



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Volume 18

Winter 2013

Number 2

Presidents Message

In this issue of the Blade you will find two important changes to our Constitution and By Laws that the Board of Directors feels are necessary for the continuation of our Association. We ask your support of these changes.

The first is a result of a desire of the World War II 63d Infantry Division Association to merge with our Association. This is due to the reality that the number of WWII Vets is declining rapidly and therefore it will not be long until it ceases to exist. A number of "Associate" members of the WWII Association comprised of the spouses and children of the WWII vets who are interested in staying connected in some manner would like to join us to be able to use the Blade to communicate and to retain a relationship with the 63d.

The second change is to relax the criteria for membership in the Association to allow any Soldier who has served in the United State Army Reserve to be able to join the Association as a full member. This change is necessary with the restructuring of the USAR that now has the 63d RSC as an administrative headquarters with no direct reporting units other than three Army Bands. In other words there is no longer a body of Soldiers serving in units of the 63d that would qualify for membership. If we are to survive I believe that we need to open the criteria for membership in the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR or we will be faced with the same fate as the WWII Association as the eligible members declines.

I want to thank Colonel Al Diaz for putting together the Resolution and proposed changes to the Constitution and By Laws. I'd also like to thank COL Diaz and LTC Bev Houghton for working with the WWII Association on this proposed merger.

If you have questions about the amendments you can contact me at ckeb@earthlink.net

Chuck Ebner

In Memoriam

SGM Thomas Gorden, Jr.

SGM Thomas Gorden, Jr. died Friday Nov 9, 2012 at home.

On August 26, 1932 in, 'West Point Mississippi. 'Emma L. Cotton and Thomas Gorden Sr, welcomed their son Thomas Gorden Jr. into this world.

After spending his early years in West Point, the family relocated to Memphis, Tennessee where Thomas attended and on June 2, 1952, graduated from Douglas High School, where not surprisingly he was voted "Most Dependable".

After receiving his High School diploma, Thomas enlisted in the United States Army, where his career and legacy as a public servant was just beginning. As he served our country his commitment saw him in the Korean War as well other deployments throughout the world. He became a reservist, at which point his community service began. He first began to serve his community as an Officer of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department stationed in Altadena, California. He had the opportunity to become an Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. His next task was that of an Officer with Los Angeles School Police, where he was able to protect the children, schools and surrounding properties affiliated with the Los Angeles School system. Thomas was also involved in a multitude of outside community activities, until his retirement in 2000.

In retirement, he became a member of the Pasadena Elks Lodge, where in 2008 he became the first African American Exalted Ruler. After his tenure in that capacity he continued his service to the organization and the community, until the early fall of 2012.

Thomas Gorden Jr. was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Emma L. Cotton and his loving sister Sarah Neuman. He leaves behind his two loving daughters, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Services were at Morning Star Baptist Church, Pasadena, Ca, on Nov 16, 2012 at 11:00 AM. He was buried at Rose Hills, Whittier, CA.

Tom was a member of the 63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR since 1996 and a member Of the Board Of Governors since 1998. He served as Assistant Secretary.

SGM Robert F. Graf

SGM Robert F. Graf passed away Nov. 2008. He is survived by his 88 year old wife, Florence and son, David. He became a life member in 1988.

CSM William R. Saunders passed away.

CSM William R. Saunders became a life member in May 1984

Amendatory Resolution Proposed for Annual Meeting of the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR,
The Hotel Fullerton, Fullerton, California,

28 April 2013

WHEREAS, the 63rd Division Association, Inc., founded by veterans who served in the 63rd Infantry Division during World War II, has requested a merger with the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR, with the alternative being dissolution of the 63rd Division Association, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the 63rd Division Association, Inc., has a category of Associate Members, those members being spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of regular members; or individuals with a special affinity for the 63rd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Associate Members of the 63rd Division Association, Inc., have the right to vote and to serve in any elected office except President or Vice President of the 63rd Division Association; and

WHEREAS, Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code permits up to 25% of the members of a tax-exempt charitable organization of veterans of the US Armed Forces to be spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of veteran members, and up to 2.5% (within the 25%) to be other categories of members; and

WHEREAS, the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR is a Section 501(c)(19) veterans organization with the right to lobby Congress without loss of non-profit charitable status; and

