

THE CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Issue 37

JAN 2022

President's View

By Gil Bernabe

Hello again and happy 2022! Hopefully you are all staying healthy and away from all the COVID variants. This past year we had a very enjoyable reunion at Gettysburg. Please take a look at the pictures of our Gettysburg adventure. A special thanks to Jeff McCausland and Tom Vossler, our great tour guides.

As we get older and wiser, we also lose some of our great friends and artillerymen. Recently, the following 17th Artillery veterans passed away: Ed Dingman, Cecil LeGrand, and Hubert Garland Edwards, who was 102 years young when he passed. This newsletter contains a tribute to each of these wonderful comrades.

Let me say something about our Flower Fund. In the past, we asked for funds when we needed to pay for a wreath for a deceased 17th Artillery Association member. Because we are all getting up in years, we estimate that we will be having an increase in funerals. To avoid having our Chaplain trying to collect funds each time we wish to purchase a wreath, we are now going to place the Flower Fund within the Association. Flower Fund procedures are being developed and will be explained at the next General Membership meeting.

This Castle Newsletter announces the 17th Artillery Association Scholarship Program for 2022. Information for applying for a scholarship can be found on page 6.

This year's 17th Artillery Reunion for 2022 is scheduled for Branson, Missouri, from September 12 to 17. Carefully check this newsletter for the reunion flyer which explains how to make your hotel reservations, the reunion schedule and a couple of optional events. If you have never been to Branson – you are in for a good time.

For the first time, we are placing a list in this newsletter of all the items that the 17th Artillery Association Board of Officers accomplish during the year. Check it out. We keep busy all year long!

Election of new officers is always an interesting process. We are always looking for new officers so we can share the duties that keep this association rolling along successfully. If you are interested in becoming an association officer – please contact an officer and tell him or her you are interested.

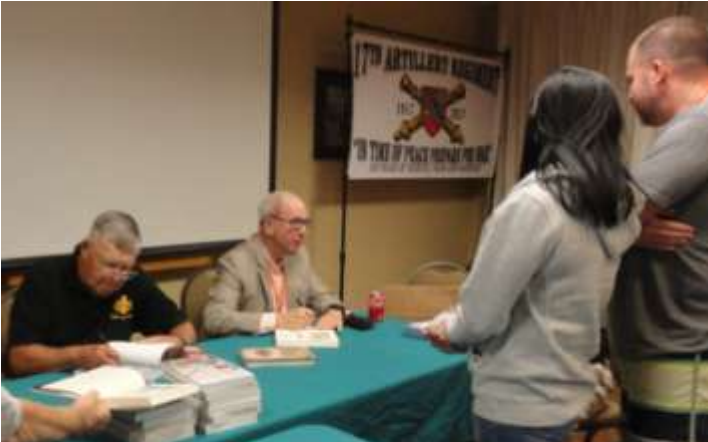
Finally, we have replaced Jack Stroud with someone who is as professional as Jack is. When you see Jack, thank him for all his hard work as the Association Secretary & Castle Newsletter Editor. We are very fortunate to have Judy Dingman step up to be the association's Interim Secretary and the Editor of the Castle Newsletter. Thank you, Judy.

Be sure to check out Tom Kurtz's history article, Faid Pass, and you will realize how very lucky SGT Hubert Edwards was to escape capture in North Africa and live to fight many more days. Of course, review the "good news" story by our roving reporter and Good Will Ambassador, Dan Reeves.

We also wish to pass along our most sincere gratitude to Bill and Susan Dahlin and Tom Kurtz who continue to donate to our 17th Artillery Scholarship program. A special thanks to Colonel LeRoy Outlaw for a very generous donation for our scholarship fund. Many of our members and friends also contributed to our association and we say THANK YOU. They are: anyone who purchased a "treasure" at our annual auction, Tom Vossler, Dan Reeves, George Winton and Willie Gates. We also pass along a big thank you to the members of the Aurora United Methodist Church who donated scholarship funds at Ed Dingman's funeral. All these sacrifices make our scholarship program very successful. Thank you, all!

We left the best article for last. Our "Meet the Editor" article, written by our newest volunteer, clearly reflects a lot of talent and professional experience. Great job, Madam Editor!

2021 Reunion – Gettysburg



Tom Vossler and Jeff McCausland autograph their books.



Members enjoy time visiting and reconnecting.



Attendees prepare to board the bus for the tour of the battlefield.



Tom Vossler pauses before a monument to explain the story.



Tom Vossler went to the top of the incline to point out the countryside and explain the battle that occurred at Gettysburg.



Attendees direct their attention to the auction, the association's major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund.

2021 Reunion – Gettysburg



Melanie Klingeman prepares items for Bill Beers to auction.



Several members gathered for a photo as the meeting closed.



The group remembered the fallen 13 as troops left Afghanistan.



The JROTC unit from the Gettysburg High School present the colors to open the meeting.



The association pays respect to the POWs and MIAs.

To Members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to our program. This contribution will benefit our student-cadets. You put us one step closer to reaching our goal. Thank you again.

**Respectfully,
The Gettysburg Area School District
Warrior Battalion**

17th Artillery Regiment Association's 23rd Annual Reunion Branson, Missouri September 12 to 17, 2022

What: The 2022 Annual Reunion will be held at Branson, Missouri.

When: From Monday, September 12, to Saturday, September 17, 2022. Check out Saturday, September 17, 2022. The board members will arrive on September 10 and 11 for the Annual Business Meeting.

Where: Reunion Headquarters at Radisson Hotel Branson, 120 South Wildwood Drive, Branson, MO 65616



Hotel Reservations: To make your hotel reservations:

1. Call directly to: Radisson Hotel Branson – 1-417-335-5767 – then PRESS 9 for the Front Desk – to make your room reservation.
2. Mention that you are with the 17th Artillery Association Reunion – September 12 through September 17

Room Rates: **\$99.95 per night plus tax.** Room rates are from September 10 to September 17, 2022. Room options include: 2 double beds, 2 queen beds or 1 king bed. Accessible rooms are available. **Reservation deadline:** August 11, 2022, to receive the 17th Artillery Association room rate of \$99.95 per night plus tax (13.35%). The rate is available three days pre and post event, for those who might want to extend their time in the area.



Hotel deadline: Reservations made after August 11, 2022, will be based on availability. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check out time is 11:00 a.m. The hotel provides free WiFi, on-site restaurant, indoor pool, fitness center, and free parking. If you have to cancel, cancellation must be made 24 hours before check-in on September 12, 2022 (one day before scheduled check-in time), to avoid being charged.

Registration Fee: The Reunion Registration Fee will be \$65.00 per person. (See Reunion Registration Form in this newsletter.) The fee includes Monday's Welcome Social, Thursday's Annual Banquet, five breakfasts and some hospitality room snacks.

[Remember to bring your 17th Artillery historical pictures, movies, and items for the always entertaining AUCTION.](#)

Come & experience the beauty and historic allure of the Branson area. Treat your self to a late summer vacation, to unique and fun Branson shows, sight-seeing, a cruise on the lake with the Branson Belle and enjoy being in a veteran-friendly environment.

REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 7.

SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Reunion 2022

Dining and Entertainment Options

By Judy Dineman

There's more than enough room for members of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association to meet in Branson in September 12-17! And with room to spare! According to the city's official website, there are more than 20,000 rooms available in motels, hotels, etc. and more than 125 restaurants with more than 30,000 seats! Rather impressive for a place whose city-limit signs list a population of 10,500. Branson is definitely a veteran-friendly city. Don't be surprised if you go into a store wearing a veteran-themed cap to have people recognize you and thank you.



One option for reunion attendees is a two-hour dinner cruise on the **Showboat Branson Belle**. The Branson Belle offers a lake cruise, a three-course dinner and a show (suitable for families). There is time between dinner and the main show to walk the deck, check out the souvenirs, snap a few photos to show the family at home and just enjoy the evening scenery.

