



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



WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)

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Volume 3

*"A Soldier's Footsteps"*

January 2013

**Commander's Corner:** This year Christmas was a little sadder due to the loss of 3 of our comrades: Doug Franz, Bill Chrest and Gary Carder. There may have been some others but, I was not made aware of them. From now on these 3 men will be with us in spirit only and it is up to us to remember them and keep the spirit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment alive as long as there is one of us remaining. Doug, Bill and Gary were lucky enough to be able to come home from "over the pond", raise families and become productive members of our great country. As I reflect on how lucky we all were to have made it back and spend this many years together; I also think of our comrades that never had the chance to enjoy the trials, trauma, thrills, chills and the fullness of life we were blessed to have. They gave the ultimate and should never be forgotten as we go through our daily routines. We should be very thankful we were able to come back to family, friends and each other. Rest in Peace, guys.

As the new year is upon us; it's time to remind everyone that the 2013 dues should be in by the end of January. If you aren't paid up for 2012; we'd appreciate it if you'd remit them if possible. If you aren't sure of your status on dues, you can contact any of the officers and we'll research it. So far our dues, and extra donations by some of the members, have allowed us to finance the web site, newsletter, mailings, and the hospitality room at the annual ADVA reunion. We think we are in pretty good shape financially and the \$5 dues will remain the same in the foreseeable future. One thing we would like to do is provide a 2/1 Chapter memorial wreath when we lose one of our brothers. Please inform one of the officers if you know of any of our brothers passing and provide details regarding the arrangements so we may send something from the chapter.

Newest members of the chapter are Gary Guerra (B), Ted Dima (B), Del Graser (B/HHC) and Marvin Owens (B). As always, we welcome any input you may have for our newsletter. I, for one, think our newsletter folks have done a wonderful job and have receive nothing but good feedback on it. The chapter is up to 89 members now and we hope to continue to grow and provide our members with a fulfilling experience. If you know of any 2/1 guys out there that aren't aware of us, please let them know.

**Chuck**

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

**Editors Notes:** Newsletters are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter ADVA Website. If you missed an issue or would like to look at one from the past look on the Website. The Web address is identified in the heading of the N/L. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them to the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or snail mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300.



**William "Bill" E. Chrest Jr.** Age 63 of Owosso passed away Saturday, December 1, 2012. Funeral services were held December 5, 2012 and burial at Maple River Cemetery. He graduated from Owosso High School, class of 1968, was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and served in Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Americal Division during the Vietnam War. Bill was an avid golfer and enjoyed anything outdoors in nature; including deer hunting and fishing. He looked forward to summer get-togethers around the family home and cooking. Bill has owned Chrest Collision for more than 30 years.



**LTC (Ret) Gary Carder**, Age 65, went to be with his Lord and Savior, December 23, 2012, surrounded by his loving family, after a valiant fight with a lengthy illness. Gary graduated from Dawson Bryant High School with honors in 1965. He was drafted into the Army in 1966 and spent two tours in Viet Nam with Company B 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Americal Division earning a purple heart and a silver star. Gary was a lifetime member of VFW 4044 where he was Canteen Manager for 3 ½ years. He loved his family more than anything and he was the best husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend anyone could ask for. He loved family "get togethers" where everyone watched "Steelers" football. He was an avid OSU fan and received a call from Coach Tressel during his illness. Gary will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC with full military honors. Date to be announced later.

**May Almighty God wrap his loving arms around these two heroes and carry them to Heaven's gate.**

**Number of Homeless Veterans Drops:** A 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), prepared by HUD and presented to Congress, shows a 7.2 percent decline since 2011 in the number of veterans who are homeless, with a combined total of 17.2 percent since January of 2009. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said the decrease is largely attributable to the HUD- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD -VASH) program. More than 37,000 veterans have found housing with HUD Section 8 vouchers and help from VA's supportive case managers, also known as Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF). VA has also increased its SSVF grant money for 2012/13 to \$300 million for organizations around the country combating homelessness. The VFW has included ending homelessness as a top priority for 2013.

