



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 10 Issue 10

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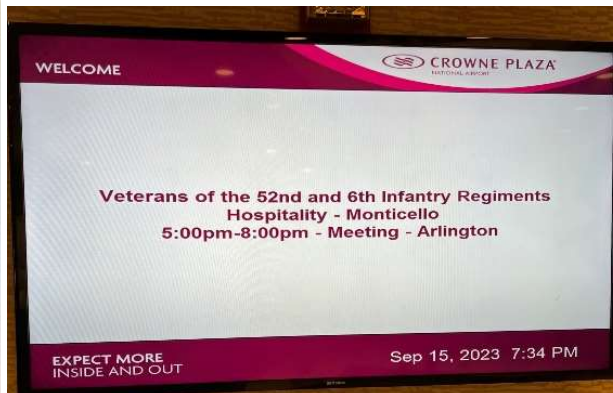
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2023 Washington D.C. Reunion

Our eighth reunion was held last month in Washington DC. Mike Streff did another outstanding job planning and hosting as usual. There was many activities, sightseeing, and plenty of time for just reminiscing and visiting.

We had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A Unit plaque was dedicated at the National Army Museum. A good German meal was had at the Alexandra Bier Garden. Our annual meeting was held. The Banquet and final gathering were held on Saturday night.

I started this Sitrep several times, trying to figure out how to best show/report our reunion. I concluded just to show it in pictures, for a picture is worth 1000 words. So come join us.....



2023 Wednesday, September 13

The following group of pictures come from our Hospitality Suite. This became the Hub for the Reunion. Many stories were told, memories relived, and truths stretched just a wee bit.

Special shout out goes to the wives who manned the check in table, the dispersing of information, and seller of our merchandise. For they played such an important role during the reunion, we cannot thank them enough!

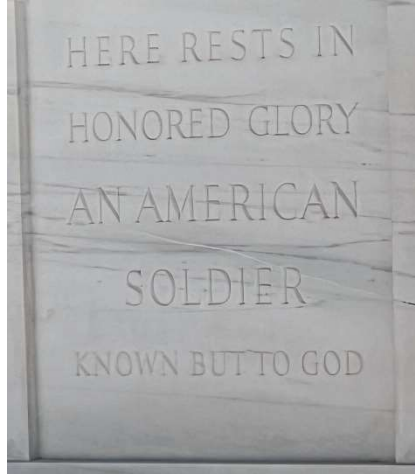






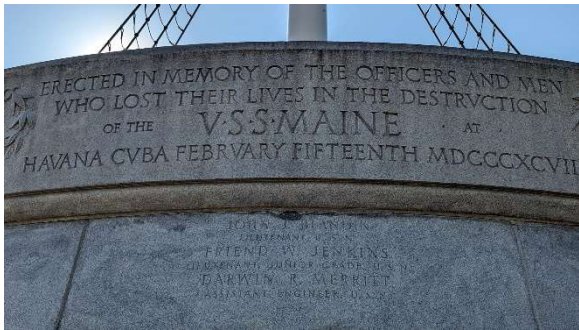
Thursday, September 14

Our first day was a full one. We went to Arlington National Cemetery. There we were honored with the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. John Hinton, Jeff McMurrin, Robert Pruet and Theodore (Ted) B. Gesulga represented the group.











A Soldier's Prayer
COL LEWIS L. MILLETT
 Medal of Honor Recipient, Korea

I've fought when others feared to serve.
 I've gone where many failed to go.
 I've lost friends in war and strife,
 Who valued duty over the love of life.

I've shared the comradeship of pain.
 I've searched these lands for men that we've lost.
 I've sons who've served our land of liberty,
 Who'd fight to see that other lands are free.

I've seen the weak forsake humanity.
 I've heard fakers praise our enemy.
 I've seen challenged men stand ever bolder.
 I've seen the duty, the honor, the sacrifice of the soldier.

Now, I understand the meaning of all lives,
 The lives of comrades of not so long ago.
 So to you who answered duties siren call, may
 God bless you my son, may God bless you all.



Dear Mom and Dad,

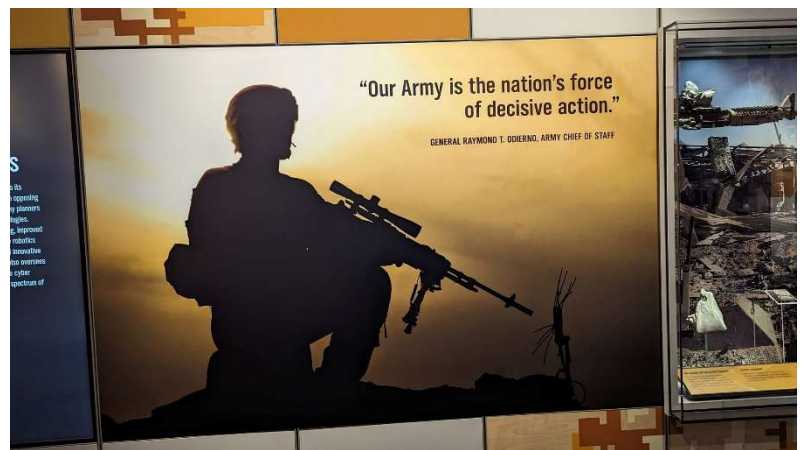
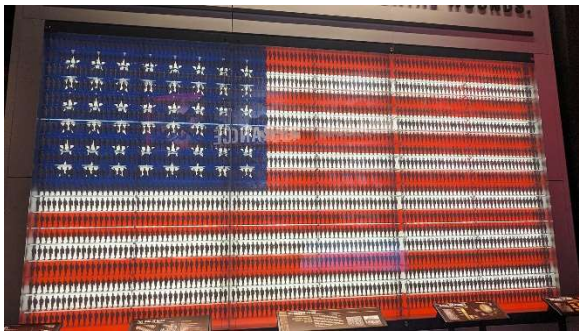
As I sit here getting ready to go into war once again I realize that I have left some things unsaid. I don't want you to worry, but I know that you will until I come home. There are two ways you come home, stepping off the plane or being carried off the plane. It doesn't matter how I come home, because I am prepared to give all that I am to ensure that all my boys make it home.

Paul



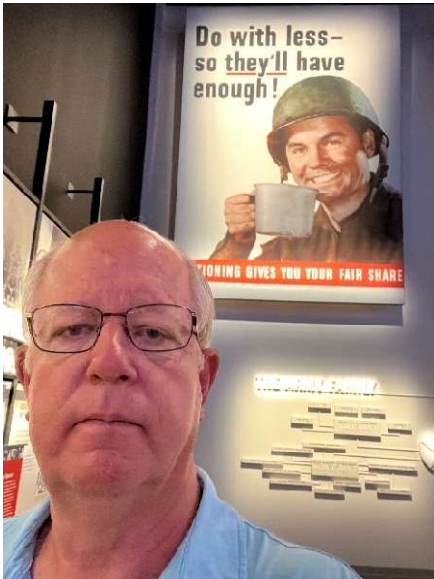
SFC PAUL R. SMITH
 Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion
 3d Infantry Division
 Medal of Honor Recipient, Iraq

11,280,000 SOLDIERS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II.
318,274 DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY.
363,861 SUFFERED NON-MORTAL WOUNDS.











Dogs began their official role in the United States military with the creation of the Army's K9 corps in March 1942. Today, approximately 1,600 military working dogs help keep the nation safe. The bond between military working dogs and their handlers is like no other.

In this exhibit of wooden sculptures, artist James Mellick explores the sacrifices of those who have served alongside our military in war. While some sculptures exhibit the same wounds as their human counterparts in battle, others are carved replicas of specific working dogs and what they experienced.

Once known as "war dogs," these dogs serve in all branches of the military to scout, detect, and protect. They may not have actual boots on the ground, but you'll find U.S. military working dogs serving wherever American troops do. While they are as loveable as they are loyal, these are highly skilled warriors, trained by the best to serve alongside them.

"I've come to believe that there is no stronger bond between man and dog than that created by the pure and focused will to survive in battle."

