



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,

## Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/2-1-196th](https://www.facebook.com/2-1-196th)



Volume 10

“A Soldier Once And Always”

April 2020

**Commanders Corner:** Greetings to all my Fellow 2/1 Infantry Brothers and to all other members that served with our sister units. March 29 was Vietnam Veterans day established to recognize all Viet Nam Veterans who served our country when called on but which went unappreciated when we returned. March 29 represents an anniversary of the withdrawal of troops from Viet Nam and we all can take pride that when our country called we served with tenacious and indomitable spirit at great sacrifices. Now we are being called on again to fight the battle against the coronavirus pandemic that is spreading across our country and the world. I have been thinking that there is no better group of people to face this than our Viet Nam Veterans. I know that our brothers are in the high risk groups because of our ages and the many underlining illnesses we battle with but our previous battles in Viet Nam prepared us to deal with the difficult challenges we are facing. I implore everyone to first practice safety measures that protect your health and those of your families and friends. After you do this if you can safely I ask that you that you volunteer to assist those that need assistance in getting food and medicine and if possible monetary support. As an example I work through my church to assist those in need. It appears that we will be dealing with this challenge for the foreseeable future but we all have dealt with tough times and are well equipped to handle the hardships and serve those in need. I encourage any of you that are in need of assistance reach out because you have earned it. I know that many of the VA Clinics and public hospitals have stopped elective medical procedures but don't let this stop you from seeking medical support if you need it. Practice safe procedures if you have to go out for groceries or medical needs.



On a lighter note I find it interesting that one of the drugs that is being tested for treating the Coronavirus is one being used in the world to prevent Malaria. I remember how we all were required to take our Malaria pills every day and there some of our brothers (I won't mention names) that did not like taking them. Little did we know that we were probably the Guinea pigs for a drug that may be as our President says may be a “game changer” for treating Coronavirus. I don't know if the current drug is the same one we used but I am sure it is a version that we used. So we can all be proud that in another way we are still serving our country.

This is a challenging time that we are all equipped to confront because we are all battle tested and know how to deal with tough times. I am confident that we will get through this and get back to our normal lives soon. We than can have another war story to discuss at our convention in August!

I send everyone God Speed and keep your family and friends safe!

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

**Dwight Sypolt.**

Commander

**From H Duckworth O'Brien's “A Grunt's Life”:** *Combat Assault:* The exhilarating feeling of jumping out of a perfectly good helicopter and bouncing off the ground. Often, you were welcomed with incoming rounds and no place to hide.

**Chapter & Americal Division Reunion 2020:** Wow! Thor, the god of lightning, has just hurled another thunderbolt aimed at the 2020 Americal Reunion. Right now I don't know if this is a good or bad one. So far I have survived the various bolts of lightning. The running of the Indianapolis 500 has been changed to August 23<sup>rd</sup> because of the Coronavirus; that is on Sunday, the final morning of our reunion. We are safe as far as securing our reservations at the reunion hotel as we have 800 room nights guaranteed for us over the course of the reunion. I'm pretty sure the hotel isn't probably excited about this because normally all the hotels, motels, etc. jack up their prices to almost double for about 2 weeks surrounding the event. Our rates are locked in so you can still make your reservations at the reunion cost. For any race fans, this might be a good time to think about extending your reservations at that rate since we have the rates available to us for 3 days before and after our event. Also, anyone thinking of taking advantage of driving their RV and parking at the American Legion Post 500 RV grounds, I would strongly suggest you get your reservations in ASAP as the lot completely fills up for race week. I'm sure they have some regulars that make reservations up to a year in advance of the race and I don't know how they will go about honoring these. They may just allow folks to transfer to the new dates or they may have to re-register. Due to the current situation, I have not been able to get in contact with the man that runs the RV camping at the Legion but, will keep trying. The Legion is located directly across from the Indy 500 track about 15 minutes from our hotel site. An alternative RV site, which is also about 15 minutes is Lake Haven RV park, located at 1951 W. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46317. Phone 317-783-5281 Web: site <http://www.lakehaven.com>. One good thing is that the change may help draw more Americal veterans (keeping a positive attitude). If you have any questions, please direct them to me at [indy2020reunion@gmail.com](mailto:indy2020reunion@gmail.com). The new schedule of events is as follows: Practice sessions Aug. 12-13, Fast Friday Aug. 14, Qualifications Aug. 15-16, Indy 500 Race Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. FYI, still need volunteers to help out with some small duties at the reunion. Thanks, Chuck Holdaway, Chairman, ADVA 2020 Reunion.

