



**WJ MULLEN III, BG USA, RETIRED**

HONORARY COLONEL, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Fellow Second Infantry Regiment veterans:

Spring has been a splendid time for the Regiment and our Association. .... 2 – 2 Infantry continues to train hard and effectively; it is well on its way to readiness for whatever missions are assigned. .... The reunions at Pigeon Forge and Atlanta again provided unique and wonderful opportunities to be with friends. .... A statue honoring Sergeant Candelario Garcia, B Company, 1-2 INF, awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in December, 1968, was unveiled on Memorial Day in Corsicana, Texas. This memorial was commissioned by Sergeant Garcia’s comrades and fellow citizens. .... And, now there is a monument at the Infantry School which honors the history of the Second Infantry Regiment and the contributions of Ramrod Soldiers since 1808. On 9 June our monument took its rightful place in the ranks of memorials to our Nation’s Infantry. .... “Noli me Tangere ”

I wish you all continued good health and happiness.

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## BOB "FO" DOUGLASS

PRESIDENT, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

My Fellow Ramrods and Associate Members:

Many great and exciting things have happened since our last newsletter. We have had both our Ramrod Reunion in Pigeon Forge and Big Red One Division Reunions.

I am very happy to announce that on 9 June 2016 we dedicated our 2d Infantry Regiment Monument. It is located on the Walk of Honor at Fort Benning, Georgia. Which is located a half of a mile from the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. If you were not able to attend the dedication, then you really need to make a special effort to go and visit it.

At this time I would like to take time to give a thank you to all of the people that made this possible. The Monument Team co-chaired by Jim Leslie and Rich Maling, and their team of Jim Holland, Dan Johnson, Allan Streeter, Bill Mullen, Don "Top" Olmstead and Larry Grzywinski. The ceremony was a great success thanks to CPT Christopher Farrar, Steve McClafin who went for above and beyond. And I cannot thank Kathy Grzywinski enough for the job that she did on the programs. I just don't know what we would do without her. And most of all the generous donors who gave from their hearts, to help make this possible.



Pigeon Forge this year had the largest attendance that it has ever had. This year we had 2-2's entire leadership team from Fort Polk. They were led by LTC Aaron Coombs and CSM Tom Abbott with all of the Company Commanders

and 1st Sgt's in the Battalion. LTC Coombs gave us a brake down of the Battalions size and training. They are ready to go and take care of business wherever needed. We even got some of them to sing karaoke with us. They have one gentleman that could step in for Johnny



Cash. It was great having them on hand and visiting with them.

And then to finish everything off, we had the Big Red One Annual Reunion in Atlanta, Georgia. Many more of our 2d Infantry brothers with Associate members were in attendance. We exchanged stories and renewed old friendships and made new ones once again.

We also had our Election of Officers for the upcoming year. And I want to thank everyone for showing me another vote of confidence and re-electing me again. I promise that I will not let anyone down. Jim Leslie once again will be the Vice-President. We have changed some responsibilities, people and added a new position.

Kathy Grzywinski will stay on as the Secretary/Newsletter Editor and she has graciously accepted the Membership Chairman position. Karen Mundahl has accepted the position as our new Treasurer. And John Kerins will be our Communications Officer. John also has stepped up to do some Supply Sarge work. All of these folks are definitely a asset to our Association.

On 10 November 2016, 2-2 will be having a Military Ball in Lake Charles, Louisiana. All of the 2d Infantry Regiment veterans are invited. This is a very good opportunity to meet these young soldiers that are carrying on our legacy. I have had a opportunity to meet some of them and trust me when I say that they are the very best to carry on our Legacy.

On a final note; This is a election year and I want to remind everyone to get out and vote. Bring your friends and neighbors also. I am not going to suggest who to vote for. But it is everyone's right, so please exercise that right.

So until later . . . remember keep your head down and your powder dry. And if you can't then move out and draw fire.

## LTC AARON K. COOMBS, MAJ SCOTT L. BRANDT, 1LT CONOR H. WILSON

2-2 IN, 3/10 MTN IBCT, FORT POLK, LOUISIANA

Following activation on 03 September 2015, the 2D Battalion, 2D Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI) quickly established a strong foundation built on leadership and excellence. The Ramrod Battalion has grown exponentially since last quarter, and currently stands at 630 personnel. The influx of Soldiers brought dedicated personnel from all across the Army who are now committed to making 2-2 IN a success. Last quarter, 2-2 IN focused on training to fight and win in complex environments around the world and carrying forward the 2-2 IN legacy of excellence in combat.

