently constituted) and activated at Bogaluse, Louisiana.

\*April 20, 1959, Battery A, 537th Field Artillery Battalion (Fort Sill) is inactivated and re-designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, withdrawn from the Regular Army, allotted to the Army Reserve, and assigned to the Third United States Army (organic elements concurrently constituted). Activated May 1, 1959 with Headquarters at Raleigh, North Carolina.

\*July 31, 1959, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 17th Artillery Group, 17th and 537th Artillery Battalions consolidated, reorganized and re-designated as the 17th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion (Korea) is re-designated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery and activated at Fort Benning, Georgia (organic to 2nd Infantry Division)

**1964: (55 years ago),**

\*1964, in the first six months, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Fort Sill) conducted Advance Individual Training (AIT) for 162 cannoneers (MOS 140) and 29 communications (MOS 310).

\*March 24, 1964, 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery (Germany) is re-designated 3rd Battalion, 17th Artillery.

**1969: (50 years ago),**

(Vietnam War) \*March 24, 1969, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery is returned to battalion control from the 41st Artillery Group.

(Vietnam War) \*April 15, 1969, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery released from attached to 41st Artillery Group and attached to 52nd Artillery Group.

(Vietnam War) \*August 28, 1969, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery assumes operational control of Battery C as it returned to An Khe. The battalion comes under the operational control of the Provisional Artillery Group.

(Vietnam War) \*December 26, 1969, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery advance party departs An Khe to Nha Trang.

(Vietnam War) \*December 27, 1969, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery advance party departs from An Khe to Ban Me Thout, South Vietnam. Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery advance party departs An Khe for Dalat, South Vietnam.

**1974: (45 years ago),**

\*October 17-20, 1974, the 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (USAR) takes part in FIREX 74 conduct by XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**1989: (30 years ago),**

\*2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill) trained on the M109A3E2 Howitzer Improvement Program (HIP). The battalion then organized into HIP platoons and a traditional M109A3 platoons firing a total of 24,000 rounds in 1,120 missions.

**1994: (25 years ago),**

\*1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill) focused on section and platoon training, resulting in successful battery and battalion Exercise Evaluations (EXEVALs); took part in the 75th Field Artillery Brigades annual exercise “Taut Lanyards” and underwent a 100 percent Emergency Development Readiness Exercise (EDER) and a 100 percent rail loading operations and deployed into the 75th Field Artillery Brigade’s Field Training Exercise (FTX).

\*2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill), the Army’s first Paladin battalion, participated in National Training Center (NTC) 94-07 and Desert Hammer VI, an advanced war-fighting demonstration that focused on digitizing the battlefield; provided fires for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment at the NTC and supported Fort Sill’s Combined Arms Life Fire Exercise (CALFEXs).

\*3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill) trained on Metrological Information Tasks (METI) to deploy, fight and sustain operations and supported the 4th Infantry division at NTC and held two CALFEXs.

\*5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill) trained on Multi-Role Thermal Images (MRTI) task to deploy, fight and sustain operations and underwent an EXEVAL at White Sands, New Mexico the first since its transition from 8-inch to Multiple Rocket Launcher System (MRLS).

**1999: (20 years ago),**

\*1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Sill) deployed, along with the entire 75th Field Artillery Brigade, to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas for a 30 day FTX. One battery deployed to Australia for 30 days while the rest of the battalion depolyed to Fort Chaffee.

\*2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Korea) honed its war-fighting skills and Paladin proficiency through many CALFEXs and Command Post Exercise (CPXs), executing its direct support mission to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

**2004: (15 years ago),**

\*(Operation Iraqi Freedom) March 2004, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment returned from Iraq to their home station at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During their tour in Iraq , in support of the 4th Infantry Division, in its zone created a border police force of more than 1,300 and an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) battalion of 900 (+) members plus worked with an Iraqi Army battalion of 600 soldiers and four municipal governments (mayors and city councils)

\*(Operation Iraqi Freedom) August 4, 2004, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division departs South Korea to Kuwait. After some additional training in Kuwait, the battalion moves to Ar Ramadi, Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

**2009: (10 years ago),**

\*February 2009, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Lewis) deployed to National Training Center for Mission Rehearsal Exercise, since their future deployment change from Iraq to Afghanistan, the battalion focused on artillery training.

\*April 2009, the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Fort Lewis) M198 155mm towed howitzers were replaced with the M777A2 155mm towed howitzers.

