



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

WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com

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Volume 10

“A Soldier Once And Always”

February 2020

Commanders Corner: It is hoped that the winter season is not bringing you bad weather. We are hearing more from Chuck Holdaway about the upcoming 2020 reunion in Indianapolis. It isn't too soon to make your reservations. He has already secured our Hospitality accommodations at the Wyndham Hotel. It will be on the second floor of the hotel. If anyone wants to be located near the Hospitality room they should make arrangements with the hotel staff when making your reservations. There are a limited number of rooms available on that floor, so get your requests in early. Many of you know what happens when you procrastinate ; you will be discouraged if you wait. I have attached to this Newsletter a complete breakdown of what we anticipate will be the events during the reunion. Be sure to take advantage of the wonderful activities that will be made available for us when we are in Indianapolis. The city is beautifully arranged with a large number of venues open for our enjoyment. Lets take the opportunity to experience all we can of this fine mid-western city. We have included another of the many intriguing adaptations from “A Grunt’s Life” written by one of our fellow infantrymen. He captures the essence of what we all experienced during our time in Vietnam. It is our intention to continue to include a tidbit every month until we have entered them all. We hope you enjoy them. Once again it is my duty to announce that we will hold elections during our reunion and as such we should be thinking of who should be in the leadership of our fine Chapter. We have succeeded in developing a great bunch of people who have contributed so much to the benefit of all. We should want to continue to bring about the type of people who would carry on the enthusiasm that has brought us this far. We hope you enjoy the article on page 5 referring to the untold story of the preparations for the surrender of Japan ending World War II. It was way before many of us were born, however, the measures taken to put together the surrender ceremony was extensive, providing for the proper protocols that were broadcasted throughout the world. It is historically depicted for all of us to refresh our minds on what transpired and why the ceremony was conducted the way it was then.

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

Dwight Sybolt.
Commander



From H Duckworth O'Brien's “A Grunt’s Life”: Fire Mission; Over: The bad, guys are nearby and trying to di di mau. Your LT calls in an artillery strike. Suddenly you remember the old adage “Never trust a private with a loaded rifle or an officer with a map” and a compass” You wonder how well the LT did in his map reading classes. Artillery landing too close has a tendency to mess up your fatigues.

Medal of Honor Hero Now Faces His Hardest Fight on a New Battlefield: It's not every day you bump into a personal hero at the local coffee shop. As former Army Staff Sgt. Ronald Shurer sat with his wife Miranda at Peet's Coffee in Springvale, Virginia on a Wednesday afternoon, a muscular young man in his late 20s approached, a question in his eyes. "Hey, you're Ron Shurer, right?" His name was Thomas Bailey, an Army sergeant just returned from a tour in Iraq. He wanted to know whether there was anything he could do for Shurer -- wash his car, watch the kids, anything. "You're one of our heroes," Bailey said. "Actually, it's really cool to see you. If you ever need anything, just hit me up. Seriously, anything." Shurer is a recipient of the nation's highest combat honor, a Secret Service special agent and a former Army Special Forces combat medic. But he had attracted the soldier's hero-worship for another reason altogether. Bailey said he and his buddies were truly impressed when they saw a photo of Shurer at the Medal of Honor presentation wearing a beard, possibly in defiance of Army regulations. "Like when you got your Medal of Honor with your scruff on, like you were like our favorite ever. We could relate to that guy. That's my guy right there. I'm like, this guy's just a stud," Bailey said. Shurer is now fighting on different terrain than the mountains of Eastern Afghanistan, and against a different enemy than the battle-hardened insurgents of that remote region. Fifteen months after he stood at the White House to receive the nation's highest combat honor, he's squaring off in an all-consuming battle against life-threatening lung cancer that his doctors rate at stage 4, meaning it has metastasized or spread to other organs. "It's everywhere," Shurer, 41, said in a lengthy Jan. 22 interview at the coffee shop. More than once, Shurer said he was prepared to comment on everything about the stage 4 cancer except his prognosis. Statistics from the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society point to five-year survival rates of less than 20%, although those numbers come with the caution that they may not reflect recent advances in treatment.

