



December 2023

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



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Holiday Greetings and Wishes



Veterans of the 52nd and 6th Infantry Regiments stations in Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990, spouses and family, may this holiday season be filled with love and good cheer. During this period, we are thankful for peace, health, and prosperity. At the same time, we pause to reflect on those that we have lost during the last year and offer our wishes for comfort and quietude. Let us also remember those serving our nation that will spend this holiday season far from home and family. The Board of Directors is thankful for the support each one of you have given to our organization. We are looking forward to a great 2024. Fortus et Certus and Unity is Strength.

Sincerely,
President Dennis Barletta

Holiday Memory

By Geary Bush

This is one of my fondest memories from my time with the 1/52, It takes place Christmas 1981. I wish I could remember the details better. I had just moved to B Co from CSC, which wasn't a big move being we were in the same building. Late Christmas Eve or very early Christmas morning I ran into one of the lieutenants from CSC, he might have been the TOW platoon leader I am not sure. He said he was inviting people over to his home for a big Christmas breakfast and asked me to come along and bring a couple other soldiers. We had a tremendous breakfast; I don't remember what we had other then it was delicious. We all had a great time, it meant a lot to the guys there, I will always be thankful for that morning.

My Christmas in Germany

Sorry guys for another trip down memory lane but..... Most of you guys probably never saw this but my room



mates and a couple other guys from 1st platoon used this in 1984. I come from a family with 6 kids, I am in the middle. My little sister, 9 years old at the time, sent me this Christmas tree in the mail. She was afraid Santa Claus would not be able to leave me presents because I did not have a tree. Once I received it I taped it to my wall locker above one of our 2 drawer chests. I know the guys in my room and a few others in the platoon started putting their Christmas gifts they received from their families under it. Somewhere I have a picture

of it with about 10 gifts under the tree. Then on Christmas day everyone just came and got their gifts and had their own Christmas. I still have that tree and thank my sister every year for sending it. The thing I get a kick out of the most was the instructions she put on the back of it. She likes to tell me that at the time she did not think I was to smart.

Taps

CHAPLAIN SANFORD

CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) GARY THOMAS SANFORD (RETIRED) Chaplain (Colonel) Gary Thomas Sanford (Retired), known by loved ones as "Sam", passed away peacefully on December 11, 2023, at the age of 80. Sam was born to Gene and Melvina Sanford in St. Louis Park, Minn., on January 20, 1943. Sam graduated from University of Minnesota and afterwards married the love of his life, Linda Carol Hockemeyer, on June 14, 1968, at Lake Vadnais Church in St. Paul, Minn.



Sam entered military service in the U.S. Army as an enlisted medic in 1965. Sam had a desire to serve God through youth ministry, and he was told by a senior officer that the Army was the "biggest youth group in the world". Sam subsequently attended officer candidate school (OCS) and became an Army Chaplain in 1970. Sam served in the Army for 35 years, with combat deployments to both Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Upon his retirement in 2000 from the Army, Sam became a chaplain at the Veteran's Affairs (VA) hospital in Leavenworth, Kan., where he was recognized as "VA Chaplain of the Year" after his 1st year of service.

Sam and his wife Linda started "Rock of Ages" Evangelical Free Church in Leavenworth, which he pastored from 2000-2023. Throughout this time, Sam also served in prison ministry. Sam was a faithful servant of the LORD throughout his entire life and will be deeply missed by his family, friends, church congregation, and the entire community. Sam was known for his joy for life, wonderful sense of humor, engaging story telling, and his unbelievable servant's

heart. He faithfully and tirelessly served God through amazing generosity and service to those in need.

Sam was well known across the Army for his "Moses stick" which he used throughout his career to encourage troops to always fight the good fight and keep their faith in Jesus. Sam's life was a true testimony of someone being the hands and feet of God serving his community.

