

34th Infantry Division Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association WEB Page:
www.34ida.org

Fall 2016 Issue -
The 34th ID Assn. newsletter is
published three times a year.



34th Inf Div Annual Reunion-2016

The 2016 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. was hosted by the Des Moines Chapter on Oct 14-15, 2016, in Johnston, IA at the Stoney Creek Inn.

The new president elected by the 34th Infantry Division Association is MAJ Randall Stanford, who is assigned as the S3 Operations Officer of 2nd Brigade (IBCT) 34th Inf Div. The 1st Vice President is MAJ Jacob Helgestad, and 2nd Vice President is MAJ Jim Avrams. The new three year trustees are CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee, 1SG (Ret) Larry Woodworth, LTC Tim Sulzner and BG (Ret) Paul Wieck. The newly appointed SGT at Arms is 1SG (Ret) Eugene Leifeld, the Web Site Mgr MSG Daniel Ewer & Chaplain is 1LT Nathan Perry.

We had a total of 66 members and guests attend the 34th Infantry Division Reunion Banquet. The main speaker at the reunion was Mr. Brian Leehan, the author who is writing the soon to be published book, "The 34th Infantry Division in the GWOT."

We were blessed to have four WWII combat veterans of the 34th Infantry Division recognized at the reunion banquet. They included Art Van Erem B/133, John Sigmans I/168, Warren Milner G/133rd, and Gerald Robertson HQ Special Troops, 168th. "God Bless You All."

During the 34th Infantry Division Assn. business meeting it was announced that the Chapters in Council Bluffs and Waterloo are being reactivated. The Commanders Own Chapter in Rosemont, Minnesota, at the 34th Infantry Division Headquarters continues to grow and has committed to hosting the 2018 National Reunion in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area as they did in 2015. The Mankato Chapter, "To the Last Man," is deployed with the 2-135th Infantry to the Sinai.

The dates for the 2017 Reunion are now set for 6-7 Oct 2017 at the Johnston, IA Hotel - TBA. During the fifteen years of the "War on Terror" we have had over 20 thousand soldiers serve in the 34th Infantry Division in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as deployments for Nobel Eagle support for homeland defense in the U.S. We plan a special welcome back for these soldiers and their families at the next reunion. Watch for news on this in the Winter 2017 issue of the newsletter.

COL Curly Albrecht gave a special thanks to our Des Moines Chapter members for hosting the reunion. He announced they would again sponsor the 2017 Reunion in Johnston. It was really a fun reunion and everyone enjoyed the briefing by MAJ Garrett Gingrich 133rd Inf on their experiences and operations in Afghanistan during 2010.



LTC Tim Sulzner, (L) the outgoing President shakes hands with MAJ Randall Stanford, (R) the incoming President for the 2016-2017 year. LTC Sulzner and MAJ Stanford served together in the 113th Cavalry Squadron during their tour in Afghanistan in 2011-2012.



BG Jon Jensen, (L) Director of the Joint Staff, MN National Guard stands with BG (Ret) Paul Wieck, past ADC, 34th Infantry Division and MG Tim Orr, (R) The Adjutant General of Iowa.

Everyone who attended the Friday evening event at VFW Post 9127 in Beaverdale enjoyed the talk by the past Post Commander, COL Todd Jacobus. He told us several stories about his two sons who have served and continue to serve in the 133rd Infantry battalion, 34th Infantry Division. See more photos of the 69th Reunion in this newsletter.

RED BULL TEAM!

Hello Team! This is your fall addition of the newsletter and I hope it finds you well. I would like to start by thanking LTC Tim Sulzner for completing a very successful year as the association president; I appreciate all your hard work and look forward to working with you as your President. 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.

I look forward to an exciting new year; my number one goal is to increase membership and get more young Soldiers involved with our association. In order to keep the history and traditions of the 34th Infantry Division alive we need a combination of past and present Soldiers to get involved. We have an excellent start on this with places like Council Bluffs, Waterloo, Mankato, and the Dubuque area re-kindling old chapters and getting people involved again.

Our Division is among the best in the World! We are ready for any mission, any time. Our Soldiers have been accomplishing missions and training in Egypt, Alaska, South Korea, Turkey, Croatia, Romania, Fort Polk and on and on. We keep all these Soldiers in our prayers. We must continue to ensure our purpose, our history, and the future of the organization is maintained.

I have no doubt that the Red Bulls will continue to have success and leave their mark on our great nation for another 100 years. It is truly an honor to be a part of history as we celebrate this year.

ATTACK!

