

34th Infantry Division

Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB-Page:
www.34ida.org

Fall 2018 Issue
The 34th ID Newsletter is
published three times a year.

71st Annual Reunion - 2018



The 2018 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. was hosted by the Des Moines Chapter on Oct 11-12, 2018, in Johnston, IA.

The new president elected by the 34th Infantry Division Association is MAJ James Avravs. He is currently assigned as S3 of the 2nd (IBCT) Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa NG. The new 1st Vice President is 1SG (Ret) Nick Jedlicka. The new three year trustees are BG (Ret) Mark Zirklebach, COL (Ret) Ron" Curly" Albrecht, CSM Willie Adams, and COL (Ret) Russ Bierl.

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 LTC Jason Merchant, XO of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, who spoke about the Red Bulls in the Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy during WWII. The Association was honored to have three WWII veterans of the 34th Inf Div recognized at the reunion banquet. They included Ed Hess, B/135th Inf Regt., Gerald Robertson and Jerry Barnett, 168th Inf Regt. "God Bless You All."

The 34th Infantry Division Association Chaplain, CPT Nathan Perry led the reunion participants in a memorial prayer for our fallen comrades during the Service. We also had an invocation blessing from LTC Ray Leach, who served with the 133rd Infantry Bn during "The Long Deployment", in Iraq, and currently at Ft McCoy, WI.

The Door Prize at the 34th Infantry Division Association Banquet was the book, written by author Brian Leehan, from Egan, MN, "Roaring Bull, the 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror".

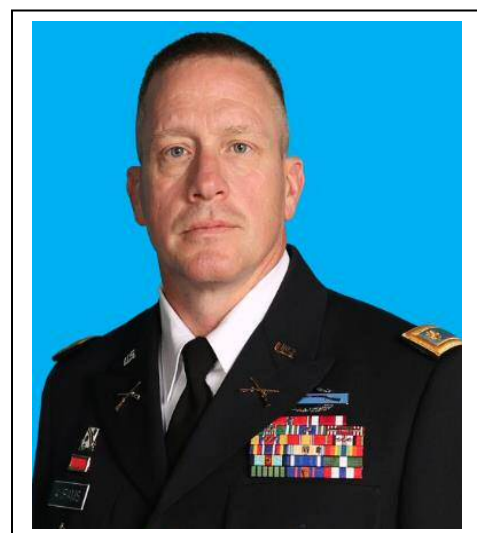
National Reunion 2019 Dates

The dates for the 2019 Reunion are now set for **5-6 October 2019** at Camp Ripley, MN. Please mark it on your calendar now. This will be the first time the Association has met at Camp Ripley, MN. COL (Ret) Don Kerr informed the 34th Infantry Division Assn. leadership that there will be lodging available on post at Camp Ripley as well as at nearby Little Falls, MN. They will have an informal social on Friday, 4th October, optional daytime activities on Sat as well as the traditional dinner banquet on Saturday evening. There will also be the annual Memorialization ceremony on Sunday, Oct 6th

We especially welcome the "War on Terror" veterans who served in the 34th Division in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other deployments for homeland defense in the U.S. to attend this upcoming reunion.



Three WWII 34th Infantry Division soldiers, who are shown in the enclosed photo, attended the 71st Reunion at Johnston, IA. They are Gerald Robertson, 168th Inf Regt, age 96, from Huston, TX; Ed Hess, Co B, 135th Inf Regt, age 98, from Philadelphia, PA; and Jerry Barnett, 168th Inf Regt, age 92, from Urbandale, IA. All had attended previous reunions and were happy to be back for another year.



MAJ James Avravs is the newly elected President of the 34th Infantry Division Association after the 71st Reunion on 12-13 October, 2018 at the Johnston Lions Club, Johnston, IA. MAJ Avravs has served two tours in Afghanistan with the 1-168 Infantry and now serves as the S3, Operations Officer, of the 2nd (IBCT) Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division in Boone, IA.

Association Members,

Thank you to the 34th Infantry Division Association for the opportunity. I am humbled to carry on the tradition into the association's 72nd year. Current Red Bull's, retirees and families have many choices amongst the various associations, whether the Enlisted or Officer Associations, NGAUS, or many others. The importance of the 34th ID Association is that it ties generations and ranks together and maintains a proud linkage to the 34th ID's amazing history.

