



3-2005

## 164th Infantry News: March 2005

164th Infantry Association

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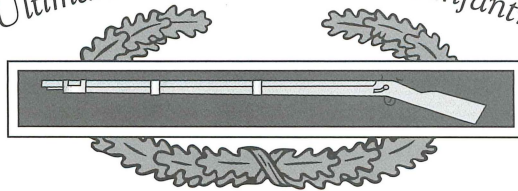
164th Infantry Association, "164th Infantry News: March 2005" (2005). *164th Infantry Regiment Publications*. 66.

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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



# THE 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 46 • No. 1

March, 2005



## The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial Highway Proposed!!

U.S. Hwy 2, which stretches west from the Red River in Grand Forks across the state to Montana, is on its way toward being named the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial Highway!



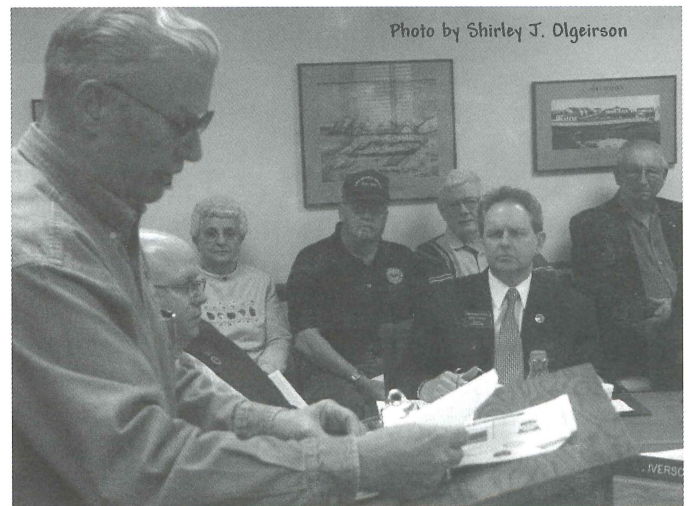
Testimony, unanimously "for" the bill, was heard by the ND Senate Transportation Committee on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and the bill was adopted by the Senate vote on 1 Feb 05.

President Bernie Wagner did an outstanding job of testifying on behalf of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Bernie outlined the history of the Regiment, including deployments, Campaign credits, and awards.

**"I can think of no better way to recognize the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the North Dakota Army National Guard than to have this recognition," said Wagner.**

Those present to listen to testimony and sign the register in support of the bill were CW4 (ret) Dick Kupitz, Col (ret) Don Jensen, Col (ret) Art Merkel, Brig Gen (ret) Duane Holly, Maj Gen (ret) Emerson Murry, MSG (ret) Neyl McClure, CW4 (ret) Ben Kemp, Lt Col (ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson, and Mrs. Mary Wagner. Col (ret) John Jacobson, legislative representative for Veterans Coordinating Council, and Lt Col Dave Theile from the ND National Guard also testified in favor of the bill.

More testimony was given on 4 March 2005, this time to the Transportation Committee from the ND House of Representatives.



Above, Bernie Wagner testifies at the House hearing. 164<sup>th</sup> supporters pictured along the wall are Mrs. Mary Wagner, Col (ret) Vern Fetch, Col (ret) Don Jensen, and MSG (ret) Neyl McClure. Also present were Maj Gen (ret) C. Emerson Murry, and CW4 (ret) Ben Kemp. Col (ret) John Jacobson and Lt Col Dave Theile again testified in favor of the bill. The Committee voted a unanimous "Do Pass" recommendation for House vote at later date.

Signage will identify the Highway. See **MORE** on Page 13!



**164<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Memorial  
Highway**

**"I am Ready"**



# LAST ROLL CALL




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|                    |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| ALFRED A. BROWN    | HAMILTON, OH       | WWII         |
| MEL SHIRLEY        | FRESNO, CA         | WWII         |
| JOHN L. STRAUSS    | LISBON, ND         | WWII         |
| DAVID WISE         | DAWSON, ND         | WWII         |
| H.H. "TOBY" WAGNER | MISSOULA, MT       | WWII         |
| JULIAN O. JORE     | BLOOMINGTON, MN    | WWII         |
| GERALD WRIGHT      | IOLA, KA           | WWII / KOREA |
| PAUL EBELTOFT      | DICKINSON, ND      | WWII         |
| ALEX W. McLEAN     | GRAND FORKS, ND    | WWII / KOREA |
| JOE J. HAAG        | RICHARDTON, ND     |              |
| MANVEL B. DEKART   | TERRY, MT          |              |
| VERNE R. TESTER    | ST. PAUL, MN       |              |
| LAUREN OVERBY      | HARKER HEIGHTS, TX | KOREA        |
| WALTER FISHER      | HAMILTON, OH       | KOREA        |

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## AWOLS: THE FOLLOWING FOLKS NEED TO PAY DUES!

|                       |                     |                        |                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| FRANK ALBRECHT*       | RIEGELSVILLE, PA    | SONYA LEBUS*           | AUDUBEN, MN     |
| LAWRENCE ARMSTRONG    | HARRISONVILLE, NC   | DUANE R. LIFFRIG       | BISMARCK, ND    |
| KEITH D. BJERKE*      | FARGO, ND           | VIRGINIA LIVINGOOD*    | GRAFTON, ND     |
| JOSEPH H. BLISSENBACH | WOODBURN, OR        | THELMA MANNEL*         | AUSTIN, MN      |
| GERTRUDE M. BUSCH*    | BISMARCK, ND        | MALCOLM J. MCKAY       | EAST HELENA, MT |
| CHARLES C. BRISTOW    | CROSSVILLE, TN      | RICHARD L. MCLAUGHLIN  | MANDAN, ND      |
| CLARENCE J. DALZELL   | ROGERS, MN          | BETTY MILLER*          | SEASIDE, OR     |
| RONALD A. DAVIS       | EVERETT, WA         | SCOTT OLENBERGER*      | DEVILS LAKE, ND |
| ROBERT P. DODD*       | INVER GROVE HTS, MN | KATHY PAULSON*         | OLYMPIA, WA     |
| GEORGE W. GAGNON      | BISMARCK, ND        | ELOISE A. RASMUSSEN*   | BELLEVUE, WA    |
| DEWEY J. GARCEAU      | GRAND FORKS, ND     | NAT ROGAN JR           | LOS ANGELES, CA |
| WALLACE E. GJESVOLD   | WILDROSE, ND        | MARIE SEAS*            | MESA, AZ        |
| BERT GLATT*           | BISMARCK, ND        | GEORGE F. SHIEK        | SUMMERFIELD, FL |
| ALAN M. GOODROE*      | ALLEN, TX           | THEODORE A. STEINBEERG | PEARLAND, TX    |
| VICTOR GRONVOLD       | RUGBY, ND           | ORLYEN O. STENSGARD    | FARGO, ND       |
| GREGORY HEINZ*        | BISMARCK, ND        | ARVID THOMPSON         | ST. PAUL, MN    |
| DAN HOBOT*            | MINNEAPOLIS, MN     | WALTER TRENGEN         | BOTTINEAU, ND   |
| DONALD I. HOMME       | WESTMONT, IL        | THOMAS H. VETTEL*      | CUMMINGS, ND    |
| DONALD E. JACOBSON    | WENATCHEE, WA       | FRANK S. VOTAVA        | GRAFTON, ND     |
| CARRIE JEWELL*        | KALISPELL, MT       | BURIEL F. WATKINS      | AURORA, MO      |
| DONNA E. KJONAAS*     | BISMARCK, ND        |                        |                 |
| DENNIS W. LARSON      | FARGO, ND           |                        |                 |
| GEORGE B. LAUGHLIN    | GLEN DIVE, MT       |                        |                 |

