

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

---

The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

---

10-2020

## The Octofoil, October/November/December 2020

Ninth Infantry Division Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/octofoil>



Part of the [Military and Veterans Studies Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---



# The Octofoil

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.  
2020

Volume LIV, No. 4

## President's Message

*"If we don't remember, who will?"*



Greetings from Topeka! Yes, times are somewhat uncertain and unsettling, but the Ninth Infantry Division Association keeps moving forward.

I must start by letting you know that one of our great 9th Infantry Division veterans and life member of the Association, Clarence Ray, passed away on December 30. Clarence served in the 47th Regiment in WWII and was well decorated for his service, including receiving the prestigious French Legion of Honor medal in 2013. We salute Clarence for all he did for our country and are very honored and thankful that he was an important member of our Association.

One of the goals in moving to a 501(c)3 has been to see if we can secure some outside contributions to mirror the great internal/member support we have gotten over the years. Fortunately, we have received a \$5,000 donation from an old business friend of mine, John Figueroa. John served as an Army Ranger and in the 12th Special Forces Group. He is currently CEO of CarepathRx. After sign-off by the Board of Governors, this donation is being split evenly among two of our funds - the general memorial fund and the Friends of Father Connors Fund (FFCF). Many thanks to John for his donation and for his Army service. This donation will appear in next month's financial report.

The Association's taxes (due in November each year) were compiled by our accounting firm, reviewed and mailed in by Treasurer, Mary Cooper. This accounting firm (Mize CPAs) also completes our quarterly financial statements. Mary provides them with monthly transactions and bank statement copies. My thanks to Mary and to Mize for this excellent work.

We have had recent communications with Sarah Campbell and Abby Stambach at the College of Holy Cross regarding updating of our Association archives. The primary effort at this time is to update the collection of Octofoils to include 2006 to present. A Zoom call and some follow-up emails have allowed us to set a timeline for this. Thanks to Terry Barnhart, who chaired this effort and also to Jane Mitchell, who, along with Terry, will get the needed Octofoils to Holy Cross for the archives.

The 76th Annual Meeting/Reunion is still scheduled for August 5 - 8 at Ft. Bragg. Details are included in this issue. We are certainly aware of the many facts regarding the current virus so we will be monitoring all this in the months to come. Also, I'm going to keep harping a bit on the new website - [9thinfantry.org](http://9thinfantry.org). We update it quarterly. I encourage you to visit the site and become familiar with it.

My best to all of you,  
Pete Stern, President

### THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION MARCH

The 9th Division March was included in a booklet entitled "*9th Division History*", originally published in the winter of 1944-45 and distributed to people in the unit and to replacements who joined the unit. An exact replica was reproduced and printed by Jack and Laverne Blann. Jack was a member of E Company, 47th Regiment and received the original when he joined the unit in February, 1945.

Here's to the 9th Division,  
The Division that's the Army's Pride;  
Here's to the 9th Division  
And it's brave and gallant men so true  
and tried.

We will be loyal to her,  
No stain shall mar her name;  
For freedom's cause we'll ever live  
And all the world shall know,  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Division proves her fame.

(continued on page 12)



### Inside this issue:

Memorial Fund, FFCF, Vets' Travel Fund	2
Taps Sounded	3
Letters to Loved Ones	4
76th Annual Reunion	5
Reunion Registration Form	6
On the Way to Vietnam	7
75th Business Mtg. Minutes	8
Treasurer Report	9
Financial Report	10
Officers, BOG, Membership Form	11

**9thinfantry.org**

### OUR MISSION

This Association was formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the *esprit de corps* of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau about the 9th Infantry Division.

## THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. Published four times yearly, January-March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

December 20 for the January publication  
March 20 for the April publication  
June 20 for the July publication  
September 20 for the October publication

Effective July 1, 2018, the annual fee for membership, which includes The Octofoil, is thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) and must be sent to the Membership Chairperson by check or money order made payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association.**

Send payment to: **Clare Irwin**  
**Membership Chairperson**  
**155 Jastram St.**  
**Providence, RI 02908**

**Telephone: 401-855-3760**  
**Email: clareirwin@hotmail.com**

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 Charitable Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter dated October 26, 2018. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Volume LIV, No. 4**

**Oct. Nov. Dec. 2020**

## Veterans' Travel Fund

The Veterans Travel Fund was established to provide financial assistance to our 9th Infantry Division veterans to attend our annual reunions.

