



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

WEBSITE: [www.2-1-196th.com](http://www.2-1-196th.com)

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Volume 10

“A Soldier Once And Always”

March 2020

**Commanders Corner:** My fellow 2/1 Infantry Brothers. I hope everyone is making it through the long winter and the good news is that Spring starts in March! We all need to be aware of the Virus that is sweeping around the world and take all precautions against the flu as well. With this in mind I hope you are all getting access to VA care if you have signed up and if they can't get you in timely you can request to receive care outside the VA and of course if necessary you can always go to an emergency room. The VA implemented a new Veteran Health Identification card (VHIC) card in 2014 so make sure you have the new version. On January first 2020 all veterans that are Purple Heart recipients or have service connected disabilities became eligible to use military Commissaries Post Exchanges and other installation services to include Package stores, Rod and Gun clubs etc. Your VHIC card needs to have your Purple Heart or disability indication on it to take advantage of this new veterans benefit. I encourage you to take advantage of this benefit as you can save substantially at the commissary especially. In a previous letter I mentioned that Rich Heroux who produces our great Newsletter is looking for input from everyone for the newsletter. Even if you don't feel comfortable writing an article I sure if you e-mail Rich an idea or a source of an article he can take it from there. I would like to hear from you on experiences you are having in obtaining VA services both good and bad that we can share with everyone in our newsletter. I continue with my challenge to find new members. Also talk to all your brothers that you maintain contact with and encourage them to attend this year's reunion in Indianapolis running August 19 through 23. One of our own brothers Chuck Holdaway is coordinating and hosting this year and we all need to support him and it would be great if our Chapter has the largest turnout. The last newsletter had all the information you need to make arrangements. I will ask Rich to attach that information page to each of Newsletters until the reunion so no one has an excuse of not knowing about the reunion. Since Indianapolis is centrally located it should be easier for people to attend. On a more personal note my older brother Frank lost all his sight last September after having suffered loss over the previous few years. We were able to get him into the VA clinic for the blind in Cleveland in November where he spent several weeks. The clinic and people working there were great and the tools available to the blind is amazing these days. They take patients that are totally blind and also Vets that may be losing their eye sight. My purpose for sharing this is that if any of our brothers are losing their sight or you know of a Vet that may not get our letter losing their sight the VA has some excellent treatment. Ideally if someone is losing their sight than going to one of these treatment centers before losing all sight is recommended.

**Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!**

**Dwight Sypolt.**

Commander



**From H Duckworth O'Brien's "A Grunt's Life":** **Monsoon:** The wet season, nobody told you in basic that it could rain like this! You can barely see the end of your M-16. You've got a case of the jaws because you can't believe Charlie would attack in this type of weather. You hear someone mumbling and make out a figure trying to put on his Pancho. It's the FNG! You start laughing in the middle of the firefight as you're thinking ... putting on your Pancho now is like putting on a condom after you've had sex.

**Chapter & Americal Division Reunion 2020:** Things are coming together nicely for our annual reunion August 19-23, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN. Our hotel for the majority of the visitors will be the Wyndham Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Chuck Holdaway is working to make our accommodations the best we can have because he is the main man in charge of operations. He has assured us that he will try to find ways to help each of us enjoy our stay while in Indianapolis. This is his home turf—don't forget. He knows the terrain. If there is anything you need or anticipate would assist you enjoy your stay, please don't hesitate to let him know your desires. The sooner the better because as time keeps rolling along, it will be harder for him to make changes or find work-arounds. There was a very informative article in last month's Newsletter that explains almost everything there is to know and up to date information. If you missed the newsletter please direct your attention to our chapter WEBSITE where the Newsletters are stored for easy access at 2-1-196<sup>th</sup>.com. It's plenty early to make your arrangements, so go ahead and get started.

**China Now 2nd Largest Arms Producer:** China is the second-largest arms producer in the world behind the United States but ahead of Russia, a Swedish arms watchdog said. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, said the research is the most comprehensive picture of Chinese companies' weapons production to date. In its annual report, SIPRI said it had "identified information from 2015–17 on the value of arms sales by major Chinese arms companies," and looked at four companies that cover three sectors of conventional arms production: aerospace, electronics and land systems, "for which credible financial information is available." In the past, a lack of transparency has meant that the value of Chinese companies' arms sales has been either unknown or difficult to reliably estimate, SIPRI said to explain why the Chinese arms companies previously were not included in its annual ranking of the world's 100 largest arms-producing and military services companies. SIPRI added that with the increase of available data on these companies, it is now possible to develop reasonably reliable estimates of the scale of the Chinese arms industry and the four major Chinese arms companies chosen for the study "can now finally be compared with the major arms companies from the rest of the world."