*Dues are only \$10.00!! That's really a small price to pay to keep in touch with your old buddies, friends, and comrades!*

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

4 Dec 04 My husband Julian Jore passed away on October 28<sup>th</sup> from lung cancer. He always enjoyed receiving your newsletter. //s//[Mrs J. Jore, Apt 616, 9850 Lyndale Ave S., Bloomington, MN 55420]

26 Jan 05 Dear Sir, I'm sorry I didn't get to the Reunion last fall in Valley City. The reason is, I had a bad car accident June 28<sup>th</sup> and was in and out of the hospital three times and had 2 brain surgeries. I am much better now, but Dr. Thomas, the neuro-surgeon, said it will take awhile to get my strength back. I am much better than I was. The Rivinius's, Walt and Jewel, both were hospitalized also about that time. He had surgery. I am so glad to get your newsletter. I hope to go to the next reunion in Valley City. I would like a Life Membership, if I may—do you have a pin for that? I have a life membership in the VFW and DAV. Thank you so much for continuing the 164<sup>th</sup> reunion. My husband, Phil, now deceased as of Dec 6, 2001, was so proud of the "164<sup>th</sup>". You men hold a special place in history because of your part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. God Bless all of you!! //s//[Charlotte Engstrom, 1814 7<sup>th</sup> St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560-4154]

31 Jan 05 Hi. \$10 for dues, \$5 for newsletter. I lost my wife, Viola, last June. She was 88. In April, I will be 90. Greetings to everyone. //s//[Martin H. Beilke, 1300 S. Border Ave, #155, Weslaco, TX 78596]

24 Feb 04 Ben was notified that Laura Ventsch, Minot, ND, had passed away.

## LINES & LETTERS

18 Nov 04 Dear Ms. Patricia Drong: I am the treasurer and Secretary of the 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry [South Pacific Buddies Association]. We always sent a free news letter of the 182<sup>nd</sup> Inf, every other month, to the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News Editor, but there seems to be some changes and I wrote six months ago for the proper address to send the newsletter and have not heard from anyone. If the 164<sup>th</sup> Inf. still wants our letter please send me the name and address. I found your address in the Americal newsletter under "reunions". Hope you had a good reunion. Yours in Comradeship, //s//[Elliot J. Carey, 35 Nashua Rd., North Billerica, MA 01862-2004]

**RESPONSE from 164 INF:** Dear Elliot. Our New Editor of the 164<sup>th</sup> Inf Assoc Newsletter is Shirley J. Olgeirson. Her address is P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111. I am sending you a copy of our last newsletter and I have added your name on our mailing list. We will be publishing our newsletter three times a year from now on. //s//Bennet J. Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer

## LOST OR FOUND

The following is an excerpt of a letter to the Editor of the Valley City Times Record in Nov 2004. President Bernie Wagner asked that it be printed in our Newsletter: "If there are any Veterans who knew **Lt. Clarence L. Bonderud**, please contact me and share your memories with me. He was my uncle, who was killed on Guadalcanal." Ms. Catherine Walker, 1523 Marshall Ave, Richland, WA 98354

Calling Co H and friends of **Charles Borgia!** President Bernie was notified that Charles has moved from New York to Indiana and has misplaced ...well, LOST...all the addresses he had for buddies in the 164. He was a member of Company H during WWII and attended reunions every other year until the last while. He joined the Association at the Reunion in Jamestown in 1980. Contact Charles at his new address at 6990 East County Rd, 100 North Apt #228, Avon, IN 46123.

New address: Harvey Sand, 1423 9<sup>th</sup> Ave E., Langdon, ND 58249

11 Dec 04 Ben, As you probably noticed, we have moved! So, please make the changes. //s//[Alvin & Marian Tollefsrud, 3135 N. Broadway #110-D, Fargo, ND 58102]

24 Feb 05. Mr. Kemp: It was very good to talk with you the other day. I appreciate any help you can give me in finding out more about my Dad's wartime service. You suggested that I ask for a notice to be put in the newsletter asking if anyone recalls my father and his service. His details follow: **T5 Martin J. Edwards**, Service in Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Japan. I believe he was a lineman in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, but I am not sure. What I would like to know is his company and battalion, what did a lineman do (Ben responded to this), or anything else about his service. Thank you very much for all of your help. //s//Dr. Lance J. Edwards, P.O. Box 3483, Butte, MT 59702



## DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

14 Dec 04 \$10 membership plus \$5.00. //s// Hunter Smith, 615 22<sup>nd</sup> St E, Williston, ND 58801

13 Dec 04 Dear Ben, Thank you for sending me the "164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News". I enjoyed getting it. I do want to subscribe to it. Enclosed is a \$10.00 check. //s// [Howard A Bjerketvedt, 602 Hipple Ave, Henning, MN 56551]

6 Dec 04 Hi. \$10 dues, \$5 extra to put in the treasury! Glad to help the Assoc! /s/[Thomas J. Fischer, 312 9<sup>th</sup> St N, Moorhead, MN 56560]

12 Dec 04 Dear Ben, enclosed is my check for dues and payment for my tickets that I did not return—what the hell, I would have lost anyway period. Keep up the paper as I look forward to it. The only suggestion I have is to attach names and their Co. they served in as this would make it more interesting to the readers. //s// [Bernard "Ben" Krisko, 449 Finley Rd, Belle Vernon, PA 15012]

11 Dec 04 \$10 Dues, \$10 Newsletter. [Donald J. Evenson, 612 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S., Grand Forks, ND 58201]

3 Dec 04 Enclosed are my dues for the year 2005, \$10.00, and also \$20 for the 164<sup>th</sup> Newsletter. I enjoy the Newsletter very much. Thank you for all you do to keep the 164<sup>th</sup> Inf. together. //s// [Betty M. Anderson, 601 12 1/2 Ave E., Apt 5, West Fargo, ND 58078-3070]

NEW MEMBER!! 10 Dec 04 Dear Ben: Received information on the 164<sup>th</sup>. I would enjoy a trial membership and newsletter. I am a life member of Co. G. I served in the 164<sup>th</sup> from Feb '51 to Jul '52—then went overseas. I was a PFC. I have another friend in our town who was in Co G. from Feb '51 to Aug '51 then went to Korea. He was a PFC. He would like to be included. Enclosed some postage. //s// [LaVerne Amacher, 516 Riverside Dr, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-1750.

