

April 2011

Fifteenth Infantry Regiment
"The Old China Hands"



www.15thinfregtassoc.org

April 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow China Hands,

This issue of the Dragon contains details on our Regimental Rendezvous in Columbus, Georgia 11-13 May. John Burke and Tad Davis have done great work in coordinating this event along with the 1st Battalion and it promises to be a great event. It is still not too late to sign up, just get your registration forms and checks to Bart Viruso as soon as possible.

I have been informed by Tom Twomey, our webmaster that he must step down from that position due to poor health. He has done a great job for us, our website is outstanding. Thank you Tom for your great work, and we wish you all the best and a speedy recovery. I am asking for a motivated volunteer to step up and fill Tom's big shoes as webmaster. Our website is the primary marketing tool for our Association and is the first place former 15th Infantry Regiment members can find us on the internet.

I am very happy to announce that we have found a highly qualified editor to take over for Dave Adams, who has also done a great job for us over the years. Our new Editor, Ed Holt, retired from the military in 2009. While serving in Kitzingen, Germany with the 3rd Infantry Division in 1968 he set up and published the Harvey Sentinel. He did his job so well that on January of 1969 he was put on orders and transferred to the VII Corps Support Command newspaper for six months and then transferred once again to the V Corps Support Command newspaper in Frankfurt for another six months. Thanks Ed, for stepping up to the plate for the 15th Infantry, and thank you, Dave, for the great work you have done for us in your tenure as our editor.

Our database manager, Tom Heitzer, has done an excellent job of scrubbing our database and making our membership roster as accurate as possible. He has identified numerous members who are now deceased but of whose passing we were not notified over the years. I would like to ask all of you to please ensure that your next of kin is aware of your membership in our association, and that in the event of your passing that they notify us. This will enable us to extend our sympathies to your family, to memorialize you in our publication, to let your buddies know, and it will also prevent us from wasting money, of which we have none to waste on printing unnecessary copies or on postage.

As you can read in LTC Shoemaker's report, the 3rd Battalion continues its great work in Iraq training Iraqi security forces. It is important, rewarding and challenging work which our Can Do soldiers are doing brilliantly. The 1st Battalion is busy rebuilding after its return from Iraq and preparing for new equipment fielding. As all of us remember, the train never stops, and very seldom slows down. We have every reason to be proud of our Can Do soldiers!

As well as marking the 150th anniversary of our Regiment's constitution in May 1861 this year, we also mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Audie Murphy in a plane crash in Southwest Virginia in May 1971. There is an effort underway to petition the President of the United States to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Audie Murphy. Please sign the petition which can be found at the following link:
<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/audiemurphy>. The driving force behind this effort is Mr. David A. Phillips. He is truly dedicated to getting this honor awarded to Audie and with your signature we can make this happen! Can Do!

15th INF Regiment Association Founders
Ramon Clarke - Charles Crain - Jerry Cunningham - Michael Halik
Maurice Kendall - Leonard Lassar - Whitney Mullen - Raymond Taylor - Frank Yokum

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. It is published in January, April, July and October.' Neither its editorial nor articles content carry official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing.

ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To provide opportunities for uniting past and present members of the Regiment into a close and cooperative alliance.
- To promote morale and high esprit de corps among members of the Regiment. ~ To acquire and maintain a repository of regimental historical memorabilia.
- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To assist in the maintenance of monuments dedicated to the units of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

Send dues and new addresses to:
Bartolo Viruso, 116 Harriett Road,
North Babylon, NY 11703

Annual dues \$10 for regular members and \$5 for active duty members, due October 1 each year.
Life membership: To age 60 = \$150; Age 61-69 = \$120; Age 70-79 = \$100; Age 80 and above = \$50.

Send or Email news items to:

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Ft. Benning, GA 31895
706-544-1633

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LTC Jeff Shoemaker
HQ, 3-15
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314
706-767-2791

CSM 1st BN

CSM Angel Ortiz
HQ, 1-15, Bldg 9161
Ft. Benning, GA 31895
706-544-1228

CSM 3rd BN

CSM Mark Barnes,
HQ, 3-15 Fort Stewart, GA
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520-744-6197

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DATABASE

ADMINISTRATOR

Tom Heitzer
231 Normandie Drive,
Bonne Terre, MO 63628
573-358-1830
theitzer001@charter.net