\*(Operation Enduring Freedom) July 2009, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 5th Brigade Combat Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division deploys to Afghanistan for OEF 09-11. (This was first deployment of a Stryker Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan). During the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery deployment it covered three provinces, in Regional Command (South), requiring the battalion to occupation and the sustainment of thirteen Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). The battalion fired 6,000 rounds in support of the brigades’ maneuver battalions, other U. S. brigade combat teams, Special Operation Forces, British, Danish, Canadians, Romanian ground forces and Afghanistan National Security Forces.

**2014: (5 years ago),**

\*February - March 2014, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment under the 2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division (Joint Base Lewis-McCord) switches from counterinsurgency training to traditional force on force style conflicts training at Yakama Training Center in preparation for deployment to the National Training Center, California.

\*First week in May 2014, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Joint Base Lewis-McCord) won the Volleyball Championship by beating 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment (3-2 SBCT)

\*May 9, 2014 The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment Battalion’s Soccer Team beat the 864th Engineer Battalion (2-0) to earn the title of Joint Base Lewis McCord Soccer Champions.

\*June - Units of the 2d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division (Joint Base Lewis-McCord) deployed to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irvin, California. At the NTC, the 2d Brigade Combat Team will undergo certification as globally available and regionally aligned force. After undergoing training at NTC, the brigade and subordinate units were certified as a globally available and regionally aligned Stryker Brigade.





**List of 2018 – 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Association  
Reunion Attendees  
WASHINGTON**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Spouse/Guest</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gil Bernabe</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Gilbernabe29@aol.com</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>(Walter) Dave Rowell</b>	<b>Jerrine</b>	<b>Drowell47@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Dan Reeves</b>	<b>Brenda</b>	<b>dreeves@cdedrill.com</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Jack Stroud</b>	<b>Molly</b>	<b>Jack.stroud@roadrunner.com</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Jim Kendall</b>	<b>Barb</b>	<b>jimkendall@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Henry Dudek</b>	<b>Pat</b>	<b>patanhank@verizon.net</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Vernon Paul Shepherd</b>	<b>Susan</b>	<b>Shepherd727@gmail.com</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Robert T. Shepard</b>		<b>Guest of Paul Shephard</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>William J. Shepard</b>		<b>Guest of Paul Shephard</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Darlene Hopkins</b>		<b>Guest of Paul Shephard</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Richard Siebe</b>		<b>R47S89SP@comcast.net</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Richard Flowers</b>	<b>Phyllis</b>	<b>Flowers.Phyllis@att.net</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Richard Smith</b>	<b>Cathy</b>	<b>rsmith3024@nc.rr.com</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Edward Dingman</b>	<b>Judy</b>	<b>Edingman195@gmail.com</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>William Beers</b>	<b>Cuma</b>	<b>cumaandpops@gmail.com</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>George Winton</b>	<b>Donna</b>	<b>georgewinton@comcast.net</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Gene Johnson</b>	<b>Carol</b>	<b>Pwrbtr@optonline.net</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Delmar Beard</b>	<b>Patricia</b>	<b>Coprimtr@yahoo.com</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Jack Lambert</b>	<b>Karen</b>	<b>Jakal_28645@yahoo.com</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>James Will</b>	<b>Ruth</b>	<b>mjwill@comcast.net</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Willie Gates</b>		<b>Pewebill@comcast.net</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Thornton Purvis</b>	<b>Karen</b>	<b>Purvissilverfox2@aol.com</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Buford Calfee</b>	<b>Linda</b>	<b>calfeelinda@yahoo.com</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Eddie Ahonen</b>	<b>Sandra</b>	<b>Sandy.ahonen@gmail.com</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>John (Roger) Ubauldi</b>	<b>Pat</b>	<b>rogerubauldi@aol.com</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Jeff Bernabe</b>		<b>Jeffbernabe99@yahoo.com</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Chrisy Bernabe</b>		

## **VETERAN AWARD FOR JACK PICCIOLO**

By Thomas R. Kurtz

At the Illinois State Fair, on Veterans Day, August 12, 2018, Jack Picciolo, a life member of the association and a veteran of Battery C, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, Vietnam, 1965-1966, was awarded the Illinois Veteran's Patriotic Volunteer of the Year (2018) by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and the Director, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Stephen Curda, Ph.D.