9 Dec 04 \$20 Enclosed: \$10 for 2005 dues, \$10 for anything else. /s/ [Raymond F. Ellerman, 2825 Legend Dr, Las Vegas, NV 8913]

17 Dec 04 Dear Sir: Here are my dues for year 2005. Thank you. //s//[Frederick P. Siems, 19 W. James Pl., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1037]

22 Dec 04 Hey back there. \$10.00 for dues. \$10.00 for 164 News. Say Hi to anyone who remembers my name./s/[George W. Isenberg, 4012 S. Rainbow Blvd #K-265, Las Vegas, NV 89103]

NEW MEMBER!! 4 Dec 04 Dear Ben: Please find enclosed my 164<sup>th</sup> dues for 2005. I want to take this time to say how much I enjoyed the past 164<sup>th</sup> Reunion. It was the best one that I ever attended; you, Bernie, and the rest of the gang did a bang-up job. Congrats! The latest newsletter was well done and I'm glad Shirley agreed to take over the editor post. Best Regards, //s// [F. E. Dahl, 603 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S.W., Sidney, MT 59270]

4 Dec 04 Mr. Kemp—This is for my dues (\$10) and other to the paper (\$5). //s//[Doris M. Stellon, 15805 County 3, Drayton, ND 58225]

8 Jan 05 \$25.00 donation. Thank you and have a Happy New Year. //s// [Joe & Doris Otmar, 626 University Ave, Salinas, CA 93901]

3 Jan 05 Dues \$10. Newsletter \$50.00. [Robert E. Korman, 3846 Homalo Ct, Anchorage, AK 99508]

4 Jan 05 Enclosed is my check for my membership in the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. //s// [Ardis L. Mathews, 1044 Sioux Ave., Fairmont, MN 56031]

18 Dec 04 Dear Sir, to Ben Kemp: Enclosed is \$20. Dues are \$10.00, so the rest can go to the paper or good of the outfit.//s// [Lionel "Frenchy" Garant, 71 Consul St., Fall River, MA 02720-7401]

30 Dec 04 Please renew my subscription for the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News. In Don's memory, please use the \$40 for the Newsletter. Sincerely, //s// [Dolores E. Hoff, 923 Bradley Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701]

13 Dec 04 \$10 dues. Thank you and keep up the good work. //s// [Paul J. Steen, 50 Carriage Sq., Oxnard, CA 93030]

20 Dec 04 Howdy, Enclosed my 2005 dues + \$25 to help with the newsletter. I'm sure all of Chuck Walker's old comrades are aware of his book "Combat Officer". I wonder if any other ND member of the 164<sup>th</sup> served in as many companies in the Regt. as Chuck did? //s// [Zane E. Jacobs, AGC USN (ret), 2075 Mariposa St., Seaside, CA 93955-3316]

17 Dec 04 Dues for Herbert Klein, and address. Thanks, //s//[Herbert Klein, Home for the Aged, 4000 4<sup>th</sup> St. S., Wishek, ND 58495]

18 Dec 04 Enclosed please find \$10.00 check for 2005 dues. /s/[Martin Broudy, 3000 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave, apt 8401, Coconut Creek, FL 33066-2109]

29 Jan 05 Sorry. I never received notice. [Pasquale Grande, 18 Armento St, Johnston, RI 02929]

## DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Dear Mr. Kemp, Enclosed are my husband's ten dollar dues and ten dollars for the newsletter. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year. Sincerely, [Mr & Mrs James P. Curran, 29 Greenwood St, Worcester, MA 01607]

15 Dec 04 Wishing all the members of the 164<sup>th</sup> a Merry Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year. Doing well in Penn. \$10.00 dues, \$10.00 newsletter. //Co E//[Andrew Trageser, 1163 Fawn Grove Rd, New Park, PA 17352-9456]

22 Dec 04 Hi, Benny. A Merry Christmas to you and also a Happy New Year. \$10.00 for dues and also \$20.00 for the kitty. Sent an extra envelope for you to send back my membership, every little bit helps. You are doing a good job. Thank you, //s//[Raymond H. Steffen, 1903 Willow Dr, Grand Forks, ND 58201]

15 Jan 05 Dear Ben: Thank you for sending a sample of the 164 News and 1 year membership. I have another buddy here in town that would like the one year membership: Mr. Dave Ellis, 15 Talcott Ct., Ft Atkinson, Wis 53538. He served in 164<sup>th</sup> from Feb 51 til Aug 51 as a PFC. He was then sent to Korea. Thank you /s/ [LaVerne Amacher, 516 Riverside Dr, Ft Atkinson, WI 53538-1750]

15 Jan 05 Dear Ben: I received your letter today about my correct address. I'm sorry about any confusion, as it is a matter of the correct spelling of the street we live on. Easy to get wrong. The last 164<sup>th</sup> Inf Reunion in Sep at Valley City was a really good one. We are looking forward to the next one this year. Take care and keep up the good work you are doing. Sincerely//s//[Peter H. Grant, 4026 Boardwalk St., Eau Claire, WI 54701]

16 Jan 05 To Ben Kemp, I've been told a newsletter will be published soon and other benefits. Really miss the wonderful newsletter we had—my only contact with the 164<sup>th</sup>. I left from Cavalier, ND, in May 1941, received an honorable discharge in Oct 1945. //s//[Raymond C. Arnson, 1040 Atticus Ave, Henderson, NV 89015]

27 Jan 05. Enclosed \$10 for 2005. Thanks for the reminder. Keep it going. //s//[Janus Acampora, 24 Inverell Dr., Toms River, NJ 08757]

Things you learn (sometimes too late): Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do!

Jan 05 My dues are enclosed. Sorry I'm late. Sorry! I guess I was thinking I paid them at the convention. [Alba Clancy, Box 161, Buffalo, ND 58011]

29 Jan 05 \$10 dues for this year. Use the other \$20 for what you need. I enjoy the newsletter very much.//s//[Thomas "Tommie" R. Evans, 13621 Hwy 63 S., Alex City, AL 35010]

27 Jan 05 So sorry I'm so late. I notice my 2004 dues was paid in Aug 03—I go to extremes! Thanks for sending me a reminder.//s//[Norma Kane Unit 447, 7570 Speedway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85710]

10 Feb 05. Enclosed \$50 for life membership. I am now living in an assisted facility. If any members would like to visit, please do. //s//[Margaret Brown, 3406 Dominion St #148, Bismarck, ND 58503]

1 Feb 05 \$10 dues, \$10 extra. Good luck and God bless.//s//[Bryan O. "Bud" Baldwin, PO Box 14387, Grand Forks, ND 58208]

26 Jan 05. \$10 dues, sorry I thought I had sent them. //s//[Mildred Stimson, 17476 458<sup>th</sup> Ave, Watertown, SD 57201]

20 Jan 05 Secretary of 164<sup>th</sup> Inf Assoc: Enclosed is a check for \$20, \$10 for dues and \$10 to help cover the cost of the newsletter for 2005. My family enjoys reading the newsletter. My health is not the greatest, so I can't make the reunion. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, /Mrs/ [Bernard A. Sheer 502 Jackson St. SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350]

Jan 05 Amount enclosed is \$10 for dues and \$10 for cost of newsletter Etc. [Stanley T. Gadowski, 13 Cree Dr, Oxon Hill, MD20745-1214]

25 Jan 05 Hi. Enclosed is \$10 for my membership and an extra \$10 for the association's use. Yours in fellowship, //s//[Gordon Bostrom, 1SG USA, ret) 3029 Jeanne Rd, Augusta, GA 30906]