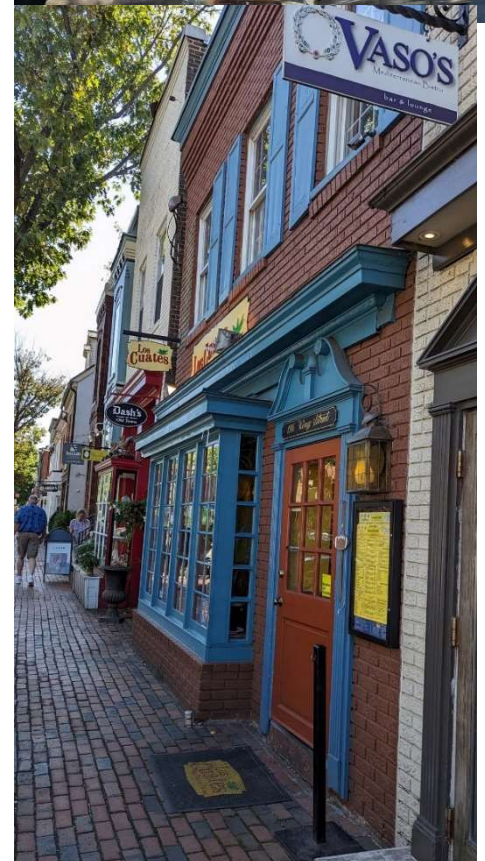
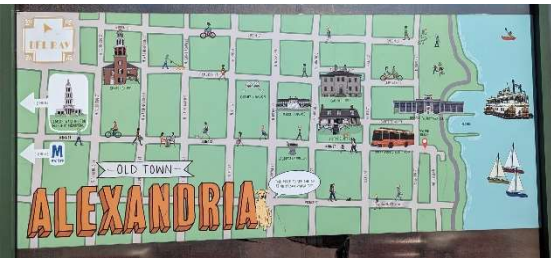
– Artist James Mellick



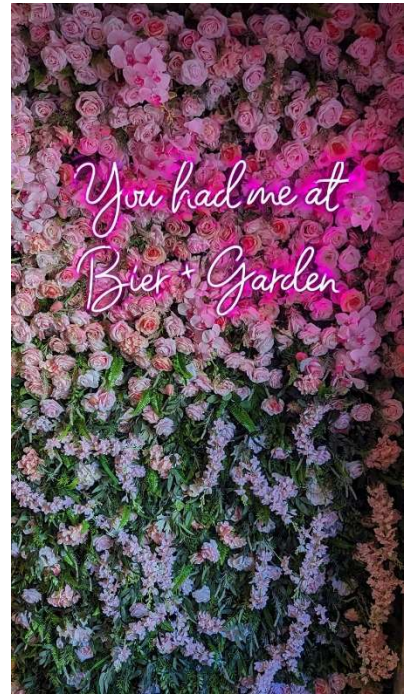


Friday, September 15

After a light breakfast, we met in the hospitality suite to visit and decide what people were doing today. Many groups decided to do some touring of Old Town Alexandria before our German lunch.



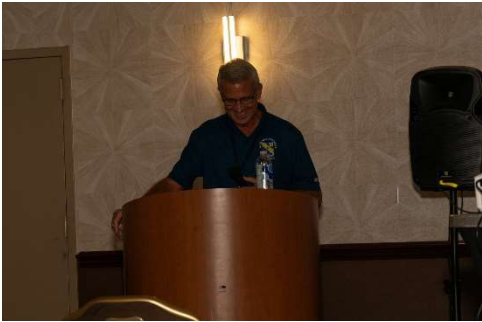








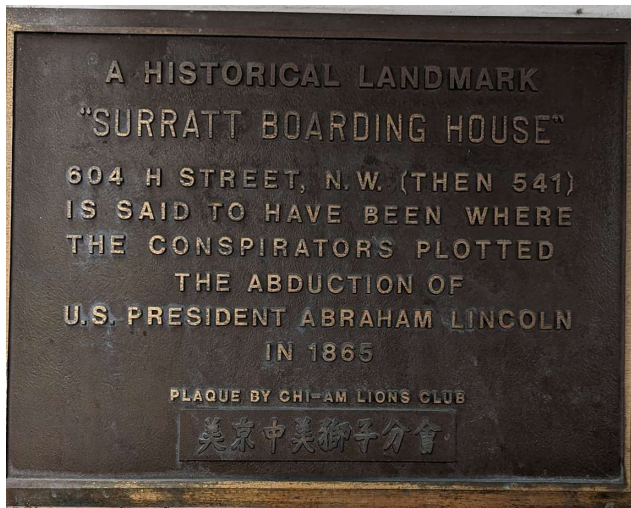
After a great German meal, a few to many beers and a nice, sweet treat for dessert, we all made it back to the hotel to get ready for the Annual Meeting. There was a Presidents Reception, silent auction, and the Annual Meeting. In the past we only allowed vets in the meeting but decided that spouses are welcome to attend.





Saturday, September 16

Saturday was touring on your own or with a group. Some went to China Town and had lunch at the “Wok and Roll”.





Reception for the banquet was early evening with the official banquet following. We had a guest speaker at this reunion, Congressman Keith Self. Also, at the banquet this year were family members born during our time in Bamberg, the "Bamberg Kids". They are not kids anymore but have kids themselves.

















