



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Volume 20

Fall 2014

Number 1

Presidents Message

Let me start out by thanking you for your continued membership and support of this organization. Unfortunately we live in a time when the following generation does not seem to be in joining associations such as ours. As a result we are seeing our ranks decline which makes it harder to keep things functioning. We have amended our membership criteria to include all current or former members of the Army Reserve regardless of the unit they served with, and we have yet to see a rush of new members. We need your help to reach out to those who you served with to get them to join the Association so that we can continue to function.

As we all probably realize the Army is once again downsizing. What this is doing to the thinking of the Army's leadership can be seen in the Chief of Staff's message in the October 2014 to January 2015 issue of Echoes, The Newsletter for Retired Soldiers. This article identifies a number of initiatives that are underway that you may find interesting. Check it out at:

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

The main emphasis of the Army's leadership's is the belief that "Retired Soldiers and veterans are **Soldiers for Life** whose dedicated service to the nation should be recognized." To help accomplish this a new logo that incorporates the Army trademark with the slogan "Soldier for Life" has been approved and will be used in lapel buttons for civilian wear and badges for wear on the Army Service Uniform (ASU). There will be one variation for Retired Soldiers and another for veterans. The new logos will be incorporated into existing Army regulations and be available for issue and purchase over the next year.

The Army expects that "the lapel buttons will initiate conversations with Americans who see them. This will allow Retired Soldiers and

veterans to tell their Army stories and reinforce the bond between Americans and their Army." Not a bad idea to keep our image in front of the public, much as the Marine Corps has done so successfully for a long long time.

If you're interested in history as I am you might consider a membership in the Army Historical Foundation (<https://armyhistory.org/>) which is conducting a campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army. With your membership you receive "On Point the Journal of Army History" which I have found to be an interesting collection of articles and tidbits of information. For example In the Fall 2014 issue it is reported that:

"In July, the Selective Service System (SSS) mistakenly sent notices to over 14,000 Pennsylvania men reminding them to register with Selective Service. Due to an error in transferring records from Pennsylvania's Department of Motor Vehicles database to that of SSS, some 27,000 records of men born in the 1890s were sent to SSS. By the time the error had been discovered, SSS had sent out notices to 14,250 men, the youngest of whom would have been 117 years old. SSS issued an apology on its website on 10 July and stated the files of the men had been deactivated."

I guess this goes to show that you may be long gone, but your records live on forever.

Have a safe holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Chuck Ebner BG (USA Retired)

ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER
... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE

