FALL/WINTER 2026
VOLUME XCVII NUMBER III

THE IVY LEAVES

"Since 1919"

Official Publication of the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

The 2026 Ralph E. Lingert Awards Recipients



Joseph L. Carter of the Midwest Chapter



Larry D. Brainerd of the Redleg Chapter

The Ralph E. Lingert Service Award is the highest award that can be given by the National 4th Infantry Division Association. It is a lifetime achievement award named in honor of Past National President and Financial Secretary Ralph E. Lingert. This year, we had a rare tie vote. Resulting in two recipients being selected. They are Larry D. Brainerd of the Redleg Chapter and Joseph L. Carter of the Midwest Chapter. Both of these men have devoted many years of service and support to the 4th Infantry Division Association.

Joseph L. Carter is the President of the Midwest Chapter and also is the National Sergeant at Arms. He stepped into this position after the untimely death of the incumbent. He has also served as a National Vice President of Vietnam for many years. He served in Vietnam with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, from 1969 to 1970. He has published a book about his experiences titled *"Once Strangers, Forever Brothers."* He has served as President of the Midwest Chapter for seven years.

He stays connected with his fellow Veterans through the American Legion, where he served as Commander for ten years and also Vice Commander for many years. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and is active in his local post. He and other Veterans have raised funds for the local Livingston County Veterans Association, and he serves as Vice President of that board.

2026 Ralph E. Lingert Awards Recipients – Continued on page 5

Major General Ellis Update



MG Pat Ellis, Commanding General 4th Infantry Division

Commanding General MG Patrick J. Ellis addressed the Association by video conference from Fort Carson, where he had just returned from Fort Irwin National Training Center. Association members were able to ask questions of MG Ellis. MG Ellis told the Association that the Division had over 10,000 Soldiers at Fort Irwin for the largest division exercise since World War II. Two thousand Soldiers are still there. The Division used new technology to enhance its warfighting abilities to make it even more lethal than before.

All of the Second Brigade, the Third Brigade, most of Division Artillery, and the remaining assets of the Aviation Brigade were at Fort Irwin.

See Major General Ellis update – Continued on page 5

FROM THE EDITOR...

John Harris



Greetings Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 Fall/Winter Edition of the Ivy Leaves. This issue has stories, pictures and business conducted at the 2026 National Reunion held in Bettendorf, Iowa. It has the latest update for your officers, committees, and chapters. You will want to save it as a good reference.

There has been a lot going on with our Division. The third brigade has converted to an Infantry brigade and has reactivated the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. With the Division now assigned to the 1st Corps, it is focusing it attention on deployment to the Pacific area of operations. The 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry just had some of its Soldiers and their Stryker vehicles training in Indonesia in September. Another major change is that all of the Field Artillery battalions are now under the command of Division Artillery Headquarters.

Our next reunion will be from 2 August to 6 August 2027 at the Oasis Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. Save the date. We are planning several interesting things for the reunion.

Feel free to contact me via email johncarolharris@gmail.com or via phone 636-390-3863.

Steadfast & Loyal
John Harris
HHB/5-16 - Vietnam

'Ivy Leaves' Deadline

Deadline for submission of information for the next issue.

February 15, 2027 is the deadline for the Spring / Summer Edition.

National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

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"The Ivy Leaves" is the official publication of the National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association, PO Box 1914, St. Peters, MO 63376-0035. It is published in Print two times per year (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Editions), and available in Digital format (Mid-Year Edition) for members of the Association. Written suggestions are welcome and should be sent to John Harris, Ivy Leaves Editor, at 3 Rustic Hills Estate, Washington, MO 63090, or Ivyleaveseditor@gmail.com. Send all monetary contributions to the Executive Director.

ANY CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT IVYLEAVESEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

National 4th Infantry Division webpage
www.4thinfantry.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Ray 'Rock' Rocho



I wanted to thank everyone involved in making a successful and well attended 2026 National reunion. Especially Linda Dufek and her crew for all their hard work.

I'd also like to thank General Ellis for making himself available to address the gathering, updating us on the Division's status, sending the band to entertain us, and the support of the Rock Island Arsenal color guard.

"I am honored to be president of the 4th Infantry Division Association."

I also want to thank the membership for putting their trust in me to continue to lead this storied Association.

I can't thank past President Rick Adams enough for his leadership and guidance that can be seen in every aspect of the Association.

I also want to thank the elected officers who continuing to serve the association and the new appointees who will also be serving on the E-Board.

Bill Redmond a steadfast supporter of the association and leader of the former Mid-South Chapter is appointed as Judge Advocate / Parliamentarian, an important role formerly filled by his longtime friend Mike May.

Past National President Bruce Wesley is appointed as Vice President - Vietnam & Cold War in support of the vast majority of our members.

I'm extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Galen Peterson as Vice President - War on Terror who brings a wealth of communications experience to help reach the group of veterans who will be leading this Association into the future.

As your President and Liaison to the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, I plan to attend as many change of command ceremonies and training events as possible. I have been the Senior Vice President for the last several years. I have just retired from my civilian occupation and live in the foothills of Golden, Colorado. With my location, close to Fort Carson, I'm committed to spreading the word about the 4th Infantry Division Association and distributing association flyers at every event. I plan on actively engaging with 4th Division leaders and civilian employees along with Rich Blackaby, the President of the Ivy Division Chapter to spread the word about the 4th Division Association in an effort to get new members that will continue to fill positions and increase our membership numbers with even more first-timers.

Steadfast and Loyal,
Raymond (Rock) Rocho
National President

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Don Kelby
P.O. Box 1914
St. Peters, MO 63376-0035



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Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, it's the price you paid to become eligible to join

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Don Kelby



If you change your physical address, you must send an update to me so I can update your record. Every time mail is forwarded by the printer, we are subject to an extra charge by the U.S.P.S. In our current mailing of the calendar, there were 92 changed addresses and 7 bad addresses. Please keep your snail mail and email addresses updated.

Fellow Ivy Members,

Another successful reunion is behind us. We had 182 registered attendees, but it was a very enjoyable time. The tours were great and we got 8 new members signed up. Kudos to the reunion committee.

The 2027 calendar should have reached your mailbox by now. This one is one of the best we have ever produced.

In the not-too-distant future, The Ivy Leaves will be digital only. Please keep your email addresses current and updated.

If you change your physical address, you must send an update to me so I can update your record. Every time mail is forwarded by the printer, we are subject to an extra charge by the U.S.P.S. In our current mailing of the calendar, there were 92 changed addresses and 7 bad addresses. Please keep your snail mail and email addresses updated.

Please remember that even though all Vietnam Veterans have been granted a free life membership, donations to one of our programs are always greatly appreciated, as well as donations for our calendar.

If you are a yearly dues-paying member, please renew your membership when it comes due. I hate to drop anyone for non-payment of dues.

As I have said many times before, this is YOUR Association; it is up to us to ensure we remain Steadfast and Loyal not only to ourselves, but to your families, our Veterans, and our country in general.

I want to give a hearty and sincere thank you to our Immediate Past President Rick Adams for his leadership and guidance of our Association. One of the tougher tasks he has had was keeping me in line and on the straight and narrow path. He has brought our Association into the 21st Century and put us on the correct path for the future.

I welcome our newly elected President Ray "Rock" Rocho. Ray is one of our War on Terror Veterans that realizes how important our Association is not only to us current Veterans, but also to our future Veterans. I wish him luck and look forward to his leadership in the future.

As we get older, many of our members decline in physical health as well as mental health. Please keep an eye on each other. Periodical checks may be a life saver for us.

I know from my personal experience that your life can change in an instant.

The 109th reunion will be in Springfield Missouri at the Oasis Hotel. Stay tuned and keep checking the website or the E-Ivy for further information. I will not go into details now due to us not having finalized the details and activities. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone. Please try to attend. You never know who you might run into.

We have been to Springfield before but there have been many updates to the city.

If you receive word that a member has passed away, please notify me so I can recognize them and set my records straight. I have just finished another push to make sure my records are up to date with our WWII members, and I am anxiously awaiting their responses to the letters I sent.

As I have said before, we are at an age where you never know when your time will come. As we are reaching that inevitable time, I encourage everyone to reserve their spot in a National Cemetery if that is where you wish to be buried. The cemeteries are filling up, and they predict that in the future, some will be unable to accept more residents. I was granted my reservation on May 8, 2017. It is free so do it while you can and save your loved ones the hassle of making those final plans themselves. It is one thing they will have to worry about less. Go to **www.cem.va.gov**.