2023 Sunday, September 17

Sunday as each of us left, we said goodbye to all. See you in 2025 in Las Vegas.

52nd Infantry Regimental Honors and Distinguished Titles

Under the US Army Regimental System, the 52nd Infantry Regiment is held in an inactive status. Our organization of veterans of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry has been acknowledged by the Chief of Infantry as perpetuating the lineage of the 52nd Infantry Regiment and has been granted the authority to nominate former members of the battalion for Honors and Titles.

- These honorary and distinguished titles are entirely symbolic in nature, and the individuals given these titles perform entirely voluntary services.
- The Honorary Colonel, Honorary Sergeant Major, and Distinguished Members of the regiment primary mission is to perpetuate the history and traditions of the regiment.
- The Honorary Member of the Regiment title is designed to recognize non-members for their service to the regiment.

During the 2023 Reunion the following members were recognized for their service to the 52nd Infantry.

Honorary Member of the Regiment:

Elizabeth (Betsy) Scheffer distinguished herself as the secretary for the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment from July 1985 to November 1987 in Bamberg, Germany. Affectionately known as the First Lady of the Battalion, Betsy was always available to help the soldiers, and when battalion deployed in the field, Betsy supported the needs of the family members. She served during the tenure of multiple commanders, continuing in this role upholding the standards of the Ready Rifles after the battalion was reflagged until her departure in 1988.



Distinguished Member of the Regiment:

Robert D. Pruitt was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1984 to 1985 1st Platoon, Delta Company. Following his departure from the Army, Robert had a strong commitment to maintain contact with members of the company which lead to the creation of a Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry social media group. His efforts continued and expanded and in 2010 he planned and hosted the first battalion



veterans' reunion. He has supported the efforts in the foundation of our 501c3 non-profit veteran organization, as well as the origination of the group's newsletters. Robert has advised and aided in several reunions since. Robert serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors working to achieve the organizational goals for the veterans of the 52nd Infantry Regiment.

Michael J. Borstnar was assigned to the Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1985 to 1987. Michael was an early supporter of the formation of a 52nd Infantry veterans group, and in 2017, when the activity of the group was faltering, Michael stepped up and organized a reunion in Pittsburg, PA. That reunion reset and re-energized the group and was the origin of the organization we have grown into today. A compassionate veteran, Michael discovered a grievous injustice to a deceased fellow 52nd veteran. He helped the family arranged for internment of the veterans ashes at a National Cemetery, then started a fund raiser to cover expenses for the family, eventually bringing closure with an interment service. Michael's dedication continues to support the mission of the organization.



Robert A. Kay was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1982 to 1985, as a Platoon Leader, Bravo Company; S3 Air; Executive Officer, Delta Company; and the Battalion Motor Officer. His 31 year career included a brigade command and two battalion commands. In 2014, Robert served as the organizer and host of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry Reunion held in New Orleans, LA. Robert's knowledge of battalion history in the early 1980's has proven to be instrumental in the compilation and recording of the battalion's history. A strong supporter of the organization, Robert continues to aid the activities of the Board and participate in organizational activities.



Robert L. Domenici was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry from 1984 to 1987, as the 3rd Platoon Leader, Delta Company; 1st Platoon Leader, Echo Company; and S-3/Liaison Officer. He was an officer in the Army and National Guard for over 22 years. Bob assisted in the development of the National Guard Anti-terrorism program "Civil Support (Anti-terrorism) Weapons of Mass Destruction Team (WMD CST)" and commanded the 2nd WMD CST antiterrorism team at the World Trade Center. Following retirement, he founded three "Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned" companies. Bob served as one of the original board members of our organization and his companies donated the funding to establish initial operations of our organization. He chairs the fund-raising committee to support our charitable efforts. Bob also developed and maintains our organizational web site.



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Jeffrey S. Hamel was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1985 to 1987. Jeffrey assisted in rejuvenating the informal 52nd Infantry veterans' group by collaborating in the organization of the 2017 Reunion in Pittsburg, PA. This reunion revitalized the veterans within the group and anchored their resolve to continue and expand its membership to all 52nd Infantry Battalion veterans stationed in Bamberg, Germany from 1972 to 1987. Finding former members of the battalion has been challenging, but Jeffrey has aided in locating veterans and encouraging them to join the organization. Jeffrey continues to be instrumental in the growth and operation of this organization. Was not present.

