

# THE 7th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

WAR OF 1812  
MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR  
CIVIL WAR  
INDIAN WARS  
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR  
PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION



WW I  
WW II  
KOREA  
VIETNAM  
COLD WAR  
SOUTHWEST ASIA  
IRAQ

## THE COTTONBALER

Volume XXVIII No. 2

The Cottonbaler

Summer 2017



***2017 Cottonbaler Reunion members at the  
Cottonbaler Monument, Ft. Stewart***

***30th Anniversary of The 7th Infantry Regiment Association***

***Monday 29 May to Thursday 1 June 2017***

***Hilton Savannah Desoto • Savannah GA 31401***

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•••••

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CSM Robert Controne, USA, CSM\*

**3d Battalion, 7th Infantry**  
LTC Justin D. Harper, USA, CDR\*  
CSM Michael E. Davenport\*

\* Denotes active duty

*The Cottonbaler is an official,  
quarterly publication of the  
7th Infantry Regiment  
Association*

**OBJECTIVES  
of the  
7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

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1. To create and perpetuate a viable and cohesive national organization for the purpose of enjoying the camaraderie and unique membership, and in unison, voice concern for the protection of our cherished American ideals and our individual way of life.
2. To support the military policy that maintains reasonable but strong nuclear and conventional, combat-ready regular and reserve component forces, able to provide adequate national security for our nation and its people.
3. To foster the development of good citizenship, patriotism, and leadership in our American youth, the future of our nation.
4. To insure that posterity is constantly reminded of those instances of service, sacrifice, and dedication to the preservation of our nation’s liberty and freedom by celebrating those dates that recall the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of the United States, and especially the 7th Infantry Regiment and its component units.
5. To encourage and achieve the mutual benefit and support resulting from a close and cooperative alliance between the Association and the active units of the 7th Infantry Regiment in the United States Army.

**PLEASE SEND ANY  
ADDRESS CHANGES  
OR CORRECTIONS TO**

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16 Sharon Parkway  
North Smithfield, RI 02896  
XUANLOC@aol.com

**Check out our website: [www.cottonbalers.com](http://www.cottonbalers.com)**

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### Cottonbalers on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/28462933742/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/28462933742/)

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### Receive Your Cottonbaler Newsletter Electronically via Email

To help save printing and mailing costs, members may now receive their Cottonbaler Newsletter via email. Email versions will arrive about 2 weeks before members receive it in the mail.

If you are interested in this option, please email our Secretary, Fr. Phil Salois, at [xuanloc@aol.com](mailto:xuanloc@aol.com). You can change your mind any time and go back to receiving your newsletter by regular mail.

Members, particularly Life Members who no longer have to pay the annual membership fee, are encouraged to donate toward the operating expenses of the Association each year. Send your contribution directly to our treasurer, Joe Washart, 504 Brooke Avenue, Magnolia, NJ 08049-1106.



Reunion Banner and the Belgian Cottonbaler Flag, (compliments of Bob Boucart), welcoming reunion attendees to the Hospitality Suite

### DISCLAIMER

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While material received for publication is screened for relevance, good taste and general content, the Editor is not responsible for its technical accuracy. If readers wish to challenge the accuracy of an article published in *The Cottonbaler*, whether contributed by an Association member or reprinted from an outside source, they are welcome to do so by writing to the Editor and explaining the basis for the challenge. Such letters will also be published, if appropriate.

## ***PRESIDENT'S PAGE***

***by Greg Cullison, Association President***

**G**reetings, Cottonbalers! I hope this edition of The Cottonbaler finds you and your families doing well this summer.

I am always pleased to receive our 7th Infantry Regiment Association newsletter in the mail, and it is my privilege today to open the Summer 2017 edition as your new association president. By way of introduction, I served in A Co, 3/7 Infantry from 1989 to 1992, and deployed with the Cottonbalers and the 24th Infantry Division during the Gulf War. Since then, I entered the Air Force as a Medical Service Corps officer, and I am 22 years into a military healthcare administration career. I write this from Hill Air Force Base in Utah as my family and I prepare to travel to Europe for an assignment at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Speaking of travels, many of us just returned from our 2017 Reunion in the beautiful and historic city of Savannah, Georgia. What a great time we had. Dave and Sissie Jensen put together a superb program that included a trip to Fort Stewart, a Ladies' Tea, a lively (and lucrative) fundraiser auction, and a memorable Cottonbaler Banquet on the top floor of the Hilton Savannah Desoto, with stunning 360-degree views of the picturesque city below. Please see Dave Jensen's great recap of the reunion appearing later in this newsletter.