The battalion began training after winter leave with weapons training and certification, spending a full week conducting re-familiarization and qualification with the M4A1 carbine. Soldiers conducted grouping and zeroing exercises, familiarization fires, known distance ranges, and qualification ranges. The following week all Soldiers trained on key weapon systems such as the M320 grenade launcher, AT-4 rocket launcher, and M500 shotgun. The battalion's Machine Gun University trained crews on the most important direct fire weapons in the light infantry arsenal and trained over 20 machine gun crews and weapons squad leaders.

In February, squads conducted a series of challenging maneuver live-fire training events focused on mastering the basics of fire and maneuver. Thirty-six squads executed an attack on a bunker, a react to direct fire contact scenario, and a building-clearing scenario—all executed fully with live munitions. Squads maneuvered through the three arduous lanes during day and night conditions, building teamwork and confidence.

In March 2-2 IN conducted a 10-day training event, marking the first test of the battalion's ability to deploy and conduct operations. The focus of this training event was Platoon and Company-level operations. Rifle platoons conducted a deliberate attack in an urban environment using marking munitions, adding realism to the training. All Companies conducted a 5-kilometer movement to a combined arms attack on a defended position. The attack incorporated light infantry elements supported by attack aviation and indirect fire assets.

The major training event for April was platoon maneuver live fires, which saw all nine of the Battalion's light infantry platoons conduct a breach and an attack on a village. Platoons were evaluated on their integration of all their internal weapon systems, equipment, and assets. Additionally, all Companies conducted an attack on an urban environment against a Platoon conducting an urban defense using marking munitions during the 10 – day field problem.



Squad live fire react to contact



Platoon live fire breach



Platoon live fire support by fire



Mortar night live fire

3rd quarter tactical training culminated in early May with a “walk and shoot” event during which key leaders from 2-2 Infantry conducted an indirect fires live-fire exercise to integrate and synchronize artillery and mortar support to a maneuvering Infantry formation.

Unit pride is an enduring priority for 2-2 IN. This quarter, the Ramrod Battalion celebrated the 208th anniversary of the Regiment’s founding by conducting a 4-mile run sporting the unit PT shirt, building physical fitness and unit cohesion. The Battalion and Company Command Teams attended the Regimental Reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN, and the Battalion Officers and HHC executed a memorial PT event honoring SSG Bondsteel prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Looking forward, 2-2 IN will end the training cycle with a cohesive battalion of fully qualified light Infantry Companies. The next quarter will focus on deployment readiness, and preparing the Ramrod Battalion for its first major training mission at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin in August.



Alpha company platoon attack



2-2 IN BN Run



C Co Platoon LFX SBF



A Co Conducting TLPs



2-2 IN Colors and Streamers



Ramrods graduate Ranger school



B Co Re-Enlistment



2-2 IN BN Run



Ropes



Battalion birthday run

# 2016 2D INFANTRY REGIMENT VETERANS REUNION

BY CHUCK AND KAREN MUNDAHL, REUNION COORDINATORS

The reunion was held in Pigeon Forge, TN from May 12th through May 15th. We had a great turnout this year.

We ended up with 130 veterans and their guests. We were pleased to welcome 12 Active Duty Soldiers who came from Fort Polk, La. LTC Aaron Coombs and CSM Thomas Abbott came with some of their staff. What a good group of guys!! We had 1 WWII veteran Harry Jack Paylor from Knoxville, Tn. We were glad to have him attend!

We had a really good time! Good food, new friends and good conversation. We were happy to have some musical talent this year. Sammy Labastida and his 2 sons played 60's music and we had several people singing Karaoke.

Next year's Reunion will again be in Pigeon Forge, TN. The dates will be May 18th Through May 21st. The registration for next year's reunion will be posted on the 2nd Infantry Regiment website in January of 2017. We will mail out registration information to those who attended the 2016 reunion.

We enjoyed our 2 years hosting this reunion. We have some new people that have stepped up to start hosting for next year. They are Brian Lake and James Riggs. They are Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. We will help with the transition. I'm sure they will bring some new ideas and would like to get some of the younger veterans to start participating.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us make this a great reunion. We had a lot of help and we are very grateful for them all!!