We will carry the association into its 72nd year and add to the history and camaraderie it provides. Why is this important? Because Soldiers have spent money on lifetime memberships and we owe it to everyone to keep the association going. Because there are other members who wouldn't miss this event for anything. It is that important to them. And most importantly, because there are members of the 34th who could not be here for a lifetime.

Social media is a great tool to promote the association, but word of mouth and personal experiences are the greatest methods of garnering membership and participation. I am simply asking you to spread the word on the association and events.

James F. Avrams

President, 34th ID Association

james.f.avrams.mil@mail.mil



34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call

Spring 2018

- Roger Nussbaum, 1-168 Inf, 34th Inf Div
- Wallace Richardson, 34th Inf Div
- Arthur Saburo Kitagawa, D 100th Inf, 34ID
- Yoshinori Chinen, D 100th Inf, 34th ID
- Hiroshi Shimazu, B 100th Inf, 34th Inf Div
- Robert McNair, 2nd Bde, 34th Inf Div
- Thomas G. Wilson, 34th Inf Div
- Lee H. Unger, 168 Inf, 34th Inf Div
- Robert Holton, 34th Inf Div
- John T. Goodwin, 34th Inf Div
- Richard Fields, G 168 Inf, 34th Inf Div
- James H. Feutz, 34th Inf Div
- Marion Doughty, 34th Inf Div
- Bernard J Cahill, 34th Inf Div

Fall 2018

- Ivan W. Carroll, 34th Inf Div
- Fred King, K 168th Inf, 34th Inf Div
- Gary W. Gezel, 34th Inf Div
- Martin T. "Bud" Rollston, 34th Inf Div
- Mark Edward Nakazawa, D 100th Inf 34th ID
- Reverend George Aki, 34th Inf Div
- Jerold L. Greenfield, 34th Inf Div
- Patrick Skelly, RA, Redstone Arsenal
- Alfred F. Thiel, 34th Inf Div
- Victor S. Izui, 100th, 442nd RCT
- Joseph Cericola, 34th Inf Div
- William B. Baker, 185th FA
- Leslie W. Bailey, 34th Inf Div
- Marvin E. Kness, 2-168 Inf, 34th Inf Div
- Richard Brummel, 194th Cav 34th ID
- James P. Moloney, HQ 3-168 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: SFC Shane Pankonen spankonen2000@yahoo.com

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

72nd Reunion..... 4-5 Oct 2019 Camp Ripley, MN

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

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

Facebook Webmasters: Herman Poggensee & Wayne Merick

WEB Site Manager: MSG Daniel Ewer sgdaniel@aol.com

& Historian daniel.r.ewer.mil@mail.mil

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

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.twitter.com/IowaRedBulls>
<http://www.flickr.com/IowaRedBulls>

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

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



Scholarship Award in honor of a Fallen Soldier. The \$750 award was presented to Ms. Haley Weber in the name of SGT Brent Maher. From left to right: SGM Jason Nelson, Haley Weber, Keith Weber, Tonya Weber, and Mrs. Brenna Maher, spouse of the Fallen Soldier, SGT Bret Maher. SGT Maher became a casualty while serving in the 168th Infantry Battalion in Afghanistan.

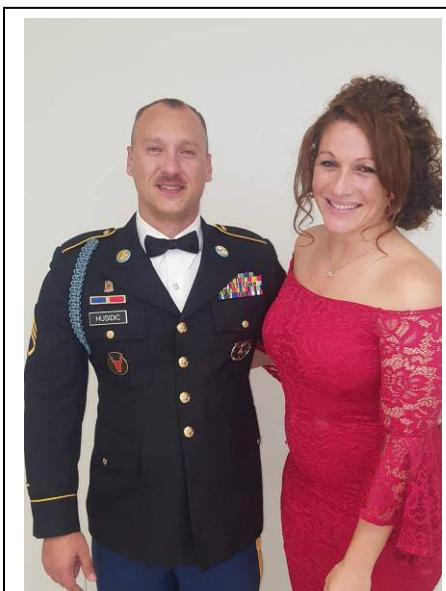


From (L to R) are LTC Ray Leach, Chaplin at Ft. McCoy, WI, BG (Ret) Paul Wieck, ADC 34th Inf Div, and COL (Ret) Chris White. BG (Ret) Wieck spoke to the Reunion attendees about his 1970's service in Germany during the Cold War. He shared stories of his organizations readiness requirements, draftee soldier discipline problems, and actions taken during many unit alerts.