At the reunion, we held our association elections, and on behalf of all of our members, I am proud to announce the results:

President: Greg Cullison

1st Vice President: Robert Burns

2nd Vice President Shawn Hubner

New Board Members:

Stephen Borkowski, James Norris, and  
Larry 'Biggie' Unruh

We thank all of you for your continued service to the Regiment and our Association. I look forward to serving with you.

While at Fort Stewart, we were fortunate to receive thought-provoking briefings by current leadership of our active duty battalions. They provided details of recent and upcoming training events and future rotations and exercises. In addition, we learned of a decision by the Army to reorganize a Brigade Combat Team within the 3rd Infantry Division. Unfortunately, this involves the inactivation of the 3rd Battalion of our 7th Infantry Regiment in October, 2017. There will be a ceremony at Fort Stewart to commemorate this momentous event in our regimental history, and I encourage members of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association to attend the ceremony to help pay homage to all of those who served in the 3rd Battalion over the years and around the world. We will post news of the event on our website as details are available.

While we have just completed a very enjoyable reunion in Savannah, it is now time to announce the location of our Cottonbaler 2019 Reunion...in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Chattanooga offers gorgeous scenery, with Lookout Mountain towering above and the Tennessee River winding around the city. There will be adventures to explore in the mountains, on the river, and in underground caves, along with a rich military history to discover. Details and exact dates will follow in future editions of The Cottonbaler, but please mark your calendars for June of 2019, and let's plan to get together in Chattanooga for the best reunion yet!

**VOLENS ET POTENS**

Greg ♦

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I want to thank all those Cottonbalers and their Ladies that were able to make it to Savannah to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) at our 2017 Reunion. I truly think we honored the Association's founding fathers with an outstanding event. It was a real tribute to them and to the Active Duty Cottonbalers of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 7th Infantry Regiment to have (40) association members, and (26) spouses register for the reunion, and with family and friends (77) attend the banquet.

Thanks again, to our active duty Cottonbalers for hosting a great day at Fort Stewart. We really enjoyed the time we spent with the young Cottonbalers! My take is that they are as proud to be Cottonbalers as we are. Our prayer is that many of them will join us in the brotherhood of association members in the years to come to continue the work of keeping alive the legacy and traditions of the premier regiment of the United States Army.



Immediate Past President Dave Jensen

Once again, we need to give a special thanks to the ladies of the regiment for all you do! Well done Cottonbalers!

It was especially encouraging, and so much fun, to welcome (8) members and (3) spouses as first-time reunion attendees to this year's reunion. Thanks to all of you for making this reunion very special. Please plan to join us for many years to come.

I hope everyone had as good a time as Sissie and I did. Now is the time to start contacting Cottonbalers you know and served with about the next reunion in the spring of 2019, location and dates to be determined. Hunt them down, call them, e-mail them, visit them, but get them to come and join in on the fun, all "Cottonbalers by God," "Damn Fine Soldiers."

Immediate Past President

Dave Jensen ♦

### 2017 Boswell Scholarship Awardees and Sponsors

Congratulations to the 2017 Boswell Scholarship winners:

<u>Awardee</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Sophia Allen	\$2000	Kirk Allen
Olivia Sasso	\$2000	Joseph Sasso
Margaret Cullison	\$1000	Greg Cullison
Robert Burns	\$1000	Rob Burns
Haley E. Holman	\$1000	Bob Schmitt
Aliyah J. Schmitt	\$1000	Bob Schmitt

# EDITOR'S NOTES

by David Spanburg

**Burden of Command** – an upcoming video game that puts in your charge of a Company of Cottonbalers in North Africa, 1942. This is not a shoot 'em up game but a strategy game where your decisions determine who may live and die and if you and your men will succeed on your missions. And there are lots of missions. The plan is to have the game follow the 7th Infantry Regiment thru Africa, Italy, France, and finally the Eagle's Nest, just like the book 'From Fedala to Berchtesgaden.' The game is closely based on actual 7th Infantry Regiment events and actions. Our own Historian, John McManus, is an advisor to the developers. This is a game that even I, a non-gamer, will be following and playing. So, go visit the Burden of Command website at <http://burdenofcommand.com/>, sign up for the newsletter and put the word out that the Cottonbalers are now in a video game!

"Burden of Command is in a class by itself. I know of no other game that brings history to life with more accuracy and immediacy. Highest recommendation!" – Dr. John C. McManus, Ph.D.