Zak Kozak enlisted in the Army in 1970, he was assigned as a Special Forces Medic in Thailand, then graduated from OCS and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1974 to 1977. He served as an Infantry Platoon Leader, Alpha Company; the Scout Platoon Leader, CSC; and the B Company Executive Officer. An original member of the Board of Directors, Zak has played a significant role in the creation of the organization into a 501c3 corporation. He serves on both the history and the reunion committees. Zak has led in the establishment and propagation of the Battalion Succession Roster, an undertaking that has identified and accurately placed several hundred of the battalion alumni as part of the historical documentation process. Zak continues to work tirelessly to grow the membership of the organization and expand our outreach to veterans of the organization. Was not present.

Dennis Barletta was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry from 1976 to 1979, serving as the 1st Platoon Leader, Bravo Co and later as the Battalion S2. Subsequent assignments during his 26-year career included the 3ID, NATO, the Army Staff, Command of the 14th MI Battalion, I Corps DG2, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Dennis was instrumental in establishment of our 501c3 veterans' organization and serving as the first President of the Board of Directors. He has worked to expand membership of our veteran's group to 1970s era veterans of the battalion. He has worked hard to expand knowledge of our unit history and traditions, researching the national archives, unit history reports, the US Army Center of Military History, and US Army Institute of Heraldry records to compile a comprehensive history of the 52nd Infantry Regiment. He was the driving force behind the \$5,000 fund raising effort for a unit tribute plaque, installed in May 2023, at the National Museum of the United States Army.



Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment:

Kim Boyink joined the Army in December 1975. As an Infantryman, he has held every leadership position from Team Leader through Command Sergeant Major in a variety of assignments including 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division; National Training Center; CJTF 134 Detainee Operations (Iraq); International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Afghanistan; and CJTF 435 Detainee Operations (Afghanistan). He was assigned to the 1st Battalion 52nd Infantry from 1983 through 1986, initially as Squad Leader in C Co and then as a Platoon Sergeant in B Co. His numerous awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2nd Award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Bronze Star (2nd award). He retired in May 2011 after over 35 years of service.



Honorary Colonel of the Regiment:

Theodore B. Gesulga served as the Commander of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, Bamberg, Germany from November 1975 to May 1977. Under his command the Battalion trained for the defense of Western Germany focused on Warsaw Pact forces attacking through the Hof Gap, or the Cheb and Pilsen approaches. In 1976, the United States Army Europe designated the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry as the Model NBC Program Battalion. LTC Gesulga lead the development and implementation of an advanced NBC training program for the Theater. During his command the battalion participated in exercises at Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, and Wildflecken; NATO partnership with the 101st Jaeger Battalion; and BRIDGEX and REFORGER '76. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Legion of Merit, Master Parachutist Badge, and Combat Infantry Badge.



At the San Antonio Reunion in 2021 Bill Burt and Mike Streff were the first two members to be honored as ***Distinguished Members of the Regiment.***

William R. Burt was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1984 to 1985 first in a line platoon and later as the Company Commander's Driver. In 2008 Bill jointly initiated the Cold War Veterans organization and established a website, he undertook the task of contacting former members of the units creating a membership roster for the organization. He maintains the organization's "in memoriam" pages honoring deceased veterans of the organization. He has continually worked to expand the organization's membership. Since 2010, Bill has been a driving force in the planning, organization and conduct of the reunions of the Cold War veterans of the 52nd Infantry. He publishes the quarterly newsletter for the organization. Bill played a significant role in the organization of the group into a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Michael J. Streff was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in Bamberg, Germany from 1984 to 1987, and was the battalion S1, and Company Commander of Delta and Headquarters Companies. He served in the Army for over 21 years and retired in 2000. As the chairman of the reunion committee, Michael Streff has been instrumental in the planning, organization, and execution of the past three reunions. He also serves as the organization's financial chairman. Seeing the need to expand the organization, Michael led the effort to make the veterans group into 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation designed to record the history of the unit, conduct reunions, support memorial activities of deceased members, and aid veterans in crisis. Michael has worked tirelessly to grow the membership of the organization.

Purchase your 52nd and 6th Infantry Gear

Polo Shirts and other clothing for Sale

If you like the polo shirts with the unit crest on that many of the guys were wearing in the pictures, the can be ordered direct from vendor. Go to the web site: <https://the52and6infantry.qbstores.com/home> or a link is posted on the group's website: <https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/>

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 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

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](#)

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. 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 unsubscription. 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

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. 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

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