



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Winter 2017

Happy New Year!

As most of the membership knows the purpose of the Association is “to perpetuate the history and honor of the 63d Infantry Division (WWII & USAR) and all other US Army Reserve units....” The Board of Directors is always looking for ways to do this. One idea currently under consideration is to participate in the Commemorative Brick Program of the National Museum of the United States Army. The Association would purchase a 8”x8” brick with an inscription noting units that are part of the 63d Infantry Division Legacy that will become a part of the National Museum of the United States Army now under construction at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The challenge is how to fit our message onto the small brick. A second action under consideration is the placement of a plaque at JTFB Los Alamitos to recognize that the 63d was at one time an important part of the base. A committee has been formed to meet with the

recognition of the other USAR units that were once part of Los Al but are no longer there due to relocation or inactivation.

Plans are being put in place for our Annual Meeting. This year we are scheduled to meet on 30 April 2017. Like last year our “program” will be provided by our members. Plan to attend and bring us your Army story.

Chuck Ebner
BG USA Retired

Check out our new website:
<http://63rdinfdivassn.wixsite.com>

For historical information regarding the 63rd Infantry Division during WWII go to
www.63rdinfdiv.com

RIP MY FRIEND!!!!
SGM Sherry L. Eason

1931 - 2016 Obituary Condolences
SGM Sherry L. Eason Obituary

1931 - 2016

Sergeant Major Sherry L. Eason, 85, went to be with the Lord on October 14, 2016. A veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Eras, SGM Eason retired from the United States Army Reserve in 1991 after 24 years of service. At the time of her retirement, she was assigned to the 377th Battalion and was a recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Occupational Medal (Japan), Korea Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and Army Good Conduct Medal.

SGM Eason entered into the Army as a Clerk Typist and promoted her way to a successful U.S. Army Reserve Recruiter. Her tours include numerous stateside assignments and a tour of duty in Japan.

Sergeant Major Eason was born on February 23, 1931 in Sierra Blanca, TX. She is preceded in death by her father, James L. Eason; mother, Velma L. Craig and sister, Treda M. Hadley. She is survived by her sisters, Colleen M. Shroyer of Long Beach, CA and Heyla J. Bingham of Albuquerque, NM, and her brother, John G. Craig of Colorado Springs, CO. A Memorial Service is scheduled for February 23, 2017, 2:15PM at Riverside National Cemetery. Please sign the guest book at www.presstelegram.com/obits.
Obituary News - Press-Telegram
Obituaries from Press-Telegram
legacy.com

Lieutenant Colonel Paul S. Olson passed peacefully on 31 December 2016. He joined the 63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR in 1969 and became a life member in April 1974. Paul is survived by his wife Elaine and three Daughters..

According to LTC Don Wirth, he and Jim Wright met Paul when the three Lieutenants were assigned as Platoon leaders in Company B, 163rd Signal Battalion, 63rd Infantry Division, USAR in the spring of 1959. They stayed in the battalion until December 1965, when the Division was dissolved. Paul's final assignment in the Battalion was Commander of Company C. The three of them attended the Advanced Signal Officers course and C & GS at the USAR School together Paul's final assignment in the USAR was Secretary of the 6222 USARF School.

President Obama Signs Into Law Congressman Lowenthal Legislation Renaming Long Beach VA Medical Center After Holocaust Survivor and SoCal War Hero Tibor Rubin

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 19, 2016) – President Barack Obama on Friday signed into law legislation introduced by Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA-47) to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Long Beach, California, as the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center in honor of Holocaust survivor and Medal of Honor recipient Tibor Rubin.

The bill, H.R. 6323, was introduced earlier this month with the support and backing of the entire 53 member California House Delegation. California's two Senators, Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, also supported the renaming effort, along with numerous veterans groups in California including, the American Legion, AMVETS, DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Rubin was born in Hungary on June 18, 1929. He survived fourteen months in a Nazi concentration camp in Austria during World War II, where his parents and sisters died, and was eventually liberated by the U.S. Army. Inspired by the American soldiers who rescued him, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, eventually being deployed in early 1950 as a member of the U.S. Army's 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War.

Despite facing religious discrimination from his sergeant—who sent Mr. Rubin on the most dangerous assignments and withheld his commendation—Mr. Rubin fought valiantly in several notable engagements. In one such engagement, Mr. Rubin enabled the complete withdrawal of his fellow soldiers by solely defending a hill under an overwhelming assault by North Korean troops.

On a later assignment, Mr. Rubin was severely wounded and captured. During his interment in a POW camp, he disregarded his own personal safety and immediately began sneaking out of the camp at night in search of food for his comrades. Risking certain torture or death if caught, he provided food to the starving Soldiers and desperately needed medical care for the wounded of the POW camp using improvised medical techniques. His brave, selfless efforts during his captivity were directly attributed to saving the lives of as many as forty of his fellow prisoners.

For his gallantry in close contact with the enemy and his unyielding courage and bravery while a prisoner of war, Mr. Rubin was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2005. Mr. Rubin's war-time heroism, both during combat and later as a prisoner of war, are true examples of the Medal of Honor goal to recognize "... conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."

"I am honored and humbled to see the President sign into law my legislation to name the VA Medical Center in Long Beach after an American hero," Congressman Lowenthal said. "Throughout his life, Tibor Rubin was dedicated and devoted to helping others through acts of kindness, courage and bravery. When challenges came his way he remained steadfast and determined to help others around him. I am proud to have met and represented such an honorable man like Mr. Rubin; I know the VA Medical Center in our community will pay tribute to his legacy and it is my hope that it serves as an inspiration to those that come after him."

Mr. Rubin was also fiercely proud of his adopted American heritage. He once said that America is, "the best country in the world and I am part of it now. I do not have to worry about the Gestapo knocking on my door tonight. I have shalom peace; people die for it."

Mr. Rubin was a long-time resident of Garden Grove, California and received services from the Long Beach VA Medical Center. He passed away almost one year ago on December 5, 2015.

To read the full bill text visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6323/text>.



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