**"Behind the husband who thinks he wears the pants, there is a wife who told him which pants to wear."**

**196<sup>th</sup> LIB Monument, Fort Benning, GA:** Over 50 years have passed since the 196th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam and began combat operations in the most dangerous and highly contested locations in Vietnam. Soldiers of the brigade served with honor, valor, and sacrifice. Many gave their last breath at an early age. They will always be remembered especially by those who stood side-by-side with them during the darkest of hours. The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association last year voted to erect a lasting memorial on the Walk of Honor, National Infantry Museum, Ft. Benning, GA. The monument is a memorial to those who died during the war as well as to all former soldiers of the brigade. The design consists of a bronze statue of two soldiers on the battle field. One soldier is aiding a fellow soldier after a fierce encounter with the enemy. The theme of the statue is that of a soldier helping a fellow soldier. We all had this in common. None of us would have made it without the care and assistance from our brothers. This brotherhood has followed us ever since and is part of who we are and who we will always be. We will never lose the closeness that we felt to one another during a very difficult time in our lives. This memorial monument statue captures that feeling and displays it for all to see and contemplate. It is a fitting and lasting tribute to the solidarity we share and it is what we leave behind for others to see. The statue is seven feet tall. The soldiers are depicted with authentic uniform and equipment of Vietnam. The memorial monument includes a bronze plaque or stone tablet with a brief text related to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. We have had requests from our membership concerning this monument and the proposed dedication date. We reached out to the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Executive Committee who informed us that the date cannot be pinned down accurately because of the details associated in the final rendering. The staff was shooting for the middle of summer, but it looks like the date will have to be pushed back to the fall or maybe even early 2021. We will try to keep you posted on developments as they become available. I will ask a member of the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB staff to brief us at our Reunion in August.

**Air Force Veteran Floored after Learning Value of his Rolex Watch on ‘Antiques Roadshow’:** An “Antiques Roadshow” guest in North Dakota was floored when he found out the current value of a Rolex watch he purchased while serving in the military more than four decades ago. The man, identified only as David on an episode that aired Monday, said he paid \$345.97 for the watch in 1974 while serving in the Air Force. He said he planned to use the watch to scuba dive, but decided it was too nice for the water and tucked it away in a safe deposit box until he brought it to a show taping in West Fargo. Appraiser Peter Planes told David the watch was similar to one once worn by Paul Newman that auctions for \$200,000. And because it had the tiny word “Oyster” inscribed on the face that made it “extremely, extremely rare,” which could double the value. David toppled to the ground when he learned the watch could sell for \$400,000.

**AFRICOM airstrike takes out al-Shabab leader behind Manda Bay attack, killing three Americans:** A senior al-Shabab leader who plotted the attack against U.S. and Kenyan forces in Manda Bay, Kenya is dead — following a series of airstrikes in Somalia U.S. Africa Command announced. AFRICOM commander Gen. Stephen Townsend said in a statement. “This strike demonstrates that we will continue to relentlessly pursue those responsible for Manda Bay and those wishing to do harm to Americans and our African partners.” The command did not provide names of those killed. Al-Shabab militants attacked Manda Bay Airfield on Jan. 5, 2020 resulting in the deaths of 3 American soldiers.

**Air Force Academy to Commission Space Force Officers:** Graduates from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado are expected to cross-commission into the Space Force this spring. About 60 cadets would be commissioned into the new armed service branch, which formed in December with the signing of the \$738 billion National Defense Authorization Act. They’re doing Air Force Academy curriculum, and they’ll just be directly commissioned into the Space Force,” academy Vice Superintendent Col. Houston Cantwell said. Academy leaders and members of the Colorado’s congressional delegation announced the cross-commission plan at an oversight Board of Visitors recently. The plan would be similar to how the U.S. Naval Academy commissions Marine officers. It is unclear how exactly academy leaders plan to commission cadets into the Space Force. There are talks about offering juniors interested in joining the Space Force multiple job fields to choose from, including intelligence, cyber, acquisitions and engineering, leaders said. “It’s important for the Air Force Academy’s long-term mission; not only in near-term Air Force strategy, but long-term space strategy and tactics to have that sort of core knowledge here,” said Republican U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, who was at a meeting with Republican U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn.