The current balance in the Veterans' Travel Fund is \$5,570.99.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "Vets Travel Fund" and send to:

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043**



## Tip of the Hat

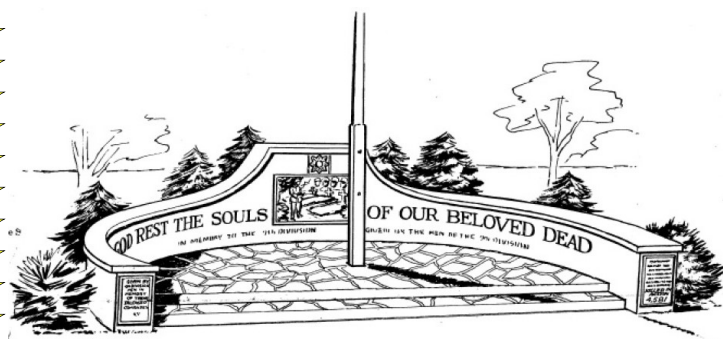
The Memorial Fund was established to remember our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

The current balance in the TOH fund is \$6,570.00.  
If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Please note in the memo section of the check "Tip of the Hat" and mail to:

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043-4659**



## Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund was established to maintain the 9th Infantry Division Memorial at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The current balance in the FFCF is \$6,294.95.  
Continued contributions for maintenance and lighting expenses would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "FFCF" and send to :

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, Tx. 77043.**

## TAPS SOUNDED

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.  
On Fame's eternal camping—ground their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.

*Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847*

### 9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor Recipients World War II

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William J. Nelson\*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943  
PFC Carl V. Sheridan\*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944  
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944  
\* Posthumous award

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

### Vietnam War

SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967  
SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.\*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968  
PFC James W. Fous\*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968  
SSG Don J. Jenkins, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Kien Phong Province; 6 January 1969  
SGT Leonard B. Keller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967  
SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Near Vinh Long; 6 February 1968  
SP4 George C. Lang, Company A, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 22 February 1969  
PFC David P. Nash\*, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Giao Duc District; 29 December 1968  
SP5 Clarence E. Sasser, Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ding Tuong Province; 10 January 1968  
SP4 Raymond R. Wright, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967  
\* Posthumous award

Sources: A Short History of the 9th Infantry Division and  
[www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com)



Clarence F. Ray  
47th Regt., L Co.



#### TAPS OBITUARIES



**Clarence F. Ray**  
**3rd Platoon**  
**47th Regiment, L Company**  
**1922-2020**

Clarence Fred Ray, 98, of Penn Run, PA died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born March 17, 1922 in Penn Run, he was the son of the late Fred Cameron Ray and Theda Sue (Ellenberger) Ray.

Clarence graduated from Indiana High School in 1938 at the age of 16.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army on December 8, 1942 where he became a Tech Sergeant and, later, a Rifle Platoon Sergeant during World War II in the European Theater. Clarence was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 47th Regiment, Company L, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. He arrived on Utah Beach, June 10, 1944, four days following the D-Day invasion by U.S. and Allied Forces. He received a Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster for injuries sustained in the line of duty. He was honorably discharged September 19, 1945.

Clarence also received the Combat Infantry Badge, Normandy Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Then 69 years later on June 6, 2013 he was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal, the highest honor given to a non-French citizen. He was awarded this prestigious medal at

#### TAPS OBITUARIES

the French Consulate in Washington D.C.

Following the war, Clarence worked on his farm for several years before taking a job as a pipefitter, a job he would keep for the rest of his working career. Clarence worked on the construction of the Alaska pipeline and at many other pipefitting jobs that took him to 37 states. He retired in 1988.

He was a former member of Graystone Presbyterian Church and a current member of the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Clarence was a Founding Charter Member of the Cherryhill Township Volunteer Fire Company, a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a life member of American Legion Post 141 of Indiana, a life member of VFW Post 1989 of Indiana, a life member of the Indiana Elks Club 931. He was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, 50-year-plus member of Local 798 of the Welders and Pipefitters Union and a member of the Forty and Eight Club Chapter 798.