*Pictures were provided by Chuck Mundahl, James Riggs, Joy Morrison and Jim Leslie.*

# MOH CEREMONY FOR SGT CANDELARIO GARCIA, JR.

MATERIAL GIVEN TO JOHN KERINS, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

BY THE COMMITTEE MADE UP OF OLD FRIENDS, CLASSMATES AND VETERANS TO HONOR CANDELARIO



## Medal of Honor Ceremony—SGT Candelario Garcia, Jr. 30 May 2016

The ceremony began with a fly over of restored WW2 aircraft with in trail pulling away with smoke in a missing man salute.

The Patriots Guard arrived --The colors were posted by the 1st Cavalry Division from Ft Hood -- a wreath placed by the CSM of 1st Infantry Division from Ft Riley as bagpipes played “Amazing grace”.

Speeches were given by the Mayor-- County Judge-- State Senator (retired LTC) --- US congressman.

Recognizing the 6 soldiers from Company B that was there in 1968 -- also recognized was Webber BG USA (Ret).

LTC Aaron K. Coombs, 2d Battalion, 2d IN Commander from Ft Polk. There were also many from private to captain---

The unveiling of Candelario Garcia statue by Artist Lisa Perry -- taps by bugler from 1st Cavalry Division band from Ft Hood.

A 21-gun salute by the Navarro sheriff office.

The event was covered by TV stations from Dallas/ Ft Worth and Waco, TX.

A person from 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum in Chicago

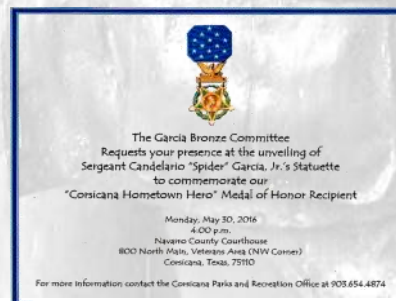
We had a professional video person record the guys of Company B in one on one interview-- hours of information as to what happened the day of battle-- he covered the dedication with several cameras -- this information will be made into a DVD.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division provided a media specialist and will be doing articles for Ft Riley.

In attendance were former classmates and teachers of Garcia

A Mass on Sunday with the soldiers of Company B being recognized.

A get together at a local restaurant on Saturday before with the soldiers and the community as well as a get together on Sunday before with community welcome the members of Company B.





## HARRY JACK GRAY

BY LARRY GRZYWINSKI, HISTORIAN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

After attending the dedication of the 2d Infantry Regiment Monument we had the opportunity to visit the National Infantry Museum. While there, we went to the mezzanine for lunch and saw that that the gallery is named for the 2d Infantry Regiment because of a substantial donation from Mr. & Mrs. Harry Jack Gray. What follows is a brief bio of HARRY JACK GRAY and his connection with the 2d Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Gray served with the 5th Infantry Division during World War II beginning in 1941. In 1943 he was put in command of C Battery of the 50th Field Artillery Battalion then in 1944 after landing in Normandy he went to B Battery, 19th Field Battalion and then became an artillery liaison with the 3d Battalion, 2d Infantry until the war ended in May 1945. He was extremely proud of his service and especially with the soldiers of the 2d Infantry Regiment and whenever the opportunity presented itself for him to show his affection for those he served with he did.

After leaving the Army in 1945 as a captain, Mr. Gray returned to civilian life, he furthered his education earning a degree in communication. While earning his degree he works as an assistant English teacher. After earning his degree he went to work in the corporate work, first at Chrysler Corp. then Greyhound Corp then to Litton Industries. He helped build Litton Industries and then served as president, chief administrative officer and CEO of United Aircraft (AU). He also served as chairman of UA and its successor, United Technologies Corporation, a parent company of aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney, Otis Elevator, Sikorsky Aircraft and other businesses until his retirement in 1986.

After retiring he and his wife contributed to many organizations and their gift of 2.5 million dollars to the



National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center in the name of

the 2d Infantry Regiment was the largest received by the museum. There is a display case including a bronze bust of Harry and his wife, his helmet, a Silver Star he earned for valor during the Battle of the Bulge and other memorabilia located there. There is also a 2d Infantry Regiment flag complete with campaign streamers.



Mr. Gray visited the museum twice, once while it was under construction and again on March 19, 2009 for the dedication of the 2d Infantry Gallery. Thanks to his generosity he and 2d Infantry Regiment will be remembered for as long as the museum stands.

