



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

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Presidents Message PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I think everyone will agree that it has been a strange and stressful year. In response to the pandemic we canceled the Annual Meeting and with no Annual Meeting we decided to not publish an Annual Report. The Board of Governors has been meeting on Zoom and we are trying to determine the best course of action for the Association once this crisis has passed. To assist us in developing a new Mission Statement we have decided that we need input from the membership on what you want from the Association. To get this we have developed the attached survey of that we ask you to complete and return to Jim Wisenbaker no later than 15 October 2020.

To help you in completing the survey the Board thought that a brief history on how we got to where we are was in order.

The 63rd Infantry Division USAR was activated in Hazard Park on San Pablo Street in East Los Angeles in February 1952. It was inactivated in 1965 and reactivated as the 63rd ARCOM at that time remaining in East Los Angeles until it moved in 1981 to Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center, California. The 63rd Infantry Division Association (USAR) was established in 1966 following the inactivation of the 63rd Infantry Division (USAR). From 1981 to December 6, 2009, the "63rd" remained at Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center when it was once again inactivated, redesignated as the 63rd Regional Support Command and relocated to Moffett Field, California. The "63rd" Headquarters at Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center was succeeded by the 79th Sustainment Support Command (USAR) which has since been redesignated as the 79th Theater Sustainment Command (USAR). While the 79th TSC has a real-world mission to support AFRICOM, it also has the regional command and control of the combat support and combat service support units that remain in California and Arizona. Many of these units at one time reported to the 63rd.

Historically the "63rd" Association membership consisted primarily of Soldiers and Family members who fell under the umbrella of the "63rd" Command, or friends and supporters of the "63rd". With the relocation and re-missioning of the "63rd" Headquarters, coupled with the activation of the 79th TSC (USAR) we no longer have the pool of "Blood and Fire" patch wearing Soldiers in our area of operation to join our Association. Your "63rd" USAR Association Board of Governors has remained centered in the Los Angeles area/basin and recognize this challenge.

As I have discussed in the past our membership is declining. By completing and returning the survey you will provide needed input to the Board on what our future course of action should be. Be Safe.

Chuck Ebner

BG Ret. USA

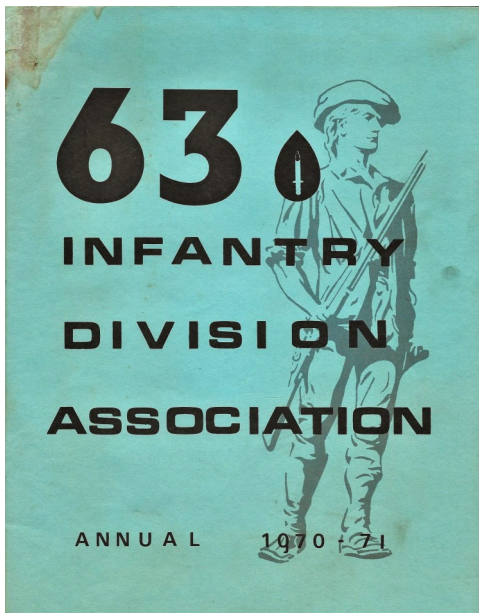
It's important to hear your voice in the direction of our association. To return your completed survey, please fill out, then remove the center page and send it via US Postal Service to Secretary, 63rd Inf. Div., (USAR), 16352 Serenade Ln, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

An alternative way would be to address it to Email: Jwisenb662@gmail.com. The simplest method is to fill out the questions and then Scan it into a "JPG" or "PDF" format, and send it as an enclosure to your email.

If you do not have a scanner, or cannot scan it into the Email, please just send the answers to the questions (in an Email), so the Secretary can tabulate them (i.e. for Q1: answer a; Q2: answer c; Q3: answer f (with explanation); etc.) Hopefully, one of these 3 options will be available to you, and we can get your Input.

We would like your responses by October 15, 2020. Again It's important to hear your voice in the direction of our association.