Jack's award read in part: Jack Picciolo is recognized as the Illinois Veterans' Patriotic Volunteer of the year for 2018. Mr. Picciolo is a decorated military Veteran of the Vietnam War, rising to the rank of Specialist Four. He exhibits exemplary commitment to service through various Veterans and volunteer activities and was instrumental in ending Veteran homelessness in Will County. He has been recognized by numerous Veteran organizations for his dedication to bettering his community and the lives of Veterans. A current resident of Lockport, Illinois, Jack is a devoted Chairman on the board for Will County Veterans Assistance Commission and continues to be a role model and leader serving the residents of his state and community.



*Jack Picciolo with his wife Carol*

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## *A Resolution or a Change*

I hope all had a great Christmas and a happy New Year! I also hope everyone had as good of time in Washington as Cathy and I did. The weather didn't always cooperate with us especially the rain at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall and the cold windy temperature at The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall) and Mount Vernon, but it was still a great event in my opinion.

I noticed several years ago when I was still in law enforcement that Christmas Eve was about the slowest night of the year as far as calls went. It seemed that everyone was honoring our new savior's birth, Jesus Christ. Christmas night however was a 180 degree turn! Disturbances, fights, drunkenness, tempers flaring, gunshots, when the night before, "all is calm." Holidays, at times, can be stressful.

Frustration causes stress. Stress causes temper flare-ups which can lead to verbal and physical fighting among other things. It causes you to say something you'll regret and can't take back.

*ALL* of us are guilty of being mad or angry and regretting our behavior at one time or another. We're human. James, one of the 12 apostles tells us in the New Testament, "***My dear brothers take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and (slaw) slow to become angry, for a man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.***" James 1:19-20

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6: 14-15, "***But if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men of their sins, your Father will not forgive you.***"

Sometimes saying nothing or walking away from the situation helps us calm down. In closing I want to share a verse to remember. The apostle Paul tells us, "***In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry and do not give the devil a foothold.***" Eph.4; 26-27. A good New Year's resolution remember, *the more you talk to Him, the better you get to know Him!*

The following deaths have been reported to me since the last newsletter along with cards, calls, and posting to the Guestbook. (Hopefully the Guestbook will be up and running soon.)

DEATHS; 1) Alan McIlvain 2) Rosie Plata, wife of LM Bob Plata 3) Scott Sanders, son of past president Jim Sanders  
SICKNESS & DISTRESS 1) Jim Sanders –breathing issues 2) Rich Siebe-eye surgery 3) Mike Dages-bone cancer 4) Cuma Beers (wife of Bill) cancer 5) Cecil Legrand- COPD 6) Tom Kurtz-caregiver 7)Norm & Annette Jones 8) Paul Shepherd- back surgery 9) Brenda Reeves (wife of Dan) side effects from previous stroke 10) Peter Coffin-wife having lung surgery." (NOTE: I do NOT publish home information)

Remember that cards, calls, prayers, and emails go a long way during hard times!

Please continue to call or email me if you have information that a member or family is sick or has passed away.  
([RSmith3024@nc.rr.com](mailto:RSmith3024@nc.rr.com))

God Bless and a Happy New Year to you all!

Richard A. Smith- Chaplain 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association



**To become a member, life member or to renew your membership with the  
“17th Artillery Regiment Association”**

Complete the form below, and mail it with your check or money order (Payable to **17th Artillery Regiment Association**). **Mail to: Danny Reeves (Association Treasurer) 5235 Laguna Court, Byron, CA 94505.** Upon receipt of your 2019 dues or renewal, a membership card will be mailed to you. Life members will be mailed their numbered 17th Artillery Regiment Association Life Membership Coin. Members will be given the PASSWORD to access the on-line veteran’s roster located on the association’s web site. ([www.17thartilleryregiment.org](http://www.17thartilleryregiment.org)). The Password is changed January 1 each year and will be sent to you by U. S. Mail or email.

**Join or renew now:** 2019 Membership Dues is \$30.00 (January – December) (Annual dues \$30.00 per year)

**Life membership fees:** Through age 30---\$270.00    31-40---\$260.00    41-50---\$240.00    51-60---\$220.00  
61-70---\$190.00    71-80---\$150.00    81 plus---\$110.00

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MI:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX or Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I served with the 17th Artillery --- From (yr.):** \_\_\_\_\_ **to (yr.):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check those that apply:**

**Battery or Batteries:**

- 17th Field Artillery/Battalion/Group/Regiment (Prior to 1958) \_\_\_\_\_
- 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2013) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 2008) (2010 - Present) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1958 – 1995) (2007-2010) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1996) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1959 – 1963) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1960 – 1972) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (1967 – 1971) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: NEW MEMBERS** - please enclose a copy of your DD Form 214 with your application (Mail a COPY, do not send the Original). If you have previously mailed a copy of your DD Form 214 to the association, there is no need to send another copy.