WHEREAS, the 63rd Division Association, Inc., has been publishing a newsletter with the title "Blood and Fire;" and the 63d Infantry Division Association USAR has been publishing a newsletter with the title "The Blade;" and

WHEREAS, the current US Army Reserve 63d Regional Support Command has a wide geographical area of responsibility but a small headquarters staff and few subordinate units; and

WHEREAS, there are many US Army Reserve units in the geographical area of responsibility of the current US Army Reserve 63d Regional Support Command that have never been associated with the 63d or any of its predecessor organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to provide a larger tent organization for all members and veterans of the US Army Reserve in the geographic area of responsibility of the current US Army Reserve 63d Regional Support Command; and

WHEREAS, minor editorial changes are required throughout this Association's Constitution and Bylaws to change references to male Association officers to male or female Association officers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Association's Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

OF THE

63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Revised 12 May 1979
Amended 3 Apr 1980
Revised 15 Apr 1984
Revised 27 Jun 1990
Revised 11 Mar 1992
Amended 28 Apr 1996
Revised 13 Apr 1997
Revised 22 Apr 2007
Revised 20 Aug 2009

Amended 28 April 2013

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME: The name of this organization shall be 63D INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, USAR.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE: The purposes of this Association shall be: To perpetuate the history and honor of the 63d Infantry Division (**WW-II & USAR**) **and all other US Army Reserve units that have been subordinate or attached to the 63d Infantry Division, the 63d Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), 63d Regional Support Command (RSC), or the 63d Regional Readiness Command (RRC), or have been based in the geographic area of responsibility of any of the foregoing organizations;** to promote and enhance the national security of the United States of America through a strong military program; and to provide assistance and support to the members and their families.

ARTICLE IIIA. MEMBERSHIP: Those eligible for full voting membership in the Association shall consist of individuals who are serving or have served under the colors of the 63d Infantry Division, including those who have been members of the 63d Infantry Division during and immediately after World War II; the 63d Infantry Division, US Army Reserve (USAR); the 63d US Army Reserve Command (ARCOM); the 63d US Army Reserve Regional Support Command (RSC); or the 63d US Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command (RRC); ~~or the 63d US Army Reserve Regional Readiness Sustainment Command (RRSC)~~; or who are serving or have served in subordinate or attached units or in an attached status to any of the foregoing organizations; **or who are serving or have served in any US Army Reserve unit based in the geographic area of responsibility of any of the foregoing organizations.**

ARTICLE IIIB. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: **Associate membership may be granted by the Board of Governors to spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in Article IIIA above; or to individuals with a special affinity for any of the foregoing US Army organizations. Associate members shall have the right to vote and to serve in any elected office except President or Vice President of the Association.**

ARTICLE IIIC. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Honorary membership may be granted to those individuals who do not meet the criteria for regular **or associate** membership, but who, by their actions and efforts, have contributed materially to the purposes of the Association. In addition, upon the death of any regular member, honorary membership shall be automatically conferred upon the surviving spouse.

ARTICLE IV. GOVERNING BOARD: The governing body of the Association shall be known as the Board of Governors. It shall consist of twelve members of the Association in good standing.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION' OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Nominations for election to the Board of Governors shall be made by a nominating committee named by the President prior to each annual meeting. The Board shall consist of twelve members, elected for a term of two years, with six members elected each year.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBER EMERITUS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS: A member who has served on the Board of Governors for three consecutive two-year terms shall become a "Member Emeritus of the Board of Governors", with full privileges upon completion of his/*her* qualifying or final term of office. Member Emeritus status shall not preclude subsequent election to the Board. A Member Emeritus subsequently elected to additional terms of office shall be accorded full privileges of the office.

ARTICLE VII. ASSOCIATION FUNDS: Funds may be accumulated through *member dues*, periodic assessment of members of the Association and by such other means as may be approved by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those members who, either through Proxy or by voting while present at an annual meeting of the Association, affirm a proposed amendment. Where a Proxy has been submitted, and the member attends the next-following Annual Meeting at which the issue is decided, the Proxy may be allowed to stand, or the member may withdraw the Proxy and vote in person. In no event may a member do both. Written notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall be delivered to the full membership not less than thirty days prior to such meeting, accompanied by a copy of the amendment. No member may vote both through proxy and presence at an Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX. EFFECTIVE DATE: Amendments to this Constitution shall become effective upon ratification by a majority of the membership voting at an annual meeting, either through proxy or presence at such Annual Meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

By-law 1. Officers and Committees:

SECTION 1. The members of the Board of Governors shall, at a regularly scheduled meeting, elect the following officers from among their number President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer. The term of office for all officers shall be for a concurrent one year period.