8 Feb 05 Dear Ben, Thank you for sending the Nov 2004 newsletter. It was always our way to keep in touch. When Ray was well, we attended several meetings. The Last Roll Call is getting too long! Thanks again. /s/ Ray & Irene Arneson

Dear 164 Infantry Association: I have enclosed a check for \$20. \$10 for membership and an additional \$10 for mailing the newsletter which I enjoy reading very much. Thanks //s//[William H. Daily, 1522 E. Vineyard Rd, Hayesville, NC 28904]

# N.D. soldiers ready for any fight, Historian credits hard work ethic for getting troops through battles

By Steven P. Wagner, The Forum

*Editor's Note: The author of this article, which appeared in the Fargo Forum, has courteously allowed us to reprint it in The 164th News! Thanks to Jerry Longmuir, Menoken, for bringing the article to the attention of President Bernie Wagner.*

The French phrase "**Je Suis Pret**," a motto adopted by the North Dakota National Guard during World War II, defines the unit's service in United States military history. In English, the phrase means "I Am Ready." From the beginning, settlers in North Dakota proved their willingness to serve as citizen soldiers. That willingness was later tested in the Pacific during World War II when the 164th Infantry Regiment fought on Guadalcanal and Bougainville islands.

Maj. Pete Conlin, command historian for the North Dakota National Guard, credits the second amendment -- the right to bear arms -- for the strength of the Guard in the state. In March, Conlin wrote an abbreviated history of the Guard for the state Legislature, condensing much of the information in the 1986 book, "Citizens As Soldiers." The Guard's standards in combat have matched the Army's track record, Conlin said. "In North Dakota, we have a history of not only meeting, but exceeding, that standard," Conlin said. "We are a state of conservative people with a real hard work ethic. We see that in people who drive on and get the job done."

**Humble origins** By the time Congress created Dakota Territory in 1861, regular Army posts already existed on the prairie. The North Dakota National Guard was born out of the Dakota Territorial Militia of the 1860s. Territorial Gov. William Jayne issued a proclamation in December 1861 to form two companies of volunteer cavalry after regular troops were reassigned for the Civil War. In April 1862, Company A, 1st North Dakota Cavalry, gained federal recognition and Company B was formed the next year.

The militia struggled, however, with mismanagement of arms and uniforms. There were 1,000 officers and men in the Guard by 1885. In 1889, the territory was split into North and South Dakota, and the state's military code authorized one regiment of 10 companies.

There was little money for the Guard, making recruiting and preparation difficult. Training was all but abandoned in the mid-1890s.

Events in Cuba in 1898, and the conflict with Spain, led to North Dakota's call-up for duty. Eight companies were chosen to become the **1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry Regiment**. The regiment arrived in Manila Bay in July 1898. Less than two weeks later, the soldiers were on the trench lines surrounding Manila and played a modest role in a firefight which led to the surrender of the city. The United States originally went to the Philippines to protect the islands from the Spanish, and the North Dakota regiment assumed occupation duties before facing hostility from locals during an insurrection.

In April 1899, the volunteers encountered their most costly combat mission. Eight men were killed during one skirmish. Private Thomas Sletteland won the **Medal of Honor**, the first for a North Dakotan, for carrying one wounded soldier to safety and defending three others who were killed. By August of that year, the 1st North Dakota was back in the United States. "They took on an identity of their own," Conlin said. "These early soldiers, their valiant efforts and bravery, set the standards for the 164th. I don't think they came home thinking they were heroic."

**Border patrol and WWI** The **National Defense Act of 1916** guaranteed the Guard's permanent service as a reserve unit for the Army. President Woodrow Wilson ordered a troop call-up to pursue raiding bands of Mexican troops along the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona borders. By July 1916, North Dakota's regiment arrived in Texas, endured grueling training but saw no action. In January 1917, the infantry returned home. Another call-up, less than three months later, was initiated for World War I. A draft board was established in July 1917, and approximately 3,700 North Dakota men went to war as National Guardsmen. Many who went for border patrol refused to show up for World War I service, Conlin said. "They felt a little used and abused," he said.

**All units were given new numbers to eliminate state names, and the 1st North Dakota was now part of the 164th Infantry Regiment.** The regiment left in November 1917 and was one of the first divisions to go to France, and men became frustrated by the travel conditions, food and constant reorganization within the American Expeditionary Force. The 164th Regiment lost 278 men in the war while nearly 650 were wounded. The infantry returned home in 1919.

**The Pacific Campaign.** The Regiment entered federal service again in February 1941 when President Franklin Roosevelt called up the National Guard. The 164th went to Louisiana for training as one of the four infantry regiments of the 34th Infantry Division, which also included units from Minnesota and Iowa.

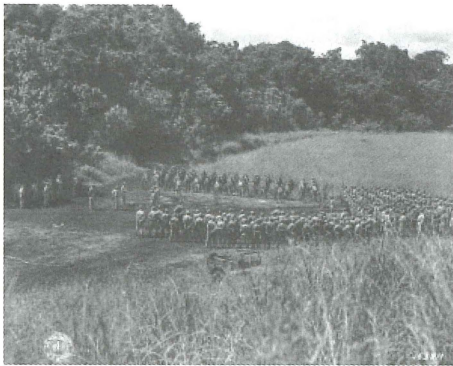


Soldiers get settled in a bivouac area and supply dump the day after the Japanese retreated during the fight for Guadalcanal. The soldiers used shell and bomb craters for foxholes  
--Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

In March 1942, the 164th left the United States for Melbourne, Australia, where they boarded small ships for New Caledonia to protect Pacific naval supply lines and prevent a Japanese invasion.

"The actions of the 164th has brought them to the limelight in military history," Conlin said.

The regiment became part of the **Americal Division**, landing at **Guadalcanal on Oct. 13, 1942**. Members of the 164th became known as "jungle fighters" in U.S. media, named for the terrain in which they fought. The infantry was also given the nickname "The 164th Marines" for their bitter fight against the Japanese in the Battle for Henderson Field and the Battle of the Matanikau on the island, and became the first U.S. Army unit to take offensive action during World War II.



Members of an infantry group line up for a presentation of decorations for acting beyond the call of duty at Guadalcanal.

--Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

During the first five days of the 164th's landing at Guadalcanal, 117 men were killed. During the battle for Henderson Field, an estimated 1,700 Japanese were killed, while the 164th suffered 26 killed and 52 wounded. The 164th continued with other battles and patrols through February 1943, and the unit saw 147 men lose their lives. The regiment received the Navy's Presidential Unit Citation.

The 164th left Guadalcanal and moved on to Bougainville, part of the Solomon Islands, where it served until November 1944. During World War II, the 164th spent nearly 600 days in combat and 325 men were killed in action, while 1,193 men were wounded in action. Conlin said the soldiers saw themselves as "ordinary people doing ordinary things." Others, he said, saw their service as extraordinary, even heroic.



Major George Schatz, is presented with the Silver Star Medal. Schatz, West Fargo, drove a jeep into the face of enemy fire to rescue three seriously wounded soldiers during the fight for Guadalcanal.

