

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Fall 2021 Issue -
The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is
published three times a year.

Association WEB Page:
www.34ida.org



74th Reunion - 34th Infantry Division Association

The 34th Infantry Division Association hosted their 74th Annual Reunion, on Sat, Oct 16th, 2021, at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum and Dodge House at Cp Dodge, Johnston, IA. This was the 74th Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association since the first event, in September 1947, after WWII.

Newly elected President COL (Ret) Wayne Hayes, from Coon Rapids, MN, succeeded past president 1SG (Ret) Nicholas Jedlicka, who had served for the past two years. The new 1st V.P. of the 34th Inf Div Association is SGM Lucas Queck, the current Senior Operations NCO of the 1-133rd Infantry Battalion.



COL (Ret) Wayne Hayes
President 34th ID Assn.



SGM Lucas Queck
Vice President 34th ID Assn.

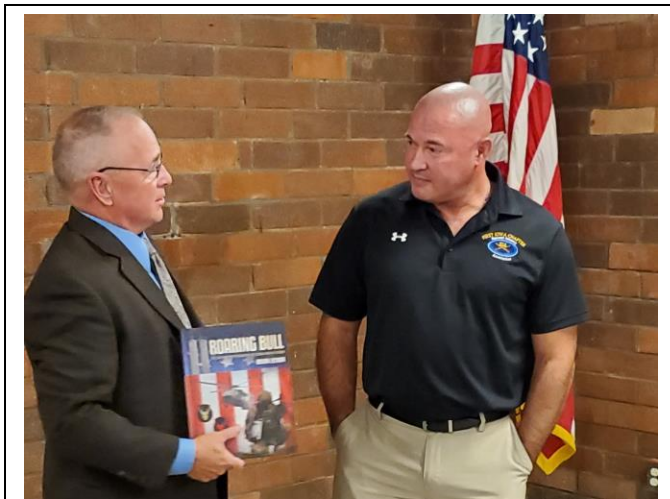
The Reunion Memorial Service of the 34th Inf Div Assn. was conducted by Chaplain MAJ Cory Van Sloten, 2nd IBCT.

Our guest speaker was LTC Aaron Baugher, current Training Officer for the Iowa Joint Forces HQ's and past commander of the 1-168th Infantry Battalion. LTC Baugher has served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and spoke about his feelings of pride and accomplishment after his service as a "Red Bull" Infantryman. He stated, "We can all look back with pride on our "Red Bull" service." LTC Baugher brought forward his prospective, to share with everyone, after his tour of duty as S3 Operations Officer with the 133rd Infantry Battalion and having been on the ground at the "Battle of Do Ab", in Nuristan Province, on 25 May 2011.

1-194th FA Deployment 2020 - 2021

The 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery successfully executed the Air Defense C-RAM mission and an indirect fires mission, defending CJTF-OIR, USFOR-A and RSHQ strategic critical assets from enemy IDF, C-UAS threats, and protecting the lives of many thousands of Coalition Force military and civilian personnel throughout the CENTCOM AOR. The battalion was stationed at multiple undisclosed locations in Iraq, and Afghanistan during their deployment.

The Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) Intercept Land-based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) which gives the ADA unit the ability to defend against and defeat enduring Indirect Fire (IDF) threats from rockets, mortars, artillery and drones. The primary components of the system are the LPWS, a modified U.S. Navy Phalanx Close-In Weapon System mounted on a commercial 35-ton semitrailer for land-based operations, the M61A1, 20 mm Gatling gun capable of onboard target acquisition and fire control system, and the Integrated search-and-track radars detect and engage wide range of IDF threats.



National Association V.P., Wayne Hayes, is shown presenting a "Roaring Bull" book to LTC Aaron Baugher, at the Banquet of the 74th Reunion. LTC Baugher spoke about his feelings of pride and satisfaction having served as a "Red Bull" during his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The 34th ID Red Bulls soldiers can be Proud- We served well!



Greetings 34th Inf Div Assn. Members,

It is my distinct pleasure to serve as the president of the Division Association for the next year. I look forward to discussing where we need to grow to help the organizations see an increase in membership this next year. I know that deployments and COVID have had a significant impact on the lives of our family, active and retired, and have changed the course of what we saw as normal business. As we adjust, let's open lines of communications and determine how we can grow. I personally thank 1SG (Ret) Nick Jedlicka, for his service as your president this past two years, to our organization and wish him and his family well in the future – thanks Nick!