SECTION 2: The President shall conduct and preside at all meetings of the Board and any other meeting of the Association that may be held.

SECTION 3: The Vice President, if for any reason the President is unable to attend any scheduled meeting, or is unable to fulfill his term of office, shall preside over such meetings of the board or complete the term of office.

SECTION 4: The Secretary shall inform the Board of Governors on matters in need of the Board's attention. He **or she** shall publish scheduled meetings of the Association and the Board, prepare notices, agendas and minutes, and maintain necessary records, correspondence files and membership rosters.

SECTION 5: The Treasurer shall be entrusted with the management of Association funds. He **or she** shall be charged with the duty of accumulating, holding, managing and disbursing all funds. He **or she** shall also maintain accurate records of all transactions involving the funds entrusted to his **or her** care **and prepare and submit all reports required by the US Internal Revenue Service.**

SECTION 6: The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of those duties set forth in Section 4, as may be delegated to him or her. The Assistant Secretary shall be Co-Chair, with a member appointed by the President, of the Arrangements Committee for the annual meeting of the Association.

SECTION 7: The President shall appoint, from time to time, members of the Board to such committees as he or she deems necessary to conduct the business of the Association.

SECTION 8: Contracts and other documents shall be signed by the President or such other individuals as may be authorized by the Board.

By-law II. Meetings of the Board.

SECTION 1: Meetings of the Board of Governors shall be at the call of the President, but not less than four times in each calendar year. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order."

SECTION 2: The Secretary shall give every member of the Board no less than seven days notice for each meeting called by the President. Such notice shall state the date, time and place of such meeting.

SECTION 3: Three members of the Board currently serving in office, excluding Members Emeritus shall constitute a quorum to conduct any business of the Board.

SECTION 4: The Treasurer shall, at each meeting of the Board, report on the financial condition of the Association, unless such report is dispensed with by vote of the Board.

By-law III, Establishment of Regional Chapters:

SECTION 1: The establishment of regional chapters of the Association is permitted, upon petition to the Board of Governors by at least five (5) members of the Association who desire to establish a regional chapter.

SECTION 2: Members of a regional chapter must be members in good standing of the Association.

SECTION 3: News submitted by regional chapters shall be included, space permitting, in the Association's quarterly newsletter, "The Blade." **At the discretion of the Board of Governors, the name of the publication may be changed to "The Blood & Fire," or a section within "The Blade" may be named "The Blood & Fire." A subscription fee may be charged by the Board of Governors for any mailed edition(s) of "The Blade" or "The Blood & Fire."**

SECTION 4: Regional chapters may hold annual meetings, similar to the Association's annual meeting.

By-law IV, Amendment of By-laws:

These by-laws may be amended **by any scheduled annual meeting of the Association by affirmative majority vote,** or at any scheduled meeting of the Board **of Governors** by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members serving in office, after service of a reasonable notice in advance of such meeting.

Endorsed by the Board of Governors of the 63d Infantry Division Association (USAR), 17 January 2013

COL Al Diaz , chairperson of National Interest Committee, reported at the 17 January 2013 63rd Board of Governors meeting that:

Big TRICARE Changes Coming

Pentagon officials announced last week that, as of Oct. 1, 2013, TRICARE Prime no longer will be available for most retired and survivor military beneficiaries who live more than 40 miles from a military hospital, clinic, or base closure site.

Defense leaders say the change will affect about 170,000 beneficiaries across the country and most of those beneficiaries will be forced to switch to TRICARE Standard.

Almost 100,000 of the affected beneficiaries live in the TRICARE South region, where Prime is now almost universally available. About 37,000 beneficiaries in the North region and another 36,000 in the West region will be affected.

Retired and surviving beneficiaries using Medicare and TRICARE for Life won't be affected by the change. Neither will active duty service members and their dependents. However, non-dependent children covered under the TRICARE Young Adult program until age 26 no longer will be eligible for Prime if they reside more than 40 miles from a military facility.

