



**President's
Corner
August 2025**



Team,



I am excited the details of our Oklahoma City Reunion in May 2026 are coming together. **David Allin** has been working tirelessly to solidify the details. He has the hotel registration information included in this newsletter.

Needless to say, it is a great venue with a lot of folks I haven't seen since our last reunion – and I look forward to the lively conversations and tipping back a beverage with you. Make sure you sign up for the golf tournament when the registration form comes out in the next newsletter.

Triple Deuce (our active Battalion) has a upcoming activity, the Courage Ball is scheduled for 3 Oct 2025 at the Edgewood Hotel, 22451 Edgewood Park Drive, Alexandria Bay New York 13607.

If you are interested in attending this event as an "Old Goat" please contact **Jim May** [jlmay1946@gmail.com] for additional information and guidance. [Dress is formal]

The Battalion Honored of Life of **SFC Emmett W. Goodridge Jr.** who passed away down range in Iraq (non-combat) on 24



July 2025. All soldiers have redeployed and are back at home station in Ft Drum as this letter goes to print.



I think that gets everyone up to date from May. I am so thankful to be surrounded by American Patriots and freedom fighters! Freedom is not Free, 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"!!

Mark Woempner, DMOR

Edward Thomas Gatto

A 22nd Infantry soldier killed in action in World War 2 was an All-American football player for the LSU Tigers.

Edward Thomas Gatto was born on December 26, 1916, in New Orleans,

Louisiana, the son of **Michele Angelo Gatto** and **Rosalia Fulco Gatto**. Eddie attended S. J. Peters High School in New Orleans. He entered Louisiana State University in 1935, where he was a member of R.O.T.C. His religion was indicated as Catholic.

Eddie was a first string tackle for the LSU football team, was twice named as a College Football All-American (1937, 1938), and twice named as All-SEC (1937, 1938). He played in the 1937 Sugar Bowl, when number 2 ranked LSU was upset by Santa Clara 21-14. Eddie was chosen as the 33rd pick in the 1939 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Rams. At the time, he was only the fourth draft pick ever taken from LSU.

Upon graduation he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry in the Officers Reserve Corps. He did not play professional football. He entered active duty with the Army in 1940. By December 1942 he was a First Lieutenant in Company L 22nd Infantry at Camp Gordon, Georgia.

He sailed to England with the 22nd Infantry Regiment in January 1944. As a Captain, he led Company L 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division ashore on Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

While the rest of the Regiment moved inland, 3rd Battalion, with Eddie as Commanding Officer of Company L (Love Company), assaulted along the beach for three days, attacking the German coastal defensive positions. The fighting was intense for those three days, and 3rd Battalion was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their successful elimination of those enemy defenses.

On June 9 Task Force Barber was formed in the 4th Infantry Division, and 3rd Battalion (less Company K) was assigned to it as one of its components. Eddie and his Company had fought against enemy positions on the coast in the morning, and now, in the afternoon, they were to fight against enemy positions inland.

Their mission on June 9 was to attack the German coastal battery at Azeville. Late in the afternoon 3rd Battalion had advanced to a location near Chateau De Fontenay, when they were met with strong resistance. Eddie and Company L moved to the west of the German positions where they became surrounded and took heavy fire from the enemy.

The official history of the 22nd Infantry in WW2 by **Chaplain Bill Boice**, in describing the end of the day on June 9, said "After dark, Company L was withdrawn on a line with Company I, having sustained tremendous casualties." Sometime during this fight on June 9 Captain Eddie Gatto was killed in action by a German sniper, who had obviously singled Eddie out as an officer or a leader. Eddie was 27 years old. He had never married.

Eddie was buried in the temporary cemetery, St. Mere Eglise #1 near



Carentan, France, and in the 1947-1949 time frame his remains were returned to the United States. Edward Thomas Gatto was laid to his final rest in Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

Photo of Eddie Gatto as a tackle for the LSU Tigers is from the LSU yearbook of 1937. Photo of Eddie Gatto drawing diagram in the sand taken during Company L's actions along the Normandy coastline June 6 - 9, 1944.

Micheal Belis, DMOR

Get Ready For OKC!

Our next reunion is scheduled for May 14-17, 2026, in beautiful downtown Oklahoma City.

