

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regiment Association

Volume 6 Edition 1 Spring/Summer 2025



HAPPY 250TH
BIRTHDAY TO THE
U.S. ARMY!!!

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Editor 28th FARA Newsletter
Janet Malherek

****HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY!!!****

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2025 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter.

We certainly hope **ALL** our 28th FARA Family are doing well. We hope this newsletter allows you to reminisce about your time in the 2/28 FA and that you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoy putting it together. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at Newsletter@28fara.org.

Janet Malherek 😊



Presidents Corner
Association Update
Pat Malherek



President's Message

Dear 28 FARA Members and Families:

I hope all is well with you, your families, and friends.

2025 is our biennial reunion year. Our next reunion is scheduled for October 9-12, 2025, at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Our reunion committee, led by President Emeritus Tommy Houston and 2nd Vice President Chris Dolan, are working diligently to make our reunion a memorable event. A Link is now available on our website, www.28FARA.org, that will allow you to register for the reunion. I hope many of you can join us in Colorado Springs in October. **Additional information** about the reunion and the **Link to register** can be found on **page 6** of this newsletter.

Our annual scholarship selection process is now complete. We had six scholarship applications submitted this year. This is the most applications ever. Our scholarship committee selected three of the applicants for this year's scholarship. Congratulations to Teriauna Williams, granddaughter of Robert Pollock; Jade Gayle, daughter of Albert Gayle; and Leah Beach, daughter of Dwight Beach for being this year's scholarship recipients. Thank you for encouraging your family members to continue the legacy of our association by applying for these scholarships.

We will hold elections for several board positions prior to the reunion. The following positions will be voted on in this year's election cycle: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Senior NCO, 1st Enlisted Member, and 2nd Enlisted Member. Additional information from Dave Dehnel, chairman of our elections committee, regarding nominations for these positions and voting procedures can be found in this newsletter on Page 24.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in October.

GUNSHOT!

Pat Malherek



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY U.S. ARMY!!!

ATTENTION 28 FARA MEMBERS AND FAMILIES....

**We will be conducting a general membership meeting on Zoom on
Saturday, June 14, at 2000 (8 PM) ET.**

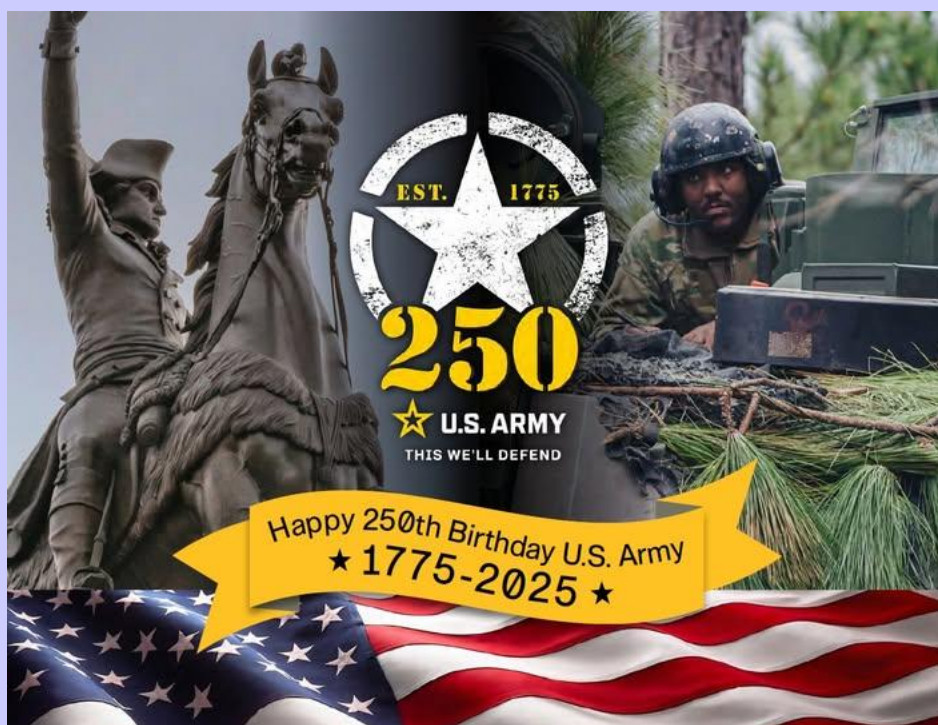
The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S Army and to provide details on the upcoming reunion in Colorado Springs, CO from 9-12 October.

A Zoom link to the meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting. I hope many of you can join us in this celebration of the Army's birthday.

Gunshot!

Pat Malherek

President





1st Vice President
28th Field Artillery Regiment Monument Update
Bill Dunham

Greetings!

As I begin to consider what time I have left on this mortal coil I have resolved to enjoy it as much as I can. It is nice to be in a position financially to nearly whatever I wish. From playing golf with The Box on a regular basis, to enjoying my three grandchildren, to travelling with my bride, and elk hunting in Colorado, life is now officially a hoot.

One of the things I relish the most is the time I spend with my fellow 2-28 FA brothers. As I reflect on my life as a youngster being stationed with my dad all over the place, to my early army career as an enlisted soldier and NCO at Fort Bragg (yes, that's its name again) and as my time as a field artillery officer I wonder how I survived. My time as the adjutant of 1-21 FA at Fort Hood (now Cavazos) and best job in the army as XO of Battery A was a lot of fun. However, my three years in 2-28 FA at Bleidorn Kaserne were wonderful. Some of the friendships established there have survived in the last forty years. When we come together for our biennial reunions my cup runneth over. I speak regularly with Tommy Houston and John Williams. John MacEnroe checks in every few months. Dwight Beach always sends me a Christmas card. We have visited Bob Michaud's lovely home in Bridgton, Maine. I check in on Bruce and Karen Ellis a couple of times each year when Louisiana is hit by a hurricane. Monthly I reconnect with the members of our Board of Directors via Zoom: Pat Malherek, Dave Dehnel, Dave Dolan, Chris Dolan, Danny Marksberry, Dave Mohan, George Hardin, Scott Sumpter, Janet Malherek, Mike Pfeffer, Barb Houston, et al. It is always wonderful to see and speak with them.

Sadly, one of the least enjoyable parts of my recent life has been attending the funerals of Dave Stewart (CSM), Tom Stecher (Battalion S-3 and XO), and Paul Lange (Battalion XO). I learned too late to attend any services for Pete Volin (Operations Sergeant) and Ed Carmichael (1SG, HHB). It seems that we will be doing many more of these kinds of things in the future. Please don't miss out on the chance to see some of our comrades before it's too late.

