# The Beidorn Switchboard

## 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association

Volume 7 Edition 1 Spring/Summer 2026

**HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!**

***Inside this Edition***


*Buzz from the Board

- *Reunion 2027 Information
- *2-28 Plaque for US Army Museum
- *2026 Scholarship Recipients
- *2026 Elections

*How to Join 28th FARA

*Membership

*Chaplains Corner

*Sick Call & Honors

*Casualty Assistance

*Veterans Assistance

*Chief Information Officer

*Special Assistant to the President – Election Info.

*Contact Information

*Trivia Questions

*Talking with Heroes

*Trivia Answers

*Did You Know???

*Photos & Memories

*2/28th FARA Monument

**Editor 28th FARA Newsletter**
Janet Malherek


****HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!****

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2026 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter.

We certainly hope **ALL** our 28th FARA Family are doing well. We hope this newsletter brings back great memories of your time with the 2/28 Field Artillery, and that you enjoy reading it 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. This past year was an eventful one for the association. We held our biennial reunion last October in Colorado Springs, CO. Our reunion committee, led by President Emeritus Tommy Houston and 2nd Vice President Chris Dolan organized a great weekend. The reunion was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and relive memories from our days in the 2/28 FA. Approximately forty members and guests attended the reunion. Events included an opening meet and greet, a wives' brunch, an old farts SQT, and a visit to the Dragon Man Range. The reunion concluded with the banquet during which the current board of directors was sworn in for two-year terms.

Our annual scholarship selection process is now complete. Our association awarded four scholarships this year. The recipient of the MAJ Paul H. Lange Jr. Memorial Scholarship is McKenna Marksberry, granddaughter of Dan and Kay Marksberry. The recipient of the Thomas D. Houston III President Emeritus Scholarship is Teriauna Williams, granddaughter of Robert and Barbara Pollock. The recipient of the Dr. (COL) Maureen Baldy-Williams Scholarship is Ernest Romero-Ruiz, grandson of Ernest and Vangie Romero. The recipient of the Battery Commanders' Scholarship is Emily Catherine Moretz, granddaughter of Charles Moretz. Congratulations to all 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 are currently in the process of holding elections for Treasurer and Secretary. These positions are three-year terms. Next year the positions of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Senior NCO, 1st Enlisted Member, and 2nd Enlisted Member will be up for election.

Our next reunion is scheduled from September 30 - October 3, 2027, in Philadelphia, PA. If you have never attended one of our reunions we would love to see you in Philadelphia.

**GUNSHOT!**

Pat Malherek

## 1st Vice President

28th Field Artillery Regiment Scholarship Information and Path of Remembrance Plaque at the Museum of U.S. Army in Ft. Belvoir

Bill Dunham

**Greetings!**

After a successful reunion last October, your Board of Directors took a couple of months off. However, it's time to get back to work.

Dave Mohan and his scholarship committee have been hard at work doing their thing. I believe our scholarship program has been a huge success. We are in a position now that we can award up to 6, count 'em, 6 scholarships in a year. Our standards will not diminish, and we will award scholarships only to qualified applicants. We have 4 endowed scholarships: MAJ Paul H. Lange, Jr. Memorial Scholarship; LTC (Ret.) Tommy Houston President Emeritus Scholarship; Battery Commanders' Scholarship; and last but not at all least the Dr. (COL. Ret.) Maureen Baldy-Williams Scholarship. She is the bride of the Box and she generously donated $15,000 dollars to the Association solely to be used for scholarships. The MAJ Lange scholarship is endowed by donations from COL (Ret.) Rock Schmidt and our very own George Hardin. Tommy Houston is endowing his scholarship annually. The battery commanders from 2-28 donate annually to endow their scholarship. Naturally, the two scholarships funded by the association (the CSM Dave Stewart Memorial Scholarship and the tentatively named Bleidorn Kaserne Scholarship) will be awarded only after all the endowed scholarships have been granted. Information about this year's scholarships recipients can be found in this newsletter!!!