*"With hurricanes, tornadoes, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"*

**Jay Leno**

**S**GT Stubby the Dog: Stubby was described in contemporaneous news items as a [Boston Terrier](#) or "American bull terrier" Stubby was found wandering the grounds of the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut in July 1917, while members of the 102nd Infantry were training. He hung around as the men drilled and one soldier in particular, Corporal *James Robert Conroy* (1892-1987), developed a fondness for him.<sup>[4]</sup> When it came time for the outfit to ship out, Conroy hid Stubby on board the troop ship. As they were getting off the ship in France, he hid Stubby under his overcoat without detection.<sup>[11]</sup> Upon discovery by Conroy's commanding officer, Stubby saluted him as he had been trained to in camp, and the commanding officer allowed the dog to stay on board.<sup>[6]</sup> Stubby served with the 102nd Infantry Regiment in the trenches in France for 8 months and participated in four offensives and 17 battles. He entered combat on February 5, 1918, at Chemin des Dames, and was under constant fire, day and night for over a month. In April 1918, during a raid to take Seicheprey, Stubby was wounded in the foreleg by retreating Germans throwing hand grenades. He was sent to the rear for convalescence and, as he had done on the front, improved morale. When he recovered from his wounds, Stubby returned to the trenches. He ultimately had two wound stripes. In his first year of battle, Stubby was injured by mustard gas. After he recovered, he returned with a specially designed gas mask to protect him.<sup>[13]</sup> Thus learning to warn his unit of poison gas attacks, locate wounded soldiers in no man's land, and—since he could hear the whine of incoming artillery shells before humans—became very adept of alerting his unit when to duck for cover. He's solely responsible for capturing a German spy in the Argonne, leading to their units' Commander nominating Stubby for the rank of Sergeant. Following the retaking of Château-Thierry by the US, women of the town made Stubby a chamois coat upon which his many medals were pinned. He was later injured again, in the chest and leg by a grenade. At the end of the war, Robert Conroy smuggled Stubby home. After returning home, Stubby became a celebrity and had marched in, and normally led, many parades across the country. He met Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding.<sup>[6]</sup> He also appeared on vaudeville stages owned by Sylvester Z. Poli and was awarded lifetime memberships to the American Legion and the YMCA. In 1921, General of the Armies John J. Pershing presented a gold medal from the Humane Education Society to Stubby, the subject of a famous photograph and other artistic media.<sup>[4][5][12][14]</sup> During that same year, he attended Georgetown University Law Center along with Conroy, and became the Georgetown Hoyas' team mascot.<sup>[14]</sup> He'd be given the football at halftime and would nudge the ball around the field to the amusement of the fans.<sup>[15][16]</sup> While still a student at Georgetown, Conroy was also employed as a special agent of the Bureau of Investigation, precursor to the FBI. Stubby died in his sleep in March, 1926.<sup>[4]</sup> After his death, he was preserved with his skin mounted on a plaster cast. Conroy later presented Stubby to the Smithsonian in 1956.

**T**he military has suspended all travel, deployments, exercises for the entire force: After putting a hold on permanent change-of-station moves and non-essential travel both abroad and in the United States for the next two to three months, the Pentagon has issued a stop-movement order that will affect all personnel and Defense Department civilians. The order affects travel for exercises, as well as deployments from combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, in an attempt to stop the spread of coronavirus, the Pentagon announced. “Approx. 90,000 service members slated to deploy or redeploy over the next 60 days will likely be impacted by this stop movement order,”

**C**onfusion surrounds VA's community care offerings after talk of program pause: Veterans Affairs officials are scrambling to explain what is happening with their community care offerings — President Donald Trump's self-proclaimed signature achievement for veterans — after Capitol Hill staffers were told this week the program is facing a 90-day “strategic pause” because of the coronavirus outbreak. Veterans Affairs officials denied that major changes are coming to the outside care programs, which allow veterans to seek private-sector medical appointments paid for by VA funds. But they also acknowledged that some new applicants who should be automatically enrolled in the program may be denied in the name of safety, a move which some advocates have suggested may be outside the department's authority. The community care program has been a major point of controversy in recent years for the department, which critics deriding it as a slow abdication of core of VA responsibilities to the private sector. VA estimates more than 1.5 million veterans will use the program for some medical appointments this year. The confusion around the program stems from a message sent to congressional offices this week from Veterans Health Administration officials announcing they are considering “a temporary strategic pause in the MISSION Act access standards for 90 days, or until the soonest possible time that routine care may safely resume” because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**U**nderstaffed Veterans Affairs Scrambles to Confront COVID-19: The Department of Veterans Affairs, which runs the nation's largest integrated health care system, is confronting the COVID-19 pandemic seriously understaffed, with only limited protocols in place to protect its millions of elderly patients. “My concern is the social spread” of COVID-19, said Joe Bello, a Navy veteran who receives care from a VA facility in the Bronx, New York, where two patients are already under home quarantine with suspected COVID-19. “You get one veteran who is infected and who shows up at the VA for treatment, thinking maybe it's the flu. As of this morning, the Veterans Health Administration had five confirmed cases of COVID-19 among its patients, with another 25 presumed positive cases. On Saturday, the agency had its first fatality when a patient in their 70s died at the VA hospital in Portland, Oregon, due to complications from the new coronavirus. The VA's patients are disproportionately elderly – roughly half of the 9 million veterans who use the VA's network of more than 170 hospitals are at least 65 years old – and many have war-related health conditions that could make them more vulnerable to the coronavirus.