As our reunion rolls around, I try to contact everyone as much as possible. Recently, I have called the Fallens, Mike Fortanbary, Mike Fedaczko, John Sneed, John Donahue, Rick Earleywine, Dave Davenport, Al Cupp, Mel Cape, and Jim Brothers. I hope to continue to work through my list to encourage everyone to attend the reunion.

From our first reunion in 2014 in Colorado Springs to Savannah (2016), to New Orleans (2018), to Fort Sill (2021), and Washington, DC (2023), to this one returning to Colorado Springs 9-12 October, they have all been a great time. We reconnect with each other, we reconnect with the modern army by visiting an active-duty artillery unit, and we conduct Association business. We also find time to quaff a few brewskis. I am looking forward to doing just that at the Red Leg Brewery near the Garden of the Gods in October.

This year is a hectic time for our Board of Directors with special emphasis on our Reunion and Election Committees. If you have never tried to host an event like this, you simply have no idea about the love and effort that goes into it. Our election committee does a wonderful job making certain that the positions on our Board are filled. On an annual basis our Scholarship Committee is processing and validating applications for our \$1,000 stipend. They always do a great job.

Your Board of Directors works hard monthly (albeit some months more than others) to ensure the Association remains solvent and focused on the tasks at hand. Without their constant dedication we would not be all that we can be.

I guess the bottom line of this missive is to encourage you to attend our reunion and reconnect with your fellow Cold War comrades. I promise you that you will be glad you did. I also encourage each of you to contact someone and to encourage them to attend as well. Sadly, there have been a few who I have contacted that simply want nothing to do with us; but, for the most part everyone I contact is glad to reconnect.

Finally, kudos to Janet Malherek for the superhuman effort she makes to put this newsletter together!

Bill Dunham



2nd Vice President

Looking Ahead to Our Next Reunion!

Chris Dolan



**The 28th FARA 2025 Reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, CO
from October 9 - 12, 2025!!!**

REGISTRATION for the upcoming reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is now available. There is also a link to the Antlers Hotel for discounted room reservations. We are still in the process of finalizing banquet meal choices and cost. You can **REGISTER NOW** and we will email you once the banquet information page is available. Please **CLICK** the **LINK** below for **MORE INFORMATION** and to **REGISTER** for the reunion.

LINK  [Reunion Information Page](#)

Greetings, Members!

We are extremely busy making all the preparations for the next **28th FARA 2025 Reunion that will be held in Colorado Springs, CO from October 9 - 12, 2025!!!**

This will be a truly wonderful time of year to experience Colorado with warm days and cool nights! There are many attractions nearby too, so there will be lots to do for everybody.

The next page contains the latest information we have about the reunion. I will keep you updated as we continue the planning process. If anybody is interested in assisting with the preparations for the reunion, please contact me!!! We are always looking for people to help us make it a great reunion for everyone!!!

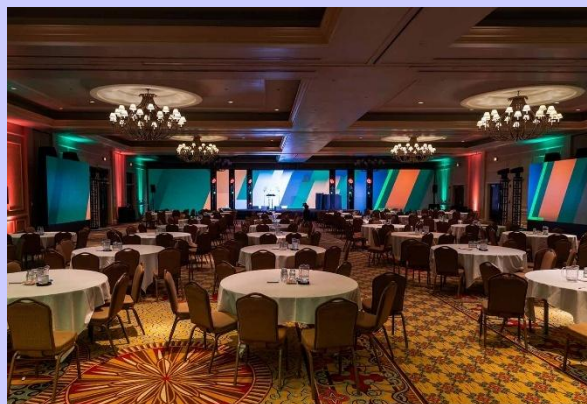
Chris Dolan

28th FARA 2025 REUNION UPDATE

Accommodations: Antlers Hotel
A Wyndham property



- *Located in Downtown Colorado Springs
- *Walking distance to Bars, Restaurants and Shopping
- *Restaurant and Bar on the property
- *Several event rooms available
- *Will extend rates to “shoulder dates” for those who wish to stay longer



SCHEDULE (AS OF NOW):

Wednesday 8 October 2025

Board of Directors **ONLY** Arrive



Thursday 9 October 2025

Board of Directors meeting

28th FARA Members Arrive

Colors Uncasing

Meet and Greet



Friday 10 October 2025

Event at Fort Carson with 4th Inf Div DIVARTY

**Wives Brunch*

Dinner at Edelweiss Restaurant



Saturday 11 October 2025

Members Meeting

Machine Gun Range

**Multiple Wives Activities*

Afternoon-Free time

28FARA Banquet



Sunday 12 October 2025

Breakfast and checkout

***PLEASE NOTE: For this reunion, women's activities are being specifically planned by a small group of wives. Updated information will be provided as they continue to make plans.**



Scholarship Coordinator
Dave Mohan



Scholarship Program:

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the **2025 Scholarship Program**. The scholarship program is open to members of the Association in good standing, their spouses, children, and grandchildren; and awards grants of \$1000 toward tuition and expenses at accredited institutions of postsecondary education and vocational/technical training.

This year we received six applications for the three scholarships available. Applicants were evaluated on their academic record, extracurricular activities, faculty recommendation, and a written essay. The grant recipients selected are:

Teriauna Williams, granddaughter of Robert Pollock (C Battery, 1985-88). Teriauna is a senior at Grovetown High School in Grovetown, GA. She plans to major in Architecture.

Jade Gayle, daughter of Albert Gayle (C Battery, 1987-90). Jade is a senior at St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Potomac Shores, VA. She plans to major in Veterinary Science.

Leah Beach, daughter of Dwight Beach (A Battery, 1984-87). Leah is a junior at the University of Chicago majoring in Molecular Engineering.

Congratulations to our 2025 Scholarship winners!

Look for the announcement of the 2026 Scholarship Program in early December 2025. Applications will be accepted beginning in January 2026.

Look for the announcement of the 2026 Scholarship Program in early December 2025!!!

Association members in good standing and their spouses, children, and grandchildren are eligible and encouraged to apply. Please watch for announcements or visit the scholarship page of the website at <https://28fara.org/Membership/Scholarship.html> this December for application instructions.

*****Applications will be accepted beginning in January 2026.**



Treasurer
Dave Dolan

Chief Financial Officer
Barbara Houston

2025 Report Coming Soon!!!

This year the Association awarded scholarships to deserving scholars. We plan to continue that program into the future. Look at the qualifications, perhaps you have a young scholar who would qualify.