Pentagon Realignment: The Army will deploy the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade to Africa to replace elements of an Infantry brigade from the 101st Airborne Division. The 1st SFAB was selected as part of the Defense Department's comprehensive review of each combatant command to align their activities with the U.S. military's broader focus on competing against Russia and China,

VA Deputy Secretary Fired after ‘Loss of Confidence’: Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie abruptly fired the second-highest department official on Monday, saying he had lost confidence in his ability to perform the job. The stunning leadership shakeup comes less than five months after James Byrne was confirmed by the Senate for the VA deputy secretary job. In a two-sentence statement announcing the change, Wilkie gave no reason for his decision. The move was first reported by Axios. Byrne, a Naval Academy graduate who deployed overseas as a Marine infantry officer and later joined the Department of Justice as an international narcotics prosecutor, served as the acting deputy secretary for almost 13 months before his confirmation last September. The firing disrupts a recent stretch of leadership continuity at a department that has seen a host of firings and resignations in recent years. Byrne’s predecessor, Thomas Bowman, was pressured out of the job a few months after the firing of former VA Secretary David Shulkin in March 2018. The department has had four different secretaries and four more acting secretaries in the last five years. VA’s top health official post has been vacant since President Donald Trump took office. Byrne was confirmed to the post by an 81-11 Senate vote. At the time, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee ranking member Jon Tester, D-Mont., acknowledged that Byrne “has ruffled feathers among some here” in his dealings with Democratic lawmakers on implementation of the VA Mission Act and other department priorities.

Emergency Troops Treated for TBI After Iran Missile Strikes May Be Getting Purple Hearts: The dozens of troops who suffered traumatic brain injury (TBI) from the concussive effects of Iranian airstrikes on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, are eligible for Purple Hearts, the Pentagon said Monday. But the individual services must still decide whether to award them. At a news briefing, Pentagon chief spokesman Jonathan Hoffman cited general standards for awarding the Purple Heart that appear to qualify all or most of the troops who were treated for TBI after the Iranian missile strikes Jan. 7. He said Purple Heart eligibility for TBI requires both a doctor’s diagnosis and that the service member miss at least two days of duty because of the injury. Many of the service members injured at Al Asad were evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, for medical treatment and evaluation and would appear to meet those requirements.

Afghan Casualties and Attrition are Outpacing Recruitment and Retention: The endless slog of peace talks to shutter the 18-year long war has precipitated a tit-for-tat escalation in violence between Taliban and U.S. and Afghan forces resulting in one of the bloodiest years of the conflict. A December 2019 Defense Department report cautioned that “sustained levels of violence” and Afghan security force casualties on the battlefield was impacting attrition and “outpacing recruitment and retention.” It’s a worrying metric for Pentagon planners seeking to reduce America’s nearly 13,000-troop footprint in the country. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has oft voiced that the U.S. may draw down U.S. forces in Afghanistan to 8,600 troops with or without a deal with the Taliban. Violence has skyrocketed in the country as the U.S. has opted for the hammer to push the Taliban to make a deal and reduce hostilities in the country. A recent UN report detailed that during September, following President Donald Trump’s decision to temporarily halt peace talks with the militant group, there were 2,780 recorded “security incidents” — the figure represents a 44 percent increase when compared with September 2018.

Don’t bother walking a mile in my shoes, that would be boring. Spend thirty seconds in my head, that’ll freak you right out.

Florida man loses 160 pounds to achieve lifelong dream of becoming a soldier: After years of being overweight, Christian Montijo had abandoned his plans to join the Army. But after a year of hard work, this 28-year-old Floridian has made his Army dream come true, according to an Army news story. Montijo knew he could never serve in the military when his weight hit 350 pounds. But at the end of 2018, however, he made it his new year’s resolution to revisit his high school dream of joining the Army. “From the start, I didn’t want this to be a diet but a lifestyle change,” he says. “I knew that losing the weight is just half of the battle, and keeping it off is the other half.” Montijo told Men’s Health. With that decision came an intense change in his habits. Fast food and soda were often at the top of his shopping list, and his schedule allotted little time for exercise. Before choosing to lose the weight, Montijo frequently noticed a high level of fatigue, even in doing simple, everyday tasks. “I would sit down to watch TV and would breathe heavy and sweat just by sitting down,” he told Men’s Health.