MAJ Randall Stanford
34th Inf Div Ass.n President
randall.t.stanford.mil@mail.mil



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.***

- 34th Inf Div Final Roll Call - Fall 2016**
- Roman H. Wieseler, 2-133 Inf, 34th ID
 - George S. Kajiwara, HQ 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - Tokuji Ono, B 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - Osamu "Sam" Fujikawa, C 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - Clinton Wolf, C 133rd Inf, 34th ID
 - William P. Roth, HQ 168th Inf, 34th ID
 - Yoshimi Yamamoto, A 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - Shinichi Endo, B 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - John Zambo, 34th ID
 - Joseph J. Oleyourryk, 34th ID
 - Aaron Kupferschmidt, 34th ID
 - Thomas Alan Nelson, 34th ID
 - Jack T. Pikkarainen, 34th ID
 - Thomas W. McKeon, 34th ID
 - Clyde J. Juneau, 34th ID
 - Benjamin F Graham, Jr, I&R, 135th Inf 34th ID
 - Russell E. Baptist, G 133rd Inf, 34th ID
 - Ervin Hinton, 34th ID
 - Vernon L. Baer, 34th ID
 - Harry Shigeru Asato, A 100th Inf, 34th ID
 - Richard N. Masimore, 34th ID
 - Eugene Zenk, 1-168 Inf, 34th ID
 - Louis N. Vago, 34th ID
 - Glenn Blouse, 34th ID
 - Alvin J. Hezlep, 34th ID
 - Don Weiler, 34th ID
 - Monte Lee Zehringer, L 135th Inf, 34th ID
 - Jacinto (Jay) Romo, 34th ID
 - Mark Crowl, 34th ID
 - David W. Merryman, 194th FA, 34th ID
 - Warren "Bud" Lawson, HQ Ia NG
 - John W. Vessey, Jr, 34th Inf Div
 - Naaman Haren, 34th Inf Div
 - Loren Frank, 194 FA, 34th Inf Div
 - Edward "Sid" Sidler, 194th Cav Sqdn
 - Jim McEntaffer, 168th Inf, 34th ID
 - Steven Groon, 113th Cav Sqdn, 34th ID
 - Derrick McKinley Moore, 168 In 34th ID

<p>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 Archival Website www.34infdiv.org 70th Reunion 6-7 October 2017, Johnston, IA</p>		<p>Treasurer: LTC (Ret) Mike Musel 515-252-4531 Email: michael.musel@iowa.gov Gold Star Museum Historian & Archivist: Pat Skelly 508-524-3948 E-mail: skelly@milhist.net Facebook Webmasters: Herman Poggensee & SFC Kevin Kalahiki WEB Site Manager: MSG Daniel Ewer sgtddaniel@aol.com & Historian</p>	
<p>Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: http://www.34ida.org</p>		<p>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</p>	
<p>1st BCT: http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls 2nd BCT: http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls</p>		<p>Page 2 – Fall 2016</p>	



COL (Ret) Chris White with his spouse Julie at the Reunion social in Johnston, IA on 15 Oct 2016.



The new President of the 34th Infantry Division Association, MAJ Randall Stanford, with his spouse Julie. MAJ Stanford served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with the 113th Cavalry Squadron, 2nd IBCT.



MAJ Kyle Obrecht, 224th BEB, Cedar Rapids, and his spouse Ashley.



MAJ James Avrums, 1-168th Infantry - Council Bluffs, and his spouse Shelley, attended the Friday evening and Saturday events of the reunion. MAJ Avrums is the 2nd VP of the 34th Inf Div Assn.

Photos of the 69th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division



Shown (L to R front) are Authur Van Erem, Co B 133rd Infantry, Warren Milner G/133rd Infantry, John Sigmans Co I/133rd Infantry, and Gerald Robertson Special Troops 168th Inf Regt, 34th ID. The Group photo was taken on Saturday evening after the banquet at the Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, IA.



Anglia and Brian Leehan- "The Key Note Speaker"



34th ID Association Officers being sworn into office.



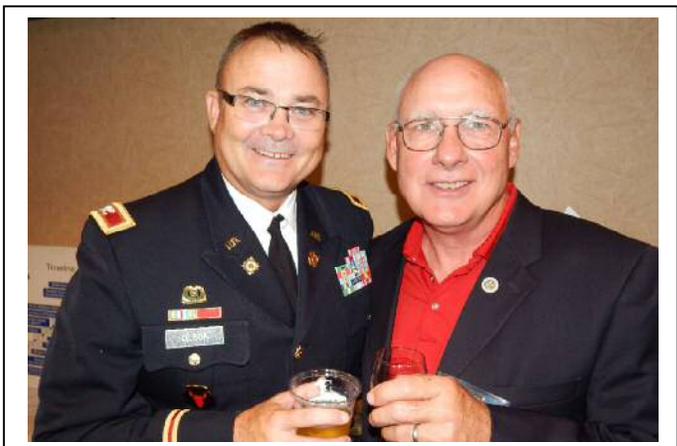
1SG(Ret) Jerry Jensen and 1SG (Ret) Larry Woodworth



Photo after MAJ Garrett Gingrich's talk on Do Ab



The WWII Combat guys with reinactor Russ Flattery.