**Space Force Preps for 49 Launches at Cape Canaveral:** The Space Force’s 45th Space Wing here is gearing up for a hectic 2020 schedule that could entail launching at least one rocket a week almost all year. Until recently, the wing’s “Drive to 48” slogan focused on becoming able to host 48 launches in a single calendar year, only stopping for four weeks to do system upgrades. Patrick and the launch pads at its neighboring Cape Canaveral Air Force Station handled 19 launches in 2019. The Space Force routinely puts intelligence sensors, communications systems, experiments, and other payloads into orbit for military and civilian agencies using ULA and SpaceX rockets, and assists commercial companies with private launches. It previously performed the same work as Air Force Space Command before the new service was created. Five launches have taken place on the Eastern Range so far in 2020, with another mission to the International Space Station slated next week. If the launch manifesto unfolds as planned, the cape will see more than double the number of launches in 2020 as it did the previous year. Wing commander Brig. Gen. Doug Scheiss said his Airmen could handle as many as 51 events this year if more are added later. The wing’s new motto, “Set the pace for space,” reflects that responsiveness is more important than sheer numbers. It’s not just, can I launch a rocket once a week?” Scheiss told *Air Force Magazine* here Feb. 24. “It’s, can I launch a rocket when anybody needs me to launch it? That could be two days apart or one day apart from each other.” Even though the total launch count fell far short of 48 in 2019, Scheiss said the changes the wing made so it could execute four launches in four weeks last summer, and twice in one week in December, will help it hit that goal this year. In January, the wing planned to launch two SpaceX rockets from two separate pads about six hours apart, but one was rescheduled.

**Pete Vander Haegen sent this to me as food for thought:** “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce righteousness or solve problems - it merely Displays One or ALL of the following: (Personal Weakness), (A Lack of Self-Control), (An Over Blown And Undeserved Sense of Self Importance, or Personal Perfection)...



**Military Retirees Can Be Court-Martialed After All, Appeals Court Decides:** In the latest turn of a dramatic and winding court saga, a naval appeals court has released a split decision finding that a Navy retiree was properly court-martialed and convicted for a crime committed after he had left active duty. The en banc decision was published Jan. 24 by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, with four judges agreeing with the final decision and three others dissenting. The matter concerns retired Chief Petty Officer Stephen Begani, who pleaded guilty to attempted sexual assault and attempted sexual abuse of a child in December 2017, after corresponding and making plans with a Naval Criminal Investigative Service undercover agent pretending to be a 15-year-old girl. Begani had already transferred to inactive status in the Fleet Reserve following 24 years on active duty at the time of the crime, and appealed his conviction on the grounds that it was unconstitutional to court-martial active-duty retirees like him when retired reservists were not subject to court-martial. In an Aug. 9, 2019, decision described as a "bombshell," the NMCCA agreed with Begani, overturning his sentence of 18 months' confinement and a bad-conduct discharge.

**Afghan Forces Rescue more than 60 Hostages from Taliban Prison in night raid:** Late Tuesday night, four helicopters carrying 50 Afghan special forces commandos touched down just outside a Taliban compound on Afghanistan's western edge. Intelligence collected by U.S. and Afghan forces indicated the buildings were being used as a prison, holding dozens of Afghan security forces. The Afghan commandos launched an attempt to rescue more than 60 hostages held by the Taliban. "We took positions on the hilltops and sealed off the area," said Maj. Sayed Rahimullah, the Afghan special forces commando who led the raid. As his men moved down into the compound, he said, they caught the Taliban guards by surprise. "We didn't give them enough time to use heavy weaponry. They were firing light weapons as they were fleeing the scene," he said in an interview Wednesday. As Taliban fighters fled, American aircraft circling above the scene targeted the men with at least four airstrikes, he said.

**Airman Busted down for Urinating in office Coffee Maker:** An airman first class at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson was busted down this month after he was discovered to have delivered himself of a withering barrage of urine directly into his office's unsuspecting coffee maker. The No. 1 secretion aficionado's punishment was the subject of a Feb. 13 base newsletter, which was subsequently shared on the popular Air Force amn/ncosnco Facebook page and confirmed as authentic, according to a base spokeswoman who spoke to Air Force Times. Officially speaking, the Alaska-based airman was found to have violated "Article 92, dereliction of duty, for failure to refrain from urinating in the office coffee maker," the official newsletter read. In addition to the coffee maker infraction, the airman violated Article 86 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice by going absent without leave for five days, according to the base newsletter. The great bladder evacuation marks the sixth time this particular airman has been the recipient of a reprimand. The legal office at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson could not provide the details of the other five reprimands at this time, the spokeswoman said.



