



22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Deeds Not Words



Regulars by God



1-2024

January 2024



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



Team,



As we close the books on 2023, I am happy to report that our 22nd Infantry Regiment Society is 643 strong. We have completed the transition of the majority of these memberships to

electronic. This has saved both the members and the society thousands of dollars a year, enabling us to transition the organization to nearly all life members (for \$22).

We had a great year with a reunion at the Infantry Museum in Columbus, dedication of a WWII monument in Normandy France and multiple engagements with our beloved active-duty Battalion Triple Deuce. I hope that everyone had a chance to enjoy the holidays! Both our Society and the VN222 organization supported the holiday party for our active-duty soldiers in Triple Deuce. May the new year bring with it warmth, love, and success for each of you!

This year is turning into another action-packed adventure. The Triple Deuce will be having a Battalion change of command (most likely in March) and JRTC rotation (in May). If you'd like to join the Old Goats and attend the change of command, please contact **Dave Thomas** (David.n.thomas@gmail.com). If you like to join the Old Goats on our trip to Ft Polk, please contact **Lon Oakley** (Ldo82288@icloud.com).

This year is also our Nashville, TN Reunion 22-25 August! We have been in close coordination with the POC at the Double Tree and **Col [R] Joe Dichario** has an update for you in this Newsletter. I haven't picked a golf course yet for the Thursday (22 August) 22nd Infantry Golf Tournament, but it WILL be much nicer than Maple Ridge, GA! We should have an update on the golf tournament in the April Newsletter. Carrie and I did a



Recon of the Nashville site the first week in December and downtown Nashville was totally awesome!

On a sad note, we lost **Arlette Phillips** at age 99. Arlette was the widow of **Issac Curtis Phillips**, Dog Company, 4th ID, 1943-1945, Issac was the mentor of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, France reenactor group. Issac and **Loic Parent** formed our 22nd Infantry Regiment Society in France.



Arlette Phillips with the Mayor of the town in Normandy August 2023.

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. 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. I think we have a volunteer, **Jose Barbosa**, he has a lot of graphic design experience and produced

many of the electronic posters we used for the 2023 reunion! Thank You Jose!

I think that gets everyone up to date from October. 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”

303-328-1524 (C) mark.woempner@gmail.com

2024 Society Reunion
Nashville, TN
August 21-25, 2024



Gents, here you go:

Make your reservations with the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Nashville Downtown!** 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219-1693

Making your reservation on line:
Hotel unique webpage address is:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/bnadudt-92r-badce7af-1593-4836-94fa-0e14146b0bf0/>

Call in to make reservation:
Call in number: **1-800-222-8733**

Group name: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society
2024 Reunion

Group code: 92R - use if you are calling in
and or making reservations online.

Room cost per night: \$210.00 plus \$36.63 in
tax and fees for a total of \$246.63.

Meals: We will have a selection of meat, fish,
chicken, and vegetarian for the buffet and
banquet meals. See registration form. Please
advise of any special meal requests.

Venues: We are working on a number of key
venues you may opt to attend/visit...as we are
in the HEART of Nashville! If there are any
special requests (like taking the Colonel to
your favorite bourbon bar) please let us
know!



Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024- Our Room Block
Cutoff Date- please be sure to make your
reservations by 5:00 CST. After this date and
time, any rooms not picked up within our
block will be released and may no longer be
available.

Last item for today: I want to say upfront: I
HAVE ORDERED THE TURKEY...I SAY
AGAIN, I HAVE ORDERED THE TURKEY!!

Deeds not Words

Joe Dichario, DMOR

HCOR

Ervin A. French, Jr.

A 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry soldier
killed in the hedgerow fighting in
Normandy during World War Two.

Ervin Alexander French Jr. was born
in Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas on



April 9, 1925,
one of three
sons born to
Ervin and
Lessie
French. Prior
to entering
military
service he
was employed
by the
National
Biscuit
Company
(NABISCO).

