

34th Infantry Division

Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB-Page:
www.34ida.org

Fall 2017 Issue

The 34th ID Newsletter is
published three times a year.



70th Annual Reunion - 2017

The 2017 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. was hosted by the Des Moines Chapter on Oct 6-7, 2017, in Johnston, IA.

The new president elected by the 34th Infantry Division Association is MAJ Jacob Helgestad. He is currently assigned as S3 of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota NG.

The new 1st Vice President is MAJ James Avrams and the 2nd Vice President is MAJ Jason Merchant. The new three year trustees are Dr. Chris White, MSG Daniel Ewer, CSM (Ret) Bob Worthington, and MAJ Randall Stanford

We were blessed with a total of 65 members and guests attending the 34th Infantry Division Reunion Banquet. The main speaker at the reunion was Mr. Brian Leehan, who spoke about his efforts in interviewing soldiers for the new book, Roaring Bull, the 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror. He made an extensive comparison to the Battle of Do Ab in Afghanistan with the charge of the 1st Minnesota in the Battle of Gettysburg, during the U.S. Civil War.

The Association was blessed to have two WWII veterans of the 34th Infantry Division recognized at the reunion banquet. They included Richard Andy" Andrew, 135th Inf Regt. Jerry Barnett, 168th Inf Regt. "God Bless You Both."

.. The 34th Infantry Division Association Chaplain, 1LT Nathan Perry led the reunion participants in a memorial prayer for our fallen comrades during the Service.

. During the 34th Infantry Division Association business meeting it was announced that a book has been published by the association which covers the service and sacrifice of the 34th Infantry Division in the 2001 to 2016 GWOT. The name of the book, written by author Brian Leehan, from Egan, MN, is "Roaring Bull, the 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror".

National Reunion 2018 Dates

The dates for the 2018 Reunion are now set for **5-6 October 2018** at Johnston, Iowa. Please mark it on your calendar now. During the fifteen years of the "War on Terror" we have had over 20 thousand soldiers serve in the 34th Division in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other deployments for homeland defense in the U.S. We invite all to attend the next reunion where they can get a copy of the "Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror."

See more photos of the 71st Reunion in this newsletter.



Outgoing Association President, MAJ Randall Stanford, (Right) congratulates incoming President, MAJ Jacob Helgestad (Left) at the conclusion of the annual reunion of the 34th Inf Div Assn in Johnston on Oct 6-7 2017. Major Helgestad has served as an Infantry Company Commander in combat in Afghanistan in the 2-135th Infantry. He currently is serving as the S3 of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Inf Div. MAJ Randall is wearing the traditional Past- Presidents Cap of the Association.



Chap 1LT Nathan & Elain Perry at the Mem Service

Greetings RED BULLS,

Hello Team! I would like to start by thanking MAJ Randal Stanford for completing a very successful year as the association president; I appreciate all your hard work and look forward to working with you as a trustee. This association cannot survive without volunteers like Russ Bierl, Mike Musel, Jerry Jensen, Ken Andresen, and Herman Poggensee just to name a few; I look forward to their continued support in the upcoming year.

The 34th Infantry Division is among the best in the World. Red Bulls continue to carry and build the legacy of our predecessors as we support the Nation's calling around the world. As we look to the future, we will continue to ensure our purpose, history, and the future of the organization is maintained in honor of all who have served.

Over the last the thirteen years of the "War on Terror" we have had over 20,000 Red Bull Soldiers serve throughout the world. There is no doubt the Division will continue its success leaving our mark on our great Nation for another 100 years.

I look forward to a new year. To ensure the legacy of our forbearers we need to continue increasing our membership. Through deliberate efforts at chapters to focus on our young Soldiers, the future of our organization, we will ensure the continued strength of our organization.

ATTACK!