Sam was a loving husband of 55 years to Linda. Sam loved his family and set up an annual fishing retreat in Minnesota every summer. The memories made during these trips are cherished by the entire family. Sam loved the outdoors and was always out fishing, hunting, gardening, playing sports, and cheering on the kids/grandkids on their sports teams. He also enjoyed getting together with family to cheer on our favorite college or professional sports teams. He truly was loved by his entire family.

Sam is preceded in death by his parents Gene and Melvina and youngest son Franz (5 years old).

Sam is survived by his siblings Gayle (John) and Ron (Vicki), his wife Linda and their children Heidi, Leif (Beth), Hans, and Klaus (Shannon) & 12 grandchildren, Robbie (Kat), Sam, Grace, Erick, Leona, Zach, Garrett, Lyla, Sophia, Micah, Brooke, Henry, and two great-grandchildren Natalia and "expected" Reid. Memorial contributions are suggested to Rock of Ages Church, 1017 Randolph Street Leavenworth, KS 66048. Visitation will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 3 - 7 p.m. at Davis Funeral Chapel, 531 Shawnee St., Leavenworth. The funeral/memorial service will be Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Westside Family Church, 738 Eisenhower Rd., Leavenworth. Procession will begin at noon on December 21, 2023, to Leavenworth VA National Cemetery for the burial service at 12:30 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to Davis Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be left on Sam's online guestbook at www.davisfuneralchapelinc.com. Published by Leavenworth Times from Dec. 13 to Dec. 15, 2023.

Family Members Who Have Passed

Jack Albon Kay



Jack Albon Kay, 88, of Brandon, MS passed away on November 28, 2023.

Jack was born in Oklahoma to Otis and Dorothy Ash Kay. He was one of seven children and grew up on his family's farm, "Indian Territory." Jack loved being "Grandpa" to any and every one.

Jack retired from Air Force after 25 years and 10 months of service. He retired as Master Sergeant. He served all over the world, including supporting Vietnam in remote locations from 1970 to 1971. Jack was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal and two Air Force Commendation Medals.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sophie Kay; grandson, Aaron Kay; brother, Harold; and sisters, Florence, Beulah "Boots" and Juanita.

Jack is survived by his son, Robert Kay (Petra); grandson, David Kay (Jordan); two great-grandchildren, Sarah and Hannah Kay; sister, Rosalea

Cole; and brother, Frank Kay.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sar-El online

at <https://www.jgive.com/new/en/usd/external/charity-organizations/3708>.

Taken From: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ridgeland-ms/jack-kay-11559017>

Some Christmas History

1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware



The winter of 1776 didn't start as a good one for Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. They suffered many defeats in the first few months of the American Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. For the troops, morale was low.

Washington needed to renew faith in the battle for independence, so he decided to surprise the Hessians — German troops hired by the British — who were stationed in Trenton, New Jersey. He figured that doing so after the enemy's Christmas celebrations would find them groggy and unprepared for a fight, especially as a

terrible winter storm was brewing.

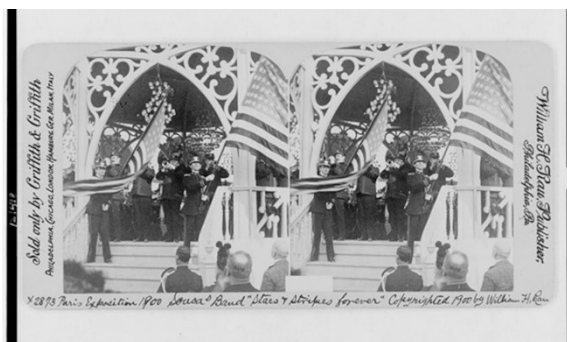
So late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory — and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half.

The mission, which became known as the Battle of Trenton, was of huge significance to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise the troops' spirits, but it revived the hope of the colonists, who were beginning to think their battle for independence wasn't feasible.

1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" is Written

While this wasn't exactly a military action, it's definitely a symbol of America's military might.

John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892.



On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for "Stars and Stripes Forever" were born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader.

The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987.

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 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 1 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](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.

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zak@SpecOpsNet.org

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