The National Infantry Museum was not the first place that Mr. Gray expressed his love for the 2d Infantry. In the 1980's, under the leadership of himself and MG (ret) William H. Blakefield, who served with the 2d Infantry from 1939 until 1946, the European Liberation Foundation was formed and raised almost \$100,000 to fund a diorama at the National Museum of Military History in Diekirch, Luxembourg to honor the 2nd Infantry Combat Team for its role in the crossing of the Sauer River.

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g190343-d2322310-Reviews-National\\_Museum\\_of\\_Military\\_History-Diekirch\\_Diekirch\\_District.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g190343-d2322310-Reviews-National_Museum_of_Military_History-Diekirch_Diekirch_District.html)

*Material for this article; Cyndy Cerbin, Dir. of Communications  
National Infantry Museum Foundation,  
Veterans History Project and 2d Infantry files*





# SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION 2016 REUNION ATLANTA, GEORGIA



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY RICH MALING, CHAPLAIN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Romans 13: 8-10



*"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the Lord.*

*For the commandments, ' You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet',*

*and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ' You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law".*

## OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

Kenneth G. Bowen, MAJ (ret)	A, HHC, 2/2
Kenneth D. Burdick	C, 1/2
Floyd C. Fenner	WWII, C, 1/2
William Friske	C, 1/2
Weyman G. Goodman, Jr.	C, 1/2
Dennis Gray	A, 1/2
Garnett Mardis	D, 1-2
Richard McCusker	C, 1/2
Dyane McZegle	2/2
John Pieper	A, 1/2
Ken Rader	HHC, 1/2
Ellis Sabey	C, 1-2
Dennis L. Sentelle	HHC, 2/2

## SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT TRIVIA

BY LARRY GRZYWINSKI, HISTORIAN, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

### THE 2D INFANTRY REGIMENT IN ATLANTA

In March 1869 the regiment was sent to Atlanta, Georgia to assist in enforcing the "Reconstruction" laws. In accordance with the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1869, the consolidation of the 2nd Infantry with the 16th Infantry took place in Atlanta, Georgia on 18 April 1869. By this consolidation Colonel Burbank was succeeded by Colonel Samuel W. Crawford, Thomas C. English Lt Colonel and Peter T. Swaine Major. This change of command was dated 15 March 1869. Colonel Crawford had been a lieutenant colonel with the 2d Infantry when on 22 February 1869 he was promoted to colonel and took command of the 16th Infantry. Also with this consolidation the Civil War battle honors for Atlanta, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Georgia 1864, Kentucky 1862, Mississippi 1862, Murfreesboro, Shiloh and Tennessee 1863 became part of the 2d Infantry Regiments honors. At the time the regiment consisted of 10 companies and battalions and regiments were one and the same and would remain this way until 1898.

Two days after the consolidation companies of the regiment left Atlanta and took station as follows: Headquarters and Companies B, D and I at Huntsville Alabama, Companies A, F and K at Mobile Alabama, Companies C and E at Montgomery Alabama, and Companies G and H remained at Atlanta, Georgia.

In April 1877 the entire regiment was back together in Atlanta for the first time since April 1869. In July 1877 the regiment left Atlanta to take up station in Washington and Idaho. The regiment remained in the far west and the great plains until 1898 when the United States declared war on Spain.

It is hard to express in words our time at the reunion. I want to use the word magical. Not the Disney experience magical but magical as in the connection between the soul and the heart. To anyone that has the opportunity to go to a First Division Army reunion: DO IT! Our trip was filled with many moments that are now some great memories.

We were invited to the army reunions after my grandfather, SGM Joseph Foy (Charlie Company, 1-2 Infantry), passed away in 2014 while attending a reunion in California. He absolutely loved the reunions and would talk about the people who quickly became his friends; great comrades who truly care and value each other's presence. He would even meet up with his friends outside of the reunions for lunch/dinner and stories. Until meeting the soldiers of the First Division and being part of the events, we can see now why they were so important to him. We are so grateful that we are able to be friends with his friends.

The schedule of events allowed us to explore the city of Atlanta on our own, participate in scheduled trips, and stay in the hotel at the CP and hang out with members of the BRO. All of these made the trip an unforgettable experience.

A few favorite highlights included the memorial dedication at Fort Benning (did Bob really get us a bus?), stocking the CP with "cold beverages" and listening to war stories, feeling like princesses being escorted to the banquet by General Mullen, receiving our first RAMROD shirts (from a RAMROD) and being welcomed into the First Division family by everyone.