A summary of 2024 financials year to date is as follows:

Ending Balance 10/31/2023		\$17,433
Ending Balance 02/30/2024		\$19,836
Revenue		\$3,009
Dues	\$2,954	
Contributions	\$0	
Other	\$55.00	
Expenses		\$606
Technology	\$340	
General	\$0	
Scholarship	\$97	
Office Fees	\$169	
Change in Cash		\$2,403



Adjutant/Secretary

Scott Sumpter

Adjutant/Secretary

Greetings! I am Scott Sumpter and have been elected as your new Adjutant.

As the Adjutant for the Association, I am responsible for all official Association communications, maintaining the membership roster and all Association records.

Here is some of my background information to help you get to know me better. I served in the battalion in C-Btry from 1985-88, under the great leadership of SFC Trice, 1SG Moretz, & CMDR's Houston, Dehnel, Malherek, and Earleywine. I also served in the S-3 for a period of 4-5 months. I was a section chief (SSG) while in Ansbach, Germany. I then was selected to attend drill sergeant school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in 1989 where I graduated, and was assigned to 1/19th FA in A & E-Btry's, where I later achieved the rank of SFC. Upon my departure from the military in 1992, I began my life as a leader in various civilian occupations in management positions. My achievement of being leader at the highest level of the military seemed to not fit in very well with civilians. However, I worked at Goodyear Tire Plant in Lawton, Oklahoma for 5yrs. I later moved to Cincinnati to be around my family to help improve my quality of life.

**2-28 FA Association WELCOMES the following
NEW MEMBERS:**

*More information
coming soon!!!*

Placeholder area for new members, consisting of several horizontal grey bars.

+Indicates Lifetime Membership

**RECRUIT your former
2-28 FA brothers and their families
and encourage them
to join the Association!!!**





**28th Field Artillery Regiment Association (FARA) Wants YOU!!!
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!!
Renewal Process & Lifetime Membership Options!!!**



We value your membership, and you are the reason we exist. We hope that you have reunited with some of your 28 FARA brothers from the past and are enjoying all that this membership has to offer. We are into our fifth year as an Association and it's the Association's mission to increase our membership!!! With that in mind, if you joined the Association before October, your \$40.00 fee will pay for your membership until January of the next year. If you paid the \$45.00 after October 1st, your annual dues of \$25.00 will be due in January, 12 to 15 months later and then every January thereafter. A Lifetime Membership however is paid once, and the annual payments are no longer required. Please see the information below that was sent out in a letter about Membership Renewal.

*Membership renewal is due in January of every year after your first year of membership paying your initial \$40.00 Fee. The renewal fee is \$25 each year thereafter. We also have a lifetime membership which is prorated by your age (less than 60 years of age: \$350; 60-69 years of age: \$250; those 70 years and above: \$150). **This option allows you to pay the lifetime fee one time and you don't have to pay the annual renewal fee again.** Many of us have selected the lifetime membership option.*

Your updated membership has its benefits. One of the benefits is for you and your guest to attend the reunions without having to pay a conference registration fee. All others will be required to pay a \$55 conference registration fee. So, if you haven't paid/renewed you will want to do so right away to receive the full benefits of your membership.

Please advise us of your intentions of renewing your membership to the Association. If you have attempted to make a payment and experienced technical issues, let us know and we can get someone to assist you. Thank you in advance for being attentive to address this issue no later than 1 October each year. We appreciate your interest in continued membership with the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association.

Please visit the FARA's website to JOIN or RENEW your membership TODAY!!!

www.28FARA.ORG

Please review the steps and options listed below for joining.

Membership Options

Year to Year Membership:

- a) For those joining for the **first time** the fee is \$40 for your first year of membership.
- b) Membership **renewal** for 1 year is \$25.

The Association is offering LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS for interested members as follows:

Members interested in the **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP option will **PAY the Lifetime Fee ONE TIME** and **WILL NOT** have to pay an annual renewal fee.**

- a) Members who are currently under 60 years of age: \$350
- b) Members who are currently between 60 to 69 years of age: \$250
- c) Members who are currently 70 years of age or older: \$150

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership: 72

The numbers below the guidons reflect soldiers who were in any and all batteries during their time in 2/28 FA. (To be updated)



(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

Please join our Association!!!

We had a great time at the past Reunions, and hope to have more people joining us at our future reunions. We want you and yours to carry on our legacy. We once made a difference! Our Association now needs to continue carrying on your memories, our stories, and our great legacy. But most of all, we want to reunite and share that military comradery that only a soldier understands.

If you have chosen not to continue to be a member in the association, please send an email to Scott Sumpter (Secretary@28fara.org) and explain why. Membership is our major mission in the future. We want to make our Association better and bigger, and we need your input!!!





Chaplain's Corner
COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Says "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong."

So many are "empty" within. A strange, painful gnawing vacuum persists in the depths of their soul. This inner aloneness is ever present. Few of us know or realize it is a profound yearning for God himself. In the wonderful design He intended us for His own companionship. We are never complete until we find our fulfillment in Him as our constant companion.

Instead, most of us recoil in fear from inner loneliness. We endeavor to fill this inner vacuum with fun, work or other human activities of a thousand sorts. In desperation we may even resort to trying to fill it with drugs, alcohol or even sexual adventures. All these are an escape from our inner self solitude. Still, we are never free of fear.

Yet it is in this inner stillness that our Father can speak to us most clearly. It is there alone with Him that He becomes real to our inner soul. It is there we begin to see Him most acutely with the perception of our awakened conscience in response to his Word. There we sense and know his Presence. He interacts with us in our deepening conviction through His wondrous Word and by His gracious Spirit.

For the person who comes to know and love God as Father in such intimacy, the times of solitude are the most exquisite in all of life. They are a rendezvous with the Beloved. They are anticipated eagerly, awaited with acute expectancy and relished with enthusiasm. These times are the highlights of life.

May God Bless you and keep you in His hand.

Chaplain Danny Marksberry

The
CHAPLAIN'S
Corner

Sick Call

*The following Veterans or Family Members are ill or have been infirmed.
(Please contact the Chaplain if you know of any others.
We want to make sure they know we care and are thinking of them.)*

***Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

Honors To Those Who Have Passed On

*In loving memory of great soldiers, family members, and friends
who have gone before us.*

We hold your memory close in our hearts today and always.



**Lieutenant Colonel (R)
Thomas Stecher
HHB**



**Major (R)
Paul Lange
HHB**



LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS STECHER
DECEMBER 29, 1948 - APRIL 29, 2024

(Submitted by George Hardin)

Tom served in the 2/28th Field Artillery from July 1983 to May 1985 as the S-3 and Executive Officer. After leaving the battalion, he spent over three years as a Division Chief at the United States Army Field Artillery Board. Upon his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he returned to serve in key leadership roles within the 3rd Infantry Division—first as the Executive Officer for the Division Artillery, then as the 3rd Infantry Division’s G-6, Community Coordinator, and finally as a Sub-Community Commander. He retired from active duty on September 1, 1992.

