



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,

## Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

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

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Volume 11

“A Soldier Once And Always”

October 2021

**Commanders Corner:** Hello to all my brothers and families and friends and brothers from our sister units. I hope all attendees at our reunion made it home safe and are doing well! It was really great to see all attendees at our reunion and as usual the 2/1 Chapter had the best turnout of any single unit at the reunion. For those of you that were unable to attend we hope you will be able to attend next year's reunion which will take place in Washington DC



We all owe a big thank you to Chuck Holdaway for coordinating and planning the Indianapolis Reunion for the entire Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA) and he had to do it twice since the reunion was cancelled last year. I know everyone had a great time and all the events Chuck scheduled were well attended and enjoyed by all.

I also want to give another big thanks to Jesse Mendoza and Eileen for providing great food and beverages for the 2/1 Hospitality Room. They have been doing this for many years and we all owe them a big Thank You! We even had attendees that were not 2/1 members and they were welcomed by us all.

At our Reunion meeting we issued the temporary custody of the “Bravo Knife” to Ron Pettit. Ron is very deserving of this honor and I know he will take good care of the knife until we gather again in Washington DC. Congratulations Ron!

Another decision we made at the meeting is that we will begin publishing the newsletter every other month. Rich was happy to do it every month but it has become more difficult to obtain content for monthly newsletter material. I encourage everyone to send Rich items that he can put in the letter and if you don't think you can write the articles good enough I know Rich will be happy to edit your writings before insertion. So our next letter after this October edition will be published at the beginning of December and then every other month after that.

Again a great time was had by all at this year's reunion and I look forward to an even better turnout in DC when hopefully the virus will be gone and we can all get back to a normal life. For those of you that might have missed this reunion; you would have had a wonderful time. Everyone attending the reunion was pleased with the accommodations as the hotel went out of their way to satisfy all were there. The tours were interesting as well as comprehensive. Next year the tours will be more to our liking because of the location. Remember the U.S. Army museum is now open to the public where there is a host of things to visit. Start thinking of these as you plan for the future.

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

Dwight Sybolt  
Commander

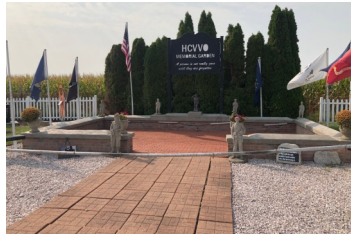


**From H Duckworth O'Brien's “A Grunt's Life”:** : COINTACT; You are crossing an open rice paddy and the enemy opens fire on your unit. Your unit spreads out and you return fire. With the enemy in range, you and your buddies rain down a sheet of lead on them. As you're ducking return fire, it comes to you....if the enemy is in range, SO ARE YOU!...

**2021 ADVA Annual Reunion, Indianapolis, Report:**  
The Americal Division Veteran Association, (ADVA) 2021 reunion can go into the yearbook as a tremendous success. Almost everyone who were instrumental to the reunion talked about a substantial reduction in amount of registrations prior to the event. All of those who attend- ed the reunion from the 2/1 Infantry Chapter were very happy to be there. The 2/1 Hospitality room staffed by Jesse Mendoza and Eileen continued to be adequately fed and there were plenty and variety of drinks for us and everyone who ventured into our room. Although there were 6 hospitality rooms spread throughout the hotel, The 2/1 Inf. Room seemed at times to be the place to congregate. The Chapter had 22 members attending the reunion from all over the United States. In spite of the fact that there were those who were ill and threatened by the onslaught of renewed pandemic and those who were too feeble to attend, the chapter was well represented. We had 2 members that had attended the reunion for the first time. Each stated without reservation they will not miss another. I want to pass on to everyone that our very own Chuck Holdaway did a marvelous job as Reunion Chairman. Our congratulations can never express the gratefulness to him and Sam for all of the energy expended by them to make this reunion the very best ever. Chuck was present every minute of every day seeing to the many complex issues brought to his attention. He soldiered through them all. Indianapolis is a great location for a reunion. There was a host of activities around the city offering a variety of venues to please any person's desires. The results of our annual meeting recorded the election by acclamation of the current Executive Committee overseeing the day to day operations of the Chapter for another year. This make a whole lot of sense in spite of the competition. The annual meeting of the ADVA noted that the reunion for 2022 will be in the Washington, DC area, naming the Sheridan Chrystal City as the reunion hotel. The dates will be published as soon as the contract has been approved by the Reunion Oversight Committee. We will try to announce that information as soon as it becomes available. This selection was made because the period will be the thirtieth anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Wall. We are once again looking with great anticipation toward another wonderful opportunity to reunite with our comrades and many friends of the 2/1 Infantry Chapter.