Jacob Helgestad
34th Inf Div Assn. President
jacob.c.helgestad.mil@mail.mil



**34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call
Fall 2017**

Kenneth Shuey, 1-194 FA, 34th Inf Div
Shigeru Oshita, HQ 100th Inf, 34th ID
Kermit Murfield, 34th Inf Div
Elwood G. Leapley, 34th Inf Div
Herbert S. Conlon, 734th Ordnance Co
Beverley Bradley, 34th Infantry Division
George H. Law, 34th Infantry Division
Richard L. Parkins, 3-168 Inf, 34th ID
Wesley L. Baie, Jr, 34th Infantry Division
Walter Zabrowski, 135th Inf, 34th ID
Ichiro Kamikawa, C 100th Inf, 34th ID
Ronald E. Sakaino, C 100 Inf, 34th ID
Mitsuo "Ted" Hamasu, A 100th Inf, 34th ID
Raymond A. Stukel, 34th Inf Div
Elmer R. Parker, 3rd Bn, 168 Inf, 34th ID
Tadao Seo, A 100th Inf, 34th Inf Div
Fred Smith, K 168th Inf, 34th Inf Div
Louis N. Vago, 34th Infantry Division
Paul D. Parlock, 34th Cav Recon, 34th ID
M Tucker Lazarus, 34th Inf Div
Herbert C. Billman, 1-133 IN, 34th ID
Paul S. Hachida, A 100th Inf, 34th Inf Div
Wataru Anzai, HQ Co, 100th Inf, 34th ID

Final Roll Call Prayer

***May they have no
more hills to climb,
nor cold, nor rain, nor mud,
nor enemy fire,
and may they now rest in Peace.***

National Office-34th Infantry Division Association

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,
7105 NW 70th Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl E-mail: bierlhome@msn.com

Association Website <http://www.34IDA.org>

71th Reunion..... 12-13 Oct 2018 Johnston, Iowa

Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Mike Musel 515-252-4531

Email: michael.musel@iowa.gov Gold Star Museum

Historian Emeritus: Pat Skelly 508-524-3948

Facebook Webmasters: Herman Poggensee & Wayne Merick

**WEB Site Manager: MSG Daniel Ewer sgtddaniel@aol.com
& Historian**

Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>

Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: <http://www.34IDA.org>

Also, follow the 2-34th Red Bulls at! <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

<http://www.flickr.com/lowaRedBulls>

<http://www.twitter.com/lowaRedBulls>

1st BCT: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>

2nd BCT: <http://www.facebook.com/lowaRedBulls>



Jerry Barnett and his wife Lucy are shown talking with Dianne Bierl and Jan Jensen at the 34th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Johnston, IA. Jerry Barnett, who was born and raised in rural Marion County Iowa was one of two WWII Veterans at the Reunion. He became a member of the 168th Infantry after he served his tour of active duty. Later, after attending the University of Iowa, he became a doctor and an anesthesiologist before he retired.



Brian Leehan, the author of “Roaring Bull, the 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror, is presented with a framed cover of the book by Russell Bierl, the Secretary of the 34th Infantry Division Association. The book is now available for sale through the Gift Shop at the Iowa Gold Star Museum and the 34th Infantry Division HQ’s Sales shop at Rosemount, MN. See the book buy offer on page 7 of this newsletter.

Photos of the 70th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association



Shown L to R, Matt Anderson, IL, Donald Andrew, IL, Richard "Andy" Andrew (WWII Vet, B/ 133rd Inf Regt., Russ Bierl, Assn. Secretary, Daniel Ewer, Assn. Historian and Web Master, and Eugene Liefeld, Assn. Sgt at Arms, with his back to the camera, at the noon lunch table. The six men were enjoying a conversation about Andy’s WWII service. He was drafted into the Army while working in Duluth, MN and served in B/ 133rd Infantry. He was wounded four time during the regiment’s battles in Italy from Monte Cassino , Anzio and Poe Valley.



34th Infantry Division Association President, Randall Stanford, thanks COL “Doc” Chris White after his Medical Service work presentation at the 34th Infantry Division Association Reunion. Col White made two tours on active duty. First in Iraq and his second tour in Afghanistan. Dr. White is on the staff of Merch Hospital in Des Moines and specializes in Emergency Room operations. An interesting part of Col White’s presentation was that he was himself a patient while on active duty in Afghanistan.



