



12-1988

164th Infantry News: December 1988

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol: 27 Number 4

1988 is our 42nd Ass'n Yr.



December 1988

Notes From the Editor

We thank Bernie Wagner and his committee for a very successful reunion. Our reunions seem bigger and better every year. Unlike other Veteran organizations the 164th Infantry Association doesn't seem to have trouble maintaining its membership.

The Editor would like to have company group pictures with the individuals identified. Any pictures would be returned after publication in the "News." The only pictures on hand from the 1988 reunion are pictures of "A" Company and "K" Company. Since your Editor was a member of these two companies he would not like to be accused of favoritism by publishing these two pictures first.

The film "History of The North Dakota National Guard" has been reproduced on video tape. We have two tapes on hand. These tapes are available for loan to members of the Association. The cost of reproduction of the tapes is about \$15.00 each. When requesting a tape to be sent, please send a check for \$15.00 deposit. If the tape is returned within 30 days, the check will be returned to the sender.

Ray Patton, our new President sends greetings. He promises that he will submit a biography to be included in the next issue of

the "News." Also, he asks that everyone make plans to attend the 1989 Reunion in Bismarck sometime in the first half of October.

We are pleased to note that the voters have approved Initiated Measure #4 which restores funds taken from the Veteran Bonus Fund by the 1987 Legislature and restores same to be used to benefit veterans.

Winners of the drawings for prizes at the Banquet are: Robert Oeffner, Redmond, Washington; Gene Brinkman, Hamilton, Ohio; and Finley Clarke, Smyra Mills, Maine. If you didn't hit these winners up for drinks during the 88 Reunion maybe you can catch them at the 89 Reunion.

Tony Griffin would like to announce that the Valley City Reunion Headquarters is closed for business. Any correspondence should be directed to 164th Infantry Assn., Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of George Harvey and John Dinius listed on the "Last Roll Call." We thank George Christianson for information on George Harvey. (See "Letters to the Editor"). John Dinius served with the Regiment as a member of "A" Company.

Reverend Lutness Gives Invocation

This eloquent and most appropriate invocation for the ground breaking ceremony for the "All Veterans Centennial Memorial" on the Capitol grounds was given by The Reverend Magnus Lutness. Mag served as Chaplain in the North Dakota National Guard and later in Washington, DC as Lutheran representative for the Military Chaplain Services.

Almighty God, hear our prayer. Time and circumstances so often dull our reality of the trauma and cost involved in maintaining the heritage of freedom and liberty. Revitalize we pray, our sense of gratitude and thanks for those who gave their lives in times of crisis and conflict so that the legacy of Peace, Justice and Freedom still remains as a precious part of our lives today. Following their example of patriotism, sacrifice and love of country, may we dedicate ourselves anew to the determination to perpetuate those qualities of life. Bless those whose vision and labors have made this day of ground breaking possible. May the "All Veterans Centennial Memorial" be a reminder of the cost of conflict and a powerful stimulus to all of us to treasure and maintain the values of life achieved at such a price. This we ask in Thy Holy Name, Amen.

Letters . . .

October 4, 1988

Dear Bernie and Friends:

I am sorry that I cannot be with you during the 42nd Annual Reunion of the 164th Infantry Association, but pressing Senate business has delayed me in Washington.

I would like to take this time to salute the members of the 164th Infantry Association for your service and dedication to the United States of America. Your organization exemplifies the values and traditions that have made our country great.

Best wishes for a successful and joyful reunion.

Sincerely,
Kent Conrad
United States Senator



Picture taken of 164th members attending a get-together at Camp Grafton, September 1988. First row, left to right: Slick Kupetz, Charlie Wilz, Gene Robinson, Ralph Metcalf, Slick Sebell, Ralph Gaugler, Thornton Tangen, Arley Harken. Back row: Jim Hoop, Gould Heisler, Bill Greenagel, Neil McSlonuld, L. Retslaff, Bernie Wagner, Bill Tillotson, Wally Johnson, Walt Mellem, John O'Brian, August Reep.