Look at the Obituary section of this issue to see how many of our fellow members have passed away.

However, no matter what happens in the future, as Ivymen and Ivy women, we will always remain STEADFAST AND LOYAL. Be steadfast in knowing we have been through tough times before and we will support and defend our fellow soldiers, past, present, and future.

As I have said many times before, your Executive Board is made up strictly of Volunteers. If you have suggestions or problems, please feel free to contact us. Please do not let a problem or concern fester; bring it to our attention. We may not be able to solve every problem; however, we will do our best. Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please feel free to do so. We are always willing to let our up-and-coming Ivymen and Ivy Women charge forward with the Association. Whether you are a Male or Female member, you will be welcomed with open arms.

I am in my 20th year as Executive Director and once again, I want to thank everyone for their continued support not only of me, but also of your Chapter Officers as well as the National Officers. It is through our love of the 4th Infantry Division that we do these jobs. If I can be of any help, please feel free to email me at **4thidaed@swbell.net**. If you call and I don't answer, leave a message, or I will not call you back.

I know it sounds cliché, but we are all in this together. We have been through tough times before and we can get through this together also. WE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED.

Keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Please do not send jokes or other non-association-related links.

Humbly submitted,
Don Kelby
4thidaed@swbell.net

Ralph E. Lingert Awards Recipients – Continued from page 1

The other recipient is Larry D. Brainerd of the Redlegs Chapter. He served in Vietnam with C Battery, 6th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Division during 1969 - 1970. He has been a major factor in starting and supporting the chapter and is part of the glue that holds his chapter together. He searched for and found former members of his unit and got them to join the Association. Although he has never held an office in the 4th Infantry Division Association, his constant grassroots efforts to locate former members of the 4th Infantry Division and encourage them to join the Association have contributed to the Association's growth and member retention. He helped organize the Spotswood DeWitt Chapter that grew and expanded to become the Redlegs Chapter. A home for all artillerymen of the 4th Infantry Division. In 2014, he hosted the Fort Sill Reunion of all Field Artillery Vietnam Veterans of the 4th Infantry Division.

He has been instrumental in keeping the 4th Infantry Division Association Hospitality room going during Veterans Week in Branson, Missouri, and has actively participated in that effort year after year with other members of the Redleg Chapter and other chapters of the 4th Infantry Division Association. Any former member of his battery and members of other units know he will help or direct them to services offered to Veterans. His dedication to his chapter and the association shows that he clearly represents the "Steadfast and Loyal" credo of the 4th Infantry Division and the "Faithful and True" motto of the 29th Field Artillery Regiment.

Major General Ellis update – Continued from page 1

He said they fought from west to east against the 11th ACR, pushed them back, and did it too quickly. So, then they fought them again from north to south and again drove the ACR posing as the opposing force back, showcasing the incredible lethality of the division.

Among the major changes the Division has undergone is its transfer from the Third Armored Corps to the First Corps, with a focus on fighting in the first island chain in the Pacific. The Third Brigade has converted from an armor brigade to a Stryker Brigade, making the 4th Infantry Division the only all-Stryker division in the U.S. Army. When the Third Brigade inactivated its armor battalions, it activated some famous infantry units. The First Battalion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, the First Battalion of the 8th Infantry Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion of the 8th Infantry Regiment. The 3rd Battalion of the 29th Field Artillery converted from self-propelled M-109A3s to towed M-777 (155 mm howitzers). The 3rd Brigade will spend the next two years training as a Stryker Brigade and developing its skills.

Other comments MG Ellis added were: He announced that today, twelve Purple Hearts were awarded to Division Soldiers at Fort Carson. The Aviation Brigade is still deployed in the Middle East, supporting our forces there. All Field Artillery battalions are now under the command and control of Division Artillery. Last year, the Second Brigade secured our southern border successfully, the General noted.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2026–2027

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FINANCE COMMITTEE	Jim McCarthy	jimmac.mccarthy@gmail.com
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Jerry Bumpus	ivyvet69@yahoo.com
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SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE	Ray Rocho	rrocho59@gmail.com
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SECRETARY	Phil Menendez	pmenendez6@comcast.net

4ID NEWS

Medal of Honor presented to 4th Infantry Division Soldier



Major Nicholas Dockery

On June 18, 2026, a ceremony was held at the White House and President Trump awarded Major Nicholas Dockery (Ret.) the Medal of Honor, for acts Dockery performed while serving as a Platoon Leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan.

Nicholas Dockery was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. Raised by his grandmother, Dockery graduated from St. John's Military School in Salina, Kansas. After his application to West Point was rejected in 2004, he enlisted as an infantryman in the Indiana Army National Guard and was assigned to the 151st Long Range Surveillance Detachment (Airborne), 38th Infantry Division. He completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training for Infantry and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2005, he transferred to the New Mexico Army National Guard and entered the Army ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program while attending the New Mexico Military Institute.

Dockery applied to the U.S. Military Academy for a second time and was accepted. Although he was offered a commission by the New Mexico Army National Guard, he turned it down in favor of attending West Point. He graduated in 2011, earning a Bachelor of Science and was commissioned into the Infantry.

Then-2nd Lt. Dockery's first assignment in 2011 was to 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. Upon completion of his infantry officer training and specialty schooling at Fort Benning, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the summer of 2012.

He served as a platoon leader in Kunar and Kapisa Provinces, among the most dangerous areas of the Afghanistan conflict. During this time, Dockery worked alongside Special Forces teams training and advising host nation forces, which left an indelible impact on him and solidified his desire to one day become a Green Beret. It was during this deployment where Dockery's selfless actions as a platoon leader earned him a Silver Star that would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

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Army's 4th Infantry Division marks Pacific pivot with training in Indonesia



Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division are training in Indonesia this month as the Fort Carson, Colo.-based unit shifts its focus from Europe to the Indo-Pacific.

The division was reassigned from III Armored Corps to I Corps in December and has since focused more heavily on the Indo-Pacific, Brig. Gen. Ed Matthaidess, its deputy commander for operations, told Stars and Stripes by phone from Indonesia on Sept. 4.

About 150 division soldiers are participating in Super Garuda Shield in Baturaja, where they are testing new command-and-control technology while adapting to an environment far removed from their mountainous Colorado home.

"It's a huge learning experience," Matthaidess said from the back of a Stryker armored vehicle.

Troops from the United States, Indonesia and 13 other nations are slated to wrap up two weeks of training Thursday. The exercise has included amphibious assaults, airborne operations and live-fire drills across Indonesia.

The 4th Infantry Division, which fought in both world wars and in Iraq and Afghanistan, spent an extended period in the Pacific during the Vietnam War, Matthaidess said.

Its increased focus on the region follows the division's reassignment to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.-based I Corps, which oversees Army forces focused on the Indo-Pacific.

Soldiers assigned to the 4th Infantry Division fire on a range at Baturaja Combat Training Center, Indonesia, on Sept. 7, 2026. (Austin Steinborn/U.S. Army) The Indonesia training is also giving the division a chance to test the Army's next-generation command-and-control technology in the field. Soldiers are using new radios to securely share information among applications connected through low-Earth-orbit satellites, Matthaidess said.

The technology allows commanders to replace sprawling tactical operations centers filled with large monitors — sometimes jokingly called "TOC Mahals" — with smaller, mobile command posts carried aboard five-ton trucks.

"These nodes help us hide in plain sight," Matthaidess said.

The division tested that mobility before it even reached Indonesia.

"We flew here from Fort Carson with four Strykers and exercised mission command en route," Matthaidess said. "I was taking meetings I would normally take back at Fort Carson with a ramp down on the Stryker."

The capability could allow commanders deploying to a future conflict to maintain communications and battlefield awareness while traveling to the fight rather than waiting to establish a command post after arriving, he said.

In Indonesia, the division is working alongside an infantry battalion from another I Corps formation, the Alaska-based 11th Airborne Division.

It has also been drawing on the experience of the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division, which has operated extensively throughout the Indo-Pacific. Matthaidess said he stopped in the Philippines on his way to Indonesia to visit 25th Infantry Division troops at Fort Magsaysay, north of Manila.