TAPS



JOHN A. MORRIS

204 WALLACE ST
HELENA, MT 59601
15INF/M, WWII, CPT
DOD - August 23, 2008
Reported by Tom Heitzer

LESLIE D. LEWIS

3824 Beechwood Dr.,
Concord, CA 94519
SSG, B CO, 3rd Med WWII
DOD - March 26, 2011
Reported by Rich Heller

WILLIAM NOWITZKE

1562 Potomac Ave.
North Brunswick, NJ 08901
SSG, 15INF/K, KOREA
DOD - March 2, 2011
Reported by John Stavola

PAUL E. BYERS

1995 Silversage Ave.
Boise, ID 83713.
TSG, I CO, 3 BN, WWII
DOD - February 19, 2011
Reported by Rich Heller

VIRGIL G. BROWN

15373 SW Regent Terr.
Portland, OR 97224
COL, 15INF/M, WWII
DOD - Sept 28, 2007
Reported by Stan Fish

WILLIAM H. TRACKO

1806 Kingston Dr.
Escondido, CA 92027
2LT, 15INF, E CO, WWII
DOD - July 3, 1998
Reported by Stan Fish

GRETCHEN BROCKWAY

24437 Dockton Rd SW
Vashon, WA 98070
Associate, Wife of deceased
China Hand Member
Arthur Brockway
DOD - 09/09/2006
Reported by Tom Heitzer

ROBERT A. HALL

55 Ridge View Drive,
Etters, PA 17319
SFC, E CO, 2BN, Korea
DOD - August 28, 2004
Reported by Tom Heitzer

FRANK R. YOCUM

2621 26th Street SW
Allentown, PA 18203
PFC, K CO, 3 BN, Korea
DOD - January 8, 2008
Reported by Tom Heitzer

CURLEY B. KNEPP

PSC 3 BOX 5013
APO AE 96266-0150
MAJ, A CO, Korea
DOD- August 4, 2010
Reported by Tom Heitzer

METRO D. KOWALCHICK

232 Matthews cove Dr.
Montross, VA 22520
MSGT, L CO, WWII
DOD- July 6, 2008
Reported by Tom Heitzer

GUY L. BAKER

6398 RT 37
Marion, IL 62959
SSG, F TANK CO, Korea
DOD - February 14, 2011
Reported by Rich Heller

DANIEL W. TALMADGE

91 Lovers Ln
Windham, CT 06280
CPT, E CO, WWII
DOD - July 25, 2010
Reported by Tom Heitzer

JAMES S. NUGENT

7705 Highway 4
Winnsboro, LA 71295
1LT, K CO, KOREA
DOD - July 13, 2010
Reported by Tom Heitzer

HERMAN F. GOKE

555 Grandview LN
Platteville, WI 53818
CPL, I CO, 3 BN, WWII
DOD - June 5, 2007
Reported by Tom Heitzer

ROBERT C. REIDENBACH

P. O. Box 434
New Kingston, PA 17072
PFC, A CO, WWII
DOD - June 5, 2006
Reported by Tom Heitzer

TAPS

(CONTINUED)



WILLIAM B. STONE
 511 Crossfield Circle
 Naples, FL 34104
 LTC, M CO, 3 BN, WWII
 DOD – May 14, 2010.
Reported by Tom Heitzer

LARRY R. JONES
 3360 Arbor Drive
 West Linn, OR 97068 of the
 MAJ, HQ, 3 BN, Korea
 DOD – January 12, 2010
Reported by Tom Heitzer

GEORGE R. O'ROURKE
 355 Hancock Street
 Grand Junction, CO 81504
 SGT, HQ, Korea
 DOD – November 10, 2004
Reported by Tom Heitzer

JOHN D. FRETWELL
 4012 Maywoods Drive S
 Fresno, CA 93703
 CPL, F CO, 2 BN, WWII
 DOD – February 11, 2011
Reported by Tom Heitzer

ALEXANDER MELESHKA
 562 Woodstock Avenue,
 Tonawanda, NY 14150
 PVT, I CO, 3 BN, WWII
 DOD – July 25, 2004
Reported by Tom Heitzer

MARVIN L. ASHBY
 1092 S. Yearling Rd
 Columbus, OH 43227
 (Rank/Unit Unknown), Korea
 DOD- November 10, 2010
Reported by Tom Heitzer

CECIL A. ELLIS, Sr
 1901 Raiford Rd
 Starke, FL 32091
 I CO, 3 BN, Korea
 DOD – March 30, 2009
Reported by Tom Heitzer

