

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION 2004



JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET RENO, NEVADA

JUNE 24-27, 2004



**A Big Western Howdy and Welcome to our
Fellow Vets , Families, and Friends!!!! Your
Reunion Committee has worked hard to
make it a very Memorable Event.**

The 2004 Reno Reunion Committee



Rich Merlin
23rd MP Co



Tom Packard
23rd MP Co



Gene McGrath
82 FA



Dale Meisel
23rd MP Co



Pat Levy



Dave Taylor
C Co, 5/46 198th LIB



Larry Levy
23rd MP Co



Curt Rothacker
23rd MP Co



Kurt McFadden
E Co, 1/6 198th LIB

We thank all of those who helped in any way to make this a successful reunion and especially:

John "Dutch" Degroot (23rd MP Co)
John "Doc" Hofer (B Co. 5/46)

Robin Nucille (Daughter of Dale Meisel, 23rd MP Co)
Rich Merlin Jr. (Son of Rich Merlin, 23rd MP Co)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

April 7, 2004

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNOR

As the Governor of the State of Nevada, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Reno and Sparks for the American Division Veterans Association's 2004 National Convention. May this wonderful occasion be enjoyable and memorable for each of you.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our American Veterans for their loyal and dedicated service to the United States. Your devotion to duty reflects your allegiance and adherence to the highest standards of the military profession. Our country is dependent upon outstanding military personnel who dedicate their lives to the protection of our nation's citizens.

Whether you've traveled a significant distance to be here, or have made Reno or Sparks your permanent home, I hope that you will enjoy and take advantage of the many unique and inviting entertainment opportunities available in northern Nevada. Our community is famous for fine dining, superior hospitality, great entertainment, and a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Again, welcome to the American Division Veterans Association's 2004 National Convention, and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

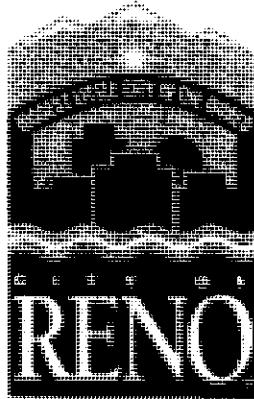
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenny C. Guinn".

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

abc

Robert A. Cashell, Sr.
Mayor

(775) 334-2001
(775) 334-4241 Fax
cashellr@ci.reno.nv.us
Web site: cityofreno.com



*"The most livable of Nevada cities;
the focus of culture, commerce and
tourism in Northern Nevada."*

GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF RENO!

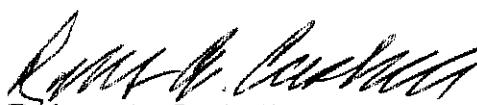
On behalf of the "Biggest Little City in the World", I am pleased to welcome the attendees of the ***America's Division Veterans Association 2004 National Convention*** being held in Reno and Sparks, June 24 – 27, 2004.

Reno is a vibrant, progressive community with something distinctive to offer everyone including entertainment, fine dining, performing arts, museums, beautiful parks, shopping, and the incomparable beauty of our surrounding high desert and the grandeur of the nearby Sierra Nevada Mountains.

During your visit, we hope you will have an opportunity to discover and enjoy Old West hospitality and visit many of the area's unique and historic sites, all of which are within a short drive. Reno's future continues to be extremely bright as our cultural activities continue to grow. I would encourage you to visit the Nevada Museum of Art that just opened in the summer of 2003.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful convention. I hope you will experience a most enjoyable visit and will return to Reno again and again.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Cashell, Sr.
Mayor



MAYOR

June, 2004

Welcome!

On behalf of the elected officials, staff, and residents of the City of Sparks, I am very pleased to welcome the members of the Americal Division Veterans Association, their families, and friends to the 2004 national convention being held in the Sparks/Reno area June 24-27. We applaud your efforts in defending the freedom of the United States and her citizens during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

While you are visiting, we hope you will have the opportunity to explore Sparks and enjoy what we consider is one of the finest communities in the country to live and work. Our Farmer's Market Thursday evenings on Victorian Square is an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to purchase fruits and vegetables picked fresh that morning; sample a wide variety of foods, sweets, and beverages; and listen to toe tappin', hand clappin' music. Sparks Marina Park is one mile east of Victorian Square and offers swimming, boating, a 3.5 mile walking path, and even a special section for dogs and their owners to enjoy.