It will be at the luxurious Sheraton Hotel, at the very center of the city, close to all the many events and



attractions the city offers. Within walking distance of the hotel there are many restaurants and bars, the Bricktown entertainment district, the Bricktown Canal with its water taxis, the Chickasaw



Bricktown Ball Park for our AAA baseball team, a giant Bass Pro store, the OKC Convention Center, the Paycom Center

where the World Champion OKC Thunder play, beautiful Scissortail Park, the Myriad Gardens, and the OKC Bombing Memorial. Bricktown also has the National Banjo Museum, a beautiful 18-hole miniature golf course, a video games arcade, and a comedy club.



If you don't want to walk, there is the OKC streetcar that stops in front of the hotel and takes

you all through downtown OKC (\$1 per person, \$.50 for seniors). We plan to provide transportation for a Golf Outing to one of the city's best golf courses, and tours of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the First Americans Museum.

For those members who are more active, there is the Riversport area that offers white water rafting, kayaking, and other such activities, and it is the official site for some of the 2028 Olympics



events. For those with children or grandchildren, the OKANA resort nearby has the world's largest indoor water park.

The price for the hotel is only \$149 per night, and below is the link and phone number to make your reservations. Parking is available in a garage connected to the hotel by a covered walkway, with in-and-out access for only \$10 per day.

The Directors are currently reviewing the menu options for our buffet and sit-down dinner, but they look to be less costly than was required in Nashville. The hotel has a restaurant for breakfast and lunch, and there are many other restaurants in the area.

For those who might be worried about twisters, the hotel is on a system of colorful and well-lit tunnels that connect many of the downtown buildings, and those tunnels serve as tornado shelters, although downtown OKC had not had a tornado in the last century. The tunnels provide an air-conditioned

walkway to the OKC Bombing Memorial, as well.

OKC is the hub of three interstate highways: I -35, I-40, and I-44. Two of them, I-35 and I-40, actually cross only blocks from the hotel.

If you fly, Will Rogers International Airport is only 15 minutes from downtown, and it is a very easy airport to get around in. The hotel does not provide a shuttle, but there is a pay-per-ride shuttle service at the airport, or you can use Uber or Lyft. Currently it costs around \$20-\$30 for the trip. Buddy up and split the cost.

If you travel by Amtrak, the train station is two blocks from the hotel.

As always, we will have a raffle after the Saturday dinner. Please, if you have any craft skills, donate some of your work to the raffle. Or donate purchased items. The more items we have, the more money we can make for charitable purposes and to offset the costs of the reunions. The raffle is always on of the highlight of the reunion.

Let's make this the biggest and best reunion ever. While Oklahoma City has many fun and interesting places to visit, please remember that the ultimate purpose of the reunion is to reconnect with your old battle buddies. Nobody really understands what you went through except the guys who went through it with you. They are family.

- **Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel for 149.00 USD per night**
- [Book your group rate for 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion](#)
- Or call 1-800-325-3535 and give the operator the group code: **GU8 - 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Reunion.**

Dave Allin, DMOR

2025 Scholarships

I want to thank **David Mileski**, **Dick Nash**, and **Orlando Soto** for their efforts in reviewing the scholarship applications and making their recommendation for 2025 Scholarships awards.

The following scholarships were awarded:

Brady Oakley, of China Springs, Tx, grandson of **Lon Oakley**, C/2-22 Vietnam. Brady will be attending Texas A&M University in College Park, TX, majoring in Mechanical Engineering hoping to work in the aerospace field.



Justin Long, of Leesville, VA, grandson of **Robert "Bob" Price**, B/2-22 Vietnam. Justin will be attending University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Justin will be majoring in Business or Accounting.



Emma Pearce, of Humble, TX, granddaughter of **Skip Fahel**, B/2-22 Vietnam. Emma will be attending Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. Emma will be majoring in Criminal Justice with a focus on Forensic Science. Emma would like to be the expert witness for criminal court trials.



Nathan Pearce, of Humble TX, grandson of **Skip Fahel**, B/2-22 Vietnam. Nathan will be attending the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AK. Nathan will be majoring in Finance hoping to enter energy field as a gas trader.



The Society wishes them the best in the years to come.

To the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

I cannot possibly express how honored I am to receive this award. Since a young age this Society has been a cornerstone in my life and has taught me core values such as integrity, responsibility, and determination. My introduction to the



Society was when **Skip Fahel**, my grandfather took me to Fort Benning, Ga for the dedication of the 22nd Infantry All War Monument; and to meet and talk to other members of the Society.

