



READY RIFLES and the Regulars "SITREP"

Official Newsletter of the
Veterans of the 52nd and 6th Infantry Regiments Stationed in Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990



Vol 11 Issue 07

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Congratulations Ed and Lisa Gomulak



2 Me, Ed and Robert



1 Petra Kay, Lisa Gomulak, Lisa Burt

I would like to Congratulate Ed and Lisa Gomulak on their marriage on July 13, 2024. They met in high school back in the early 80's. Several years ago, their life paths crossed again and merged into one path. Now they start on a new journey together. I wish them many years full of happiness and great memories.

My path intertwined with Ed when we became roommates in Delta Co in 1985. Like most of us, we lost contact after the service but reconnected quite a few years back. We picked up right where we left off, barely missing a beat.

Ed asked me a favor after their engagement, if I would officiate the ceremony. I agreed and became an online minister. Also, both Ed and I were in the headquarters

platoon of Delta. We worked closely with our XO Lt. Kay. Robert Kay came across the country and was one of Ed's groomsmen. If you told me 40 years ago that I would be officiating my roommate's wedding with the XO in the wedding party, I would have told you that would never happen. After all these years, we all still have each other's back.

Meeting with his old First Sergeant, Top Brown

By Chuck Paulson



I had been trying to get in touch with 1st Sgt Thomas Brown for about 30 years, located him about 4 years ago and tried to get him to come to the reunions. Since that didn't work, I flew to Charlotte, NC and Darryl Sumner picked me up from there and we drove 3 hours to Knoxville, TN. The reunion was more than anyone could have imagined. We spent the next 3 days talking about the times in Bamberg, 1st 52nd, people we knew and of course I took the opportunity to share about how awesome the Reunions are. Both 1st Sgt Brown and Darryl have promised to be at the next reunion.

1st Sgt used to call me Elvis in Bamberg but, now he says he's going to call me Jeremiah Johnson. He says I need to come back to the concrete world! When I used the term "fireflies" he said it was obvious that I was not from around there as they call them Lightning Bugs.

I have the highest respect for 1st Sgt Brown, he made me who I am today and I am so thankful that I had this opportunity, to meet with him again and let him know. When Darryl and I were leaving, 1st Sgt Brown said that having us there was like Christmas and his birthday all rolled into one.

It was a really good time. Southern Hospitality isn't just a phrase. His wife is an awesome cook and hostess and made us very welcome.

Save the Date and fill out your proxy forms for Annual Meeting

Save the date for our Annual Meeting, Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 3 PM eastern daylight time. An official notice will be coming soon. We need everyone to join. There will be no in-person – this meeting will be held electronically. We encourage everyone to fill out a proxy form and send it in. Even if you plan to attend the zoom meeting, the proxy will serve as a back-up.

You may participate in this meeting in one of three ways:

- By electron media (Zoom meeting – invite will be with official notice)
- By phone (invite will be with official notice)
- By proxy (invite will be with official notice)

Succession Roster

All, we are going to try another approach to our Succession Roster. We have a lot of names "below the sheet". These names need to be inserted "above into the sheet" in their correct platoon and job. Below is a list of names from year 1974. If you can recognize any names, please tell us the soldiers next to you in formation, on a vehicle with them, working with them in the motor pool, eating with them in the mess hall, or sharing pup tents or hot bagging sleeping bags.

1974

HHC - Birdsong, and B.Strieber

Alpha Co. - Christensen, Coleman, Ortiz, T. Smith and Wyrick

Bravo Co. - Antonich, Broussard, Emerson and Scott

Charlie Co. - R. Brown, Duke, Guardiola, R. Johnson, Olson, Rene, Bouchard and Tracy Morris.

CSC – Alton, Banks, Byrd, Curran, Dennis, Juncer, Florry, Hudson, Medin, Michalenko, Moore, Raganyi, Stuck and Vic Moore

Asking for Help is Part of Your Strength

A little boy was trying to lift a rock. His father was there watching the little fellow trying to move the rock. His dad heard him grunting and straining to roll the rock over. He asked the boy, "Are you using all your strength?" He answered, "Yes daddy I am using all my strength." The dad said, "No you're not." The little boy replied, a bit angrily, "Yes I am!". The dad replied, "No you're not, you haven't asked me to help you. Son I am part of your strength."

It may be one of the hardest things to do, but asking for help is part of your strength.

Some History

July Dates of Interest

<https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/july.htm>

July 1, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of \$600-\$10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over \$10,000. Also on this day, the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

July 1, 1863 - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

July 2, 1776 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

July 2, 1788 - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.

July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

July 5, 1775 - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.

July 7, 1898 - President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959.

July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.

July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 12, 1943 - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

July 12, 1994 - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions. On July 14, German military units marched in Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, the first appearance of German troops there since World War II.