Clarence was inducted into the Indiana County Voter Hall of Fame in 2016 for voting in 50 consecutive November elections. He was presented with a citation from Governor Tom Wolf for this accomplishment.

Clarence enjoyed working in his vegetable garden where he loved growing his Rutgers tomatoes and other vegetables that he happily shared with his family and friends. He also liked mowing and caring for his yard. He spent many winters in Dunedin, Florida where he would walk more than 1,000 miles dur-



ing the winter season. He was an outdoorsman who loved to hunt in his earlier years.

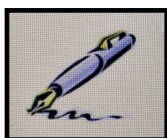
Clarence is survived by his second wife, Marlynn, his daughters, Theda P. Ray (Cindy Melson), Indiana, PA and Jane Mitchell (Fred), Penn Run, PA, his granddaughters, Gretchen Leigh Mitchell (Daniel Viderman), Monroeville, PA and Lindsey Robyn Lizik (Josh) of Houston, PA and two great grandchildren, Owen and Quinn Lizik. He is also survived by stepsons Michael R. Olson and James R. Olson, both of Randolph, NY.

In addition to his parents, Clarence was preceded in death by his first wife, Pearl (Leamer) Ray who died January 22, 2001. He was also preceded in death by his siblings, Helen Bradfield, Dorothy

Strong, Wayne Ray, infant brother, Max and infant sister, Mildred.

A private family viewing will take place on January 4 and a private funeral service at the Rairigh-Bence Funeral Home of Indiana on January 5 with Reverend Richard Cassel officiating. Burial with U.S. Army Military Honors will be at the Greenwood Cemetery, Indiana, PA with Reverend David Hanna officiating. Face masks and social distancing will be required by the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Ninth Infantry Division Association, c/o Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Road, Houston, TX 77043

Online condolences may be made at [www.rbfh.net](http://www.rbfh.net).



## Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



### ***Letter from Clarence Ray to his mother dated December 22, 1944***

Just a line to let you know I'm still kicking. Things aren't too bad with me. I am back with the outfit now. It's not as nice as the hospital, but things aren't nearly as tough as when I was with them before. It's sort of cold and damp out here, and it snowed some last night, so it looks as though we'll have a white Christmas. I haven't received any mail yet, but I'm looking for some any day now.

I suppose you are busy getting ready for Christmas. You know this will be the third Christmas away from home for Wayne and I. We'll hope that by next Christmas, we can all be together again. That will be a glorious celebration, won't it, Mom?

As I lay here with my cold feet, I can see you with your feet in the oven reading the paper.

When you see my friends and people I know back there, give them my very best regards and tell them I would like to write them, but my fingers get so darn cold, but I think of them just the same. I have finally gotten on German soil. It does my heart good to see their own country homes and artillery blown all to he \_\_. They will have something to do besides prepare for another war.

Well, my fingers are getting stiff so I'll sign off for this time. I'll write again as soon as I can. Don't worry about me. I'll be alright. God bless you, my good people.

Love to all,  
Clarence





## ***“Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina”***

**What better place could there have been to celebrate this 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association than where it began with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division training for WWII? It was unfortunate that the Covid-19 pandemic prevented this Reunion from taking place in person. However, the 2020 Reunion Committee met virtually to renegotiate plans to honor this milestone. We are happy to report that everything will happen as originally planned, just one year later as the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion.**

The Ft. Bragg Command has agreed again to host the Association for a special one-day event on-base. This will be only the fourth time that the Association has visited Ft. Bragg. Reunions were also held there in 1962, 1982 and 1992. This will be a unique opportunity to see where the troops trained over 78-79 years ago and give us a modern day glimpse into troop training today. Make your plans to come experience some Southern hospitality and visit the largest military base where the “Old Reliables” legend began.

### **Date**

Since the base activities need to be held during a weekday, the reunion schedule has been moved up a day. We will meet Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude with our annual banquet on Saturday night, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Check out will be on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> unless you decide to stay to enjoy the Fayetteville and North Carolina area.