We are delighted you chose the Sparks/Reno area for your convention and hope it will be a special time for all of you.

Sincerely,



Tony Armstrong
Mayor

TAS

JIM GIBBONS
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES,
VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION
AND PUBLIC LANDS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS



SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN INTELLIGENCE,
ANALYSIS AND COUNTER INTELLIGENCE, CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND
HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL AND
TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE POLICY
AND NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

GAMING CAUCUS, Chairman

MINING CAUCUS, Co-Chairman

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

**WELCOME TO THE
AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

June 24-27, 2004

It is with distinct honor and pleasure that I welcome all who have traveled to Nevada and the Great Silver State for the annual Americal Division Veterans Association National Convention.

All of you can take pride in knowing that you are part of a select group who served in World War II and Vietnam, and that each one contributed to the preservation of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. The sacrifices made by our veterans have not come without extraordinary cost to themselves and their families. When called to duty, they answered.

Thank you to all in attendance. Your presence here demonstrates dedication, patriotism and a commitment by the Americal Division Veterans Association to the preservation of America's heritage.

Welcome to Reno and please accept my sincerest wishes for a successful reunion of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Sincerely,

Jim Gibbons
Member of Congress

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES:

100 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6155
FAX: (202) 225-5679

400 SOUTH VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE 502
RENO, NEVADA 89501
(775) 686-5760
FAX: (775) 686-5711

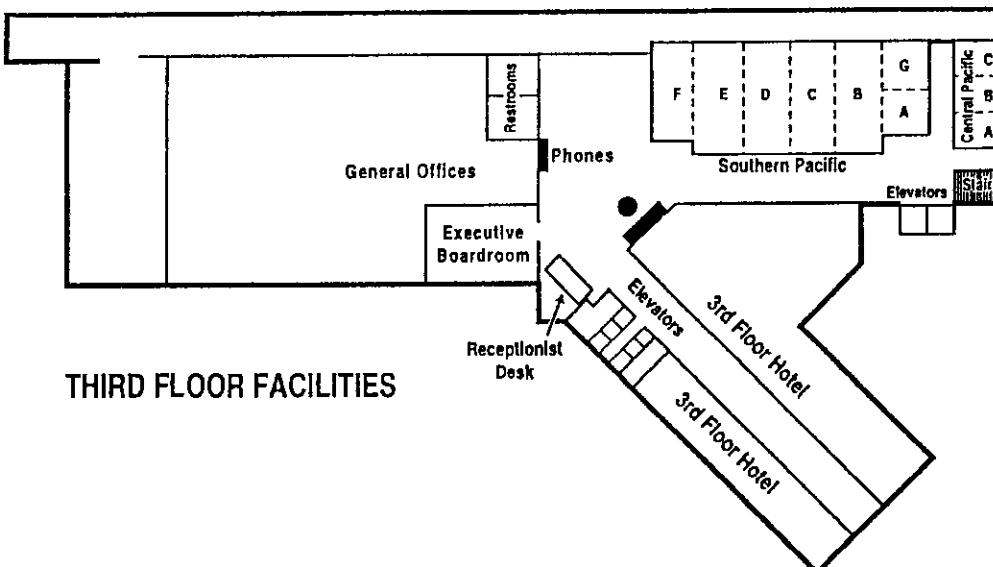
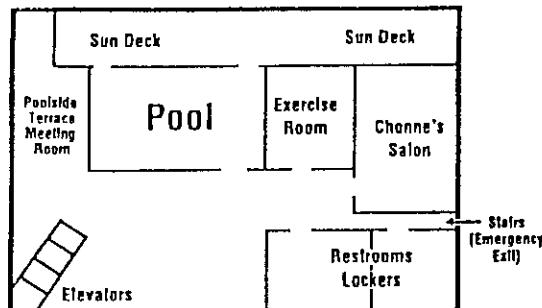
Website: <http://www.house.gov/gibbons/>

850 SOUTH DURANGO DRIVE, SUITE 107
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89145
(702) 255-1651
FAX: (702) 255-1927