Letters

Greetings 164th Infantry!

It is again my privilege to welcome you and greet you on the occasion of your annual reunion. I invite you all to take time to enjoy your fellowship with each other, as well as the many scenic, historical, and recreational areas in the Valley City area.

I appreciate your contributions as veterans, community leaders, and family members. The veteran holds a prominent place in society, not just by virtue of being a veteran, but because the veteran upholds the highest standards of citizenship and is willing to shoulder the responsibilities of citizenship. I wish to challenge you to continue to uphold those standards and meet the responsibilities that set you apart from the rest.

Again, welcome! My best wishes go with you as you enjoy the company of your comrades this weekend.

Sincerely,

George A. Sinner
Governor

Deeply regret schedule will not permit me to join you for 42nd annual reunion. I have always enjoyed visiting with your membership, and ask that you convey my warm personal regards to all those gathered. Best wishes for a wonderful 164th infantry reunion.

Quentin N. Burdick
United States Senator

Dec. 11, 1988

Dear Bill

It sure was a pleasant surprise to hear from you. You look great in the photo on page 3 so I assume you're doing fine.

I'm in good health, have been retired for five years and doing a lot of traveling. I spent the last three winters in Florida but this year I hope to be in Arizona in January and February and part of March. I'm sending my application for membership. Maybe I'll see you at next year's reunion. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you.

Joe Motil
20276 Washtena West
Harper Woods, MI
48225

Lt. Bill Tillotson.

I just missed you, and Roy Sommer Friday night at the VFW party. I am very sorry to read of the "Last Roll Call" of Bob Booke. He was a great guy. He and John

Rediel, Lord rest their souls, put me at ease, and welcomed me at my first reunion in Dickinson.

I am enclosing a ticket for my dues, and a little extra ticket in memory of Bob Booke, John Reidel and John Schuld, who guided me in Co. K, along with yourself. Great Leadership.

I miss all of you guys and hope to be in Bismarck next year, before another roll call is taken.

Regards to all,
George McGuinness

November 12, 1988

Dear Col. Tillotson:

I wish to publicly thank Mrs. Nancy Seher for allowing me to have her husband Andrew's Garrison hat to wear with my uniform.

Andrew answered the Last Roll Call on February 5, 1988 as reported in the September 1988 issue of the 164th Infantry News.

Nancy Seher answered my request for a Garrison or Eisenhower hat which I had asked for in an earlier issue of the News.

I wrote to Nancy suggesting that I would send the hat to the 164th Infantry Museum at Devils Lake when I was ready to release the hat.

The address I have for the museum is: Major Clifford E. Keller, Heritage Office, Room G-7, State Capitol Building, Bismarck, ND 58505, Phone (701) 224-3203.

We expect to be at the 164th Infantry Reunion in October 1989 at Bismarck, ND.

I expect to wear the Garrison Hat with the rest of my uniform at that reunion.

I challenge every other member of the 164th Infantry to bring along and wear any part of their uniforms at that reunion. Wouldn't it be great to have as many members as have uniforms or parts of uniforms show their friends that they can still proudly wear their uniforms either dress wool, khakis, or fatigues.

Thank you Bill, for the excellent production you are performing in compiling the information for the 164th Infantry News publication.

Sincerely,
Dennis R. Ferk
RRC-32, Box 34C
Santa Fe, NM 87505

October 25, 1988

Dear Tony:

I've been meaning to write and tell you that my husband, Stanley (Gus) Blakito died of a massive heart attack on July 3, 1987.

I have been in such a state of shock for so many months that I couldn't even write any

letters to his friends out of town to let them know.

I'm sure many of his friends that he served with in the Infantry would want to know.

My husband dearly loved the 164th and spoke so highly of the men he served with.

My Gus was a wonderful husband and so loved by all, he never was the type of person who complained and always helped others. He loved his golf and played five days a week since he had retired.

