



9-1995

## 164th Infantry News: September 1995

164th Infantry Association

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# The 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY News

Vol. 33 No. 2

1995 is our 49th ass'n yr

September, 1995

## The North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery

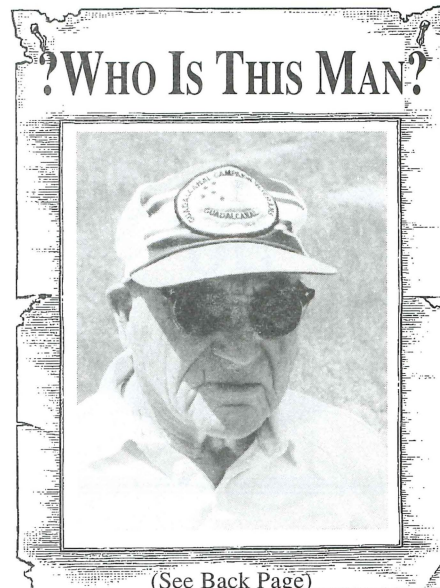
The creation of a veteran's cemetery for the state of North Dakota was authorized by the 1989 State Legislative Assembly. The 35 acre cemetery opened on 6 July 1992 and was officially dedicated on 30 August 1992. Eligibility for interment at the beautiful cemetery site is basically the same as the requirements for burial in National Cemeteries. In addition, present and past North Dakota National Guard mem-

bers and North Dakota residents who are or were members of the Armed Forces Reserve are eligible if length-of-service and type-if-discharge requirements are met.

The site includes an impressive 2850 square foot interment chapel, flag plaza, an entrance fence composed of masonry columns and fabricated steely tubing, concrete walks, and a sprinkler system.



Frank Weisgerber, Secretary, Treasurer and Don Robinson, Editor at the Memorial Day Observation at Vets Cemetery 1995.



(See Back Page)

## Commemorative Video available:

A 50 minute video tape outlining the 50th Anniversary of World War II Memorial Day Ceremony at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery and the 1995 WWII Commemorative Parade at Camp Grafton is available for a \$7.50 donation to the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery.

The Memorial Day portion includes speeches by Adm. Owens and Maj Gen Murry, the 21 gun salute, rifle firing, all the flyovers, & recognition of WWII veterans.

The Parade portion includes parade footage, flyovers, cannon salute, comments by Governor Schafer, and interviews with a few veterans from the 188th, 957th, and 776th.

Tapes are available from the Public Affairs Office (PAO) at Fraine Barracks, or mail \$7.50 (checks made to N.D. Militia Foundation) to

WWII Tape c/o PAO

P.O. Box 5511

Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

The 1992 video of the 164th Commemorative Parade and Return to Guadalcanal is still available for \$5.00 from the address above. Ask for "164 Tape".

## REUNION Note

The Reunion Committee has informed us that the Fargo party is going well and they expect to have a good turnout. See you all on September 29 in Fargo. — Editor



## REMINDER!

Purchase your dedication books and postcards. 164th Infantry Regiment Memorial.

Write: P.O. Box 1111

Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

## Department of Defense Commemorative Logo:

The five star field symbolizes the five-star leadership during the war; the five WWII theaters of operation; the five services' participation in the war; the five commemorative decades; and the space inside the five stars forms a pentagon.



## Veterans Cemetery Headstones

There have been some inquiries regarding the changing of the headstones at the Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan, ND. The people in charge have decided to change them from marble to granite. The reason being that granite is much more durable and weather proof. The only drawback is that granite is a deeper color – almost shading to grey and some people have asked about it. The personnel at the cemetery have estimated that even some of the marble has been coming in with brown spots, etc., and not suitable for display. One body was re-interred from Minneapolis Cemetery and the name, etc. was almost unreadable due to weathering and it was made of marble. In fact, having been in the 164 Infantry Memorial Committee, we were convinced that granite was a much better material and subsequently decided to use that material for our memorial.

