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1100 hours, 11 November 2021

Veterans Day Branson MO

A great time was had by all. Attendance during the week exceeded 75 veterans and their spouses and over \$500 was donated for “Honor Flight” as well as a generous \$200 gift from Arkansas Central Pest Control for the Redlegs Chapter support. The hospitality rooms were perfect and stayed open until late in the evening. We’re all getting older so late does not mean the same thing it did just 10 years ago.

Thank you to Debbie and Larry Brainerd for making all the arrangements at the Chateau On The Lake Hotel and for organizing the hospitality room again this year. Thanks also to Peggy and Richard Smith for their long hours of hosting veterans from breakfast to late in the evening. And what a great parade float they provided again.

We followed right behind C Company 1/8th Infantry on the parade route. It was fun to provide that “Direct Support” to the infantry again. Branson goes all out for Veterans’ Week every year and 2021 was no exception. The parade route was much busier than 2020 and the children on the route anxiously waited for the candy treats handed out by the artillery veterans walking the parade route behind the Field Artillery trailer. Our trailer was filled with veterans on a beautiful 11 November sunny morning.

A Best of all we added some new members to our roster!



BRANSON IN NOVEMBER 2022

It's Planning Time – National Reunion in Kansas City MO and Veterans Day 2022 in Branson MO.

Thanks to Larry Brainerd we have our location already arranged for our 2022 Branson's Veterans Week. We will set up the 4th ID Association hospitality room at the Hotel Grand Victorian in Branson Missouri and again be the host chapter beginning on Thursday, November 10th through Sunday, November 13th. A block of rooms is available for 4th ID veterans at the special rate of \$94.95 plus tax. The rate includes breakfast each morning for two guests per room. The hospitality room area is on the 2nd floor of the hotel overlooking the lobby area and the hotel will allow us to bring our breakfast to the hospitality room each morning. Coffee will be provided in the hospitality room. Make your reservations for the hotel early so that they can accommodate all of us on the 2nd Floor. There are a total of 30 rooms on the floor (we have a block of 20 set aside until October 9th but let's use all thirty) and

we should plan on filling the entire floor if we can but it won't happen if you don't make your reservations now before other groups need the rooms on the floor. To Make your reservation call **800-324-8751**. Let them know you are part of the 4th ID for the special rate and the 4th ID Floor of the Hotel.

This year is unique since Veterans Day falls on Friday. An opportunity for Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans to join us for the weekend and the parade on Friday. Let your Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans know we are there for them and encourage them to join us in Branson for Veterans Week 2022.

National 4th ID Reunion in Kansas City MO

Due to the fact, the **Elegante Hotel** was sold late in 2021 the National Association was forced to move the reunion to Kansas City, Missouri. The dates remain the same but the locations have moved east about 586 miles. Originally, the Hilton in Kansas City MO was going to be the host city for 2023 but it is now our location for this year. With this last-minute change, the idea is to try and go back to Colorado Springs in 2023. We have already secured a new hospitality room at the **Kansas City Airport Hilton** Hotel as well as reserving the Sioux Room on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, for our general chapter meeting from 4 pm until 5:30 pm. The hospitality rooms will be open Wednesday through Friday from about 10 am until 10 pm. We will have two rooms (Salon C & D) totaling about 1200 square feet with round tables set up for about 70 people total and located not far from the Lobby Bar and Café Weatherby. Not perfect but changes forced us to modify our plans a little.

Also, in the early planning stage, we would like to offer new hats and shirts that can be preordered and delivered to the Kansas City Reunion. We'll send out an announcement via e-mail if we can put that together with instructions for ordering through the Redlegs website.

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At our Chapter meeting last August, one of the recommendations made was to find ways to provide support to active-duty soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division. As part of that challenge, we have had numerous contacts with the 4th DIVARTY regarding ways we could help them support the families of their command. We are looking at many alternatives to do this, primarily financially. We are looking into helping them with their SFRG Program (Soldiers and Family Readiness Group. It is a unit-sponsored group with the primary purpose of supporting Soldiers and their families. Typically SFRGs will have social events and other various outings for the Soldiers and their families, otherwise and provide a network of support for families). Initially, we are looking into ways we can support their Saint Barbara's Day Ball in 2022. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of the field artillery. Because of the pandemic the date has been moved to 24 June 2022 in Colorado Springs (and even that date is still in question because of the European alerts). There are still some logistical problems due to the pandemic DoD limit of 50 people indoors but it is hoped those restrictions will be removed soon. If you would be interested in attending the Ball or even providing some financial support please contact Paul Bonsky.

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**Supporting 4th DIVARTY and Artillery
Men and Women of the 4th Infantry
Division**





4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association Membership

Everyone is always welcome in the Redlegs Chapter. We have never restricted membership to only National Association members. But there are some distinct advantages of membership and we do encourage membership in the National Association. We have outlined below a few of those advantages and perks: Here's an Abbreviated list of Benefits of Membership in your 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association.