**ACTIVE DUTY:** Check here - if you are on active duty. You may not have a DD Form 214 yet.

Danny (Dan) L. Reeves - 5235 Laguna Court - Byron, CA 94505  
Email address is: [dreeves@cedrill.com](mailto:dreeves@cedrill.com); Cell Phone: (925) 584-6209

**Updated: January 1, 2019**

## **Our Donation to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF)**

**By the time some of the officers returned home, we remembered that during our General Membership Meeting, we forgot to make a motion for a donation to the Vietnam Veterans Fund. At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall), the volunteers who helped us find names at The Wall were part of the VVMF. Gil Bernabe sent an email to all members who attended the 2018 Reunion and the General membership meeting and asked for their vote on our standard \$200.00 donation. Sixteen members returned their “YES Vote” – supporting the Association’s \$200.00 donation to the VVMF. Five members did not return a vote.**

**Our Treasurer, Dan Reeves, has sent a donation in the amount of \$200.00 on behalf of eh 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association and sent a Thank You note for the support their volunteers provided to us when we were at The Wall on Saturday, November 10, 2018.**

**For your information, the Mission of the VVMF is provided below:**

### **Mission**

**As the founders of The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund works to preserve the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to promote healing and to educate about the impact of the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was initially conceived with one overriding purpose -- to bring long overdue honor and recognition to the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in Vietnam. Today, the Memorial has transcended its role as a national symbol of reconciliation and stands as a living history lesson. The Memorial is unique in its ability to inspire exploration and reflection about this critical time in our nation's past, with a wiser eye toward the future. More than 400,000 items have been left at The Wall by visitors since its dedication in 1982.**



## 17<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment Association Life Membership Coin Holders

Coin Number:    Name of Coin Holder:                      Life Member as of:

001	Harold & Erma M. Brown Sr.	June 3, 2000
002	Thomas Vernor (Deceased)	January 9, 2001
003	Harold (Buck) M. Brown Jr.	June 6, 2001
004	Nolan Putman (Deceased)	September 9, 2001
005	Thomas R. Kurtz	November 20, 2001
006	Richard (Rich) Siebe	January 1, 2002
007	James H. Drennan	February 23, 2002
008	John J. Korsun JR. (Deceased)	April 8, 2002
009	Paul J. Barton	April 24, 2002
010	Leslie B. Scott (Deceased)	April 29, 2002
011	Robert R. Brooks II	May 7, 2002
012	James Moore (Deceased)	May 21, 2002
013	Edward (Ed) T. Hitchner	May 22, 2002
014	Thomas (Mike) M. Turner (Deceased)	June 24, 2002
015	Paul Fusco	August 2, 2002
016	Norman (Richard) R. Jones	August 4, 2002
017	Gary L. Bress	October 4, 2002
018	John C. Melasecca Jr.	November 15, 2002
019	Frank Zitzman	November 19, 2002
020	Bobby (Bob) A. West	January 8, 2003
021	Peter Coffin	January 17, 2003
022	Jerome L. Fritsche II (Deceased)	February 22, 2003
023	Walter (Jack) J. Larson (Deceased)	February 26, 2003
024	John (Jack) J. Picciolo	March 24, 2003
025	William J. Wright	April 4, 2003
026	C. Alex Brassert	June 4, 2003
027	Dietrich W. Neckien (Deceased)	April 27, 2003
028	Michael W. Mason	October 9, 2003
029	Michael (Mike) Burke	October 10, 2003
030	Eugene Johnson	November 14, 2003
031	Francis (Fran) C. Rash	November 28, 2003
032	Delmar D. Beard	December 2, 2003
033	Charles E. Morrison	December 14, 2003
034	Robert Gary Kohl	December 20, 2003
035	Michael Dages	January 15, 2004
036	Lonnie O. English (Deceased)	January 21, 2004
037	Webster Cole	March 15, 2004
038	Leonard T. Elzie	March 22, 2004
039	Richard P. Carmody	April 29, 2004
040	Jerry E. Pifer	May 15, 2004
041	Louis J. Mazzarella	May 17, 2004
042	Richard J. Flowers	May 22, 2004
043	James M. Sherrill	July 20, 2004
044	Wallace L. Bates	September 1, 2004
045	Richard A. Smith	September 14, 2004
046	George A. Schaefer (Deceased)	October 30, 2004
047	Charles Riley (Deceased)	November 5, 2004
048	Pete Schwarz	November 13, 2004
049	Robert M. Kinton (Deceased)	November 13, 2004
050	Robert L. Plata	November 13, 2004
051	Gilbert A. Bernabe	November 13, 2004
052	George Winton	November 19, 2004
053	Harry O. Amos	January 4, 2005