Scholarship Award in honor of fallen soldier: Mandi Backhaus is presented a \$750 Scholarship Award in the name of SGT Daniel Sesker. From left to right: LTC (Ret) Bill Backhaus, Daughter: Mandi Backhaus, Jenny. Backhaus, CPT Justin Foote, and Mother of Fallen Soldier Daniel Sesker: Misty Stumbo.



The coveted Saint Maurice Award presented to SGM Nelson, Jason (2/34 IBCT OPS SGM, and Infantry Association Treasurer). St. Maurice is the patron Saint of the Infantry. L to R: MAJ Randall Stanford, CPT Justin Foote, SGM Jason Nelson and WWII Veteran Richard "Andy" Andrew, 133rd Inf Regt combat veteran.

70th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association



Shield of Sparta Award. From left to Right: MAJ Randall Stanford, Julie Stanford, Laura Foote, CPT Justin Foote (2/34 IBCT Assistant Training Officers and Infantry Association outgoing president) Ms. Julie Stanford and Ms. Foote each received the Infantry Association Shield of Sparta Award for outstanding support to the Infantry Branch of the U.S. Army.



CSM (Ret) Bob Warrington, 168th Inf, is shown with the prize he won at the 34th Infantry Division Association Reunion. He is holding a bottle of 34th Infantry Division "Winter Line" Whiskey, which was distilled and bottled to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 34th Infantry Division which was formed by the U.S. Army in April 1917 during WWI.



President	MAJ Jacob Helgestad
1st Vice President	MAJ James Avrams
2nd VP	MAJ Jason Merchant
1 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach CSM Chris Stroner 1LT Trent Whitcomb CSM Willie Adams
2 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee Larry Woodworth LTC Tim Sulzner Paul Wieck
3 Year Trustees	Dr. Chris White MSG Daniel Ewer Bob Worthington MAJ Randall Stanford
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Michael Musel
Information Officer	Wayne Merick---
SGT at Arms	Eugene Liefeld
WebSite Mgr & Historian	MSG Daniel Ewer
Sr.Historian Emeritus	.Pat Skelly
Chaplain	1LT Nathan Perry

34th Division Soldiers Notified for Deployment

ROSEMOUNT, Minn.- More than 500 Soldiers from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division headquarters have been notified of a possible deployment to Southwest Asia beginning in the fall of 2018.

"The Red Bulls maintain a high level of readiness, and over the next 12 months, our soldiers will train for this mission while also preparing their families and civilian employers here at home," said Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, 34th Infantry Division commanding general. "The official notification is an important step in the process of building readiness for an overseas deployment."

The planned deployment is expected to last up to one year. The notified units are based in Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights, and Faribault; however, the soldiers hail from 10 different states and the District of Columbia.

Red Bulls Return Home from Peacekeeping Mission

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. - The Bloomington Army National Guard Armory was lined with dozens of family and friends, and some dogs, as they awaited the long-anticipated arrival of their Soldiers with welcome home signs, flowers and cameras on June 7, 2017.

After a nine-month peacekeeping mission to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, more than 200 Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment arrived back to Minnesota.

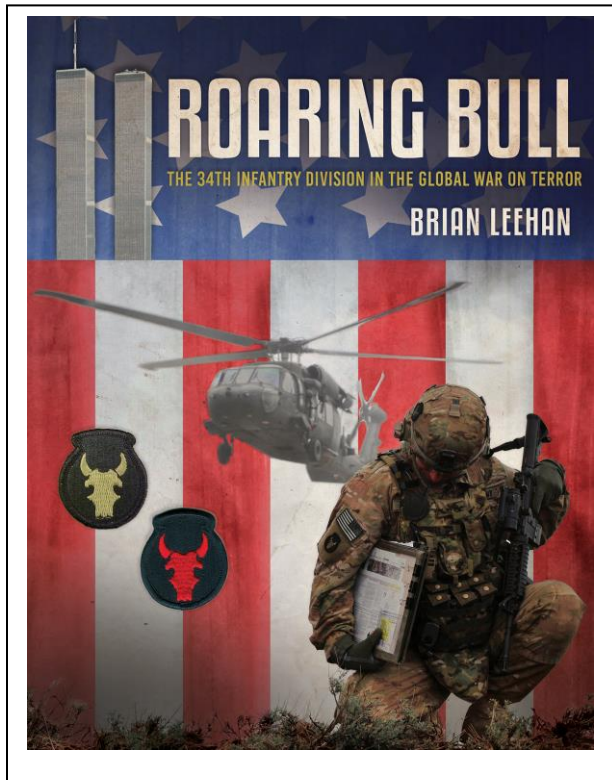
Signs reading "I could wait forever, but 333 days is enough" and "We're happy you're home!" lined the sidewalk outside of the armory. The family of Staff Sgt. Andrew Hardin, the supply sergeant for B Co., 2-135th Infantry Battalion, waited nervously with a big welcome home banner and the anticipation of reuniting with him after the deployment.

New Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Maj. Gen. Jon A. Jensen, was installed as the Minnesota National Guard's 31st Adjutant General during a ceremony in St. Paul, November 4, 2017.

"General Jensen has been a tremendous leader of the Minnesota National Guard throughout his years of dedicated service," said Governor Dayton. "He has served in two top leadership positions, as the Commanding General of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, and also as the Chief of Staff at the Guard's Joint Force Headquarters. I am confident that he will continue to provide the same outstanding leadership as his predecessor, General Rick Nash."

Jensen most recently served as the Commanding General of the 34th Red Bull Inf Div. He previously held positions as DCG 34th ID, U. S. Army Africa and Southern European Task Force, Minn. NG Director of the Joint Staff and Minnesota National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Army



A Christmas Present for your Soldier

Purchasing a copy of the “34th Infantry Division in the Global War On Terror” book is an outstanding idea for the soldier who has everything. Send for your copy today by U.S. mail using the form in this newsletter, or stop and pick one up at the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley or the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. A copy can also be purchased on the 34th Infantry Division Assn. Web Site using Paypal.

Merry Christmas Soldier!!

Please note other items shown on page 8 of this newsletter.

34th Inf. Div. Commander Re-Dedicates Intersection to Fallen Massachusetts WWII Red Bull

WINTHROP, Mass. - Settled in 1630, Winthrop is one of the oldest communities in the United States. Service members of all branches of the military from this seaside town just north of Boston have fought on behalf of their state and nation since the Revolutionary War. On Saturday, Sept. 16th, Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, the commanding general of the Minnesota-based 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, participated in a ceremony that honored one of Winthrop's own: Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Biggio. Like so many young men of his era, 19-year old Winthrop native Andrew Giovanni Biggio raised his hand to volunteer for service in 1944. He was assigned to B Company, 135th Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division. An infantryman, Biggio fought valiantly with the Red Bulls, liberating the Italian towns of Viterbo, Cecina and Liverno. His heroic actions in combat earned Pvt. 1st Class Biggio a Bronze Star Medal.





Roaring Bull:

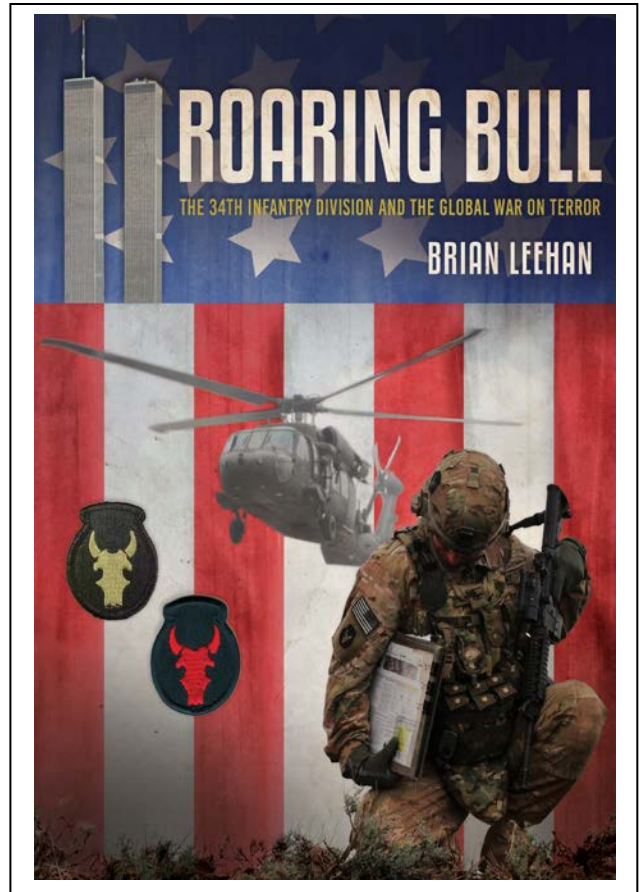
The 34th Infantry Division and the Global War on Terror
by Brian Leehan