### **Hotel**

This Reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Fayetteville, NC. It is conveniently located near I-95 and is approximately 15 miles from Ft. Bragg. A special room rate of \$102 per room has been negotiated which included a hot breakfast buffet for everyone in each booked room. There are also microwaves and mini fridges in every room along with in-room coffee. (See reunion application for specific registration details.)

### **Transportation**

Two regional airports and rail service are available to the Ft. Bragg region. Nearby Fayetteville Regional airport is served by both Delta and American Airlines. East Coast Amtrak routes also serve Fayetteville. The Clarion has a complimentary hotel shuttle to these local transportation venues. Raleigh-Durham offers more air carriers, but is approximately 60 miles away. There is no complimentary shuttle service to and from this airport.

### **Welcome Dinner**

Registration will be open all day on Thursday. The Board will hold the first of several meetings in the afternoon. During the evening, there will be a Welcome Dinner that will give you a taste of North Carolina cuisine that will have your mouth watering.

### **Fort Bragg**

After breakfast on Friday morning, the group will be transported to Fort Bragg for the Memorial Service on the parade grounds at the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division monument dedicated in 1982. Plans include a new plaque dedication to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Lunch will be provided at two of the mess halls where we will join the training airborne troops followed by two interesting on-base tours of training facilities. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel for those who are not interested or unable to participate. Afterwards, we will be transported to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum located in Fayetteville to enjoy a private tour and an Italian Buffet Dinner. It will be a full day of wonderful experiences which can be shared when we return to the hotel and chill out in the Hospitality Suite.

### **Saturday**

Saturday will be enjoyed in the hotel as we conduct the business of the Association and have a time of Show and Tell which has become a favorite for attendees. Bring an interesting item to share and discuss with all. There will be a video interview with 100 year old Herb Stern, one of our WWII veterans who trained at Ft. Bragg in 1941-42. You will find his memory of this time remarkable!

Of course, the reunion would not be complete without our traditional Banquet that will include a delicious meal, good fellowship, an exciting raffle, and wonderful entertainment.

More details about additional “after reunion activities” will be included in the next Octofoil. So please, meet new friends and reunite with those who share this common bond as we continue to remember those who have given so much for our freedom. Registration for this reunion is \$300 per person which includes all the scheduled events. A deposit of \$100 per person is due by April 1, with the remainder due by June 1. **We ask that you complete your registration by the due dates to facilitate a smooth planning process for the Reunion Committee.** We hope to see you in beautiful North Carolina as we return to relive and create special memories of times past and present.



Annual Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion

76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
Clarion Fayetteville I-95  
1944 Cedar Creek Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28312  
August 5-8, 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

The following names and contact information will be printed in the Reunion Program.

Name	Address	Telephone #	E-Mail Address

Please indicate if you are a 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veteran. If so, specify if you are:

WWII: \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. Lewis, WA \_\_\_\_\_

\*Banquet meal choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib (Slow Roasted with Natural Jus)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala with Portabella Mushrooms  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Wild Mushroom Orzo Risotto with  
Sun-dried Tomatoes, Shaved Parmigiana, Sweet Peas,  
Grilled Asparagus

\*If more than one in your party, please specify who has which meal choice beside each option:  
i.e., 2 Prime Rib (John & Mary) etc.

Please make checks payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association (write 2021 Reunion on memo line). A \$100 per person deposit is due by April 1, balance of \$200 per person by June 1, 2020.

Please submit this registration form and deposit to:

**Judy Rishel, 8029 Brightwood Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043**

Any questions about registration, please contact Judy @ (410)-299-6675 or jjr5277@gmail.com

To make your room reservations at the discounted rate of \$102, please contact the hotel directly at **910-323-1600** and reference the **Ninth Infantry Division Association**. Please specify if you need a handicapped room. Check-in time is 3:00PM and check-out time is 11:00AM. The Cut-off date for making reservations at the special rate is: **7/4/21**. **Any reservations made after this date will be subject to availability and at the hotel regular rate.**