054	Stephen J. Lowery	January 14, 2005
055	Gerald F. Brown (Deceased)	January 28, 2005
056	Larry E. Miller (Deceased)	February 7, 2005
057	Raymond P. (DAK) Lais (Deceased)	March 26, 2005
058	Larry J. Davis	May 7, 2005
059	Leon Mc Kenzie Sr.	June 4, 2005
060	Leonard S. Spencer	July 29, 2005
061	Terry L. Wallace	August 9, 2005
062	Lyndle E. Claus	August 25, 2005
063	James R. (Dick) Graves (Deceased)	September 16, 2005
064	Daniel L. Lazenberry (Deceased)	September 24, 2005
065	Robert L. Hallahan	October 26, 2005
066	Bruce Latour	January 12, 2006
067	Wiley A. Jarrell	January 30, 2006
068	James H. Sanders	February 9, 2006
069	Raymond C. Gomez	February 28, 2006
070	Charles G. Ross	April 5, 2006
071	Neal P. Fouts	April 12, 2006
072	David S. Bickler	June 24, 2006
073	George W. Adkisson (Deceased)	August 7, 2006
074	Henry E. Griffendorf Jr.	August 17, 2006
075	Thomas C. Bast	September 21, 2006
076	Ketrick T. Mc Millin	December 3, 2006
077	John Ryan	December 16, 2006
078	James T. Caudill	February 7, 2007
079	David W. Gogel	April 8, 2007
080	Stephen J. Audett	June 26, 2007
081	Ronald W. Terry	September 10, 2007
082	Thomas W. Remley	November 18, 2007
083	Hollis B. Cahoon	December 7, 2007
084	Raymond J. Heuring	December 9, 2007
085	Paul M. Moser	January 17, 2008
086	Avery Hall	January 23, 2008
087	John J. Luxenburger Jr. (Deceased)	January 24, 2008
088	David P. Rush	February 21, 2008
089	Francis J. Roberts	April 14, 2008
090	Rod L. Guerrero (Deceased)	July 7, 2008
091	Thomas P. Ross	January 30, 2009
092	Birdeye L. Middleton	February 7, 2009
093	Rickie B. Simpkins	February 15, 2009
094	Robert E. Lax	March 2, 2009
095	Philip J. Brunwald	March 25, 2009
096	Larry Hightower	April 11, 2009
097	Albert (Bert) Ryan	August 9, 2009
098	Roy E. Korkalo	August 15, 2009
099	William P. Dahlin	October 19, 2009
100	Jackie Stroud	September 30, 2009
101	Donald L. Brooks	November 9, 2009
102	Jerry (Doc) Cody	November 9, 2009
103	Michael Klingeman	November 11, 2009
104	Charles Garner (Deceased)	November 11, 2009
105	Larry R. Werkheiser	December 18, 2009
106	William K. Beers Jr.	December 18, 2009
107	Dennis C. Smith	January 4, 2010
108	James M. Caiella	January 4, 2010
109	Paul V. Shepherd Sr.	January 11, 2010
110	Leonard A. Eason	February 13, 2010
111	Jeffrey S. Wilcox	April 26, 2010
112	Holice Barton Jr. (Deceased)	April 26, 2010
113	Robert H. Giselbach	August 9, 2010
114	William A. Selis	August 9, 2010
115	Ronald B. Hood	August 16, 2010
116	Jon M. Johnson	August 31, 2010
117	Todd R. Wasmund	November 12, 2009
118	Cecil P. LeGrand	September 9, 2010
119	Stephen D. Gerhardt	October 1, 2010
120	Larry W. Lovejoy	October 27, 2010