The 4th Infantry Division is looking to participate in additional Indo-Pacific exercises, including Cobra Gold in Thailand and Talisman Sabre in Australia next year, he said.

Super Garuda Shield is part of Operation Pathways, U.S. Army Pacific's campaign linking bilateral and multinational exercises across the region.

The training has also exposed Fort Carson soldiers to unfamiliar terrain and climate.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Honkala, a platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, said moving through the Indonesian jungle presents different obstacles than training in Colorado.

"We don't have to walk up a steep incline, but we have to go between trees," he said by phone from Sumatra on Sept. 6.

The weather has also been an adjustment.

"We are used to the heat in Colorado, but the heat here is a bit different," Honkala said. "The biggest difference would be the humidity."

For platoon leader 2nd Lt. Leo Lowin, deploying to an unfamiliar environment is part of the attraction of military service. "That's why we join the Army," he said.

Read more at: https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2026-09-09/army-4th-infantry-division-pacific-indonesia-22794952.html

Scholarship Recipients 2026

On behalf of the National President and the members of the Educational Scholarship Committee, I was pleased to announce this year's Educational Scholarship Recipients at the National Reunion's Memorial Banquet on August 7, 2026. This year we had one applicant for the E. R. Smith Memorial Scholarship that was awarded to Connor Reese, his third year receiving the scholarship, and we had fourteen applicants for the Legacy Educational Scholarships who submitted Essays. This year's Patriotic essay theme was "What does being a citizen of the United States mean to me?" From this group our judges used a blind judging process to select the eight winning essays to receive $1,000 each, which is based on the Scholarship Trust fund balance. The Memorial Scholarship is awarded $2,000 each. I want to thank all of you who donated this year to the scholarship fund, and I hope others will think about giving so we can continue this worthwhile program.

Phil Menendez, Scholarship Committee Secretary

2026 E.R. Smith Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Conner Reese
Stepson of David Nowaczyk
Kia April 19, 2012 Afghanistan

Conner is a senior at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance. His plans are to be either a wealth manager or a wholesale insurance broker. He further stated that right now he has few hobbies as his work takes up most of his time. However, he enjoys a round of golf when he has any free time.

2026 Legacy Scholarship Recipients



Alice Pickett
Sponsor: Jeffery Pickett
National Chapter

"To be an American citizen is to be different and to push the envelope of innovation while still being similar in our core values."

Alice is a senior at Purdue University pursuing a degree in Nursing. She is enthusiastic about healthcare and helping our nation's veterans. She spends her time off volunteering in the art room and chapel at the Indiana Veterans Home or organizing food drives for the HVAF Homeless Shelter. She also enjoys biking or hiking in the great outdoors.



Anna Levendoski
Sponsor: Richard Jacob
Redlegs Chapter

"To me being a U.S. citizen means having the freedom to think boldly, pursue our passions and remain true to ourselves."

Anna is a freshman at Michigan State University studying Packaging Engineering, with further goals of participating in her chosen field. Anna also states that she is drawn to this field because it combines both creativity and problem solving. In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting, playing the cello and playing soccer.



Aubrie Sandifer
Sponsor: Greg Sandifer
National Chapter

"Community is one of the greatest things about America: the ability to help one another and work together for the greatest good."

Aubrie is currently attending the College of Charleston studying Biology with plans of going into nursing work in the ER field. Her hobbies include volunteering at youth camps and at the local farmer's market. She is currently working for the city of Oviedo as summer camp instructor and hopes to start working at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Charleston, after her first semester of college.

Scholarship Recipients 2026



Austin Neeley
Sponsor: Seth Neeley
Ivy Division Chapter

"Being a citizen means that I have freedoms, responsibilities and opportunities that a lot of people in this world do not have."

Austin is currently a junior at Colorado State University studying Mechanical Engineering with a future goal passing the PE exam and becoming a project engineer at a mechanical contracting Firm. He played 2 years of college baseball, but has now put all his energy into his studies. His hobbies include hunting and fishing and just being out in nature. He is also a firm believer in Christ, as it is the most important thing in his life.



Charlotte Meadows
Sponsor: Jerry Bumpus
Midwest Chapter

"What makes me proud to be an American is the opportunity to be constantly growing, improving and striving to live up to its ideals."

Charlotte is a freshman at Southern Illinois University, majoring in Art with the intention of going on to law school. Upon her Graduation she plans to use her skills working to protect intellectual properties and copyrights. Her hobbies include reading, sketching, traveling and hanging out with her friends. She also likes creative arts, going to movies and the theater, visiting museums, and trying international foods. Finally, although she does not play any sports she loves to watch hockey.



Clara Kownas
Sponsor: Jamie Kownas
Western States Chapter

"Citizenship is an active commitment; it's remembering the past sacrifices made for this country and then living up to the potential that sacrifices create."

Clara will be an incoming freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall majoring in Computer Science, she also hopes to try out and make the lightweight rowing team. Outside of academics, she competes year-round with the Pocock rowing club, is a ski instructor and enjoys hiking and community service.



Natalie Tedesco
Sponsor: Matthew Tedesco
National Chapter

"Being a citizen of the United States means being part of something greater than myself. It means having the freedom and opportunity to pursue my goals while also recognizing the responsibility to serve, support and respect others."

Natalie will be attending Auburn University this fall, majoring in Speech, Language and Hearing Science. She is actively involved in organizations such as the Speech Research Lab, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, Student Government Association and the honors Committee for PHI MU. Her future goals are to become a medical Speech and Language Pathologist working in hospital settings. Outside of school she enjoys crocheting, singing and going for walks.



Paytin Recker
Sponsor: Al Boden
Ohio Chapter

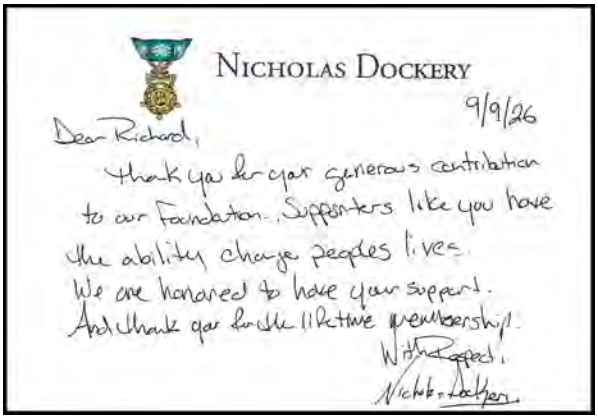
"Citizenship is not just where I am from; it is a foundation for opportunities and responsibilities that shape who I become."

Paytin will be attending Eastern Kentucky University this fall, majoring in Accounting. Her Goals are to develop a solid foundation in the accounting field that will prepare her for the CPA exam. She also hopes to use internships and career services as opportunities to gain experience, grow and gain insight into what the accounting profession looks like beyond the classroom. Outside of school she enjoys participating in different student organizations and activities such as club volleyball.

Mail Bag

Thank you note from Nicholas Dockery to Richard Adams, dated September 9, 2026

This is the thank you note from the Nicholas Dockery foundation for the $500 that the association gave them.



Nicholas Dockery

9/9/26

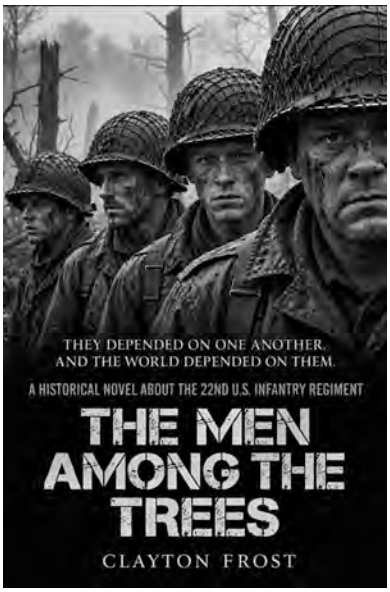
Dear Richard,

Thank you for your generous contribution to our Foundation. Supporters like you have the ability change peoples lives. We are honored to have your support. And thank you for the lifetime membership!

With Respect,

Nicholas Dockery

Book & Media Shelf



The Men Among the Trees, by Clayton Frost

November 1944. In the Hurtgen Forest, American soldiers enter a world of mud, shattered trees, and relentless shellfire. For the men of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, survival comes down to small things: a warning shouted in time, a hand reaching into the darkness, someone who refuses to leave a wounded friend behind.