French was drafted into the Army on July
28, 1943 at Houston, Texas. At the time
of induction he was single and had
completed grammar school. He stood five
feet nine inches tall and weighed 140
pounds. He indicated his religion as
Protestant. He took his initial training at
the U.S. Army Infantry Replacement
Training Center at Camp Fannin, Texas.
French sailed overseas to England in
April 1944 and was put in the 4th
Infantry Division replacement pool. On
June 13, 1944, he was one of 63 enlisted
men assigned that day as replacements,
to Company G 2nd Battalion 22nd
Infantry 4th Infantry Division. In the
week since D-Day, the Regiment had
suffered a large number of casualties, and
a considerable amount of replacements
were sent to the 22nd Infantry, in order
to keep it at fighting strength.

French took part in 2nd Battalion's attack against the Quineville Ridge, and the assault against the Maupertus airfield, in the battle for Cherbourg. After the fall of Cherbourg he and his Battalion moved south and began the advance through Normandy.

On July 7, 1944 orders were given to the 22nd Infantry that their next major objective would be the town of Periers, to the southwest of Carentan. On July 8 French's 2nd Battalion led the attack, in an attempt to breach the German lines just below the village of Culot. The planned objective for the day was to take and occupy the town of La Maugerie, about 10 kilometers southwest of Carentan, just 2 kilometers southwest of Sainteny.

Though enemy resistance was strong, 2nd Battalion advanced to within 500 yards of the village of Culot, about a mile and a half away from their objective of La Maugerie. German Mark V Panther tanks, accompanied by Infantry, charged into the American assault in a counterattack, and halted any further progress by 2nd Battalion. A 57mm gun from the 22nd Infantry's Anti-Tank Company knocked out one enemy tank. French's fellow soldier from Company G, Private Eugene Hix, knocked out another with a bazooka.

The German counterattack had been stopped, but French was badly wounded during the fight. Fragments from enemy artillery or tank cannon fire tore through French's thigh and leg, and took him out of the battle. He was removed to a forward medical facility, where his wounds proved to be too severe, and he died the next day, on July 9, 1944. He was 19 years old.

Ervin A. French Jr. was buried in the temporary American cemetery, St. Mere Eglise #1 near Carentan. In 1948 his remains were returned to the United States, where he was laid to his final rest in South Park Cemetery, Pearland, Brazoria County, Texas.

Michael Belis

DMOR

C 1/22 Infantry 1970-71

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.

22nd Infantry France

Exposition La Grande Guerre & La 2^{nde} Guerre Mondiale

Here are photos of our exhibition that took place in the municipality of Hames Boucre on the weekend of November 11. Despite the weather conditions and the floods, we had a good response of visitors. We thank the town of Hames, the Mayor, **Ingrid Deko** and all the



EXPOSITION
LA GRANDE GUERRE &
LA 2NDE. GUERRE MONDIALE
 par l'Association Deuce not Wende



Le samedi 11 novembre de 10h à 19h &
 le dimanche 12 novembre de 9h à 17h
 Salle des fêtes - Entrée gratuite



teams for their welcome. We took this opportunity to introduce the Association and our sponsor Curtis, and also to set up our recruitment stand.

20th Anniversary of Saddam’s Capture. December 13th 2003.

“When your nation called, it was you who answered. Regardless, what people make of our service or this war, no one can take away what you have achieved. Ever. “As the decades pass and we grow old together, we



must remember not only what has been accomplished but what the cost was as well. Only we carry the memory of our fallen. It was we who knew their faces, the smiles, their stories, and their sacrifice. They are now just a name but as long as we have breath, they will live.”

—Words spoken at the final formation of TF 1-22 Infantry in May 2004.

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Regulars of Task Force 1-22 Infantry—Hammer, Gator, Bear, Cobra, Cougar, Aggressor, Bridge and others. Happy 20th Anniversary to **John, Shawn, CD, Kevin, Tom, Chris, Mike, Dave** and many, many others from our brothers in the teams of A and C along the hunt. Happy Anniversary to our Iraqi brothers who tried to live free of tyranny and dictatorship.

May the remaining days that God appoints for all of us be filled with peace.

Steve Russell, LTC [R]

Christmas at the Deuce

Triple Deuce hosted it annual Holiday Party with Battalion and Company Leadership serving our Soldiers



turkey lunch prepared by our team of culinary specialist. We owe a special thank you and Happy Holidays to Mrs. E, 22nd Regiment Society, and our Vietnam Veterans

for their support and thoughts as we prepare for holiday leave.