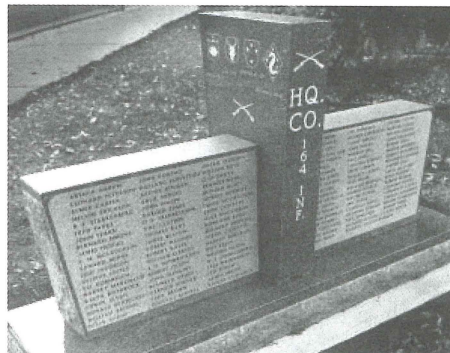
--Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

Soldiers from the 164th Infantry Regiment received several commendations for its Pacific campaign: 1 Navy Cross, 6 Distinguished Service Crosses, 89 Silver Stars, 199 Bronze Stars, 6 Legions of Merit, 10 Soldiers Medals, about 2,000 Purple Hearts.

[Members of the 188th and 957th Field Artillery Battalions landed on Utah Beach and participated in the Cherbourg Offensive and the Battle of the Bulge while driving onward to

Germany], to provide continuing support for offensives in Europe for the remainder of the war.

**The 1950s and 1960s** President Harry Truman, in an attempt to contain communism, initiated a partial call to arms and ordered a limited National Guard mobilization in September 1950. The 231st Engineer Battalion was North Dakota's first unit called up for action. The 164th Infantry and 188th Artillery were also called into action, and all three units began training exercises in the United States. More than 2,600 North Dakota guardsmen served during the Korean War, with about 800 going overseas. Of those, 16 were killed in combat.



A monument honoring the members of the 164th Infantry Regiment stands at the Gilbert C. Grafton American Legion Post in Fargo.

Forum file photo

Again, the Guard was slated for active duty in October 1961 as part of President John Kennedy's mobilization after the Berlin Crisis. The 164th served at Fort Riley, Kan., and returned home after 10 months on active duty. [Some soldiers were deployed individually].

**The Gulf War** When Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in the summer of 1990, another crisis was at hand. President Bush ordered federal mobilization of 200,000 National Guard and Army Reserve troops. Initially, North Dakota units receiving alert notifications in August 1990 were the 136th Quartermaster Battalion, 132nd Quartermaster Company and three Quartermaster Detachments: the 131st, 133rd and 134th. They provided supply, distribution and purification of water.

The 191st Military Police Company, which provided support for security and POW processing, and the 818th Medical Battalion, which provided command and control for medical companies assigned to it, were alerted in November 1990. Operation Desert Storm started Jan. 16, 1991, and the North Dakota National Guard remained in the Persian Gulf while the drawdown of troops took place.

The history of the North Dakota National Guard can be compared to a common scene in the state, Conlin said. "If you drive down the road during planting season and you see (farmers) out there planting, despite the time and conditions, you are seeing the 164th," he said. "Some see it as incredible, we see it as getting the job done".





This review is reprinted with permission from the Fall '04 AMERICAL NEWSLETTER, the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association.



Col. (USAR, ret.) David W. Taylor is the new Editor-in-Chief of the Americal Newsletter. His address is 970 Kenner Drive, Medina, OH 44256 Ph 330-723-2517 Email [dwtaylor@neobright.net](mailto:dwtaylor@neobright.net)

## BOOK REVIEW

*“Combat Officer: A Memoir of War in the South Pacific”.*  
Charles H. Walker (Random House 2004)

Charles Walker was an Infantry 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 164<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard (North Dakota) Regiment, when activated for war in 1941. By late October 1945 he returned home from war with the rank of Major. In his almost four years as a combat officer with the Americal Division, Walker served as a weapons platoon leader, rifle platoon leader, company commander and battalion executive officer. His H Company weapons platoon and command of E Company – Infantry, saw heavy fighting on Guadalcanal, the Fiji’s, Leyte and Cebu. His tour of war ended in Japan with occupation duty. Walker led from the front. While leading from example he was awarded three Silver Stars and the Bronze Star.

But *“Combat Officer”* is more than a book about Chuck Walker’s combat experience. It’s a gut wrenching story of mans inhumanity to man; of cowards & hero’s; of bold improvising and useless regulations. It’s a book that takes a fascinating look into the mind, leadership, tactics and weapons of the Japanese soldier, as seen from Walkers point of vantage. Walker pulls no punches and accurately places blame on senior officers where and when it is deserved.

As an infantry officer in Vietnam, the book *“Combat Officer”* took me on another ride into war. I saw similar experiences as my own: senior officers “showboating”

for awards; unnecessary casualties from irrational orders, poor tactics or carelessness. I also saw successes in battle from good leadership, proper use of supporting fires, guts and determination. What seemingly is a difference between the South Pacific Theatre and Vietnam – that the WWII Americal soldier could reach some “closure” after defeating the enemy on an island, is not a difference at all. The move from Leyte to Cebu on LCVP’s is essentially the same move from LZ Baldy to Hiep Duc in Huey’s; Just a ride to more jungle and more enemy.

I heartily recommend this book for Americal Vets of both wars. Just published in paperback form, it is available at Barnes & Noble, Walden’s and other bookstores. I ordered mine on line at Amazon.com for \$6.99. Walker relates, “I started the book for my children. My wife Hetty and I have four girls and one son. As I have kept in touch with so many buddies in the military, it grew and grew. It was to be published by Presidio Press a couple of years ago, but then Random House bought Presidio, so it got set back a couple of years.”

After the war Walker was a bush pilot in Ontario, Canada for 10 years, then returned to the USA and served for twelve years as a county commissioner. Now retired, he concentrates on writing historic stories about the military and pioneering. He lives in Pembina, North Dakota.

Despite his near-death experiences in WWII Walker pushed his luck as a bush pilot as well. As he plans his next writing assignment he muses about the past. “I have had a remarkably lucky life, both as a civilian, in the Army and flying in the bush. I had a heart attack in 1974 and now have a pacemaker. I know someone up there has cared for me!”

One caution before beginning the book. Get your chores done for your spouse and finish what you promised for the kids. Or find a spot where you can hide. Once you join Walker’s unit, you’ll be committed to staying until the fight is over. **--David W. Taylor**

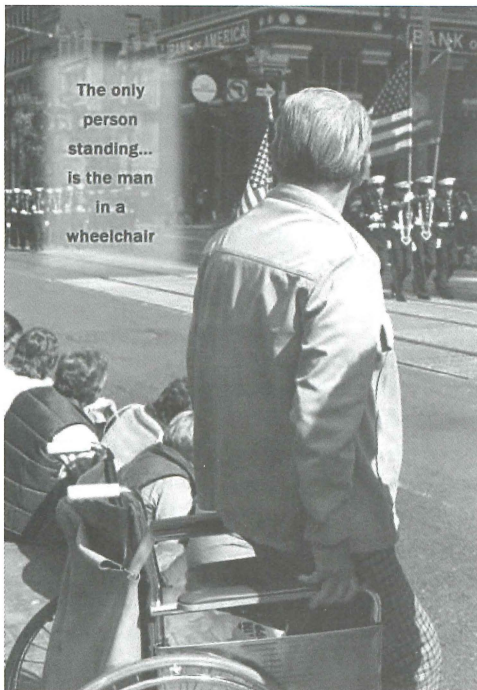


## NATIONAL LEGION COMMANDER FIGHTS FOR VETS

Thomas P. Cadmus, national commander of the American Legion, weighed in against the Defense Department's undersecretary for personnel and readiness, Dr. David Chu, who has remarked that veterans' pay and benefits have gotten to the point where they are hurtful....and are taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself. **“That comment is a slap in the face to every veteran who took the oath to uphold and defend the Constitution against all enemies,”** Cadmus asserted. **“Our country cannot separate military retirees from veterans--a veteran is a veteran!”**

Cadmus also packed some punches the issue of Full Funding of VA Health Care, along with national commanders of the VFW and DAV, who firmly believe that veterans have earned the right to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care through their extraordinary sacrifices and service to this nation. Yet, each year funding levels must be determined through an annual appropriations process that is fundamentally broken, they say. **“Short-changing VA health care is short-changing every military veteran from Bunker Hill to Baghdad. America's veterans are not expendable and should never be treated as such,”** said American Legion commander Thomas P. Cadmus.