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Best Regards,
Jim Wisedog



President's Message:

Although over five years have gone by since the de-activation of the Division, the interest of the 63d Infantry Division Association continues, and I am pleased to announce that we have had an increase in the membership to 150.

It seems to me we are living in the period when most of the radicals, misfits, rioters, people who have contempt for law and order, and people who show disrespect toward religion, teachers, government officials, and uniformed men who are serving our country are getting all the publicity. It is high time some of us good guys get similar recognition and publicity.

With this in mind I have initiated a program through the approval of the board to officially recognize past presidents and current members of the board who have served two years or more. I hope this action will let the officers who served the Association know that we appreciate their contribution. Secondly, we hope to attract other people to serve and recognize that the elected members of the board hold positions of honor.

Although many of us are retired from active USAR or about to in the next few years, we should not retire our brain power, experience, leadership, and our patriotism. We have within the 63d Infantry Division Association a fantastic amount of talent. It is my hope that more of this positive power will be utilized for the good of our country. It will take sincere dedicated leadership to carry out such a program. I am confident we have many such leaders among the members. We want to actively support the ROTC. We want to endorse and encourage other organizations who are striving to improve our youth and environment. We can not afford the luxury of doing nothing.

May I take this means to thank the board for their faithful support during the current administration. Many good men will occupy the chair of the presidency in the future, but you will not find any one more proud than I for the privilege of being your president.

Proudly yours,

JIMMY S. GOZAWA
LTC Inf USAR
President

In Memoriam

GENERAL FREDERICK (FRITZ) KROESCH (USA-RET.)

General Frederick (Fritz) Kroesch (USA-Ret.), a former board member of The Army Historical Foundation, passed away on April 30, 2020, at the age of 97. His life and the life of his family embodied the principal story lines of the *Fighting for the Nation* Galleries—from the American Revolution to the present—in the National Museum of the United States Army.

The Continental Army, created on June 14, 1775 and in which one of his forebears served, was originally composed of infantry. Lieutenant Kroesch was commissioned in the Infantry through Officer Candidate School in 1944 prior to commanding a platoon and then an Infantry company in the 254th Infantry Regiment, 83d Infantry Division, during World War II. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge in three different wars (World War II, Korea, and Vietnam)—a rarity. Later, when he served as Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), he and his wife were injured by a terrorist attack on his armored sedan, which caused General Kroesch to observe, “that’s twice the Germans have shot at me and missed.”

General Kroesch commanded an Infantry battalion, brigade, two different divisions (the 23rd Infantry Division in Vietnam and the 82d Airborne at Fort Bragg), and VII Corps in Germany. He later commanded U.S. Army Forces Command and USARF and in between served as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. After his retirement in 1983, he became one of the most prolific authors in the annals of *AD&M* magazine—which continued into the 90s. It was during that time he served as a distinguished and insightful member of The Army Historical Foundation’s Board of Directors and enthusiastically supported the creation of The Army’s own National Museum.



**“THAT’S TWICE
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VETERANS’ HALL UPDATE



Even though opening is postponed, work continues at the National Museum of the United States Army. Here are some great shots of the progress on the Veterans’ Hall. To learn more about how your organization can join the ranks of supporters of this special place inside the National Army Museum and forever honor your group’s membership on the Veterans’ Hall Wall, visit <https://armyhistory.org/veteranshall/>.



63D INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, USAR
 16352 Serenade Lane
 Huntington Beach, CA 92647
 E-mail: JWisemb662@gmail.com
 Website: <https://www.63rdinfdivassnusr.com>

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Rank/Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Street _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

City/State _____ Zipcode _____

Spouse's Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

Present or former assignments in 63d Inf Div WWII 63d Inf Div USAR

63d ARCOM 63d RSC/RRC/RRSC or geographic area of responsibility under any of these Organizations. _____

Life Membership \$50 3 Years \$25 1 Year \$10

Make check payable to 63d Inf Div Assn USAR

Send application and payment to

COL Ben Colcol 2518 Alki Place, Anaheim, CA 92806



HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU! Please send your current email address to our Secretary at Jwisemb662@gmail.com,