I've enjoyed the evening cruise at various times. The food has been good, the staff is attentive and the show is good. You will be offered a choice of dinner selections. Like a majority of the shows in Branson, there is usually a patriotic portion to recognize veterans. The cost of the dinner cruise is in the neighborhood of \$60 per person. If you have more questions about the Branson Belle, check it out at <https://www.silverdollarcity.com/showboat-branson>.

A dining and sightseeing option is at **College of the Ozarks** (<https://www.cofu.edu/>), also known as Hard Work U. This college is different from most in that the students work on campus to pay their tuition and graduate debt-free. The Christian-based college also has a focus on patriotism. For several years, the college has arranged tours to some of the battlefields in Europe and Vietnam for veterans and students.

The **Dobyns Dining Room** features a farm-to-fork dining experience. Staff members are students, some of whom are pursuing degrees in hospitality or culinary fields. We ate there during Veterans Week. We had a white-coated server who was a finance major; he was willing to visit with us about his education and plans for the future. The food is excellent! Reservations are required.

Other areas of interest at the College of the Ozarks is Patriot Center, the Ralph Foster Museum (home to the car used on the Beverly Hillbillies, a large gun collection and other areas of interest), the mill, the tractor museum, the greenhouse and a gift shop with items made by students. Did I mention you can order your holiday fruit cake here? Check the website listed above to learn more.

Veterans Memorial Museum is another interesting place to visit. Find more at <http://veteransmemorialbranson.com/>. It has been a while since I've been there, but I remember it being very interesting.

Want to see a show that will really have you thinking outside the box? Try **Buckets and Boards**, a comedy percussion show featuring instruments made of -- what else -- bucket and boards! I saw them at a Chamber of Commerce event a few years ago. One of the duo, Matt Livingston, is from our town (Aurora, MO). They have performed on Disney Cruises. See their website (<https://www.bucketsnboards.com/>) for more information. Rumor has it they went to Canada and somehow their equipment (remember -- buckets and boards) got waylaid at the airport. What do you do? Go to the nearest home supply store or lumber yard to restock!

Another good venue to see is the **Clay Cooper Theater** (<https://claycoopertheatre.com/>). A variety of shows are available there. I've seen the Clay Cooper Express and Hot Rods and High Heels. During Veterans Week, he offers a show featuring various performers from other shows in Branson. To say his theater is veteran friendly is an understatement.

These are just a few of my favorite places. There's a lot to choose from in Branson!

2022 Information for 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarships



Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

The 17th Artillery Regiment Association general membership approved the following scholarships and special awards for 2022.

- First Place \$2,500.00 – IHO MSG Richard Norman Jones – 2nd Bn & 3d Bn, 17th Arty
- Second Place \$2,000.00 – IHO Billy Ray Foster – C Btry, 2nd How Bn, 17th Arty
- Third Place \$1,500.00 – IHO SGT Edward Dingman – HHB, 2nd Bn, 17th Arty
- Fourth Place \$1,000.00 – IHO Cecil LeGrand - B Btry, 2Bn, 17th Arty
- Special Awards \$500.00 – All other applicants

To date, the Association has awarded 58 scholarship grants and special awards for a total of \$77,740 to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the veterans and active-duty soldiers who have served or those currently serving in the regiment.

Request for Scholarship Application Packet:

Individuals may request a scholarship application packet from: Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe, 2916 Sedalia Trail, Sherman, TX 75092; or via telephone: (903) 786 – 6304; or email: Gilbernabe29@aol.com. When leaving a phone message, please provide your name and phone number.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for a 17th Artillery Association scholarship grant or special award, the applicant must be a child, grandchild or great-grandchild, of a parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent who has served with or who is presently serving in the 17th Artillery Regiment.

Those parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who have served or who are now serving with the regiment must have served or be currently serving under honorable conditions. If the parent, grandparent or great-grandparent received a discharge, under less than honorable conditions, then the applicant is not eligible.

The terms child, grandchild and great-grandchild used above applies to both biological and legally adopted children. **Foster children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are not eligible.**

If the applicant has been previously awarded a 17th Artillery Association scholarship grant or special award, that applicant is not eligible to apply for another scholarship grant or award. **Applicant must be a graduating high school senior (Class of 2022) or a college student attending any college, vocational school or technical school.** Scholarship grants and special awards will be awarded in all areas of study.

Scholarship applications with all supporting documents must be returned **by U.S. mail** no later than **March 21, 2022** to: **Dr. Gilbert A. Bernabe**, 2916 Sedalia Trail, Sherman, TX 75092.

Applications sent by email or fax will not be accepted.

2022 Scholarship Selection Committee: Chairman: Gilbert A. Bernabe -- **Voting Members:** Bill Dahlin, Mike Klingeman, Bruce Latour, Donald Brooks, and Dave Rowell

SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2004

By Tom Kurtz

Since 2004, the association has awarded 58 scholarship grants, in the amount of \$77,740 to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of 17th Field Artillery Regiment veterans and active duty soldiers. The breakdown of scholarship grants as of 2021 is:

World War II Veterans

One Grandson

Cold War Veterans

One Son and Six
Granddaughters

Korean War Veterans

Three Grandsons

Vietnam War Veterans

Two Sons, Three
Daughters, Nine
Grandsons,
24 Granddaughters, One
Great-grandson,
and One Great-
granddaughter

Operation Desert Shield/Storm Veterans

One Daughter

Active-Duty Soldiers (Veterans of Operation

Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom)

One Son and Five
Daughters

Scholarship Grants have been awarded to 20 males and 38 females.

Recipients included: three attending college, four attending trade schools and 51 high school graduates.

17th Artillery Regiment Association's Reunion

Registration Form

2022 Reunion- September 12 – 17, 2022

Please fill out the Registration Form below

The association's registration fee will cover your breakfasts, Monday evening's Welcome Social, Hospitality Room refreshments and snacks, and Annual Banquet.

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

Mail to the Association's Treasurer:

Rich Siebe
3060 64th Street
Sacramento, CA 95820 - 2004

CUT OR TEAR AND MAIL THE FOLLOWING TO OUR TREASURER.

(With your check or money order to arrive no later than September 1, 2022)

Cut/tear here - - - - -

NAME _____
(Please Print)

Battery _____ Battalion _____ Dates Served: From _____ to _____

Name(s) of Spouse, Relatives, and/or friends attending:

(Name tags will be printed from the names submitted)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Registration fee: \$65.00 per person - X- Number Attending _____ = \$ _____
(number in your party)

Please donate toward the Hospitality Room Expenses: \$ _____

Check Total \$ _____

IN MEMORIAM: Hubert G. Edwards



The Castle Newsletter previously published an article on Hubert G. Edwards, after he spoke at a Memorial Day ceremony in May 2019. We are saddened to report to you that our oldest artilleryman passed away on September 18, 2021.

Hubert was born in Beaufort, CO. to the late Fenner Augustus Edwards and Sadie Godly Edwards. Hubert enlisted in the Army in 1939. He fought in over eight major campaigns in World War II where he spent 660 consecutive days fighting on the frontline. He was assigned to the 17th Field Artillery Regiment where he was a sharpshooter and Howitzer gunner.

He discharged from the Army in 1945 at the rank of sergeant with several medals and ribbons. He was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, America Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Arrowhead, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, one Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and many Sharp-shooter Pistol medals. He was a Mason for 74 years, lifetime member of the VFW, member of the Moose Lodge, and a member of Beaufort Golden "K" Club where he served two years as president. He was also an active member of the Western Harnett Lions Club, a participant in the Drama and Dance Club at the Enrichment Center and taught BARACCA Sunday Class at First Baptist. He loved to bake and cook.

