

WJ MULLEN III, BG USA, RETIRED HONORARY COLONEL, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Fellow Veterans and Friends of the Second Infantry Regiment,

N RECOGNITION OF HIS SPECIAL PLACE IN REGIMENTAL CONTINUITY.

Veterans Day and Thanksgiving are special. We are reminded of our experiences and, the friendships we formed when we were Soldiers. We are thankful for the blessings that we enjoy.

Our Second Battalion is writing its story into the latest chapter of our illustrious regiment's distinguished history. This time the setting is Iraq. Please keep the Ramrods and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Our two reunions in 2017 provided terrific opportunities for fellowship and reinforcement of friendships. We need these opportunities. I hope that many of us will attend one or both of the two reunions in 2018 - Pigeon Forge, TN (May 17 – 20) and Lombard, IL (August 01 – 05) – to take advantage of those opportunities.

The Army's Regimental System was created to help perpetuate the history, traditions, and ceremonial functions of the Army's regiments. My role as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (HCOR) is part of the system. Top Olmstead, our Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (HSGMOR), is also. The system also provides for Distinguished Members of the Regiment (DMOR).

The Army Regulation describes DMOR as veterans of the Regiment who have distinguished themselves while in the regiment or in the civilian community. Second Infantry Regiment veterans can be nominated for recognition by anyone. The present approving authority for our DMOR is the commander of the 2d Battalion, Second Infantry Regiment.

We have not had a procedure for nominating Ramrod veterans to be DMOR for several years. That problem is fixed. We now have a procedure.

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Recommendations for Ramrod DMOR should identify when the individual served in the Regiment, describe his or her assignment (s) while in the Regiment, and explain how he or she distinguished himself or herself while in the Regiment and/or in the community since then. Recommendations for DMOR received before 31 January 2018 will be considered for recognition at Pigeon Forge 2018 or the 2018 First Division Reunion. We will soon publish details on our Association's website.

Anyone can make a recommendation and submit it to me; Top Olmstead, our HSGMOR; John Kerins, our Association President; Chuck Mundahl, our Vice President; or, Kathy Grzywinski, our Secretary. I will convene a committee to review the recommendations and select those to be nominated as DMOR. We will look for Ramrod veterans who were good soldiers and who, after their service, contributed to their community and/or fellow veterans. Since "Distinguished" is a subjective judgement, we will need to know why the veteran you have recommended merits this recognition. This committee will need examples of the veteran's actions and achievements in order to choose. After we have made our selections, I will then submit our nominations to the Commander, 2d Battalion, Second Infantry Regiment. He will make his decisions and complete

the selection process by sending appropriate documents to us. The new DMOR will be recognized in our Association newsletter and during one of our reunions.

We implemented this procedure in 2016. Selected as DMOR for recognition in 2017 were John C. Carlisle, RVN (Posthumous); David G Douglass, RVN; Joseph D. Foy, Jr, RVN (Posthumous); Stanley Richards, RVN; and William G Stafford, RVN. An award ceremony was conducted during the Kansas City Reunion. Present to receive his award was Bill Stafford and, to accept their Dad's



award were Joe Foy's daughters, Pearl Newcomb and Patty McCallum. In addition to recognizing the new DMOR we will select after the new nomination period closes 31 January 31, 2018, we will honor Stan Richards at Pigeon Forge 2018, and, we will honor John Carlisle and Dave Douglass during the 1st Division's 2018 Reunion in Lombard, IL.



Thanks to LTC John Newman, the Battalion Commander; Maj Joshua Drake, Commander of the 2 - 2 Inf Rear Detachment; and CPT Hunter Baudoindajoux, Assistant S-3, we had outstanding support from the battalion. Despite being in the midst of preparations to deploy, approval action was quick and a packet for each DMOR was sent to us. Each packet consisted of a Second Infantry Regiment certificate signed by LTC Newman honoring the DMOR, LTC Newman's memorandum for the record describing his rationale for selecting the DMOR, and the Battalion Commander's personal presentation coin awarded for excellence.

I encourage everyone to submit recommendations for DMOR. Surely, each of us knows someone worthy of this honor – perhaps a relative, perhaps someone with whom you served or perhaps, even, someone you have heard about.

