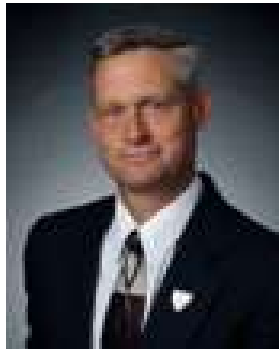




**President's
Corner
October 2023
Mark S.
Woempner**



Finally, both sad and happy news; our 2-22 Infantry Battalion Commander presided over a Change of Responsibility Ceremony on 13 September between **CSM Mark Frantz** and **CSM Sean Carey**. We will miss CSM Frantz, he was a singularly outstanding leader and protected and supported his two Triple Deuce commanders with distinction. We welcome CSM Carey into the 22nd Infantry fold as a new leader in the courage Battalion!



Team,

The turning of the clock in the tower, wow has it been three months already. It's been quite an amazing summer for the 22nd Infantry Regiment! On 21 July, our active-duty Battalion, Triple Deuce, conducted a Courage Ball. I heard it was quite a



party and well attended by our active-duty troops. Former Triple Deuce **CSM [RET] Robert** the guest speaker.

This summer was quite the adventure with the 22nd Infantry Society in France. We visited our 22nd team from 3-7 August. We stayed at a 13th century Chateau in Flottemanville, France near Utah Beach. The owner of the Chateau's father established and founded the Utah Beach museum. **Loic Parent** the President of the 22nd Infantry France Society coordinated a personal tour for Carrie and me. One that we will treasure for our lifetime.



Then in Early August our 22nd Infantry France Society treated us to

an amazing staff ride through the arduous battles associated with the breakout of the beachhead at Normandy with a monument dedication at the Normandy Airport.

Our 22nd Infantry French society conducted several dedications our first day to **Isaac Curtis Phillips** one of our WWII veterans that began the society with Loic Parent. We spent the next several days on a staff ride discovering the battlefields where the 22nd Infantry Regiment fought in the breakout of Normandy July-August 1944. At each of the stops along the "staff ride" our 22nd Infantry Society provided a reenactment of actions that would have occurred during those battles. At each stop, **Julien Woestyn** our 22nd Infantry France Vice President and

Then at the end of August, our Old Goats attended the Organization Day at Ft Drum with our Triple Deuce Battalion! I'm sure there will be a story or two that will result from that trip!

Historian described each break-out battle the participating 22nd Infantry Battalions engaged as well as their disposition and opponent. At the conclusion of the staff ride, we assembled at the Normandy Airport near Cherbourg, France to dedicate a monument to the 22nd Infantry Regiment.



I was quite moved as leaders from all the nearby towns were present at the ceremony. Loic, Isaac Curtis's wife and I were center stage removing the 48 star flag revealing the monument. Bands played, flags flew, and everyone was singing – Thank You Loic for allowing us to participate in such an august event

Here's the newspaper article from the local paper of the event. And a Picture of the



Flottemanville Chateau with the owners and daughter of the man who established Utah Beach Museum.

The Utah Beach Museum with the Troops and the Dedication to Isaac Curtis at his grave.



Our 22nd Infantry France team reenacting different 22nd Infantry battles in the Breakout Normandy.



The Triple Deuce Organization Day was on 31 August at Ft Drum. We had a team of “Old Goats” attend: **John Poggi, Skip**



Fahel, Pete Gaworecki, Jim May, and Dave Thomas.

They took a picture of the Triple Deuce Command Team. **LTC Matt VanPutte,** his Wife **Angela,** CSM Mark Frantz, and his wife

Veronica. The “Old Goats” were presented with the new Triple Deuce challenge coins and Gaworecki’s comment was: “The Old Goats were presented with a challenge coin at the event. I think it may have a dual purpose as a boat anchor or a little added weight in my truck for traction in these northern winters. There is no doubt that it is the biggest, heaviest coin in my collection!”

