

GO  
WESTERN!



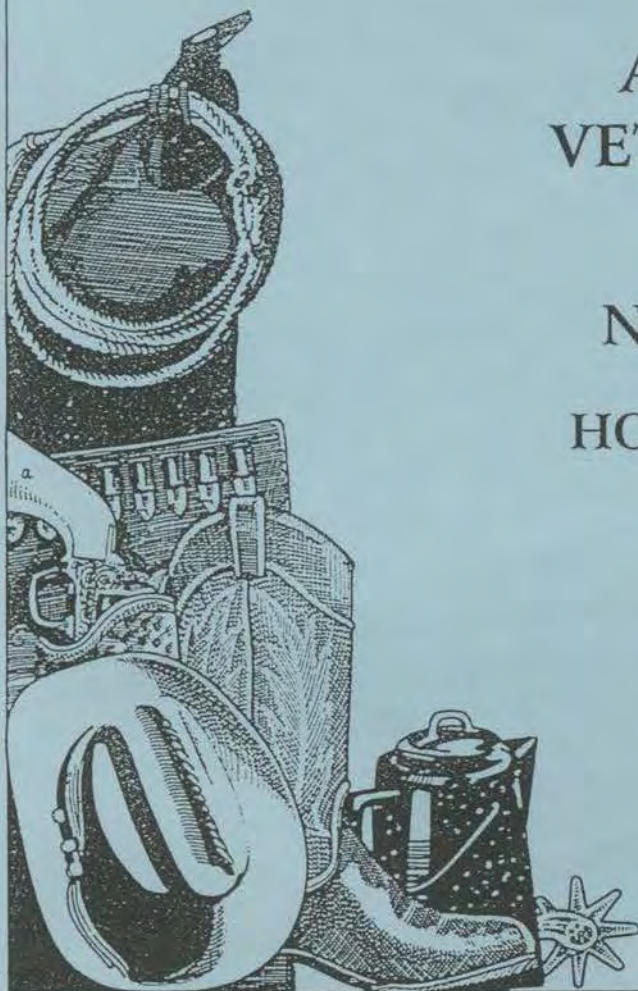
1996 National Reunion

AMERICAL DIVISION  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Hosted By  
Northwest Chapter, ADVA

HOLIDAY INN - DOWNTOWN  
RENO, NEVADA

JUNE 20 - 23, 1996





THE 1996 NATIONAL REUNION  
IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE LATE FAR WEST CHAPTER COMMANDER  
JOSEPH D. FEELER

Born November 16, 1924

Died November 23, 1995

Place of Internment

Santa Fe National Cemetery, NM

Joe was born and raised in Copan, Oklahoma, where he left high school to join the U.S. Army shortly after the beginning of World War II. He was eventually assigned to the 164th Infantry Regiment and participated in campaigns on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Cebu, and Leyte.

He was a devoted volunteer in civic and veterans affairs in Albuquerque and other locations in the state of New Mexico. He was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Governor of New Mexico for his volunteer service to the veterans of the state. He was appointed Commander of the Far West Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association in 1991 and he worked diligently to build the membership in the chapter. He had also become involved in assuring the full cooperation and participation of the Far West Chapter in the 1996 ADVA National Reunion and was looking forward to being in attendance.

Joe was a long time member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, Local 412; a member of the Masonic Lodge AF&M and Eastern Star; a long time member of the Bernalillo County Search and Rescue Unit and a member of the American Red Cross. He served his country, his state, and veterans well. He is survived by Esther, his caring and loving wife of 49 years.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

## WELCOME . . .

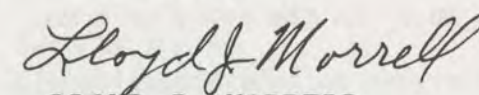
### TO RENO AND THE FAR WEST

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, THE REUNION COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST CHAPTER WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU TO THE 1996 NATIONAL REUNION. WE ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE FAR WEST CHAPTER FOR FOREGOING THEIR USUAL ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING THIS YEAR SO THEY COULD JOIN WITH US IN MAKING THIS REUNION A MEMORABLE ONE. EXTRA APPRECIATION GOES TO THE FAR WEST MEMBERS WHO HAVE LENT THEIR ASSISTANCE IN REUNION PREPARATIONS.