71st Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association



MSG (Ret) Shane Pankonen was elected as Secretary of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. at the business meeting on Oct 12th. Shane served in HHC, 1-133rd Infantry in Waterloo as an Operations NCO, deploy twice with the Battalion and retired in February 2017.



SSG Samir Husidic & wife Ramah attended the 71st Reunion. SSG Husidic is assigned as Asst Opns SGT in HHC, 1-133rd Infantry in Waterloo. They were chosen, along with SFC (Ret) Shane Pankonen & his spouse to receive the "Stanley Vomacka Reunion Financial Support Award."



LTC (Ret) Larry Lewer and CW5 (Ret) Gerald Klinkenfus, both old 168th Infantry soldiers, attended the Reunion at Johnston Iowa. Larry enlisted in Council Bluffs and Gerald enlisted in the Audubon unit. Gerald was an Infantryman, and later moved into the Admin field as a Unit AST.

Ironman Battalion Building Readiness



1-133rd Infantry Battalion

There is a very strong focus on personnel readiness (The “P” factor) within the Army National Guard. Personnel readiness is a combination of administrative and medical factors that determine if an individual is ready to deploy. Readiness is the **Army’s number one priority and the scope and pace of the Army’s downsizing since 2016, has made personnel readiness more critical to a unit’s ability to accomplish its mission.**

The Army has integrated a redefined administrative and medical deployment determination with a new readiness reporting process that streamlines reporting and adds transparency to enable commanders to more efficiently manage their forces.

Have you ever wondered who’s behind that transparency? The 1-133 Infantry Battalion is privileged to have a full-time position for a Battalion Medical Readiness NCO. SSG Michelle Westra works directly with case managers to ensure the medical readiness for over 650 Soldiers. SSG Westra serves as a liaison between AMEDD and units to **schedule Soldiers for PHA’s and dental exams, treatment, and getting dental vouchers.** SSG Westra is also **the point of contact to initiate LOD’s and work with an LOD investigator if needed.**

SSG Westra trains unit personnel, commanders and the 1-133 BN Commander on MRC 4, MRC 3A/3B and how to remediate them. SSG Westra also rolls up reports for the command teams to see where they are at and brings up trends that may need addressed. Not only does she work with the medical side of the house, but she also serves in the S1 shop helping get Soldiers administratively ready as well. **She is the “P” factor when it comes to the readiness of the 1-133 Infantry Battalion.**

34th ID Kuwait Deployment

More than 700 soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard’s 34th Red Bull Infantry Division are being activated for a 10-month-long deployment to the Middle East in September 2018. The organization is commanded by MG Benjamin Corell, from Strawberry Point, IA. He previously commanded the 1-133rd Infantry Battalion and the 2nd IBCT (Infantry Brigade Combat Team) when they deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The soldiers, representing 220 communities across Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and several other states, trained for a month **at Fort Hood, Texas.** **The Division HQ’s Battalion is expected to complete their mission next July.**

The troops will be taking part in Operation Spartan Shield, where they will partner with other national military forces across the ten country region, promoting regional self-reliance and security.

The 34th Red Bull Infantry Division provides command and control to several brigade combat teams. While in normal drilling status, the division provides training and readiness oversight for 23,000 citizen-soldiers across eight U.S. states.

Previous National Guard Divisions HQ’s which have deployed for this mission are the 28th, 29th and the 35th Infantry Divisions.

MG Ben Corell is the Commander of the 34th Infantry Division HQ’s which has deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Spartan Shield.



Shown below is the tradition pre deployment photo of the 34th Infantry Division HQ taken at Fort Hood TX.



34th Infantry Division Assn. Officers



President 2018	MAJ Jim Avrams
1st Vice Pres 2018	1SG (Ret) Nick Jedlicka
Past President	MAJ Jacob Helgestad
1 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee Larry Woodworth LTC Tim Sulzner Paul Wieck
2 Year Trustees	Dr. Chris White MSG Daniel Ewer Bob Worthington MAJ Randall Stanford
New 3 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach Willie Adams Ron Curly Albrecht Russ Bierl
Secretary	Shane Pankonen
Treasurer	Michael Musel
Information Officer	Wayne Merick
SGT at Arms	Eugene Liefeld
WebSite Mgr & Historian	MSG Daniel Ewer
Chaplain	CPT Nathan Perry

More 34th ID Reunion Photos



The Color Guard for the 34th Inf Div Reunion was provided by the 113th Cavalry Squadron and the 334th Main Support Battalion, Iowa National Guard. The soldiers are (L to R) PFC Stephen Waltz, SPC Jacob Spurrel, CDT Tyler Pasut and PFC Alec Veatch.