For the next 17 years, Tom explored various opportunities in the retail sector, eventually reaching the position of District Sales Manager for Select Comfort, the Sleep Number air bed company. Then, on September 1, 2009, he decided to step away from the workforce for good, embracing full retirement.

Since then, Tom and his wife, Madonna—who, since 2018, has served as the Chief Accounting Officer for the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association—have dedicated themselves to enjoying life. Their goals? To travel across this great country, visit the worldly destinations they’ve always dreamed of, and, in their own words, *spend their children’s inheritance before they die.*

MAJOR PAUL HANS LANGE JR

(Submitted by George Hardin)

MARCH 6, 1944 - MARCH 5, 2025

Major Paul Hans Lange Jr passed away in Santa Fe, NM on Ash Wednesday, one day before his 81st birthday. The cause of death was Parkinson's disease, most likely related to his service in Vietnam.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Paul Hans Lange Sr. and Jeanette (Ross) Lange, as well as his beloved wife, Kathy (Sawicki) Lange. He was born in Mt. Vernon, New York. At the age of 1, the family moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1962. Paul attended the University of New Mexico, majoring in psychology for three years. In 1966, he attended Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

In May 1967, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. After a short assignment to Fort Hood, on February 4, 1968, he was deployed to Vietnam as a Forward Observer with the Infantry during Phase 1 of the Tet Offensive. After Vietnam, he embarked on assignments in Korea and 3 assignments to Germany.

In 1980, Paul met Kathy Sawicki, who was in Germany visiting her sister. They were married in April 1981 at St Clair Shores in Michigan. The new family, including Kathy's son Ron, embarked on assignments in New Orleans and Nurnberg, Germany. In 1986, Major Paul Lange Jr. retired from active duty after serving 20 years.

Following his military career, the family settled in Albuquerque, NM, where Paul earned three master's degrees and worked at Kirtland Air Force Base and the Air Force Research Laboratory. In 2003, he and Kathy returned to Germany for a civil service assignment with the US Air Force in Kaiserslautern. Tragically, Kathy passed away from a fall at home in December 2004. Paul continued his work in Germany until retiring in 2006, capping 11 years of civil service.

Lange was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (1st Class), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and a Pistol Marksman Badge.

Returning to Santa Fe in 2006, Paul built a beautiful custom home and devoted his time to volunteering at Kitchen Angels, the local food kitchen, Bienvenidos food bank and was a long time member of Rotary. A dedicated parishioner of Christ Church Santa Fe, Paul cherished the fellowship and learning he found in his Bible study group.

An animal lover to his core, Paul's life was brightened by his dogs, Snickers and Skittles, and later his beloved Chihuahua, Lily. We thank Martha for taking over the care of Lily, which was a great comfort to Paul.

Paul is survived by his sister, Bunnie, and her husband, Dick Rotto, of Santa Fe; his son, Ron Marcinelli, and wife, Juli, of Albuquerque; and his cherished nieces, nephews, and their families: Michele of FL, Susie of New Zealand, Donnie of CA and his Santa Fe nephew Rich Rotto and wife Deki, and their children Yangchen and Rinchen.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful staff and Paul's dear friends at Brookdale Santa Fe, EGIS, and AmberCare. Martha cared for Paul as if he was family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Espanola Animal Shelter or Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary of Santa Fe.

A memorial service was held at Christ Church Santa Fe on **March 28, 2025**, followed by interment with military honors at the **Santa Fe National Cemetery**, where Paul was reunited with Kathy.

I want to share the stories of two remarkable soldiers I had the privilege of working for while serving with the 28th Field Artillery Regiment—Major Paul Lange and Major Tom Stecher.

In 1983, I was an M109 driver when I was sent on a Reforger Exercise. That's when I first met Major Lange, and we immediately hit it off. We both loved Germany, and we both spoke German. After just a few days of working together, he told me, *"I'm going to make you my driver when we get back."* Little did I know, that moment would mark the beginning of a 42-year friendship.

We went on several exercises together, including three in Grafenwöhr. On one of those exercises, I made the mistake of admitting I hadn't taken a shit in a week. From that moment on, Major Lange made it his personal mission to remind everyone of my predicament. Every morning, without fail, he would ask, *"Have you taken a shit yet?"* When I said no, he'd shake his head, then make sure to announce at every firing point, *"I'm worried about my driver Hardin—he hasn't taken a shit in XX days."* I wanted to disappear every single time. This went on for several days until, at last, I found some relief. Lesson learned—I never made *that* mistake again.

Even after our time in the military, Paul and I stayed in touch. I visited him and his wife, Kathy, in New Mexico on multiple occasions. One year, they invited me on an overnight hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back—a challenge I gladly accepted. Paul was known for his sharp, sarcastic sense of humor, but beneath that exterior was a great leader and an even better friend. His wife, Kathy, was a gem—her accidental passing in Germany was a loss that Paul never truly recovered from.

In 2017, Paul and I returned to Germany to revisit all our favorite places, including Ansbach. Later that year, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Watching him slowly lose his physical abilities was heartbreaking, but his mind remained as sharp and witty as ever. In March 2024, he threw himself a big 80th birthday party. I saw him for the last time in December of that year, knowing the end was near and wanting to share one last visit. Knowing that he is now reunited with Kathy is a comforting thought.

After Paul left the battalion, I became the driver for Major Tom Stecher—though only for one Grafenwöhr exercise. He was the complete opposite of Paul, and our relationship remained strictly officer/enlisted. However, years later, when we both became members of the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association, I got to know him in a different light. His demeanor had softened, and we became friends.

Tom also did well in the wife department when he married Madonna Stecher. She is kind, patient, and a joy to be around—everyone who meets her thinks so.

Looking back, I'm grateful for the friendships and experiences that came from my time in the 28th Field Artillery Regiment. Paul and Tom, in their own ways, left a lasting impact on my life, and I wouldn't trade those memories for anything.

Submitted by George Hardin (28 FARA Chief Information Officer & Webmaster)

Link to pictures of Paul Lange 1983-2024: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/EMyygdUULUwNA3NZ6>

Link to Paul Lange Interview and Service History in the Veterans History Project, Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.124136/>

How We Can Help

We understand how stressful and difficult the passing of a loved one can be. At our age, all of us have been through this at one time or another and in one capacity of another.

One of the goals of our Association is to make sure that, within our power and means, that every veteran of the unit is provided the proper honors upon their passing and to provide the surviving spouse with as much assistance as we can give. All of this is based on the desires of the family of course.