THOSE OF US IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE SO CALLED "OLD GUARD" WISH TO EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE VIETNAM ERA AMERICAL VETERANS. YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB OF TAKING OVER THE REINS AND EXPANDING OUR MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE LEAVING THE ASSOCIATION IN GOOD HANDS. WITHOUT YOU THE AMERICAL NAME AND HISTORY WOULD SOON FADE AWAY. WE ALL HAVE A LOT OF PRIDE IN THE BLUE SHIELD WITH THE SOUTHERN CROSS IMPOSED THEREON AND WITH YOUR CONTINUED GREAT EFFORTS AND PARTICIPATION IT SHOULD BE A VISIBLE SYMBOL FOR YEARS TO COME.

ENJOY YOURSELVES AND WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF YOUR TRIP TO RENO IN 1996 AND WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 1997 REUNION IN MASSACHUSETTS. BE SURE TO VISIT THE AMERICAL MUSEUM WHILE YOU ARE THERE.

SINCERELY,



LLOYD J. MORRELL  
NORTHWEST CHAPTER COMMANDER  
REUNION COORDINATOR





2425 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201

To: Americal Veterans, 1996

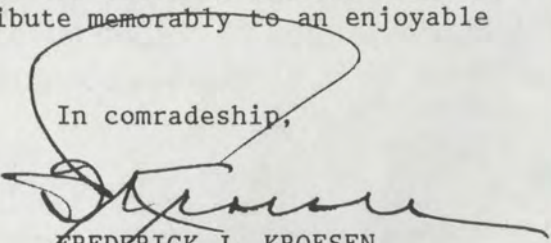
Almost 25 years ago, in November 1971, I took part in the final, farewell ceremony of the Americal Division as we said "goodbye" to Chu Lai, to our Vietnamese compatriots and friends, and to Quang Nam, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces. I spoke then of my pride in the Division and the work it had done in that region for more than four years, beginning as Task Force Oregon and departing as a division that by any standards of measurement had accomplished as much or more than any comparable organization in Vietnam. For me, it was the culmination of two tours with the Americal and the effectiveness of the Division's contributions were everywhere apparent. We left a fearful but grateful populace when we departed.

We built a small monument on that parade ground, dedicated it to ourselves and the 2d ARVN Division, which we had helped to equip and train and to whom we were then leaving the task of protecting the region. That they failed ultimately is no reflection on us or what we taught them, or on either division's fighting spirit and combat actions. Decisions made at echelons well above our control made their cause hopeless in the end.

Most of us understood our purpose there and still regard it as a noble cause. All who assemble year after year at these reunions are fond of our memories of those with whom we served and for whom we gave a time of our lives. The "brotherhood of war" is an intangible link among those who have faced the dangers of mortal combat and forged a trust among themselves that lasts a lifetime. I envy you this opportunity to share that brotherhood and promise myself that I shall participate in it in the years to come.

I wish for everyone an outstanding reunion and offer my compliments on the selection of CSM Jim Meade as your speaker for the occasion. No one could represent the Division and its soldiers better and I know he will contribute memorably to an enjoyable occasion.

In comradeship,

  
FREDERICK J. KROESSEN  
General, USA Retired

## AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

1996-1997

### ELECTED OFFICERS

National Commander  
Senior Vice-Commander  
Junior Vice-Commander  
National Finance Officer

Gary L. Noller  
Herbert S. Page  
Edward W. Marsh  
Richard H. Olson

### Executive Council

#### Chairman

James C. Buckle

William K. Maddox  
Stephen N. Dennison  
Albert R. Doig  
John A. Bowley  
Ronald R. Ellis

Roland T. Castronova  
Peter J. Messina  
John H. DeGroot  
Austin J. Roth  
Robert N. Thornton

If any elected Executive Council member is unable to serve the term of the position an alternate will be chosen in the following order:

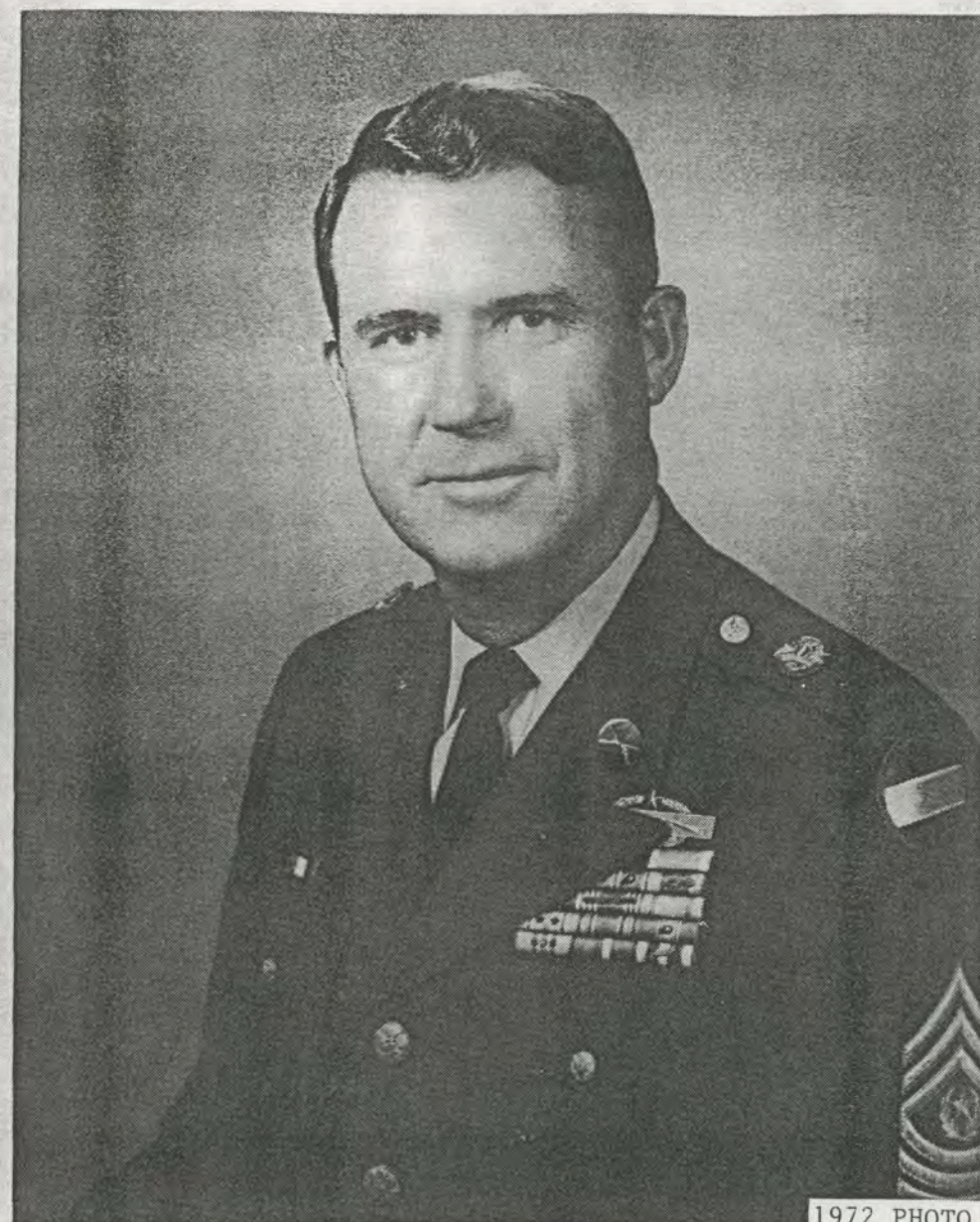
Terry W. Babler  
Edward Den Braven  
Leslie W. Hines  
Brian J. Mulchrone  
Richard D. Heroux  
Malcolm D. Cate, Jr.  
Gary T. Gallagher  
Lawrence W. Gelnett



# NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, 1996

-- GUEST SPEAKER --

**CSM. JAMES P. MEADE, U.S. ARMY, RET.**



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR  
23RD INFANTRY DIVISION (AMERICAL)  
VIETNAM, 1968-1969**

JAMES P. MEADE. Born in 1922 in Goshen County, Wyoming. Moved to Oregon in 1936. In April 1941, at the age of 18, went to Kodiak Island, Alaska to work on construction of the Naval Air Station and Army installations along the Aleutian Islands Chain. At the age of 19, was promoted to the position of foreman of one of the utility crews and remained in that position until returning to the states in 1943.