Triple Deuce command team manfully volunteered for dunk tank duty to Glee of the Soldiers – Old Goats mysteriously vanished into the hamburger line! Fun times were had by all. We are lucky to have such great leaders in our active duty battalion!

The Change of Responsibility Ceremony on 13 September between CSM Mark Frantz and CSM Sean Carey is a story of the Army. Warfighting is a young man’s mission, as can be attested to by the “Old Goats”. We wish all the best for CSM Frantz in his next assignment, and hope he will not forget his 22nd Infantry Roots! We will be here and look forward to you joining us at our reunions and “old Goat” events. Welcome CSM Carey! You have joined a truly great Regiment with a long lineage in both battle and camaraderie. Take care of our soldiers, train them for

battle, and lead from the front! Enclosed is a copy of their biographies below.

CSM Mark A. Frantz

Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Frantz is from Fresno, CA. CSM Frantz enlisted in the Army in 2000, attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and awarded his primary MOS of 11B.



Since that time, he has served as a SAW Gunner, M240B Machine Gunner, Grenadier, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Senior Military Science Instructor, Operations SGM, and Command Sergeant Major. CSM Frantz’s duty assignments and deployments include: Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Irwin CA, Baumholder, GE., Fort Stewart, GA, Mississippi State University, Fort Bliss, TX, Schofield Barracks, HI., and has deployed 5 times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Inherent Resolve. CSM Frantz has graduated from the following Military Schools: Ranger School, Airborne School, Javelin Gunners Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Senior Leaders Course, Sergeant Majors Academy and has a Bachelor’s degree in leadership and workforce development.

His awards and decorations include: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Ranger Tab, basic Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

CSM Sean P. Carey

CSM Sean Carey is a native of Buffalo, New York. He entered active duty service to the U.S. Army in November of 1997.



His assignments include: 1st Battalion 32nd Infantry Regiment, Fort Drum, NY; The U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth, KS; 1st Battalion 26th Infantry Regiment, Fort Knox, KY; 2nd Battalion 19th Infantry Regiment, Fort Moore, GA; First Sergeant of Companies A and HHC of the 2nd Battalion 327th Fort Campbell, KY and A Company 1st Battalion, 1st SFAB, Fort Moore, GA. He most recently served as the Operations SGM of the 2nd Armored Brigade, 1st ID, Fort Riley, KS. His previous duty assignments include Fire Team Leader, Squad Leader, Battle Staff Observer/Trainer, Drill Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Combat Advisor, and Operations SGM. He participated in operational rotations to Bosnia and Europe. His combat deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

CSM Carey’s military education includes all levels of PME through the Sergeants Major Course as well as, Unit Prevention Leader Course, Master Sling Load Inspector Certification Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention Course, the Unit Movement Officer Course, the Army Basic Instructor Course, Light Infantry Leaders Course, Drill Sergeant Course, Air Assault School, and the Combat Advisor Training Course. His awards and decorations include: The Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, BSM, MSM (3 OLC), ARCOM (5 OLC), AAM (8 OLC), AGCM (8th Award), AFEM, NCOPDR, NDSM, OSR, NATO (Bosnia), NATO (Afghanistan), ACM (4 CS), ICM (2 CS).

CSM Carey has been married to his wife Tiffany for 23 years and they have three sons Rowan, Declan and Lochlan ages 18, 14 and 13.

On some other notes: We are still looking for a treasurer, as we have yet to backfill **Martin Oelklaus**. We need some volunteers to help Martin organize for the Nashville reunion in the Fall of 2024.

Speaking of the 2024 reunion, **Joe Dichario** has begun coordination for the Nashville reunion! He is interacting with many of our Afghan and Iraq members. I know Carrie is excited to make the trip to Nashville fall 2024. Joe will include an update for the Reunion in this newsletter.