**Reunion** - The Reunion was a great success. The day spent at Ft. Stewart visiting the Cottonbalers included attending the Battalion Change of Command for 2-7 INF. As always, it's very impressive and to me, awe inspiring to see those Cottonbalers march across the field. I would like to welcome LTC Robert Stanton to the Cottonbaler family as he takes command of 2-7 INF. I would also like to welcome LTC Justin Harper who later that week took command of 3-7 INF. As part of the reunion, the Lady Cottonbalers spent a morning having a tea and at the Gryphon tearoom. The hats they created for the event were all lovely and I understand that they all had a great time. At the banquet, Dave Jensen passed the gavel to the

incoming President Greg Cullison. I want to thank Dave Jensen for the last 4 years as President. He's done an excellent job and has hosted 2 wonderful reunions, both in New Orleans in 2015 where we celebrated 200 years of Cottonbalers and this last one in Savannah where we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Association. Well Done!

I would like to thank Sissie Jensen for all the work she did in preparation for this reunion. From the gift '6-packs,' crammed with all kinds of goodies and gifts, we all received when we checked in to the decorations and the Banquet favors (pretzels and Slim Jims for the men and cotton tea towels for the ladies) it was all outstanding. Thank You! Also want to thank Gretchen Cowel for all of the work and support she did helping all of the ladies decorate their hats. Everyone's was beautiful looking and each expressed the owner's individuality. Well done.

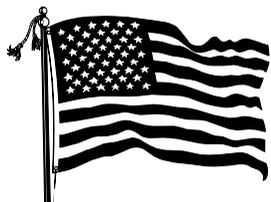
**Speaking of Reunions** – the next reunion, in 2019, will be in Chattanooga, TN. So, stay tuned for more information in future newsletters and the web site.

**3-7 INF Update** – As LTC Harper states in his column, 3-7 INF will be reflagged as 3-67 AR. The expected date is 16 Oct 2017. I want to encourage every Cottonbaler, especially those who served in 3-7 INF to be there to say farewell. I'll be there and I hope to see all of you there. Stay tuned to the web site for updates.

## Veteran News – Two items:

1. There is a veteran organization that I think everyone needs to at least check out: *We Are the 22* – Facebook: <https://www.face10book.com/wearethe22/> or

Editor's Notes continued on page 10



## **“Cottonbaler” 2nd Battalion COMMANDER’S COMMENTS...**

**LTC Robert C. Stanton USA, CDR**

*From Able 6, LTC Robert C. Stanton Jr.:*

**G**reetings to the Soldiers, Families and friends of the Cottonbalers! The Damn Fine Soldiers of 2-7 IN Battalion have been training hard and transitioning as the Cottonbalers make ready for a summer quarter of training and preparation. This past quarter Cottonbalers executed multiple training events in support of several different missions, all designed to hone the skills necessary to be one of the most effective Willing and Able mechanized infantry units in the Army.

In April, 2-7 IN Battalion conducted opportunity leave in order for soldiers to enjoy the spring holidays and spend time with their families. Headhunters’ mortar platoon conducted training in preparation for instruction on plotting board and fire direction center procedures. Assassin conducted an M320 range in which they had a total of 40 firers attend and qualify across the battalion. Steel and Assassin Companies have continued to work together to provide the consolidated Immediate Ready Company (IRC) for the XVIII Airborne Corps. This mission continues to be the main effort of the Division and the Division Commanders number 1 priority.

In May, the battalion began a rigorous month



**LTC Robert C Stanton (left) and CSM Robert Controne**

of training to evaluate the readiness of the entire battalion. Assassin started off the month with a live fire exercise focusing on squad level tactics. Steel conducted Gunnery Table XII qualifying Soldiers at the platoon level by forcing them to maneuver and engage targets downrange as a single unit. On 16

May Cottonbalers conducted the SSG Bounds Challenge to test physical fitness and team building. The challenge is in honor of SSG Brian Bounds who passed away during the Cottonbalers’ first European regionally aligned forces rotation on 6 June, 2015. Bushmaster’s 3rd Platoon conducted the first live fire exercise involving mechanized forces at Fort Polk, LA during the unit’s JRTC rotation. On 15-19 May the entire battalion conducted training and were assessed on warrior tasks and battle drills in order to refresh and hone the basic skills required for combat. The battalion also participated in the change of command for the 3rd Infantry Division’s Commanding General MG Leopoldo A. Quintas Jr.

