



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Volume 18

Fall 2012

Number 1

Message from Your President

I would like to begin my first Presidents message by thanking our Past President, LTC Beverley Houghton for her service and dedication to this organization. Bev has notably worked hard to maintain communications with the World War II 63d Infantry Division Association as they try to determine their future and the relationship they will have with our association. Bev will now serve as the Treasurer. I would like to thank COL Al Diaz who will continue to serve as our Vice President, LTC Don Wirth who will continue to serve as our Secretary, his Assistant Secretary SGM Tom Gorden, and CW4 Lee Carson who manages our Membership records. I also would like to thank the remaining members of the Board of Governors: COL Lydia Collins, CSM Arnold Greenberg, MSG Ulric Grigsby, MG Jerry Jostin, LTC Jim Wright and COL Jim Wisenbaker for their continued service.

As I assume the duties of President I am struck by the challenge we face to keep the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR relevant and growing. With the restructuring of the USAR, we no longer have a two star 63d headquarters located in Southern California. The relocation of the 63d to Moffit Field and the realignment of it's subordinate commands has made the criteria that to be eligible for membership in the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR a soldier must have served in the 63d or one of it's subordinate units impractical.

The Board of Governors has started to work on the ways to modify the Constitution and Bylaws so that we can welcome any soldier who would like to join us who has served in the USAR regardless of the unit they served with. This change will help us add those who are now serving in an active status to our ranks which will insure that the Association continues to prosper and serve.

Board of Governors Officers and Committee Chairpersons for 2012-2013

During the Annual Meeting of the 63rd Infantry Division, USAR, the following members were elected to the Board of Governors for a two year term, 2012 to 2014, CW4 Lee Carson, COL Lydia Collins, SGM Thomas Gorden Jr., CSM Arnold Greenberg, LTC Donald Wirth and LTC James Wright. COL Jim Wisenbaker was elected to a one year term, 2012 to 2013.

At the 23 August 2012 Board of Governors meeting an election of officers for the next year was held. The results are: President-- BG Charles K. Ebner, Vice-President--COL Alfred M. Diaz, Secretary--LTC Donald Wirth, Treasurer-- LTC Beverley A. Houghton and Assistant Secretary--SGM Thomas Gorden Jr. The following Committee Chairpersons were appointed: National Interest--COL Alfred M. Diaz, Publications, THE BLADE editor, LTC Donald Wirth, ANNUAL REPORT--COL Lydia Collins, Website--LTC Donald Wirth, Membership--CW4 Lee Carson, Arrangements Board Meetings and Annual Meeting--COL Alfred M. Diaz.

63rd Infantry Division Association WWII Board of Directors Meeting and IMOK Mini-Reunion 2012

By LTC Beverley Houghton

This event was held in Columbus, Ohio, 16-18 August 2012. COL Alfred Diaz, LTC Beverley Houghton, and LTC Milton Houghton attended this meeting. They are all current board members of 63rd Infantry Division Association there are 3 seats for our 63rd Infantry Division USAR on the board.

The Board meeting was held on Friday morning the 16th where there was a long discussion of the status and future of the organization. This group has been meeting since 1950, when it began as a family event – for many it was the family vacation. To this day it is a family event only now the numbers have been reduced from 600-700 to 30-40 with less than half being WWII Vets. They have always recognized that at some point the association may have to be dissolved and have contingency plans as part of their constitution and bi-laws for this action. Although continuing is difficult as so many members are not able to travel and the next generation, the children have been the ones, hosting the events for the past few years, they do not want to stop altogether. The board at this meeting voted to merge with our USAR association. We had discussions about the differences in the organizations and all the details that would be involved in working out any kind of merger. We left Ohio with a commitment to bring the subject to our board meeting on 23 August. At that time we voted to proceed with the possibility of a re-organization which would include the WWII group. We all recognize and support the sacrifices this generation made and the efforts they have made to preserve the history. We will communicate this message to them, and both organizations will begin to look at the process

and bring proposals to our general memberships for approval.

The rest of the time was dedicated to the events of the IMOK (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky) Chapter which is the last active chapter. MG Michael Schweiger, Commander of the 63rd Regional Support Command, participated in the memorial service. He gave remarks and a toast to the organization and a gift for the future last man standing during the closing banquet. He also gave one of his personal Commander coins to each WWII veteran present.

In Memoriam

COL Raymond Joseph Zuleski, 82, passed away on March 2, 2012 at his home in Post Falls, ID. Raymond was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 18, 1929 to Joseph and Annie (Niewazna) Zuleski.