Pete Gaworecki has been coordinating our guidon monument gift to Triple Deuce. It will be placed with the other monuments at the Triple Deuce walk of honor in Ft Drum, NY. Once placed we will post pictures in an upcoming Newsletter. There are a few tasks to accomplish first – like cutting of some trees and associated roots that are currently impacting the placement of the guidon monument.

Our 22nd Infantry Webpage is a little behind on updates as **Brent McNally** is fully engaged with his work and family and is looking for some help posting and updating our web site. Please drop him a note at: bremcnal@aol.com It will make a huge difference to the society and our communications to its members – Thank You!

I think that gets everyone up to date from July. I am so thankful to be surrounded by American Patriots and freedom fighters! Freedom is not Free, it is paid for with the blood of the current generation holding the baton to keep this country free. As always, I want to thank my heroes, the Vietnam warriors that made it so that when I returned from war the folks in the airport thanked me for my service – without you, my life experience would be much different.

“Deeds Not Words”!!

"Save some time to join us for next year's reunion hosted in Nashville, TN!"

We are looking at the following dates for planning purposes -- please understand we are working around a busy time in Nashville (which means expensive) while we try to secure a great venue at an appropriate cost.

August 22 – 25, 2024: Rates and venues in August tend to be more favorable.

September 19-22, 2024: We are staying away from the post Labor day weekend and the Grand Prix event.

September 26-29, 2024: Planning is underway and details will be forthcoming.

If you have any input info on best spots to stay, please send Joe D a note at mtnchief61@gmail.com.

We are currently reviewing options on Broadway (in the midst of it all), just off of Broadway, and near the Airport.

The airport option is BNA which is approx. 25 minutes from Broadway."

Joe Dichario,
HCOR, DMOR

A 22nd Infantry soldier awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in World War II.



Charles Henry Gesner Jr. was born in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California on April 5, 1909, the son of Charles and Myrtle Gesner. He married his wife Amelia in May 1939.

Gesner entered the Army on August 23, 1943. He was assigned as a 2nd Lieutenant and Platoon Leader, to Company F 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division on January 14, 1945.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the advance toward the city of Prüm, Germany in February 1945.

On February 6, 1945 Gesner and his Battalion attacked and took the town of Hontheim, and the high ground east of the town. Early in the morning of February 7, while Gesner and Company F remained in reserve, the rest of his Battalion seized Objective 11, which was the high ground between the towns of Niedermehlen and Obermehlen. Company G continued on to take Obermehlen, while Company E remained on the objective.

During the day the Germans counterattacked with tanks and Infantry, and Company E was forced to withdraw from the high ground. Shortly before dark Gesner and Company F attacked through Company E, and regained the high ground that was Objective 11. Gesner's actions in that attack were instrumental in his Company re-taking the objective.

His citation read:

"The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Infantry) Charles H. Gesner (ASN: 0-13*****), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 22d Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 7 February 1945, near Hontheim, Germany. Lieutenant Gesner led his platoon through a hail of machine gun and rifle fire in an assault against heavily defended enemy positions. As he was preparing to make the final assault, he discovered that all ammunition had been expended. He then hurled two hand grenades into the enemy dugout and immediately closed with the occupants. Swinging his carbine as a club, he killed two Germans and captured four others.

Lieutenant Gesner's fearless and aggressive actions so demoralized the enemy that a

prompt overrunning of the entire objective was effected.

Second Lieutenant Gesner's intrepid actions, personal bravery and superb leadership exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 4th Infantry Division, and the United States Army."

Gesner became a non-battle casualty on February 16, 1945, and was in hospital until May 21, 1945, when he rejoined his Company. While in the hospital he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on April 13, 1945. He returned to the United States with his Regiment in July 1945, and was a Platoon Leader in Company F at Camp Butner, North Carolina.

He was discharged on December 10, 1945. Charles H. Gesner died at the age of 74 on August 3, 1983 and is buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri.