In June, 2-7 IN participated in the change of command for 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team and welcomed COL Michael A. Adams, our new Brigade Commander. June training included a number of events designed to improve unit coordination and set the stage for our upcoming rigorous training plan taking

**2nd BN continued from previous page...**

place this autumn. The battalion staff conducted a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Exercise at Fort Stewart's Mission Training Center. This training drilled the staff on the setting up of the TOC in the field, as well as provided a simulated scenario for the staff to coordinate planning and mission execution. As-sassin conducted the Mighty Eighth Summer Camp. The camp allowed our soldiers to interact with young children from across the coastal Georgia region. The Cottonbalers had a great time teaching soldiers basic battle drills, exposed them to battalion weapons, and enjoyed MREs together

Throughout the quarter, the Cottonbaler Battalion conducted and concluded the Marne Inspection Program (MIP), balancing training requirements and mission success with a desire to maintain high standards in garrison. Inspectors from the 3rd Infantry Division conducted a series of inspections in three distinct phases, ensuring that Soldiers had developed effective systems to ensure the personnel and physical

security of the battalion, along with training, equipment and personnel readiness. These inspections allowed us to identify programs that needed improvement at the battalion and the company level, allowing us to continue to improve and ultimately excel as a unit.

The Task Force is preparing to conduct several missions over the next three months, including extensive gunnery, team and squad live fire exercises, garrison inspections and preparation for a National Training Center rotation in October at Ft. Irwin, California. This unique training event will further prepare us for our upcoming deployment to the Korean Peninsula in February of next year. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunity to lead such a proud and accomplished battalion. These Soldiers have continued to demonstrate the fighting spirit and unflinching dedication to duty and to country that has served this regiment well from its beginnings during the War of 1812 right up to the present day. I look forward to serving the proud men and women of this unit to the best of my



Cottonbalers who served in 3-7 IN during various time periods gather in front of the Cottonbaler Monument

2nd BN continued from previous page...

ability, and I thank the 7th Infantry Regiment Association for their continued support. Please follow the Task Force and all of its accomplishments at [www.facebook.com/2BN7IN](http://www.facebook.com/2BN7IN). Every Day the Soldiers of this battalion live by our motto: Willing and Able, Cottonbalers by God, Damn Fine Soldiers!

Able 6



Dancing at the Reunion Banquet Dinner



Some of the Cottonbaler Ladies showing off their hats  
(Photo by April Stull)



Cottonbaler Ladies Tea in the Gryphon Tearoom, Savannah, GA  
(Photo by April Stull)



Cottonbaler Ladies at the Cottonbaler Monument

## NEW MEMBERS

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Hazmat2469@yahoo.com

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919-567-1261  
Chrisvalentine49@yahoo.com

WALL, Linda (widow of Mark W.  
Wall)  
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lwall72@yahoo.com

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Rock Falls, IL 61071  
815-625-6918  
jwimp3@hotmail.com

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

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MG, 1/7th IN, PT  
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Rock Hill, SC 29732  
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whmcm Manusjr@aol.com

## TAPS

"BE THOU AT PEACE"



### ~ Departed Members ~

BJERKELUND, WALTER A.  
LTC, Co L, 1936-39, WWII  
5235 N Carefree Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80917-  
2611  
Died - 15 August 2015

FAULK, CURLEY L.  
CSM, HHC, 1st Battalion, Korea  
Died - 2 December 2016

MENTIS, ROBERT PAUL  
Korea  
Died - 22 March 2017

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### Editor's Notes continued from page 6...

website: <http://wearethe22.org/>. Every day there are approximately 22 veteran suicides. *We Are The 22* works to raise awareness to the suicide epidemic that is plaguing our country, and educate the public on mental health issues such as PTSD.

2. The Department of Defense announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military. The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11. All it takes is to be verified at <https://www.vetverify.org/index.xhtml>. You can get verified now and you'll be ready to shop online at the Military Exchange.



# THANK YOU!

to the following association members  
for donations this quarter:

## Boswell Scholarship Fund

CPT Constantine L. Lagakis

Gerald A. "Jerry" Gustafson

LTC John MacDonald

SFC Robert Burns, Jr.

## Miscellaneous Contributions to Boswell Scholarship Fund in Memory of Paul Mentis

Gloria Starkman - \$15.00

James and Joyce Keane - 25.00

Jennifer and Edson Devore - \$40.00

Mrs. Roger C. Perin - \$50.00

Mellones Family Trust - \$25.00

Ralph and Nancy Mayer - \$50.00

Phil and Barb Houbler - \$100.00

Ashley's, Gundlach's, Connell's, Holtz's and

Majoy's - \$50.00

**Total --- \$355.00**

## Operating Expenses

Gerald A. "Jerry" Gustafson

LTC John MacDonald

SFC Robert Burns, Jr.