## On the Way to Vietnam

*Written by Association member, Col. Charles Bonney  
9th MP Company, Vietnam*

On the last day of my first life, I was taking a trip to San Francisco. I was finally going off to war. I was excited, scared, and disbelieving that I was finally going to the show. I didn't have a clue about what the show would be like, but I was going to be a part of it. After arrival in San Francisco, I had a day before heading to Travis Air Force Base for the trip to Vietnam. I didn't do anything exciting, but did go to Ernie's that night before the flight out. God, it was the best thing I could have done. I was in uniform and that was not a popular item in the San Francisco of 1968. The greeter at the restaurant quickly disarmed me of my concerns and took me to a very nice table. During that evening meal, my waiter led me on a great meal trip. Steak au Poivre was my entree for that proverbial "last meal". Oh yes, there was a very hearty red wine too. At that time my West Texas background had furnished me with the knowledge that wines were white, red, something in between, and some fizzled. I greatly enjoyed the wine and what it brought to the meal. I was to taste all of it in my mind for a very long time to come.

Early the next morning, I went to the bay and looked out at the Golden Gate Bridge and all of the surroundings with great care. I stopped at a little stand and ate some warm bread and drank a cup of hot coffee. It was good but I had to go. I was beginning to have a strange feeling of detachment from the whole scene as my bus left San Francisco for Travis Air Force Base. This was a long way from Texas and an even longer way from anything I had ever imagined.

Later in the morning, my bus arrived at the hustle and bustle at the main gate of Travis Air Force Base. The late morning was full of sunshine and a gaggle of war protesters. They stood by the gate carrying placards and waiving North Vietnamese flags. Given the passions of that time, their scruffy and rather perpetually filthy appearance was sad but not very remarkable. I had seen similar folks in Texas. Another thing about the protestors was the uniformity in their peace symbol. The Mercedes dealers must have been doing a land office business in hood ornaments. It seemed that everyone milling around the gate was sporting that item as a part of their standard issue scruffy uniform. I laughed to myself and wondered what they were thinking as they yelled, cursed, and pointed their fingers at me and my fellow soldiers. I thought "Why do they think I run this show? We're just a bunch of spear chuckers that have been doing the country's business since day one." Even today, I have never been able to get anyone to give me a good response. Anyway, we looked through them and, as we entered the Base, I thought that it looked like grand central station and was painted khaki. Soldiers were everywhere and everyone seemed to be hurrying to someplace, but I didn't know where. The bus then came to a huge terminal and stopped.

After an orientation, I picked up my duffel bag and started towards a fellow calling for personnel reporting for shipment. I've always been pretty good at seeing the line and cueing up. It's

something the Army does a great job in teaching you from day one. The processing was fairly painless and soon I was sitting in the designated shipment area for my flight. I was surprised to learn that I was going to fly via TWA. While waiting, the Army had other things planned for our entertainment. We were called to go to another line that was an issue point for jungle fatigues. Oh yes, now this was what it was all about! Actual jungle fatigues! They were a light green fabric with lots of pockets and were loose fitting. It seemed that each pair was made to cover about three sizes. I was curious about the little strings at the bottom of each leg and wasn't sure why they were necessary. I would find out later.

I returned to the waiting area and sat on my duffel to wait. The aircraft was still showing "on time". Did you ever sit on a duffel bag for a long while? They look smooth but end up being very lumpy when turned into a seat. You find that you are either on the edge of a canteen cup or the lip of the helmet. Even though there is only one of each in the duffel bag, you sit on them no matter where you sit. That is the way a duffel bag fits your butt.

By now we were mooching cigarettes from one another and someone had gone on a cigarette run. Strangers became smoking and grumbling buddies as the time went by. We began to sort out where we were headed. If you have ever done that, you can remember the absolutely automatic brotherhood that was created when you found someone going to your outfit. I was on orders for the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and soon found another officer with similar orders. I was an MP "Butter Bar" Second Lieutenant and he was a First Lieutenant Infantry officer and also from Texas. Many years later, I would rub my hand on his name engraved into the wall near the Lincoln Memorial.

Our group covered the war zone, with most going to units such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions, the 197<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, and to transportation and other support elements. A total of six junior officers were headed for 9<sup>th</sup> ID units in the Mekong Delta. Finally, we were told that our plane was ready to load. We checked our duffel bags and walked in a line onto the apron and climbed the steep ramp onto the plane. I will always remember the feeling in my foot as it left the ramp onto the plane, snipping my connection to U.S. soil. I remember a chill running through my body and the thought, "Will this be the last time I touch home soil alive?" I have done it many times since then, but that feeling and thought never go away.