## Legislation that will teach North Dakota's Children about the U.S. Flag



The only person standing... is the man in a wheelchair

This photo was presented to the ND Senate Education Committee by Col. (USAR, ret.) John Jacobsen in support of his testimony in favor of the bill. The photo, source unknown, has been widely distributed by email.

Concurrent resolution #4019 received a "Do Pass" from the ND Senate committee; it will now be considered by the ND House.

**WHEREAS**, the United States flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world, a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, and of patriotism; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States flag incarnates for all mankind the spirit of liberty and the glorious ideal of human freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States flag symbolizes equal opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and is safeguarded by the principles of duty, righteousness, and justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States flag embodies the essence of patriotism and the strength of the American nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an Act to establish an official flag for our new nation; and

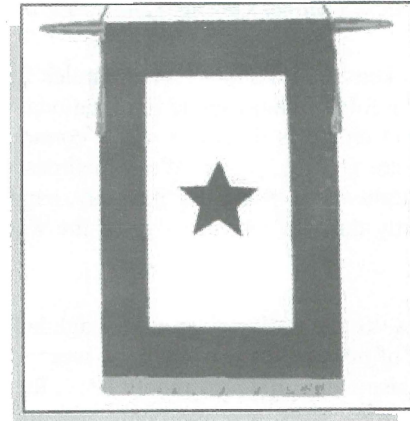
**WHEREAS**, for more than 200 years, the United States flag has been the symbol of our nation's unity, as well as a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges all educators to ensure that the schoolchildren of North Dakota are taught the history of the United States flag, that they are taught to respect the flag, to exercise proper flag etiquette, and to understand that the flag is the most visible and enduring symbol of the American spirit.

## The Military Service Flag

The Service Flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families who have members serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities the U.S. may be engaged in for the duration of such hostilities.



The Service Flag was designed during WWI, but the practice of displaying the flag became much more widespread during WWII. In 1942, the Blue Star Mothers of America was founded as a veteran service organization to provide care packages to military members serving overseas and also provide assistance to families. The Gold Star Mothers of America is an organization of mothers whose sons or daughters served and died that this world might be a better place in which to live.



*The color of the stars is symbolic in that the blue star represents hope and pride and the gold star represents sacrifice to the cause of liberty and freedom.*

← From WWII poster Series

The Department of Defense specifies that family members are authorized to display the flag. It may also be displayed by an organization to honor the members of that organization serving in the Armed Forces during a period of war or hostilities. It is an indoor flag and should be flown facing out from the front window of the home or organization.

## Current Events...

# OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

*The following is an excerpt from an email message written to St. Alexius Medical Center staff from Dr. Gordy Leingang, a St. A's emergency room physician, who is also a National Guard Lieutenant Colonel serving a short tour in Iraq.*

The pace quickens, so I thought I'd write quick before the next several days unfold. Sunday is the Iraqi national elections and the operational tempo is definitely up. I continue to do well but the days are getting longer. We sometimes work straight through the night and well into the next day, napping when we can. I honestly don't know what day of the week it is some days.

Our missions to the villages around Baghdad continue to occupy most of our time. We're trying to wrap up some of the projects because within the next month or so, the new Brigade replacing us will arrive and we begin the arduous task of handing over our duties to them. The Army's vernacular for this particular song and dance is "left seat-right seat". There is much excitement in the air over the prospect of going home. Remember, the guys I'm serving with have been here for 14 months. They're really tired but forge on with the task at hand. Their battle-hardened faces still produce real and genuine smiles when they contemplate what sweetness awaits them at home.

I continue to drink daily from the goblet of grace, especially in caring for the Iraqi people who come to see us on "rounds". Sort of like making a house call, but I practice our curb-side medicine right on the streets while they crowd around us. I've even done simple surgical procedures on the hood of a Humvee. I carry ammo cans full of medications and hope and pray I've got the right stuff along when needed. The infectious illnesses that I care for tend to do very well even on very low doses of antibiotics because most of these people have never ever taken an antibiotic. So, I've cured some horrendous infections with very minimal meds. I'm always left to wonder what they would have done had we not showed up.

They have such confidence in American medicine that they refuse to see the (largely unavailable) Iraqi Ministry of Health Doctors (even though they are very dedicated and work for pennies) and come to see us, though we carry only rudimentary emergency equipment with us. Some have never seen a doctor in their entire life and they seem fascinated with me. "You are tah-beeb?" = you are a Doctor or "dektor"? and sometimes make up the illness as they go, just to get seen by me. So, the troops have to sort of "triage" them for me. It's all very hurried as we can't stay in one place for long. It's terribly frustrating because they flock to us and we often have to leave quickly. I never know if we're going to get back so I can check on them and we can never schedule a visit. It's all very hit-and-miss. The interactions are often very touching and I'd give anything to stay a while and try to help them.

Tuesday, I was so moved, but so sad when a young Dad brought his daughter of about 4 years-of-age to me who obviously has very debilitating cerebral palsy and was quite disfigured and profoundly retarded. His dark, sad eyes told an unprintable story. Through his broken English and the interpreter I understood that he wanted medicine to make his child well. I closed my eyes because I just knew I was going to cry...he was pleading with me. The tears just spilled through. That said it all, I guess, because he said "shook-rah, tah-beeb (thank you, doctor) with such warmth in his voice, affirming that he loved his daughter with the same measure that I was frustrated in my inability to do anything for her. If I'd been afforded but one miracle to use in my life, it would have been used just then.

We're really not that different are we? We all want our children to be healthy and happy and normal. And we'd all come for the miracle to make them whole again if we could. These poor people look to America for their miracles. Every American ought to be proud of how the world looks up to us. We are a great and fabled and certainly blessed people. And so, they bring their crippled and blind, each hoping that the "American Dektor" can somehow cure them. Sadly, there have been several of these poor children brought to me. One day they'll have perfect wings and I pray that I'm worthy to be there when it happens. In the meanwhile, my heart will be heavy. ...I'm always reminded that "there but by the grace of God" go my healthy kids, and yours. Please drop what you're doing and hug your kids. If you're close to them, hug mine.