## 7th IR MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

As of 25 June 2017

### DUES STATUS:

None due (LM, HON, CG, PM)	267
Annual renewals for 2015 - 2016	162
Members Not Paid Up	28
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>457</b>

### CATEGORY SUMMARY:

Served with the 7th Infantry, Or attached or supporting units	420
Associate Members	9
Supporting Members	14
Honorary Members	2
Permanent Member	7
Color Guard Member	5

### PERIOD OF SERVICE SUMMARY:

World War II	19
Korea	159
Belgian Cottonbalers ( <i>Belgium</i> )	14
Vietnam	60
Peace Time/Cold War	66
Gulf War/Iraq	114

**The following Belgian Cottonbalers are in  
nursing homes and are in need of our  
prayerful support:**

BILLIET, CLAUDE  
PFC, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Rue du Doyard, 44  
4990 Lierneux, Belgium

DE BACKER, HENRI  
SGT, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Av. Prince Baudouin, 12-Bte 81  
1780 Wemmel, Belgium

## ***Minutes to the 7th Infantry Regiment Association***

General Membership Meeting

31 May 2017 • Savannah, Georgia

**T**he General Membership meeting of the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers) was called to order at 1000 hours, Wednesday 31 May 2017 in the Ossabaw Room of the Savannah Hilton DeSoto Hotel, in Savannah Georgia.

(29) Association Members were present and the following business was discussed:

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved the financial report from Association Treasurer Joe Washart on the status of the association's funds, and the status of the Boswell Scholarship Fund (BSF) as of 31 May 2017.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved Sophia Allen and Olivia Sasso as (BSF) recipients of \$2000.00 each. Additionally, Robert Burns, Margaret Cullison, Haley Elizabeth Holman, and Aliyah J. Schmit were approved as (BSF) recipients of \$1000.00 each, for a total of \$8000.00 of BSF awarded in 2017. The General Membership was reminded of the decision approved at the 2015 reunion General Membership meeting to make scholarships available to recipients for (4) years (they must apply each year), and to Association members on active duty, their spouses and children. These changes are to be published on the Association's webpage, and in future issues of the Cottonbaler newsletter.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment LTG (R) John Lemoyne take action on the refurbishment of an antique 7th Infantry Regiment Flag that was donated to the Association by the First Honorary Colonel of the Regiment COL (R) Lou Hightower. Once suitably repaired and preserved the flag will be donated to the 7th Infantry Regiment Memorabilia Room in 2/7 Infantry Headquarters.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved Joe Washart, the Association's treasurer to take action on acquiring professional assistance in getting our 501.3C exempt status renewed.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended



Reunion members and friends attended the Change of Command Ceremony for 2-7 Infantry Battalion

Meeting minutes continued from previous page

approval and the General Membership approved Gene Owen to be the Honorary Sergeant Major of the 7th Infantry Regiment (Cottonbalers).

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved researching the current base location of our Association Membership to determine the best location for our next reunion. David Spanburg is taking action to conduct the research and report his findings to the Association's Board for selecting the site of 2019 reunion.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved the plan for our Membership to attend future 3ID, 24th ID, and OIF group meetings and reunions to foster cross-membership and association with other groups that might have Cottonbaler affiliations.

The Association's Board of Directors recommended approval and the General Membership approved appointing Louis De Cleen, on the

recommendation of Mr. Raymond Behr, the President of the Korean War Veterans Association as the Belgian Liaison Officer to the 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers).

The Association's Board of Directors recommended



Korean War Cottonbaler Leonard Roden at the Association's Banquet



Outgoing President Dave Jensen passing the gavel to incoming President Greg Cullison

approval and the General Membership approved the Immediate Past President to take action to get an exception to Army Regulation 600-82, The Army Regimental System that limits the terms of Honorary Colonels of the Regiment.

With no other business being identified, the motion was made and approved to dismiss the General Membership meeting.

Immediate Past President

Dave Jensen



President Dave Jensen presenting the Certificate acknowledging that Gene Owen has been designated the Honorary Regimental Command Sergeant Major. John LeMoyme is accepting the Certificate in Gene's absence



## **“Cottonbaler” 3rd Battalion COMMANDER’S COMMENTS...**

**LTC Justin D. Harper USA, CDR**

**F**amily and Friends of the Cottonbalers,

The June 2017 Cottonbaler Newsletter covers our support to the eXportable Combat Training Capability 17-04 (XCTC) and the 48th IBCT (National Guard) as they prepare for JRTC and future deployment.