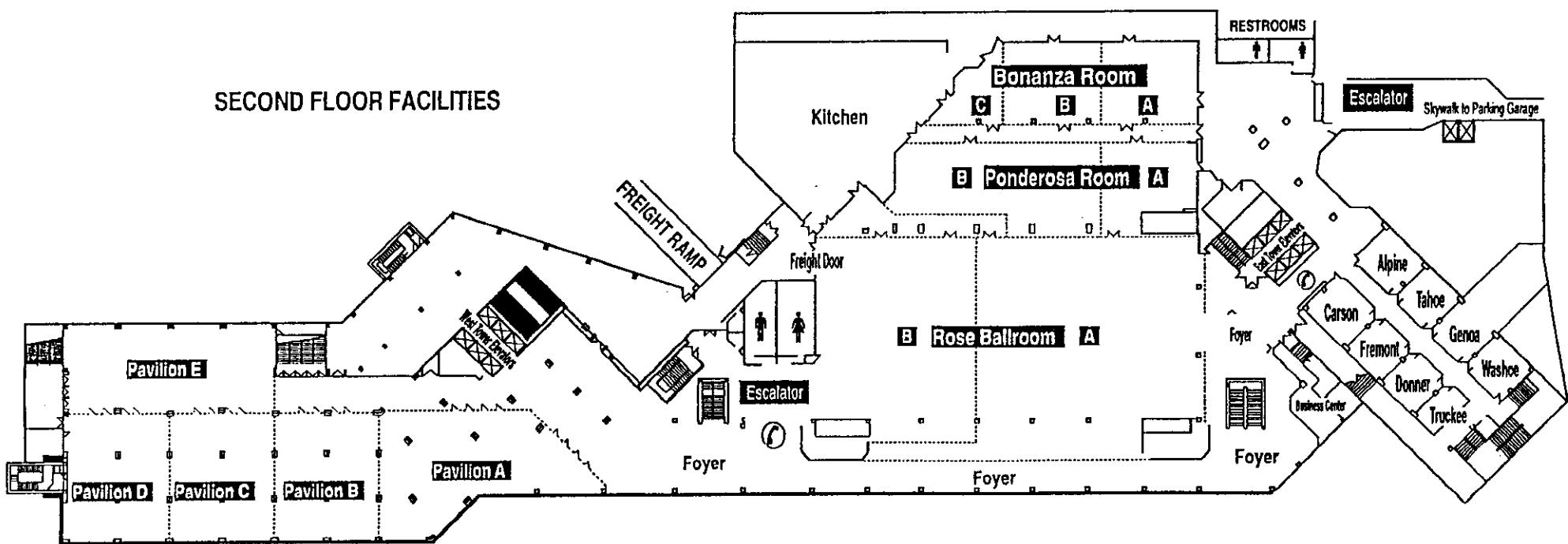
E-mail: mail.gibbons@mail.house.gov

491 4TH STREET
ELKO, NEVADA 89801
(775) 777-7920
FAX: (775) 777-7922

JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET - CONVENTION FACILITIES



SECOND FLOOR FACILITIES



2004 Americal Division—Schedule of Events

* Please watch the Nugget's message boards for any changes to this schedule. Daily schedules are also available on channel 6 of the Nugget's hotel television system. Changes will also be displayed at the Registration area and in the Americal hospitality area.

* Wear your name tag to all events.

*** TICKETS FOR EVENTS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE REGISTERED ARE IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "TICKETS" IN YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET. YOU MUST HAVE THEM WITH YOU FOR THAT EVENT.**

Thursday June 20

8:00 AM- 4:30 PM Oral History Training.... Carson Room, 2nd Floor
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM RegistrationLobby
10:00 AM - Midnight Hospitality Rooms Open (Make the rounds/visit them all) 3rd Floor
Americal..... Southern Pacific #E
1/20th..... Southern Pacific #C
1/1 CAV..... Southern Pacific #A
23rd MP Co..... Southern Pacific #B
5/46th..... Central Pacific #B
1/52nd..... Central Pacific # A
10:00 AM Vendor Tables OpenHallway/Southern Pacific

Friday June 25

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM.....Registration.....Lobby
8.00 AM - 8:30 AM...Tahoe TourBoard Bus on East side of hotel between
parking garage and hotel. (Returns at 3:00)
9:00 AM- 9:30 AMVirginia City TourBoard Bus on East side of hotel between
parking garage and hotel. (Returns at 2:30)
10:00 AM - Midnight.....Hospitality Rooms Open
10:00 AM Vendor Tables OpenHallway/Southern Pacific
5:00 PM - 11 PM..... Shuttle Buses to and from the Rodeo. (Rodeo starts at 7:00)
Board Bus on East side of hotel between
parking garage and hotel.