Joined the Army in July 1943 and took Infantry Basic Training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. Selected as Cadre Instructor in December 1943 thru November 1944. In November 1944, transferred overseas to the South Pacific and assigned to the 37th Infantry Division on the Island of Bougainville of the Solomon Islands Group. Within 6 months time advanced from the rank of Corporal to First Sergeant of Co. "A" 129th Inf. 37th Division, participating in the three major campaigns, on the Island of Luzon, P.I.--- Battle of Manila, Battle of Baguio and the Cagayan Valley to Aparri operation and remained in that position until the Division returned to the States in Dec. 1945.

Discharged in February 1946, returned to Civilian life. In August 1946, was elected Commander of Banks, Oregon American Legion Post #90. Elected again in 1947 to serve as Commander for second year. During this time (and missing Army life considerably) determined that his professional calling was to be a SOLDIER. In June 1949 re-enlisted in the U.S. Army to pursue what ultimately resulted in an outstanding and memorable military career.

## ASSIGNMENTS, & HIGHLIGHTS OF A 31 YEAR ARMY CAREER.

1949 - 1953 1st SGT Co. G, 351 Infantry, TRUST - TRIESTE US TROOPS -TRIESTE, ITALY. It was here that he initially learned the real art, skills and techniques of being a career soldier.

1953 - 1954 1st SGT Co. B, 38th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, Ft. Lewis, WA.

Highest rated Company during the 1954 annual Army I G inspection.

1954 - 1956 US Army ROTC Staff, Seattle University, Seattle, WA...

Recognizing his unique ability to influence and motivate cadets, he was transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1956.

During the assignment at the US Military Academy, he was appointed to the position of Sergeant Major, 2nd Regiment, USCC (United States Corps of Cadets) which was considered to be one of the most prestigious assignments for a Non Commissioned Officer in the US Army at the time. He considers this assignment at West Point as one of the highlights of his military career. In 1958, he was the first person promoted to E8 under the newly established E8-E9 program of the military services. Subsequently assigned as Sergeant Major, HQ, USCC, until reassignment to Europe in 1960.

1960 - 1964 Served as Sergeant Major of 1st ARB, 46th Inf. and 3d Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, Munich, Germany.

1961 - Selected as the first Sergeant Major to give the Graduation Address at a Major Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. 1963 - Selected to be the Brigade Sergeant Major of the 3rd Brigade, 24th Inf Division. Conducted the first all NCO parade to be held in Europe and was the Reviewing Officer for the occasion.

1964 - 1967 Senior Enlisted Advisor to the 41st Infantry Division, Oregon Army National Guard. Portland, Oregon. Undertook the challenge to assist and advise members of the National Guard in methods to improve the accuracy of administrative procedures and records keeping and to enhance the proficiency of tactical training in Infantry units, until being voluntary assigned to the Republic of South Vietnam.

1968 - 1969 With the Americal Div. in the Republic of South Viet NAM

Jan., - Feb. 68 - CSM, 5th Bn, 46th Inf. FT. Hood, Texas. Preparing Battalion for movement to Viet Nam.  
Mar - May 68 - Round-out Bn to 198th Bde, LZ Gator. Landed at Chu Lai the day of the Mi Lai incident.

May -Dec 68 - CSM 196th Inf Brigade, LZ Baldy. During this assignment realized the need for a program for the professional development of the Noncommissioned Officers.



In Dec 68 He was selected by the Commanding General, MG Charles Gettys to be CSM of the Americal Division. The largest Division in the World, including attached units. It was a great honor to hold this position. (It was on the Battlefield) It was during this assignment that Meade realized a much greater need for a program to further the professional development of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. A complete seminar was finalized in 1972 to further these goals.