Best wishes, Bill Mullen, former Dracula Charlie Six, 1966 BG, USA Retired Honorary Colonel of the Second Infantry Regiment

JOHN KERINS

PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Dear Veterans and friends of the Second Infantry Regiment:



I'd like to introduce myself. I am John Kerins, B/2/2 1968-69, who now finds myself President of our illustrious Association.

Some of you may already know me as the gad fly annoying officers of the Association with many unsolicited comments and suggestions for years now. Well circumstances arose where we had an interruption in handing the reins of 'command' over and we found ourselves in need of quick replacement. So, I guess the officers decided it was time for me to put up. (They know I'll never shut up.)

At our last reunion, that I could not attend, they put forward my name and I was elected. Almost like their revenge? Seriously, I had discussed the officers prior to the reunion and said I'd be honored to accept the position if that was decided. And I am EXTREMELY honored to be the President of our Association, especially now when the 2-2 has again deployed in harms way, this time a return to Iraq. So we have a clear purpose and objective. To support them however we can.

To that end we have a completely open administration. Any ideas as to how we may best assist our active unit is more than welcomed. Please submit your ideas on this or any matter concerning the association to <u>SecInfReg@aol.com</u>.

I look forward to seeing you all at our reunion in May, or somewhere down the road.

Take care brothers.

Update on Battalion 2/2

BY CPT MICHAEL MULLIGAN, BN FIRE SUPPORT OFFICER AND LTC JOHN T. NEWMAN, USARMY 10 MTN DIV 3 BCT (US) WITH SGM DEREK GLENN WISE AND MAJ ADAM J. DECKER, USARMY 10 MTN DIV 3 BCT (US)

Ramrods past and present, Family, and Friends, we hope this update finds you well.

Since our last newsletter, 2-2 IN finished the recovery period from JRTC and a year of intense training. We had a busy summer, filled with some much deserved leave before diving into pre-deployment preparation, packing, and loading equipment and vehicles for shipment overseas. We also gave a sad but well-deserved send off to CSM Abbot and the other leaders who stood up the Battalion at Fort Polk. The current success of CSM Wise and a new group of leaders marks the start of another chapter for the battalion, one that will owe much to the efforts of those departing.



In September 2017, over 350 Soldiers of 2-2 IN deployed throughout CENTCOM with 3BCT, 10th MTN DIV in support of Operation Inherent

Resolve as part of the ongoing fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta Companies deployed to numerous locations on a variety of missions. Alpha has been specially selected for a rapid deployment mission for CENTCOM and remain prepared to go anywhere in the world. Everywhere they are, at home or abroad, Ramrod Soldiers have shown the same superb adaptability and professional skill that has distinguished our Regiment throughout its storied history.

As part of Operation Inherent Resolve, 2-2 IN supports the Iraqi Security Forces in combat with ISIS through combat and advisory operations. The Ramrods and our Iraqi partners cooperated in the planning and execution of several



The Soldiers of 2-2 IN stand ready to deploy, fight and win!

offensives against ISIS forces, with the Ramrods providing advice and assistance to Iraqi forces engaged in close combat with the Islamic State. This firm partnership enabled the liberation of numerous cities from ISIS control, the most notable being 2-2's recent participation in the liberation of Hawijah. This victory ended ISIS control over the territories of central Iraq and was a decisive blow in the campaign to destroy the Islamic State. Although the Ramrods and our Iraqi partners are making good progress, much remains to be done in order to achieve victory against

ISIS. Building on the dedicated efforts of the Falcon Brigade and many others before us, the Ramrods remain committed and relentless in our fight.

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(Continued from page 3)

Ever prepared to enhance their skills, the Soldiers of 2-2 IN never stop training and preparing. In the time between operations, 2-2 IN conducted extensive heliborne MEDEVAC training and Close Air Support training, guaranteeing that any attack on US forces can be met with a swift and well-coordinated response from the full range of our capabilities. Additionally, the Ramrods participated in the revamping of the facilities at Coalition bases as part of the ongoing effort to raise standards of living for deployed Patriots. The Ramrods rebuilt and refurbished the camp gym and other facilities to the gratitude of Soldiers and leadership across the Brigade, demonstrating a wide array of skills and talents in our Soldiers.