My group of six was able to stay intact as we were seated in the plane. Everyone was raring to go. I was able to get a window seat and wanted to see the last piece of US mainland that I could. It wasn't long until we lifted off the runway. I wasn't the only guy straining to catch every available glimpse of home as it dropped beneath us. Soon we were high over the ocean and the coastline went out of sight. It was bright outside, but it seemed as if the sky had turned dark and I felt so alone. After about 18 steady hours of jet flying, with several brief stops on the way, the shoreline of Vietnam came into view and my next life began.





**Minutes of the 75<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, August 8, 2020**  
**Via Conference Call**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place via conference call and was called to order by President Peter Stern at 11:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. He thanked all members who were able to join and reminded the group of the meeting agenda. He reviewed the purposes of a 501(c)3 and the Association's mission.

Roll call was taken by Clare Irwin by calling out the names of all members on record. Those present responded with aye. There were enough members for a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed with a prayer given by Dennis Bonkowski.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 74<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting were printed in the July – September 2019 Octofoil. Charles Bonney made the following motion. MOTION: To approve the minutes printed in the Octofoil, Theda Ray seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report**

President Peter Stern reported that this is our first full year as a 501(c)3. He thanked our attorney Tina Melo for her help in moving us to this organizational status and for producing the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws that guide us. We have continued accepting individual member donations and will look at contributions from outside the association.

We have submitted our first tax return with our organizational structure. We also have a new website – 9thinfantry.org which started in May 2020. A budget for the fiscal year starting July 2020 was developed by Treasurer Mary Cooper and approved by the Board of Governors on May 19, 2020. Clare Irwin worked on a number of membership-related issues in the past year. Terry Barnhart and the Reunion Committee worked with Ft. Bragg to set up the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion, which is now postponed until next summer. The Octofoils have gone out quarterly as planned. Dennis Bonkowski chaired the nomination process for the Board of Governors and officers.

Other Business today will include a reading by Terry Barnhart of *Bivouac of the Dead* and Taps played by Peter Stern. Both are usually included in our Memorial Service. Peter thanked everyone for their continued participation and support of the Association.

**Financial Report**

Mary Cooper reported that she met with the Board of Governors on May 19, 2020, via a conference call and a budget was approved that we will be using in the future. This is recommended by our legal counsel. The budget will be stating our expenses quarterly in the Octofoil for our members to understand more easily. We will continue to have our designated funds; General, Octofoil, Octofoil Library Project, Memorial Fund, Friends of Father Connor Fund, Reunion, and Vets Travel Fund. Legal and Website are big expenses for the coming year. Mary hopes that members will sign up for the Octofoil electronically. This will save the organization money on printing and postage. If any member has a question about the budget or our finances please email her at any time. Peter praised Mary's job as treasurer.

**Membership Report**

Clare Irwin, Dennis Bonkowski, Kathy Tapelt, and Jan Sewick, make up the membership committee. They discussed reasons for decline of membership: people forgetting to send in money or the passing of members. They are rebuilding the database which had 1300 names in 2001. Active member Data Base includes; Veterans, Veteran Spouses or Widows, Lineal Descendants or Other. The committee will be looking into the following for 2020–2021:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Who has not paid dues for 2020.           | 2) Invitation to join, first electronically then by mail. |
| 3) Review Reunion Booklet from last 3 years. | 4) Have a consistent membership ID for all members.       |

Pete thanked Clare and her committee for all their work and reminds members to send in their money for renewal.

**Octofoil Report**

109 copies of The Octofoil were sent out in the last mailing. Please continue to send in your articles and pictures. Terry Barnhart has done a marvelous job with his article on the History of the 9<sup>th</sup>, *In the Last 75 years*. Remember to ask to receive your Octofoil electronically. Thanks to Theda Ray and Jane Mitchell for all their hard work.

**Reunion Report**

Due to the fact that we had to postpone our reunion this year, the committee of Mary Kay Darr, Judy Rishel, Charles Bonney and Terry Barnhart, will continue to work with Ft. Bragg and want to do the same things for the 76<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We will meet **Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**, and conclude with our annual banquet on **Saturday night, August 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will stay at the Clarion in Fayetteville. The agenda will stay the same. More information to come. We look forward to seeing everyone in person next year.