Jan. - May 1970 CSM The School Brigade, FT. Benning, Georgia. This assignment was short in duration - 4 months - as CSM Meade was informed of the family's second tragedy of the Vietnam War.  
June 70 - June 73. Initially reassigned as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, 41st Inf Bde., Oregon Army National Guard, Portland Oregon for 1 year and in July 71 was assigned as the POST CSM, FT. Monroe, VA, home of the Continental Army Command. During this assignment, finalized all the necessary subject matter to complete "The Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Seminar" for teaching and upgrading the performance of the NCO Corps. In June 1972, returned to Viet Nam to be the CSM for MG Frederick J. Kroesen, now the Commanding General 24th Corp in Viet Nam.(Later renamed FRAC - First Regional Assistance Command) until April 1973, during the draw down of US troops from Vietnam. and was assigned as the CSM of Support Command, FT. Jackson, SC.

July 1974, began voluntary tour in Korea as the CSM, 2d BDE, 2d Inf. Division and subsequently selected to be the CSM of the 2nd Infantry Division. CSM Meade spent his final 9 months on active duty as the CSM 19th Support Command in Taegu, South Korea and retired on 1 July 1977, after 31 years of active duty.

Upon retirement, he became an active member of the Oregon Chapter of the AUSA (Association of the US Army) and was elected president of the Oregon Chapter in 1980. Under his leadership, the Chapter experienced the highest and most rewarding results ever and gained noticeable respect and admiration from the AUSA national Headquarters in Washington D.C.  
Meade was presented with the "Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation" for "Patriotic Civilian Service".

Citations and Decorations

- Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Broze Star with V and 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters (11 awards)
- Army Commendation Medal with V and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
- Presidential Unit Citation, Philippines
- Combat Infantry Badge with 1 Star
- (A total of 44 various Citations).

Two of CSM Meade's sons, also served in South Vietnam. One, a helicopter pilot was shot down in 1967 and remains 100% disabled and the other son, 1st LT with 173d Airborne, Bde, was killed in action in 1970. (an exploding mine).

CSM Meade was married 15 Oct. 1977 to Sue Lee of Seoul Korea. Their present residence is Beaverton, Oregon.

Headquarters  
**Americal Division**  
**Veterans Association**  
P.O. Box 4384  
Boston, MA 02104



Headquarters  
**North West Chapter**  
[Redacted]

WELCOME TO THE 1996 NATIONAL REUNION

THURSDAY JUNE 20

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 12:00 NOON      | REGISTRATION DESK OPEN. Early arrivals should be sure to check in at the registration desk for name tags etc.   |
| 6:00 - 11:00 PM | Steve Dennison, National Commander has called a special meeting for National and Chapter officers. Check the reader boards in lobby for specified time and group schedules.<br>MEETING OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS INVITED BY NATIOAL COMMANDER.                     |
| 6:00 - 11:30 PM | This room is open for Thursday or early arrivals to meet and socialize. Meet your friends here. No formal activities have been scheduled for Thursday evening, so enjoy the casinos and downtown areas. Most casinos have excellent meals at very low prices. |