July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.

July 16, 1945 - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

July 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.

July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.

July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.

July 26, 1944 - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.

July 26, 1945 - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.

July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, D.C., occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised. After two months' encampment in Washington's Anacostia Flats, forced eviction of the bonus marchers by the U.S. Army was ordered by President Herbert Hoover.

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.

Medal of Honor

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT JOE R BALDONADO

<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/joe-r-baldonado>



RANK: CORPORAL

CONFLICT/ERA: KOREAN WAR

UNIT/COMMAND: 3D SQUAD, 2D PLATOON, COMPANY B, 187TH AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 1950

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: KANGDONG, KOREA

BORN: AUGUST 28, 1930, CO, UNITED STATES

DIED: NOVEMBER 25, 1950, KANGDONG, KOREA

BURIED: REMAINS NEVER RECOVERED; HONOLULU

MEMORIAL CEMETERY (IMO), HONOLULU, HAWAII;

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (IMO), ARLINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES

AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: YES

PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: MARCH 18, 2014 THE WHITE HOUSE PRESENTED TO HIS BROTHER CHARLES BALDONADO BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

CITATION

Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machine gunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950. On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action. Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder. The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades. Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing. The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly. Corporal Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

VA News – High Blood Pressure Stoplight Tool

https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/Search/142,71742_VA

We are all familiar with stoplights. They tell us when to go, slow down, or stop. This model can also tell us when to take action with our health. This tool can help you identify when to act, and what actions to take. With high blood pressure (hypertension), there are helpful things you should do every day.

You should:

- Monitor your blood pressure. Know your numbers so you can help to manage it.

- Eat wisely. Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy foods. Limit saturated fat and dietary sodium (salt).
- Take medicines prescribed to you by your health care provider.
- Be tobacco free. Don't use tobacco in any form. Quitting commercial tobacco products is the single most important thing you can do to improve your health and protect your family's health. It's never too late to quit.
- Limit or avoid alcohol. Alcohol can raise blood pressure.
- Be active. Finding ways to move your body can improve your energy levels and strengthen your muscles.
- Manage stress to prevent blood pressure from rising to harmful levels. Take a look at these resources to help manage stress.

Treatments for high blood pressure

Medicines: There are many medicines to treat high blood pressure. Sometimes people find they need to try several different medicines before blood pressure is managed. Talk with your health care provider or team to find what is best for you.

Lifestyle: Nutrition, exercise, and stress management

Green Zone



Are you in the green zone today?

In the green zone:

- Your blood pressure is within the range advised by your health care provider.
- You have usual energy and activity levels.

Actions:

- Take blood pressure medicines as prescribed.
- Continue to [check your blood pressure](#) and [keep a log](#).
- Get regular exercise, as tolerated.
- Make healthy food and drink choices.
- Manage stress using relaxation skills.
- Avoid tobacco products.

Yellow Zone



Are you in the yellow zone today?

You have symptoms that need medical attention.

- Your blood pressure is higher or lower than advised by your health care team for 2-3 days.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You are not able to tolerate your medicines, don't think they are helping, or if you run out of your medicines.
- You have changes to urine (dark, less urine than usual).

Action:

Call your primary care provider or your heart care provider TODAY.

Red Zone



Are you in the red zone today?

You need immediate medical attention.

- Your blood pressure is above 180/120.
- You have severe shortness of breath, even at rest.
- You have chest pain or pressure, a fast or irregular heartbeat, or feel dizzy, faint, or weak.
- You have nausea and vomiting.
- You are not able to do any activity because of shortness of breath or chest pain.
- You are feeling confused or can't think clearly.
- Severe and/or sudden headache with blurred vision.

Action:

Call 911 or seek medical care immediately. Get help!

In addition to this stoplight tool, work with your health care team to:

- Find the right medicines to control high blood pressure (hypertension).
- Seek ways to improve your lifestyle to reach your health goals.
- Seek mental health support and Whole Health resources.

For more information

For more information on checking and managing your blood pressure, check out these VA resources: Home Blood Pressure Monitoring (video) and Managing High Blood Pressure guide.

Talk with your VA health care team about getting support for quitting tobacco. Call VA's quit line at 1-855-QUIT-VET (1-855-784-8838), sign up for VA's SmokefreeVET text messaging program at <http://smokefree.gov/VET>, and visit <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco/> and <https://veterans.smokefree.gov/>.

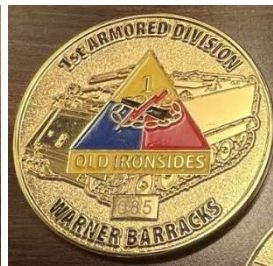
Merchandise for Sale:

Unit Crest Hats



pictures below.