Michael Belis

DMOR

C 1/22 Infantry 1970-71

Bonjour Jim

Here is the report of our demonstration in Normandy with **Mark and Carrie Woempner**.



On Friday morning, August 4th, we gave them a tour of the Utah Beach Museum. The entire team of the 22nd Infantry

Regiment, France surprised Mark & Carrie

as they approached a Landing Craft. This Landing Craft has historical president, it was part of the D Day 1944 landings.

We then had a wreath laying ceremony at the 4th Infantry Division monument. Mark and I laid the wreath.

Following that we went on the grave site of **Curtis Phillips**. Curtis' family members were present. Speeches and a wreath laying ceremony were part of a very moving ceremony.



In the afternoon a visit to the site of the command post of the Crisbecq Battery, which was

the principle coastal battery in Normandy. The visit was culminated with a wreath laying on the Monument dedicated to **Preston Niland**, an Officer in the 22nd Infantry Regiment who was KIA during the capture of the bunker complex.



In the evening a drink of friendship was taken at Camp Curtis with the 22nd France and members of Curtis Phillips family present. Camp Curtis is the name we have given to the site where we hold many of our gatherings. A mass was held in memory of Curtis at our camp.

On Saturday Julien led Mark & Carrie along the historic route from Montebourg to Fort de Digosville and the Battle of the Airport. Several crossing points were staffed with men in uniform to represent what had happened there.



The bulk of the route was an advanced medical post recreated in an old wash house in the town of Gonneville le Theil.

Sunday morning marked the official ceremony with of the inauguration

of our 1st monument in tribute to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. The Monument and plaque are engraved in the name of the two organizations.



Loic Parent

22nd Infantry Regiment Society, France

Tripe Deuce Organization Day

For the Old Goats who listened to me bitch about my 12 hour drive to Ft Drum. On Friday AM I went out Gas Alley Gate at 0430 HRS and got home at 1330 HRS. 9 hours, as it should be. No incorrect driving instructions, no road construction delays, no missing road signs, no big trucks going too slow and not moving over and no detours. The Interstate drive is boring, the drive across Northern New England was once pleasant, but it will be a long time before I take that route again. So, you won't have to listen to me bitch about the drive when we meet at Ft Drum again.

Now, on to the visit. **Pete Gaworecki, Jim May, and Skip Fahel** met in lobby at 5:15pm. We went to Garland City Brewery and Beer Hall for the Hail and Farewell. **John Poggi** joins us later. It was held outside on their covered patio. It was cold, temp in the low 60's. The Hail & Farewell was actually a Farewell for **CSM Frantz**. He was presented with the biggest framed award I've ever seen. **LTC Van Putte** knows that CSM Frantz will be a hard act to follow.



Skip was selected to make the presentation of the framed gift from the Society. So representing the Society, Skip made his *normal short* presentation speech. We did have a good visit. Many Challenge Coins



were passed out to Company Commanders and 1st Sergeants.

The Organization Day events were held under clear skies. Softball and football contests were held between companies. We meet up with Old Goat **Dave Thomas**. Contests between companies were going on while Heart 911 had returned to prepare for and cook all the food that was going to be consumed by the Triple Deuce Soldiers and their families. And, like Heart 911, the AMVETS were present. They had lent their financial and personal support the Organization Day.

Unit cohesiveness is, in my opinion, paramount to successful deployments. The Dunk Tank was the last 'event.' The Big 4 all got wet. There is no Sergeant Major in the 3 shop. Company Commanders and First Sergeants were also among the dripping wet.

LTC Van Putte presented the Old Goats with the New Battalion Coin, the largest [2 ½" x 2 ¾"] heaviest [2 3/8 oz] Battalion coin ever.



We have two new members to the Old Goats Squad, both are Joe Dichairo's Soldiers. **Christopher Tuccio** and **Ian Wagner**. Ian is of particular interest because he is a musician who is well



connected in Nashville. Yes, Nashville. I was not part of the conversation where Ian said he could 'hook us up' with the right people in Nashville. Chris is a Sergeant with the Clark Police department in

New Jersey. They were discussing who they should contact about joining the Society. They are enthusiastic, keep in going.