From the forest to the winter fighting in the Ardennes, through Germany and into the uneasy silence of victory, The Men Among the Trees follows men struggling with fear, exhaustion, loss, and responsibility. Between desperate conversations and sudden violence, they form bonds that will outlast the fighting- and suffer losses that no homecoming can undo.

Blending historical events and real participants with fictional characters, dialogue, and scenes, Clayton Frost tells a story of comradeship and the human cost of war.

They depended on one another. And the world depended on them.

Available in a Kindle Edition on Amazon: www.amazon.com/Men-Among-Trees-Clayton-Frost-ebook/dp/B0GX2WRYH3/

In a Small Town in America

In A Small Town In America,
A Back Yard Is Empty.
A Tire Handing From A Rope,
Will Never Be Used.
Was Used For Many Years,
He Pushed His First Love,
Not That Many Months Ago,
And In A Country Far Away,
Smoke Is Popped As A Dustoff Lands,
Little Johnny Now All Grow Up,
Lay Motionless, On A Field Of Glory.
A Flag Now Marks His Final Resting,
Gone, But Not Forgotten.

WRH RVN-68-69

Little Johnny

Little Johnny, Wasn't Really Little,
But On That Hot Day In Hell,
He Stopped Some Rounds,
That Were Meant For Another.
The Lt, Now Hits His Knees Everyday,
And Prayers For Little Johnny.
Johnny Planted A Seed,
Before He Left,
Now His Son Is Fighting For Freedom,
In Iraq.

WRH RVN-68-69

Memorial Committee Report

The Memorial Committee represents the Association on all matters pertaining to the care and maintenance of the Association's monuments in Europe. During the period of September 2025 through September 2026, the Memorial Committee received the following donations to the Memorial Fund. The Committee would like to thank all the donors for their continued support.

If you would like to sponsor a Memorial Wreath to be placed on one of our Monuments in France on Veterans Day or D-Day, a $150 Donation will cover the cost of one wreath. Thank you.

Memorial Donations

- Carolinas Chapter – In Memory of Mike May
- Texas / Oklahoma Chapter – In Memory of Dave Houck
- Rick Adams – In Memory of Mike May
- Bill Redmond – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Jerry Bumpus – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Sue Gass – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Alfred Thomas – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Phil Menendez – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Dennis Weir – In Memory of Cpl Lemen Earl Jones
- Kevin Karau – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Stacy Doty – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- NARFE – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Ronald Burdge – In Memory of Bruce Gass
- Janis Brown – In Memory of Bruce Gass



Individual Donations

- David Halteman
- Bill Redmond
- Midwest Chapter
- Dennis Carney
- Ronald Sebring
- Tammy Call
- Edward Dodge
- Ohio Chapter
- Preston Leaderbrand
- Glenn Underwood
- Linda Rodriguez
- Richard Jacob

Contributions to the Monument Memorial Fund may be sent to the National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association, PO Box 1914, St. Peters, MO 63376-0035. *Note in Check Memo Line:* **Memorial Fund.**
Or you can use the following Link to make Donations by credit card on the Association's Website:
https://www.4thinfantry.org/funds/memorial-and-monument-fund

SAVE THE DATE!



The **2027 National Reunion** will be held in **Springfield Missouri**, **August 2–6, 2027**, at The Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, 2546 North Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65803. The room rate $132/ night plus tax and Includes a hot breakfast buffet.



Minutes of National Association Annual

Friday – August 7, 2026
National President Rick Adams called the 2026 Annual Business Meetings to Order at 9:00 AM. Richard "Skip" Funk gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States. Sergeant-at-arms, Joe Carter placed the MIA/POW Flag in the place of honor.

National President Rick Adams gave some opening comments and welcomed the members assembled and he recognized the current National Officers in attendance.

First Timers were asked to introduce themselves and their service details.

Tom Cooper C/1/10 Cavalry 1967–1968 (Ohio Chapter)
Richard Moon D/1/14 Infantry 1967–1968 (Carolinas Chapter)
Loyd Sohl HQ/4th Div 1967–1968 (National Chapter)

A motion was approved to waive the reading of the last Business Meeting Minutes held August 15, 2025, in Colorado Springs, as the minutes were published in the *Ivy Leaves*.

Nominations Committee – Chairman, Jerry Bumpus was unable to attend the reunion, so President Adams gave the committees report. He stated that National Senior Vice President Ray Rocho is nominated for the office of President for a two-year term of office.

The nomination for a two-year term for National Senior Vice President is Open and will remain so until a great candidate is identified.

We have two recurring one-year offices that are up for election this year, the Vice President-Communications and the Vice President-Finance.

Gary Ladd stated that he would like to remain as Vice President-Communications, and James McCarthy has agreed to seek re-election for Vice President-Finance.

President Adams gave a First call for additional 2026–2027 Elected Officer Nominations and there were none.

Executive Director Don Kelby gave his membership trends and chapter status reports. As of June 30, 2026, we had 1,543 paid or active members. This is an increase of two members for this year. During this year, we have received membership applications from fifty-three new members. We have dropped twenty-seven members who did not renew their membership prior to June 30, 2026. The number of drops is down by sixty-seven from last year. I feel that the Automatic renewal system is working. I continue sending out renewal envelopes to those whose dues are close to expiring and do not have an email address. All those who have email addresses are sent notices via the website. We have suspended the WWII Members that we have not heard from, as well as the Widows that have not communicated with us. I continue to do a welfare check on the WWII and Widows and Cold War members by sending checkup envelopes to them, and I also do an obituary search on those who do not respond. We lost twenty members this year, including three WWII Veterans, sixteen Vietnam Veterans, one Cold War Veteran. Unfortunately, three of the Vietnam Veterans we lost were three of the former Ralph E. Lingert Recipients. We lost Bruce Gass, Ray Harton and Mike May.

The new and updated 4th Infantry Division Association website launched in 2023 is performing very well, with only a few minor technical hiccups. Please give it a chance, login and use the wealth of information on the site. In the long run, we believe you will find that it is a worthwhile, up-to-date website. Remember that anything we do today will be old and outdated tomorrow. I sent 353 notices to those members who did not provide an email address. Out of these 353, I received fifty-six email updates, twenty-seven "Don't have one and won't get one", fifteen had died, fourteen showed bad mailing addresses, and envelopes were returned, and 241 did not respond.

The Media Advisory Committee report was given by President Adams as Gary Ladd was unable to attend the reunion due to a work conflict. He discussed the social media plan proposal that Gary is currently working on to help reach new younger members who use these platforms. He also discussed the first Mid-Year Digital Mini-Ivy Leaves that came out in May 2026 that came out circulated by email and in the E-Ivy Leaf Newsletters, between the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter printed Ivy Leaves magazines to provide more timely updates.

Ivy Leaves Editor John Harris talked about the deadline for the Fall / Winter printed Ivy Leaves, which is 1 October this year. President Adams thanked John for assuming the reins of publishing the Ivy Leaves and mentioned that we now have a new publisher for the Ivy Leaves and was very pleased with them.

Vice President – Vietnam & Cold War Cliff Amos had no report.

Scholarship Committee Secretary, Phil Menendez reported we received one (1) E. R. Smith Memorial Scholarship Application and (14) fourteen Legacy Educational Scholarship Applications & Essays. This year's Patriotic theme was "What does being a citizen of the United States mean to me?"

The one (1) **E. R. Smith Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to Connor Reese, his third year receiving the scholarship. The E. R. Smith Memorial scholarship is awarded to a child who lost their parent in either Iraq or Afghanistan, since 9/11. Each Memorial applicant receives $2K annually.

The **Legacy Scholarships** are awarded through a blind judging process of Patriotic-themed essays submitted by the applicants. Scholarship awards are limited to a maximum of 10% of the Scholarship Trust fund value each year. There were (14) fourteen approved applicants. The current balance (6/30/2026) was $102,464.75. So we recommend (8) eight Legacy Scholarships at $1K each, in addition to the Memorial Scholarship at $2K each. The 2026 Essay Judges were almost identical in their judging decisions. All funds will be sent direct to the Universities after the reunion.

Other Business – Mike Stavisky of the Redlegs Chapter spoke about the passing of Ray Harton who was instrumental in forming the Spotswood Dewitt chapter and later the Redlegs chapter. He will be greatly missed.