Trump praises US military buildup but vows overseas troop cuts in State of the Union address: President Donald Trump hailed the U.S. military as “unmatched anywhere in the world” and vowed to use it to pursue terrorists worldwide in his annual State of the Union speech Tuesday night, but also vowed to end America’s wars in the Middle East because of the strain they have put on military families. In a speech delivered less than 24 hours before the Senate is expected to end the ongoing impeachment proceedings against the president and acquit him of wrongdoing, Trump delivered a fiery speech that was broadly embraced by Republicans in the House chamber and largely dismissed by Democratic lawmakers. On numerous occasions, Democrats sat silent while their GOP counterparts applauded loudly. One of the few points of agreement were on military issues, where lawmakers from both parties applauded Trump’s detailing of boosts in defense funding. “To safeguard American Liberty, we have invested a record-breaking \$2.2 trillion in the United States military,” he said. “We have purchased the finest planes, missiles, rockets, ships, and every other form of military equipment — all made in the United States of America.” The president also declared victory in his campaign to pressure NATO allies to contribute more to the alliance and their own defense, stating he “raised contributions from the other NATO members by more than \$400 billion.” Despite a lack of progress on that effort in the last year — about 13,000 troops in are currently deployed to Afghanistan, 5,200 troops to Iraq and 3,000 to Saudi Arabia — Trump promised that he is still working to “end America’s wars in the Middle East” in the near future.

VA Improperly Paid out more than \$300,000 in Disability Claims: The Department of Veterans Affairs handed out about \$311,000 in improper disability payments after an agency employee miscalculated claims. The overpayments stemmed from a single employee at the VA’s Little Rock Regional Office in Arkansas making bad decisions and improperly processing paperwork during the disability claims process, and the failure of managers to provide the proper oversight on 11 disability rating decisions, according to a report by the VA Inspector General’s Office. The employee, who was not named in the IG report, has resigned. “In addition, nearly \$6,700 in improper payments were being paid on an ongoing monthly basis at the time of the review.” The system failure in resulted in compensation that wasn’t warranted, according to the IG report. The erroneous payments were not the fault of the veterans, the IG report stated, and no one has to pay back the money. VA officials said the improper disability claims were processed up to two years ago and actions are being taken to ensure veterans get the appropriate disability ratings and checks.

Armor units outperform airborne, Air Force and Navy in deterring aggression overseas, report says: Ground troops based overseas with tanks and artillery are better at preventing conflict than their light infantry counterparts, a study said after examining more than 70 years of military deployments to determine what best deters adversaries. In its report — “Understanding the Deterrent Impact of U.S. Overseas Deployments” — the research group Rand Corp. also found that when the military surges forces toward a flashpoint, it’s rare for fighting to break out. “Despite these risks, the historical record suggests that very few crises escalate when the United States deploys forces to the crisis region ... These effects are particularly strong for ground forces, where no crises have escalated to major confrontation or war, and for air forces, where only one crisis has escalated,” the report said. The clearest evidence for achieving deterrence was connected to “heavy ground forces,” which included armored units and those with air defense capabilities. There was less evidence to show that mobile, rotational forces deter as effectively. A possible reason is they “represent a lesser degree of high-level or long-term U.S. commitment or possibly because measuring their effects is more difficult,” the report said.

The US is bombing the hell out of the Taliban as munitions dropped reaches nearly 10-year high:

In the backdrop of peace negotiations to end the 18-year long war U.S. aircraft are bombing the hell out of the Taliban and other militants as the warring parties slog through never-ending discussions to bring the fighting to a close. According to U.S. Air Forces Central Command, U.S. aircraft dropped 7,423 munitions in 2019 — that’s the highest number of bombs released in nearly a decade. In 2018, U.S. warplanes dropped 7,362 bombs — the second highest total in a year thus far since AFCENT began publishing the number of munitions released in Afghanistan. In 2010 and 2011, the height of America’s participation in Afghan war, coalition aircraft dropped 5,100 and 5,411 bombs respectively. During those two years, the U.S. military had nearly 100,000 U.S. troops on the ground as part of President Barack Obama’s troop surge to clear Taliban militants. Those efforts included a joint operations center staffed by coalition and Afghan forces to help integrate intelligence, streamline operations and build an accurate assessment of the counter-terrorism picture on the ground, the report detailed. “The additional capabilities provided by these new initiatives, coupled with USFOR-A’s [U.S. Forces Afghanistan] sustained military pressure, helped prevent the Taliban from successfully seizing any provincial centers in 2019,” the report reads. As peace talks with the Taliban were temporarily suspended by President Donald Trump in Sept. 2019, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper told reporters in October that the U.S. military had ramped up operations against the Taliban to push the militant group to the negotiating table. “We did step up our attacks on the Taliban since the talks broke down. You know, the president spoke about this publicly — we did pick up the pace considerably,” Esper told reporters in early October. At a Pentagon 9/11 ceremony Trump said that the U.S. was hitting the enemy in Afghanistan “harder than they have ever been hit before.”