The story below is from the Castle Newsletter, June 2019, page 12:

**100-Year-Old 17th Artillery
Soldier WWII Veteran - Hubert G. Edward
Speaks at Memorial Day Event**

By Tom Woerner - Of the Daily Record Staff, Dunn, NC. Note: Printed with author's permission

(Editor's Note: Mike Davino, Secretary Treasurer, Army Divisions Association alerted us to the fact that Hubert G. Edwards, a WWII 17th Artillery Veteran, was scheduled to speak at a Memorial Day Event at Harnett County, NC. After hearing Edwards speak, Mike sent us the following lines on the speech: "I did make it to the Harnett County service and Hubert Edwards of the 17th Arty gave quite a speech, without notes, totally from memory as far as I can tell. Hubert took us through the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Southern France, as well as a couple of other campaigns, and his encounter with GEN Eisenhower.")

Communities and residents throughout the county took time Thursday and Monday to remember and honor soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the nation's wars.

The traditional countywide celebration of Memorial Day in Lillington drew a large crowd to the Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Harnett County courthouse Monday morning.

The group was welcomed by Harnett County Veterans Service Officer Amy S. Noel.

"Every year I do this and I try not to cry and that is my goal this year," Noel said. "We need to remember that freedom still costs something."

This year, the crowd was treated to a firsthand remembrance of the European campaigns of World War II. Hubert Edwards, now 100 years old, served as a supply sergeant during the war. He was actively involved in the invasion campaigns of North Africa and Italy as allies began to free Europe from Axis oppression. He served a total of 660 days and 37 months on the front lines with his fellow members of the 17th Field Artillery Battalions.

Edwards, who now lives in the Carolina Lakes subdivision in western Harnett County, told the crowd he had the unique experience of face-to-face meetings with both Allied commanders Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and Gen. George Patton.

He recalled a humorous conversation with Eisenhower, after the general declined the coffee the soldiers had just made.

"He asked me if I thought we were going to win the war," Edwards said. "I said 'no sir' and you should have seen the look on his face. Then I told him, 'I don't think we are going to win; I know we are going to win.' He said that was the best answer he had gotten to that question."

Edwards reminded the crowd to remember the sacrifice of all those who served.

"I hope every one of you will pray to God to thank him for what you have because I have seen what our soldiers did to give it to us," Edwards said. "When you lay down in a comfortable bed thank God because I know what it is like not to have a bed and to sleep in a foxhole."

IN MEMORIAM: Edward E. Dingman

July 12, 1947 - December 1, 2021

By Gil Bernabe

Our good friend, Ed Dingman, of Aurora, Missouri, passed away on December 1, 2021.

Sergeant Ed Dingman served with HHB, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, at Camp Radcliff in An Khe, Vietnam, and was there during the Tet Offensive. He served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968. He had recently taken on the duties of secretary for the 17th Artillery Regiment Association.

June and I met Ed and Judy Dingman at our 17th Artillery Association reunions. We could tell even by our brief visits and conversations that Ed and Judy were a special couple and always very busy. Yes – we all keep busy. But how busy are you really and what exactly are you doing? Attending the memorial services for Ed Dingman unveiled the real Ed and Judy Dingman. They were the most recognizable couple in the community. They were deeply committed to their friends in the community and now it was the community's turn to say "thank you" to Ed and Judy!

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, when June and I arrived for the visitation services for Ed Dingman in Aurora, Missouri, we thought we were early. We walked through the honor guard that was posted at the front of the church. As early as we were, we found ourselves way back, at the entrance way to the church, where it seemed that the whole community had shown up to pay their final respects to Ed Dingman. Just ahead of us in the long line we saw Mike and Melanie Klingeman who had already been in line for a while. All total, we were in line for well over 90 minutes before we reached Judy, her daughter, Leslie, and her son, Eric, and their respective families. We talked for a short while and were impressed how strong Judy seemed to be. We looked at the 17th Artillery Association wreath and were especially proud that Chaplain Richard Smith had come through again and ensured that our wreath showed how much we valued our veteran friend – Ed Dingman.

The memorial service was held for Ed on Monday, December 6. Again, the church was packed with community parishioners very early; and this time, there was an honor guard, made up of Missouri State Troopers, guarding the coffin. The pastor led the congregation in a wonderful service for Ed. Master Sergeant Eric Dingman, gave a wonderful eulogy that we know his dad would have been very proud to hear about how special Ed was to his family. During the service, Missouri State Troopers folded the Missouri state flag and made a special, very moving presentation of the state flag to Judy.

June and I were very pleased that we had made the trip to support Judy and pay our final respects to our dear friend, Ed. Rest in Peace – dear friend.

(What follows is part of Ed Dingman's obituary that was published in his local paper. We are sharing this information with our association members so that you may have an understanding of how committed Ed and Judy were to their community.)

Ed Dingman married Judy Burris in 1968; and they enjoyed 53 years of marital bliss that included many adventures, lessons, and a few mishaps along the way. He graduated from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy in 1971 and was assigned to Troop A, Lee's Summit. In 1976, he was transferred to Aurora in Troop D, Springfield, where he remained until his retirement in 1999.

He was the recipient of the Red Cross Certificate of Merit when he and Trooper Kenneth Middleton rescued a woman from a submerged car in the Little Blue River near Blue Springs in 1975.

He was active in a variety of organizations, including Aurora United Methodist Church, Missouri State Troopers Association (charter member), Methodist Men, Cub Scout Pack 48 (den leader), Boy Scout Troop 48 (scoutmaster), Red Hat Brigade, Personal Energy Transportation/Mobility Worldwide, Lawrence County MU Extension Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Vietnam Veterans Task Force.

He was one of the first 15 people to receive Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder's Veterans Service Award in 2012. The award recognized exemplary volunteer service by former members of the armed forces. He was co-recipient with his wife, Judy, of the Top Dawg Award and Community Service Award



An honor guard made up of boy scouts and veterans' organization stand watch at the church for Ed Dingman's visitation services.

from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. For his scouting endeavors, he received the District Award of Merit, the Golden Sun Award and the Silver Beaver Award and was voted into the Order of the Arrow.

He enjoyed time with his family, being outside, fishing, camping, traveling and John Deere tractors. He had a knack for being able to fix just about anything.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Leslie James, her husband Robert and their sons, Brandon and Grayson of Clever, and his son, Master Sergeant Eric Dingman, U.S. Army, his wife Jill and their children, Hailey, Gavin and Ella of Ft. Bliss, Texas.

The memorial service was held at the Aurora United Methodist Church on Monday, December 6, 2021. A private burial was held the following day at the Missouri National Veterans Cemetery.

The family asked that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Missouri's National Veterans Memorial or the 17th Artillery Regiment Association's Scholarship Fund.

Dan Reeves, a member of the association said, "In 2018 when the association held its reunion in the Washington, D.C. area, our hospitality room was in a suite. There was only room for a couple chairs. Everybody stood or sat on the beds. I remember exchanging stories with Ed and Judy and others. It didn't matter where we meet; it was always about enjoying each other to make memories."

The memorial service may be seen on youtube.com; search for AUMC Aurora MO and scroll. It is also available on the church's Facebook page (Aurora United Methodist Church) by scrolling to December 6, 2021.



Ed and Judy Dingman were at the 2021 reunion in Gettysburg, PA.

IN MEMORIAM: Cecil LeGrand

By Gil Bernabe

Cecil Paul LeGrand passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at St. Martin Hospital, in Breaux Bridge, LA.

Specialist Fourth Class Cecil LeGrand was a beloved member of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment and he distinguished himself with proud and honorable service in Vietnam.

"Memories of Cecil always start with a smile on my face," said Dan Reeves, a member of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association." I believe Cecil had that effect on most people around him. When he told a story, even if people couldn't understand him, he made people laugh. We need more "Frenchy" people on this planet. At reunions Cecil attended, his wife, Judy, and his sister joined them. I will miss that Crazy Cajun."

"Cecil was always 'Frenchy,'" recalled Steve Gerhardt, another member of the association. "When we were in Viet Nam, he had the biggest, thickest, mustache I've ever seen. It must have stuck out three-quarters of an inch, and it made him look about 40 years old. For a nice guy, that 'stache made him look like a badass. There were a lot of Viet Nam phrases, and 'It don't mean nothin' was one that 'Frenchy' used often. One fun [friend] everybody loved!"