Raymond retired as Colonel in the U.S. Army, after 33 years active duty and reserve. He received his MS Degree in Industrial Management at University of La Verne. He was also a real estate broker, college instructor, NRA Certified Firearms Instructor and Private Pilot. His hobbies were flying, golfing, and shooting sports. Raymond was very involved in the community and participated faithfully with the American Legion. He enjoyed his "Coffee Times" with all of his local buddies. Raymond was a pillar in the community and will be missed.

He is survived by his sons, Steven (Alicia) Zuleski, Chris (Donna) Zuleski, Mark (Margaret) Zuleski, daughters, Kathleen (David) Ray and Diane (Mike) Datko. He is also survived by eleven grandchildren.

Raymond is preceded in death by his daughter, Janet.

COL Raymond J. Zuleski passed on 3/2/2012, just 16 days shy of his 83 birthday. His memorial service was held at the American Legion Hall Post #143 on 3/24/2012

Ray became a Member of the 63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR in 1968 and Life Member in 1977.

CPT Frances Arthur "Art" Esterbrook was born 25 April 1926 and passed away on 27 June 2009. Art worked for Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International in purchasing. He entered the service as an enlisted man and took his basic training at Camp Roberts, CA during WWII. He served in the Army Reserve in the 63rd Signal Company, 63rd Infantry Division, USAR both as enlisted and after OCS as an officer. He served in the 63rd from 1952 until the division was disbanded in 1966. In 1959, when the 63rd Signal Company was reorganized into the 163 Signal Battalion, he became Commander of Company B and later Battalion S3. He was preceded in death by his wife Sue.

Art joined the Association in 1969 and became a Life Member in 1980. He was a Member of the Board of Governors from 1994 to 1998.

CPT Danny Staggs passed away on 18 June 2012. He has been fighting cancer for about a year. Danny was retired LAPD and was President, LAPPL and retired as a Captain USAR. Services were held on Saturday 23 June at 1000 at Saint Rita Parish, Sierra Madre, CA.

Danny became a Life Member in 2009 and served on the board of governors from 2010 to 2012.

National Interest

COL Diaz reported that both the House and Senate have passed separate Defense Authorization and Appropriation bills, but there have been no conference committee meetings to seek agreement on differences in the bills. The House Authorization bill has better Tricare retail pharmacy provisions that include a limit on future increases (increases not to exceed the cost of living adjustment granted). Legislation needs to be passed to reduce the budget cuts required by sequestration, but it

appears that this may not occur until after the November 2012 election by the "lame duck" Congress.

Local Army Reserve Ambassador attends Raleigh, NC planning conference

RALEIGH, NC -The Army Reserve held its annual Ambassador Conference in Raleigh, N.C. from June 8-10 to share information about the Army Reserve's vision, mission and long term strategic focus, and the role its Ambassadors will play in outreach efforts at the state and local level.

Conducted in conjunction with the Army Reserve's Senior Leader Conference, the event also included a Change of Command and Swearing in Ceremony for the new Chief of Army Reserve and Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. Jeffery W. Talley.

Army Reserve Ambassador Russ Park from Coronado, CA participated in the conference and assisted in planning the way ahead for the Ambassador program and received training and information on key issues facing the Army Reserve today.

Talley provided his guidance and focus to attendees through a document called the Rally Point:

http://www.usar.army.mil/resources/MedJa/RallyPoint32_WEB.pdf

The Army Reserve meets the demand for military capabilities that support domestic and expeditionary operations. It provides cost-effective, trained, equipped, and ready Soldiers and cohesive units to meet full range military operations from state level disaster response, to humanitarian assistance and peace keeping operations, to providing combat support and combat service support to the Army in times of war. Never in our Nation's history has the Army Reserve been more indispensable to America's Army.

After a decade of war, the Army Reserve has evolved into an essential part of the Total Force



63d INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, USAR
4554 Cordoba Way
Oceanside, CA 92056-5102
E-mail: dlw4@juno.com
Web Site: www.63rdinfdivusar.com

NON-PROFIT
UNITED STATES
POSTAGE PAID
ANAHEIM, CA
PERMIT # 6010

Address Service Requested

Reserve Ambassador (Continued)

with streamlined, deployable forces, and Citizen-Soldiers who embody the warrior mindset and culture.

The Army Reserve Ambassador Program was established in April 1998 so that private citizens can help to promote awareness of the Army Reserve. They are a group of influential volunteers who function at the state and community levels in order to have the Army Reserve's significant and relevant contributions clearly understood and supported. Ambassadors provide the continuity over the long term and are vested in the community. They carry a protocol status equivalent of a major general.

Russ Park has been a member of the Association since 1986.

47th Annual Meeting of the 63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR

Sunday, 21 Apr 2013, has been reserved for our 63d Infantry Division Association (USAR) Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Fullerton, CA.

Save the Date