We still have hats from the reunion, for sale. Contact me if you are interested. The cost is \$20.00 We have 6 left, but more can be ordered.

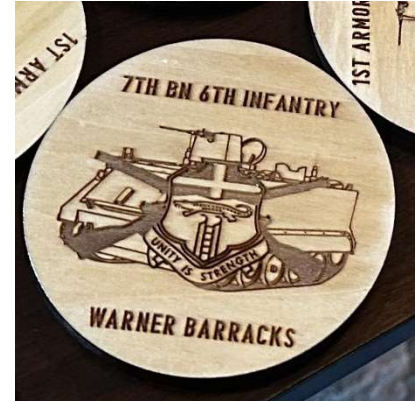


Coins for Sale

We have a several coins for sale. They are left over from the 2021 San Antonio Reunion and the 2023 Washington DC reunion. See the

Coasters for Sale

We also have sets of coasters. A set comes with one 1st Armor Division patch and one 52-unit crest. We do have some 6th infantry crests on a few if you want one of those instead on a 52-unit crest. The cost is \$12.50 for a pair. More coasters can be ordered.



You can pay for them in several ways.

How to Pay

Check, payable to "Veteran of the 52nd and 6th Infantry Regiments, Inc". Mail to Mike Streff 25 South Point Lane, Moneta, Virginia 24121 PayPal <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/support-our-cause> You can pay using credit card through PayPal or use PayPal to pay. Use "Support our Cause" button – and specify what items you are purchasing. All proceeds go into our general fund.

VENMO. @Michael-Streff-1

Zelle – Use phone number 703-599-3723

Purchase your 52nd and 6th Infantry Gear



Figure 3 Left Sleeve

Bill Burt has information on the purchase of 52nd and 6th Infantry logo clothing and hats.

Go to the web site: <https://the52and6infantry.qbstores.com/home> or a link is posted on the groups website: <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>

VA Information and Helpful Phone Numbers

Find a VA location

Main VA phone numbers

MyVA411 main information line

[800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411)

Hours: 24/7

Telecommunications Relay Services (using TTY)

[711](tel:711)

Hours: 24/7

VA health care

VA health benefits hotline

[877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My HealtheVet help desk

[877-327-0022](tel:877-327-0022)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)

[800-733-8387](tel:800-733-8387)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET

CHAMPVA Meds by Mail

[888-385-0235](tel:888-385-0235)

Hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MT

[866-229-7389](tel:866-229-7389)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET

Foreign Medical Program (FMP)

[877-345-8179](tel:877-345-8179)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:05 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. ET

Quit VET (get help from a counselor to stop
smoking)

[855-784-8838](tel:855-784-8838)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

MISSION Act

[800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411), Select 1

Hours: 24/7

Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program

[888-820-1756](tel:888-820-1756)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Caregiver support line

[855-260-3274](tel:855-260-3274)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

VA benefits

VA benefits hotline

[800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

GI Bill hotline

[888-442-4551](tel:888-442-4551)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Students outside the U.S.

[+1-918-781-5678](tel:+1-918-781-5678) This isn't toll-free.

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

VA loan guaranty service

[877-827-3702](tel:877-827-3702)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET.

National pension call center

[877-294-6380](tel:877-294-6380)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET

Support for SGLI or VGLI

[800-419-1473](tel:800-419-1473)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

All other VA life insurance programs

[800-669-8477](tel:800-669-8477)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET

Special issue hotline (Blue Water Navy Act, Gulf
War, Agent Orange, and other information)

[800-749-8387](tel:800-749-8387)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

Burials and memorials

National Cemetery Scheduling Office

[800-535-1117](tel:800-535-1117)

Hours: Every day, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET
Headstones and markers

[800-697-6947](tel:800-697-6947)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

Other VA support

Women Veterans hotline

[855-829-6636](tel:855-829-6636)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET

eBenefits technical support

[800-983-0937](tel:800-983-0937)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

Debt Management Center (collection of nonmedical
debts)

[800-827-0648](tel:800-827-0648)

Hours: Monday through Friday,
7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Vets Center call center

877-927-8387

Hours: 24/7

White House VA hotline

855-948-2311

Hours: 24/7

Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255, Select 1
Hours: 24/7

Websites and Contact Info.

We have 3 websites. Our main website for distribution of information is <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>. This is also the one that you can register for the reunion on. Also we are on Facebook, search the groups for 1st Battalion 52nd Infantry Bamberg Germany. The Facebook group is a public group. The other site is on the Ning network at <http://deltacompany-52nd-inf.ning.com/>, which is a private site where you need to have served in 1-52 to be able to enter. Please answer the question when requesting to enter these groups. My contact information is either by phone at 507-696-8429 or Email at Bill.Burt@152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org. You can also contact us through our main website <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>.