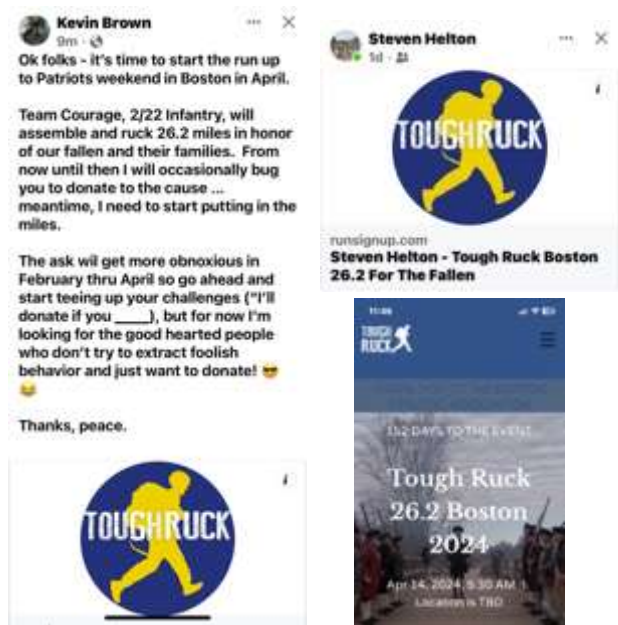
Deeds not Words.

SSG Michael Ollis Freedom Foundation

On October 27th 2023, the new garrison's dining hall at Camp Kosciuszko in Poznan, Poland was named in Michael's honor. It was a very beautiful, emotional ceremony. Thank you to all US Military and Polish Ministry of Defense who made this possible. The Ollis family were special guests as well as **Ret. Lt. Karol Cierpica**.



Tough Ruck



Taps

Michael A. Groves, of Felton, Mo, passed away on December 24, 2023. Mike served with A Company 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam 1968-69.

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

22nd Infantry Regiment Society

“Deeds Not Words”

Officers & Directors 2023-2024



DIRECTORS

WWII/Cold War	George “Herb” Artola	ghartola@mac.com
Vietnam	David Milewski	dmilew@aol.com
Afghanistan/Iraq	Kevin Brown	kvn.brwn1@gmail.com

OFFICERS

President	Mark Woempner	mark.woempner@gmail.com
1st Vice President	John Poggi	johnpoggi@aol.com
Vice President WWII/Cold War	Mike Evans	michael.f.evans@yahoo.com
Vice President Vietnam	Bill Bukovec	william030846@yahoo.com
Vice President Afghanistan/Iraq	Steve Russell	srussell0525@sbcglobal.net
Vice President Web Admin	Bret McNally	bremcnal@aol.com
Treasurer	Justen Burns	justen.burns@yahoo.com
Secretary	John Poggi	johnpoggi@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Mark Woempner	mark.woempner@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	John Poggi	johnpoggi@aol.com
Honorary Colonel of Regiment	Joe Dichario	mtnchief61@gmail.com
Honorary CSM of Regiment	Pete Martinez	sm1sg@aol.com
Secretary	John Poggi	johnpoggi@aol.com
Treasurer	Justen Burns	justen.burns@yahoo.com
Past President	Lon Oakley Jr.	Ldo82288@icloud.com
President Emeritus	Skip Fahel	eqf15@aol.com
President Emeritus	Bob Babcock	bob@deedspublishing.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Registrar	Bruce Kosmicki	kozb4@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Skip Fahel	eqf15@aol.com
Quartermaster	Jim May	jlmay@tds.net
Web Admin	Brent McNally	bremcnal@aol.com
Assistant Web Admin	Michael Belis	webmaster@1-22infantry.org
DMOR/HMOR Chairman	Joe Dichario	mtnchief61@gmail.com
Scholarship Chairman	Skip Fahel	eqf15@aol.com
Acting Archivist	Mark Woempner	mark.woempner@gmail.com
Ft Drum Liaison (2-22 INF)	David Thomas	david.n.thomas.2@gmail.com
Chaplain	Dan Braswell	Daniel.t.braswell.mil@mail.mil