As of this date, there are 429 total interments at the cemetery. Of this total 180 headstones are white. Of this 180, 120 headstones will be replaced with granite when the spouses are interred leaving only 60 white stones.

I hope this will clear up any questions regarding the color of the headstones at the cemetery.

— Editor

## A-bomb decision shielded U.S. lives

Those “heroes” and “heroines” of the '60s never saw a cause worth fighting for or a war worth winning. They have now delivered the final insult.

As the anniversary of the end of World War II approaches, they are reaching back a generation and demeaning their parents' sacrifice, patriotism and decisiveness, saying there was no need and no excuse for dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Even The Washington Post was offended by a purely propagandistic program narrated by Peter Jennings on ABC. Reviewer Ken Ringle called it “an ingenue's stroll down the narrow tunnels of academic revisionism with only occasional intimations that larger truths may lie outside.”

Ringle critiqued the portrayal of President Truman—popular these days among the revisionists—as “an intellectual and moral dwarf, propelled by ambitious militarists and politicians to a nuclear slaughter of the innocents.”

The real intellectual and moral dwarfs are those who can't see beyond their own comfort and for whom sacrifice was sitting still long enough to listen to a lecture from their parents about why they should love their country.

There is nothing on television and too little in the history books about a decade of Japanese aggression in Asia and the numerous atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers before the United States entered the war to stop them. Nothing about death marches or beheadings of prisoners and many other violations of the Geneva Convention's mandate on the treatment of POWs. And then there was Pearl Harbor, which became a rallying cry for those then alive and those yet to come, not to forget. How soon they actually did forget.

Thankfully, Parade Magazine last Sunday published a story by former Navy Secretary James Webb, who interviewed retired Air Force Gen. Chuck Sweeney. Sweeney was the only pilot on both atomic bomb runs over Japan.

He dismisses the revisionist contention that the bombs weren't necessary (pointing out that numerous firebomb attacks—which killed nearly as many as the nuclear bombs would later do—had failed to persuade the Japanese to surrender). He then expresses his contempt for critics who weren't there and who wouldn't fight when their turn came because of self-professed purity.

Sweeney said he has had to endure numerous interviews by “young reporters who don't even know the dates World War

II was fought.” He refers to the “cultural ignorance” of many when it comes to the important issues of American history.

The people who risked dying had a land invasion of Japan been ordered were pleased that the bomb was dropped. President Truman had been told that as many as 600,000 Americans could die in the first 30 days of a land assault. The loved ones of those who would return home alive and not in a box with a telegram from the President as their only comfort are grateful the bomb was dropped.

On ABC, however, Jennings chided veterans groups who pressured the Smithsonian Institution into dispensing with its revisionist view of the Enola Gay exhibit, calling them censors and suggesting that Americans were fighting for freedom of speech. They were, in fact, fighting for truth, not the kind of propaganda that the original Smithsonian display conveyed; the kind that, as Webb notes, “provided more narrative space to anti-Asian racism in the United States than to the attack on Pearl Harbor ... and 49 photos of suffering Japanese and three of Americans.”

Do you suppose it's reversed in Japan? Are the Japanese telling their people how horrible they were and portraying their fellow Asians and the Americans as victims of Japanese aggression? Not a chance. This is a view held exclusively by some Americans who see no evil, will fight for no good and whose cowardice ought to qualify them to do nothing more than keep their mouths shut when they are confronted by some of the greatest heroes who ever lived—the veterans of World War Two—and a courageous President who knew what it meant to lead.

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Subscription price of \$6.00 per year is included in the membership fee. Second class postage is paid at Bismarck, ND post office zip code 58501-9996.