**No society ever thrived because it had a large and growing class of parasites living off of those who produce.**  
Thomas Sowell

**Remembering Comrades—Kokomo 2021:** Following the ADVA Reunion in Indy some of the 2/1 Chapter comrades ventured to The Annual Vietnam Veterans outing just down the road to Kokomo, IN. We got there just as the opening ceremony was taking place. What a good time to be in attendance. Attached some pictures and some bricks belonging to fallen soldiers.



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**Nineteen Military Athletes represented the United States at the 2021 Olympics:** Seventeen soldiers, one Marine and one “Coastee” were among the participants. First Lieutenant Amber English, a logistics officer and member of the Army Marksmanship Unit, won the gold medal in women’s skeet shooting after hitting 56 of 60 targets; three off the world record. Lt. Nickole Barnes, the first active duty Coast Guard officer to compete in Olympics. She competed in the sailing event.

**Commemorations for the Tomb:** The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is leading national efforts to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sacred crypts at Arlington National Cemetery. The society plans events in multiple locations in the United States and France to honor the anniversary. For more information visit [tombguard.org](http://tombguard.org).



**Pictures that were taken during the 2/1 Inf. National Reunion:**



Members Line up for the Official photo prior to Dinner.

Ronnie Pettit receives the Commemorative knife for safe keeping till 2022 Annual reunion in Washington, D.C.



Breakfast with friends; Bo Borysiak, Juliana Loyd, Rich Heroux, John Careccia, Ralph & Ernie Rodriguez



Battle buddies reunite after being apart far too long; Dwight Sypolt, Tom Ellisor, Jerry Hughes, Young Ruff

**History of the “AA” Arm Patch:** The “AA” arm patch, worn by all 82nd Airborne soldiers, stands for “All American,” the nickname given to the division when it was first formed at Camp Gordon, Georgia, in 1917. During World War I, many units created nicknames for themselves to build camaraderie and boost morale. Shortly after its inception, the newly-formed 82nd, in partnership with the Atlanta Georgian newspaper, held a contest to collect nickname ideas for the division. The winning nickname, “All American,” was submitted by Vivienne Goodwyn.



**House Holds Hearing on Pending Legislation:** This week the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on proposed legislation to improve many veteran benefits. Two of the bills discussed originated from VFW/SVA Fellowship proposals including improvements to the VA Work-Study program and stipends for child care. Non-traditional students are the majority of student veterans, and they have different needs from traditional students such as employment and family obligations. Improving success in education for student veterans is one of the VFW’s long-standing resolutions and we are glad to see support from Congress to help make these improvements.

**Pentagon Setting Up Flights for Migrants Amid Texas Border Surge:** The military was working to arrange contracted commercial flights to move migrants surging at the Texas-Mexico border to immigration processing sites in the U.S., Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said. No flights had yet been chartered by U.S. Transportation Command, but the assistance requested by the Department of Homeland Security is aimed at aiding U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP, as a new crisis of mass migration has unfolded in recent days. Thousands of mostly Haitian migrants arrived at the border town of Del Rio and have been crowded beneath a bridge as the Biden administration, Texas, and local authorities struggle to cope with the situation.



**From South Korea, US repatriate war casualties 70 years later:** South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Hawaii late in Sept. as the remains of 68 Korean and six presumed U.S. service members were repatriated during a ceremony at Pearl Harbor. South Korean soldiers who died in the Korean War had been in the possession of the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency until recently, when they were placed on a Korean government jet to be returned home, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported. South Korea also returned the remains of the presumed U.S. service members to the accounting agency, which recovers and identifies those missing in past conflicts. More than 7,500 Americans are unaccounted for from the Korean War. "American and Korean heroes are finally returning home to their families after a 70-year-long wait," said Moon, who laid a wreath at Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. He had been at the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where he said he "proposed that the relevant parties gather together and proclaim an end to the Korean War, creating a new chapter of reconciliation and cooperation." South and North Korea signed a 1953 armistice that halted three years of war but never led to a formal declaration of peace. The 68 remains came to the accounting agency from North and South Korea. One was from a disinterment at the cemetery. U.S. Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, deputy director for operations with the accounting agency, said more than 200 sets of remains in the Hawaii lab were from South Korea. Most were returned to South Korea in 2018 and 2020, he said. "So today's ceremony, likely the last of such magnitude, signifies the remaining 68 Republic of Korea service men in the care of" the United States, Banaji said. The head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. John Aquilino, said at the event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam that the "Korean War brought our two nations side by side to fight for and defend the values embodied in the ideals of freedom."