Later, after this visit, I was presented Regimental coin and certificate in my class at school. I will never forget the feeling of



camaraderie I felt when presented with those items. To be a part of something bigger than

myself felt honorable and courageous. While I could never possibly understand what it truly means to serve in the military, at that moment I felt inspired to be something greater than I ever had before.

Since then I have been committed to pursuit of academics in order to one day contribute to America in a small way of being in the workforce. Once again, the funds that this society has generously donated to me will help my pursuit of academics at the University of Arkansas. This has shown me just how important community is and the idea of building one another up is. I vow to work hard and show this sense of community to those around me.

Nathan Pearce

[Editor note: I added the pictures to Nathan's thank you note to the Society]

22nd Infantry Regiment Society

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive this award. It means a lot to my grandpa and me. He is very proud of his service and so am I. I really appreciate the assistance this will give me in paying for an amazing education. Thank you,

Justin Long

22nd Infantry Regiment Society

I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society Scholarship! I truly appreciate being a selected recipient and I am very grateful for your generous support.

This scholarship will greatly assist me in paying for my tuition, which will allow me to focus more fully on my academic school year. I am currently on the pathway to pursue Criminal Justice at Texas State University and with the scholarship money awarded I will be able to go into my year with less stress.

Your generosity is making a meaningful difference in my life and I am immensely grateful to have been chosen for this scholarship opportunity!

Thank you,

Emma Pearce

22nd Infantry Regiment of France

From July 24th to 27th, the 22nd Infantry Regiment of France traveled to Belgium/Germany in the footsteps of **Isaac**



Curtis Phillips
(sponsor of our association) accompanied by one of his daughters and two of his

grandchildren.

The route took us through various towns and villages where we set up various displays.

We started at the Menuchenet crossroads in Belgium and ended in the town of Sellerich in Germany, where Curtis was wounded on September 17, 1944.

We followed a route 90% identical to that taken by the Regiment, which took us across the Belgium/Germany border at the towns of Maspelt (Belgium) and Hemmeres (Germany), at the railway bridge deliberately destroyed by the Germans to slow the American advance. A highly symbolic crossing.

Upon our arrival in Sellerich, we also paid tribute by laying a wreath of Towers alongside the town's mayor at a small chapel built by the locals to thank the lord for sparing them during the fighting.



We crossed the Siegfried Line at Buchet Wood. This was a place where the Regiment suffered a significant number of casualties. The Germans had established dug-in positions and waited for units of the 22nd to pass before opening fire on their rear.

At Sellerich, Curtis and his company received orders to attack the village from the front and climb the ridge facing them. (Indeed, the Regiment was supposed to bypass and take the Germans from behind by passing through surrounding villages, but the Germans held village.) The Germans opened fire at the



perfect time for them. The 22nd suffered enormous losses. On the evening of the battle, an American soldier decided to find survivors and bring them back to the American lines, but unfortunately, there were few survivors (it is believed that it was

following this initiative that Curtis was saved).

Curtis's family was extremely emotional there because, for them, it was the place where their family story began. Had he not survived, he would never have met, upon waking from his coma, the woman who would become his future wife and mother of his three daughters.

We had a stay village with emotion and memories.

Loic Parent, HMOR

President

22nd Infantry Regiment, France

Brady Oakley, China Springs High School Class of 2025

Brady Oakley is grandson of **Lon Oakley** (A Co 2/22 1969) and a 2025 graduate from China Spring TX High School. He is 2025 a recipient of the Awb Norris Memorial Scholarship awarded by the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society.

His high school achievements include being a member of The National Honor Society, American Legion Texas Boys State House of Representatives, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Officer, China Spring Rotary Club Youth Citizenship Award, District MVP and four time regional finalist in tennis. Brady was a two year Texas State Tennis Bronze Medalist and four year Academic Texas All State.

Of noteworthy mention was his two year Advanced Engineering Tango Flight Program at China Spring HS where he and his fellow classmate engineers constructed a Vans RV 12iS two seat aircraft from scratch. The finished plane went into its maiden flight August 8, 2025.

Braden is enrolled and pursuing a degree in the Engineer Program at Texas A&M in College Station, Tex.

Lon Oakley, DMOR

Brady on left



TAPS

SFC Emmett W. Goodridge, Jr. of Roseville, MN, died of non-combat injuries on June 15, 2025 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. SFC Goodridge was assigned to D Company 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Ft Drum, NY.

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
3. and hardship.
4. Gave you good reason to harbor a personal feeling of high accomplishment and pride.
5. 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 2024-2025

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Mini



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