1994-95 Association Officers are:

President ..... Milt Kane, Fargo, ND

Vice President ..... Neyl McClure,  
Bismarck, ND

Sec./Treas. .... Frank Weisgerber  
Bismarck, ND

Editor ..... Don Robinson  
164th Infantry News Bismarck, ND

**POSTMASTER:** Address changes should be sent to 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

# OBITUARIES ...

## Eugene Miller

Eugene "Huey" Miller, 73, Bismarck, died Aug. 30, 1995, in a Bismarck hospital. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at First Lutheran Church, Bismarck, with the Rev. Ron Gladen officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, rural Mandan, with military rites by Veterans of Foreign Wars Gilbert N. Nelson Post No. 1326 of Bismarck.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today at Boelter Funeral Home, and will continue at the church one hour before services.

Eugene was born June 10, 1922, in Bismarck, the son of Fred and Bertha (Hauff) Miller. He was raised and educated at Bismarck, and graduated from Ellendale State College. He received his master's in education from North Dakota State University. He continued his post graduate work at Purdue University, Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff and the University of Connecticut. Eugene served in the 164th Infantry in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific at Guadalcanal during World War II. He married Mary Ann Andersen, May 3, 1947, at Plentywood, Mont. He taught in Arizona for a short while before moving to Buffalo, where he became the superintendent of schools. The family moved to Bismarck in 1959, and he taught at Bismarck High School until 1974. He then became the secondary vocational coordinator for Bismarck Public Schools, retiring in 1987. He also taught vocational classes at Bismarck Junior College, along with the apprenticeship program for the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union Local No. 795.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; six children and their spouses, Jo Bickert, Bismarck, Jean and Jim Schlenvogt, Flagstaff, David, Bismarck, Diane, Lincoln, Mary and Allan Dukart, Bismarck, and Rick and Claudia, Green River, Wyo.; five grandchildren, Rebecca and Sarah Bickert, Erica and Garrett Schlenvogt, and Austin Dukart; one sister, Florence Withnell, Jonesboro, Ga.; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, C. Don and Mary, Brooklyn Park, Minn., and Robert and Lorrie, Bismarck.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Fred.

Dear Don:

July 3, 1995

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Franklin Schoeffler on May 29, 1995 at Moscow, Idaho. Frank was the 1st Shirt of the Band when we were overseas. A more loyal member of the 164th Infantry would be hard to find. He was laid to rest in the Moscow Catholic Cemetery on June 1, 1995. Enclosed find an obituary. If you have room fine if not will understand. Dolores, his wife, lives at 325 W. Palouse River Drive, Moscow, ID 83843. The Band had a reunion in March at Las Vegas. There was a total of 25 folks in attendance. Ray and Vicky Ellerman were the hosts for the event. Needless to say we had a great time doing a little gambling, and seeing some great shows.

Would you please see that Ardell Weisgerber receives the enclosed picture. It was taken at the reunion last fall. All of us in the picture were from Enderlin.

Thanks so very much and looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion in September.

Sincerely,

Art Nix, 2836 32nd St. S, Moorhead, MN 56560

## Franklin A. Schoeffler

Franklin A. Schoeffler, 83, a retired woodland forester for the Idaho Department of Lands, died Monday of causes related to age at Moscow Care Center.

He was born April 13, 1912, to Franklin and Christina Wicke Schoeffler at Shannon, Ill. When he was 3 the family moved to Lisbon, N.D., where he graduated from high school.

In 1940 he received a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. During the summers he worked at blister rust control camps near Avery, Idaho and with the Fayette National Forest near Boise.

In 1941 he enlisted in the U.S. Army 164th Infantry. He served on Guadalcanal and was awarded the Bronze Star. He was discharged in 1945.

He married Dolores A. Kammeyer July 18, 1947, at Moscow.

From 1947 to 1953 he was employed as the veterans training agricultural instructor in forestry and soils at Lisbon. He returned to Moscow in 1953 where he was employed by the Federal Extension Service.

He also served as conservationist aide for Lewis County and at St. Maries from 1954 to 1957, giving technical assistance and guidance to farmers on construction projects.

From 1957 to 1960 he worked at the Forest Nursery, then at Orofino as a farm forester for the state of Idaho. While at Orofino he founded the three-day Clearwater sixth-grade forestry tour and the 4-H Smoky Bear Club.