I would also like to thank the Des Moines Chapter officers for their expert help in organizing and running this year's conference on the 16th of October. It truly would not have happened without you. I would also like to pass along a heart filled thank you to Herman Poggensee, Jerry Jensen, Doug Clabaugh, Carroll Tungesvik, Larry Woodworth, Russ Bierl and Mark Newhall, for all their hard work throughout the year in preparation for this conference as well as the events throughout the year. You guys carry a heavy load for the organization, and I want you to know that we all appreciate it.

As I mentioned, it's time for us to move the organization forward and am looking forward to meeting and discussing your ideas on how best to do that. For those that have just returned from deployments WELCOME HOME and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

Wayne Hayes, Col (Ret)
President, 34th ID Association

wayneh1693@gmail.com

34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call

Spring 2021

Robert Bob George Watts, 125 FA, 34th ID
Dave L. Campbell, HHC, 34th Bde, 34th ID
John M. Hood, Btry B, 194th FA, 34th ID
Donald D. LaRue, Co B, 1-133rd IN 34th ID
Jeffery G. Brown, 1-133rd IN, 34th Inf Div
Masayoshi Tsuida Co C, 100th Bn, 34th Inf Div
Richard L. Schuett, 2-133rd Inf Bn, 34th Inf Div
John P. Miller, Sr. Co B, 168 Inf, 34th Inf Div
Robert W. McInroy, HHC, 133rd Inf 34th Inf Div
Gerald Klinkefus, 168th Inf Regt, 34th Inf Div
Albert Valentine, 168th Inf Regt, 34th Inf Div
Donald Otis Allen, 168th Inf Regt, 34th Inf Div
MG Clayton Hovda, 34th Inf Div
MG David H. Lueck, 2-135th Inf, 34th Inf Div
Walter Straka, 194th Tank Bn, 34th Inf Div
Richard Andrew, 135th Inf Regt, 34th Inf Div

Fall 2021

Stephen Vinson, 34th Infantry Division
Richard W. Wheeler, 151FA, 34th Inf Div
James E. Burns, 168th Inf, Regt 34th Inf Div
Dennis Shannon, 34th Infantry Division
John Paul JP Cook, 2-133rd Inf 34th Inf Div
Robert H. Savidge, B, 133rd Inf Regt, 34th ID
Terry E. Muilenburg, HHC 1-168th 34th ID
Robert Pache, 109th Med Regt, 34th Inf Div
Hans H. Goepfinger, 34th Inf Div
Dr. Coolidge Wakai, Co B 100 Inf Bn 34th ID
CHP Col John W. Hemann, 133rd Inf, 34th ID
Robert L. Thomas, 34th Infantry Division
Arnold D. Lovelace Co E 133rd 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

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

75th Reunion.....30 Sep - 1 Oct 2021 Camp Ripley, MN

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russell Bierl, bierlhome@msn.com

Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812, mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

Facebook Manager: Herman Poggensee, pogjack@gmail.com

Website Manager, Historian: MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer,
justcallmesarge@gmail.com

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

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

Also, follow Red Bulls at

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

2nd IBCT: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls> <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

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

TF 1-194 AR, 34th ID, Supports Afghanistan Evacuation

By LTC Jacob Helgestad

KABUL, Afghanistan — Minnesota National Guard's Task Force 1-194 mobilized in March 2021 to serve as the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Regional Response Force based in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Regional Response Force, part of Task Force Spartan under Operation Spartan Shield, is postured for rapid deployment within the CENTCOM area to support strategic and operational requirements.

With its strategic assignment at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Task Force 1-194 was positioned to respond to the Kabul Afghanistan Noncombatant Evacuation Operation, announced by the U.S. State Dept. and supported by the DOD. Alongside units from the 82nd Airborne Div, 10th Mountain Divn, Marine Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force, and Marine Expeditionary Unit, Task Force 1-194 AR was trained and ready when called for rapid deployment in support of Operation Allies Refuge in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The 1-194 AR Task Force mission was to secure vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport, and also provide humanitarian assistance to U.S. citizens, special immigrant visa holders, and their families.

“The Soldiers of Task Force 1-194 Armor, were called upon to execute a challenging mission, and they have done so with professionalism,” said Task Force 1-194 AR Cdr, Army Lt. Col. Jake Helgestad. “They have shown strength, compassion, and resolve despite danger

The last two months have presented challenges we could have never dreamed up and the Task Force rose to the occasion. We simultaneously supported operations in Afghanistan, Afghan civilian operations in Kuwait, and we deployed forces to Egypt to participate in Bright Star 2021. When presented with these unique challenges, every Soldier in the Task Force contributed to accomplish our assigned missions.