22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT SOCIETY
2024 Registration Form
DoubleTree by Hilton, Nashville Downtown
August 20-25, 2024

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: ____ Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

I served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment in: ____ Company, ____ Battalion, ____ Div
 Dates served: _____
 I served in support of the 22nd Infantry Regiment: Unit: _____
 Dates served: _____
 I did not serve/support the 22nd Infantry

Reunion Registration [Information for Name tags] **[No charge for registration]**

First Name	Last Name	City/State
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Friday Buffet: Number _____ . Cost: \$60.00.	Total Buffet: \$ _____
Saturday Ladies Program: _____ . Cost: \$10.00	Ladies: \$ _____
Saturday Banquet:	
Vegetarian Number: _____ Cost: \$34.00	Total: \$ _____
Airline Chicken Number: _____ Cost: \$45.00	Total: \$ _____
Grilled Pork Loin Number: _____ Cost: \$48.00	Total: \$ _____
Seared Salmon Number: _____ Cost: \$56.00	Total: \$ _____
Pan-Seared Filet Mignon Number: _____ Cost: \$77.00	Total: \$ _____
	Total Banquet: \$ _____

Optional Donation to offset Reunion Cost [Hospitality Room] \$ _____

Optional Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Purchase of Raffle Tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 Number: _____ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: Registration must be received by Aug 10, 2024. \$ _____

Send PDF & Check to: 22 Infantry Regiment Society
 C/O Martin Oelklaus
 Post Office Box 3258
 Independence, Mo 64055-8258

Send PayPal Payment to: 2nd infantry Regiment Society
 At: Moelklaus@aol.com
 Upon completion, please email your 2023
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

Send Zelle Payments to: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society
 At: 816-805-0845
 Upon completion, please email your 2024
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

Send Venmo Payments to: 22nd Infantry Regiment Society
 At: 816-805-0845
 Upon completion, please email your 2024
 Reunion Registration PDF to: moelklaus@aol.com

Will Join Mark playing golf on Thursday. Yes _____



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
 15 coins: \$9.00 each + \$10.00 Shipping
 20 Coins: \$8.00 each + \$10.00 shipping



Divisional Pins
 Small \$5.00
 Large \$7.00
 Shipping is \$6.00 per pin**



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



Mini Flag: \$5.00
 Shipping: \$6.00**



CIB/DUI: \$12.00
 Shipping : \$6.00 **



22nd Infantry Crossed Rifles: \$14.00 per set
 Shipping: \$6.00**

Midi Mini



Mini CIB: \$5.00. Midi CIB: \$7.00
 Shipping: \$6.00 **



Blazer Patch: \$10.00
 Shipping: \$3.00**



Unit Crest [DUI] \$7.00
 Shipping: \$6.00 **



Mouse Pad: \$5.00
 Shipping: \$3.00 **

****These item shipped without charge if ordered with hats or shirts.**



Denim Long Sleeve Shirts
\$37.00 sizes Small to XL
\$40.00 sizes XXL & XXXL

Shipping \$12.00

Other colors of shirts are available. Add \$5.00 to above prices. See instructions on order form to place special orders

Royal Blue Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with pocket.
\$30.00 sizes Small to XL
\$32.00 sizes XXL & XXXL



All Hats: \$18.00. one size fits all



SHIPPING

One hat: \$7.00 One Shirt: \$7.00
One hat and one shirt or Polo shirt: \$10.00
Two Shirts: \$12.00
Denim Long Sleeve Shirt: \$12.00
One hat and one Denim shirt \$13.00



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

Send orders to: Jim May
P.O. Box 665
Norridgewock, ME 04957
Phone: 207-634-3355. E-mail: jlmay@tds.net

If I'm out of something, I'll let you know when to expect it. If you'd like something special, let me know

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail _____

Order Form

Item 1: _____ size _____ Item 2: _____ size: _____

Item 3: _____ size _____ Item 4: _____ size: _____

Other items: _____

Total Shipping Charges: _____ Total Cost: _____