HEINRICH F. KLEPPER
 1593 Heritage CT
 Melbourne, FL 32940
 PFC, L CO, Korea
 DOD – December 25, 2010
Reported by Rich Heller

EDWARD W. PERRY
 9 Chestnut St.
 Sussex, NJ, 07461
 PVT, I CO, WWII
 DOD – February 12, 2006
Reported by Tom Heitzer

CHINA 6 SITREP

CHINA Families and Friends:

The "Can Do" battalion continues to make significant progress in all of our efforts to advise and train the Iraqi Army and Police to secure eastern Anbar and build a stable future for the Iraqi nation. Morale is high and collectively the battalion is eagerly anticipating a successful conclusion to our current mission and the upcoming transition of our responsibilities to a battalion from the 82nd Airborne Division. However, before we complete our current deployment, significant work remains to guarantee that the gains we and our Iraqi

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allies have made together are permanent. We are all focused on completing the effort at hand and look forward to the happy moment when we return home with our part of the mission complete. A portion of Alpha Company has moved to Al Asad Air Base where they are training the Iraqi Army to defend Iraq against external threats. The Apaches are attached to 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, our sister battalion within 4th Brigade. They are currently advising and training Soldiers of the 7th Iraqi Army Division on tasks from individual skills through collective training at the Squad, Platoon and Company levels. This training is rewarding, and provides the Iraqi Army better capabilities as they continue to develop the skills needed to secure their borders. Bravo, Charlie and Delta Companies have all begun a five day platoon training plan with their Iraqi counterparts. The training begins with individual Soldier skills and ends with basic small unit tactics. Each week the Iraqi Soldiers begin with basic rifle marksmanship and progress through troop leading procedures necessary to plan patrols, Counter Insurgency basics, simple battle drills and establishment and execution of a traffic control point. While the battalion has been focused on training our Iraqi allies, there have been significant changes within the battalion itself. Promotions are always happy moments in the collective life of a unit and the battalion has had a significant one. Sergeant First Class Marcus Brister, the Scout Platoon Sergeant, was recently selected for Master Sergeant. I know he will make an excellent First Sergeant. Additionally, over the past few months we have had three changes of command, said goodbye to Alpha, 3-7 IN and had a change of responsibility. Bravo Company said farewell to Captain Joe Pimentel and welcomed Captain Clarke Noble. Delta Company lost Captain Ted Goldner to Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Captain Steven Pierce assumed command of Delta Company. A/3-7 departed Task Force China and fell back under their parent battalion. Delta Company welcomed SFC (P) Brister as their new First Sergeant as First Sergeant Chad Brown changed responsibility and moved on to HHC, 4-3 Brigade Special Troops Battalion. The battalion enjoyed welcoming in the New Year, watching the Super Bowl, and celebrating Valentine's Day over the past three months. Though we were not able to see the Super Bowl ads, all those who were over 21 enjoyed a beer during the game. I look forward to my next opportunity to update all the former "Can Do" Soldiers, Families and friends who I know eagerly await our return. We continue to do great things in Ramadi on a daily basis.

Very Respectfully,

CAN DO! VANGUARD, OUT FRONT! ROCK OF THE MARNE!
LTC Jeffrey M. Shoemaker (China 6)
TASK FORCE 3-15 Infantry, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division



1st BDE, 1st Iraqi Army
Division Graduation



PFC John Randall at a Humanitarian
Assistance Mission for Iraqi children



1LT Richard Wright distributes Beanie
babies to Iraqi children in Hamdiyah

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
The Society of the Third Infantry Division
92nd Annual Reunion
September 8- 11, 2011
Astor Crown Plaza Hotel
New Orleans, LA

Thank You and CAN DO!!