Back at home, Alpha Company continues to set the standard for Team Polk with the successful completion of Team Live Fire Training and Squad Training Lanes. In addition, Alpha Company enrolled 21 Soldiers in the Wolf Ranger Training Program (WRTP). This new program will ensure a higher and more professional standard of fundamental training for every Soldier and every level of the company. Alpha Company remains prepared to deploy, fight, and win anywhere in the world.

While our efforts at Polk and overseas are the main focus of the

battalion, they could not be successful without the diligent efforts of the larger Ramrod Family. The care and efforts of the family, friends, and loved ones everywhere are vital to our unit's focus on our mission and an essential part of our operations. Both the ones that we fight for and the ones that keep us fighting, the Ramrod Family is never far from our thoughts or hearts. Every man and woman in the Ramrod Battalion sends their deep thanks and gratitude for the support you provide.

As the second month of the deployment draws to a close, the Ramrods have never been more prepared for what lies ahead. As the mission continues and changes, the Ramrods remain ready to do whatever is asked of them.

NOLI ME TANGERE



2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3/10 MTN - "Ramrods" on Facebook at <u>https://facebook.com/ramrod.six</u> Current and past members of 2-2 Infantry Regiment Association members are encouraged to follow the Ramrod Page.



Soldiers from TF Ramrod post to receive the Combat Infantrymen, Combat Action and Combat Medical badges.



Soldiers from TF Ramrod and TF Sabre prepare for a live MEDEVAC rehearsal.

The Ramrod Family out in force at the annual Trunk or Treat at Fort Polk.



Pictures courtesy of Tom Copeland and Larry Grzywinski PAGE 5

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CHRISTMAS IS COMING! And the 2-2 is deployed in Iraq. We need to get something to our troops for the holidays.

I apologize for not getting this effort a little more organized, or organized at all in fact. Mea culpa!

The best way to support the troops is, to my mind, through the Family Readiness Groups (FRG). And the Association would like to make a donation to assist them. We are therefore asking for contributions to be sent to our treasurer;

Karen Mundahl, 8312 Emery Parkway N. Champlain, MN 55316-2492

Please make checks payable to **2D INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**, and please write **CHRISTMAS DONATION** on the notation line. Karen will send an Association check to the FRG for all moneys donated. We will check with the FRG to see what date they will need the funds by and our appeal will be kept open accordingly.

Again, I am sorry for our late entry with this effort, my fault, but I know we veterans can move quickly and decisively when called upon.

Thank you for your attention. And thank you in advance for your generosity.

John Kerins, President Second Infantry Regiment Association

MEET 2D INFANTRY REGIMENT'S HONORARY SGM

BY DONALD "TOP" OLMSTEAD, HONORARY REGIMENT SGM

My military career started at age 15 with the Tonkawa National Guard Service Battery 189 Field Artillery unit. When the unit was activated for service in the Korean War I was given a minority discharge.

On 22 November 1950 I joined the US Army. I took my basic training at Camp Carson, Colorado. I was sent to Korea in September 1951. My first assignment was Troop L, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. The unit was transferred to Hokkaido, Japan for retraining. While I was there I volunteered to



Newsweek Magazine August 1952 Wounded 22 July 1952 on Old Baldy

return to Korea to serve with my boyhood friends in SVC Battery of the 189th Field Artillery. However, I was assigned to Company G, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

On 22 July 1952 I was wounded in the fight for "Old Baldy" when my position was overrun. After a stay at the Swedish Red Cross hospital I returned to my unit. I was sent home in November 1952. I was then assigned to San Luis Obispo, California.

I reenlisted at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in January 1954. I was stationed in Austria and Italy in from 1955 to 1957. The time in 1957 was a

busy year, as I went from Ft Riley, Kansas to Ft. Benning, Georgia to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.