"Old Friends" COL Kevin Olsen with BG (Ret) Mike Beaman



CSM (Ret) James and Kimberly Goss



34th ID VFW Post Dinner Page 4 Fall 2016

34th Infantry Division Assn. Officers



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

34th Infantry Division Association Internet and Facebook Sites

We ask that all members and friends of the 34th Infantry Division view our Web Site and Face Book pages for information updates.

The 34th Infantry Division Association thanks SFC Kevin Kalahiki , 2 IBCT HQ's and CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee for continued updates to the Face Book pages.

The URL for the 34th Inf Div Assn. national page is:
www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc

The URL for the Des Moines Chapter 34th ID page is:
www.facebook.com/34IDAssocDesMoinesChapter

The URL for the Minnesota Cmdr's Own Chapter is
www.facebook.com/commandersownredbullassociation

We encourage all Red Bull Soldiers who have a Face - book account to log on and share their stories with friends who share their common interests.

MSG Daniel Ewer is Website Manager for the Association Web Site, 34IDA.org Please send us documents to post on this site. We will be asking for input in the proposed book to be written this coming year, The 34th Inf Div in the GWOT.

The Web Site for the actual MTOE 34th Inf Div is:
www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/34id/

Pat Skelly, the Association Senior Historian and Archivist continues to make archival posts at the site:
<http://www.34infdiv.org>

Pat is well respected for his detailed work & has done much to bring together WWII and War on Terror archive documents for veterans.



Mr. Brian Leehan interviews LTC John Cunningham at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. Brian is capturing interviews from soldiers to help tell the history, the personal service and sacrifice of the soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division who served in the "GWOT" Global War on Terror.

Your story is needed for GWOT Book!

It's a pleasure, and an honor, to be asked to write the history of the 34th ID in the Global War on Terror. The voice of every soldier who deployed is important to telling this story truthfully and completely. The reports and cold statistics are, of course, essential – but the life and heart of the story comes from each of you who served in the multiple deployments since 2002. What everyone did, whether an E-1, General or those in-between, was important to accomplishing the mission.

We are focusing on those 34th ID units from the Iowa and Minnesota NG who deployed between 2002 and now, specifically to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo, Bosnia, Egypt (the Sinai) and Germany.

If you are willing to be interviewed, or just have a story to share, please contact me. We can set up a time and place, or simply have a phone interview. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

Brian Leehan

612-638-8043 (cell); brianleehan@gmail.com

Purpose of the 34th Infantry

Division Association (Short Version)

- Maintain association with our comrades with whom we served in the 34th Infantry Division.
- Maintain and honor the memory of those who died in action and remember all of us who pass later.
- Gather and maintain the History of the Organizations, Units and Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division.
- Support our "Wounded Warriors" who have faithfully served our nation.

General John W. Vessey, Jr. - The 10th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Former 34th Inf Div Soldier)

General John W. Vessey, Jr. was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on 29 June 1922. He enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard, 34th Infantry Division, in May 1939, at age 16, while still in high school. With other members of his unit he was called to active duty in February 1941. When war came, the 34th became the first American U.S. Division sent to Europe, where it initially fought in North Africa and then in Italy. A natural leader, Vessey rose quickly in the enlisted ranks until 6 May 1944 when, pinned down on the Anzio Beachhead amidst high casualties, the 21-year old battery first sergeant in the 151st Field Artillery Battalion was given a battlefield commission and sent forward to direct artillery fire.

Vessey decided to stay in the Army after war. During his first 30 years of military service, he spent most of his time in combat divisions. In addition to his World War II assignment with the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division in North Africa and Italy, Vessey served with the 4th Infantry Division and 3rd Armored Division in Germany, the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam and was commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colorado.

He attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He also graduated from the University of Maryland. When he graduated from the Army Helicopter School in 1970, he was the oldest in the class, and always wore his wings proudly.