**POW/MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Army 1st Lt. James E. Wright, 25**, of Parkton, North Carolina, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 11, 1944, after a fighting withdrawal at the Moselle River near Dornot, France. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Wright will be buried on Oct. 12, 2021, in Lumber Bridge, North Carolina.

-- **Army Pvt. Donald A. Fabrize, 17**, of Chayuga, New York, was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on July 16, 1950, after a fighting withdrawal along the Kum River in South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Fabrize will be buried in May 2022 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

-- **Army 1st Lt. Anthony R. Mazzulla, 26**, of Bronx, New York, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after a fighting withdrawal near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Mazzulla will be buried in Cranston, Rhode Island. The date has yet to be determined.

-- **Army Sgt. Stanley L. DeWitt**, of Royal City, Indiana, was assigned to Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. DeWitt will be buried in his hometown. The date has yet to be determined.

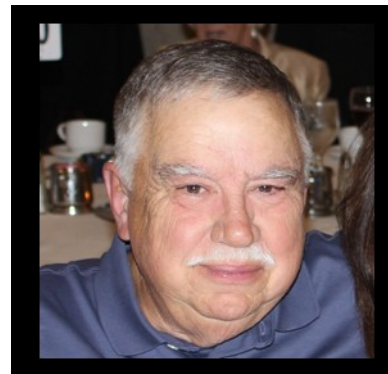
-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Buford H. Dyer, 19**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Dyer. Interment services are pending.

-- **Navy Fireman 2nd Class Benjiman C. Terhune, 19**, of Watervliet, Michigan, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Terhune. Interment services are pending.

**Army Chaplain Considered for Sainthood is Buried in Wichita:** Thousands of people turned out in Wichita to honor a Kansas priest as he was laid to rest 70 years after he died in a prisoner of war camp during the Korean War. Mourners filled Hartman Arena for a funeral service for the Rev. Emil Kapaun and later lined streets to watch his body being carried by a horse-drawn caisson from Veterans Memorial Park to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where he was interred. "We are here today to provide for father what was not provided for him 70 years ago, a mass of Christian burial," Bishop Carl A. Kemme of the Wichita diocese told the crowd. Speakers extolled Kapaun's Christian love and his courage during his days as a prisoner of war, which he spent providing comfort to his fellow soldiers. They also said it was appropriate that his body had finally returned to the state where he was born. American troops defended themselves successfully against the initial assault from the enemy from the North, in the early phases of the Korean War, but soon found themselves surrounded. While withering fire rained down around his comrades, Kapaun made his way back and forth across the battlefield to provide medical assistance and last rites to wounded and dying soldiers, according to his Medal of Honor citation.



**Associate Member's Departure:** We have received notification from the family of Jim Pendleton that he has died. Jim was active in the Chapter for many of the past 10 years. He recently was diagnosed with cancer that has taken him away from us. Jim was a sailor during the Vietnam war, retiring from civil service prior to joining the Chapter. An armature cartoonist, he liked to draw pictures for his grandchildren. We wish him farewell and look forward to visiting with him on the other side.



**Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?**

**VFW Urges Action on Toxic Exposure Bill:** VFW is asking members to contact their representatives in Congress for passage of a sweeping bill to care for troops and veterans suffering from toxic exposure. The VFW backed Comprehensive and overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021 could provide up to 3.5 million veterans who were exposed to toxins during their military service with due benefits. If passed and signed into law, the COST of War Act would cover veterans of all generations and add new conditions to the VA’s Agent Orange presumptive conditions list. To contact your members of Congress, visit [www.vfw.org/cost](http://www.vfw.org/cost). You will be asked to provide your name, phone number and address for a message to your representatives.

**Checkpoint’s Veterans Book Club Kicks Off in November:** VFW member and author Haisam “Sam” Farran is the first writer to meet for a virtual visit with VFW members. Farran will discuss his memoir “The Tightening Dark,” which discusses his capture and torture while imprisoned in Yemen.

**Nineteen VA tops 15,000 COVID Deaths since the start of the Pandemic:** More than 15,000 Veterans Affairs patients have died from corona virus-related conditions in the 19 months since the pandemic began in America, with more than 2,200 of those fatalities coming since the start of August. The grim milestone equates to roughly 26 deaths a day among VA patients since the start of the pandemic comes just a few days after the country passed 700,000 deaths from the virus. Nearly 44 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 since early 2020, with about 1.5 percent losing their lives because of respiratory and circulation problems resulting from the infection.