Don't forget to have your picture taken! It's free and won't hurt a bit. We want everyone to be included in this year's Memory Book. See the schedule of events for the times and location for the photograph. Dave Taylor is in charge of this project, and it will be top notch. For the first time it will be in color. If you didn't pre-order the Memory Book, order forms are available at the registration table. Order a couple and send one to an old buddy that was unable to attend the reunion. *Group pictures need to be coordinated with the Photographer.*

Saturday June 26

8:00 - 10:00 AMRegistration.....Lobby

★ 8:00 - 10:00 AMADVA Executive Council Meeting. Pyrenees Room, main floor, in rear of Orozko Restaurant

8:00 - 8:30 AM.....Donner/Truckee Tour.....Board Bus on East side of hotel between parking garage and hotel. (Returns at 1:15 PM)

8:30 AM - 9:00 AMArt Tour...Board Bus on East side of hotel between parking garage and hotel. (Returns at noon)

10:00 AM Hospitality Rooms Open.....

10:00 AMVendor Tables Open.....

10:00 AM -3:00 PM Military Vehicle and Equipment Display TBA

10:00AM-5:00PMPhotographer/Reunion Pictures for Memory Book Southern Pacific F

★ 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Americal General Meeting... Rose Ballroom "B" 2nd Floor

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Far West Chapter Meeting.... Rose Ballroom "B" 2nd Floor

12:00PM -12:30 PMSouth Midwest Chapter Meeting Bonanza # C, 2nd Floor

12:00 PM—12:30Central Midwest Chapter MeetingBonanza #B, 2nd Floor

★ 12:00 - 12:30 PM1/1 Cav Association MeetingSouthern Pacific #A

12:00 - 4:00 PMFree VA Health Screening.....Bonanza #A, 2nd Floor

1:30 - 1:50 PM..... Memorial Ceremony ... Rose Ballroom #B, 2nd Floor.

2:15 -3:15 PM.....POW/MIA Accounting ..Adrian Cronauer, Rose Ballroom #B, 2nd Floor

3:30PM..... WWII Group picture, area outside Bonanza Room, 2nd Floor.

5:00 - 6:00 PMFirst Timers and ADVA Officers Reception...(Bonanza #B, 2nd Floor)

★ 6:00 - 7:00 PM Cocktail Reception.....(Rose Ballroom/ 2nd floor)

★ 7:00 - 11:00 PM Dinner Banquet/ Show/Live 6 Piece Band..(Rose Ballroom/ 2nd floor)

[At 8:00 PM] Presentation portion/ entertainment/band and dancing.

(Open to all attendees, including those not registered for the Banquet.)

ADVA members
who attend the ADVA
general meeting will be
eligible for a door prize,
\$100 first prize!!!!!!

Sunday June 27

9:00 - 9:30 AM - Nondenominational Service..... Pool Side Terrace, 5th Floor.

"Happy Trails To You....and we'll see you in Kansas City"

Saturday Night Entertainment

Guest Speaker...Adrian Cronauer

Former U.S. Air Force sergeant, Adrian Cronauer co-authored the original story for the motion picture, **Good Morning Vietnam!** In that film, Cronauer was portrayed—loosely—by Robin Williams whose performance was nominated for an Academy Award. A subsequent special on National Public Radio about the role of military radio in Vietnam earned Cronauer a 1992 Ohio State Award and two 1991 Gold Medals from the New York Radio Festival.



A popular after-dinner speaker and lecturer, Cronauer periodically appears as a guest on radio and television talk shows, including NBC-TV's Today; the PBS series, Freedom Speaks; Hennity & Colmes on the Fox News Channel, and on the Oliver North and G. Gordon Liddy radio programs. Mr. Cronauer holds a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and was a senior partner in a law firm in Washington DC. He has published several works in law journals and is considered an expert on communication and information law.

Currently he is now Special Assistant to the Director of the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office. In addition to Saturday nights appearance, he will speak about the POW/MIA issue Saturday afternoon. See the Schedule of Events for the time and place.