At this time (10:10 AM), we took a restroom break and will resume the Business Meeting shortly.

Second Business Meeting – The Second Business meeting was called to order at 10:17 AM by President Adams

Memorial Committee – Chairman, Bert Nicholson reported all of our Monuments in France are in very good condition. The local caretakers are now required to be businesses that are properly licensed with the French government, with the legal and tax implications that are required. Our previous caretakers were freelance contractors and the new caretakers have substantially increased our costs.

The Monument Trust Fund administered by PNC Institutional Investments had a value on June 30, 2026 of $40,395.64. The Memorial Committee Reserve account balance on June 30, 2026, was $15,642.01. The combined value of the Trust Fund and the reserve account was $56,037.65 on June 30, 2026. (Financial Report was attached) This is an increase of $2,383.84 from our last fiscal year.

Finance Committee – The National Treasurer's Report was given by Rick Adams as Treasurer Ron Rogers was unable to attend. Copies of the Financial Statement were circulated.

6/30/2026 Balances
Balance - Checking and Savings - $170,886.99
Balance - Paid for Life Fund - $181,562.20
Green In the Ivy Fund*- $98,316.00
Monument Memorial Committee Reserve*- $15,642.01
PNC**4125 - Monument Memorial Fund - $40,395.64
PNC**4117 - Scholarship Fund - $102,464.75

National's checking, savings and the chapter financial reports will be used in the Consolidated Financial Report which will be used to file the Association's IRS-990EZ form for fiscal 2025.

Vice President Finance, Jim McCarthy was unable to attend so President Adams outlined the recent changes made with our savings and Paid-For-Life funds. We have established a Working Capital Management Account (WCMA) with Merrill / Bank of America. These changes have resulted in significate increases in investment income for the Association. The Savings account (WCMA 02022) 6/30/2026 balance was $152,991.47 (@3.52% Interest) had a Fiscal YTD Income of $5,141.17. The Paid-For-Life Fund account (WCMA 02027) had a 6/30/2026 balance of $181,562.20 and generated $7,639.53 Fiscal YTD Investment income.

The following Annual Donations requests were recommended by the E-Board and approved by the members.

$500 Donation to the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, continuing our support for the CGJM.

$500 to the Nicholas Dockery Foundation for PTSD therapy in honor of Maj. Nicholas Dockery the newest 4ID Medal of Honor recipient.

$500 to the Redlegs Chapter in support of the Branson Veterans Week Hospitality room expenses.

And also a Pledge support for the Memorial fund as needed.

Audit Committee – Audit Committee Chairman Bill Redmond has reviewed the financial records of the National 4th Infantry Division Association, to include the National Treasurers Books and records and certified the reports to be true and accurate. Committee members were Rick Adams, Ray Rocho, Phil Menendez, John Harris, and Don Kelby.

National President Rick Adams asked for a motion to approve all reports and recommendations from the officers and committees. All were unanimously approved.

Nominations Committee – President Adams gave a second Reading of Nominations for National Elected Officers and asked for any other nominations to the Slate of National Officers. There were none.

National Elected Positions: (Two-year term of office)
National President: Ray Rocho
National Senior Vice President: Open

National Elected Positions: (One-year terms of office)
Vice President – Communications – Gary Ladd
Vice President – Finance – Jim McCarthy

Motion to elect all the candidates by acclamation was approved.

Incoming National President Ray Rocho made the following appointments:

National Appointed Positions
Executive Director – Don Kelby
National Secretary – Don Kelby
Parliamentarian/Judge Advocate – Bill Redmond
Ivy Leaves Editor – John Harris
Chaplain – Jim McCarthy
Scholarship Secretary – Phil Menendez
Chief Archivist/Historian – Bob Babcock
Sergeant at Arms – Joe Carter
Webmaster / *E-Ivy Leaf* Newsletters – Rick Adams
Liaison's to Active-Duty Fourth Infantry Division – Ray Rocho

National Committee Appointments
MEMBERSHIP – Ray Rocho
HEALTH & WELLNESS – John Harris
FINANCE – Jim McCarthy
NOMINATING – Jerry Bumpus
RESOLUTIONS – Ray Rocho
MEMORIAL – Bert Nicholson
REUNION ADVISORY – Rick Adams
MANAGER REUNION OPERATIONS – Linda Dufek
MEDIA ADVISORY – Gary Ladd
AUDITING – Bill Redmond
SCHOLARSHIP – Rick Adams
SCHOLARSHIP SECRETARY – Phil Menendez

The oath of office was administered to all elected and appointed officers by Terry Weibel of the Wisconsin Chapter.

Next Reunion Report – The 2027 National Reunion will be held in the Springfield Missouri, August 2-6, 2027, at The Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, Sleeping room rate $132/ night plus tax and Includes a hot breakfast buffet.

Sergeant at Arms Joe Carter retired the MIA/POW Flag, and Richard "Skip" Funk gave the closing Benediction.

Past National President Rick Adams adjourned Business Meeting until next year.

National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

108th National Reunion Report

The Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf, IA

2026 National Reunion a huge success!

The 108th National Reunion in the Quad Cities was well attended with 187 individuals registered. The Isle Casino Hotel on the Bettendorf, Iowa side of the Mississippi River proved to be a great venue for the event.

On Tuesday August 4th we did a combination tour of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum with lunch and a tour of the Lock and Dam system. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum is the Army's second oldest museum which opened to the public on July 4, 1905 and had many unusual artifacts. The Lock and Dam tour was very informative.

On Wednesday August 5th we did a 4-Hour lunch Cruise on the Celebration Belle which was a favorite of our group. **On Thursday August 6th** we did a combination tour of the Cinnamon Ridge Dairy Farm Tour located in Donahue, Iowa, and a stop at the World's Largest Truck Stop located on I-80, in Walcott, Iowa. The Cinnamon Ridge Farm was a hit with everyone. Their innovative practices are at the forefront of environmental stewardship. The Farm Tour included a tour of the robotic dairy barn and cheese plant. The tour concluded with a sampling of cheeses. The Iowa 80 Truck stop featured nine restaurant choices, a convenience store, gift store and a trucking museum.

On Friday August 8th we held our Business Meetings, and the Ladies Brunch. We elected a new Slate of National Officers. National President: Ray Rocho (Two-year terms of office), National Senior Vice President: Open (Two-year terms of office), Vice President–Communications – Gary Ladd (One-year terms of Office), and Vice President–Finance – Jim McCarthy (One-year terms of Office).

National President, Ray Rocho made some new appointments: Parliamentarian/Judge Advocate – Bill Redmond, Vice President - Vietnam & Cold War – Bruce Wesley, and later he appointed Galen Peterson as Vice President - War on Terror.

Friday evening August 8th we held the Flames of Remembrance Banquet. Thanks go out to the 4th Infantry Division, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Pat Ellis, for taking time from his busy schedule to support this reunion with a live video address and sending a group from the 4th Infantry Division Band to entertain at the banquet. Thanks also to the incredible Color Guard from the Rock Island Arsenal who presented the colors for our ceremony.

The 2026 Ralph E Lingert Service Award was presented to two recipients, Larry D. Brainerd, for member recruiting and helping establish the Redlegs chapter, and Joseph L. Carter – National Sergeant-at-Arms, and a National and Chapter officer.

Finally, a big thank you goes out to Linda Dufek, the manager of reunion operations, and all of the Reunion volunteers which have made this another special reunion.

Thank you All!



The Flames of Remembrance 2026



Band ensemble from the 4th Infantry Division Band and the Color Guard from Rock Island Arsenal



At the Flames of Remembrance Banquet



At the Flames of Remembrance Banquet



At the Flames of Remembrance Banquet



Their husbands were former recipients of the Ralph E. Lingert Award



At the R&R dinner-dance



At the R&R dinner-dance



At the R&R dinner-dance



At the R&R dinner-dance



At the R&R dinner-dance



Posting the POW-MIA flag at the beginning of the business meeting



Swearing in the new officers for 2026–2027



The business meeting



Cliff Amos (our photographer) and President Ray Rocko



The boat trip on the Celebration Belle on the Mississippi River and lunch



The Clock Tower on Rock Island Arsenal

Chapter Reunions & Events

EDITOR'S NOTE TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS: This section of your news magazine is primarily for your Chapter's news and business reports. The Ivy Leaves welcomes your input. Please limit text to short/brief reports. And please find someone in your chapter who will take over the responsibility of sending it to us via e-mail at: *ivyleaveseditor@gmail.com* **–Thanks!**

Carolinas Chapter Event

Submitted by Phil Menendez

Carolinas Chapter Spring 2027 Mini-Reunion

The Carolinas Chapter will hold its 2027 Spring Mini-Reunion at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Spartanburg, South Carolina Friday through Sunday, April 16-18, 2027. The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel Spartanburg is located off Interstate I-26 Exit 19B and Business I-85 Exit 2C.