121	Buford Calfee	October 30, 2010
122	Carlos E. Esmurria	October 30, 2010
123	Richard Heydt	October 30, 2010
124	Doyle Watters	November 27, 2010
125	Richard H. Sugg	November 27, 2010
126	Harrell (Lyn) Hartman	December 7, 2010
127	Marcel L. Simonet	January 3, 2011
128	Richard (Dick) Stanton (Deceased)	January 3, 2011
129	James M. Shermesky	January 10, 2011
130	John P. Clingan	February 13, 2011
131	Bruno A. Kalkowski (Deceased)	June 8, 2011
132	Jeffrey Carra	June 29, 2011
133	Dave Rowell	October 18, 2011
134	Gary M. Steen	December 17, 2011
135	Lawrence Moren Jr.	January 9, 2012
136	Curtis A. Collier	March 12, 2012
137	Mark P Krieger	May 18, 2012
138	Raul A. Garibay	June 18, 2012
139	Ralph W. Melcher	June 18, 2012
140	Francisco F. Garcia II	July 28, 2012
141	Gary B. Griffin	September 19, 2012
142	Larry L. Rice	September 26, 2012
143	James E. Will	October 25, 2012
144	Jack M Frizzell	December 1, 2012
145	Alan M. McIlvain (Deceased)	January 1, 2013
146	David L. Zell	February 1, 2013
147	Lonnie H. Jackson Jr.	February 7, 2013
148	Darwin L. McGladdery	February 12, 2013
149	Gail E. Fasse	February 14, 2013
150	Edwin J. Ahonen	February 19, 2013
151	William G. Montague	March 25, 2013
152	Edward E. Dingman	May 20, 2013
153	Daniel Reeves	July 16, 2013
154	James T. Yore	September 28, 2013
155	Michael H. Murphy	September 28, 2013
156	Richard C. Hoffman	January 24, 2014
157	William M. Simpson	January 27, 2014
158	Charles H. Seidman	February 8, 2014
159	Terry L. Earnst	February 8, 2014
160	Robert E. Highlands	May 12, 2014
161	Barry L. Matthews	June 24, 2014
162	Milton R. Holloway	July 10, 2014
163	James E. Kendall	July 10, 2014
164	Tom M. Jones	July 11, 2014
165	Mick D. Shanklin	August 16, 2014
166	Thornton W. Purvis	August 28, 2014
167	Ronda A. Henderson	September 26, 2014
168	John B. Bagley (Deceased)	November 28, 2014
169	Michael J. Hennessy	January 20, 2015
170	David P. Hull	February 2, 2015
171	Walter H. Ramsey	July 24, 2015
172	Henry J. Dudek	August 1, 2015
173	Donald L. Strong	August 21, 2015
174	Harry Fetsick	October 24, 2015
175	Willkie H. Gates	October 30, 2015
176	Kolin V Bernardoni	November 12, 2015
177	Steve Rumnock Jr. (Deceased)	May 15, 2016
178	Ronald J. Makinson	January 6, 2017
179	Norman L. Barton	March 22, 2017
180	Jack L. Lambert	June 20, 2017
181	Robert J. Brown	July 10, 2017
182	Phillip L. Smith	January 22, 2018
183	Elroy Thomas	March 1, 2018
184	Jeffrey W. Bernabe	November 8, 2018

24 Deceased

## Association Officers 2019

Gil Bernabe-----President  
 Dave Rawell-----1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 William Beers-----2d Vice President  
 Jack (TOJ) Stroud-----Secretary  
 Dan Reeves -----Treasurer  
 Richard Smith-----Chaplain  
 John (Jack) Picciolo ---Historian  
 Richard Flowers-----Quartermaster  
 Edward (Ed) Hitchner--Webmaster  
 Gil Bernabe-----Scholarship Chairman

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This NewsLetter has been approved by the board of directors

**Gil Bernabe**  
 Association President  
[www/17thartilleryregiment.org](http://www/17thartilleryregiment.org)

### Receive "The Castle" By Email

To help defray the rising cost of postage and printing of the association's NewsLetter, please sign up to receive the "The Castle" by Email.

To receive the electronic NewsLetter, notify the association's secretary: Jack Stroud at: [jack.stroud@roadrunner.com](mailto:jack.stroud@roadrunner.com) with **your current and correct Email addresses** and receive the NewsLetter much faster.

We will continue to mail the NewsLetter to anyone who does not have an internet connection.

You must be a **PAID UP MEMBER** to receive the NewsLetter.



Jackie M. Stroud  
2461 Meadow Ridge Drive  
Wheelerburg, OH 45694-9073



*Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), December 24, 2006, soldiers of the "Ghost Platoon"  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment,  
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division in Adhamiya, Iraq*

## **17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

### *The Castle*