**Website Report**

Peter Stern acknowledged committee members Terry Barnhart, Mary Cooper, Clare Irwin and Theda Ray. The committee completed a request for proposal process and selected Richard Suls as our new webmaster. Peter shared the site name again, 9thinfantry.org, and reviewed the basic sections of the site. Updates of certain sections are planned each year. Everyone should visit the site and please let Peter know of any questions or suggestions.

**Nominations Committee**

The Bylaws allow current BOG members to be reappointed which is considered a second term. The committee of Dennis Bonkowski,



Linda Jorden, and Theda Ray, contacted the seven members of the Board of Governors whose terms are expiring in 2020 and asked if they would be interested in serving another three-year term. The following members have agreed to serve for another three-year term: Terry Barnhart, Charles Bonney, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin, and Judy Rishel. Glenda Baswell respectfully declined. The committee thanked her for her years of service on the Board and for chairing the 2018 Reunion in Southaven, Mississippi.

The Association's Officers, President Peter Stern, Vice-President Dennis Bonkowski, Secretary JoAnn Bryant, and Treasurer Mary Cooper have offered to serve in their positions for another year.

Glenda Baswell made the following motion. MOTION: To approve the renewal of the three-year terms seconded by Janet Casanave and passed unanimously.

We will have a later conference call of Board of Governors to approve officers.

#### **Other Business**

Terry Barnhart read two stanzas from *Bivouac of the Dead*.

Terry Barnhart asked about the Archives of Holy Cross. He will check to see if school is opened. We need to update the library with missing issues of The Octofoil.

Charles Bonney asked how many people had registered for the 75<sup>th</sup> reunion. Judy Rishel responded that 55 had been mailed in.

Taps was played by President Peter Stern.

Thanks to all for being on call today to offer your participation and support.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 Central Standard Time.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoAnn Bryant, secretary

#### **Ninth Infantry Division Association Budget 2020-2021**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2020-2021 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>2020-2021 Actual YTD as of 12/1/20</b>
Friends of Father Connor Fund Donations	700	1,265
General Memorial Donations	1,200	20
Membership Dues	5,300	2,759
Reunion	11,000	1,050
Veteran's Travel Fund	1,000	500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,593.65</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>
Accounting	2,000	1325
General Donations	1,200	
Legal (includes filing fees)	300	
Membership (includes postage)	300	
Misc.	350	
Octofoil - Printing	1,000	280.04
Octofoil - Postage		319.56
President	50	
Reunion	11,000	1,225
Treasurer (includes postage and Ck Or-	100	55
Veteran's Travel Fund	1,000	
Website	1,200	502
Worcester Memorial Wreath & Upkeep	700	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,706.60</b>

#### **NOTE:**

Other funds in designated accounts;

OLP	587.29
Gen. Memorial Donations	\$6,570.00
FFCF Donations	6294.95
Reunion	14,203.46
Veterans' Travel Fund	5,570.99

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cooper, Treasurer



**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)-  
INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 7/01/20 TO 9/30/20  
Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.**

	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE
<b>REVENUE</b>		
General Fund Income	\$2,514	\$2,514
Memorial Fund Income	20	20
FFCF Donation Income	1,265	1,265
Veterans Travel Income	500	500
75th-2020 Reunion Income	550	550
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$4,849</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 4,849</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Website Expenses	275	275
Postage Expenses	202	202
Printing and Copies	157	157
Accounting Expense	450	450
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$1,084</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,084</u></b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>3,764</u></b>	<b><u>3,764</u></b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 9/30/20**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

General Fund Cash	\$24,309
Octofoil Library Project Cash	587
Memorial Fund Cash	6,570
FFCF Cash	6,295
Veterans Travel Fund	5,571
Reunion Cash	12,978
Event Vendor Deposits	1,225
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$57,535</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$57,535</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg.	\$53,771
Current Surplus (Deficit)	<u>3,764</u>