**New VA Directive Provides Benefits to LGBT+ Veterans:** On the 10th anniversary of the repeal of the policy known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” VA announced a new directive to provide full benefits to veterans unfairly discharged under this policy. It is estimated that more than 14,000 service members were given other than honorable discharges, preventing them from applying for VA benefits like VR&E, home loan guaranty, compensation & pension, health care, homeless program and/or burial benefits. House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Takano responded to this announcement by saying, “With today’s announcement, VA is sending a clear message that LGBTQ+ veterans’ service matters and that VA acknowledges the long lasting effects that the draconian Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy had.”



**\$30 Million US Army Command Hub in Defense Bill as Military Steps Up Presence in Poland:** A \$30 million U.S. Army command and control headquarters in Poland is among the projects being proposed to support the military’s expansion in the country, which has emerged as a focal point for coordinating allied defense efforts along NATO’s eastern flank. The version of the National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House last week says a defense cooperation pact between Washington and Warsaw means the Pentagon can accept “in-kind contributions” from Poland to develop the \$30 million command hub, as well as a \$7 million information systems facility. The projects will be developed in the Polish city of Poznan, the forward headquarters location of the Army’s recently reestablished V Corps, the NDAA said. The proposed projects still need Senate approval.

**Experience is the hardest teacher of all. It gives you the test first and the lesson after.**

**Hundreds of Troops were Chosen for the Space Force, but Congress is Getting in the Way:** The Space Force announced a cohort of nearly 700 soldiers, sailors and Marines who will join the fledgling service in the next year, marking its largest batch of transfers from outside the Department of the Air Force so far. But those 670 troops — plus 259 additional civilian employees — face an immediate roadblock to becoming guardians: they can’t change jobs until Congress passes, and President Joe Biden signs, a fiscal 2022 defense spending bill. The federal government will stay open until Dec. 3 under a stopgap funding measure Congress passed Sept. 30. But the legislation doesn’t allow the Space Force to take on new personnel or missions, like Army communications payloads that ride on satellites flown by guardians. The Space Force has never received on-time annual funding since its creation in December 2019, slowing the new service’s efforts to grow.

**Space Bases:** Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station have been officially renamed Space Force installations. These installations — all located in Colorado — are now called Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station. These renamed bases are home to the largest concentration of Space Forces personnel. Other Air Force bases that have renamed include Patrick Space Force Base in Florida, Vandenberg Space Force Base in California and Buckley Space Force Base in Colorado.

**Army Veteran of WWII Receives French Legion of Honor:** A 98-year-old World War II veteran who took part in the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge and witnessed the German surrender during the war has been honored by France. Louis Graziano was given the French Legion of Honor during a ceremony on Friday in Thomson, Georgia, where he lives. The honor has been given to many American World War II veterans as recognition for the role they played in liberating France from German occupation. “France is what it is today, a free and sovereign country, thanks to the bravery of such veterans and thanks to America,” said Vincent Hommeril, consul general of France in Atlanta, according to the newspaper. “You are a true hero. Your example is an inspiration for the future and your legacy provides a moral compass for generations to come.” Graziano was born in 1923 to Italian immigrant parents in East Aurora, New York. He was working at his sister’s beauty parlor as a hairstylist in 1943 when he was drafted by the Army. In 1944, he took part in the June 6 invasion of Normandy.



**North Canton Vet Hopes to Spark Action with Display Raising Awareness of Veteran Suicide:** Jane Degreef is no stranger to the heartaches of war. Injured while serving in the U.S. Air Force, she came home with wounds that were deeper than her skin and bones. She continues to suffer from pain from injuries she sustained more than a decade ago. She has post-traumatic stress disorder. But she is overcoming the painful reminders. While she is a disabled veteran, she still has life to live. She has more service to her fellow man to give. Degreef wants to make sure that her fellow brothers in arms know they matter and their lives matter. “Silent Watch” raises awareness about veteran suicide. Every day 22 veterans take their own lives. Degreef hopes a flag display placed at the corner of Everhard Road SW and Wilkshire Circle SW calls attention to the suicides and can save a life.





I have just started to work with this type of set-up. As you might have observed there are some photos that could have been placed in different sections of this combined picture. I just thought you would like to see how this came out. I hope you like it.

Rich Heroux