I'm sorry if you get tired of my writing always about the kids. I see many adults too. I guess telling you about the children soothes my missing my own. They are my heart and I miss them, dearly. They make the meaning of my life more clear. We're still very busy also tending to our soldiers, EPWs, and anyone else that needs medical care. That continues to be richly rewarding.

A busy night awaits me as I close...In the coming hours, the security and patrols will be ratcheted up considerably for the elections on Sunday. These are amazing and historic times. Let's watch prayerfully, hopefully and faithfully that the tide will turn for freedom and self determination here in Iraq. Perhaps we'll give these children something to live for, rather than die for. If we pray, fervently, we can all claim this remarkable victory.

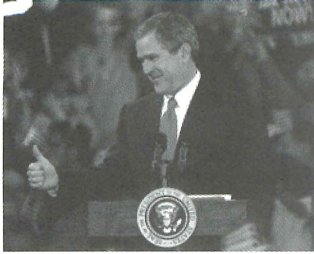
Tired, weary, but ever confident and resolved to see this through, I write with great pride on behalf of the good soldiers and patriots of the 1st of the 303rd. Please be assured that the cause of freedom is in the very best of hands!

Gordy  
Providing good care in bad places.



# Words from the Commander in Chief

Photo by Shirley J. Olgeirson, Fargo, 2002



**“America’s vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one.”**

Presidential Inaugural Address  
20 January 2005

“From the day of our Founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this earth has rights, and dignity, and matchless value, because they bear the image of the Maker of Heaven and earth. Across the generations we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave. Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation’s security, and the calling of our time”.



Below: Members of the 141<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion arrive at Fort Carson in February 2005 on their way home after serving a year clearing roads in Iraq.



# Legislature Honors Fallen North Dakotans

The following legislation passed unanimously in both the House and Senate in January 2005.

ND SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4007  
A concurrent resolution paying tribute to North Dakota military personnel who have died in Iraq.

**WHEREAS**, Spc. Jon P. Fettig, Dickinson; Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Hendrickson, Bismarck; Sgt. Keith L. Smette, Makoti; Spc. Philip D. Brown, Jamestown; Staff Sgt. Lance J. Koenig, Fargo; Spc. Cody L. Wentz, Williston; Pfc. Anthony W. Monroe, Bismarck; Spc. Thomas J. Sweet II, Bismarck; and Pfc. Sheldon R. Hawk Eagle, Grand Forks, were called upon by the United States of America to fight the forces of terror that threaten free men; and

**WHEREAS**, these brave, courageous, and valorous soldiers in performing their duty made that supreme sacrifice that great men and women have been called upon down through our country’s history to make for the right to be free; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly, acting as the representatives of all the people of the state of North Dakota, to recognize these individuals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of the state of North Dakota hereby pays solemn tribute to: [the above named soldiers] for their sacrifice for helping to keep the United States of America and other countries of this world free from the forces of terror that would kill the innocent and threaten the free; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the people of the state of North Dakota hereby join together to express deepest sympathies to the parents and relatives of these brave soldiers and to express to them the furtherant belief that these men did not die in vain; and

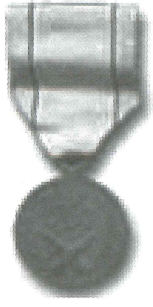
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State send enrolled copies of this resolution to the parents and wives of these heroes.



Above: A field memorial for Sgt. Keith Smette, 25, (KIA 24 Jan 04) and SSG Kenneth Hendrickson, 41, (KIA 24 Jan 04). The sergeants were members of the 957<sup>th</sup> Multi-Role Bridge Company which served in the Iraqi theater from April 2003-April 2004.

The North Dakota National Guard has been involved in 9 federal mobilizations during 114 years of statehood. Operations Enduring Freedom/ Noble Eagle/ Iraqi Freedom mark the second largest mobilization of personnel in ND History.

|                 | War  | Dates     | Personnel |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | World War I                                    | 1917-1918 | 3,700     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Iraqi War/Iraqi Freedom                        | 2001-Pres | 2,881     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | World War II                                   | 1940-1945 | 2,828     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Korean War                                     | 1950-1953 | 2,404     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Mexican Border                                 | 1916-1917 | 1,090     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Berlin Crisis                                  | 1961-1966 | 790       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | Spanish American War & Philippine Insurrection | 1898-1899 | 635       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | Desert Storm                                   | 1990-1991 | 632       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> | Bosnia/Kosovo                                  | 1997-2000 | 164       |



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL AVAILABLE TO VETERANS



**U.S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued.**

**The Story:** The medal was originally offered by the ROK in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home. In 1998, the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROK-KWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it, and it will be provided at no cost. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal. The U.S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency for distribution of the medals.

**Eligibility:** U.S. military personnel must have: (1) served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953; (2) been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and (3) performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

**To wear:** For the majority of Korean War veterans, the medal will be worn after the United Nations Medal, or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal if you also served during that conflict.

**To apply.** The 164<sup>th</sup> has made it easy to apply!

**Editor's note:** I have personally talked with the Point of Contact at Randolph Air Force Base, to confirm all the information provided here is correct. The processing time after receipt there it is "around 30 days." -SJO

1. Get a copy of the official Medal Request Form from Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111. You can also download the Form from the internet at the official 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Korean War website, or possibly get one from your county veterans service officer. The form has application requirements, mailing address, and instructions for Next of Kin to apply.
2. You must have a copy of your discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214," or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215." National Guard members must provide their service equivalent, "NGB Form 22."

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>TO GET YOUR RECORDS</b><br/>if you entered and left the service in North Dakota:<br/>Request a copy of your records from ND Army National Guard, P.O. Box 5511, Bismarck, ND58506-5511. Provide full name, dates of service, SSN &amp;/or service number, mailing address, and phone number.</p> | <p><b>TO GET YOUR RECORDS</b><br/>if you're not from ND:<br/>Write to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5295 Phone: (314) 538-4200. Provide full name, mailing address, dates of service, SSN &amp;/or service number, branch, the type of info needed, &amp; veteran's signature.</p> | <p><b>TO GET YOUR RECORDS</b><br/>if you can "do" the internet:<br/>At <a href="http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov">www.vetrecs.archives.gov</a>, veterans or next-of-kin of deceased veterans can use an EASY 4-step process to complete the automated form (print out for signature) or download the SF 180 (with the Adobe software provided). The requests require a signature; mail to address at left.</p> |
|--|--|---|

**It's a Fact: Army National Guard mobilizations for the Korean War included 138,60 personnel in eight infantry divisions, three regimental combat teams, and 714 company-sized units**

More Highway.....(Continued from Page 1)

## 164 Infantry Memorial Highway

If the renaming of U.S. Highway 2 is successful, there should be signs posted along the length of the Highway to proudly identify its new name. Your President Bernie Wagner and Secretary/Treasurer Ben Kemp will be consulting with officials at the ND Department of Transportation to determine the design standards, legal requirements, and other considerations for the creation of appropriate signage.

Below is a design created by Associate Members Jim and Pat Drong, from Sanborn.



