



# 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 01

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## Succession List – Names into Spaces

Those of you that have attended the last two reunions or that have opened the Succession List files on previous SITREPS know we are trying to place veterans’ names into the proper year, platoon, or section of each company. Rosters don’t exist, so we must rely on our memory, copies of orders, photos with names. This year we will have a competition to add names to the Succession List, as well as placing those names within the company. Details will be provided in the February SITREP, but in the meantime let’s get started. Look at the attachments. If you can add names or tell the Succession List Manager where a name should be moved send him an email: [zak.kozak@152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org](mailto:zak.kozak@152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org).

Thank you very much for taking part in our effort to acknowledge our brothers’ service. To remember them is to honor them.

President Dennis Barletta

## Taps

### Ronald "Ron" Nystrom



Recon CSC 1/52 '72-'74)

One of the few things he saved from his service was a medal for completing the 150k march the Bulldog Brigade did in a little over 4 days in 1974. I was there too.

Ron was from San Juan Capistrano, CA. Thank you Waldo Medlin for the information.

## Family Members Who Have Passed

### David L. Spear



David L. Spear, 62, of Windsor, Connecticut, passed away on January 9, 2024. His family surrounded him in his last days. Pastor Tim Oslovich also provided gracious care. Dave was born to Ralph and Nina Spear on September 9, 1961, in Valley City, North Dakota. He explored many talents as he frequently moved around the world with his family. He could fold a paper crane out of a candy wrapper. He taught himself a lot of math independently as a child. In 1983, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He got married that same year. Dave earned his professional engineering license in 1989. He built his own business, DLS Traffic, where he completed many projects in the local

community. In 1994, he earned a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He worked toward safe roads for everyone. Dave enjoyed playing guitar, especially at church. In his spare time, he loved to ski or play tennis. He always enjoyed a close game of cards or mini golf, too. He was also a wonderful father to his 3 children.

Dave is survived by his parents, Ralph and Nina Spear of Greensboro, NC, and the mother of his children, Ellie Spear. He is also survived by his daughter, two sons, and their spouses: Samantha and Martin Carlson of Norman, OK, Christopher Spear of Manchester, CT, and Jonathan Spear and Abby Palmer of West Hartford, CT. He is survived by his siblings: Jon and Petra Spear of Bethesda, MD, Ron and Karin Spear of Naples, FL, Susan and Bryan Fournier of Greensboro, NC, and Jeffrey and Katie Spear of Cary, NC. He had 4 nephews, 3 nieces and 3 grandchildren.

Dave strongly valued honesty and optimism. His parting words were, "Be happy and smile." The family requests memorial gifts be sent to Trinity Lutheran Church at 20 Meadowlark Road in Vernon, CT, 06066. A memorial service for Dave will take place in Spring 2024. Contact the church for details at [tlcvernon.org](http://tlcvernon.org). Published by Hartford Courant on Jan. 14, 2024.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/hartfordcourant/name/david-spear-obituary?id=54090677>

## Some History

### January Dates of Interest

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

**New Year's Day** - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

**January 1, 1502** - Portuguese explorers landed at Guanabara Bay on the coast of South America and named it Rio de Janeiro (River of January). Rio de Janeiro is currently Brazil's second largest city.

**January 1, 1776** - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

**January 1, 1863** - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

**January 1, 1979** - China and the U.S. established diplomatic relations, 30 years after the foundation of the People's Republic.

**Birthday** - Betsy Ross (1752-1836) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was a seamstress credited with helping to originate and sew the Stars and Stripes flag of America in 1776.

**January 7, 1782** - The first U.S. commercial bank opened as the Bank of North America in Philadelphia.

**January 8, 1815** - The Battle of New Orleans occurred as General Andrew Jackson and American troops defended themselves against a British attack, inflicting over 2,000 casualties. Both sides in this battle were unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.

**January 16, 1991** - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

**January 24, 1848** - The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of "Forty-niners" seeking wealth.

**January 24, 1972** - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

**January 25, 1947** - Gangster Al Capone, who once controlled organized crime in Chicago, died in Miami at age 48 from syphilis.