**A**ll elective military medical and dental surgeries on hold amid coronavirus pandemic: The military's medical system is putting a pause on non-emergency surgeries and dental procedures as of March 31, according to a memo from the assistant defense secretary for health affairs released Tuesday, in an effort to shore up capacity for the Defense Department's steady rise in coronavirus cases. Exceptions include surgeries or procedures that will keep active duty troops, or reserve component troops on active orders, deployable, the memo said. “As the Military Health System prepares for a surge in demand for health care services related to COVID-19, it is essential that we take prompt action, informed by location conditions and your risk-benefit analysis,” the memo reads, by preserving supplies, personnel and bed space. The restriction will stay in place until the end of May. Exceptions to the pause include endoscopies, bronchoscopies, pulmonary function tests and sleep continuous positive airway pressure titrations, the memo said. The policy affects 9.5 million beneficiaries of the military health system around the world, which includes service members, their families and military retirees.



**Three Army field hospitals ordered to New York, Washington states:** Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy has issued deployment orders to three Army hospital centers, the service said. The orders will deploy the 531st Hospital from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; the 627th Hospital from Fort Carson, Colorado; and the 9th Hospital from Fort Hood, Texas, to deploy to New York and Washington states. All of those units are active duty, an Army headquarters spokesperson said. The field hospitals could arrive at their destinations in as few as seven days or less, they added. New York and Washington have been among the worst hit states thus far by the coronavirus pandemic. Washington has reported more than 2,000 cases, while New York's numbers surpass 20,000, according to the Center for Disease Control. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that Army field hospitals, which can have as many as 250 beds each, will likely be sent first to New York City and Seattle, two cities with hospital systems overwhelmed by the pandemic. “Once that’s confirmed, we will look at sending to other places,” Esper said. “We will, of course, take our sourcing guidance from” the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the federal agency that coordinates disaster response plans.

### **VA Secretary pledges public coronavirus response won't compromise focus on veterans:**

Even as Veterans Affairs staffers prepare to deploy outside their hospitals to help with the national response to the fast-spreading coronavirus, Secretary Robert Wilkie is promising that the department's first focus will always be caring for veterans. “We don't release any beds if veterans are needing them,” Wilkie said in an interview with Military Times on Thursday. “The veterans still are primary. We are a (health) bridge for the larger community, but that's only after veterans are taking care of.” Wilkie's comments come as White House officials are in discussion with senior VA leaders about the department's fourth mission — to provide medical assistance and personnel to civilian health systems in the event of national emergencies. That has been invoked in the past for natural disasters in localized areas, but not on the scale of the coronavirus pandemic, which has spread across the United States in the last two weeks from fewer than 1,000 cases to now more than 54,000. Confusion surrounds VA's community care offerings after talk of program pause Veterans not already enrolled in the program may be blocked from getting outside care for 90 days. VA's own number of coronavirus cases has jumped too, up nearly one-third from Wednesday to today. The department has 484 patients who have tested positive, but outside advocates have said they believe the number is much higher.

### **The U.S. Army Museum opening June**

**2020:** The date chosen by the Committee responsible for the construction of the Army Museum. To see the progress being made by the construction crews please enter the information <https://youtu.be/2twaZ4bD5Vk> into your computer.

### **Corona-virus has thrown us all into mud, but an end is in sight:**

**William H. McRaven, a retired Navy admiral, was commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command from 2011 to 2014. He oversaw the 2011 Navy SEAL raid in Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden.**