Ian got his guitar, and sang two songs for us, one on the GWOT and one on Vietnam. Email Skip if would like you a copy [eqf2231@gmail.com]

Finally, we have an auxiliary member of the Old Goats Squad, **Angela VanPutte**, LTC Van Putte's wife. Angela will be receiving an Old Goats t-shirt, the sleeve will be embroidered as follows. Top line: **Old Goat** The second line: **Groupie** You can either credit or blame Skip for the establishment of a Groupie classification.

Jim May/Skip Fahel

2023 Scholarship Awards

The Colonel Awbrey G. Norris Scholarship for 2023 have been awarded to the following individuals:



Lucy A. Thornton, granddaughter of **Timothy W. Albright**, HHC/2-22 VN.

Lucy is attending the University of Findlay, majoring in Veterinary Medicine.

Mikah G. Schueller, grandson of **Rich Kramer**, C/2-22 VN. Mikah is majoring in Information Technology and Web Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Chloe Cowley, granddaughter of **Skip Fahel**, B/2-22 VN. Chloe is attending Johnson County Community College with plans to attend the University Of Kansas, majoring in Psychology and Social Work.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am beyond grateful and deeply honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Colonel Awbrey G Norris Scholarship from the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society. The weight of this award, rooted in the legacy of my grandfather's service to the regiment, is a profound reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have come before us.

As I reflect on the journey that has led me to this moment, I am struck by the interwoven threads of history, honor, and commitment that bind our family to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. My grandfather's unwavering dedication to his service and his subsequent membership in the society have laid the foundation for my own connection to this esteemed community.

Though I write as the recipient of this scholarship, I am acutely aware that the true credit belongs to those who have paved the way for my path. The words "Deeds not words" resonate deeply within me, echoing the ethos that guides the 22nd Infantry Regiment. It is with this spirit in mind that I

humbly accept this scholarship and the responsibilities it carries.

I understand that this award is not only a recognition of my familial ties, but also a commitment to the values that the 22nd Infantry Regiment represents. With profound gratitude, I pledge to honor this legacy by embodying the principles of honor, duty, and service in my own journey.

To the Scholarship Committee, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, and all those who have supported and believed in me, I extend my heartfelt thanks. This scholarship will not only lighten the burden of my educational pursuits but will also serve as a constant reminder of the profound impact that history and service can have on our lives.

With deep appreciation and a heart full of determination,

Mikah Schueller

2024 Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 Scholarship. Requirements for scholarship:

A. Served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.

B. Be a direct relation (son, daughter, or grandchild of person that served with 22nd Infantry Regiment. (To include legally adoptive child)

C. Be an active member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, with five (5) years of current active membership. Deceased must have had five (5) of active membership.

Applications should be received by **July 31, 2024**

If you would like a scholarship application or have questions, please contact **Skip Fahel** at eqf2231@gmail.com.

Honoring a Hero

Recently on Aug. 28, 2023, to honor the heroic sacrifice of **Staff Sgt. Michael H. Ollis**, the 10th Mountain Division attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Polish Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. During the ceremony wreaths were laid by the 10th Mountain Division, 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion and cadets from the SSG M. Ollis Junior Training Corp and later attended a Holy Mass presided over by the First Cathedral of the Polish Army.



Ollis was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light), died Aug 28, 2013 while serving in Afghanistan after shielding a Polish soldier, **LT Karol Cierpica**, from a suicide bomber during an assault on their base that involved grenades, mortars, rockets and a 3,000-pound bomb. Ollis stepped into the path of LT Karol Cierpica, blocking him from the suicide vest of an insurgent who had raided Forward Operating Base Ghazni.