"My fondest memory of 'Frenchy' was at the 2011 reunion in Gettysburg. During the auction the bid for some wood ducks wasn't high enough so 'Frenchy' took over," said Harry Fetsick, another association member. "He raised them in the air running around the room so everybody could see and saying in his Louisiana foreign tongue 'they can fly high' and 'they can dive in the water.' He continued by saying 'these ducks are worth a lot of money.' Everyone in the room was laughing so hard they forgot it was the auction!"

Cecil was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Cecil worked as a boat captain for over 50 years. He was an avid sports fan, and especially enjoyed watching LSU and the New Orleans Saints. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Cecilia and Arnaudville. Cecil was a devout Catholic and parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Judy Belaire LeGrand; sons, Dwayne LeGrand and Dwight LeGrand; daughter, Danielle Montet (Daniel); grandchildren, Dylan LeGrand, Devon LeGrand, Madison LeGrand, Tristan LeGrand, Nadelyn LeGrand, Chloe Hollier and Cadence Hollier; brothers, Jimmy LeGrand (Liz) and Charlie LeGrand; and sisters, Peggy Choplin and Sally Blanchard (Gary).

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, January 3, 2022, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Henderson, LA. Rev. Keith Landry officiated at the Funeral Mass. Interment followed at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery in Henderson.

FAID PASS, TUNISIA, and 17th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT'S POWs

PART ONE

By Thomas R. Kurtz

At the start of the invasion of North Africa during World War II, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was made up with a Headquarters Battery, Service Battery and three firing batteries: Battery D, Battery E, and Battery F. Each firing battery was armed with six howitzers, a legacy weapon, from World War One, the Schneider 155mm towed howitzer. The Schneider howitzers had been modified, in the 1930s, with a high speed-carriage, pneumatic tires, anti-friction bearings, air brakes, hand-brakes to lock the wheels and some other minor changes. The 155mm howitzer had a max range of 16,000 yards or 14.6 kilometers.

The 17th Field Artillery Regiment had sailed from Liverpool, England on November 26, 1942, and the first elements of the regiment landed on December 6, 1942, at Mars El Kabir, just west of Oran, Algeria. The regiment was taken by truck to an open field near the Mountain of Lions, about fifteen miles east of Oran. The regiment was fired on sporadically during the move by the French.



Mountain de Lion, Algeria 1943. From Edward Zuparko World War II photo collection. Edward served with Battery F and C of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment (1941-1943). Photo is courtesy of his son Ned Zuparko.

After a week in this area the regiment moved to the vicinity of Assi Ameur. On January 6, 1943, the regiment minus Battery A moved to Chanzy, south of Bidi Bel Abbe, moving into bivouac in the area of the 13th Field Artillery Brigade. In January 1943, the 2nd Battalion moved into Tunisia through the Atlas Mountains.

On February 2, 1943, the 2nd Battalion was in Faid Pass, which was east of Kasserine Pass, Tunisia. During the second week of February, the 2nd Battalion moved into preoccupied positions, when another field artillery battalion had moved out. Using the same gun position, the battalion was promptly bombarded by the Germans who had zeroed-in on the previous tenants. No damage was reported. At dawn on the 14th, the 2nd Battalion received march orders and the batteries pulled out of their positions, Then the batteries received orders to go back. Back again, then another order to move out. This time a Battalion column was formed and headed down a road to some place in Tunisia. The column stopped, suddenly the column started up again, this time across country. With bombs bursting in the air, the column was moving along in the desert when it came under machine gun fire. Some POWs news articles stated that they were strafed from the air and took cover. Others stated the machine gunfire was from tanks coming from both sides.

Battery F managed to get two howitzers back-to-back and attempted direct fire against the tanks and was able to get off two rounds. That seemed to irritate the Germans; instead of machine guns, they shelled the column with their 77 mm canons mounted on their tanks. Charles E. Marrison, a truck driver in Battery F was in his truck with his assistant driver when an explosion took off the back tires of his vehicle. Both he and his assistant driver headed for a ditch only to be captured by the Germans shortly thereafter.

(Note: Charles attended some 17th Artillery Association reunions of the association when he was still able and was one of two World War II veterans who served with the 17th Field Artillery during World War II to do so. Charles last name during World War II was spelled “Marrison”. He and his wife learned later that his grandfather spelled his last name “Morrison”. So, Charles changed his last name to the family named of “Morrison”. The other was Robert M. Kinton who served as a cook in the regiment, who would say the only reason he wasn’t captured was he was in the rear baking cookies.)

The battalion was overrun by 21 Panzer Division (Germany) and suffered very heavily, losing approximately 50 percent of its officers and enlisted personnel and all wheeled vehicles and 18 howitzers.

After capture, the prisoners were made to drop their pistol belts and harnesses, which held their canteens and mess gear. Then they were marched towards Tunis. The wounded, such as Private Shellie B. Woodell, who could not march, were left on the battlefield and picked up the next day by the Germans and sent to German field hospitals, then on to hospitals in Italy. After recovering from their wounds they were sent to German POW camps.

Most of the battalion’s soldiers were given orders to get out and it was everyman for himself. Those soldiers who were able to evade capture and hid in the mountains. Once back behind friendly lines and with replacements, the 2nd Battalion was reformed, this time as a 105mm towed howitzer battalion and soon they were back in action. Other soldiers such as Private First Class Arch A. Shealey and a small group of fellow soldiers were hiding out in the mountains for three days near Kasserine Pass. They were disoriented, dehydrated, and cold, waiting for the cover of darkness to move. After moving across a field littered with dead armored tanks, they found a road and took a consensus which way to go. The group moved down the road only to run into German machine gun fire and flares overhead. They had walked into a German roadblock; two of Shealey’s group were killed and the rest were captured.

The first night the Germans marched the POWs into a quarry and set up several machine guns around them. There the POWs were given water and some canned meat. After arriving in downtown Tunis, the POWs were locked in a building with floors that were wall-to-wall straw. Here the POWs were interrogated one-by-one by English-speaking Germans. Some of the POWs were surprised that the Germans had information on them: which high school or college they had attended, to whom they were married, and what various military assignments they had. The German’s information had been gathered from American newspaper articles.

Two days later, the POWs were marched to an airport to board JU 52 aircraft. Here some local natives were hawking some greasy fried cakes. The Germans didn’t stop the POWs from buying the cakes, since the POWs had been without food for several days. Shortly after being loaded on the planes, they took off for Italy. The JU 52s flew just a few feet above the Mediterranean and were escorted by JU 88s and above them were British fighters. The British were aware of the POWs aboard the planes and didn’t fire upon them. The POWs didn’t know that the British knew that they were aboard and there were very tense moments among them.

After landing at Naples airport, the prisoners were loaded aboard Italian trucks and turned over to the Italian Army. The trucks with their American POWs aboard were paraded through the streets of Naples to the jeers of the natives and barraged with garbage and solid and liquid excrement.

The POWs were taken to Capua, north of Naples, to a tent city compound. In the compound there were a few water faucets and some holes in the ground for sanitary needs for about five thousand prisoners. With the wind constantly blowing off the Sahara, the famed Sirocco or Mistral, and with no blankets, it was cold, plus there was precious little food. The Secretariat of the Vatican wanted to make sure that there was a record of the POWs before they left for Germany. So, the Vatican sent priests into the camp to record the names of the POWs. Some wives back in the states received notification from the Vatican that their husbands were POWs before receiving the information from the Department of War.

The POWs then were transported by train in boxcars with German guards thru Brenner Pass to Southern Germany to Mooseburg. On the way there was a stop at Munich; on the train platform, the POWs saw their first Jews, a large group who were huddled down with their heads between their knees. Upon hearing English being spoken, one young man looked and smiled and was properly kicked in the face by a German guard, which caused a low rumble through the POW ranks. The rest of the German guards shot the bolts back on their rifles, and that click got the attention of the POWs.