The U.S. Army Museum opening June 2020: June 2020 is the period established 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.

US expands troop, fighter jet presence at Saudi base: Across the vast expanse of this desert air base, hundreds of tents have popped up and F-15E fighters from the recently arrived 494th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron line the tarmac, flying daily missions over Iraq and Syria. Off in the distance, two American Patriot missile batteries are scanning the skies, prepared to knock down any Iranian attack against the Saudi kingdom. The U.S. troop presence here has grown to roughly 2,500 since last summer, when the U.S. announced it had begun deploying forces to what once was a major U.S. military hub. The return of U.S. forces to Prince Sultan Air Base is one of the more dramatic signs of America’s decision to beef up troops in the Middle East in response to threats from Iran. The Strike Eagles of the 494th, the “Mighty Black Panthers,” deployed from RAF Lakenheath, England, are capable of executing strategic attack, interdiction and counter-air missions. On Wednesday, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East spent a few hours meeting with his commanders and troops here, assessing what he called a “sweet spot” of U.S. force projection in the region. Prince Sultan Air Base, said Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, presents a complicated target for Iran to hit and provides a remote location for U.S. troops, fighter jets and other assets. It also provides greater security for Saudi Arabia, which asked for U.S. help in the wake of an Iranian drone and missile attack on oil facilities in the kingdom last September.

Korean employees at US bases there could be furloughed in April without cost-sharing agreement:

Korean nationals are receiving notices they could be furloughed from their jobs at U.S. bases April 1 if the U.S. and the Republic of Korea can’t hash out a host-nation support agreement to offset the stationing costs of more than 28,000 U.S. troops. The 2019 Special Measures Agreement required South Korea to contribute nearly \$1 billion as part of the cost-sharing deal, but it expired Dec. 31 and the Trump administration is urging South Korea to contribute even more in 2020. Meanwhile, leftover funds are running out. As a result, U.S. Forces Korea said it’s providing Korean employees on U.S. bases with a heads up that they could be furloughed. “Due to the 2019 Special Measures Agreement lapse and the continued absence of a subsequent agreement, United States Forces Korea began providing Korean National employees today with a 60-day notice of a potential administrative furlough that could occur on April 1, 2020, absent an agreed upon SMA,” said U.S. Forces Korea in a Jan. 28 statement. “Without the Republic of Korea’s continued commitment to share the cost of employing our Korean National workforce, USFK will soon exhaust programmed funds available to pay their salaries and wages,” the statement said.

National Guard recovery efforts expand in Puerto Rico:

About 1,300 service members from the National Guard and the Army Reserve are now providing shelter for thousands of Puerto Ricans left homeless by a series of earthquakes that devastated the island more than two weeks ago. In addition to the Puerto Rico National Guard, Ohio and New Mexico also sent troops to support recovery along the southern portion of the island where earthquakes caused the most damage. Earthquakes began to shake the island Dec. 28 with the largest 6.4-magnitude quake hitting just before dawn on Jan. 7. One person was killed, and the earthquake caused more than \$200 million in damage and triggered Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez to activate the territory’s National Guard. Overall, there have been 10 earthquakes registering a magnitude 5 or greater, a size that can do damage, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, which forecasts aftershocks to continue, but become less frequent.