My Gus was my life and I thank God for the wonderful life we had together.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Patsy Blakito
5034 Arbor St.
Omaha, NE 68106

Dear Bill

I am now back home. Not fully recovered but able to get along here at home.

Thank you and all the others for their concern and help.

I am sorry not to be able to be at Valley City and ask you to greet the association for me.

I am mobile but at a lesser pace.

Sincerely,
Frank Richards
1980 Prairie Ave.
Dickinson, ND 58601

4-9-88

Mr. Griffin

I saw your ad in the Americal Newsletter about the 164th Infantry reunion. I was a member of A Co. 164th. I was wounded May 8, 1945 on Los Negros P.I. I sure would like to see some of my old buddies. I've been corresponding with a few of them up in the North East. So please if you can send me a little more information about the motels and the registration. I'll wait to hear from you about who I send the check to.

I Remain,
P.P.C. Walter A. Hickey
P.O. Box 373
Stiliard, Fla. 32046

P.S. Do you have a Ralph (Mink) Major 1st Sgt. of Minot, North Dakota.

The 164th Infantry News

USPS 699-800 is published quarterly
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OFFICE: 618 West Thayer
Bismarck, N.D. 58501

BILL TILLOTSON

Editor

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the
164th Inf. News, Box 1111,
Bismarck, N.D. 58502.

(Continued from page 4)

seconded with motion carried.

President Griffin called for any old business, there being none, he opened the floor for new business.

Bernie Wagner reported on the meeting of the Executive Board held at 7:00 AM, 8 Oct. 88. On the matter of Trust Fund CDs in the names of Fargo, Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks and Dickinson Reunion Committees, the Executive Board recommended that these CD funds be redesignated as 164th Infantry Association CDs and placed under financial control of the Association Hq. The reason being that such reunion committees ceased to exist, per se, in those cities and individuals who initially transacted the CD purchase were inactive, or no longer available. Also, if the funds went to the Association Hq, those funds would be available to subsidize, in part, if necessary any future reunions held in any of these five cities. Motion was made and seconded to accept this recommendation. Motion carried. Discussion of recommendation by members ensued after the motion passed. Representatives of Fargo, Dickinson and Grand Forks voiced opposition and an amended motion was made as follows: Members, in attendance of these trust fund cities, would discuss the motion with other members in those cities who did not attend the 88 Reunion. Each city would then have until 1 April 1989 to inform the Association Hq a/o The Executive Board, by letter, of their opinion or decision.

Motion was made by Bill Williamson, seconded by Wally Johnson. Motion was carried to amend the above motion to include the provision that if a reply was not received by the 1 April 89 date, the Assoc Hq would then have the authority to redesignate the Trust Fund CDs of the city in default, to the Assoc Hq name.

Bernie Wagner discussed the By Laws section on life members. On the recommendation of the Executive Board, he made a motion to amend Article 2, Section 4 of the By Laws to read life members and spouse, thereby making the spouse a life member upon the death of the initial life members. Motion seconded and carried.

The matter of life membership for all members was presented by Bernie Wagner. This would reduce the administrative load of annual membership renewals, postage costs, etc.

Bill Williamson spoke to the Association on the upcoming election of 1988 which included initiated Measure No. 4 which would restore funds to the Veterans Commission of ND. A resolution was adopted by the 164th Inf Association to support the North Dakota Veterans Organizations in



Color guard from 141st Engineers ND National Guard presenting the colors.

passing Measure No. 4.

A vote of confidence and recognition was expressed by the Association members to Bill Tillotson for the outstanding job as Editor of the 164th News.

Bill Tillotson reported on the All Veterans Memorial under construction in Bismarck. Ground breaking ceremonies were held 28 Aug 88 with work beginning immediately. The Memorial will be on the Capitol Grounds and should be completed prior to the 1989 164th Reunion. It was suggested a memorial service or recognition of the Memorial be held at the site during the 1989 Reunion.

Floyd Henderson, WWI veteran and long time Associate was introduced, gave a few words and received a standing ovation from the members.