The rules and regulations of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense can be confusing. Also, when a death occurs, there is not a lot of time to go look for the information. Also, we have found some funeral homes are well familiar with the rules and regulations, whom you need to contact etc and some are not.

To help our members, the Association will appoint a duty officer from the board of directors to be available every 90 days to assist the family of the Veteran or Family member. The duty officer familiar with all the information that you need as well as having access to the resources of the Association. This support continues after the funeral.

Besides information to assist the family, we wish to provide honors to the Veteran, but much of what we can provide will be dependant on location and how many members can attend the services. As a minimum, the Association can provide someone for the Family to call and get information. However, depending on location and the availability of other veteran members, here are some examples of the services we can provide:

- Depending on how many veterans that can attend the services, provide fellow 28th FA veterans as pall bearers.

- Provide the Battalion Colors and appropriate guidon to be displayed at appropriate services. These will be shipped Fedex to a 28 FA member who is in the area who will be responsible for the display as well as returning the items to the Association.

- A "soldiers cross" consisting of a helmet, dummy rifle with Bayonet, boots and dog tags. These will also be shipped to a veteran member that is in the area and can attend the funeral who will be responsible for setting up the display and returning it to the Association.

- Depending on member availability a 28 FA member/vet who will represent the Association/Battalion and can speak of the member's service at the Service.

- The Association Chaplain will be available via phone to council and support

- Setting up a donation account through the Wounded Warriors foundation or a Veterans Charity of the families choice in the veterans honor.

- The least we will do is to ensure that the Veteran/Family Member is honored on our web site, newsletter and official association functions such as reunions.

The key to all of this is timing. Our Chaplain, Danny Marksberry, is the Association's contact point for this type of support. Danny will connect the "duty officer" with the family so that we can render our offer of assistance. Make sure that the family knows to contact Danny if there is a death or serious illness that occurs to a Veteran member or family member. Danny will get the word out to the appropriate people. ***It is imperative that we know about the situation as soon as possible!!!***

To provide you with an idea of how the Association can assist, below is a check list that is used by our Bereavement Duty Officer once we are notified of the passing of one of our members:

Casualty Officer Check list for death of member of 28th Field Artillery Association:

- Receive death notification.
- Get as much information as possible, ie. obituary, widow/next of kin information, date of funeral and where and when it will be held.
- Determine if the deceased member is a retiree. (if so, see below)
- Disseminate to membership via email of the death including obituary if available. (Time is of the essence)
- Determine if any members are in the area that could possibly attend the funeral or other events. Contact those members to see if they can/will attend
- Contact the family and ask if they would like our help. If so, help any way needed
- Ask the family if it has the veteran's DD214, (Discharge Form). If not, and a replacement is needed, have them call 1-866-272-6272
- Ask the family if the veteran desires to be buried in his uniform. Have them send you a picture of the uniform and check to see if it is put together properly.
- Contact Treasurer or CAO to authorize flowers from the association, if enough lead time, if not find out which veterans organization they desire to receive the donation by the Association in the Veterans name.
- If a military headstone is wanted have the family inform the funeral director and the funeral home can the arrangements with the VA.
- If the service member is a retired Army veteran, in addition to the above do the following:
- Inform the family to make sure the survivor stops the retired pay. To report a retiree's death call 1-888-332-7411.
- Inform the family that if the retiree is receiving disability compensation call 1-1-844-698-2311.
- If another member is attending the services, ask the widow/next of kin if they want to have a memorial at the funeral such as a soldier cross (helmet boots, fake weapon with bayonet and dog tags) to put in front of the funeral. Also if they would like the appropriate Battery Guidon present.
- If this is desired by the family, coordinate with another member that will be attending the services. Make sure they are OK with receiving "the kit" and setting it up.
- If this is acceptable to the family and the members attending, contact the Quartermaster to have the "kit" sent to a member attending the service.
- Contact President of the Association to send a letter of condolence to the family.
- Each attendee should submit an AAR to the chaplain so we can continue what we did well and improve the areas that we need to.
- After the Services, Contact the members that did attend and find out how things went.
- Provide a copy of the obituary to the Webmaster and Newsletter editor.



Veterans Assistance
Here to help!
Doyle Watters



Veterans Assistance

Many of you have heard various things about the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Some of you may have even heard that the system is broken. Although I have never had a problem with the VA System, my advice to you would be that if you have a problem, report it and follow up.

We have a new Secretary of Veterans Affairs by the name of Doug Collins. He is a veteran and former representative from the state of Georgia. I believe he is going to do some good things for the Veterans. His motto is **“Veterans First.”** Anything I would be able to send you about the VA can be found online. Of course I am always willing to assist, encourage, and explain how to file a disability claim or answer any questions you may have. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me by voice or text (608-807-6280).

I have provided a lot of helpful information on the next page of this newsletter. I highly encourage all members to read this information. **Finally, I want to make sure that all members understand that there is no time limit on filing a disability claim and no one can tell a Veteran that they can't file a claim.**

**United States Department of Veterans Affairs Official Website - <https://www.va.gov>
or call them at 1-800-698-2411**

Contact Doyle Watters (28th FARA Member) – EMAIL - VA@28fara.org

Doyle Watters
CSM (R)





VA Disability Claims Information Sheet

From my experience of working with Veterans and their VA disability claims over the past thirty plus years, I have used the following information to aid me in getting their claim processed. I call this a roadmap to get from point A to point B. In fact, it's a working guide to help one to understand a process that is rather simple, in which many Veterans have a tendency to make complicated.

All county Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are in a paid position to assist Veteran and not to make decisions for the Veteran. If you feel you aren't getting the assistance you are entitled, don't stop there. Let the VSO know about your concerns if that doesn't work, inform VA of your concerns. It is easy to get frustrated and give up. If that is the case, you are cheating yourself and possibly family members out of funds that could be used to enrich everyday life.

Some do's and do not's that I have found helpful over the years.

1. Go online and read all about VA Disabilities and how the system works.
2. Do not be afraid of losing any VA benefits you may have already acquired, while attempting to increase your disability.
3. Do not confuse the Veterans Administration and the VA hospital they are two separate entities.
4. Keep any and all paperwork that one may receive from outside medical facilities.
5. It is important to understand how VA computes disabilities, which can also be explained online.
6. Know the appeals process in case your claim is disapproved.
7. There are many lawyers that work on appeals pro bono. Meaning they take a percentage of any back pay one may receive.
8. If one is retired military, they will not receive any disability funds until their disability reaches fifty percent.
9. I suggest keeping your spouse informed and take them along, if possible, anytime one goes in for a Compensation and Pension (C and P). They need to know everything going on and for the most part do. Don't be late for the exam and do not lie, just be upfront and tell the examiner all about how your claim is affecting one's life. One is not going to remember everything they want to say, take notes, and give a copy to the examiner.
10. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a very sensitive related disability that goes untreated a lot of times due to lack of information and or fear. One of the biggest misnomers that Veterans believe, is they will lose their rights to own weapons. By the way one does not have to have been in combat to experience PTSD.