We will also cover the recent battalion change of command and what to expect as our battalion converts to a combined arms battalion and re-designates as the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment. The Cottonbalers have entered a time of transition and continue their matchless legacy of service as they prepare to close a chapter in 7th Infantry Regiment History.

During XCTC 17-04 Cottonbaler Soldiers and Leaders provided over-the-shoulder observation and coaching to our 48 IBCT counterparts and served as opposition forces. Our battalion partnered with 2-121 IN (Warrior) and 1-121 IN (Slayer) of the 48th IBCT during this training exercise. This partnership allows for further development of the 48 IBCT Soldiers and also allows our Leaders to continue to enhance their mentorship ability and observe ways to improve our own unit training.

Over the course of this month-long training exercise held throughout Fort Stewart, the Soldiers of 1-121 IN and 2-121 IN focused on company level situation exercises and platoon



LTC Justin D. Harper (left) and CSM Mike Davenport

live-fire exercises. In addition, this exercise tested the unit’s logistical and tactical command capabilities in an austere environment. The lessons learned during this exercise increased the effectiveness of our 48th IBCT partners and also our own Cottonbaler Soldiers.

Prior to deploying to the field for XCTC 17-04, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment conducted our Battalion Change of Command Ceremony. The Cottonbaler Battalion said farewell to out-going commander, LTC Brian M. Ducote and welcomed LTC Justin D. Harper as the new Baler 6.

The battalion is grateful for the wisdom and leadership LTC Brian M. Ducote instilled in our Soldiers during his time as our Battalion Commander and look forward to continuing the unparalleled discipline and warrior-spirit of the Cottonbaler Battalion under LTC Justin D. Harper.

The Army has selected Spartan Brigade, 2/3 ID for conversion to an Armored Brigade Combat Team in response to a need for more armored forces. As part of this conversion, the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry will convert into an armor combined arms battalion and reflag to 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor. Company specific transitions are already underway as D Co, 3-7 Infantry cased its colors on 5 June 2017 with re-designations to follow in October of 2017. In

**3BN Commander's Comments continued**

October, B/3-7 Infantry will become a mechanized infantry company equipped with M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and reflag as C/3-67 Armor. A & C Co will convert to Armor Companies and will receive M1A1 tanks and C/3-7 IN will reflag to B/3-67 Armor; HHC and our FSC will also receive significant amount of new equipment as part of this conversion.

Our leaders and Soldiers will preserve the legacy of excellence and disciplined execution as we approach the date for conversion. 3-7 Infantry specific heraldry items will be transferred to the 2-7 Infantry or to the 3rd Infantry Division museum in anticipation of a day when the 3rd Battalion might be reactivated. More importantly, we will use the great history of our formation to bring another into being. Our Soldiers carry forward not only the lessons learned from hard training, but also the spirit of two centuries of service into their new formation. The spirit of the Cottonbaler Battalion lives on in the hearts of those who served and continue to serve our Army. The official re-flagging is expected to occur on 16 October 2017.

Justin D. Harper

LTC

3-7 IN



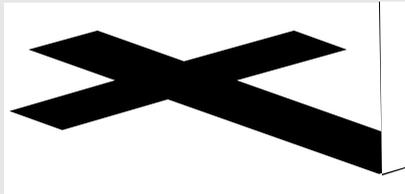
Coldsteel 6, 3-7 INF, mentors a 48th IBCT Soldier.



LTC Harper takes command of 3-7 IN



Dale Vona, John LeMoyné, Louis DeCleen, Hamp McManus and Bruce Ritter at the Association's Banquet.



## ***Chaplain's Corner***

***Father Philip G. Salois, M.S.***

***7th Infantry Regiment Association Chaplain***

**M**y Fellow Cottonbalers: Well the "Dog-days of Summer Are Here!" I am sitting here in my home in Rhode Island and the weather has been fairly perfect. Warm and no humidity – at least today! For those of you who live in the South and the South West extreme heat and humidity is rampant. Stay indoors and stay cool and preserve your energy.

We had an absolutely wonderful reunion in Savannah, Georgia in May. It was hot but I only went outside in the evening when it cooled off. We had a wonderful turnout for this reunion. We were so well received at Fort Stewart for the Change of Command. The lunch we ate at the dining facility was magnificent since the troops came to mingle with us to share stories. They listened to us and we listened to them. Future members of our Association! We look forward to our next reunion in 2019 which is narrowing down to Chattanooga or San Antonio. The important thing is that we will be together once again.