GUESTROOMS & RATES – Traditional King Guestroom are $99.00/night and (2) Queen Guestrooms are $110.00/night (w/out Breakfast) Rates do not include taxes (currently 13%). Self-Parking is complimentary. Reservations may be made by individual attendees directly with Marriott reservations at 864-707-4700 or the direct booking link (on the 4IDA website). All reservations must be accompanied by a first-night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Mention: Carolinas Chapter 4th Infantry 2027 Spring Reunion to receive our room rates. Remember to bring your gifts or crafts for the Raffle after the Banquet. **Cut off date to Book Hotel, Wednesday, March 18, 2027.**

CAROLINA'S CHAPTER - MINI REUNION REG. FORM

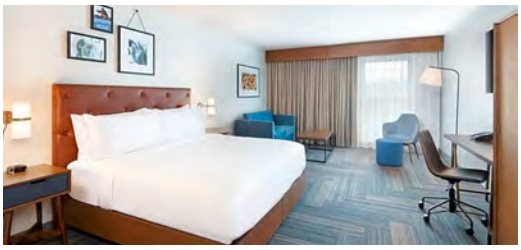
Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Spouse/Guests: _____ Email: _____
Registration Fee: ($10/Adult) (x) _____ $_____
Saturday Banquet ($50/Person) (x) _____ $_____
Donation (Specify) _____ $_____
Total $_____

Return this form no later than two weeks prior to the event. **Make checks payable to Carolinas Chapter & Mail to:**
Rick Adams – 109 Tournament Pt, Duncan, SC 29334-9265 Phone 864-621-3727 Email: **RJAdams90@charter.net**

Carolinas Chapter Mini-Reunion Schedule

Thursday, April 15, 2027	Early arrivals / On Your Own
Friday, April 16, 2027	On Your Own
12:00 PM	Hospitality Suite (TBD)
5:00 PM	Group meal (TBD)
Saturday, April 17, 2027	
6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Breakfast – On Your Own
10:30 AM	Officers Meeting – Dogwood Room
11:00 AM	Business Meeting – Dogwood Room
12:00 PM	Hospitality Suite (TBD)
12:00 PM	Offsite Activities – On Your Own
6:00 PM	Flames of Remembrance Banquet – Dogwood Room
Sunday, April 18, 2027	
6:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Breakaway Breakfast - On Your Own





D Troop 1/10 Cavalry Reunion 2027



Save the Dates for the D Troop 1/10 Cavalry reunion **April 19–21, 2027** at the South Point Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. Although we are months away from the reunion, we are encouraging you to make plans to attend now! This will be a three-day event with early check in available on Sunday, April 18th.

We plan to have audio visual and personal presentations from D troopers including headquarters, the Aero Rifle Platoon, Slicks, Scouts and Guns. There will be plenty of free time built in so that you can enjoy Las Vegas and the South Point resort, but these programs will provide unique opportunities for you and your family to really hear about the D troop experience. Watch for more information for registration, booking rooms etc., in the very near future. Contact Doug Maas **dougwmaas@gmail.com** or Ron Adams **adamsofga@aol.com** for more information.

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER REPORT

Submitted by John Kukitz, Chapter President



The Lehigh Valley Chapter met on Saturday 12 September at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA to celebrate our second annual Doug Foster Memorial Reunion. There were approximately 50 attendees from around the country. Chaplain Baron Cebrosky opened the event with the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem. Brother Ed Goehring then gave the POW / MIA Table presentation. This was followed by the Flames of Remembrance ceremony with Jenny Foster, Baron Cebrosky and myself. A fine meal was had. We then passed the microphone to each veteran to introduce themselves and share some memories. Bruce Wesley shared information from the National Convention. We did sign up two new members who served in the GWOT. Each Brother was presented with a Lehigh Valley Chapter Challenge Coin. The event concluded with pictures, handshakes and hugs. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again next year. Steadfast and Loyal –John Kukitz

MIDWEST CHAPTER REPORT

Submitted by Joe Carter

The Midwest Chapter held a meeting at the National Reunion in Bettendorf Iowa in August, we had ten members present. Several topics were discussed but the main two were our supporting of the Veteran's homes during Christmas time. We had been supporting thirteen homes with locations in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois but learned from Bill Redmond of one we needed to add in Alabama, so we will now be sending Christmas donations to fourteen Veteran homes. We also discussed our support of the memorial fund and a donation has been made and sent to Don Kelby.

Our next fall meeting will be in Branson, Mo at the Grand Victorian Hotel, November 10, 2026 if you would be needing reservation at the hotel their number is 417-336-2935 we do have some rooms under 4th Infantry to get our special rate it gets sold out pretty quickly so call as soon as possible.

We will be in the Veteran's parade on November 11, 2026 with the Red Legs and we welcome anyone to join us. Branson celebrates Veterans all week long and if you want to feel appreciated, it's a great place to go.

REDLEGS CHAPTER REPORT

Submitted by Stephen von Hagen & Paul Bonsky

After a great reunion in Iowa in August the Redlegs came home to plan their busy fall activities. The first order of business was the celebration of Larry Brainerd receiving the Lingert award from the National Association on our last evening together in the Isle Casino at the "Flames Of Remembrance Dinner".

As we write this newsletter, article A Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, is gathering in Alexandria Virginia for another reunion. We are told 14 or so are attending three days of visiting and telling more war stories. Photos and updates will be posted on the Redleg's website soon.

Branson Veterans Week is just around the corner. We will again be hosting the 4th ID Hospitality Room from 9-12 November at the Grand Victoria Hotel in Branson. When you call to make your reservation at the hotel be sure and let them know you are with the 4th Infantry Division group for the special rate. Rooms get sold out quickly for this event so hopefully you've already made your reservations. We always have a great time together and look forward to meeting new veterans that have served with the 4th.

Less than a month after we leave Branson, we will be heading to Fort Carson to enjoy IVY Day with the soldiers of the 4th ID. Because of a lengthy training year, IVY Week got shortened to just a day but will be a busy day on 10 December. The day will start at 0945 at the new 4th ID Museum located in the Mini-Mall on Chiles Ave. At 1145 hours they will be gathering at the Warfighter Bistro for opening remarks, cake cutting and facility tour then a celebration meal in the VIP Room of the Bistro. At 1430 a screening of "The Girl Who Wore Freedom" will be tentatively showing in the McMahon Theater and a Q & A Session at its conclusion.

John and Paul will be returning to Fort Carson a week later to attend this year's Saint Barbara's Ball at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado, Springs. A great evening of celebration by the active duty field Artillery men and women of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery HQ and Battalions.

We hope to see many of you at the Grand Victoria Hotel in Branson in November. If you plan on attending IVY Day on 10 December, please let John Harris know so that your visit can be coordinated with Fort Carson, if necessary. Steadfast and Loyal –Stephen von Hagen & Paul Bonsky

WELCOME HOME! **New / Reinstated Members** WELCOME HOME!