**January 27, 1973** – Vietnam cease fire

**January 28, 1915** - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

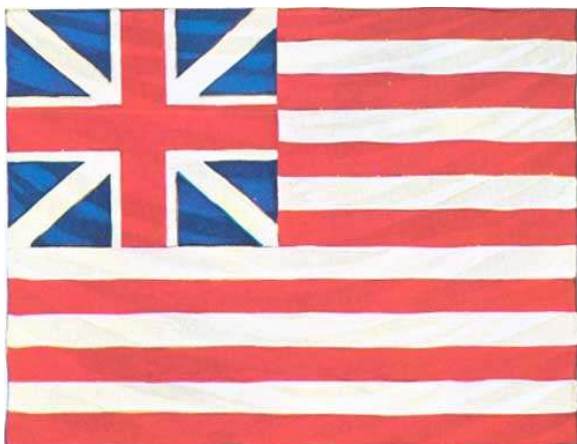
**January 29, 1919** - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition Amendment) was ratified. For nearly 14 years, until December 5, 1933, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages were illegal in the United States. The Amendment had the unexpected result of causing enormous growth of organized crime which provided bootleg liquor to thirsty Americans.

**January 30, 1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential palace. Although U.S. forces eventually fended off the massive surprise attack and achieved a military victory, Tet became a propaganda victory for the Vietnamese due in part to graphic news reports on television which helped turn U.S. public opinion against continuation of the war.

**January 31, 1990** - The Panama Campaign ended.

## The Grand Union Flag

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/flag/h\\_doc\\_100-247/sec1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/flag/h_doc_100-247/sec1.htm)



The first flag of the colonists to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes was the Grand Union Flag, sometimes referred to as the Congress Colors, the First Navy Ensign, and the Cambridge Flag. Its design consisted of 13 stripes, alternately red and white, representing the Thirteen Colonies, with a blue field in the upper left-hand corner bearing the red cross of St. George of England with the white cross of St. Andrew of Scotland. As the flag of the revolution it was used on many occasions. It was first flown by the ships of the Colonial Fleet on the Delaware River. On December 3, 1775, it was raised aboard Captain Esek

Hopkin's flag ship *Alfred* by John Paul Jones, then a Navy lieutenant. Later the flag was raised on the liberty pole at Prospect Hill, which was near George Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was our unofficial national flag on July 4, 1776, Independence Day; and it remained the unofficial national flag and ensign of the Navy until June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress authorized the Stars and Stripes.  
[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/flag/h\\_doc\\_100-247/sec1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/flag/h_doc_100-247/sec1.htm)

## First Annual Address to Congress – George Washington

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/first-annual-address-congress-0>



January 08, 1790

*Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I embrace with great satisfaction the opportunity which now presents itself of congratulating you on the present favorable prospects of our public affairs. The recent accession of the important state of North Carolina to the Constitution of the United States (of which official information has been received), the rising credit and respectability of our country, the general and increasing good will toward the government of the Union, and the concord, peace, and plenty with which we are blessed are circumstances auspicious in an eminent degree to our national prosperity.

In resuming your consultations for the general good you can not but derive encouragement from the reflection that the measures of the last session have been as satisfactory to your constituents as the novelty and difficulty of the work allowed you to hope. Still further to realize their expectations and to secure the blessings which a gracious Providence has placed within our reach will in the course of the present important session call for the cool and deliberate exertion of your patriotism, firmness, and wisdom.

Among the many interesting objects which will engage your attention that of providing for the common defense will merit particular regard. To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military, supplies.

The proper establishment of the troops which may be deemed indispensable will be entitled to mature consideration. In the arrangements which may be made respecting it it will be of importance to conciliate the comfortable support of the officers and soldiers with a due regard to economy.