The \$750 award was presented to Ms. Elizabeth Paz. From left to right: SGM Jason Nelson, Elizabeth Paz, Mother Kelly Paz, Father SGM(RET) Robert Paz, and MAJ Michael Minard, in honor of SSG James "Juice" Justice (A/1-113 CAV).



1st Iowa Infantry Association Scholarship Awards in honor of Fallen Soldiers were presented at the 34th ID Assn. Reunion. A \$750 award was presented to Ms. Alissa Nelson. From left to right: SGM Jason Nelson, Alissa Nelson, Grandfather MSG(RET) Joe Christiansen and MAJ Justin Foote, in honor of SPC Donald Nichols (HHC/1-133 IN).



Every year since the Sept 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack on the U.S., the Gray's Lake Walking Path near the Des Moines Airport, has been transformed into a memorial for the 2,977 people killed. Flags placed by the Iowa Air Guard remain at the site throughout the day to honor all those who died.

50 Year Reunion 2-133 Infantry Battalion

More than 300 alumni of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 133rd Infantry, Iowa Army National Guard attended a 50th Anniversary celebration of **the unit's mobilization** to Vietnam at the Iowa NG Sioux City Readiness Center on Saturday, Sep 22nd. The unit mobilized on May 13, 1968 and returned home to Iowa on Dec. 31, 1969. 🇺🇸

Retired officers Brig. Gen. James Lalley hosted the event and Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz served as the distinguished guest speaker. Mob Facts:

2-133rd Infantry Battalion, with 863 soldiers assigned, was mobilized on May 13, 1968 from the communities of Sioux City, Le Mars, Cherokee, Sheldon, Mapleton and Ida Grove.

525 soldiers, to include all the officers and **WO's**, served in Vietnam. The remaining soldiers served in Germany, Korea or stateside in Regular Army units. Of the men sent to Vietnam, 12 soldiers were killed and 63 wounded in action.



LTG (Ret) Roger Schultz. (L), with SSG (Ret) James Mackey (C/1-168) and his wife at the reunion. LTG Schultz was mobilized as a 2nd Lt, from Le Mars and served as a platoon Leader in Vietnam. He later served as a Co Cdr, Bn Cdr, Bde Cdr, Deputy Adjutant General, Iowa National Guard, and rose to the Rank of Lt. Gen as Director of the Army Guard.



Former Battalion Commander of the 2-133rd Infantry, BG Steve Saunders, speaks with MSG Raymond Ramirez at the reunion. MSG Ray Ramirez served in Vietnam with 1/502, 101 Airborne Division.

34th ID Assn. Historian Patrick Skelly Passes

Patrick Skelly died on Saturday morning, August 18th at a Memory Care Center on Cape Cod, MA. Services will be at the National Military Cemetery in Bourne, MA on Cape Cod on Sep 7th. Patrick was born on April 24, 1935.

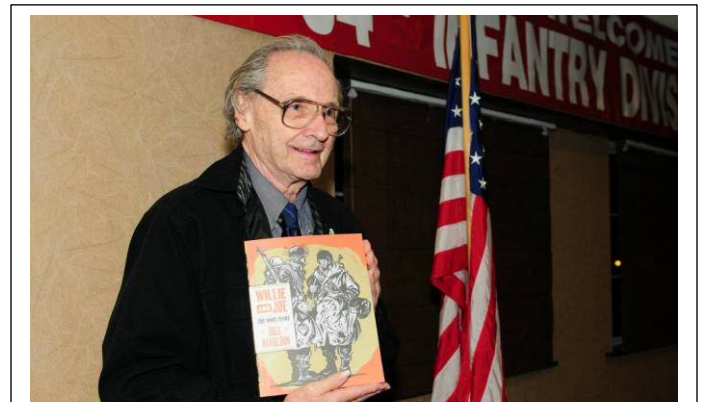
Pat is long remembered for his interest in maintaining the history of the 34th Infantry Division. This interest was kindled by the service of his father, Lt Col Walter J. Skelly, who served as a Battalion Commander in the 133rd Infantry Regiment during the latter part of WWII. After the war, his father brought the family to Italy, which included Pat, to live as part of the occupation force. Pat later joined the U.S. Army himself and served for three years as an Information / Computer Specialist at Redstone Army Depot in Alabama.