There is an inability to truly capture in words our experiences but this quote we found recently fits perfectly.

"The best kind of people are the ones that come into your life, and make you see the sun where you once saw clouds. The people that believe in you so much, you start to believe in you too. The people that love you, simply for being you. The once in a lifetime kind of people."

I hope members and their families take advantage of these reunions. We can't wait to see everyone at Pigeon Forge or Kansas City. Thank you to the BRO for making us a part of the family. I know my grandfather is looking down wearing his black scarf, with a cup of coffee, feeling proud.

Jill and David St. Germain  
Amy and Debbie Loser  
Betsy Foy



## SACRED CEREMONY

BY THOMAS COPELAND, SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBER



One of the veterans attending a reunion at the National Infantry Museum this week captured the attention of visitors as he performed an unusual and sacred ceremony on the museum's campus. Rev. Harold Hunt, a full-blooded American Indian from the Lumbee Tribe of South Carolina, performed a smudge ritual today beginning at Heritage Walk. He explained, "I am going to smudge the Walk of Honor in recognition of our soldiers that served in foreign countries and cleanse the grounds. We believe the smoke from the smoldering sage bundle takes our prayers to our creator." Mystics say the Native American practice of smudging, or purifying a room with the smoke of sacred herbs; can

help clear negative energy from a space. Hunt served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970 with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and now serves as Chaplain for the 199th. He also is the minister of St. John United Methodist Church in Gibson, North Carolina.

## RAMROD BALL

10 NOVEMBER 2016

All Ramrods past and present are invited to attend the 2016 Ramrod Ball at L'Auberge Casino Resort in Lake Charles, LA on 10 November 2016. The ball will be used to celebrate the history, lineage, and esprit de corps of Second Infantry Regiment. Ticket costs are not currently available but are expected to be finalized no later than 15 September based on contract negotiations and current fundraising efforts from the Ball Committee.

There is a block of Luxury Rooms available for special pricing at the casino hotel for the night of the ball. Cost for the room on that Thursday night is \$99, and includes complimentary valet service at the resort. Anyone wishing to book a room must call 866-580-7444 and use the group code #S22. Those wishing to reserve a room must do so by 20 October 2016 and identify themselves as being associated with 2-2 Infantry Battalion in order to receive the discounted rate.

Additional information about the ball will be published as it becomes available. In the interim, if there are any questions please feel free to contact:

**1LT TYLER HASLAM** at [tyler.c.haslam.mil@mail.mil](mailto:tyler.c.haslam.mil@mail.mil) - or -  
**(337) 531-8064.**



## Ramrods Reunion

18—21 May 2017

The reunion is open to all who are currently serving or had served in the Battalions of the 2d Infantry Regiment, their families and guests.

Please check the website in the future for information and to download the registration forms:

<http://www.secinfreg.org/events/events.htm>

**Brian Lake** . . . . . [bnalake@yahoo.com](mailto:bnalake@yahoo.com)

**James Riggs** . . . . . [jamesriggs@rocketmail.com](mailto:jamesriggs@rocketmail.com)

## SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

2017 Reunion

Westin Kansas City  
 Crown Center  
 July 26-30



2018 Reunion

TBD



## 2016 - 2018 SECOND US INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President	Bob "FO" Douglass	<a href="mailto:bdouglass1@peoplepc.com">bdouglass1@peoplepc.com</a>
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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Bill Stafford	<a href="mailto:stafford.bill@gmail.com">stafford.bill@gmail.com</a>
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<http://www.secinfreg.org/>



## 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 \$ 10.00 Life membership \$ 100.00  
Active Duty Soldiers: Annual dues \$ 5.00 Life membership \$ 25.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(It is more economical for the Association to communicate electronically.  
If you don't have email or if you prefer, all correspondence can be mailed to you.)

I prefer to receive correspondence via: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ US mail

Dates of service with the regiment: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you know the month and year please enter YRMO IE: August 1968 = 6808)

Area (s) of operation i.e. State Side, Normandy, Rhineland, WWII, Vietnam, Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Company \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ HHC

Other unit \_\_\_\_\_

Any information you feel appropriate, such as rank held, medals awarded, or duties performed during service:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your form, along with your check made out to: 2<sup>D</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

c/o Kathryn J. Grzywinski  
2832 188<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lansing, IL 60438-3402

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_