In Mooseburg, the officers were separated from the enlisted ranks. Here the officers were marched from the railroad station to the camp, which was one enormous ancient building. The POWs entered the building in the dark, and it was dank with a foul smelling earthen floor.

From Mooseburg, in May 1943, about 150 officers were taken to camp at Rotenburg am Fulda, Camp 9A/Z, which was housed in a former girls’ school. The camp also held the British “grand blessed” waiting for repatriation. The British had severe wounded, missing limbs, eyes, and other parts.

As Rotenburg came more and more overcrowded, a camp for American Ground Forces Officers was set up 400 miles east of Rotenburg, in Schublin, Poland, as Oflag 64. POWs were transported by rail in boxcars and on June 6, 1943, arrived at Oflag 64; it took two weeks to make the trip, with little food and no toilet facilities.

Oflag 64



A drawing of Oflag 64 by James F. Bicker from the Oflag 64 website

Oflag 64 was a German World War II prisoners of war camp which was exclusively set up for American officers. The camp was built around a Polish boys' school by adding barracks. Initially it was Stalag XXI-B for Polish soldiers until December 1940. Then it became Oflag XXI-B for French and British officers, subsequently for Soviet officers until June 1943. At that time, the French, British, and Soviet officers were all removed out to other camps, some to Stalag Luft 3 Sagan, and others to Oflag XXI-C Ostrzeszow.

On June 6, 1943, the camp was redesignated Oflag 64. It became an American officers' camp with the arrival of about 150 officers captured in the North Africa Campaign in Tunisia. In addition to the ground force officers, there were also a few aviators and enlisted men held in the camp. The camp grew with more POWs until January 21, 1945, when the roll call established a total of 1,471 men.



One of the numerous group pictures taken at Oflag 64 in mid-January 1944 by American and International Red Cross, who also provided the uniforms. In the above photo are some of the officers of 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Prisoners of War (POWs), at Oflag 64, Schublin, Poland, who were captured in Tunisia, February 1943. 1st Row (L-R) 1LT Wilbur B. Sharpe Jr., CPT James L. Sweeney, CPT James W. Barker, CPT Donald B. Stewart, 1LT William E. Rudel; 2nd Row (L-R) 2LT Leonard Feldman, 2LT Frank H. Colley, 1LT Niram J. Meadows, 1LT Keith Willis, 2LT Gabriel Gever; 3rd Row (L-R) 1LT Tom S. Morse, 2LT John J. Scully Jr., 2LT Ed D. (Dusty) Rhoades, 1LT Otis L. (Brad) Bradford (1st Inf Div.), 2LT Joe Seringer.

Since officers were not required to perform manual labor, the officers organized camp life to include an internal newspaper (OFLAG 64 ITEM), theater productions, a library, gardens, sporting events, educational classes and other resources support by the YMCA/Sweden, and the Geneva Convention.

The meals at Oflag 64 consisted of watery soup and sour bread. Red Cross packages were rationed between bunk mates to make them last longer and got them through.

On January 21, 1945, because of German's fear of Soviet troops approaching, all prisoners capable of walking were marched towards Germany. Two days later, on January 23, 1945, Oflag 64 was liberated by the Soviet 61st Army. Still remaining in the camp were approximately 150 American officers, medical personnel and patients, a few men who had hidden in an abandoned escape tunnel, plus 200 men who had escaped from the marching column and had returned to the camp. Those who were at the camp when the Soviets moved in had some difficulties. The Soviets wanted to hold them as hostages until all Soviet POWs in camps behind American lines were repatriated. Finally, the group from Oflag 64 reached Odessa, Russia, and was evacuated on a ship from New Zealand, the HMNZS Monowal.

The prisoners who were marched out of Oflag 64 on January 21, marched through snow and bitter cold for almost two months, covering 400 miles, about 20 miles a day, reaching Oflag XII-B, Hammelberg, on March 10, 1945. On the way about 400 had escaped or dropped out, too weak to march. A number were shot. Another part of this group was marched out of Oflag XII-B to Stalag VII-A, Mooseburg, which was liberated by elements of the 14th Armored Division (US) on April 29, 1945. Three weeks after Oflag XII-B, Hammelburg was liberated by the same American division.

Eight days out on the march from Oflag 64, three prisoners decided to leave the barn where the POWs were sleeping for the night. One was 1LT Wilbur (Bill) B. Sharpe Jr., who had joined the 17th Field Artillery Regiment in England and was captured at Faid Pass. The three men hid out in a hay field and did not report for roll call the next morning. With the Russians advancing at a fast pace, the German guards did not take the time to look for them. The Polish underground helped by feeding and clothing the escapees. The underground then turned them over to their allies, the Russians. The escapees thought they would be sent back to the United States immediately, but the Russians stripped them any rank or insignias and took Wilbur's watch and logbook, which he had been keeping for two years on camp activities. Then they were issued rifles and placed on the front lines with the Russian Infantry. After a month on the front lines, a jeep was commandeered and the three made their way to the rear of the Russian front lines where they met Russian soldiers who were more understanding of their position. With their help, they were placed on a freight train to Lublin, Poland, where they made contact with the American Embassy. The three ex-POWs then were placed aboard a ship for a two week voyage to Port Said, Egypt.

After reviewing the National Archives World War II Records of POWs, 16 officers and one Sergeant Tech5 who served with the Regiment were held at Oflag 64. This list may not be complete, as the POW records did not always reflect the parent unit or branch in which the POWs served.

End of Part One. Part Two will be in the next newsletter.

NOTES:

- A. The actions described above of the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery at Faid Pass in February 1943, were taken from the newspaper article interviews of former POWs and not from official military records.
- B. Part One and Part Two (in the next newsletter) on the subject on the POWs from the 2nd Battalion gives only a general view on their conditions and activities during their time in captivity and does not cover all aspects or conditions at the POW Camps where they were held.

REFERENCES:

1. CMH Pub 6-1-1, Northwest Africa: Seizing the Initiative in the West, Page 415
2. The National Archives, Records of World War II Prisoners of War. <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/>
3. Oflag 64 Remembered, www.Oflag.us
4. The 666 Days, A Combat History of the 17th F. A. Group, 5 August 1942-5 August 1945
5. The First Kriegies, A Typical Case, By James F. Bicker, Author Becky Driscoll, student at Richard College
6. News Articles on 17th Field Artillery Regiment Veterans on their Faid Pass or POW experience of James F. Bicker (Reference 3): Shellie B. Woodell (Missing in Action, never forgotten, Newport News, VA. Daily Press 2007); Arch A. Shealey, (Florida Baptist Witness "WW II POW prays for a "glancing blow" after capture by Rommel's troops, by Joni B. Hannigan, Nov 7, 2012) and Wilbur B. Sharpe Jr. (Cascades Newspaper Connection, "Prisoner 1573", by Aaron Slern, January 16, 2009; POW Memories Haunt Cody Man, by Mark Heinz, February 13, 2013, www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_9e86d97c-762a-11e2-9db500119bb2963f4.html)
7. Personal conversations with Charles E. Morrison and Robert M. Kenton

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE BROKEN DOWN PRINTER

Richard A. Smith-Chaplain

I'm hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year over the past few weeks. The trip from Gettysburg was great, and, like most of us, we were missing some of our friends before we got out of the parking lot. Gil you did a great job getting this one together.

We had a nice trip coming home along with stopping by mother's and my aunt's birthplace in the Shenandoah Valley. The family has been there since the Revolutionary War. I have a lot of good memories from my pre-school days there. Jim Will, you and Ruth are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful place that time has barely touched.

After I got home, I started trying to print out some things from my computer. My new ink cartridge had arrived finally. The only thing, the printer still didn't work yet. And even still, I had ordered another one online and struck out. I finally realized my printer was about nine years old. So old that I had to order ink on-line. They didn't sell my ink in the store anymore. Okay, time for a new one.