**The U.S. Army Museum opening June 2020:** The date chosen by the Committee responsible for the construction of the Army Museum. To see the progress being made by the construction crews please enter the information <https://youtu.be/2twaZ4bD5Vk> into your computer.



**Sent in By Bruce Nielsen:** Most of the members of the Chapter know about the burial items that are available to veterans. Here is a little known item. It is a bronze plaque identifying the veteran that can be mounted on a stone or placed at the grave site identifying his life and that of his/her spouse. This is usually prepared by the funeral director. Be sure your next of kin is aware of this feature.

**First Female Infantry Marine Officer Leaves Corps: Commandant Calls for more Women at Infantry Officer Course:** Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger took to Twitter to announce his goal of having more female Marine officers attend the Corps' grueling 13-week Infantry Officer Course, known as IOC. His announcement came the same week the first woman to pass the course had gone on terminal leave, a Marine Corps, leaving the Corps with potentially only one qualified female infantry officer. While the Corps saw a 60 percent increase in women serving in ground combat roles in 2019 overall, that growth was nonexistent when it came to infantry officers. Since ground combat jobs were opened up to women in 2016, only nine women have attempted IOC — the required school for infantry officers — and only two have passed, Teresa Ovalle, a spokeswoman for Marine Corps Training and Education Command, told Marine Corps Times. Finding female officers to volunteer for the course remains difficult for the Corps, which has just one female officer scheduled to attend IOC in 2020, Ovalle said.

**Taliban attacks significantly down as reduction in violence deal appears to hold:** The week-long reduction in violence deal hashed out between the Taliban and the U.S. appears to be holding up. Attacks have so far been significantly reduced, potentially leading to the signing of a long-term peace deal on Feb. 29 and the withdrawal of American troops. Reports emanating from the battlefield indicate only a handful of attacks over the last four days across Afghanistan since the reduction in violence deal went into effect on Feb. 22. Afghanistan-based Tolo News has reported a total of 17 attacks carried out by the Taliban between Feb. 22 and Feb. 25. New York Times journalist Mujib Mashal reported roughly nine major attacks and 15 dead over the first three days of the implementation of the violence reduction trial period. The Taliban claimed a couple of IED strikes against Afghan military and logistics convoys in Farah and Zabul provinces on Tuesday. The Taliban also claimed an attack near Sangin in Helmand Province on Monday. The Taliban have clarified that the reduction in violence is not a ceasefire. The Taliban agreed to not attack major military installations, provincial capitals and major cities but the militants say passing logistics convoys and rural areas are still open battlegrounds.

**Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.**

After waiting three days in the Oakland Replacement Station for a bus ride to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA, our group was finally off to start our one year tour into the Vietnam War. The month and year was May 1970. We flew up to Anchorage, Alaska for a brief lay-over. And another stop to refuel in Yokota, Japan. While waiting in the Yokota Terminal waiting to continue our flight into Bien Hoa Air Force Base near Saigon, another plane load of U.S. Army soldiers also disembarked into the same terminal. They were all in faded Jungle Fatigues, whooping-it up because they were headed back to the World. They were the happiest guys in the world. And us? We were just staring at them with envy and wishing we were in their boots. Our count-down off 365 days into the Vietnam war hadn't even started. We were only a couple of hours to land into Hell. Did you ever experience this moment to see a plane load of soldiers finally going home - and they are crossing your path while heading to South Vietnam



Several months ago Jerry Hughes, my Platoon Leader, sent me a bunch of statistics on the Vietnam war. One that surprised was that the average GI in World War II saw 40 days of combat while the average GI in Vietnam saw 240 days of combat. There is one major reason for that. I know the answer, please send your answers to Rich for the Chapter newsletter.