President Griffin called for a vote on the nominations of officers for the year 1989. Individuals selected by the Nominations Committee were elected unanimously by voice vote.

President Griffin recommended the formation of a Advisory Council in the Association. This Council would consist of one representative from each city or town which

has Association members. No action taken at this meeting.

There being no further business, President Griffin called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made, seconded and motion carried.

It should be noted in these minutes, names of members who made motions and seconded motions were not given by the individual, in some cases. Therefore in most instances, the minutes will only specify member in regard to motions.



Bernie Wagner addressing the reunion guests.

**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 1989 — \$5.00 which includes \$4.00 subscription to 164th News.
Send to: Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502**

Letters . . .

Nov. 19, 1988

Dear Bill:

Sorry I've taken so long to send this letter and am really sorry I was unable to attend the reunion in Valley City. I was looking forward to being there but had a little health problem which kept me from attending, but I will do my darrest to be there for the next one in Bismarck.

I am enclosing a check for my 1988 dues (\$5.00) for the raffle (\$5.00), did not send these in, and a donation to the 164th memorial, \$25.00 wish it could be a lot more.

Give my best to all my old buddies and the few more I met in Minot. Hope to see you all next year.

Thanks,
Jack G. Howe
3130 N. 7th Ave. #305
Phoenix, AZ 85013

P.S. I'm enclosing letter from James Carroll Re: Crest and Patches. I had the Americal crest when there in 1987 and everyone seemed to be interested in it. Maybe you could put it in the next issue of the 164th Infantry News for information.

Thanks, Jack

Sept. 20, 1988

Dear Comrade Howe:

Did I ever send you that 132nd Infantry crest?

I know I sent two 164th and two 182nd crests. I just picked up a batch of the 132nd crests. Brand new, in mint condition with clutch backs. Price \$6.00 each. Maybe some of your buddies from the 132nd would be interested. Haven't seen them in years.

Drop me a note and let me know.

Sincerely in comradeship,
Jim Carroll

Have on hand:

- 164th Inf. Regt\$4.00
- 182nd Inf. Regt\$4.00
- 132nd Inf. Regt\$4.00
(quite a number)
- Americal Div. Crest\$3.25
- Americal Div. Patch\$2.00

Also all division crests, all division patches, corps and armys.

Nov. 5, 1988

The 164th Infantry:

Dear Sir: Please excuse me for being late with Harold's membership. Enclosed please find a check for \$5.00 for this. I had intended to get this to you before the convention, which was very good, I'm sure, with Bernie Wagner, the leader. We always admired him so much, when we were in

Bismarck.

Harold will begin his 6th year in a nursing home in Dec. He doesn't know us, our son Douglas and family.

We came here with our son because we had to be near one of our children, Dorothy Eck, our daughter and family live in California. So when October came, I was having surgery and I didn't get Harold's dues sent.

I know he would always want to belong to the organization that he loved so much.

Best wishes to all,
Genevieve Barker
19225 4th Ave. NE #201
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Greetings from Illinois:

After watching for years for a reunion of the 164th in the Legion Magazine, finally saw the one for this month. Had no idea you had one annually, and had a newsletter. Am enclosing \$5.00 dues and if you have any extra back news, please send them.

Harvest time in Illinois, so can't make it this year. Have a couple of pictures, will send later. Good luck on your reunion.

Sincerely
Joe Gleason (Co. B 164th)
R.R. #3
Lincoln, Ill 62656

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is my check for a life membership.

Please keep up the good work with the 164th Infantry News. I really enjoy every issue.

Upon rereading "Under The Southern Cross," I think they could have added a few more chapters covering the following events:

1. Fresh pork at Camp Claiborne (compliments of the local farmers).
2. The snake patrols on the rifle range.
3. How to be comfortable in a stable (cow palace in San Francisco).
4. Venison on the outpost duty at Helena, Mont.
5. Fresh beef in New Caledonia (compliments of the local ranchers).
6. The smelly whale on the beach in New Caledonia (compliments of the air corps bombers).