There are several stressors that can be found online that could or will cause a negative response and take one aback in time, if only for a few seconds. A few examples are as follows: a. Diesel fuel, b. Helicopters, c. Fireworks, d. Crowds, and the list goes on.

Note: I'm here if you need me. I am not a psychologist; I am a veteran who has worked with many Veterans who have been successful in getting their disability claims approved.

Doyle Watters
CSM (R)



Chief Information Officer & Webmaster

George Hardin



Hi 28Fara Members,

I wanted to give you a quick rundown of some features on our website www.28fara.org. There are several pages on our website that can be accessed without creating a login ID. However, to get full access to all content on our website you will need to create a login ID by following the instructions below.

How to Use Our Website

Access the Members Only pages of our website: Go to Membership, Members Only, then Login or “sign up for a new account here”. New accounts are activated once paid membership is verified (3-5 days). The Members Only page gives you full access to the membership roster, pictures, member location on a map, membership roster and all issues of the Bleidorn Switchboard Newsletters.

Members Only Login-Password Reset or Password Change: If you forgot your Members Only password, or want to change it, go to Membership, Login-Password Services, and follow the instructions. Note: If you forget your login ID, I can retrieve that for you. I cannot retrieve your password. Just send an email to me and I will help you get access.

Member Roster Updates: If you want to update your roster information, go to Membership, Join the 28FARA, Application, then enter your last, first name update (for example: “Hardin, George update”), your email address and then any other information that needs changing, click submit. You can also email your updates directly to CIO@28fara.org.

Pay Dues: Go to Membership, Membership Dues, then choose the appropriate yearly renewal or lifetime membership purchase. You can either use PayPal (you do not need to have an account) or mail a check to: 28th Field Artillery Regiment, 1880 Sapling Court, Castle Rock, Colorado, 80109.

If you ever have any problems with our website or have just a general IT question, please contact me at CIO@28fara.org.

George Hardin



Special Assistant to the President
Dave Dehnel

Election for 2025

One of the main events at our bi-annual reunion (8-12 October 2025) is the introduction of the new Board of Directors and recognition of the outgoing Board members. This upcoming reunion will be no different.

Current Board of Directors

President (2 years) - Patrick Malherek
1st Vice President (2 years) - Bill Dunham
2nd Vice President (2 years) - Dave Mohan
Treasurer (3 years) - Dave Dolan
Adjutant (3 years) - SFC Scott Sumpter
Senior NCO (2 years) - CSM Keith Young
1st Enlisted Member (2 years) - 1SG Miguel Rosario
2nd Enlisted Member (2 years) - Wayne Pfeffer

Current Candidate List

Patrick Malherek
Bill Dunham
Chris Dolan - ***UNDECIDED***
Dave Dolan
SFC Scott Sumpter
CSM Keith Young
1SG Miguel Rosario
OPEN

TIMELINE:

May and June, the Election Committee will contact you, the members, asking if you would like to participate on the Board of Directors.

Week of August 6, 2023, the Election Committee will initiate the election process using our election service from Election Buddy (electionbuddy.com). Each current member will receive an election notification with a unique ballot identifier through email or SMS text, if we have an active mobile phone number on file

Shot Out!!

Election Committee

CSM Keith Young and MAJ (R) David Dehnel

The following positions are appointed positions:

Appointed Positions

Chaplain - Danny Marksberry

Chief Accounting Officer - Barbara Houston

Chief Information Officer & Webmaster - George Hardin

Veterans Assistance - Doyle Watters

Judge Advocate - Lisa Mohan

Quartermaster - Vacant

Historian - Tommy Houston

Special Assistant to the President - Dave Dehnel

Newsletter Editor - Janet Malherek

If you are interested in finding out more information about any of the positions above, please contact me. We are always looking for help!

Contact Information:

Dave Dehnel / daviddehnel2@gmail.com / 919-523-2542 (mobile) leave a message.



**Contact Information for the
Board of Directors & Appointed Positions:**

We want to hear from you!!!
Please send us your ideas and suggestions!!!

President and Chairman of the Board: **Pat Malherek** - President@28fara.org

1st Vice President/XO: **Bill Dunham** - 1stVP@28fara.org

2nd Vice President/OPS: **Chris Dolan** - 2ndVP@28fara.org

Treasurer: **Dave Dolan** - Treasurer@28fara.org

Chief Accounting Officer: **Barbara Houston** - Contact information coming soon!!!

Adjutant/Secretary: **Scott Sumpter** - Secretary@28fara.org

SR NCO Member of the Board at Large: **CSM Keith Young** - CSM@28fara.org

Chief Information Officer: **George Hardin** - CIO@28fara.org

1st Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Miguel Rosario** - Enlisted1@28fara.org

2nd Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Wayne Pfeffer** - Enlisted2@28fara.org

Veterans Assistance: **Doyle Watters** - VA@28fara.org

Special Assistant to the President: **Dave Dehnel** - Elections@28fara.org

Judge Advocate: **Lisa Mohan**

Quarter Master: **Vacant**

Chaplin: **Danny Marksberry** - Chaplain@28fara.org

Scholarship Coordinator: **Dave Mohan** - Scholarship@28fara.org

Newsletter Editor: **Janet Malherek** - Newsletter@28fara.org

President Emeritus: **Tommy Houston**

Trivia Questions

EVERYBODY LOVES TRIVIA!!!

Trivia questions are a great way to bring back so many memories of the time we spent in 2-28, the military, and Ansbach, Germany!!! **Anyone** is welcome to submit Trivia Questions to be shared in future editions of the newsletter. Please contact Janet Malherek at Newsletter@28fara.org if you would like to share some. Please be sure to provide the answers as well. 😊 The answers can be found in a different part of the newsletter for those who like to challenge themselves!!! 😊

ENJOY!!!



Military Trivia

***In honor of the U.S. Army's 250th Birthday,
enjoy some Trivia Questions about the U.S. Army!!!***



1. On what date was the U.S. Army officially established?
2. What was America's First Army called?
3. Who was the first commander-in-chief of the Continental Army?
4. What is the official song of the U.S. Army?
5. How many 5-star generals have served in the U.S. Army?
6. How many presidents have served in the U.S. Army?
7. What was the name of the first woman to serve in the military, posing as a man?
8. Which U.S. president served in the Army and earned the Medal of Honor?
9. What is the Army's primary combat reserve?
10. What is the official motto of the U.S. Army?