This incident made me realize that I had spent a lot of time trying to get it to work. Do I spend too much on other things that are material? It's part of life to replace something if we can't fix it, but how about our *spiritual* life? Do we ever take time to do a check up on our own life in this material world? I'm not talking about how you save your money; I'm talking about do you pray a few times daily or even once daily? Do we read scripture and stop and think of what it means? If we can't go to church, do we find our church service on a web page or TV?

What you are saving up materially, I'm going to let you in on a secret, *you can't take it with you!* I'm sure your family, friends or charities will appreciate that though. We came into this world with nothing, and we'll go out of here with nothing.

Heaven comes with a little work to enter. Most people think that when you die you automatically go to Heaven. (I've heard ordained ministers say you go as soon as you hit the ground and others say you have to wait for the second coming of Christ. I won't go there on those theories) We have to LIVE Christian lives! In Proverbs 3:6 we read: *"In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight."* In 2nd Peter 1:5 he quotes *"For this very reason trust the Lord with all your heart, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge self-control, and to self-control perseverance, and godliness."*

You'll be surprised what you can learn and live by reading one chapter out of one book daily in the Bible. My late grandfather had an old saying he lived by, *"You've got to GET RIGHT to LIVE right to DIE right."* Easy to remember, just practice it daily.

Sickness: 1) I spoke with Wallace Bates in July. He was recovering from a fall during a storm while trying to get his dog. He hit his head and had to surgery on his shoulder from the fall. 2) Steve Gerhardt- Steve sustained leg, ear, ribs, and a broken back while trying to stop his rolling truck. He's had several surgeries as a result of the injury. 3) Bill Beers had to have a toe amputated and groin arterial surgery to open up more blood flow. 4) John Melasecca is recovering from cancer. 4) Harry Fetsick got a clean report on a nodule in his lung and was scheduled for cataract surgery. 5) Gene Johnson's wife Carol had carotid arteries cleared from blockage and Gene is still on dialysis. 6) Dan Reeves had a successful double by-pass and recovering well. 7) Please continue to pray for Jack Stroud who has been a pillar in this organization as he battles cancer. 8) I ask that you continue to pray for Bill Dahlin, Norm and Annette Jones and along with Tom Kurtz. (These two members, Norm & Tom co-founded this organization.)

(Cards have been sent accordingly)

IN MEMORY OF THOSE THAT HAVE PASSED ON

- 1) Cecil LeGrand passed away last month from complications of COPD and pneumonia.
- 2) Sgt. Hubert Edwards, a WWII veteran and oldest 17th FA member, passed away at 102 years old.
- 3) This last member I always thought of as one of the finest men I have ever met in my life. He and his wife Judy have always been doing something for the association and he had just been made secretary of the association and her taking over the newsletter. We sometimes would talk war stories about our days as retired cops. He was a very devout Christian, as well. It's with a heavy heart as I know all probably feel that I place Ed Dingman on this list. Ed passed away Dec.1st after heart surgery a few weeks earlier. Please keep Judy and her family in your prayers. Rest in Peace, Ed. Your shift is over.

Stay safe and God bless,

Richard

rsmith3024@nc.rr.com (919)995-2163

Students Present Papers and Make Impression

(Information provided by
Dan Reeves, Roving Reporter/Ambassador of Good Will)

Dan Reeves, a member of the 17th Artillery Regiment Association in Byron, California, was at the Antioch (California) Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2021. Veterans representing all branches of the military were present for the event.

During the rededication of the local Veterans Memorial, Dan was especially moved by what he called "two superb and very patriotic presentations." The outstanding students were Annabelle Van Dyke and Blake West.

Dan was so impressed that he wanted to see the two students receive further recognition. He asked the 17th Artillery Regiment Association's Board of Officers to approve his request to award the two students each with a 17th Artillery Certificate of Participation and a check for \$100. In turn, he donated the funds for these two awards.

In a letter to Annabelle, Dan noted, "During the ceremony, you presented your paper on what veterans meant to you. I was deeply moved by your presentation,



Annabelle Van Dyke smiles at receiving her Certificate of Appreciation and check after presenting a paper on veterans at a community Veterans Day event.



Blake West shows his Certificate of Appreciation he received from Dan Reeves representing the 17th Artillery Regiment Association.

as well as all those in attendance. We could tell your presentation was from your heart as you shared how proud you are about the veterans in your family."

Likewise, Dan shared with Blake that he and others in attendance were "deeply moved by your presentation."

In a letter to the students, Dan gave a brief synopsis of whom and what the 17th Artillery Regiment Association is. Dan visited the students at their respective schools to make the presentation in their individual classes.

Life Membership Coin Holders

Coin Number/Name of Holder/Life Member As Of December 31, 2021

001	Harold & Erma M. Brown Sr. (Deceased)	June 3, 2000*	050	Robert L. Plata	November 13, 2004
002	Thomas Vernor (Deceased)	January 9, 2001	051	Gilbert A. Bernabe	November 13, 2004
003	Harold (Buck) M. Brown Jr.	June 6, 2001*	052	George Winton	November 19, 2004
004	Nolan Putman (Deceased)	September 9, 2001	053	Harry O. Amos (Deceased)	January 4, 2005
005	Thomas R. Kurtz	November 20, 2001	054	Stephen J. Lowery	January 14, 2005
006	Richard (Rich) Siebe	January 1, 2002	055	Gerald F. Brown (Deceased)	January 28, 2005
007	James H. Drennan	February 23, 2002	056	Larry E. Miller (Deceased)	February 7, 2005
008	John J. Korsun JR. (Deceased)	April 8, 2002	057	Raymond P. (DAK) Lais (Deceased)	March 26, 2005
009	Paul J. Barton	April 24, 2002	058	Larry J. Davis	May 7, 2005
010	Leslie B. Scott (Deceased)	April 29, 2002	059	Leon Mc Kenzie Sr.	June 4, 2005
011	Robert R. Brooks II	May 7, 2002	060	Leonard S. Spencer	July 29, 2005
012	James Moore (Deceased)	May 21, 2002	061	Terry L. Wallace	August 9, 2005
013	Edward (Ed) T. Hitchner	May 22, 2002	062	Lyndle E. Claus (Deceased)	August 25, 2005
014	Thomas (Mike) M. Turner (Deceased)	June 24, 2002	063	James R. (Dick) Graves (Deceased)	September 16, 2005
015	Paul Fusco	August 2, 2002	064	Daniel L. Lazenberry (Deceased)	September 24, 2005
016	Norman (Richard) R. Jones	August 4, 2002	065	Robert L. Hallahan	October 26, 2005
017	Gary L. Bress	October 4, 2002	066	Bruce Latour	January 12, 2006
018	John C. Melasecca Jr.	November 15, 2002	067	Wiley A. Jarrell	January 30, 2006
019	Frank Zitzman	November 19, 2002	068	James H. Sanders (Deceased)	February 9, 2006
020	Bobby (Bob) A. West	January 8, 2003	069	Raymond C. Gomez	February 28, 2006
021	Peter Coffin	January 17, 2003	070	Charles G. Ross	April 5, 2006
022	Jerome L. Fritsche II (Deceased)	February 22, 2003	071	Neal P. Fouts	April 12, 2006
023	Walter (Jack) J. Larson (Deceased)	February 26, 2003	072	David S. Bickler	June 24, 2006
024	John (Jack) J. Picciolo	March 24, 2003	073	George W. Adkisson (Deceased)	August 7, 2006
025	William J. Wright	April 4, 2003	074	Henry E. Griffendorf Jr.(Deceased)	August 17, 2006
026	C. Alex Brassert	June 4, 2003	075	Thomas C. Bast (Deceased)	September 21, 2006
027	Dietrich W. Neckien (Deceased)	April 27, 2003	076	Ketrick T. Mc Millin	December 3, 2006
028	Michael W. Mason	October 9, 2003	077	John Ryan	December 16, 2006
029	Michael (Mike) Burke	October 10, 2003	078	James T. Caudill	February 7, 2007
030	Eugene Johnson	November 14, 2003	079	David W. Gogel	April 8, 2007
031	Francis (Fran) C. Rash	November 28, 2003	080	Stephen J. Audett	June 26, 2007
032	Delmar D. Beard	December 2, 2003	081	Ronald W. Terry	September 10, 2007
033	Charles E. Morrison	December 14, 2003	082	Thomas W. Remley	November 18, 2007
034	Robert Gary Kohl	December 20, 2003	083	Hollis B. Cahoon (Deceased)	December 7, 2007
035	Michael Dages (Deceased)	January 15, 2004	084	Raymond J. Heuring (Deceased)	December 9, 2007
036	Lonnie O. English (Deceased)	January 21, 2004	085	Paul M. Moser	January 17, 2008
037	Webster Cole	March 15, 2004	086	Avery W. Hall	January 23, 2008
038	Leonard T. Elzie	March 22, 2004	087	John J. Luxenburger Jr. (Deceased)	January 24, 2008
039	Richard P. Carmody	April 29, 2004	088	David P. Rush	February 21, 2008
040	Jerry E. Pifer (Deceased)	May 15, 2004	089	Francis J. Roberts	April 14, 2008
041	Louis J. Mazzarella	May 17, 2004	090	Rod L. Guerrero (Deceased)	July 7, 2008
042	Richard J. Flowers	May 22, 2004	091	Thomas P. Ross	January 30, 2009
043	James M. Sherrill	July 20, 2004	092	Birdeye L. Middleton	February 7, 2009
044	Wallace L. Bates	September 1, 2004	093	Rickie B. Simpkins	February 15, 2009
045	Richard A. Smith	September 14, 2004	094	Robert E. Lax	March 2, 2009
046	George A. Schaefer (Deceased)	October 30, 2004	095	Philip J. Brunwald	March 25, 2009
047	Charles Riley (Deceased)	November 5, 2004	096	Larry Hightower	April 11, 2009
048	Pete Schwarz	November 13, 2004	097	Albert (Bert) Ryan	August 9, 2009
049	Robert M. Kinton (Deceased)	November 13, 2004	098	Roy E. Korkalo	August 15, 2009