Second Tour - Korea 1952



Top Olmstead with Specialist Johns Vietnam 1969

After serving time at Fort Campbell I was stationed in Alaska in 1959 to form Fox Company Airborne, 23rd Infantry Regiment. In June 1963 I returned to the 101st Airborne in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. While there I received orders for Ft. Bragg, California to attend the Mata course. The course consisted of Vietnamese history, customs, politics, and language.

From November 1965 to December 1966 I was the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the 23rd ARV Ranger Battalion, part of a five (5) man team. The unit had at most 180 Rangers. I then returned to Fort Campbell in May of 1968.

I returned to Vietnam in May 1968. In my 30-year career my finest

assignment was with B Company 2nd/2nd Mechanized Infantry, 1st Division. I referred to my soldiers as my kids. I was always the oldest man in my company and I was 34yrs old. These soldiers never took a step backwards. When they made contact they did one thing: attack.



First Vietnam tour 1965 through 1966

On my return to the states I was assigned to a reserve unit in Ponca City, Oklahoma as an advisor with additional duties as survivors assistance officer for those who gave all for their country in my area. This was one of the most difficult duties I ever performed.

In 1973 I was transferred to Kansas State University as detachment SGM. I retired from there on August 1, 1980.

I did have a military family who had long absences from me, my wife, Donna Wilson Olmstead; sons, Sonny, Alva, and Newell; and daughters Rene and Michelle.

My present assignment is 2^d Infantry Regiment Honorary SGM appointed by the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Infantry. My unit as of October is in Iraq is as we say "down range".



Basic Training 1950 Camp Carson, Colorado



Being decorated by Major General Fry in Swedish Red Cross Hospital

FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION CALENDARS

BY CHUCK MUNDAHL, VICE PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

I am looking for some information about what you all think about the First Infantry Division calendar that is sent out each year to First Infantry Division members.



The Division is wondering if people use the calendar and enjoy it? Would you like the format to be different? Would you be willing to make a donation to offset the cost of the calendar?

I would like to get feedback from everyone about keeping the calendar or not.

If you have an opinion please let me know. My email is: kmcm01@comcast.net

SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT TRIVIA

By Larry Grzywinski, Historian, Second Infantry Regiment Association

This year my wife Kathy and I took a trip to New Orleans, La. and while there we visited The Presbytere, which is the Louisiana State Museum. While there I felt compelled to have a photo taken in a scene of the Battle of New Orleans. Now what does this have to do with the present 2d Infantry Regiment?... actually nothing but it does with the original 2d Infantry Regiment.

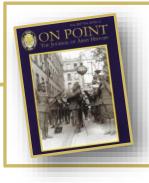
On 20 December 1803, three companies of the regiment were present in New Orleans when U S Commissioners took over the government of Louisiana with the transfer of sovereignty over French Louisiana to the United States; this is known as The Louisiana Purchase.

Headquarters and six Companies of the regiment were located in New Orleans from January 1804 until June 1806. On 8 January 1815 the Battle of New Orleans took place, the regiment was not present but at least two companies of the regiment were. Captain John M. Davis was made a brevet major for his gallantry in the battle.

In the spring of 1815 the 2d Infantry, which was still located in the New Orleans area, was consolidated with three other regiments to form a new 1st Infantry Regiment and at the same time at Sackets Harbor, New York four regiments were consolidated to form the present 2d Infantry Regiment.







If you enjoy reading about the history of the Second US Infantry Regiment you may wish to check out an article written by Larry Grzywinski in this Fall's issue of "On Point Magazine" a journal of army history. There he wrote about our first Medal of Honor Recipient, Daniel W. Burke.

https://armyhistory.org/on-point/

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER By Rich Maling, Chaplain, Second Infantry Regiment Association

Psalm 25: 1-7 . . .

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O My God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal Treacherously without cause.



Show me Your ways, O Lord, Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your living kindnesses, For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; Accordingly to your mercy remember me, For Your goodness sake, O Lord.