**VA Adds Illnesses for TBI Claims:** VA published a proposed regulation in the Federal Register that would allow service connection for five (5) disabilities if a veteran is service connected for a TBI. These disabilities are considered secondary to the TBI. Illnesses under consideration include unprovoked seizures, symptoms of Parkinson's disease, certain types of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, depression and hormone deficiencies caused by changes of the hypothalamus and pituitary glands. The list, published on Monday (12/10/12) in the Federal Register, would make it easier for afflicted veterans to receive benefits and healthcare from the VA. The public will have 60 days to comment on the proposed rule before it is finalized.

**Red Tape Cut for Veterans and Survivors:** The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it is eliminating the need for an annual Eligibility Verification Report. Eliminating the annual report reduces a burden on veterans, their families and survivors who previously had to return the routine reports to avoid a suspension of benefits. Under the new initiative, VA will work with the IRS and Social Security Administration to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits. The new initiative also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees to work on eliminating the claims backlog.

**Don't Cheat the VA:** Ordered to pay \$457,986 in restitution and sentenced to 30 months in federal prison, [Charles C. Kaczmarczyk](#), 59, of Knoxville, Tenn., fraudulently obtained disability payments from the VA and Social Security Administration. Kaczmarczyk obtained disability payments based on a false claim of combat-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and supported his PTSD claim with counterfeit Air Force records that reflected the award of two Purple Hearts and two Silver Stars. He also repeatedly lied to government investigators. Awaiting sentencing is [David A. Bevilacqua](#), 65, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., who pleaded guilty this month to theft of government property. Bevilacqua applied for VA medical benefits by falsely claiming to have been honorably discharged when he was actually dishonorably discharged for going AWOL. He also falsely claimed to have received numerous medals, to include the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts, and claimed to have been in Force Recon and Special Forces in order to obtain increased benefits.

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

**Vietnam War MIAs Identified:** The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Capt. James M. Johnstone, 28, of Baton Rouge, La. On Nov. 19, 1966, Johnstone was piloting an OV-1A Mohawk that crashed while on a daytime reconnaissance mission over Attapu Province, Laos. Other American aircrews reported seeing no parachute, and a heavy enemy presence prevented recovery efforts.

**Korean War MIA Identified:** The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Sgt. 1st Class Harold M. Brown, 20, of Winston-Salem, N.C. In late November 1950, Brown and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team, known as "Task Force Faith," were advancing along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when they were attacked and forced into a fighting withdrawal. Brown was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950.

Army Pfc. Ernest V. Fuqua Jr., 21, of Detroit. In late November 1950, units of the 35th Infantry Regiment and allied forces were deployed in a defensive line advancing across the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea when Chinese forces attacked. Fuqua was listed as killed in action on Nov. 28, 1950. His body was not recoverable at the time.

Army Pfc. Glenn S. Schoenmann, 20, of Tracy City, Tenn. In late November 1950, elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team were deployed along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when they were encircled and attacked by Chinese forces. Schoenmann was reported as missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950. It would be later learned he died in captivity from malnutrition and lack of medical care for his wounds.

**Combating Illness:** We have Comrades that require our thoughts. Our esteemed Treasurer, Don Hicks, has recently had surgery to repair a hernia. Although he says he is feeling better; he is in great pain. He will be for several weeks. How about sending him an email with encouraging words. I am sure he will appreciate hearing from you. His email is [naynay152@comcast.net](mailto:naynay152@comcast.net). If you are aware of someone who could use our prayers and kind words, please let us know so we could put out the word to the rest of us for help. Let the Commander or Editor know so we can get the word out to our members.

**"There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation... One is by sword... The other is by debt."**  
John Adams 1826







**Desert Storm CO Schwarzkopf Dies:** Truth is, retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf didn't care much for his popular "Stormin' Norman" nickname. The seemingly non-sense Desert Storm commander's reputed temper with aides and subordinates supposedly earned him that rough-and-ready moniker. But others around the general, who died recently in Tampa, Fla., at age 78 of complications from pneumonia, knew him as a friendly, talkative and even jovial figure who preferred the somewhat milder sobriquet given by his troops: "The Bear." That one perhaps suited him better later in his life, when he supported various national causes and children's charities while eschewing the spotlight and resisting efforts to draft him to run for political office. He lived out a quiet retirement in Tampa, where he'd served his last military assignment and where an elementary school bearing his name is testament to his standing in the community. Schwarzkopf capped an illustrious military career by commanding the U.S.-led international coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991 - but he'd managed to keep a low profile in the public debate over the second Gulf War against Iraq, saying at one point that he doubted victory would be as easy as the White House and the Pentagon predicted. Schwarzkopf was named commander in chief of U.S. Central Command at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base in 1988, overseeing the headquarters for U.S. military and security concerns in nearly two dozen countries stretching across the Middle East to Afghanistan and the rest of central Asia, plus Pakistan. When Saddam invaded Kuwait, later to punish it for allegedly stealing Iraqi oil reserves, Schwarzkopf commanded Operation Desert Storm, the coalition of some 30 countries organized by President George H.W. Bush that succeeded in driving the Iraqis out.