There was reason to hope that the pacific measures adopted with regard to certain hostile tribes of Indians would have relieved the inhabitants of our southern and western frontiers from their depredations, but you will perceive from the information contained in the papers which I shall direct to be laid before you (comprehending a communication from the Commonwealth of Virginia) that we ought to be prepared to afford protection to those parts of the Union, and, if necessary, to punish aggressors.

The interests of the United States require that our intercourse with other nations should be facilitated by such provisions as will enable me to fulfill my duty in that respect in the manner which circumstances may render most conducive to the public good, and to this end that the compensation to be made to the persons who may be employed should, according to the nature of their appointments, be defined by law, and a competent fund designated for defraying the expenses incident to the conduct of foreign affairs.

Various considerations also render it expedient that the terms on which foreigners may be admitted to the rights of citizens should be speedily ascertained by a uniform rule of naturalization.

Uniformity in the currency, weights, and measures of the United States is an object of great importance, and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to.

The advancement of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures by all proper means will not, I trust, need recommendation; but I can not forbear intimating to you the expediency of giving effectual encouragement as well to the introduction of new and useful inventions from abroad as to the exertions of skill and genius in

producing them at home, and of facilitating the intercourse between the distant parts of our country by a due attention to the post-office and post-roads.

Nor am I less persuaded that you will agree with me in opinion that there is nothing which can better deserve your patronage than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. In one in which the measures of government receive their impressions so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours it is proportionably essential.

To the security of a free constitution it contributes in various ways - by convincing those who are intrusted with the public administration that every valuable end of government is best answered by the enlightened confidence of the people, and by teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights; to discern and provide against invasions of them; to distinguish between oppression and the necessary exercise of lawful authority; between burthens proceeding from a disregard to their convenience and those resulting from the inevitable exigencies of society; to discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness - cherishing the first, avoiding the last - and uniting a speedy but temperate vigilance against encroachments, with an inviolable respect to the laws.

Whether this desirable object will be best promoted by affording aids to seminaries of learning already established, by the institution of a national university, or by any other expedients will be well worthy of a place in the deliberations of the legislature.

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:*

I saw with peculiar pleasure at the close of the last session the resolution entered into by you expressive of your opinion that an adequate provision for the support of the public credit is a matter of high importance to the national honor and prosperity. In this sentiment I entirely concur; and to a perfect confidence in your best endeavors to devise such a provision as will be truly with the end I add an equal reliance on the cheerful cooperation of the other branch of the legislature.

It would be superfluous to specify inducements to a measure in which the character and interests of the United States are so obviously so deeply concerned, and which has received so explicit a sanction from your declaration.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I have directed the proper officers to lay before you, respectively, such papers and estimates as regard the affairs particularly recommended to your consideration, and necessary to convey to you that information of the state of the Union which it is my duty to afford.

The welfare of our country is the great object to which our cares and efforts ought to be directed, and I shall derive great satisfaction from a cooperation with you in the pleasing though arduous task of insuring to our fellow citizens the blessings which they have a right to expect from a free, efficient, and equal government.

## **Live Whole Health #202: Preparing for the New Year**

<https://news.va.gov/127540/live-whole-health-202-preparing-for-the-new-year/>

January 1, 2024

By Marc Castellani, Ph.D., NBC-HWC

Whole Health Education Program Lead for the VHA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation

The start of a new year feels like the perfect time to renew our focus on improving our overall health and well-being. Here are two ideas to keep in mind as we kick off 2024.

First, we tend to focus more on our “to-do” list than our “have-done” list. Jobs checked off are forgotten while those we haven’t finished stay with us. While this makes sense, it means we often forget how much we’ve accomplished.

Consider taking a few minutes to look back on 2023 and what goals you reached—or made progress on—during the year. Think about the things you enjoyed and the challenges you overcame. If you keep a journal, flip through it, and reflect on the important moments of the past 12 months (and if



you don't keep a journal, maybe that's a goal for 2024). Years may feel short, but this kind of review reminds us how much we can accomplish in 365 days and may inspire your 2024 goals.