1st Lt. Michelle Jaeger, a platoon leader with the Minnesota National Guard's A Co, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, interacts with Afghan children as part of operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport on Aug. 21, 2021. The 34th Inf Div Photo: Photo Credit: Army Capt. Vincent Struble.



Above. “The Soldiers of Task Force 1-194, 34th Inf Div, were called upon to execute a challenging mission, and they have done so with professionalism,” said Task Force 1-194 Commander, Army Lt. Col. Jake Helgestad. “They have shown strength, compassion, and resolve despite danger and difficulty.” Photo Credit Army Lt. Col. Jacob Helgestad. (Soldiers on C17) U.S. Army Photo



34th Infantry Division Organization Supports Afghanistan Evacuation

Approximately 1,100 Soldiers from Task Force 1-194th Armor, Minnesota National Guard, deployed to the Middle East in early 2021 for a nine-month mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield. While deployed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Soldiers assumed responsibilities within the CENTCOM area of operations assuming the Operation Spartan Shield response force mission.

What the 34th Infantry Division Soldiers did not know, is they would soon find themselves, on the front lines of the operation, at the Kabul Airport, in response to Operation Allies Refuge. With its strategic assignment at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Task Force 1-194 was positioned to respond to the Afghanistan Noncombatant Evacuation Operation announced by the U.S. State Dept. and supported by the DOD. The 34th "Red Bulls", served alongside brigades from the 82nd Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, Marine Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force, and a Marine Expeditionary Unit, all under the leadership of the 82nd Airborne Division Commander.

Task Force 1-194th Armor flew on U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft, on August 17, 2021, responding to the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation announced by the Department of State, supported by the Department of Defense. They flew directly to Hamid Karzai International Airport when called upon for rapid deployment in support of Operation Allies Refuge in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"The interaction with the citizens they were evacuating, the Afghans that were at risk, that's a part of the story that I'm extremely proud of," said Col. Timothy Kemp, commander of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

When a deadly explosion rocked one of the airport's gates last week, Guard leaders waited in Minnesota to see if any of their soldiers were hurt but eventually learned they were securing a different part of the airport. The 34th Infantry Division soldiers continued with their mission after the suicide bombing at the Kabul Airport, which killed 13 United States servicemen and women.

MN Gov. Tim Walz says he's proud of the men and women of the MN National Guard, 34th Infantry Division soldiers, who just played a key role to the end of the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

"They performed, by all accounts, heroically," Gov. Tim Walz said at the Minnesota State Fair.

"They did what they needed to do. They were part of that evacuation to save lives and we've got them back (in Kuwait) now." The governor said there were anxious days in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist bombing at the airport in Kabul that killed 13 U.S. military service members.

Gov. Tim Walz stated, "It took about 72 hours to get official word that no Minnesotans were among the casualties, and we made sure that all families were notified accordingly."

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Task Force Spartan – Kuwait Aug 31 2021 Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, Task Force Spartan and 29 ID commanding general, welcomes the Soldiers from the Minnesota-based 34th Infantry Division upon return to the Kuwait airfield, on Aug. 31, 2021, shortly after their planes landed. He congratulates the soldiers on a successful mission. The Red Bulls of the 1-194th Armor Task Force, were some of the last American service members to leave Afghanistan on C 17 aircraft. (Photo by Capt. C. Anderson)

34th Infantry Division Reunion Photos

The 74th Annual 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Reunion, was conducted on 16 Oct 2021 at Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA. This is a photo spread showing some of the activity during the reunion.



The special guest of Honor at the reunion was Corporal Fred Adams, Co D, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, served in North Africa and Italy, during WWII. He was mobilized in Des Moines at the Argon Armory, and served as a Squad Leader, in Co D, (Weapons Co) in the Heavy Machine Gun Section. Their assigned weapon was the M1917A1 Water Cooled Machine Gun. Fred served 5 years, 8 months and 18 days, after his mobilization on 10 Feb 1941.



Stanley Vomacka Reunion Financial Award, was presented to SSG Joshua Pauley, and SGT Jaron Springer, 168th Inf Bn, and their ladies, attended the 74th Annual, 34th Inf Div Assn. Reunion as guests on 16 Oct. The financial award was named for PFC Stanley Vomacka, 135th Infantry Regiment, in WWII, who was severely wounded at the Anzio Breakout in May 1944.



Fred Adams with three of his Grand Children at the 74th Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association.