In 1956 he started Gem State Nursery and grew Christmas trees. He retired as a state of Idaho employee in 1974.

He enjoyed his work as a forester and working with small woodland owners. During NROTC ceremonies in 1986 at UI he was accorded the honorary title of Marine for his service with the First Marine Division at Guadalcanal.

He was a life member of the Guadalcanal Veterans Association, 164th Association VFW Post No. 2905 at Moscow and the Christmas Tree Growers Association.

He also was a member of the American Legion Post and St. Mary's Church, both at Moscow, and the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife at Moscow, two sons, Charles F. Schoeffler of Moscow and Tracy J. Schoeffler of Aloha, Ore; four daughters; Celia Finn and Mary Schierman, both of Moscow, Susan Jeffries of Tillamook, Ore., and Carol Westacott of Idaho Falls, Idaho; a twin sister, Frances Trione of Kingsford, Mich.; and 13 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Moscow by Rev. Joseph Schmidt. Burial will follow at the Moscow cemetery with military honors by the VFW and American Legion at Moscow.

Viewing will be until 9 p.m. today at Short's Funeral Chapel of Moscow.

The family suggests memorials may be made to the Latah County Historical Society.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or ANNUAL RENEWAL 164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served With and Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES FOR 1996 — \$10.00 which includes \$6.00 subscription to 164th News.  
Send to Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.**

## John Edward Stannard

DIED 31 OCTOBER 1993 IN SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE,  
AGED 71 YEARS

INTERMENT: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY,  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

He earned the Purple Heart, three Silver Star Medals, commanded in combat every unit from squad to brigade and achieved the rank of brigadier general. But, John Edward Stannard's most cherished honor was his induction into the U.S. Army's Infantry Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia for earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge in three different conflicts, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

He joined the North Dakota National Guard his junior year. He graduated in 1940 and went on to enter North Dakota State University. His Guard unit, the 164th Infantry, was called to active duty in February 1941, first with the 34th Division in the States and then became one of the regiments of the Americal Division, the first Army division to fight in the Pacific at Guadalcanal.

In later years, John was to write a book, "The Battle of Coffin Corner and Other Comments Concerning the Guadalcanal Campaign" based on the experiences of his fellow soldiers in the 164th. In his book, in typical John Stannard style, he failed to mention that he earned the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. It was there that he earned his first Combat Infantryman's Badge. His leadership abilities also resulted in his being awarded one of two Americal Division's appointments to West Point. John entered West Point in July 1943 as a member of the Class of 1946.

Other than being more mature, John did not seem much different from his classmates. So, it was with a great deal of surprise and admiration that they learned at the parade on 13 November 1943 that their classmate, John E. Stannard, was to take the parade and receive the Silver Star for his gallantry on Guadalcanal. John became a second lieutenant in the Infantry at graduation.

John went to Fort Benning, Georgia for basic schooling and was then assigned as a platoon leader in the 25th Division and then the 11th Airborne Division in Japan and at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. John and Llewellyn Fowler were married 26 May 1951 at the Catholic Chapel in Fort Campbell. He joined the 23d Infantry, 3rd Division in Korea in 1952, serving as Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer.

Jim Cecil, a member of E Company, 164th Infantry, North Dakota National Guard and John's longtime friend, delivered one of the eulogies at John's memorial service. Some excerpts from those words from a friend and fellow soldier: "Public figures die and are subjects of public acclaim, but it is private men and women who are buried and mourned by their families and friends. So it is only appropriate to consider John Stannard as he was perceived by his friends. We in Co. E, 164th Infantry, NDNG were proud of our unit and leaders, and John was a leader.... Over the years, we observed his career which encompassed two more wars and many prestigious assignments here and abroad. It was no surprise to us when he became a general.