Pat served as the Senior Historian and Archivist for the Association from 2003 thru 2017, when his illness prevented him from further work. Pat earned his Masters Degree in History when he was 72 years old. Pat also served for many years as Secretary of the Tri- State Chapter of the 34th Inf Div Assn in NY, PA, and MA.

Working with the members of the Association meant so much to Patrick. He spent many days conducting research on the 34th Infantry Division, and the 100th Infantry Battalion. Patrick maintained the 34th Infantry Division Association WEB Site by himself for over ten years.

He particularly enjoyed the annual reunions where everyone was together and he could give history classes on his research findings. Patrick and his partner, Genevieve Kazdin, made meaningful friendships with people from all over the world. His favorite trips were to visit battlefields in Italy, where his father had served in the 133rd Infantry Regiment during the war.

More information will be posted on the 34th Infantry Division Association Web Site as it becomes available. <http://www.34ida.org>



Pat Skelly at the 2013 Reunion with a Bill Maudlin cartoon showing 34th soldiers from 1944.



“ROARING BULL

The 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror”

By Brian Leehan

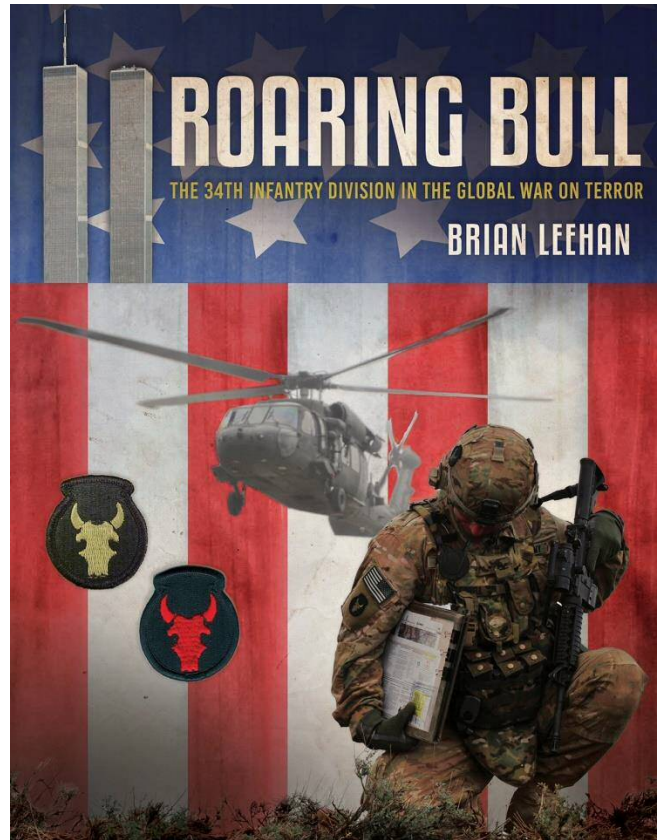
Published October 2017, this book is made available through the efforts of the 34th Infantry Division Association, a non-profit organized to support the soldiers and veterans of the 34 Infantry Division.

The book is a comprehensive overview of the 34th Infantry Division’s part in the Global War on Terror from 2001 to 2017. The book is bursting with first-person accounts of soldiers in the field — stories of hardship, comradeship and the pride in service shared by Red Bulls in the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, as well as in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sinai, Kuwait and sites within the US. The hardcover book includes maps, graphics and nearly 200 color photos that aid in telling the story.

Each 34th Infantry Division unit is covered; details of deployments, combat operations and the return home 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 offer this book to give each soldier, and their family, a publication to remember their service and their part in the Global War on Terror.

Visit www.34ida.org, for information on the 34th Infantry Division Association and becoming a member.



The book is available for \$30 online with Paypal at www.34ida.org/paypal.html or by mail with the form below.

Books can also be purchased for \$25 at the following museum store locations:

- Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
Camp Dodge Bldg 3692
7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131
- Minnesota Military Museum
Camp Ripley Sutler Store Gift Shop
15000 Hwy 115
Little Falls, MN 56345

Yes, send me a copy of “ROARING BULL: The 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror.”	
Name _____	Mail a personal check of \$30 for each book to: 34 th Infantry Division Association Iowa Gold Star Museum Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692 7105 NW 70 TH Ave Johnston, IA 50131
Address _____	
City/State _____ Zip _____	
Phone # _____	

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (9) 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\$25.00

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

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____
 Name: _____

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

Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

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