Second, when setting those 2024 goals, it's better to think about habits instead of results. Habits are dependable, while inspiration and motivation can fade. Instead of setting goals to get in shape, focus on being someone who's always active at least 150 minutes a week. Instead of deciding to lose 25 pounds, be the person who eats 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Deciding to be happier is hard to manage, but you may decide to spend 5 minutes a day on a gratitude journal. Small changes done over the course of a year can lead to exciting results in 2025 and beyond!

Another small habit may be spending a few minutes of mindfulness several times a week. This 22-minute body scan exercise will guide you through recognizing where you carry stress or pain in your body and practice letting it go.

If 22 minutes is longer than you want to spend right now, you can find many shorter practices in our #LiveWholeHealth archives or on the VA Whole Health page. Get 2024 off on the right foot with our videos and posts!

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year!

## Merchandise for Sale:

### Unit Crest Hats



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 pictures below. You can buy one and we will ship it to you for \$10. There is a limited supply.

### Coasters for Sale

We also have sets of coasters. A set comes with one 1<sup>st</sup> Armor Division patch and one 52-unit crest. We do have some 6<sup>th</sup> 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 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Gear



Figure 1 Left Sleeve

Bill Burt has information on the purchase of 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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](tel:877-927-8387)

Hours: 24/7

White House VA hotline

[855-948-2311](tel:855-948-2311)

Hours: 24/7

Veterans Crisis Line [800-273-8255](tel: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](mailto:Bill.Burt@152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org). You can also contact us through our main website <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>.

## SpecOpsNet.org

SpecOpsNet.org is a NO FEE job list announcing positions primarily in the defense industry. Most, but not all, positions require some form of clearance.

The list began in 1994 as an effort to help military special operators find work at the end of their military careers. Since then, the range of jobs announced has expanded to include positions in intelligence, information technology, logistics, transportation, aviation, medicine, training, program and project management and other work veterans of all services might find valuable. If a veteran conceivably would take the position, we generally launch it.

We keep no records. We do not have a position database. We 'fire and forget' announcements. They are launched FIFO - first in, first out. We use the following general convention for our announcements:

One announcement per message. The message subject is: the position title, the location, and any clearance requirement. For example: Communications Specialist (Afghanistan)(TS/SCI req'd).

The announcement is in the text of the message, not as attachment.

The POC information is clearly stated at either the beginning or end of the announcement.

If you see something of interest, forward a message directly to the POC listed in the message - not to me nor the list. We hire no one. We merely run the list. Delete all messages you don't care to read.

The list is my free-time, volunteer effort and that of my good friend who performs the system administration. We reiterate this is a NO FEE list. We charge no one. We ask for no compensation. Decisions on what gets sent to the list are entirely mine - for better or worse.

Additional list information can be found on the Frequently Asked Questions page

at <http://www.specopsnet.org/faq.html>

To subscribe to the mailing list, complete the online form

at <https://lists.specopsnet.org/list/jobs.lists.specopsnet.org>. Experience shows that .mil and some company domains reject mail from specopsnet.org causing automatic unsubcription. To help avoid this issue put 'specopsnet.org' in your whitelist, and/or don't subscribe an email address with a .mil domain. Opt instead for other email providers, such as gmail, hotmail, or yahoo email addresses.

Information on how to submit job announcements for posting to the list can be found on the website

at [http://www.specopsnet.org/posting\\_jobs.html](http://www.specopsnet.org/posting_jobs.html)

We do not sell or share the subscriber list nor will we every sell or share the list. Our only interest is hearing of successes from employers who find employees and list members who find work. Knowing this list connects people and jobs is sufficient.

If you have any questions, comments, or feedback please feel free to send email to [zak@specopsnet.org](mailto:zak@specopsnet.org). I'll attempt to answer it as quickly as I can.

Thank you. May God bless all those who serve and all those who care for them.

De Oppresso Liber.

**G.M. "zak" Kozak**  
**USA Special Forces, Retired**  
**SFA D-4379-L**  
**[zak@SpecOpsNet.org](mailto:zak@SpecOpsNet.org)**

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