2-2 INF REGIMENT REUNION - MAY 17-20, 2017 PIGEON FORGE, TENN. By James Riggs with Chuck/Karen Mundahl, Ramrod Reunion Coordinators

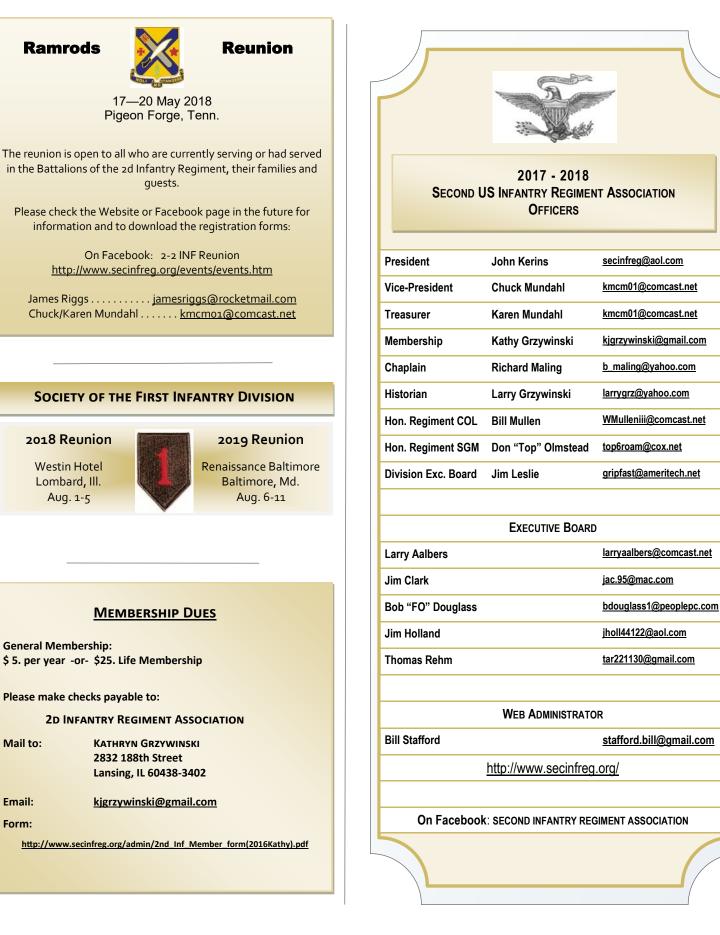
The 2018 2ND Infantry Regiment Reunion will be held in Pigeon Forge, TN. On May 17th- 20th. Registration forms will be sent out to all who have attended past reunions. In case you do not receive a registration form, they will also be located on the 2ND Infantry Regiment website <u>http://www.secinfreg.org/</u> after January 1ST 2018 and the 2ND INF Reunion TN Facebook page.

Everyone is welcome!!! With great friends and good food we are guaranteed to have a good time!!!

We are looking for someone who interested in getting involved with hosting future reunions in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

For any question please contact: JAMES RIGGS Email: jamesriggs@rocketmail.com, cell Ph. # (502) 403-0627 or CHUCK AND KAREN MUNDAHL Email: kmcm01@comcast.net





QUARTERMASTER







SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

If renewing, fill out name, address, and any information you wish updated.

| Type of Membership: | NEW | RENEWAL | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| General Membership: | Annual dues \$ 5.00 | Life membership \$ 25.00 | |
| Name: | | Spouse Name: | |
| Address: | | | |
| Phone: | | | |
| Email Address: | | | |
| | | ation to communicate electronically. I correspondence can be mailed to you.) | |
| I prefer to receive corresp | oondence via: E | mail US mail | |
| Dates of service with the | regiment: | | |
| (If you know the | e month and year please | e enter YRMO IE: August 1968 = 680 |)8) |
| Area (s) of operation i.e. | State Side, Normandy, | Rhineland, WWII, Vietnam, German | ny, Bosnia, |
| Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistai | n, etc | | |
| Battalion1 | 23 | Other | |
| CompanyA | ВС | _D HHC | |
| Other unit | | | |
| Any information you feel during service: | appropriate, such as ra | nk held, medals awarded, or duties | performed |
| Please mail your form, along | with your check made out t | o: <u>2[°] INFANTRY REGIMENT Associa</u> c/o Kathryn J. Grzywinski 2832 188 th Street | <u>TION</u> |
| | | Lansing, IL 60438-3402 | |
| Today's Date: | | | |