099	William P. Dahlin	October 19, 2009	149	Gail E. Fasse	February 14, 2013
100	Jackie Stroud	September 30, 2009	150	Edwin J. Ahonen	February 19, 2013
101	Donald L. Brooks	November 9, 2009	151	William G. Montague	March 25, 2013
102	Jerry (Doc) Cody	November 9, 2009	152	Edward E. Dingman (Deceased)	May 20, 2013
103	Michael Klingeman N	November 11, 2009	153	Daniel Reeves	July 16, 2013
104	Charles Garner (Deceased)	November 11, 2009	154	James T. Yore	September 28, 2013
105	Larry R. Werkheiser	December 18, 2009	155	Michael H. Murphy	September 28, 2013
106	William K. Beers Jr.	December 18, 2009	156	Richard C. Hoffman	January 24, 2014
107	Dennis C. Smith	January 4, 2010	157	William M. Simpson	January 27, 2014
108	James M. Caiella	January 4, 2010	158	Charles H. Seidman (Deceased)	February 8, 2014
109	Paul V. Shepherd Sr.	January 11, 2010	159	Terry L. Earnst	February 8, 2014
110	Leonard A. Eason	February 13, 2010	160	Robert E. Highlands (Deceased)	May 12, 2014
111	Jeffrey S. Wilcox	April 26, 2010	161	Barry L. Matthews	June 24, 2014
112	Holice Barton Jr. (Deceased)	April 26, 2010	162	Milton R. Holloway	July 10, 2014
113	Robert H. Giselbach	August 9, 2010	163	James E. Kendall	July 10, 2014
114	William A. Selis (Deceased)	August 9, 2010	164	Tom M. Jones	July 11, 2014
115	Ronald B. Hood	August 16, 2010	165	Mick D. Shanklin	August 16, 2014
116	Jon M. Johnson	August 31, 2010	166	Thornton W. Purvis	August 28, 2014
117	Todd R. Wasmund	November 12, 2009	167	Ronda A. Henderson	September 26, 2014
118	Cecil P. LeGrand (Deceased)	September 9, 2010	168	John B. Bagley (Deceased)	November 28, 2014
119	Stephen D. Gerhardt	October 1, 2010	169	Michael J. Hennessy	January 20, 2015
120	Larry W. Lovejoy	October 27, 2010	170	David P. Hull	February 2, 2015
121	Buford Calfee	October 30, 2010	171	Walter H. Ramsey	July 24, 2015
122	Carlos E. Esmurria	October 30, 2010	172	Henry J. Dudek	August 1, 2015
123	Richard Heydt	October 30, 2010	173	Donald L. Strong (Deceased)	August 21, 2015
124	Doyle Watters	November 27, 2010	174	Harry Fetsick	October 23, 2015
125	Richard H. Sugg	November 27, 2010	175	Willie H. Gates	October 29, 2015
126	Harrell (Lyn) Hartman (Deceased)	December 7, 2010*	176	Kolin V. Bernardoni	November 12, 2015
127	Marcel L. Simonet (Deceased)	January 3, 2011	177	Stephen J. Rumnock Jr. (Deceased)	May 3, 2016.
128	Richard (Dick) Stanton (Deceased)	January 3, 2011	178	Ronald J. Makinson	January 6, 2017
129	James M. Shernesky	January 10, 2011	179	Norman L. Barton	March 22, 2017
130	John P. Clingan	February 13, 2011	180	Jack L. Lambert	June 28, 2017
131	Bruno A. Kalkowski (Deceased)	June 8, 2011	181	Robert J. Brown	July 10, 2017
132	Jeffrey Carra	June 29, 2011	182	Philip I. Smith	January 22, 2018
133	Dave Rowell	October 18, 2011	183	Elroy Thomas	March 1, 2018
134	Gary M. Steen	December 17, 2011	184	Jeffrey Bernabe	November 11, 2018*
135	Lawrence Moren Jr.	January 9, 2012	185	James D. Sosebee	March 4, 2019
136	Curtis A. Collier	March 12, 2012	186	James L. Wisneski	March 4, 2019
137	Mark P. Krieger	May 18, 2012	187	Roger (John) Ubaudi	March 26, 2019
138	Raul A. Garibay	June 18, 2012	188	Robert T. Farkas	March 26, 2019
139	Ralph W. Melcher	June 18, 2012	189	Doug (Raymond) Runice (Deceased)	July 19, 2019
140	Francisco F. Garcia II	July 28, 2012	190	Robert D. King	September 19, 2019
141	Gary B. Griffin	September 19, 2012	191	Jeffery D. McCausland	November 21, 2019
142	Larry L. Rice (Deceased)	September 26, 2012	192	Howard A. Strom	February 28, 2020
143	James E. Will	October 25, 2012	193	Thomas C. Bixby	March 26, 2020
144	Jack M. Frizzell	December 1, 2012	194	Roger Wolfen	July 20, 2020
145	Alan M. McIlvain (Deceased)	January 1, 2013	195	Dennis Henderson	February 25, 2021
146	David L. Zell	February 1, 2013	196	Carl A. Burton Jr.	March 14, 2021
147	Lonnie H. Jackson Jr.	February 7, 2013*	197	Michael J. Squadrille	March 17, 2021
148	Darwin L. McGladdery	February 12, 2013			

*Associated Members 5 (Deceased-1)

Total number of Life Members Deceased: 48

Membership Application

To become a member, life member or to renew your membership with the [17th Artillery Regiment Association](#) (Please disregard if you are already a member for the year 2022 or a life member.) complete the form below and mail it with your check or money order (payable to **17th Artillery Regiment Association**). Mail to: Richard Siebe (*Association Treasurer*) 3000 64th Street, Sacramento, CA 95820-2004. Upon receipt of your 2022 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 veterans' roster located on the association's web site (www.17thartilleryregiment.org). The password will be sent to you by U. S. Mail or email. The password is changed January 1 of each year.