### The Text of the Highway proposal:

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4005

*A concurrent resolution designating United States Highway 2 through the state of North Dakota as the 164th Infantry Memorial Highway.*

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry was operational from 1885 to 1955 and was made up of members of the North Dakota National Guard; and

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry entered federal service from May 20, 1898, through September 25, 1899, for the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection; and

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry was called into federal service on June 18, 1916, through February 14, 1917, for the Mexican Border Conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry entered federal service for World War I on October 4, 1917, through February 18, 1919; and

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry entered federal service for World War II on February 10, 1941, through June 10, 1946, and in October 1942 at Guadalcanal, became the first United States Army unit to engage in offensive action against the enemy and was involved in the heaviest fighting of this campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, the 164th Infantry was ordered into federal service for the Korean Conflict in 1950;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

That in honor of the 164th Infantry, United States Highway 2 through the state of North Dakota is designated as the "164th Infantry Memorial Highway"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor and the director of the Department of Transportation.

### Your Comments, Please!

If you have comments or suggestions for the good of the organization, your President Bernie Wagner wants to hear them!

If you've got a good photo (with a caption & people identified), a short story to tell, or if you'd just like to sound off about the content or format of the newsletter, drop a note to your Editor, Shirley J. Olgeirson!

If you have dues, donations, or business of any kind for the 164<sup>th</sup> Association, your Secretary/Treasurer Bennet J. Kemp is always efficient and helpful.

You can contact all of us at 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Assoc, P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

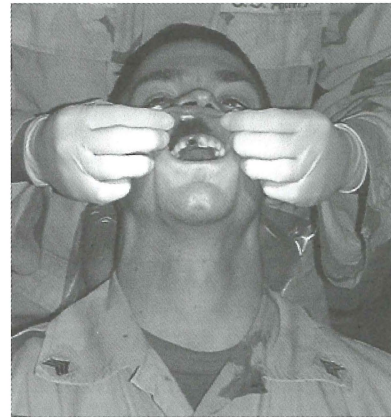
(Note: If you send photos to the Editor, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to insure prompt return. Thanks!)

## ***AMERICANS ARE INVINCIBLE!!!!***

Early Christmas Eve morning, two squads were assigned to sweep and clear two adjacent homes where Iraq terrorists were holed-up. SGT C said that he heard a lot of small arms fire and yelling, so he thought he would round the corner and size up the situation before advancing his team.

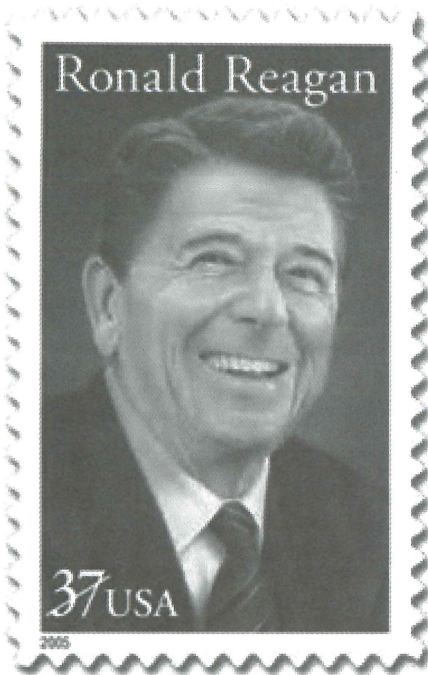
Unfortunately, as he turned the corner, he found himself staring directly into the barrel of a 9mm automatic pistol. SGT C said he never had time to be scared, he just knew he was dead. The terrorist pulled the trigger and, miraculously, SGT C found himself still standing. He figured the bullet had missed. He advanced on the Iraqi, who immediately surrendered. After the enemy was rounded up, SGT C said he started to feel light headed and one of his soldiers insisted that he proceed to the hospital. He realized at this time that he had lost his front tooth in the gun fight. He figured the ballistic shock from the weapon's blast had knocked it loose. He was wrong.

When he presented early that morning, Major Kimberly Perkins, the oral surgeon, took a panoramic X-ray and discovered the incredible truth. The 9mm bullet did NOT miss SGT C. He was hit directly in the face. The bullet entered just below his nose where it impacted the apex of #8. The energy from the bullet was transferred to the tooth, literally ejecting the tooth from its socket, and stopping the bullet in its track. Other than the missing tooth, the majority of SGT C's injuries were confined to soft tissue.



**The dentist marveled: "Can you imagine what the enemy thought when he shot you point blank in the face, and you just kept coming at him! *Americans are invincible!!* No wonder he surrendered so fast!"**

***SGT C smiled and said, "This is why you should always brush your teeth!"***



U. S. Postal  
Service  
Releases  
New Stamp  
in Memory  
of  
President  
Ronald  
Reagan  
(1911-2004)

### **Reagan quotes:**

**"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."**

**"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women".**

**"Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."**

In foreign policy, Reagan sought to achieve "peace through strength." During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent, but sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union. In dramatic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, he negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Reagan declared war against international terrorism, sending American bombers against Libya after evidence came out that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a West Berlin nightclub. By ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, he maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war. In keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa. Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

(from [www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/rr40.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/rr40.html))



## DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

### \$40.00

EDNA RAHN HAZEN, ND

### \$25.00

JOHN A. BENZINGER BISMARCK, ND

JOE OTMAR SALINAS, CA

ZACH A. JOHNSON SALMON, ID

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RAYMOND STEFFAN GRAND FORKS, ND

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HERBERT V. COFFEY DEL RAY OAKS, CA

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Ever wondered how the P-38 can opener got its name? A 1-1/2" stamped metal opener originally developed to open C-Ration cans, the "P" in P-38 stands for "puncture," and "38" is the number of times it took with the opener to go around a can. The hole in the top of the opener was used to loop string or shoelaces through and dip the opener into boiling water to clean it after use.

## DONATIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

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## --164th Infantry Reunion Invitation--

I want to extend an invitation to all members, associate members, and guests to attend the 164th Infantry Annual Reunion in Valley City, NDak on *16-17-18 Sept '05*. Co "G" has scheduled our Reunion in June '05. You will be receiving more information on the activities and the 164th Infantry members will be receiving tickets to be purchased to assist with the Reunion expense. We had an outstanding response to the ticket project in 2004 and it was appreciated by the reunion committee. I am happy that Shirley accepted the challenge of our Editor with Ben assisting and remaining our Secretary/Treasurer. The Reunion Committee felt honored that you again accepted Valley City as your Reunion City in 2005.

Hope you can make plans to join us.

Sincerely,

**Bernie Wagner, President**

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

PAUL BUTTKE, PETALLUMA, CA COMPANY G  
MRS. MARGARET BROWN\*, BISMARCK, ND  
MRS. CHARLOTTE ENGSTROM\*, MOORHEAD, MN

## NEW MEMBERS

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HOWARD BJERKETVEDT, HENNING, MN  
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## THE 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY NEWS

POST OFFICE BOX 111  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58502-1111

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News.** USPS 699-800 is published 3 times a year by the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111.

Subscription price of \$10 per year is included in the membership fee. Periodicals postage is paid at the Bismarck, ND, Post Office Zip Code 58501-9996.

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POSTMASTER: Address Changes should be sent to 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, P.O. Box 5511, Bismarck, ND 58502-5511

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