*****Answers can be found on Page 36...***

With each issue of the Newsletter, we will highlight members of the Association so we can share their memories of their time in Germany with the Battalion. To make sure we get those memories from different perspectives, we will interview Officers, NCOs, EMs and Spouses. This month's interview is with: SGT Frank McCook and SSG Robert Pollock



Interview with SGT Frank McCook

Charlie Battery - Cannoneer - Driver/#1 Man, Special Weapons Section Chief

****When were you assigned to the Battalion? What battery were you assigned to? What was your MOS? What jobs did you hold?***

I arrived in Germany in Nov '83. I was initially assigned to 210 FA Brigade at Herzo Base, Herzogenaurach. I was re-assigned to C Battery, 2/28 FA BN in Feb '84. MOS was 13B. I was stationed in Ansbach with 2/28 until my discharge in July '87. I held numerous jobs while in my gun section up to driver/#1 man. In '85 I was moved into Special Weapons where I remained for the rest of my enlistment, ultimately as Section Chief.

****What was your marital status when assigned to the Battalion and where did you live?***

I was single when I arrived at 2/28, ultimately marrying a fraulein in Dec '85. I lived on base for the initial period of my enlistment, but moved to Colmberg in late '85 after marriage and my Command Sponsorship came through.

****Who was in your chain of command and what do you remember about them?***

Over the period of time I was in Ansbach, I experienced numerous command changes. Initially, Col. Michaud, CSM Stewart, Capt. Houston, 1SG Salary, and Smoke Donaldson were there. Later was Col. Ripley, Captains Dehnel, Malherek, and Earlywine. 1LT Gorrell, 1LT Sneed, 1LT Donahue. Senior NCO's included 1SG Moretz, 1SG Romero, others whose names escape me.

My first Section Chief was SSG Jones (Cornbread). Later, another SSG Jones (Claudius??) became Section Chief. Learned a lot from these men. One Friday, after noon chow, SSG C. Jones informed that I had to get the howitzer painted before COB. Drove it in front of the maintenance bay, gathered the paint and needed supplies, and got to work. Me and the section dogs knocked it out. Never figured out if it was a test or just the mission for that Friday afternoon, but liked the challenge.

What I remember most about these men is fealty to their oaths, dedication to the mission, commitment to their troops, and the veracity of their word.

****When you hear the term "Graf" or "Grafenwoehr" what comes to mind?***

COLD, numb fingers and toes, choking dust on those long tank trails, burnt cream style corn that you ate anyway 'coz that's what you had, and how great that shower felt after two weeks of spit baths....but I did love pulling tail.

****What did you like best about your time in the Battalion?***

Developing perseverance and the confidence to handle damn near anything. This trait has benefitted me and others my entire life.

****What is your best memory about your time in the Battalion?***

Hard to pin down the best memory. Highlights are the birth of my first son - nothing can ever supplant the birth of a first child; Developing lifelong friendships with men I respect; Traveling-as soon as I was able, I started traveling by train, renting cars, booking tours, seeing what was around the next corner. I determined that I might never again have these opportunities to see Europe and I was not going to miss it. Lastly, flying deep into triple digits on motorcycles on the autobahns has to make this list.

****What did you like least about your time in the Battalion?***

KP...love chow, just not the pre & after-party.

****Who is the person you remember the most from your time in the Battalion?***

1SG Moretz. Learned importance of NCO commitment to training, discipline, and welfare of the soldiers in their sections/units by listening and watching him. He also took time to invest in my development. He saw potential. Others as well, but he did make a difference through example and action.

****Give us an overview of your life after Bleidorn (Marriage, kids, jobs, where lived, Career etc.).***

I have four sons, three with previously mentioned German bride, and a 12-year-old with my current wife (yeah, I know...too old for this bleep....). One Navy vet and advanced degrees for the other two in the original three. Coaching baseball, checking report cards, and beginning to teach the joys of manual transmissions with the latest issue.

ETS'd in country in 1987. Returned to Texas Aug '88. Earned BS Forestry in '92. Worked in private forestry management for a number of years. Worked with Texas Forest Service for 7 years which led to my current position with US Forest Service. I have 20+ years in the agency, and it has been very good to me and my family.

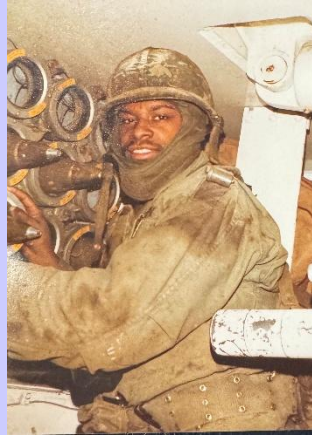
Lived in Texas since my military time at Bleidorn but think of the men I served with often and via social media, keep in touch with several.

****What would you like to see with our 28th FA Association?***

I am sure very capable minds have skulled over how to increase membership/participation. We have social media presence, emails, and call lists. Unsure of how to improve membership or participation. I appreciate the work and dedication from current leadership.



Frank McCook
Baseball Coach for his son's
baseball team!!!



Interview with SSG Robert Pollock

Charlie Battery - Cannoneer, Gunner in First Section, Chief of Second Section

****When were you assigned to the Battalion? What battery were you assigned to? What was your MOS? What jobs did you hold?***

I arrived in Ansbach, Germany in December 1985 and was assigned to Charlie Battery 2/28th FA. My initial job was a Gunner in First Section under the leadership of SSG Ransome. My MOS 13B. I was promoted and became the Chief of Second Section.

****What was your marital status when assigned to the Battalion and where did you live?***

I was married to Barbara Pollock and resided in Bleidorn Military Housing area in H building, top floor.

****Who was in your chain of command and what do you remember about them?***

CPT Dehnel and 1SG Moretz
CPT Malherek
CPT Earlywine and 1SG Romero

Battalion Commanders

LTC Michaud	CSM Stewart
LTC Griffin	CSM Waters

Battery XO	Battery FDO
LT Sneed	LT Donahue
LT Donahue	LT Schwartz

Chief Firing Battery	Gunnery SGT
SFC Trice	SSG Cox
SFC Luke	SSG Taylor

1SG Romero was the Best 1SG I have ever had in my Military Career. He was hard but fair!!

****When you hear the term “Graf” or “Grafenwoehr” what comes to mind?***

I think of the field, dusty trails, and the worst weather.

****What did you like best about your time in the Battalion?***

I loved that the Battalion was on its own Kaserne and we were like Family.

****What is your best memory about your time in the Battalion?***

Under my leadership serving as a Chief of Section, we won TOP GUN of Division Artillery.