One of Vessey's toughest days as a Soldier came in 1967 when, as a lieutenant colonel, he rallied his 300-man artillery battalion against an intense six-hour assault by 2,000 enemy troops. Despite wounds, he assisted as a cannoneer, lowering the howitzer barrels and firing point blank into the onrushing attackers, sometimes just as they reached the guns. He finally spotted a group of enemy rocket launchers that were inflicting severe damage. "He seized a grenade launcher, moved into an open area and knocked out three of the insurgents' weapons," read the citation that earned him a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that day.

In 1970, he returned to Southeast Asia for his first assignment as a brigadier general. He initially commanded USARSUPTHAI (US Army Supply Thailand), a supply and staging area for American Soldiers fighting in Southeast Asia, and then moved on to Laos, where he was responsible for coordinating U.S. military operations until the cease-fire was signed in February 1973. In 1974, he was promoted to major general and given command of the 4th Infantry Division.

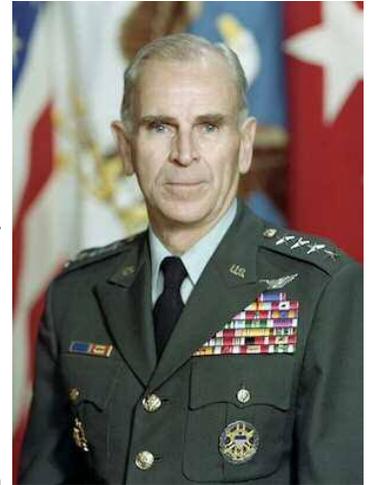
Upon promotion to lieutenant general in 1975, Vessey became the U.S. Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. He received his fourth star in 1976 upon assignment to Korea as commander-in-chief, United Nations command; commander, U.S. forces, Korea; and commanding general, Eighth U.S. Army. In 1978, he also became the first commander-in-chief of the Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command. General Vessey returned to Washington in July 1979 to become the vice chief of staff, United States Army.

President Ronald Reagan selected Vessey as the tenth chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a position he held from 18 June 1982 to 30 September 1985. He was widely recognized in the Army as a "Soldier's Soldier," fair and firm, who always stood up for his troops. He had served almost five years as an enlisted soldier.

Believing that strength was the best deterrent to war, he championed Reagan's military buildup. Upon his retirement on 1 October 1985, he had served longer than anyone then in the Army, with over 46 years of active military service. He is the only Chairman who had been neither a service chief nor commander of a unified or specific command.

He is the recipient of numerous U.S. and foreign military decorations and awards, four honorary doctorates, and other honors too numerous to mention. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the Purple Heart, and medals from 19 friendly and allied nations. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush awarded him the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

General Vessey is married to the former Avis Funk of Minneapolis. They have two sons, John III and David, and a daughter, Sarah. They retired to a home near Garrison, Minnesota, but the general remained "on call." As a post-retirement assignment, he led negotiations with the government of Vietnam to account for missing American servicemen in that country. The task, which was to last three months, took more than six years. Until his death he remained in demand as an advisor and speaker.



"To The Last Man" Chapter 2-135 Infantry deploys to Sinai

The Minnesota National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment are deployed to the Sinai Peninsula to observe and report on the peace treaty signed in 1979 between Israel and Egypt. The unit held deployment ceremonies in Rochester, Winona and Mankato, July 8-9, 2016, for families, and the community to show their support for the Soldiers.

The 2-135 IN: HQ's & HQ's Company in Mankato and Owatonna; A Company in West St. Paul; B Company in Rochester; C Company in Winona; and D Company in Albert Lea; and 1135th Support Company in Austin.

The Soldiers will be deployed for nine months in support of the Multi-National Force and Observers in Sinai, Egypt.

The **Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)** is an international peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The MFO generally operates in and around the Sinai peninsula.

The mission of the MFO is: to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms."

This is accomplished by carrying out four tasks:

1. Operating checkpoints, observation posts and conducting reconnaissance patrols on the international border as well as within Zone C,
2. Verification of the terms of the peace treaty not less than twice a month,
3. Verification of the terms of the peace treaty within 48 hours, upon the request of either party,
4. Ensuring freedom of international marine navigation in the Strait of Tiran and access to the Gulf of Aqaba.