 Kilroy



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS



**Americal Division Veterans Association  
1996 National Reunion**

**FRIDAY**

**JUNE 21**

- 9:00-11:30 AM  
Arizona Room** Reserved for National Headquarters officers to meet and discuss business.
- 9:00-10:30 AM  
California Room** Scholarship Committee meeting with Ron Ward, Chairman.
- 10:30 AM-Noon  
California Room** Far West Chapter members meeting with Acting Chapter Commander John Bowley and officers.
- 9:00 AM to return  
Tours** Tour groups to meet in lobby to board transportation.
- 1:00-4:00 PM  
Arizona Room** Meet and greet your National Officers during the afternoon. Americal items, such as hats, pins, T-shirts, etc., will be on sale in this room. The Far West Chapter may also have some items for sale at this time.
- 1:00-3:00 PM  
California Room** Meeting for Color Guard, Parade Committee, Color Bearers, and Parade Marshals with Sergeant of the Guard, Victor Lopez. Parade Marshals will allocate vehicle seating at this time. **THIS MEETING IS IMPORTANT TO ASSURE OUR BEST PRESENTATION FOR THE PARADE.**
- 3:00-4:00 PM  
California Room** North-West Chapter members meeting with Chapter Commander and new officers of the chapter.
- 6:30-11:30 PM  
Skyline Room  
(14th Floor)** Hospitality and entertainment all evening. No host bar available. (The Skyline Room overlooks the city of Reno and is reserved for Americal members and their guests only.)
- (7:00-8:00 PM)** Parade of Flags Show presented by W. Mark Durley, Jr. (Far West Chapter)
- The balance of the evening is for other scheduled entertainment. This is our evening of fun time and we will enjoy ourselves.

**Americal Division Veterans Association  
1996 National Reunion**

**SATURDAY**

**JUNE 22**

- 9:00 AM  
Convention Hall** Members who are going to join in the parade should meet in the Convention Hall. Be dressed ready to march in the parade: white shirts, dark pants, camos, uniforms, hats. Be ready to go! **LOOK SHARP!, BE SHARP!**, and maybe we will win the trophy for our category. If so, it will go on display in the Americal Museum.
- 10:00 AM  
Start of Parade** Assembly area to be announced. The assembly point will be close to the hotel if it is at the same place as in 1987.
- 1:00 PM  
Convention Hall** General Meeting of all members, installation of officers, and other business. Conducted by National Officers.
- 4:00 PM  
Convention Hall** Members are requested to have their pictures taken by Reunions, Inc. You should have your picture taken for the Memory Book whether you intend to purchase one or not. There is no charge for this session and no obligation to buy. Reunions, Inc. did our Memory Book in 1987 and they did a good job. Group pictures are also welcome, so get your friends together at this time for a group remembrance.
- 5:45-6:15 PM  
Convention Hall** No-host cocktail party before dinner.
- 6:15-8:30 PM  
Convention Hall** Banquet followed by guest speaker and presentations. Our guest speaker, Command Sergeant Major Jim Meade, has promised a talk that will be of interest to all members.
- 8:30-11:30 PM  
Convention Hall** Dancing and relaxing to the live music of our own orchestra to round off the evening. Bring your dancing shoes! Libations will be available at our own bar.
- Special Note** Merlin Video Productions will be roaming around during the entire reunion with their video camera. She will be interviewing some of the members, so don't be shy. Tell it like it is. Their work is very professional and for those who plan on buying the tape, you will be very well pleased.



**Americal Division Veterans Association  
1996 National Reunion**

**SUNDAY**

**JUNE 23**

**7:30-8:45 AM**  
**Arizona Room** Farewell breakfast buffet.  
Time to say good-byes for another year.

**9:00-9:30 AM**  
**California Room** Non-denominational services conducted by  
Rev. Perry Woerner, Fredericksburg, TX  
Chaplain, South Mid-West Chapter, ADVA

The **1997 ADVA National Reunion** will be held in Worcester, MA. This will give reunion attendees a chance to see the new location of the **Americal Museum**. We hope to see you there! Thank you for attending this year's reunion and making it a huge success.

**About Our Chaplain**

Rev. Woerner entered service in the US Army on January 25, 1943 at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. and was discharged in January, 1946. He served in five campaigns, from Guadalcanal through Luzon, P.I. He is presently a Chaplain in the Texas State Guard, holds the rank of Major, and is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans. He has been awarded numerous service medals and awards from his Army and State Guard service.

Rev Woerner graduated from Bob Jones University (Magna Cum Laude) in 1956 and became an ordained minister in 1959. In 1985 he retired as vice-president, Trust Department, Texas American Bank. In 1964 he became a National Trust School Graduate, Northwestern University. His civic involvement includes numerous board positions in various civic organizations in his community. He has been listed in publications of Who's Who in America, in Texas, in South-Southwest, in Finance and Industry, in Personalities of the South, and the American Bicentennial Research Institute of America. He was featured in TAN magazine as a "man who wears many hats". He is presently pastor of the Emmanuel Gospel Church of Willow City, Texas.