Lt. Col Jason Knueven, Cmdr. 113th Cavalry Squadron and LTC James Avrums, Cmdr 1-168th Infantry Battalion, briefed the attendees after the 74th Annual Business meeting of the reunion. The 113th Cavalry Squadron returned from their most recent deployment to Qatar, and several other CENTCOM locations in the USCENCON region on April 13 & 14th 2021.



Shown in this photo is the Support Team for the Des Moines Chapter who hosted the 74th Annual Reunion. (l-r Front) Daryl Drake, Russ Bierl, Herman Poggensee, (Back Row) Larry Woodworth, Jerry Jensen, Doug Clabaugh, Mark Newhall, Assn. VP Wayne Hayes, and James Avrums President of the Des Moines Chapter.

The Last Minnesota Bataan Death March Soldier Passed Away

Walt Straka, lifelong Brainerd resident and Minnesota's the last survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March, passed away Sunday, July 4. He was 101 years old. The death of PVT Walter Straka, Company A, 194th Tank Battalion, was announced in a Facebook post by 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor. MN ARNG.

"It is with heavy heart that we announce that Walter Straka passed away this morning on Independence Day, July 4th 2021 at the age of 101. Mr. Straka was an extraordinary man who by his own account 'should have been dead a thousand times.' Mr. Straka was Minnesota's last living survivor of the Bataan Death March where he and thousands of others were forced to march 65 miles over 6 days. After the war, Mr. Straka resided peacefully in Brainerd where he ran a successful business and raised a family.

In September 1941, Straka's unit, the 194th Tank Battalion, was ordered to the Philippines, just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Stationed near Clark Field on the island of Luzon, they represented the first tank unit in the Far East before World War II. Isolated and without supplies, they fought on until ordered to surrender with the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942.

After the April 9, 1942 U.S. surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on the main Philippine island of Luzon to the Japanese during World War II (1939-45), the approximately 75,000 Filipino and American troops on Bataan were forced to make an arduous 65-mile march to prison camps between April 9th and the 17, 1942. The marchers made the trek in intense heat and were subjected to harsh treatment by Japanese guards. Thousands perished in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

Of the 64 men from Brainerd's 194th tank company who went to the Philippines, three were killed in action and 29 died as POWs; only thirty-two survived captivity. The Bataan POW theme Poem was, "We're the Battling Bastards of Bataan, and Nobody Gives A Damn."



Ret. Sgt. Maj. Gary Strasser stands with his sons, then Sgt. Maj. Jeremy Strasser and Cmd Sgt. Maj. Matthew Strasser, during Matthew's change of responsibility ceremony for the 2nd IBCT, 34th Inf Div, Iowa Army Nat Guard, at the Cp Dodge JMTC in Sept 2017. On Sept. 10, 2021, Matthew passed responsibility of the brigade to his younger brother Jeremy, marking a unique moment in Iowa Guard history. The three have a combined 85 years of service.

34th Inf Div Assn. Officers & Trustees

President	COL (Ret) Wayne Hayes
1st Vice President	SGM Lucas Queck
2nd VP	To Be Appointed - MN
Past President	Nicholas Jedlicka
1 Year Trustees	Ron "Curly" Albright Mark Zirkelbach CSM Willie Adams Daryl Drake
2 Year Trustees	Hermann Poggensee Larry Woodworth Paul Wieck CSM (Ret) Chris Stroner
3 Year Trustees (New)	Dr. Chris White MSG Daniel Ewer James Avrams LTC Randall Stanford
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Mark Newhall
SGT at Arms	Eugene Liefeld
Web Site Mgr & Historian	MSG Daniel Ewer

AUSA Suicide Prevention Quote

Suicide prevention is one of the most difficult challenges facing military leaders, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said last year. "All of us go through adversity in life, and all of us need a helping hand," he said. "When people fail, you've got to be there for them."

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (2) 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 Fall.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Russ Bierl. His E-Mail address is bierlhome@msn.com The National Association Website is <http://www.34IDA.org>
 Membership Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812 Email: mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association Website. The 34th Infantry Division Association maintains files and a desk at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Oct 2021

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	\$20.00	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	\$20.00	34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Special Price on Books: Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror \$10.00

*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 _____

Call 515-210-1812 if you have a question.



LTC (Ret) Daryl Drake gave a report at the reunion on the new Museum of the US Army at Ft. Belvoir, VA. He visited the museum in June of this year, and noted that the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Plaque is located in a prominent spot in the new facility, along with other U.S. Army Division Plaques. The 34th Infantry Division Association provided a \$5,000 contribution to place the Red Bull at the Memorial Walkway. Thank you to all who contributed. The museum, opened on June 4th 2020.



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