**Pennsylvania Man Found Guilty of Stolen Valor and Theft:** A man has been found guilty of faking his veteran status and stealing nearly \$17,000 from an American Legion post in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Lackawanna County district attorney's office filed stolen valor charges against Christopher Crawford, 31, in late January, but the man was arrested over the summer for theft. Crawford was accused of stealing from American Legion Post 568 by using the post's debit cards to make unauthorized purchases, including ATM withdrawals in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in June to spend at casinos. "The conduct alleged in this case — masquerading as a combat veteran in order to infiltrate and steal funds from an American Legion post — is breathtakingly brazen and unprecedented in my almost 30 years of practicing criminal law in Lackawanna County," said the county's district attorney, Mark Powell. "It's an affront to every veteran." Crawford claimed to be a combat veteran wounded by an improvised explosive device when he was actually discharged under "other than honorable conditions" after he went absent without leave during basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, in July 2007, detectives said in an arrest affidavit. He used the veteran status to earn the position of Post 568's executive officer, where he managed memberships and recruitment, according to the Scranton Times-Tribune. Members of Post 568 testified against Crawford, claiming in court that they noticed there was something wrong when checks started to bounce in August. "What he did [was] wrong, I mean the stolen valor thing. It angers me more than even the theft," Sean O'Shea, commander of Post 568, told the news station. "So I was confident taking the stand and saying what I had to say." The judge found Crawford guilty on all 11 charges including

**Astronaut to Administer Enlistment Oath for 800 future Soldiers from Space:** For the first time ever a service branch will conduct an enlistment ceremony from space — and Space Force has no involvement. Over 800 soldiers-to-be from across the country will raise their right hands on Feb. 26 and take an oath administered by Army colonel and current International Space Station tenant, Andrew Morgan. The ceremony is the product of a partnership between NASA and U.S. Army Recruiting Command, an Army release said. Morgan will reportedly follow up the enlistment oath by fielding select enlistee questions on a 20-minute video call from his workspace on the ISS, which is currently orbiting the Earth at 17,150 mph — approximately five miles per second. "This is an incredible opportunity for us to partner with Space Center Houston to recognize future soldiers across the nation with a truly unique experience," Brig. Gen. Patrick Michaelis, deputy commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, said in an Army release. "This is the first event of its kind and will allow us to show the nation the breadth and depth of opportunities the Army offers today's youth."



**How the Army tried and failed to build a Bicycle Corps:** (World History Group Archive) Cities across America are abuzz with the eco-friendly and traffic-ending powers of the bicycle. As localities continue to encourage the use of these manually-operated two-wheeled vehicles, there's one entity that likely isn't interested in the trend: The U.S. Army, which tried and failed to develop a bicycle unit in the late 19th century. In 1869, the Army formed the experimental 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps as one of a few specially designated African-American military units — one that traveled via bicycle. Its members were the famed Buffalo Soldiers. "There is no doubt in my mind that during the next great war, the bicycle, with such modifications and adaptations as experience may suggest, will become a most important machine for military purposes," according to then-Maj. Gen. Nelson Miles. Though these sentiments arose at a time when horseback was the chief method of travel. Brass like Miles expressed much optimism about the use of the bike in future warfare. Helmed by West Point graduate Lt. James Moss, the 25th Infantry was stationed on the Texas border for peacekeeping purposes before being moved to the Dakota Territory in 1880. Its final station was Missoula, Montana, which received the regiment eight years later. In 1896, the 25th made its first sojourn from Fort Missoula to Yellowstone National Park, tackling roughly 800 miles, including the return journey. A year later, Moss, along with another officer, assistant surgeon James Kennedy, would travel with their now 20 black compatriots on a 1,900 mile expedition to St. Louis, Missouri. Moss and the Buffalo Soldiers completed the journey in 40 days, but in the time it took to travel, the U.S. lost interest in pursuing the program and would not permit the Bicycle Corps to continue on to Minneapolis. The unit was sent home by train. After, Moss appealed to Army leadership to approve a trip from Fort Missoula to San Francisco, California. However, in the wake of the Spanish-American War, the mission was never completed. The men of the 25th were ultimately assigned to Maj. Gen. William R. Shafter's V Corps, which deployed to Cuba. Despite the 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps proving that the pennyfarthing could move troops twice as fast as horses in 1897, it was only be a few short years before the automobile would disrupt the way battles were fought on all fronts, forever changing the face of warfare.

**Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.**

## HEROES COME IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES AND SIZES

Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 at age 76, which is odd, because he always looked to be 76. (DOB: 6/27/27) His death reminded me of the following story.

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor, Lee Marvin, is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4-star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, following is the amazing answer: I always liked Lee Marvin, but didn't know the extent of his Marine Corps experiences.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces often in rear echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal Of Honor! If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog from "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson": His guest was Lee Marvin...