We appreciate his taking time out of a busy schedule to attend to our reunion spiritual needs.

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The ADVA Reunion Committee would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the following persons or organizations:

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Parade vehicles provided courtesy of **Mr. Bob Harris**, Curator, Nevada Air and Military Museum, Reno, and to his friends who so generously donated their time.

Parade of Flags sponsored, arranged, and prepared by **W. Mark Durley, Jr.**, ADVA WWII National Historian and Far West Chapter member.

MILITARY magazine courtesy of the **MHR Publishing Co.**, Sacramento, CA.

Americal colors, banners, and accouterments through the efforts of PNC **Kenneth Turner**, Curator, Americal Museum and **Bernard Chase**, National Adjutant.

MEMORY BOOK by **Reunions, Inc.**, Orlando, FL.

Video tapings and interviews by **Nancy Merklin**, Merklin Video Productions, Weed, CA.

Program design by **Lloyd Morrell**. Computer enhancements by **Gary Noller**.

POW-MIA drag racer owned and shown by **Max Loffgren**, Fairfield, CA. Max is a veteran of 1/52 Infantry, 198th LIB, and an ADVA member.

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Remember to support the Americal Scholarship Fund. Contact **Ron Ward** or members of his committee for further information. Scholarship benefits available to selected children and grandchildren of ADVA members.

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The following messages were received through **Amateur Radio Network** in April via a Redmond amateur operator:

American Legion Post 120, Palm Bay, FL, wishes much success to the Americal (23rd Inf.) Div. with their reunion in Reno in 1996. **John J. Johnson**, Post QM.

American Legion Post 89 wishes you much success with the Americal (23 Inf.) Division reunion in Reno, June 20-23, 1996. **John Spencer**, Mecoo, FL KT40A.



## LATE BREAKING NOTES

We wish to thank the William F. McGoldrich-New England Chapter for their generous donation to the reunion in memory of their Chapter members who have gone on to eternal service. May they rest in peace.

Julius Deriscavage, B 2/1, 196th LIB was registered for the reunion but recently had to be hospitalized and had to cancel. He generously donated the reunion money he had sent, to the Scholarship Fund. He wants to tell his friends he is sorry he wont see them.

Mrs. Lorraine Murnaghan, W. Yarmouth, MA. sent donation with request for the following insertion in the program. Money was turned over to the Scholarship Fund.

" In Loving Memory of My Husband, Hugh J. Murnaghan, 182nd Infantry Regiment."

Sgt. Roland J. Seaborne, Platoon Sgt, 182nd Inf. Reg, died in 1967. His son hardly knew him when his father passed away. He would like to know more about him and is interested in contacting anyone who knew his Dad during WW II. Please, if you have any information contact Michael J. Seaborne, P O Box 38, Hubbardstown, Massachusetts, 01452. I have his letter if anyone cares to see it.

Thabks go to Frank Markovich (Napa, CA), 721st Ordnance Co. for donation of some door prizes and arrangements for color guard rifles.

We have picked up some new members from reunion inquiries and those who have not yet signed up will be vigorously pursued. If you know of anyone who should be a member and isnt, see myself or one of the other officers of the ADVA.



# MEMORY JOGGERS NOTES --ADDRESSES

## MURPHY'S LAW FOR INFANTRY

Murphy's Law — it holds that whatever can go wrong will go wrong — has been adapted for the "grunts" who fight infantry warfare. Following are excerpts from that adaptation. The author is anonymous, and the source was a photocopy of a photocopy, mailed from one veteran of Fort Benning's infantry school to another.

- Suppressive fire — won't.
- Friendly fire — isn't.
- When in doubt, empty your magazine.
- Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
- If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
- The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
- If the enemy is in range, so are you.
- Tracers work both ways.
- If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share to take.
- All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.
- Anything you do can get you shot, including doing nothing.
- The important things are always simple.
- The simple things are always hard.
- The easy way is always mined.
- Professional soldiers are always predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
- Murphy was a grunt.