When his wife, Llewellyn, was asked to give the character traits that best described her beloved John, she declared simply, "A Man of Honor." Add those words to his sense of Duty and love for and service to his Country and you have defined a "soldier's soldier", a graduate of whom West Point is justifiably proud. John Stannard embodied West Point's motto of Duty, Honor, Country. He was a genuine hero and a natural leader of men. The Class of '46, West Point, the Army and the country lost a great man. John Stannard deserves all the accolades bestowed upon him by his family, friends and classmates. It is with pride that the Class of 1946 declares, "Well Done, John; Be Thou At Peace!"

## Emil H. Oelschlager

Emil H. Oelschlager, 78, of Kenyon, died on Friday, March 17, 1995 at the Walker Methodist Nursing Home in Minneapolis. He was born on April 16, 1916 in Kramer, North Dakota to Herman and Agnus Schultz Oelschlager. Emil graduated from high school in Bottineau, North Dakota. On October 17, 1941, he was united in marriage to Alice Baska in Fargo, North Dakota. They lived in Bottineau until 1955. During this time Emil spent four years in the Army National Guard and served three years in the Americal Division in the South Pacific. In April of 1955, they moved to Kenyon and lived on a farm. Besides farming, Emil drove school bus in the Kenyon area for 18 years. He has been a member of First Evangelical Lutheran church for 39 years. Emil had a love for the game of golf and has recorded two holes-in-one in his lifetime, with the last one coming at the age of 77. Emil also loved to bowl and travel, with North Dakota being one of his favorite destinations. He had been a resident of the Walker Methodist Nursing Home for about two weeks.

Emil is survived by his wife, Alice, of Kenyon; one sister, Myrtle Grose, of Kenyon and one brother, Harold Oelschlager and his wife, Ina, of Bottineau, North Dakota, several nieces and nephews. Emil was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Agnus Schultz Oelschlager, one brother, Felix, and one sister, Viola Altman.

Emil joined the National Guard in December of 1940, and was discharged at Fort Snelling, Mn. in July of 1945.

Aug. 23, 1995

Editor 164th News:

Jim Cecil, formerly of E Co., sent me a copy of John Stannard's funeral obituary.

Jim was the only E Co. member attending it. A few of us old guard left here would like to see it published in the News if possible. There are some former members left scattered around the country.

The people in Williston as well as the old guard members are proud of John's accomplishments! He was a fine man and excelled as a soldier.

John always called me when he came to Williston for fall harvest and we visited.

I was just a sergeant on Guadalcanal. (Not many B Generals would do that!)

Thanking you if you can run this some time!  
Yours truly,

Lawrence Poe  
Box 1226 Main St.  
Williston, ND 58801

## Last Roll Call

Wilfred Sherek, Lankin, ND ..... July 2, 1995  
Allen Loberg, Fargo, ND ..... July 5, 1995  
Ardeth Roberson, Bismarck, ND ..... July 28, 1995  
Lloyd Bird, Devils Lake, ND ..... July 31, 1995  
Emil H. Oelschlager, Kenyon, MN ..... March 17, 1995  
Eugene Miller, Bismarck, ND ..... August 30, 1995

## WILL YOU STILL BURN ME?

I remember when presidents were shot down for me.  
I remember Bunker Hill where heroes died for me.



I remember six men on Iwo Jima.  
I remember a battleship in Pearl Harbor  
Will you burn me after I have lain over  
a loved one's coffin?



I remember a place in Texas called "The Alamo."

I remember a beach called "Normandy."

I remember a place called "Flanders Field."

I remember when brother fought brother here in our own land  
I remember a place called "Korea" and another called "Vietnam."

I remember Audie Murphy,

The most decorated man who ever fought for me.

There were so many young men and women.

Will you burn me after

I've lain over their coffins?

I remember the hostages in Iran,  
the men who tried to free them.



I remember so very many that never came home.

I remember a marine barrack in Beirut.

Will you disgrace them by burning me  
after I've lain on their coffins?

The red in my folds is for the men who died to  
raise me above the heads of the enemy  
But now I have an enemy whom I can't defeat  
without your help.