By the time you read this Independence Day will be history. I hope you all celebrated appropriately. I, along with the members of my Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter took part in the annual Arnold Mills Parade in Cumberland, Rhode Island. It is a long and well attended parade by bystanders. They just love all the Vietnam Veterans.

I am certain you are all following what is going on in the world – particularly in Europe with all the recent terrorist attacks. It seemed to correspond with the end of Ramadan. We have had several lone wolf at-

tacks here in the United States. We all need to stay alert as soft targets seem to be the order of the day. I call upon each and every one of you to join me in prayers to Almighty God for peace and a spirit of love and faithfulness that peace can overcome war and love can overcome hatred in our world.

On another topic and speaking of "Hate" you only have to pick up the morning paper or turn the TV on to see the amount of hate speech being spewed out from one political party against the other and particularly against our Commander-in-Chief. If you hear this kind of rhetoric among your acquaintances, tell them how offended you are and to not utter such speech around you. We need to bring this big problem that continues to divide our country to prayer to our blessed Lord. Ask Him to give you the strength and courage to work towards peace and love rather than the opposite sentiments.

The summer is passing by quickly. Enjoy this beautiful season and stay safe in your travels.

Volens et Potens, Cottonbalers, by God,

Damn Fine Soldiers!

Father Phil Salois, M.S.  
Association Chaplain ♦

**TAPS** *continued from page 10...*

*Note: After writing to our Belgian contact Fernand DeChamps asking him for a review of his Cottonbaler members of who was still alive or deceased, I received the following members of our Belgian contingent who are deceased and need to be added to our honor roll.*

BUELENS, EUGENE L.  
ADJ, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Avenue de la Meute, 4  
1470 Bousval, Belgium  
Died – 25 February 2015

DE LEEUW, JEAN-PAUL  
1SGT, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Kleinekapellaan, 16  
1700 Dilbeek, Belgium  
0113225679702

DE WEVER, ALBERT  
PFC, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Square Apollo 2, Boite-56  
1030 Brussels, Belgium  
Died- 4 January 2016

GARRIAU, GUILLAUME  
CCPL, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Kerkhofstraat, 99  
1651 Lot-Beersel, Belgium  
Died – 18 March 2014

GOOVAERTS, MARCEL  
CPL, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Rue des Roselieres, 59  
4101 Jemeppe s/Meuse, Belgium  
Died – 28 December 2014

HUTSCHENREUTER, WILLIAM J.  
SGT, HHC/1-7 IN, P/T  
2102 17th Street S  
La Crosse, WI 54501  
Died – 26 January 2017

NOTEL, GASTON  
PFC, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Rue Waleroux, 32  
6044 Roux, Belgium  
Died – 12 August 2015

PIRSON, RENE  
SGT, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Rue Belle Helene, 20  
7110 Boussoit, Belgium  
Died – 17 June 2014

WALL, MARK W.  
SGT, A/3-7 IN, Vietnam  
1104 Gage Drive  
Middletown, OH 45042-2880  
Died – 11 February 2017

WYNENDAELE, CHARLES  
CPL, Belgian Bn, Korea  
Rue Veeweyde, 77  
1070 Brussels, Belgium  
Died – 28 August 2015



President Dave Jensen talking to the soldiers of 2-7 IN about the Association and that this was the 30th Anniversary of the Association



The Cottonbaler Ladies with their hats in Madison Square, Savannah, GA

### Obituary of Mark W. Wall (Excerpts)

Alpha 3-7 Vietnam Veteran and Municipal Court Judge Mark Wall died Sunday, February 11, 2017 at the age of 70. He was born in Middletown, Ohio on December 27, 1946 to parents Robert Mark and Dorothy Marie (Mullins) Wall, who preceded him in death. His sister, Linda, also preceded him in death at age 9. Judge Wall is survived by his wife of 45 years, Linda; daughter Katie Wall Olson; son Mark Andrew Wall; grandchildren, Emma and Andrew Graham Olson; sister Charlene Wall (Steve) Ecclestone of Toronto, Canada; niece, Annie Ecclestone; and nephew Paul (Anika) Ecclestone. [Also survived by his dog, Bill Murray, who is a rat terrier but he loved him anyway.]