On the tenth anniversary of the courageous act of selfless sacrifice by Staff Sergeant Michael Ollis, the USAG Poland Commander, **COL Church** and 14th GSU Commander, **LTC Dabrowski** signed a declaration to



establish the Camp Kosciuszko dining facility as the "Michael Harold Ollis Warrior Grill."

Snipers

Very proud of our Warriors from 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry who represented 10th Mountain Division in the Häyha International Sniper Competition hosted in Finland!



10th Mountain Division earned the top total score for all international teams that competed, which consisted of allied nations and other teams representing organizations in the US military. Our Soldiers set the bar high for future teams as we continue to grow and climb to glory alongside our NATO

Taps

Dayton D. Drew, Jr., of New Hanover, passed away on June 9, 2023. Dayton served with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, 1968-70.

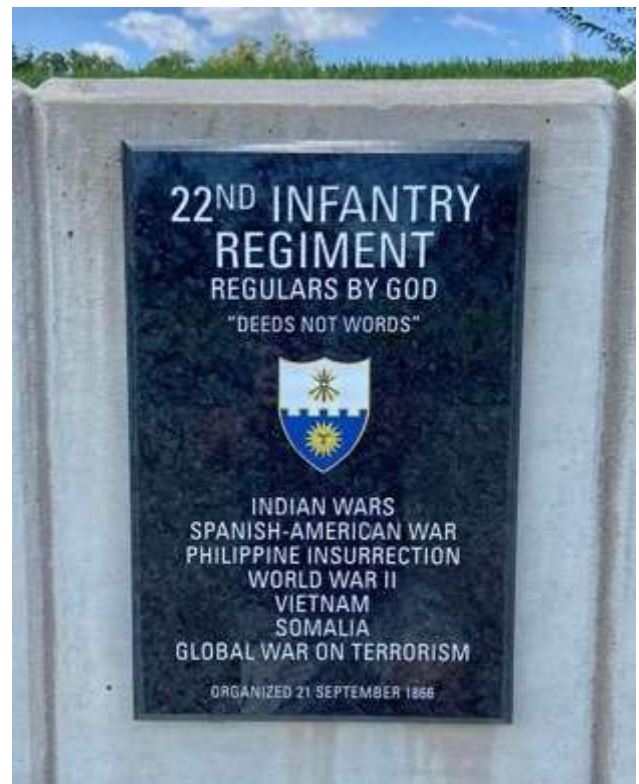
Lawrence Williams, of Leesville, LA, passed away on May 4, 2023. Lawrence

served with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division 1967-68.

Lest You Forget—What the 22nd Infantry Regiment Did for You:

1. Gave you the opportunity to serve your country in a proud and prestigious national unit.
2. Gave you buddies who stuck by you and helped you endure fear, horror, and hardship.
3. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
4. Gave you treasured lifetime friends markedly improving the quality of your life.

MG (Ret) John F. Ruggles Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment



Plaque at the National Army Museum



Bumper sticker \$3.00



Challenge Coins
One coin: \$14.00. Shipping included
Five Coins: \$11.00 each +\$5.00 Shipping
10 Coins: \$10.00 each + \$7.00 shipping
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Divisional Pins
Small \$5.00
Large qw\$7.00
Shipping is \$3.00 per pin**



Coasters: \$5.00 each. Shipping for 2, \$3.00 **



Mini Flag: \$5.00
Shipping: \$3.00**



CIB/DUI: \$12.00
Shipping : \$3.00 **

Midi Mini



22nd Infantry Crossed Rifles: \$14.00 per set
Shipping: \$3.00**



Mini CIB: \$5.00. Midi CIB: \$7.00
Shipping: \$3.00 **



Blazer Patch: \$10.00
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Unit Crest [DUI] \$7.00
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Monument T-Shirt: \$19.00 sizes small to XL
\$22.00 XXL & XXXL

"All prices are Suggested Donations."

Make checks payable to: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

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Total Shipping Charges: _____ Total Cost: _____