Top VA hospital lacked full-time gynecologist, facilities serving women veterans for years, report says: One of the largest veterans medical centers in the country went almost two years without a full-time gynecologist and lacked private, secure spaces for women patients for even longer, according to a new report released by the Veterans Affairs Inspector General this week. Department officials insist most of those issues at the North Texas VA Health Care System have been resolved now, but lawmakers are saying the shortfalls are indicative of larger cultural and leadership problems within the federal agency in their invisible,” said Brownley, D-Calif. “We are here today to change response to the rising number of women veterans. “The lack of space, privacy, and provider shortages are widespread, and these problems result in inconsistent, inadequate, and insufficient care for our women veterans,” said Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif. and chair of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee’s task force on women veterans. “We owe all of our veterans the highest quality care. As this report points out, when it comes to equity for women veterans, we’re clearly falling short.” The United States has nearly 2 million women veterans today, but Rep. Julia Brownley thinks many Americans never really see them. “Women veterans are too often overlooked, forgotten or feel that. Women have served in uniform since this country’s earliest days ... but for far too long their issues have been unnoticed or ignored.” On Thursday, the Brownley formally launched the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee’s new task force on women veterans, with the goal of “advancing equity in access to resources, benefits and healthcare” for the group. Women make up about 10 percent of the nation’s veterans population, 17 percent of current military personnel and 30 percent of military service academy students. The number of women using VA health services has more than tripled over the last two decades.

Korean Troops who Fought Alongside Americans in Vietnam Could Get VA Health Benefits: Korean troops who fought alongside American forces in the Vietnam War and later relocated to the United States would be eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs health benefits under new legislation unveiled by a group of House lawmakers this week. The measure would affect only about 3,000 individuals who emigrated from South Korea and have already become naturalized U.S. citizens. But supporters say the move is important to show America’s commitment to troops who fought to protect U.S. interests and values, regardless where they were born. “Korean American Vietnam Veterans may have served under a different flag during the Vietnam War, but they served with the same duty, honor, and valor as our U.S. service members,” said Rep. Gil Cisneros, D-Calif. and sponsor of the measure. “Suffering significant injuries from service, it’s unacceptable that these patriots and U.S. citizens are unable to access healthcare from the VA ... Korean American Vietnam Veterans have always had our backs, now it’s time for us to have theirs.” Lawmakers backing the proposal said there is precedent for such granting of VA health care to foreign troops. After World War I and World War II, European allies who became American citizens were granted certain U.S. veterans benefits, in recognition of their contributions to American security.

VA Aims to Stem Overuse of Heartburn, Reflux Drugs: Acid-blocking drugs are among the most commonly prescribed drugs. A VA program is underway to scale back their use, in line with best practices. VA researchers are evaluating the effort. The post VA aims to stem overuse of heartburn, reflux drugs appeared first on Vantage Point.

How a daughter's fight won full-honor burials for POWs, Medal of Honor recipients: Army Pfc. Robert Fletcher restarted his life in Ann Arbor after the Korean War, the trauma of combat and captivity never far from his mind. He’d survived nearly three years of extreme hunger, freezing temperatures and psychological abuse as a prisoner of war in Camp No. 5 along the banks of the Yalu River that divides China and North Korea. Back home, Fletcher’s harrowing experience manifested itself as a myriad of health problems and severe PTSD that cropped up daily until his death at age 85. And so it shocked his family to learn he wouldn’t be afforded full military honors when laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in 2018. Fletcher was eligible for burial at the famed military cemetery by virtue of being a former POW, but his rank didn’t qualify for a horse-drawn caisson, an escort platoon and a band. Those honors were reserved for officers and service members killed in action. It felt like a “huge slap in the face and kick in the teeth” to his daughter, Kanda Fletcher. Her family had long assumed her father had earned full military honors. He and his comrades came close to dying for their country; Fletcher returned from the Korean War weighing 90 pounds less than when he enlisted as a healthy 17-year-old. “I know what my dad went through,” said Kanda Fletcher, 55, who lives on her family’s farm in Ann Arbor. “I saw it every single day.” The daughter waged a 20-month campaign to convince Congress to change the policy, resulting in a recent amendment with the potential to affect thousands of enlisted veterans across the country. The daughter waged a 20-month campaign to convince Congress to change the policy, resulting in a recent amendment with the potential to affect thousands of enlisted veterans across the country. All former POWs and Medal of Honor recipients can now receive full military funeral honors at Arlington, regardless of their rank. The measure was included in the National Defense Authorization Act signed by President Donald Trump on Dec. 20. “I couldn’t be happier. It’s just amazing,” Kanda Fletcher said last week, a wide smile across her face. “Does it benefit my dad? No, because we can’t go back and get the full burial for him, but I know that my dad is now resting in peace on this particular issue.”