The Nevada Silver Tappers



This over 50-dance troupe are not professional entertainers; they only perform like they are. Unofficially known as "the Sweethearts of Nye County," they were organized in 1989 in Pahrump Nevada by their Artistic Director, B.J. Hetrick-Irwin. Although some members have had dance training as children, the majority have learned their tap steps and choreography through twice a week classes at her studio.

As a non-profit volunteer group, the Nevada Silver Tappers are not paid for their appearances. Each member is responsible for the cost of individual costumes. Donations are accepted to defray the cost of travel and meals. They are much in demand for community festivals, conventions, and fund raising events. They have also performed for the Nevada Governor's Ball

Their performance will include several patriotic numbers that reflect the American way of freedom of expression and the freedom to pursue your dreams.

"Route 66" The Band....

Is a group of six musicians who have combined their talents to produce rich vocal harmonies and clean, balanced instrumentation. They love to play the music of the fabulous 40's, 50's, 60's, '70's, '80's and 90's. They work hard (but you won't notice) as they bring you the greatest hits of those years. Their infectious enthusiasm allows everyone to truly enjoy the sounds from the past.

- * Dance
- * Snap
- * Clap
- * Sing Along



Some Recommended Restaurants :

Larry Levy's favorites—John's Oyster Bar (seafood) and John's Steakhouse in The Nugget.

Rich Merlin' Pick— La Strada in the Eldorado Hotel in downtown Reno for outstanding Italian.
Try some mushroom ravioli as an appetizer!

Dave Chrystal's must go—Bavarian World (German) located at Valley and 6th St in downtown Reno. 323-7646.

Pat Levy's choice — Louis's Basque Corner (Great Food served family style, good for large groups and very unique old Nevada) located at 301 E. 4th Street in Reno. 323-7203.

Curt Rothacker's vote— Hot Diggity Dog—(home of the Italian Hot Dog) located in NW corner of Prater & McCarran about 2 miles from the Nugget)

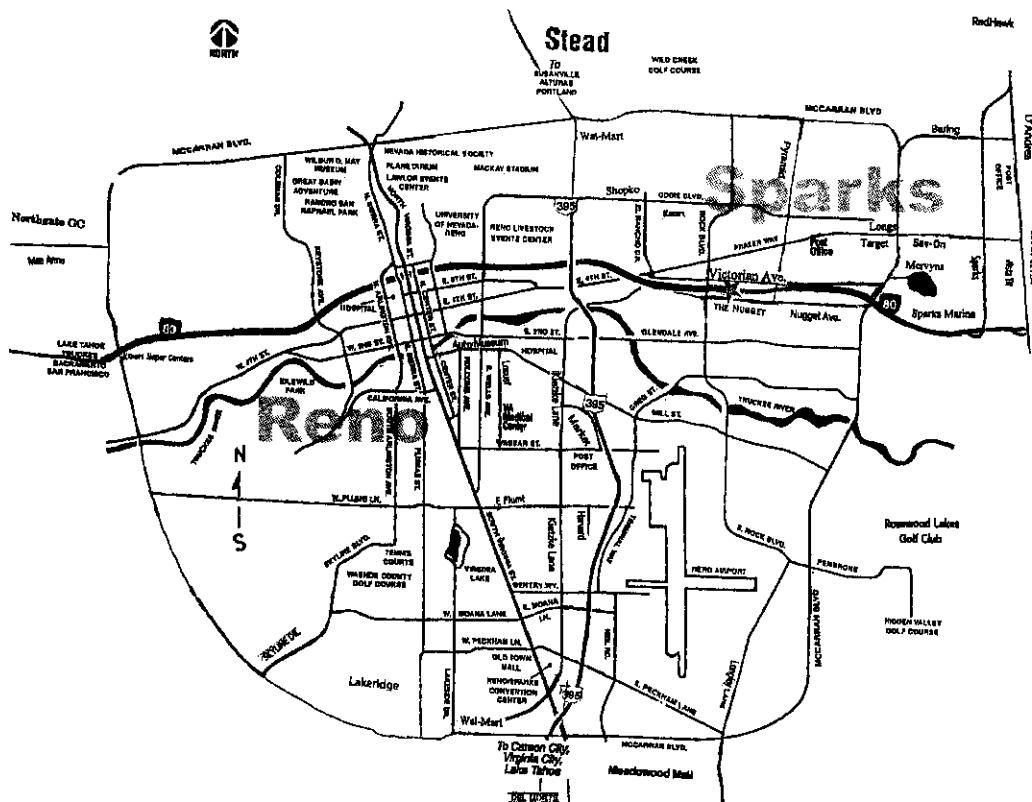
Other great places to dine:

Sushi Club (All you can eat) - 294 E. Moana , Reno. 828-7311

Great Basin Brewery (brew pub and causal dining) - A very short walk from Nugget at 846 Victorian Ave.