The (so-called) Supreme Court of this great land  
has decided I'm just a piece of cloth, and old rag  
Anyone who wants to can burn me.



Do my colors mean nothing? Your fathers, sons,  
mothers and daughters died for these colors.  
And their blood drenched this "old rag."

They fought for a freedom that called for the  
highest price to be paid: their life's blood.  
The red in my folds stands for that blood.

Maybe you've decided I'm not a symbol of freedom  
Maybe you want a flag of pure red with a yellow  
hammer and sickle and star

Well, I don't think so, because there are  
still some people who care.

I feel their hearts cry out when they think  
of the traitorous way.



I've been humiliated and disgraced with a flame  
of a match and the stroke of a pen.

A nation wept.

So now "Supreme Court," you have the  
biggest fight on your hands

I won't lie down for anyone, or dishonor those  
who died for me

I will rise again and show myself with pride,  
a pride that can never and will never be  
dishonored



The flag of the United States of America.

by Patsy L. Cabral  
Sergeant  
Florida National Guard

The above poem was sent in by Joe Micek. It is appropriate especially at this time. The American Legion has carried the Flag all the way back to the chambers of the Supreme Court. Now, it is up to YOU to contact your Congressman and insist he support an amendment to protect OUR FLAG!

## Co. G reunites 50 years after war

By Mary Berglund  
T-R Staff Writer

More than 54 years ago, 112 men marched together on a snowy February morning. Members of the 164th Regiment, they boarded a train at the North Valley Depot and headed to Fort Claiborne, Louisiana.

Four years later, their war ended. This weekend, commemorating 50 years since the end of World War II, a handful of those 112 men reunited in Valley City to hold their regular business meeting and reminisce. Some came from as far away as Texas; another from Portland, Oregon. But they all began their military careers in Valley City in 1941.

After basic training in Louisiana, Montana and California, they were sent to the South Pacific, landing at Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942.

Before they even finished unloading their gear from the boat, they were attacked from the air and were shelled for the next 72 hours. Some of them didn't survive that first week, but those who did fought off another enemy attack on October 24, 25 and 26. Enemy casualties numbered 3,000. The 164th was commended for their courage and competence, particularly since they were a Guard unit.

The men stayed together throughout the remainder of the war, but found themselves coming home at different times after V-J Day.

Over this past weekend, they were together again. The stories flowed freely. Memories were sharpened and names and dates recalled. A report on the state military cemetery in Mandan was given by Donald Robinson. The report led to more memories.

One asked where a fellow comrade, Kenny Olson, was buried; he'd been killed in the Philippines. It was decided his remains were entombed at Clark Field.

"He just lived south of here," another said. "He was a good friend." Names of others who did not survive were listed, then, one by one; a moment of silent prayer ensued. Fifty years of memories with just a weekend to recall.

Joining the World War II veterans were those who had served in the Korean War. Bernie Wagner, Sanborn, and Tony Griffin, Valley City, were called to that war too.

A total of 72 banquet tickets were sold for Saturday's festivities, hosted by the American Legion and the VFW Clubs in Valley City.

## New Members

Douglas R. Scothorne Jr., West Valley City, UT (Associate Member)

Tommy Evans, 13621 HiWay 63-S, Alexander City, AL 35010

Allen E. Westmark, 1415 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Warren Ventsch, Box 515, Valley City, ND (Associate Member)

George R. Hamer, 701 Whispering Pines, Melbourne, FL 32940

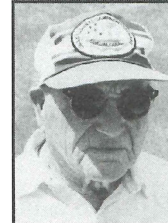
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★ FOR SALE ★

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**WHO IS THIS MAN?**

Of course it's Tony Beer, Co. Commander 164th Infantry on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. Recipient of Silver Star, Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Friend and Booster of the 164th Infantry Association. Retired as Lt. Col. 1969. Picture taken at 1995 Memorial Day Celebration at Vets Cemetery by Major Shirley Olgerson, N.D.N.G. and Honorary Member of 164th Infantry Association.

— Editor

**The 164th Infantry News**

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