- 1) For more details and an application go to the website: www.4thinfantry.org A Rally Point for all 4ID veterans – Soldiers today are focused on many things and you may not be thinking that much about staying in touch with those you fought with but history shows that vets from all eras want to find their 'foxhole buddies'. Since 1919 the 4IDA has been the place to find and stay connected with buddies, both now and in the future.
- 2) A website for information about 4ID – regularly updated, our recently enhanced web site, www.4thinfantry.org, contains history, current events, list of national and chapter officers, the latest “4ID Updates”, details on all our Medal of Honor recipients, information on national and chapter reunions, and an online member search and a guestbook/chat room for communicating with other 4ID vets, families, and friends. We welcome all suggestions on how to make our web page more valuable to you.
- 3) The Ivy Leaves – news magazine of the 4IDA – available to regular members in printed hard copy and digitally in PDF format, will keep you up to date on the happenings of the Association. Historic stories submitted by you or your buddies, news about a chapter and national events, and a locator to help find lost buddies are among the features of “Ivy Leaves”. In May 2020 we launched the E-Ivy Leaf newsletter in what will be an ongoing series of digital newsletters and E-Ivy Extra bulletins to timely inform our members about many topics of interest and supplement the published Ivy Leaves magazine.
- 4) Social Media - The National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association maintains a Facebook Page with over 3,000 members who share their photos and memories as a great way to stay connected. The site is ‘Dedicated to preserving the history and camaraderie of the 4th Infantry Division, past, present, and

future. It's a place to make connections with those who served with you and to foster fellowship among veterans.' It is a 'Closed Group' – You can access the Group, Only members can see who's in and what they post.

5) Eligible for Memorial and Educational Scholarship – All eligible requests for the E.R. Smith Memorial Scholarships will be honored. Educational Scholarships - a) A regular member of this Association in good standing may personally apply for or may submit an application for, a scholarship for his or her child, children or step-children, legally adopted child or children and/or grandchild, grandchildren, or step-grandchildren. b.) A regular member of this Association in good standing, while a Soldier on active duty, may submit an application for his or her spouse.

6) Donations to Active 4ID Causes – the 4IDA national association and our individual chapters are the first to step up to help when our current Soldiers and Families need our help. Among key areas we have donated to over the past few years are annual donations to the parents of new babies, contributions to the building of the 4ID Memorials at Fort Hood and Fort Benning, care packages sent to deployed units, and other causes as brought to our attention. The active-duty 4ID Soldiers and Families are our future and we will always be steadfast and loyal in helping in any way we can.

7) Annual National and Chapter Reunions – each year, typically in the summer, we hold our national reunion where 4ID veterans and their Families from all eras and all parts of the country come together for fun and fellowship. Events are planned not just for the vets but also for our Families. Chapter mini-reunions are typically held in the geographic area of the chapter in the fall and spring, another excellent way to stay in touch with fellow 4ID vets and Families.

8) A Source of History about the 4ID – those who served before you in WWII, the Cold War, Vietnam, and during early tours in Iraq and Afghanistan love to tell their stories to our newest members. In addition to hearing stories first hand from our vets, we have history recorded on our website, a library of books about all parts of 4ID's 92-year history, including a book on the most recent OIF 07-09 deployment to Iraq, and a bibliography of 4ID books that we gladly share with any who ask for it.

9) Regular contact with 4ID leadership – our Liaison from the 4IDA to the active-duty 4ID, John Kurak, has the responsibility to ensure the 4IDA is responsive to the requests and needs of our current 4ID Soldiers and Families. Regular contacts with the CG down through unit leaders help us respond to the ever-changing needs of today's Soldiers and their families.

10) SFRG Support – many of our 4ID veterans, through the national 4IDA or their chapter, have adopted 4ID units and SFRGs during deployment, doing whatever we can to help both the deployed Soldiers and the Families at home. Veterans and their Families Have Lots in Common – years of working with veterans from all wars and all eras have proven that there is a bond that exists among veterans and the Families who live the experiences with them.

It is impossible to list all the unique experiences you will have as a result of association with veterans of the National 4th Infantry Division Association. It may come in the form of listening to war stories from WWII to the present time, help in finding a job or getting acclimated to life after you get out of the Army, individual friendships with veterans of your era, or who are old enough to be your great-grandfather. We are one big happy family – and we welcome all 4ID veterans to join this Family. Consider the 4ID

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Association as your “Rally Point”. Don’t put it off, join now. We need you and, in the future, you will find that you need to maintain contact with the fellow 4ID veterans and Families who shared the training and wartime experiences with you.

The 4IDA is YOUR Association – join us.



Steadfast and Loyal.

Finally, don’t forget to join our Facebook Group Page “4th ID Redlegs”. It is a ‘Closed Group’.

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