After 7 years as editor of the Dragon, it's time for me to pass the torch on to Ed Holt, your new Dragon Editor. I know you will welcome Ed and give him the same support that you have always given me. Ed will formally introduce himself to the general membership in the July issue. I have a lot of people to thank for what I've been doing these past 7 years; thanks to **Tim Stoy** for his great historical articles and putting up with my constant nagging about getting the President's Message in on time; to **John Burke** (Mr. Reliable) for always getting me the updated membership info promptly and for doing so many other things too numerous to mention; to **Tad Davis** who always had an "atta boy" despite his hectic schedule with the Army; to **Bart Viruso** for keeping good tabs on our finances and giving me excellent and concise Treasurer's Reports; to **Chuck Trout** whose inspiring messages in the Chaplain's Corner taught us there is only one, true Supreme Commander in Chief; to **Tom Heitzer** who stepped in as database guru and chief deliveryman of the Dragon; to **Frank Brown**, the best printer and most accommodating guy in Georgia; to the late **Ed Dojutrek** who encouraged me to take this position in the first place; to the late **Tom Mason**, Old China Hand and dear friend, who became my "Can Do Grandpa"; to the late **Emil Trautman** who showed me what life was like in the 15th from 1939 to 1945 and the only Can Doer to ever pull the wool over the eyes of Eisenhower and Patton simultaneously; to **George Burks** whose vivid recounting of Anzio in '44 made me feel like I was there with him; to all the 15th members of the **Outpost Harry Survivor's Association** of whom I stand in utter awe; to **LTC Gary Brito**, former 1-15 CO who never forgot to invite me to an event at Ft. Benning; to **COL Cath Bacon**, former editor of The Watch on the Rhine and the best damn collaborator and colleague there ever was; and finally, to my best friend and late wife, **Heather**, who sat at our kitchen island, Miller Lite in hand, and folded, sealed, and addressed every single Dragon copy for 3 years in a row. I couldn't have done it without you, Angel. As for me, life doesn't slow down at 65. I continue to work for the Army Corps of Engineers with possible next assignments in Guam, Hawaii, Diego Garcia, or Afghanistan. If I'm still here, I'll continue to work with the Library of Congress and their Veteran's Oral History Project; continue serving as President of Outpost 7 for the Society of the Third Infantry Division here in Washington, D.C., and work diligently as co-author of a book filled with personal stories of life after rehabilitation of our Wounded Warriors. Again, thank you and God bless you all. CAN DO! Dave Adams

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CAN DO RENDEZVOUS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11-13, 2011

Tim Stoy, Association President, and LTC Kraft, Commander of the 1st Battalion, have announced that the 2011 Can Do Rendezvous will be held May 11-13, 2011 at Columbus/Fort Benning, GA. The Rendezvous will include many of the traditional activities and opportunities for comradeship of past veterans and the current active duty soldiers. With the War on Terror and future deployments always a possibility, we need to maximize attendance at the Rendezvous. During the time the 1st Battalion will be undergoing intensive Tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle training. However the Battalion will work closely with the Association to help put together all the logistics to host this special event in which former veterans of the Regiment can join in ranks with the current assigned soldiers. To attend, complete the Rendezvous Registration Form in this edition and submit by April 27, 2011.

Schedule of Events

Below is the general listing of planned events. A complete schedule with transportation times will be available at Registration. Bus/van transportation will be provided to all events.

Wednesday, May 11 Hotel Check In, Golf, Registration, Icebreaker Social.

Thursday, May 12 Tour Army Center for Excellence, Visit 1-15, observe special training, Lunch with Soldiers at Brigade Dining Facility, Association Membership Meeting, Unit events.

Friday, May 13 National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, Army School/Training Graduations, Tour WWII Company Street, China Gate Ceremony, Regimental Dinner.

Rendezvous Registration and Reservations

LODGING: A block of rooms has been reserved for May 11-13, 2011 at the Suburban Extended Stay Fort Benning Hotel, 3662 Victory Drive, Columbus, GA 31903. Reduced room rates at \$ \$70.00 plus applicable tax have been arranged. Continental breakfast, in room wifi, and free long distance calls within the United States are included. These rates are available only until **April 17, 2011**. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel at 706-687-7515 or 706-718-9607. The reduced rates are available prior to and following the event, subject to available rooms. Inform the reservation clerk that you are with the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. Military retirees may arrange lodging on Fort Benning on a space available basis at 706-689-0067, Ext 2538/2800 or www.benningmwr.com.

GOLF: May 11th, Fort Benning Follow Me Golf Course Golf may be arranged for those interested on this day. Players must register in advance by checking the block on the Registration Form below.

REGIMENTAL DINNER: May 13th

The Regimental Dinner will be held in the Regimental Room of the Conference Center, Fort Benning, GA beginning with a no-host bar at 1800 hours. The dinner will be \$26.00 per person, gratuity included. Please indicate the number required on your Registration Form below.

RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION:

Registration is required in advance by completing and submitting the form below. Check In Desk located in the Hotel lobby. A \$15.00 registration fee is charged to help defray administrative and transportation expenses.