7. The 20 mile hikes where I earned the nickname "Sea Biscuit" a popular race horse of that time.

8. The first night on Guadalcanal while we were under fire from "Pistol Pete". When I was hugging the ground a pain in the part of me that fits in a chair. I could feel the blood running down my leg and the thought that I might never sit again and the relief when I found that I had been hit by a falling coconut and that the blood was only my sweat and the cause for me to discard a pair of shorts.

9. The excitement caused by a crocodile in our midst in the middle of the night.

10. The fresh eggs and chickens in the Philippines (compliments of the local farmers).

11. The fact that we found that the Japs made good beer when we got to their home land.

12. The best part of the whole trip was getting on the ship for the trip back to U.S.A.

I am sure that everyone has bits and pieces to laugh and cry about.

My time is now used as a volunteer at the Americal Lake V.A. Medical Center. We run the golf course and I have found a sure way to improve your golf score, only play 15 holes.

Veon M. McConnell
11230 Bridgeport Way #3
Tacoma, WA 98499

Dear Tony:

Many thanks for extending to me your kind invitation to attend the 42nd Annual Reunion for the 164th Infantry Association. Unfortunately, I didn't receive your invitation until after Columbus Day, thereby missing the opportunity not only to attend, but also to send a letter of greetings to the group. However, I did want to write a letter to express to the 164th Infantry the high regard that I have for veterans.

Since I began my service in Congress, I have been very concerned with veterans' issues and have taken action in support of a variety of programs that respond to the needs of veterans and our nation.

Presently, one of my main concerns is adequate facilities and high quality care at the Fargo Veterans Hospital. I am working closely with the hospital and the House

(Continued on page 4)

Last Roll Call

The following named members of the 164th Infantry have answered the Last Roll Call since our last issue.

- George G. Harvey, Williston, NDOctober 18, 1988
- John Dinius, Hensler, NDNovember 20, 1988

Veterans' Committee to see that these goals are implemented.

In addition, as you probably know, Congress did pass a number of pieces of legislation which include providing Cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration, a new GI training program, and improvements in health care for veterans.

As we anticipate a growing population of veterans with special needs, I want to stay in close touch with you to ensure that all North Dakotans have ready and adequate access to health care and other services they are entitled to as a result of their service to our nation.

Again, I am sorry that I missed the reunion - I hope that you had a great time. Best wishes to you all!

Sincerely,
Byron L. Dorgan
Member of Congress

October 31, 1988

Dear Bill,

You will find enclosed a newspaper clipping from the obituary column telling of the death of George G. Harvey, 102. I don't know if anyone else sent it to you. As you will notice, he joined the guard in 1905, but it did not say that he was in Co. E. in WWI as well as on the Mexican Border. He was always a supporter of the guard in Williston and was honored when the restored armory was reopened.

The reunion was a good one and it was great to see so many old friends there. I have seen Les Balerud a couple of times and he acts good but is very thin as he had 2/3 of his intestines removed so there is not too much left to absorb the nutrition.

With kindest regards and thanks for all of your work, I remain,

Your friend,
George M. Christensen,
D.V.M.
15 Fairway
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 852-1923



Clayton Kingston giving the Eulogy at the memorial service.

Reunion 1988

The annual business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association of the United States was called to order by President Griffin at 09:00 CDT 8 Oct 1988 in the VFW Club, Valley City, ND.

Association Officers present:

Warren Griffin - President
Ray Patton - Vice President
Frank Weisgerber - Secretary Treasurer
Bill Tillotson - Editor

Colors were posted by the 141st Engr Bn Color Guard prior to the business meeting. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Griffin. Greetings and a welcome were extended to all members by President Griffin and Committee Chairman Bernie Wagner. Willis Johnson extended greetings and a welcome on behalf of the city of Valley City.