Join or renew now: 2022 Membership Dues are \$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: 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: If you are on active duty check here. ____ You may not have a DD Form 214 yet.

Richard (Rich) Siebe

3000 64th Street

Sacramento, CA 95820-2004

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Meet the Editor

Let me introduce myself. I'm Judy Dingman, the new editor of The Castle Newsletter. I was appointed to this position at the meeting in Gettysburg last fall. At the same time, my husband Ed was appointed to fill the secretary's position. Jack Stroud asked to be relieved of those two positions. It appears it takes two people to do the work Jack Stroud has done for the organization for a number of years.



What makes me think I can do this job? I spent 20 years working at the local newspaper in positions from staff writer, to publisher, to general manager and many things in between. I was usually the go-to person when there was a story about a soldier, veteran, etc. Getting to meet and write about some of our local veterans was one of my favorite tasks. I didn't enjoy writing the stories about the two local men who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it was something I could do to get their stories told.

Why would I want to do this job? Since my husband joined the association in 2013, it has been an item of major interest to us. We looked forward to the meeting each fall and usually planned a vacation around the meeting. I'm willing to use my skills helping promote the work of the association.

As many of you know, the plans Ed and I had took a major hit with his death in December. Right now, I have no plans to give up this position. It is giving me a new direction and, besides, I might be bored just sitting around.

Why is this organization important to me? I have a rather long line of ancestors who served their country. I was always proud of Ed for his service in Vietnam. I grew up hearing my dad tell stories from his service in the Pacific Theater during World War II. In addition, I have a son who is currently serving in the Army. At this point, his story covers 19 years, numerous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and sustaining a head wound on one of those deployments. In other words, the members of this organization are important to me because of their service to their country. In the last nine years, many of them have become like family.

Be sure to read the information about our reunion slated for Branson, about an hour from my home. I plan to be there. I'll see you in September! (That sounds like a good title for a song!)

Association Officers 2022

Gil Bernabe	President
Dave Rowell	First Vice President
William Beers	Second Vice President
Judy Dingman	Editor of The Castle Newsletter/Interim Secretary
Richard Siebe	Treasurer
Richard Smith	Chaplain
John (Jack) Picciolo & Tom Kurtz	Historians
Richard & Phyllis Flowers	Quartermasters
Edward (Ed) Hitchner	Webmaster
Gil Bernabe	Scholarship Chairman

This Newsletter has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Gil Bernabe
Association President
www/17thartilleryregiment.org

The 17th Artillery Regiment Association 2022 Calendar

Events that occupy your Board of Officers all year long include:

1. **December 2021 - January 2022** – Interview hotel managers and select a hotel for next year’s reunion
2. **January 2022** -Send the new Password to all members
3. **Beginning planning the January Castle Newsletter.**
 - a. Develop a newsletter plan
 - b. Gather standard articles for newsletter: President’s View; History by Tom Kurtz; Chaplain’s Article; report on previous reunion with photos (Send photos to Ed Hitchner for inclusion on web site.); Reunion Flyer and information; ;Reunion Registration Form; Announce the Scholarship Program; and Summary of Scholarship Awards.
 - c. Proof read all articles
 - d. Prepare newsletter to mail and email to membership no later than January 25.
4. **Announce the 2022 Scholarship Program in January Newsletter**
 - a. At General membership meeting – determine the number of scholarships and amount of each.
 - b. Officially announce the current year’s scholarship program
 - c. Send out scholarship applications to candidates
 - d. Select essay title for scholarship applications
 - e. Select scholarship application judges
 - f. Deadline for submitting scholarship applications: March 20
5. **January 2022 – Select a hotel for Reunion**
 - a. Negotiate hospitality room, hotel room rates, meals, catered events, costs, etc.
 - b. Develop reunion schedule
 - c. Establish reunion budget
 - d. Develop reunion flyer – include it in the January Castle Newsletter
6. **March – April: receive scholarship applications, evaluate and select winners.**
 - a. Contact scholarship recipients – explain awards to each winner
 - b. Provide association treasurer with winners’ names and amount of each check.
 - c. Mail scholarship awards to each winner – before April 25.
 - d. Ensure each scholarship winner contacts school counselor – to include 17th Artillery Scholarship winner in school’s awards ceremony.
 - e. May - Write an article on each scholarship winner.
 - f. May - Send article to winner’s local newspaper
7. **May – June: Select menus for reunion’s catered events**
8. **May – June: Begin planning the June-July Castle Newsletter.**
 - a. Develop a newsletter plan – see paragraph 3 above
 - b. Print articles on scholarship winners
 - c. Print reunion information.
9. **July 1: Usual Deadline to cancel September Reunion – if necessary.**
 - a. Send menu choices for catered events to hotel manager
10. **August: Deadline to reserve hotel rooms** – 30 days before reunion – to avoid charges.
11. **September:** 14 days before reunion catered meals – send in number of meals
12. **September** – One day before reunion begins - Annual Business Meeting for Board Officers

Schedule for 2022 Reunion 17th Artillery Regiment Association

Sat - 9/10	Sun -- 9/11	Mon -- 9/12	Tues -- 9/13	Wed -- 9/14	Thu --r 9/15	Fri -- 9/16	Sat -- 9/17
	Breakfast – Pay as you go	Breakfast – Pay as you go	Breakfast – association pays	Breakfast – association pays	Breakfast – association pays	Breakfast – association pays	Breakfast – association pays
		In Hospitality Room			In Hospitality Room		
Board members arrive		10 a.m. Open Registration Table	Self-guided Tours and Shows	Self-guided Tours and Shows	9 to 11 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting	Self-guided Tours and Shows	Check out and travel home
	Noon – Hospitality Room Set up	Shop for Hospitality Room			11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Auction		
	1 to 4 p.m. Annual Board Meeting Hospitality Room	3 p.m. Open Hospitality Room					
			<u>Optional Event:</u> Lunch at Keeter Center, College of Ozarks 1 to 3 p.m. Tour Veterans Memorial <u>Sign up instructions to follow</u>		2 to 4 p.m. Annual Banquet Catered Event		
Group Supper	6 p.m. Group Supper	5 to 7 p.m. Welcome Social Catered Event		<u>Optional Event:</u> Branson Belle -- Dinner Show and Cruise <u>Sign up instructions to follow</u>			

Receive “The Castle” By Email

To help defray the cost of postage and printing of the association’s newsletter, please sign up to receive “The Castle” by email.

To receive the electronic newsletter, notify the association’s interim secretary, Judy Dingman, at jdingman65@gmail.com with your **current** and **correct** email address 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, ACTIVE MEMBER** to receive the newsletter.

Charlie Battery – Class of 1968-70

What: 2022 Charlie Battery Reunion

When: July 29 through July 31—check out August 1

Where: Nashville – The Opryland Hotel and Resort

Special Event: Group Dinner – July 29, at nearby hotel

Point of Contact: Jeff Wilcox, cell (616) 581-9659, home (616) 241-0907, email wilcoxjswl@att.net

For reservation: call (615) 889-1000, follow prompts for reservations, indicate you are with Charlie Battery, 2nd/17 Reunion or visit

<https://book.passkey.com/gt/218273227?gtid=bc43563f0d915fb748275d3148b51778>

Judy Dingman
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THE ARTILLERY
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION



Four 8-inch Howitzers from Battery A, 17th Field Artillery Battalion in position ready to fire during the Korean War. Photograph is from picture collection of CWO2 (RET) Richard Wynn (deceased) who served in the battery's maintenance section, 1952- 1953.

17th ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
THE CASTLE