Pirate's Pizza—180 W. Peckham (Near the Atlantis Hotel) 828-0900.

Farmer's Market—Thursday night on Victorian Square next to Nugget..



AMERICAL DIVISION OPERATIONS, CAMPAIGNS, BATTLES

World War II 1942-1945

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN

2nd Battle of Henderson Field

Battle of Koli Point

Kokumbona & Poha River

Point Cruz & Matanakau River

Mt Austen

Gifu Ridge

Final Offensive

Bonegi River

Tassafaronga

NORTHERN SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN

Perimeter Line

Hill 260

Hills 165, 155, 500, 501

Mouth of the Torokina

Advancing the Outpost Line

LEYTE

Jars - Valencia - Palompon

Samar Island

Balicautros, Capul, Narajo Islands

Capute Island, Burios, Ticao Islands

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

Cebu Island

Talisay Landing

Cebu City, Go Chan Hill, Hill 27

Babay Ridge

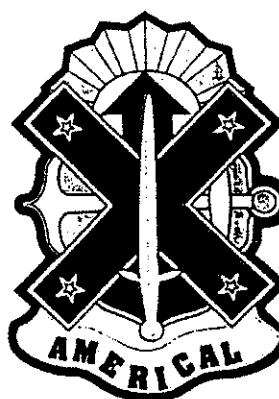
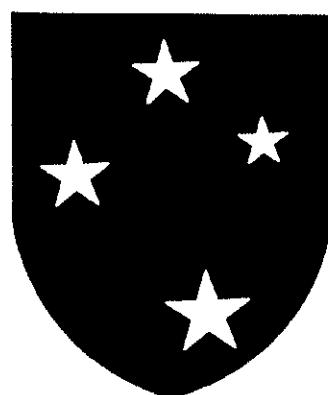
Bohol Island

Negros Oriental Islands

Palimpinon Heights

Balasbulas

Northern Mindinao Island



Vietnam 1967-1971

COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE III

Wheeler/Wallowa, Muscatine

Chu Lai & Duc Pho

LZ Baldy

TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Task Forces Barker & Miracle

Da Nang & Lo Giang

COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE IV

Norfolk Victory

Burlington Trail - Base Bronco

Tien Phuoc - Da Nang

Quang Tri - Kham Duc

COUNTER OFFENSIVE PHASE V

Tam Ky & Quang Ngai City

Champaign Grove & Golden Fleece

COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE VI

Wheeler Wallowa & Burlington Trail ended

Vernon Lake II & Hardin Falls

Fayette Canyon & Russell Beach

Chu Lai - Binh Son - Tam Ky

TET 69 COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Lamar Plain - Que Son

Hiep Duc & Hill 102

WINTER - SPRING 1970

Tam Ky - Pineapple Forest

LZ Bayonet - LZ Fat City

Hiep Duc

SANCTUARY COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Frederick Hill & Kham Duc

COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE II

CONSOLIDATION

LINEAGE

Constituted 24 May 1942 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters, Americal Division.

Activated 27 May 1942 in New Caledonia. Inactivated 12 December 1945 at Fort Lawton,

Washington. Re-designated 1 December 1954 as Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Division, and

allotted to the Regular Army. Activated 2 December 1954 at Fort Amador, Canal Zone. Re-

designated 25 September 1967 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Infantry

Division, and activated in Vietnam. Inactivated 29 November 1971 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

LOOKING BACK ...

As events in our two wars became history, the record often necessarily surpassed individual efforts that went into executing the entire mission.

Discrete events and accomplishments are lost as figures in black and white on some report that is skimmed and filed.

But each of us treasures some moment we consider unique, perhaps because it was part of our own, more personal mission.

Such is this record; happenings which are, alone, small fractions of the whole. Events that could only happen at our own particular place in time and which will be remembered only by two separate groups of people, two generations ... who worked together in a quest for freedom.