**Soldier Named New 'Ultimate Fighter':** The season 16 finale of the "The Ultimate Fighter" Dec. 15 featured a Canadian squaring off against a U.S. Army Soldier stationed at Fort Hood. After 15 grinding minutes over three rounds, III Corps' Staff Sgt. Colton Smith had his hand raised on the Las Vegas stage in front of a live TV audience, winning by unanimous decision over Mike Ricci in the welterweight bout. Smith described the celebratory moment inside the Octagon as a culmination of all the hard work and dedication of not only himself but also his coaches and his Family. "It's an amazing feeling of accomplishment," Smith said. The Soldier controlled all three rounds, executing his game plan to a tee.

These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm hereafter.

**Increasing Marine Embassy Security a Challenge:** Meeting congressional demands for more embassy security guards could be difficult for the U.S. Marine Corps even if funds are provided, a security analyst said. Although the Marines' Pentagon spokesman, Capt. Gregory Wolff, said the service anticipates it will be able to train 1,000 additional embassy security guards requested by Congress to protect diplomatic facilities around the world, retired Master Sgt. Andrew Rufalo, author of a book about the Embassy Security Group, said filling manpower quotas has been a challenge even when the U.S. State Department capped the number of Marine security guards at lower levels. "When you look at the quality of troops you need ... usually they're the better Marines, so commanders don't want to let them go to that duty," Rufalo said. He said 25 percent of those enrolled in the seven-week Marine Security Guard School training program at Quantico, Va., fail to complete the program. "You have a high attrition rate because the standards are high," he said. The Marine Corps Security Force Regiment, which trains anti-terrorism teams in Norfolk, Va., has only a 3 percent non-completion rate, a Marine official said. Approximately 1,200 Marine security guards are posted in 130 countries.

**Is the Commissary Really Going to Close?** Rumors that the Defense Department will be getting rid of the commissaries have been flying all over the internet since a [November 2012 report](#) from one Senator's office labeled them as one more thing the military could do away with to save some coin. The rumors, of course, are not true. Closing the commissaries would take an act of Congress (not just a report from one member of Congress) stripping their funding and shutting their doors. But that doesn't mean that there isn't some validity to the fear that such a move may, eventually, come to fruition. This isn't the first time such a proposal has been made. Around this time last year one congressional committee voted to give the money they usually spend on commissaries to another fund to take care of sick veterans. Instead they planned to have AAFES, which runs the Army and Air Force PX and BX systems, take over the operation. That move was undone by a later vote, but in the meantime there was plenty of chance to debate whether or not unfunding the commissary was even a good idea. Some said "yes." Most said, "no." The "yes" folks pointed to a Congressional Budget Office report that said that doing so would save over \$1 billion a year. The "no" people said that the higher costs to users - especially to those living overseas - would be debilitating. In the end we all ignored the whole thing and moved on with our lives. But now that the fiscal cliff is creeping closer and closer to becoming a reality - and we know that regardless budget cuts will happen - the commissary closures are starting to sound a good deal more likely. The recently released [annual commissary report card](#) touts, as it usually does, what DeCA sees as its invaluable nature to the lives of military families. And a [commissary support organization](#) continues to highlight the savings military families receive.