The minutes of the 1987 business meeting were published in the December issue of the 164th News and members were asked if they wished the minutes to be reread or accepted as published. Motion by Ray Patton and seconded by Harold Krause to accept the minutes as published. Motion carried. President Griffin appointed the following committees:

Time and Place:

Bernie Wagner - Chairman
Pete Grant
Clayton Kinston

Auditing:

Wally Johnson - Chairman
Harold Krause

Nominations:

Red Cherrey - Chairman
Robert Well
Dick Krogh

Resolutions:

Don Van Slyke - Chairman
John Samson
Bob Gehrman

President Griffin declared a 30 minute recess to allow the Committees to complete their reports. Meeting reconvened at 10:00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Time and Place: Report by Chairman Wagner that Bismarck had submitted a bid for the 89 and 90 Reunions and committee recommends that Bismarck be awarded the Reunion for those two years.

Auditing: Report by Wally Johnson that all records are in order and proper procedures are being followed. A financial report for the year was submitted. Motion to accept the report as presented was made by Wally Johnson and seconded by Harold Krause. Motion carried.

Nominations: Chairman Cherrey reports the following nominations:

President - Ray Patton
Vice President - Harold Krause
Sec/Treas. - Frank Weisgerber
Editor - Bill Tillotson

Resolutions: Report by Tim Sullivan that the 164th Infantry Association thanks the city of Valley City and Willis Johnson, for the welcome, hospitality and friendship. Whereas the 164th Infantry Association extends their heartfelt thanks to the officers and committee men for their dedication and hard work.

Frank Weisgerber, Sec/Treas submitted the following financial report:

End of FY 87 balance in bank \$5,473.04. Income for 1988 was \$6,484.59 for a total of \$11,957.63. Expenditures for 1988 were \$3,824.03 leaving a balance of \$8,133.60 in the checking account. Total amount of Certificates of Deposit and Trust funds on deposit was \$43,701.83 ending in a total net worth of \$51,835.43. Motion was made that all committee reports as presented,

(Continued on page 5)



Newly elected officers for 1989. Left to right, Bill Tillotson, Editor and Historian; Frank Weisgerber, Secretary Treasurer; Ray Patton, President; Harold Krause, Vice President; Tony Griffin, Retiring President.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. Name of Publication: The 164th Infantry News

2. Issue Date: Oct. 11, 1988

3. Frequency: Quarterly

4. Issue for this year: Free to members

5. Complete Mailing Labels of Second Class Publications, etc. (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

6. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

7. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

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14. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

15. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

16. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

17. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

18. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

19. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

20. Complete Mailing Labels of the Publications of Second Class Status (Form 3526) (Do not check if not prepared)

164th Infantry Association Of The United States Financial Report, Fiscal Year 1988 1 October 1988

INCOME:

End of FY 1987 Balance		\$ 5,473.04
1988 Interest on CD's	\$2,057.55	
1988 Interest on Check Acct.	350.04	
Dues, Donations and. Misc.	4,077.00	
Total 1988 Income		6,484.59
Total		\$11,957.63

EXPENDITURES:

164th Infantry News	\$2,588.10	
Postage	698.72	
Supplies, Equip., Adm. Exp.	537.21	
1988 Total Expenditures		\$ 3,824.03
Total Unobligated Cash Funds		\$ 8,133.60

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT AND TRUST FUNDS ON DEPOSIT \$43,701.83

TOTAL NET WORTH \$51,835.43

I certify that the above financial report for the 164th Infantry Association of the United States is true and correct for the Fiscal Year ending on 30 September, 1988.

Frank Weisgerger
Secretary Treasurer

SAID THE LETTER TO THE STAMP....
"DID YOU KNOW I COULD FLY MORE
OFFEN IF ANOTHER AMERICAN
PRIVILEGE AND TRADITION WASN'T
LOST?"
YOU ASK, "WHAT WAS IT?"
"AIR MAIL!" - DIDN'T YOU KNOW?



Retiring president Tony Griffin presenting the Gavel to Ray Patton, new president.

The 164th Infantry News
Box 1111
BISMARCK, N.D. 58502

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2ND CLASS BISMARCK, ND 58502