**Total Net Assets** **57,535**

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **57,535**



# Officers and Board of Governors 2020-2021

## Officers

Peter Stern, President 3338 SW Alameda Dr., Topeka, KS 66614	785-213-2968 petetrpt@gmail.com
Dennis Bonkowski, Vice President 17929 Winsome, Fraser, MI 48026	586-533-0343 bonkod@gmail.com
JoAnn Bryant, Secretary 5235 Harter Farms Rd., High Ridge, MO 63049	314-308-2349 jlbryant1@charter.net
Mary Cooper, Treasurer 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043	281-679-0588 ztamkcooper@sbcglobal.net

## Board of Governors

### Terms Expiring 2021

Dennis Bonkowski 17929 Winsome, Fraser, MI 48026	586-533-0343 bonkod@gmail.com
JoAnn Bryant 5235 Harter Farms Rd., High Ridge MO 63049	314-308-2349 jlbryant1@charter.net
Joyce Schumacher 823 S. Broadleigh Rd., Columbus, OH 43209	614-338-1136 schum2817@gmail.com

Peter Stern 3338 SW Alameda Dr., Topeka, KS 66614	785-213-2968 petetrpt@gmail.com
--	------------------------------------

### Terms Expiring 2022

Linda Jorden 429 Wabash Ct., The Villages, FL 32163	757-450-5623 linjorden@aol.com
Theda Ray 1040 Hickory Ln., Indiana, PA 15701	310-384-0233 thedapearl2014@gmail.com
Janet Schnall 18385 17th Pl. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177	206-542-7774 schnallj@yahoo.com

### Terms Expiring 2023

Terry Barnhart 830 Lotus Way, Broomfield, CO 80020	303-466-9364 trbrnhrt@ix.netcom.com
Charles Bonney 700 Barton Creek Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620	512-858-5609 cbonney@austin.rr.com
Mary Cooper 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043	281-679-0588 ztamkcooper@sbcglobal.net
Mary Kay Darr 4689 Hastings Spring Rd, Walkertown, NC 27051	336-682-9386 karymay925@aol.com
Clare Irwin, Membership Chairperson 155 Jastram St., Providence, RI 02908	401-855-3760 clareirwin@hotmail.com
Judy Rishel 8029 Brightwood Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043	410-379-5831 jjr5277@gmail.com

### Advisor to the Board of Governors 2020-2021

Jack Dauner

### Publishers/Editors *The Octofoil*

Jane Mitchell 89 Ray Rd., Penn Run, PA 15765	412-289-9892 jane.mitchell49@gmail.com
Theda Ray 1040 Hickory Ln., Indiana, PA 15701	310-384-0233 thedapearl2014@gmail.com



# The Ninth Infantry Division Association Membership Application

July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

9-DIGIT ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## Regular Annual Membership Fee Includes *The Octofoil* Newsletter

### Amount Due

Regular Annual Member (\$35.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

*(9th Infantry Division WWII Veterans and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam War Veterans serving in combat or peace time, Widows, Spouses, Lineal Descendants, and any other party interested in the history or the values of the 9th Infantry Division)*

Foreign Country Renewals (\$45.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

### Amount Paid

### CHECK ✓ MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ (See Veterans Section Below)

Veteran Spouse or Widow \_\_\_\_\_

Lineal Descendant \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### The Octofoil Newsletter

Check one only:

Digital (email) version \_\_\_\_\_

Print (USPS) version \_\_\_\_\_

### Veterans Section:

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Battery \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

Other 9<sup>th</sup> unit \_\_\_\_\_

Years Active (ex. 1968-69) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

### The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to: Clare Irwin, Membership Chair  
155 Jastram Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Membership dues can also be paid online at [9thinfantry.org](http://9thinfantry.org).  
It is quick and easy, and saves postage.

9-2020





# ***THE OCTOFOIL***

**1040 Hickory Ln  
Indiana, PA 15701-2438**

**Return Service Requested**

(continuation of the ***9th Division March*** from page 1)

We will protect our birthright,  
Liberty's sons are we,  
We will be slaves to no might,  
Americans are free.

We serve our flag and country,  
Every soldier is a fortress strong;  
Giving our best to our country  
We will be the victors tho' the strife  
    be long;  
We do not fear the battle,  
We're ready for the fray;  
Keeping hearts and courage high,  
United as we go – the 9th Division  
    leads the way.