Please complete the form below and make your check out to the 15th Infantry Regiment Association. Mail your check and registration form by **April 27, 2011** to:

Bartolo Viruso

116 Harriet Road

North Babylon, NY 11703

=====
Registration Form

| | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Name: (Please Print) | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| City: | | State: | Zip: |
| Email Address: | | | |
| Spouse/Guest: | | Golf (Check if interested) | |
| Event | Number | Price | Total |
| Registration Fee (per attendee) | | \$ 15.00 | |
| Regimental Dinner | | \$ 26.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my payment for | | | |

MEMBERSHIP REPORT MARCH 15, 2011

Eligibility:

Regular: Persons eligible for regular membership are those with present or prior honorable service with the Regiment or units attached or supporting the Regiment.

Associate: Spouse, parents, children or siblings of any person eligible for regular membership and any person with a special interest or affinity for the 15th Infantry Regiment.

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Current Membership Status: Although the membership rolls increased recently by some new members there were a significant number of deaths reported. The names of these are shown in the TAPS section.

Below is a breakdown of memberships by type and period of service with the Regiment.

| Members by Type | | Periods Represented | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Regular Life | 255 | China Hands | 2 |
| Associate Life | 10 | World War II | 88 |
| Regular Annual | 280 | Korea | 214 |
| Associate Annual | <u>14</u> | Cold War | 77 |
| | 559 | Ready Forces | 27 |
| | | OIF | 122* |
| | | Associate | <u>24</u> |
| | | | 559 |

*Members currently serving with the active battalions, 1/15- 53 and 3/15 - 21.

Would you like to sponsor a membership for Active Duty soldiers? For each \$10.00 contribution an Active Duty soldier can be brought on the rolls for two years. If interested, make contributions to the Association Treasurer, address shown on page 2

New Members

RON K ADAMS
4470 LUCERNE PL
LILBURN, GA 30047
HHC REGT
1981-1983

MICHAEL P. BRADLEY
8715 WATKINS AVE
FORT BENNING, GA 31955
A CO 1 BN
10 Jan 2011-present

MISHAEL FRANCOIS
6300 MILGEN ROAD APT 1134
COLUMBUS, GA 31907
B CO 1 BN
21 Mar 2006-present

NELSON G KRAFT
604 1ST DIV RD
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
HHC 1 BN
6 Jan 2011-present

BRETT T LARNED
8715 WATKINS AVE BOX 116
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
HHC 1 BN
15 Jul 2008-present

EDWARD LICUDINE
5001 RIVER CHASE DR APT 401
PHENIX CITY, AL 36867
HHC 1 BN
10 Oct 2010-present

DANA L. MCMULLEN
1A GUENNETTE CT
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
D CO 1 BN
15 May 2009 - present

DON R PATTON
P.O.BOX 681
MERIDIAN, TX 76665
I CO 3 BN
MAR 1953-FEB 1954

PHILIP J. ROOT
8715 WATKINS AVE BOX 109
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
D CO 1 BN
12 Jan 2011 - present

JUAN J. ROVIRA
220 LEE RD 21
SMITHS, AL 36877
HHC 1 BN
5 JUN 2009-present

KEVIN SWAIN
8715 WATKINS AVE
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
B CO 1 BN
22 Jul 2008-present

KENDRICK C TRICE
188 DERRICKSON STREET
FORT BENNING, GA 31905
A CO 1 BN
4 Jan 2011-present

RODNEY L. WALTERS
212 WILDWOOD DR
STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281
C CO 1 BN
10 Apr 2009-present

JOE F WILLIAMS
5402 WHITTLESEY BLVD APT 727
COLUMBUS, GA 31909
C CO 1 BN
1 Nov 2010-present

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Change of Command HHC 1-15 INF

At a Change of Command Ceremony held 9 March 2011 at Kelly Hill at Kelly Hill, Fort Benning, CPT Clarence K. Graham turned over command of HHC, 1/15 Infantry to CPT Donald E. Fox. CPT Graham had commanded Hellraiser Company since October 2009, deployed to Iraq for OIF VII returning September 2010. CPT Fox entered the Army in August 1988 and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer through OCS at Fort Benning in 2003. He served as a Platoon Leader in 1/15 Infantry and 2/69 Armor and commanded C Company 3/47 Infantry. He served as a Battle Captain in MNF-I CJ3 (Iraq). He also commanded B Company 2/29 Infantry. Other assignments include 1/9 Infantry (Fort Ord), 1/503 Infantry (Korea), 2/505 PIR (Fort Bragg), 2/5 Infantry (Schofield Barracks), and 4th RTB (Fort Benning). CPT Fox's military education includes PLDC, Basic NCO Course, Advanced NCO Course, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Maneuver Captains Career Course, Basic Airborne School, Air Assault School, Advanced Airborne School, Pathfinder School, and Ranger School. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), Army Commendation Medal (5OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. CPT Fox's civilian education includes B.S. in Criminal Justice from Troy University (2006). He is married to the former Noelle Kimberley of Tampa, FL. They have three children, Jacob (22), Brendon (18), and Alysa (12).