****What did you like least about your time in the Battalion?***

Doing combat PT which was needed but I didn't like having to hose myself down after doing combat PT.

****Who is the person you remember the most from your time in the Battalion?***

1SG Romero was the person I remember the most. He was the Best Leader I have ever served with in the military.

****Give us an overview of your life after Bleidorn (Marriage, kids, jobs, where lived, Career etc.).***

I will be married to my beautiful wife, Barbara, for 40 years this year. We have four children: Joshua, Elizabeth, Robert Jr, and Whitfield Lovice. My favorite job after 3/17 and 2/28 in Germany, was my assignment at Fort Jackson, SC. I served as a Drill SGT for three years there. I currently reside in Bowling Green, KY. After a 20-year career in the military, I served 20 years with the Social Security Administration. I retired for the second time in October 2021. I now volunteer a couple of days a week with the VA in Clarksville, TN and Fort Campbell at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and serve on the Armed Forces and Veterans Committee in an organization in my community. My most enjoyed retirement service is spending quality time with our 7 grandchildren and traveling.

****What would you like to see with our 28th FA Association?***

It would be nice to stay connected by having quarterly zoom calls. Improve our efforts to locate some of the younger soldiers who served with 3/17th and 2/28th FA to keep this organization going strong.



Robert Pollock and his
beautiful wife Barbara



Robert Pollock receiving recognition
for 40 years of Federal Service



Robert Pollock
Drill Sergeant



SFC Robert Pollock

!!!TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

1. June 14, 1775
2. The Continental Army
3. George Washington was appointed commander of the Continental Army in 1775.
4. “**The Army Goes Rolling Along**” was adopted in 1952 as the official song of the U.S. Army. The current lyrics tell the story of our past, our present, and our future.
5. There have been five 5-star generals who have served in the U.S. Army:
George C. Marshall (December 16, 1944), *Douglas MacArthur* (December 18, 1944), *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (December 20, 1944), *Henry H. Arnold* (December 21, 1944), and *Omar N. Bradley* (September 20, 1950).
6. 16 presidents served in the army (either the Continental Army, the U.S. Army, or the U.S. Army Reserves).
7. Deborah Sampson is known for disguising herself as a man to serve in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.
8. President Theodore Roosevelt
9. Established in 1636, the Army National Guard is the oldest component of the US Armed Forces and serves as the primary combat reserve of the U.S. Army.
10. The official motto of the U.S. Army is “**This We’ll Defend**”. This motto was adopted in 1956 and has been in use ever since, symbolizing the Army’s commitment to defending the country and its values. The phrase dates back to 1778, when it was first used by the Continental Army’s War Office.

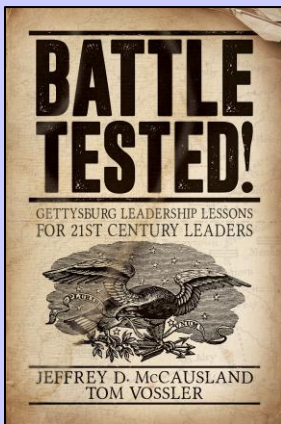


A 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association member,
COL Jeffrey D. McCausland, US Army (Retired),
has co-written a book called

BATTLE TESTED!



Jeff served as the Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery. He also served as the Battalion Commander of the 3rd Battalion 17th Field Artillery during Operation Desert Storm!!!



Summary of the Approach of the Book:

Gettysburg was the largest battle ever fought on the North American continent. Over 170,000 Union and Confederate soldiers engaged in this struggle and roughly 25 percent were casualties after three days. Union victory at Gettysburg was vital to end the rebellion, preserve the nation, and set a course for the future. Lincoln later honored Union soldiers for giving “the last full measure of devotion” to the nation, and its memory is deeply embedded in the American psyche.

This iconic event provides contemporary leaders a superb opportunity to examine enduring leadership principles, including:

- How leaders and organizations operate under enormous stress
- How leaders make the hard decisions
- How the leadership skills of several well-known military officers such as Lee, Stuart, Meade, and many others, can provide insights for modern leaders

You may never visit the Gettysburg battlefield, but understanding historic lessons from *Battle Tested!* will have a profound influence on not only your leadership abilities, but also your life, organizations, and career.

The book, *Battle Tested!*, is available on Amazon: bit.ly/D6battletested

CONGRATULATIONS JEFF!!!

With each Edition of the Newsletter, we want to share memories, news, pictures (*past and/or present*), and more from members of the 28th Field Artillery Association. If you have anything significant in your life like the birth of a child/grandchild, a child graduating from college, entering the military, things your families are doing, trips you have taken, reunions, etc....please send them our way!!! We want to share them with our 28th Field Artillery Family!!!

Please email them to...

Newsletter@28fara.org

To help get everyone excited for the 2025 Reunion...here are a few pictures of the 2023 Reunion held in Washington, D.C.!!!

(Additional reunion pictures can be found on the 28th FARA website!!!)



**Poem submitted by
Command Sergeant Major
(R) Doyle Watters**

The Defender

I have fought wars and conflicts around the globe.
I am the past, present, and the future.
Over the years, my uniform has changed a bit.
Nevertheless, it will always be a symbol of freedom.

Throughout history, I have defended my country.
When asked to take the oath, I raised my right hand.
I have never, nor will I ever, let America down.
Even in the most unpopular wars, I was strong.

My head held high as I invaded the beaches,
Slept in jungles, and dreamed of home.
I've marched across the deserts' hot sand.
I spilled my blood to protect the Constitution.

Yes, I walk with a limp and I drink too much.
I even sit on the street corners and beg.
Often I am overcome with shame.
Here is a label some have tried to pin on me.

I will never accept such characterization.
Fear has stalked me every generation.
I went away and I did not come home.
I am buried at the bottom of the sea.

My white crosses line the countryside on foreign soil.
No one visits my grave, or remembers my name.
When I departed, I was not old enough to vote,
Could not enter a tavern and consume a beer.

I did not get a chance to raise a family,
Nor watch my children grow to be adults.
Family reunions often dismissed my existence.
When I came home you said I was different.

My limbs were missing and my mind distorted.
I was withdrawn and appeared to be troubled.
Yes I am different, I only wish I wasn't.
The price that I paid shall be paid again.

Some have to give, so that others may reap.
Without the Veterans, there is no America.
Hopeful my strength will encourage the youth,
May they be strong when peace does not prevail.
Only the dead have seen the end of war.

Command Sergeant Major
Doyle Watters
US Army May 1965 – May 1990 (Retired)

2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery Monument (Ft. Sill, Oklahoma)





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL FOR
ARTILLERY**