NAME	CHAPTER	ERA	OUTFIT	COMMENTS
Robert J Albonico	B8	V	B/2/8 INF	Joined 2026 reunion
Valerie Baugh	IVY	WT	704 Maint	1997–2006
John Bruno	LV	V	C/3/12 INF	1968–1969
Robert Carter	NC	V	4th INF	1970 joined 2026 reunion
Nicholas Dockery	NAT	WT	C/2/12 INF	Medal Of Honor
Jose Gonzalez	TX	V	B/3/12 INF	1965–1967
Kenneth Helgesen	NAT	S	ASSOCIATE	
Tracie Hunter	NAT	M	Memorial	
Nicholas Ingman	NAT	WT	8th Inf Reg	2004–2007
Derek Leonard	NAT	M	MEMORIAL	
Richard Leutzinger	MW	V	42nd Field Arty	Joined 2026 reunion
Kevin McGough	MW	WT	704 BSB	Joined 2026 reunion
Robert Milne	IVY	V	DIVISION HQ	1969
Peter Miranda	IVY	WT	C/3/29 FA 3BCT	2001–2011
John Olinski	B8	V	B/2/8 INF	
Simon Pasquale	NAT	S	Associate	
Paulette Poehlman	LP	S	Associate	Joined 2026 reunion
Rhonda Rogers	LP	S	Associate	Joined 2026 reunion
Robert Rowell	WS	V	C/124 Sig	1967–1968
Kristie Sims	NAT	M	MEMORIAL	
Nathan Torres	NAT	A	2/12 Artillery	2025–Current
Shay Torres	NAT	M		
David Trudil	NAT	V	Div HQ Chemical	1969–1974
Glenn Underwood	MW	V	C/4th Engineer	
Kenneth Warner	OH	V	4/42 Artillery	1965–1967
Eugene Wilkinson	NAT	V	3RD BCT 3/8	
Sue Williams	LP	S	Associate	Joined 2026 reunion
Leslie "Willie" Williams	LP	V	K/75 Rangers	Joined 2026 reunion
Frederick Yoder	B8	V	B/2/8 INF	1967–1968

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE REUNION PHOTOS FROM YOUR PHONE

A Story That Needs Tellin'

There's a wide place on the road to Hell where warriors stop to sit a spell. They wet their whistle and rest a bit before Satan rings the closing bell, they then ruck up and go to Hell.

This place is called Fiddler's Green.

Some clever Sergeant built a bar, then stuck the bell inside a jar. Then working with a clever Warrant, they sucked the air out in a torrent.

No one can hear that cursed bell.

Now warriors never go to hell.

They rest and wait at Fiddler's Green, hanging with soldier, sailor, airman, Marine. They talk shit at the bar, hands low and high, for "There I was about to die…" Or at the tables, eating pie.

But somehow no one hears the bell, at that wide place on the road to Hell.

On the other side of that road to Hell, there is a green and leafy dell.

It's reached by a tunnel that goes under the road. This place is called Piddler's Green. Fire hydrants everywhere, lots of toys and the scent of kibble fills the air. The mice are fat, sassy and slow, always a warrior with a Frisbee to throw. A knotted rope for tug-of-war and tennis balls by the score, And always, a warrior who wants to play, until your own warrior comes, on that sad/glad day. As most surely he or she will.

No one minds if you cross the path, and take a nap and not a bath. You can always swipe a scrap from a table, every warrior there's watching sports on cable. There's ear skritches, face skrunches and bellyrubs aplenty. Most important –and mark this well – for only you can hear The Bell.

The Bell that rings not for Hell, but the one that rings and makes you yell, and causes your heart to swell with joy.

The one that says your warrior has come, the one that says you can be at peace. So my friend who has four feet and is gifted with that special sight, at that wide space along the road there are two clearings, left and right.

One's a bar, the other a glen, and no one spends a lonely night not knowing if much less when.

For just over there, when the moon is just right, is a place on the corner where you can catch a sight... of your warrior, asleep at night.

'Tis the Watching Place.

So you know that they are safe, and if they should stir, oh, just a bit, it's because a tongue, ever so gently, on their cheek just alit.

–John Donovan, with a liberal sprinkling of Bill Tuttle.

Office of National Treasurer
Richard J. Adams
Consolidated Financial Statement
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026

Cash Accounts		
Association Net Worth 6/30/2025	$	**428,282.62**
Balance - Checking and Savings	$	**170,886.99**
Balance - Chapter Accounts	$	**78,029.78**
Balance - Paid for Life Fund	$	**181,562.20**
Association Net Worth 6/30/2026	$	**430,478.97**
Income		
Dues - Memberships	$	5,219.96
Dues - PFL Memberships	$	1,743.31
Donations - 'Put Green Into the Ivy'	$	2,921.52
Donations - Annual Calendar Project	$	18,780.85
Donations - Monumentt Memorial Fund	$	2,928.88
Donations - Scholarship Fund	$	3,953.46
Donations - PFL Fund	$	100.00
Donations - Chapters	$	250.00
Donations - Other	$	6,452.00
Meeting & Convention - Registration Fees	$	13,190.00
Other Income / Interest / Refunds	$	5,660.08
Total Income	$	**61,200.06**
Expenses		
Cost Ivy Leaves Publication	$	8,768.82
Cost Annual Calendar Publication	$	7,309.93
Website	$	854.88
Dues Rebates To Chapters	$	3,885.00
Donations to Scholarship Fund	$	11,500.00
Donations to Chapters	$	290.00
Donations to All Others	$	3,770.53
Dues ADA - AUSA	$	175.00
Insurance / Bonding	$	296.00
Bank Charges	$	119.59
Accounting - Tax Returns	$	1,350.00
Meeting & Convention - Expense	$	14,192.94
Office Expense - All Offices	$	2,047.14
Printing - All Offices	$	145.23
Postage - All Offices	$	432.42
Repair & Maintenance	$	846.76
Supplies	$	2,053.46
Travel & E-Board Meeting Expense	$	226.30
President's Travel	$	739.71
Total Expenses	$	**59,003.71**
Net Change FY 2025	$	**2,196.35**

Recent Association Donations

NAME	CHAP	SCHLSHIP	MON/MEM	GREEN	PFL	COMMENTS
Glen Underwood	MW		$40			In memory of 1st Lt David Hubner
Bill Redmond	MW		$100			In memory of Bruce Gass
Kevin Karau			$20			In memory of Bruce Gass
Jerry Bumpus	MW		$100			In memory of Bruce Gass
Jerry Bumpus	MW		$50			In memory of Bruce Gass
John Harris	MW		$100			In memory of Bruce Gass
Skip Funk	NC		$50			In memory of Bruce Gass
Stacy Doty			$50			In memory of Bruce Gass
John Harris	MW		$200			In memory of Bruce Gass
Phil Menendez	NC		$100			In memory of Bruce Gass
Ronald Burdge			$100			In memory of Bruce Gass
Sue Gass	MW		$500			In memory of Bruce Gass
Janis Brown			$150			In memory of Bruce Gass
Dennis Weir	TX	$20	$20	$20	$20	In memory of Cpl Lemen Earl Jones KIA 2/16/1967
NARFE			$100			In memory of Jake Russer
Carolinas	NC	$500	$500			In memory of Mike May
John Harris	MW		$100			In memory of Mike May
Skip Funk	NC		$50			In memory of Mike May
Bill Redmond	MW		$100			In memory of Mike May
Alfred Thomas	NAT		$100			In memory of Phillip Ray Gaines
Gary Hisaoka	NAT	$100				
Ernest Banasau	TX	$270		$200		
Phillip Dodds	NAT	$50				
William Wainscott	NC	$50				
Terry Sanderson	MW			$30		
Phillip Denig	NAT			$20		
Edward Dodge	NAT		$30			
Reunion Quilt			$370			
Reunion Raffle				$1380		
David Sheets	NT		$120			
Midwest Chapter	MW		$100			



Your Membership Matters!

Attention Members: If you are not receiving the *E-Ivy Leaf* Newsletters, the *E-Ivy Extra* Bulletins or the *AUSA's Soldier Today* and *ARMY* magazine by email, we probably don't have a good email address for you and you're not making full use of your benefits of membership. Your email address is needed to fully access the website and receive communications as we transition to all-digital communications in the future. You can *"Stay in the Loop"* by making sure the Executive Director Don Kelby has your current email address.

Day is done, gone the sun, From the lake, from the hills, from the sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Fading light, dims the sight, And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright. From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night. Thanks and praise, for our days, 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, neath the sky; As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

★ **FRAGALE, Thomas R. (99),** of Plum Pennsylvania, passed away on March 8, 2026. He was preceded in his passing by his wife of over 70 years, Edith. He is survived by 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Greatest Generation serving with the 4th Infantry Division on D-day as a member of G Company 2nd of the 22nd Infantry. He was a member of the Ohio Chapter of our Association.

★ **FULBRIGHT, Wally (79),** of West Linn Oregon passed away November 8, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Bobbi, two Daughter and 4 Grandchildren. He served with Company C 3rd of the 8th Infantry. Wally was proud of his country and even prouder of his family. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, brother, loyal friend, and true patriot. He was a member of our National Chapter.