Judge Wall enjoyed trapshooting, duck hunting, fly-fishing, college football, English Premier League soccer and Keeneland. He received a B.A. in political science from Miami University in 1968 and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati in 1973, then worked in private practice of law from 1973-1994. He was a member of the United States Army Infantry from 1968-1970, serving in Vietnam from 1969-1970 with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal [2] with oak leaf cluster, Vietnam Service Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

Judge Wall's Veteran's Day speeches gave him the opportunity

to speak about how the sacrifice of true sons and daughters of liberty: "A great nation is judged by how it honors its dead." He often spoke of the reality of who the Vietnam Veteran was vs. false perceptions of the Vietnam Veterans. "And what would they have become? I believe I am typical of the Vietnam Veteran. It was our duty, our honor and or privilege to serve. When we stepped off the Freedom Bird we received all the homecoming we needed. Our Father's firm handshake. Our mother's warm embrace. A sweet kiss from the girl we left behind, and a Big Boy, fries and vanilla coke. We took off the uniform and went back to work and back to school. Soon we were patrolling the streets, putting out fires and serving our communities." This was always reinforced at his reunions with 1966-1970 Vietnam Veterans of Always Alpha Group, A Company, 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry [Cottonbalers] 199th Light Infantry Brigade [Redcatchers].

Judge Wall made a real difference in countless lives, shown by his collection of cards and letters thanking him and explaining in detail how lives were changed by his actions. More than a few promised to pray for him and his family. He was dedicated to the city he loved and the court personnel who served. Judge Wall finished the work that God had for him to do in his community.

**7th Infantry Regiment Association Financial Statement  
as of 01 June 2017**

**Opening Balance (12/9/2016) .....\$10,920.97**

**INCOME**

Donations for Operating Expenses .....\$165.00  
 Donations for Scholarship Fund .....3,565.00  
 Membership Dues .....1,140.00  
**Total Income.....4,870.00 .....15,790.97**

**EXPENSES**

Riverwood Writer LLC .....\$340.00  
 Printshop .....786.58  
 Website.....109.75  
 Postage .....10.00  
**Total Expenses.....1,246.33**

**Closing Balance (as of 5/16/2017) .....\$14,544.64  
 (\$3,860 is Scholarship Money)**

**Savings Account.....1,290.69**

**Scholarship Fund.....\$119,075.82**

**Combined Membership Application and Donation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Service and Unit with 7th Infantry: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade achieved in military service: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category: Regular  Life:

Dues (See Rates in Box at Right): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Boswell Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to Operating Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: "7th Infantry Regiment Association"  
 Mail to: Fr. Philip Salois, Secretary, 16 Sharon Parkway, North Smithfield, RI 02896

<b>Dues Rates:</b>	
<b>Regular:</b>	\$20/Year
<b>Life Memberships:</b>	
Over Age 70:	\$100
Age 60-70:	\$175
Up to Age 60:	\$250
Active Duty E8-O3:	\$200
Active Duty E7 and Below:	\$150

THE 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
Fr. Philip G. Salois, Secretary  
16 Sharon Parkway  
North Smithfield, RI 02896



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## **CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT**

### War of 1812

Canada  
New Orleans  
Florida 1814  
Louisiana 1815

### Mexican War

Monterey  
Vera Cruz  
Cerro Gordo  
Contreras  
Churubusco  
Molino del Rey  
Chapultepec  
Texas 1846

### Civil War

Fredericksburg  
Murfreeshorough  
Chancellorsville  
Gettysburg  
Chickamauga  
Chattanooga  
Atlanta  
New Mexico 1861  
New Mexico 1862  
Kentucky 1862  
Mississippi 1862  
Tennessee 1862  
Tennessee 1863  
Georgia 1864

### Indian Wars

Creeks  
Seminoles  
Little Big Horn  
Nez Percés  
Utes  
Pine Ridge  
New Mexico 1860  
Wyoming 1866  
Montana 1872

### War with Spain

Santiago

### Philippine Insurrection

Samar 1901  
Samar 1902

### World War I

Aisne  
Champagne-Marne  
Aisne-Marne  
St. Mihiel  
Meuse-Argonne  
Champagne 1918  
Ile de France 1918

### World War II

Algeria-French Morocco  
(with arrowhead)  
Tunisia  
Sicily (with arrowhead)  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio (with arrowhead)  
Rome-Arno  
Southern France  
(with arrowhead)  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

### Korean War

CCF Intervention  
First UN Counteroffensive  
CCF Spring Offensive  
UN Summer-Fall Offensive  
Second Korean Winter  
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Korea, Summer 1953

### Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II  
Counteroffensive, Phase III  
Tet Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase IV  
Counteroffensive, Phase V  
Counteroffensive, Phase VI  
Tet 69/Counteroffensive  
Summer-Fall 1969  
Winter-Spring 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase VII

### Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait  
Cease-Fire

### War on Terrorism

Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn  
Operation Enduring Freedom

### *The Cottonbaler*

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