**Johnny said,** "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

**"Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the bottom and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo Jima, I served under the bravest man I ever knew... We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. That dumb guy actually stood up on Red beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. Bullets flying by, with mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of gunfire so that he could get his men to safety. He did this on more than one occasion because his men's safety was more important than his own life.**

**That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my belly on the litter and said, "Where'd they get you Lee?" "Well Bob.... if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!"**

**Johnny, I'm not lying, Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew. The Sergeant's name is Bob Keeshan. You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo."**

**On another note, there was this wimpy little man on PBS, gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another of those you would least suspect of being anything but what he now portrays to our youth.**

**But Mr. Rogers was a U.S. Navy Seal, combat-proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long-sleeved sweater on TV to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. He was a master in small arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat. After the war Mr. Rogers became an ordained Presbyterian minister and therefore, a pacifist. Vowing to never harm another human, he also dedicated the rest of his life to trying to help lead children on the right path in life. He hid away the tattoos and his past life and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm.**

**America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did. They quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy. Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst. Often, they are the ones you'd least suspect, but would most like to have on your side if anything ever happened.**

**Take the time to thank anyone that has fought for our freedom. With encouragement, they could be the next Captain Kangaroo or Mr. Rogers.**



# **2020 ADVA National Reunion**

## **August 19-23, 2020 Indianapolis, Indiana**

**LOCATION:** Wyndham Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

**HOTEL RESERVATION PROCEDURE:** The reunion room rate is \$129, plus tax, per night, with free daily breakfast. The Group rate is offered 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates, based on hotel's availability. Various reservation options are listed below. Rates cannot be adjusted at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation with the **Americal Division Veterans Association** when making reservations.

**Note:** In accordance with proposed hotel reservation changes for 2020, all reservations will be charged a non-refundable deposit of one night's room rate and tax when the reservation is made.

**Reservation Phone Numbers:** When calling in room reservations **ALWAYS** indicate you are with the **Americal Division Veterans Association** use **Code ADV** at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. This will avoid any possible complications when making reservations through the national reservation office.

Wyndham West Direct: (317)-248-2481

Wyndham Hotels Toll Free (877) 361-4511 (National Reservation Office)

Wyndham West direct Email: [adva2020@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com](mailto:adva2020@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com)

### **Event/Dinner Registration Form:**

Forms available in 2020 publications of the "Americal Journal" and registration may also be done at [www.afr-reg.com/americal2020](http://www.afr-reg.com/americal2020)

### **Tours and Amenities:**

**Indianapolis 500 Race Track and Museum Tour**

**Indianapolis War Memorials and Museum Tour**

(Indianapolis is second only to Washington, DC in the number of monuments and museums which are armed services related. Almost all are within walking distance of each other and near the National Headquarters of the American Legion.)

**Dallara Indycar Factory Tour:** See the building of an Indycar, use racing simulators, participate in the interactive zone, take a ride in a 2-seater Indycar (if you can fit!).

**Free airport shuttle to and from the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel**

**Free breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking are available at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel**

**RV parking without hook ups will be available at the Wyndham Hotel.**

**RV parking with hook-ups will be available at American Legion Post 500. \***

**ONLY 2 hospitality suites left available for chapters or units. Please contact Chuck Holdaway to reserve a suite. THESE SUITES ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS until they are gone.**

\* We have secured permission to use the camping and RV facilities at American Legion Post 500, located at 1925 Georgetown Rd., Speedway, Indiana. The post is approximately 15 minutes from the host hotel and across the street from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. The post is also within walking distance from the many shops, restaurants and activities in the Speedway area. RV camping guests are welcome to use the American Legion Facilities. The Post site is <https://speedwaylegionpost500.com/race-parking>; just click on the button under "Non-Race RV Camping" and follow instructions for the form. A link will also be available on the ADVA web site and the ADVA 2/1 Chapter web sites <https://americal.org/cmsaml/index.php/reunions.html> and <http://www.2-1-196th.com/> in the near future. The forms may be mailed or emailed to the Legion Post along with the payment. Rates are \$25/night for either a space with no electricity or one with 30 amp service and \$35/night for 50 amp service. Questions may be directed to Reunion Chairman, Chuck Holdaway via email at [indy2020reunion@gmail.com](mailto:indy2020reunion@gmail.com) or call 317-847-2756 or you can contact the Legion Post directly at 317-244-9625 between 3pm and 6pm and ask for Steve. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO USE THE FACILITIES.**

**HOTEL AND RV RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME STARTING NOW**

**Reunion Questions Contact:** Reunion Chairman, **Chuck Holdaway**, at **1-317-847-2756** or email at [indy2020reunion@gmail.com](mailto:indy2020reunion@gmail.com).