"Des Moines Chapter"

34th Inf Div Association Meetings

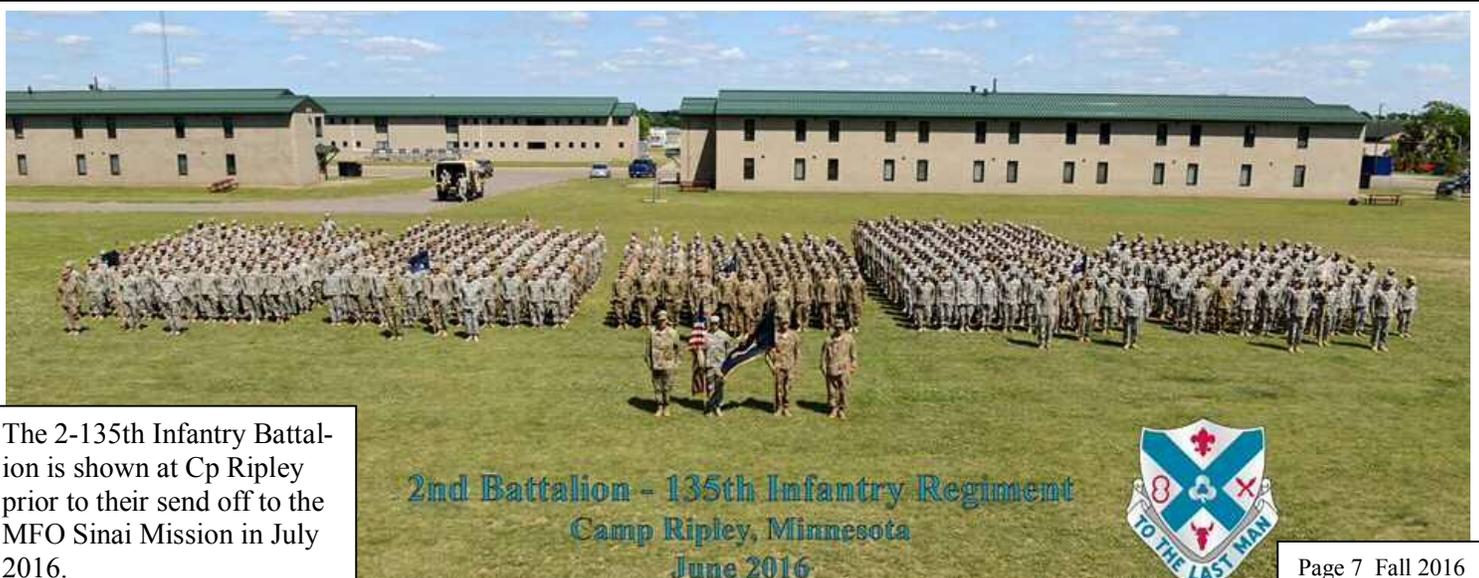
Schedule 2016 – 2017

Nov15, 2016	Meeting / Election / Meal Free Beverages
Dec 2016	NO MEETING
Jan 2017	NO MEETING
Feb 2017	NO MEETING
Mar 21, 2017	Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum
Apr 18, 2017	Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum
May 2017	NO MEETING
Jun 20, 2017	Meeting w/ Meal GS Museum
Jul 2017	NO MEETING
Aug 15, 2017	Membership Night / Meal Spouse's Nite
Sep 19, 2017	Meeting w/ Meal: Reunion Update
Oct 6-7, 2017	34 th Inf Div National Reunion
President: Ronald "Curly" Albrecht 319-830-9027	
pantherfansforlife@gmail.com	
Vice President:	Jerry Jensen 515-278-5704
Secretary:	Harold "Hal" Turner 515-988-4821
Treasurer:	James Berg 515-279-2869

"Commanders Own Chapter" -Rosemount Armory

In October, the chapter conducted a transition of authority between outgoing chapter president, BG Jon Jensen, and COL Kevin Olson. SFC (Ret) Eugene Leiffield is the First Vice President, and COL Lowell Kruse is now the Second Vice. LTC Lyndsey Olson assumed duties as Treasurer, and COL (Ret) Don Kerr is now Secretary.

"Winter Line" bourbon is currently being distributed to those who placed orders. Many thanks to those of you who participated in this meaningful fund-raiser. We are planning a similar activity for next year in time to compliment the recognition of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the 34th Inf Div next August. Watch for our announcement as we begin our year-long commemoration of our great Division's establishment. The next meeting will be on Sat, Jan 7th following closing formation. An informal social will follow at the Rosemount VFW nearby.



The 2-135th Infantry Battalion is shown at Cp Ripley prior to their send off to the MFO Sinai Mission in July 2016.

2nd Battalion - 135th Infantry Regiment
Camp Ripley, Minnesota
June 2016



34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (7) 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 a donation to the operation of the 34th Inf Div Assn.
- () 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 _____	\$30.00	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
34 th Div Refrigerator Magnet	\$2.00		

Books Available: None

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

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

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

Name: _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

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