This book is made available through the efforts of the 34th Infantry Division Association, a non-profit group organized to support the soldiers and veterans of the 34th Infantry Division.

The book is a comprehensive overview of the 34th Infantry Division's role in the GWOT (2001-2016) — bursting with the experiences of soldiers, told in their own words. It is full of stories of service, hardship, comradeship and the pride shared by so many Red Bulls in the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, as well as in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sinai, Kuwait, and in sites in the U.S. Hundreds of photos, as well as maps and graphics aid in telling the story.

Each 34th Infantry Division unit is covered; details of deployments, combat operations and the return home of units tell a universal story of all those who served. A special memorial section includes all soldiers who were killed in action while in service with the division.

We publish this book to give each individual soldier, and their family, a publication to remember their service and their part in the Global War on Terror. "Thank You!"



The cover of the new *34th Infantry Division and the GWOT* book is shown. The book is hard bound with almost 200 color photos.

The 34th Infantry Division History of the Global War on Terror book is available now by using the order form shown below or visiting the two sites shown on the order form.

Yes, send me a copy of the book, "Roaring Bull, The 34th Infantry Division and the GWOT." The price for the book is \$37 if mailed to your address. Include a personal check with this order form and send to the 34th Infantry Division Assn. address shown below.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

34th Infantry Division Association
Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,
7105 NW 70TH Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Price if picked up at one of two locations is \$32.00

Locations

- Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, Camp Dodge, IA
- Minnesota Military Museum, Camp Ripley, MN

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (8) you do not owe dues for the Current Year

- () Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Annual Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. Annual membership period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year. (Open to past and present members of units / organizations assigned to the 34th Inf Div or soldiers who have been members of the National Guard for six years or longer.)
- () Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Associate Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. (Annual Fee) (Period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year). (Individuals who do not meet membership requirements, ie: Spouses , Friends, Other Services)
- () Enclosed is \$_____ for my LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 34th Infantry Division Association.
(See Fee Schedule Below) {No Further Annual Fee}.
To Age 60 \$100.00 At age 60 & older \$50.00
- () Enclosed is \$_____ for my donation to the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Fund.
(Maintain all monuments and annual flowers for the Cemeteries in North Africa, Italy & U.S.)

Name _____ Street _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Phone Number _____
 AGE _____ Military Unit/ Organization _____ Signature: _____

Note: The purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34th Divisional units & attached organizations of soldiers that have served their nation since 1917. The National Association schedules an annual meeting each September.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Russ Bierl. His E Mail address is bierlhome@msn.com The National Association WEB Site is <http://www.34ida.org> Phone No 515-252-4531 or email goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov
 A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association WEB site.
 The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum maintains an office for the association. WEB site www.iowanationalguard.com

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Dec 2013

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 25.00	34 th Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$5.00
34 th Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$5.00
34 th Div "Red" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	34 th Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$15.00
34 th Red Bull Window Decal	\$2.00	34 th Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 th Red Bull Jacket Size _____	\$45.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 th Div "Camouflage" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Books Available: Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror\$32.00
 ** (add **\$5.00 for each** book purchased) **

*Add \$5.00 for shipping the first ITEM and \$2.00 per each added ITEM in the same shipment other than the book.

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____
 Name: _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

34th Infantry Division Association
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692
Johnston, IA 50131

Email: lowagoldstarmuseum@iowa.gov or Call 515-252-4531 if you have a question.