For a would-be Navy SEAL, Hell Week is the worst week of the toughest military training in the world. It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment, and one "special day" at the Mud Flats. The Mud Flats are an area between San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico, where the water comes together and creates a swampy patch of terrain, a muddy bog that tests your determination to be a SEAL. My training class had been out of the mud for a short period of time when the instructors, looking to weed out the weak of mind and body, ordered the entire group of 55 men back into the bog. The mud consumed each man until there was nothing visible but our heads. We were all exhausted, numb from the cold and desperate to hold on. The instructors told us that we could all leave the mud - if just five men quit. It was the instructors' way of turning us against one another. It was apparent that some of the trainees were about to give up. There were still eight hours to go before the sun rose — eight more hours of bone-chilling cold. Several of the students started moving to dry ground; they were ready to quit. And then, one voice began to echo through the night — one voice raised in song. The song was terribly out of tune but sung with great enthusiasm. One voice became two, and two became three, and before long the entire class was singing. The instructors threatened us with more time in the mud if we kept singing, but the singing persisted. Those of us stuck in the mud believed that if one of us could start singing when he was up to his neck in mud, then maybe the rest of us could make it through the night. And we did. Today, the coronavirus has thrown us all into the mud. We are cold, wet and miserable, and the dawn seems a long way off. But while we should not be cavalier about the dangers of this pandemic, neither should we feel hopeless and paralyzed with fear. Hope abounds. We have the greatest scientists in the world working to create a vaccine. Health-care workers are pulling double shifts to care for the sick. Republicans and Democrats have come together to find solutions. State and local officials are taking decisive steps to flatten the curve of infection. Our economy is strong enough to survive even in these challenging times. The United States has an unmatched ability to mobilize when called to action. More importantly, as we always have in times of crisis, Americans are rallying together, caring for one another, showing the compassion and concern that have always characterized this nation of good people. Nothing in our immediate future will be easy. The number of cases will rise. The losses will increase. The market will stumble. But make no mistake about it, we will prevail, because the only thing more contagious than a virus is hope. We are all up to our necks in mud. It's time to start singing.



# 2020 ADVA National Reunion

## August 19-23, 2020 Indianapolis, Indiana

**LOCATION:** Wyndham Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

**HOTEL RESERVATION PROCEDURE:** The reunion room rate is \$129, plus tax, per night, with free daily breakfast. The Group rate is offered 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates, based on hotel's availability. Various reservation options are listed below. Rates cannot be adjusted at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation with the **Americal Division Veterans Association** when making reservations.

**Note: In accordance with proposed hotel reservation changes for 2020, all reservations will be charged a non-refundable deposit of one night's room rate and tax when the reservation is made.**

**Reservation Phone Numbers:** When calling in room reservations **ALWAYS** indicate you are with the **Americal Division Veterans Association** use **Code ADV** at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. This will avoid any possible complications when making reservations through the national reservation office.

Wyndham West Direct: **(317)-248-2481**

Wyndham Hotels Toll Free **(877) 361-4511** (National Reservation Office)

Wyndham West direct Email: [adva2020@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com](mailto:adva2020@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com)

### **Event/Dinner Registration Form:**

Forms available in 2020 publications of the "Americal Journal "and registration may also be done at [www.afr-reg.com/americal2020](http://www.afr-reg.com/americal2020)

### **Tours and Amenities:**

**Indianapolis 500 Race Track and Museum Tour**

**Indianapolis War Memorials and Museum Tour**

**(Indianapolis is second only to Washington, DC in the number of monuments and museums which are armed services related. Almost all are within walking distance of each other and near the National Headquarters of the American Legion.)**

**Dallara Indycar Factory Tour:** See the building of an Indycar, use racing simulators, participate in the interactive zone, take a ride in a 2-seater Indycar (if you can fit!).

**Free airport shuttle to and from the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel**

**Free breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking are available at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel**

**RV parking without hook ups will be available at the Wyndham Hotel.**

**RV parking with hook-ups will be available at American Legion Post 500. \***

**ONLY 2 hospitality suites left available for chapters or units. Please contact Chuck Holdaway to reserve a suite. THESE SUITES ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS until they are gone.**

\* We have secured permission to use the camping and RV facilities at American Legion Post 500, located at 1925 Georgetown Rd., Speedway, Indiana. The post is approximately 15 minutes from the host hotel and across the street from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. The post is also within walking distance from the many shops, restaurants and activities in the Speedway area. RV camping guests are welcome to use the American Legion Facilities. The Post site is <https://speedwaylegionpost500.com/race-parking>; just click on the button under "Non-Race RV Camping" and follow instructions for the form. A link will also be available on the ADVA web site and the ADVA 2/1 Chapter web sites <https://americal.org/cmsaml/index.php/reunions.html> and <http://www.2-1-196th.com/> in the near future. The forms may be mailed or emailed to the Legion Post along with the payment. Rates are \$25/night for either a space with no electricity or one with 30 amp service and \$35/night for 50 amp service. Questions may be directed to Reunion Chairman, Chuck Holdaway via email at [indy2020reunion@gmail.com](mailto:indy2020reunion@gmail.com) or call 317-847-2756 or you can contact the Legion Post directly at 317-244-9625 between 3pm and 6pm and ask for Steve. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO USE THE FACILITIES.**

**HOTEL AND RV RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME STARTING NOW**

**Reunion Questions Contact:** Reunion Chairman, **Chuck Holdaway**, at **1-317-847-2756** or email at [indy2020reunion@gmail.com](mailto:indy2020reunion@gmail.com).