Make love, not war.  
Hell, do both  
**GET MARRIED!**

Women's restroom  
The Filling Station, Bozeman, MT

**U.S. Scraps Afghan Cargo Plane Fleet:** The U.S. military is scrapping the Afghan Air Force's entire fleet of Italian-made cargo planes, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday. U.S. and Afghan officials told the paper that the Afghan military isn't expected to have an independent and fully functioning air force until around 2017, well after the withdrawal of most U.S. and international troops. On the west end of Kabul International Airport, twin-engine C-27As sit side by side, sunlight reflecting off their gray wings and the green, black, and red of the Afghan flag emblazoned on their tails. For more than a year, though, most of the planes had been little more than expensive aviation exhibitions, unable to fly due to lack of spare parts and maintenance. Now, despite spending nearly \$600 million on the program, the U.S. is canceling the contract for the aircraft and disposing of all 16 planes delivered to the Afghan Air Force, the Journal reported. Alenia Aermacchi North America, a unit of Italian defense conglomerate Finmeccanica SpA, failed to meet the requirements of their contract to maintain the fleet, according to an email from U.S. Air Force spokesman Ed Gulick, who was quoted in the Journal. "This decision comes after failed attempts by the contractor to generate a sufficient number of fully mission-capable aircraft that would provide an effective airlift capability for the AAF," Gulick said in the email. An Alenia representative was quoted in the Journal as saying the company had not received word of the decision and that the program had recently shown improvement. "It's all a bit surprising that this decision is being made now when the [remediation] plan is being fully implemented," the representative said. The entire fleet of C-27As was grounded in December 2011 and even recently only four to six planes have been able to operate at any one time, Afghan Air Force spokesman Col. Mohammad Bahadur said in an interview with Stars and Stripes.

**Faded Flag Bears Decades of Soldiers' Bonds:** A war-torn Vietnam-era battle flag with thousands of miles of travel and decades of service and sacrifice interwoven with its stars and stripes is making a return to Hawaii from Afghanistan -- before heading back to the country next year. The flag belongs to Allen Hoe, a Honolulu attorney and Vietnam War veteran whose 27-year-old son, Nainoa, an Army first lieutenant, was felled by a sniper's bullet in Mosul, Iraq, in 2005. The 1995 Kamehameha Schools graduate was carrying the flag with him when he died. For the past nine months, it has been in the possession of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and making the rounds in southern Afghanistan. The unit's 2,600 Hawaii soldiers will return in January with Col. Frank Tate, the brigade commander. A bit faded now, the flag nevertheless carries the considerable weight of bonds forged in combat, the losses that occur, pride of service to country, and a warrior connection to Hawaii. "While entrusted with the flag, we sought to travel to every corner our brigade serves in to share the story, history and honor of the flag with as many of our soldiers as possible," Tate said in an Army news story about the battle flag. It has been to Iraq and Afghanistan multiple times as well as Kuwait, and been held aloft by the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy. The flag is expected to return to Afghanistan in mid-2013 on a deployment by the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and several thousand Schofield Barracks soldiers on one of the last big deployments from Hawaii to Afghanistan. The flag will go with Stryker Brigade commander Col. Tom Mackey, who was Nainoa Hoe's executive officer in 2004. Allen Hoe, then 21, bought the flag in 1967 at a souvenir shop outside a U.S. military base in Chu Lai, Vietnam, when he was serving as a combat medic with a long-range reconnaissance team.

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**Two Korean War MIAs Identified:** The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office recently announced the identifications of remains belonging to two Korean War soldiers. Returned home are:

\* Army Sgt. Stanley W. Bear, 19, of Greenup, Ky. On Sept. 4, 1950, Bear would be reported as missing after battling enemy forces near Haman, South Korea. He was assigned to F Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Unidentifiable remains would eventually be recovered and interred as an "unknown" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

\* Army Cpl. Elmer C. Kidd, 22, of Seneca Falls, N.Y. In late November 1950, Kidd and his unit, the 31st Regimental Combat Team, were advancing along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea, when they were attacked by a massive enemy force. Kidd would be reported missing after a fighting withdrawal to positions south of the reservoir.

**Korean War 60th Anniversary:** Planning continues to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the armistice signing that brought a tentative end to the Korean War, a brutal three-year conflict that resulted in almost 1,000 U.S. combat deaths and 3,000 woundings per month. The event will be held July 27, 2013, in Washington, D.C., according to the Defense Department's Korean War Commemoration Committee, and all Korean War veterans and their families and descendants are invited to help remember the sacrifice of all who served. The DOD committee is authorized to accept donations—all tax-deductible—to help offset the cost of the commemoration.