★ **GABRYCH, Gene** of Winona Minnesota, passed away as reported by his chapter Treasurer. No obituary was found and no date of death could be found. He was a member of the Ivy Dragoons chapter of our Association.

★ **GASS, Donald (Bruce) (78),** of Arthur, IL passed away on March 6, 2026.He is survived by his wife Sue, two children, Alana and Bradley. Bruce is also survived by Sue's extended family: Donna and Tim, Dianne and Monte and Doug. Brian and Kimi, Jason and Sarah, Denver and Dustin and Brodie and Emily. Ellie, Lucile, Gracelynn and Lynnin. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1967 and served in the D Company 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division during the Vietnam War. He was awarded Combat Infantrymen's Badge, 2 Purple Hearts, an Army Commendation Medal with V, an Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. After he retired, he reconnected with members of the 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry (IVY) Division. Where he made many good friends. Bruce was a member of the Windsor American Legion and the Arthur/Lovington VFW. He served as a member of the Honor Guard at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, IL, he was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantrymen's Association, the National 4th Infantry Division Association where received the 2013 Ralph E. Lingert Service Award and served as Past President. He was also a member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, Vietnam Veterans of America. For the past 18 years Bruce and his wife Sue have been managing the National 4th Infantry Division Association on Facebook. A group that has grown to more than 3,300 members. He was a member of our Midwest Regional Chapter of our Association. He will be missed by all that knew him.

★ **GRAYSON Jr., Mervin (80),** of Tullahassee, Oklahoma Passed away July 4, 2025. He is survived wife of 53 years, 4 Sons, 5 Daughters, over 30 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He served with the Company C/9/29th Artillery support unit in Vietnam. He had the distinction of firing the 100,000 round of Artillery support during the Vietnam War. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Corporal Grayson was awarded the honor of receiving the ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL OF HEROISM; For his actions of heroism on October 9th, 1969. In 2019 he was presented with the Bartlesville Hometown Hero Award. Mervin was an avid member of the Miracle Temple COGIC. He passed away surrounded by those that he loved and those that loved him.

★ **HARTON, Raymond (93),** of Crestview Florida, passed away April 8, 2026. He is survived by his wife Rena, 2 Daughters, 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He has been a major factor in starting, supporting and the glue that holds his chapter together. He has located at least two thousand of the members of that first unit and signed up about two hundred members for his chapter. He served with HSB 6th of the 29th Field Artillery 1965-1967 with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He was awarded the 2013 Ralph E. Lingert award. He was a member of our Redlegs Chapter.

★ **HOYT, Richard (81),** of Westbrook, Maine, passed away December 12, 2025. He is survived by his Wife Doreen and one son. He served with A Company 4th S&T in Vietnam. He was very active with the Boy Scouts of America and a Life member of the VFW. He was a member of our National chapter.

★ **KELL, John (78),** of Dunnellon Florida, passed away July 13, 2025. He is survived by his wife Sherry, 2 daughters, 3 sons, 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He served as a radio operator for his platoon of the 3rd of the 8th Infantry while serving in Vietnam in 1970. He was awarded the Purple Heart medal and the Bronze star medal. He was medically retired from the Army in 1970. He sought out former Service members he had served with and this was part of his healing process. He eagerly assisted other Veterans to navigate the often times complex Veterans Administration red tape to get their deserved benefits. He was a Paid for Life member of the Ivy Dragoons chapter of our Association.

★ **KELLER, Alvin C. (CW3) (83),** of Wade, NC passed away peacefully on July 1, 2026. He served with D-Troop 1/10 Cavalry, Shamrock 23, in Vietnam 1970–1971. He is survived by with his beloved wife, Deborah.

★ **MAY, Michael Patrick Esq (78),** of Baltimore, Maryland, passed away April 18, 2026 after a gallant battle with Parkinsons. Mike served in Vietnam with the 4th Military Police in 1967–1968. He later served as a Baltimore police officer and attended Loyola University Maryland where he received this law degree. He practiced law from the Law Offices of Michael P. May, often doing gratis work for Veterans and others. He was the recipient of the 2015 Ralph E. Lingert Service Award, the highest award given by the National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association. He also served as the Association's Judge Advocate Parliamentarian for many years and served on the Executive Board. He received many awards for service in his church and community. Truly a Steadfast and Loyal member. He is survived by his wife Sarah "Sally" May, and was a devoted father of Joseph Sylvester May and his wife Eileen May and Andrew Martin May; loving grandfather of Bridget Mary May; dear brother of Thomas May, Kathleen May Wayno, and the late Charles May; also survived by extended family and friends.

★ **RATLIFF, Roy (78),** of Rendon, Texas, passed away on June 8, 2026. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jane, 2 daughters, one Grandson and numerous extended family members, friends, and loved ones whose lives were enriched by knowing him. He served with the 4th Infantry Division B Brty, 5th of the 16 Field Artillery for 14 months in Vietnam 1968–1969. He was a member of the Redlegs chapter of our Association.

★ **SAUER, Walter (96),** of Spokane Washington passed away on June 28, 2022. Walter was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores. He is survived by 2 daughters and one son, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He attended the US Army Chaplain School in New York City, after which he performed duties as a Chaplain in the Army Reserve. In 1964, while serving as a pastor in Seattle, Walter received orders to report for active duty with the US Army. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington where he served as Chaplain to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. During his 20-year career, Walter also served two tours in Vietnam 1967–1968. He received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and many other commendations. He retired after 20 years in the Service at the rank of Colonel. After his military retirement, Walter continued to serve in the ministry in Sunsites, Arizona, and as Chaplain at Rockwood Retirement South Hill Spokane, Washington. He was gratefully remembered by men he ministered to in Vietnam. He was a member of the Western States chapter of our Association.

National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association

USE THIS FORM FOR MEMBERSHIPS BY MAIL OR TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Personal Information	Membership Selection
Date: _____ Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____ _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4 _____-_____ Phone: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____ Spouses Name: _____	☐ Active Duty ☐ WWII ☐ Veteran ☐ Cold War ☐ Memorial ☐ Vietnam War ☐ Associate ☐ War on Terror Unit Details: _____ Dates Served / Years: _____ Memorial Membership In Memory of: _____ ☐ Request placement in _____Chapter
Regular Annual Memberships	**Active-Duty Annual Memberships**
☐ Annual Veteran $20 - Served with or attached to the 4ID ☐ Annual Memorial $20 - Family members of fallen Soldiers and deceased 4IDA Veterans. ☐ Annual Associate $20 - Friends of the 4ID Regular Memberships include a mailed printed copy of the Ivy Leaves Magazine and full access to the 4IDA website.	☐ Annual Active-Duty $10 Active-Duty Membership includes full access to the 4IDA Website and the digital E-Ivy Leaves Magazine. To receive a Mailed printed copy of *The Ivy Leaves* Magazine, select an Annual Veteran Membership. See the Website for *E-Life Memberships* for Veterans and Active-Duty.

- *cut here or photocopy* -

Annual Dues Renewal and Donations Mail-In Form

Veteran, Memorial, or Associate Member Annual Dues..... ($20.00) ..... $_____
Contribution to National 'Put the Green into the Ivy Fund'..... $_____
Contribution to your Chapter..... $_____
Contribution to Scholarship Fund..... $_____
Contribution to Paid for Life Fund..... $_____
Contribution to Memorial Monument Fund..... $_____
Contribution to Annual Calendar..... $_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED ..... $_____

Name _____ Chapter _____

Unit Details _____ Years Served _____

Address _____

City _____ ST ____ Zip _____

Spouse _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please return this completed form to the Executive Director, PO Box 1914, St Peters, MO 63376-0035
All members are encouraged to contribute to their Chapters and the various Association Funds.
Life and Honorary Members owe no dues. Additional Membership Options are available online.
You may also renew your membership and donate online at www.4thInfantry.org.

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FOLLOWING CHAPTERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED OR MERGED

1/10th CAVALRY CHAPTER
8th INF REG SOCIETY
12th INF REGIMENT
ILLINOIS CHAPTER
MID-SOUTH CHAPTER
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
NORTHWEST CHAPTER
NY/NJ CHAPTER

CHAPTERS: Review above list often and email changes to the editor at: IvyLeavesEditor@gmail.com

National 4th Infantry Division webpage
www.4thinfantry.org

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National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association
Don Kelby, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1914, St. Peter, MO 63376-0035

Check your label

Membership Expiration Date

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