101st Airborne deployed to Manda Bay after al-Shabab attack: Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Manda Bay Airfield, Kenya on Jan. 5, according to Army officials. The air assault troops were brought in by C-130 cargo aircraft to bolster security after an attack by al-Shabab militants. They were part of the previously announced East Africa Response Force that was dispatched to the facilities after an attack that included mortars and small arms fire, breached the base’s perimeter and damaged six aircraft. “The 101st Airborne Division Soldiers, currently fulfilling the role as the East Africa Response Force, provide a unique capability to the combatant commander. They offer speed, agility, and security to handle contingency actions. This was demonstrated after the attack in Manda Bay, Kenya,” Army Col. Dave Foley, deputy commander of operations for the 101st, said in an official statement.

Great Story

It seems a lot of effort went into humiliating our former enemy. Today it may seem to have been a little heavy-handed, but back then, given the history of that war, it was no doubt the right thing to do.

Why did the US choose a US Navy Iowa-class battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War II even though they were in Tokyo Bay and could have used a building on land? Pure symbolism. Nothing says "you're utterly defeated" than having to board the enemy's massive battleship in the waters of your own capital city. A naval vessel is considered sovereign territory for the purposes of accepting a surrender. You just don't get that if you borrow a ceremonial space from the host country. In addition, the Navy originally wanted the USS South Dakota to be the surrender site. It was President Truman who changed it to USS Missouri, Missouri being Truman's home state. The Japanese delegation had to travel across water to the Missouri, which sat at the center of a huge US fleet. It's a bit like those movie scenes where someone enters a big-wig's office, and the big-wig is sat silhouetted at the end of a long room, behind a massive desk. The appellant has to walk all the way to that desk along a featureless space, feeling small, exposed, vulnerable and comparatively worthless before the mogul enthroned in dramatic lighting before him. By the time he gets there the great speech he had prepared is reduced to a muttered sentence or two.

In addition, the USS Missouri flew the flag of Commodore Perry's 19th century gun-boat diplomacy mission that opened the closeted Edo-era Japan to the world and forced upon them the Meiji restoration which ended the rule of the samurai class. The symbolism here is pretty clear - "this is how we want you to be, and remember what happens to countries that defy us." It was particularly humiliating for a proud country like Japan, and that was entirely the point.

The symbolism of the ceremony was even greater than that. The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the West. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony.

When the Japanese delegation came aboard, they were forced to use an accommodation way (stairs) situated just forward of turret #1. The freeboard (distance between the ship's deck and the water line) there makes the climb about twice as long as if it had been set up farther aft, where the freeboard of the ship is less. NOTE: This was even more of an issue for the Japanese surrender party as the senior member, Foreign Affairs Minister Shigemitsu, was crippled by an assassination attempt in 1932, losing his right leg in the process.

The #1 and #2 turrets had been traversed about 20 degrees to starboard. The ostensible reason for this was to get the turret overhangs out of the way to create more room for the ceremony on the starboard veranda deck, but in fact this would have only required traversing turret #2 had it been the real reason. However, the turret position also put the gun tubes directly over the heads of the Japanese. They were literally boarding the ship "under the gun".

The honor guard of US sailors (side boys) were all hand-picked to be over six feet tall, a further intimidation of the short-statured Japanese. The surrender documents themselves, one copy for the Allies and one for the Japanese contained identical English-language texts, but the Allied copy was bound in good quality leather, while the Japanese copy was bound with light canvas whose stitching looked like it had been done by a drunken tailor using kite string.

After the signing ceremony, the Japanese delegation was not invited for tea and cookies; they were shuffled off the ship as an Allied air armada of over 400 aircraft flew overhead as a final reminder that American forces still had the ability to continue fighting should the Japanese have second thoughts on surrender.

Now you know.....

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

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

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 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.