AUDIE MURPHY PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM PETITION

Mr. President,

Audie Leon Murphy is an American Legend, an iconic figure in American history, and a hero for all times.

Audie Murphy came from humble roots to become our Nation's '**most decorated soldier**' of World War II,

amassing an unprecedented 33 decorations, medals, and citations, many of which were awarded multiple times. He was further honored by the Governments of France and Belgium as well.

Audie Murphy enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 after having been turned down by the Navy, Marines, and Army Air Corps. He spent 30 months in combat in World War Two and earned the **Medal of Honor** for his single-handed defeat in Eastern France of an estimated 250 enemy soldiers and six Jagdpanther tanks. For over one hour he remained alone atop a burning tank destroyer calling artillery adjustments and manning a .50 caliber machine gun while defending his unit against the onslaught of enemy dismounted infantry and armor. He was personally responsible for protecting his sector and certainly saving his unit from destruction.

During the course of the war Audie Murphy, with little formal education rose from the enlisted rank of Private to the rank of First Lieutenant. He continued his military career postwar as a member of the **Texas National Guard** and **Army Reserve** and retired with the rank of Major. After the war, Audie Murphy became a best-selling author with his highly acclaimed memoirs, "**To Hell and Back**". His memoirs are still in publication today and can be found at any major bookstore. He later became a very successful motion picture actor, and portrayed himself in the autobiographical film "**To Hell and Back**" which became the highest grossing film in the history of Universal Studios until it was finally knocked off the charts by "**Jaws**" some 20 years later. In all Audie Murphy starred in or produced a total of 44 feature films, penned patriotic poetry, and became a successful country music songwriter.

He assisted the U.S. Army in the production of a documentary in 1955 for "**The Big Picture**" a popular U.S. Army series titled "**The Third Division in Korea**" and later assisted the United States government for a second time in the 1960 documentary "**Broken Bridge**" that highlighted the dangers of the nuclear age and the Soviet missile threat at the height of the Cold War. For this service to our Nation he was awarded the **U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal**.

Above all Audie Murphy was the shining example of an American patriot. He narrated several Public Service Announcements for the **U.S. Army Recruiting Command**, as well as having been the first veteran to speak openly and honestly about the effects of post-traumatic-stress-disorder (**PTSD**) with which he suffered his entire adult life.

Audie Murphy has previously been awarded many honors. He has been cited in the "**Congressional Record**" on numerous occasions. He has had schools, monuments, roads, a VA Hospital, and numerous buildings on military bases

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named in his honor, and the Army today has the "**Sergeant Audie Murphy Club**" to honor its most distinguished enlisted soldiers. Audie Murphy has further received a "Star" on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**, and was inducted into the **National Cowboy Hall of Fame**.

In addition; in 1995 he has been honored with Postage Stamps by the Governments of **Guyana, Nevis, and Sierra Leone**. Finally in 2000 he was honored with a commemorative United States postage stamp as part of the '**Distinguished Soldiers Series**'. Perhaps his single greatest honor is having been laid to rest after his untimely death in a plane crash at age 46 at **Arlington National Cemetery**. His widow, Mrs. Audie L. Murphy passed away April 8, 2010 at age 87. His sons; Terry and James survive him, as does his sister Nadine. His amazing achievements in life, his patriotism, his dedication to his fellow man, and the protection of America and America's freedom exemplify the finest qualities and virtues of American citizenship and are worthy of the presentation of the **United States Presidential Medal of Freedom**.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the **United States Presidential Medal of Freedom** be posthumously conferred upon **Major Audie Leon Murphy**.

Respectfully,

Signature:

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____ **State**

Comments:

Please mail to: Dave Phillips, 117 Aylesbury Lane, Indian Trail, NC 28079

April 2011

April 2011

15th Infantry Regiment Association
Tom Heitzer, Database Administrator
231 Normandie
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

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