For weeks, rumors have circulated that beneficiaries in the West region could lose Prime access as early as April 1, when the new contract with UnitedHealth takes effect. But defense officials decided to implement the change at the same time — Oct. 1, 2013 — for all three regions. There is the potential for an exception for retired service members, military families, and young adults to remain in Prime if they reside within 100 miles

of an available primary care manager and sign a drive-time access waiver. The main impacts for the affected beneficiaries are: They might have to find a new doctor. Hopefully, most current Prime providers will continue seeing Standard patients, because Standard often

pays doctors more per visit than the reduced rates they accepted under Prime.

Rather than paying an annual enrollment fee and flat copayments per visit under Prime, retired Standard beneficiaries pay a \$150 (single) or \$300 (family) annual deductible and a 25-percent copayment for both inpatient and outpatient care (certain preventive care and immunizations are covered at no cost). Standard families who incur out-of-pocket costs of \$3,000 in a fiscal year are exempt from copayments for the rest of the year.

The change is largely a cost-cutting measure, as coverage under Prime costs the government more than coverage under Standard. Defense officials say limiting Prime locations in this way will save up to \$56 million a year. It shifts the \$56 million a year cost difference to the beneficiaries.

This is not a new issue. It came up several years ago with the new TRICARE contracts that ended financial incentives for regional contractors to create Prime networks away from military installations. MOAA and other organizations in The Military Coalition, and Congress, expressed concerns at the time about curtailing Prime access, but the Armed Services committees had difficulty plussing up the health care budget to preserve it. Further, DoD surveys show Standard beneficiaries actually have higher satisfaction rates than those in Prime.

Implementation was deferred because multiple protests of regional TRICARE contract awards delayed contract implementation for several years. Now that those have been resolved, the new contracts and the associated Prime restrictions are being implemented.

Defense officials say all of the potentially affected beneficiaries will be notified individually, and those eligible for distance waivers will be advised of how to request them.



63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR

invites you to attend The 47th Annual Sunday Brunch
of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Place: **The Hotel Fullerton**, (formerly Crowne Plaza Hotel), 1500 South Raymond Ave. Fullerton, CA 92831
(Raymond off-ramp from the Riverside (91) Freeway in either direction [the hotel is visible from the
freeway]. Turn north on Raymond. Turn right into the hotel just before the railroad tracks.)

Date: **28 April 2013**

Time: Social Hour – 1100, Buffet – 1200 hours

Attire: Dress blues with white shirt and four-in-hand tie, or business suit

Speaker: MG Peter J. Gravett, Ret, Secretary of the California Department of Veteran Affairs

1. Complete the attached Reservation Form and mail it to the Treasurer, **LTC Beverley A. Houghton, 11307 Martha Ann Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720**. The price is **\$47.00 per person**. Please send your reservation in by **22 April 2013**. You can help us keep the 63rd Assn. going by adding a tax free Contribution.

2. Tell your "Whooze Nuze" story on the separate sheet and Mail it to LTC Donald Wirth, 4554 Cordoba Way, Oceanside, CA 92056 or e-mail it to dlw4@juno.com. Please send as much as you can. This is one way to preserve the history of our membership. SUSPENSE IS 1 May – After that date it's pure luck to get your story in.

3. Join us Saturday evening, 27 April 2013 at The Hotel Fullerton, formerly the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It's an opportunity to visit together in a relaxed atmosphere, dine together, and sleep in late Sunday morning. Our special room rate at The Hotel Fullerton for Saturday, 27 April 2013, is \$99 per room (single or double occupancy) without breakfast, or \$109 per room (single or double occupancy) with a full hot buffet breakfast, plus taxes. call the hotel directly at 714 635-9000. Be sure to mention you are with the 63d Infantry Division Association and your military rank to get the special rate.



63d Infantry Division, USAR

47th Annual Meeting -- 28 April 2013

Name _____ Rank _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Please reserve _____ places @ \$47.00. \$ _____

My contribution to keep the 63d Inf. Div. Assn. going \$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Make check payable to: 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR **Total Remitted** \$ _____

Mail to, LTC Beverley A. Houghton, 11307 Martha Ann Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

I will join the group gathering on Saturday evening, 27 April 2013, at the hotel? YES ___ NO ___



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