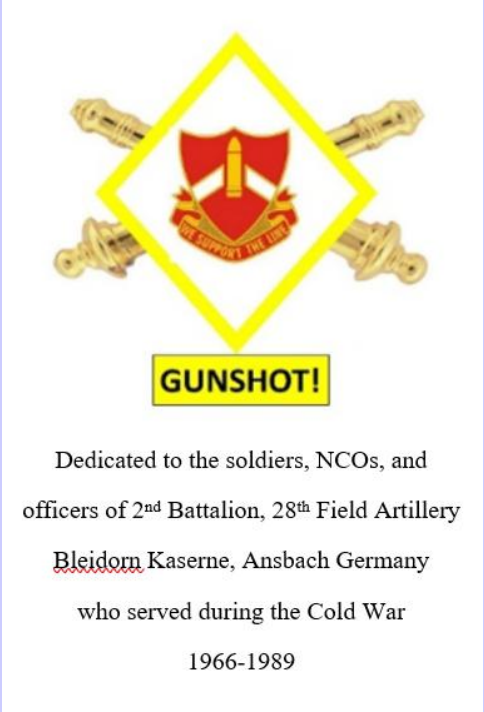
The other item your board is beginning to work on is next year's reunion. During a special meeting of the 28th FARA Association that was held on Sunday, August 9, it was decided that the **2027 Reunion of the 28th FARA will be held September 30 - October 3, 2027 in Philadelphia, PA**. Mark your calendars now so you can plan to join us!!! As a reminder, the criteria that is used to help select a site are: near a major airport, hotel with banquet and catering facilities, near a military base, and most of all, affordability.

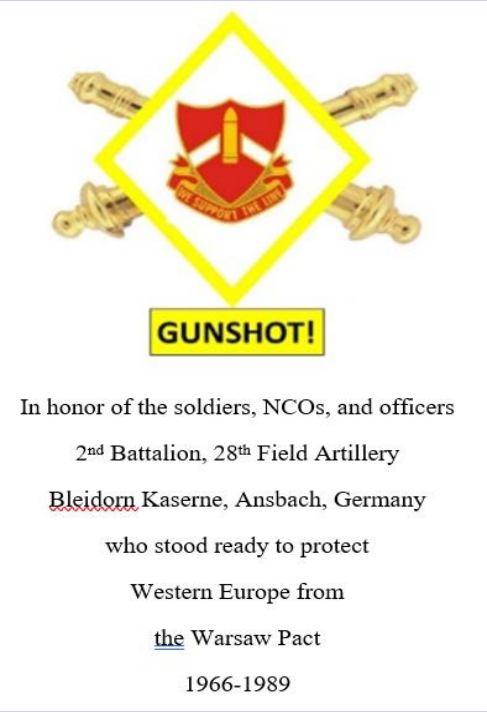
At our 2023 reunion we visited the new Museum of the US Army at Ft. Belvoir. They have a wall with plaques from different units. This Path of Remembrance honors those units with a 12”x18” plaque at a cost of $5,000. Naturally, we would like to have one of 2-28 FA. To do that, we are trying to figure out how to raise funds. The easiest thing would be to solicit donations from our membership. If you have any thoughts about this, please send them to me. I have created a couple of designs and they are below.

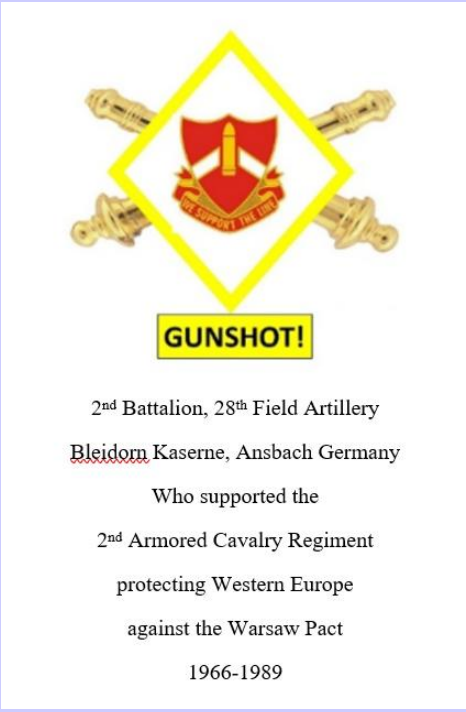
The museum also has a commemorative brick program. A 4”x8” brick costs $300 while an 8”x8” one costs $600. Information about the program can be found at: https://frsengraving.com/armymuseum/#/about.

**Bill Dunham**

***Possible plaque designs for the 2-28 Field Artillery plaque on the Path of Remembrance at the Museum of the US Army at Ft. Belvoir.***



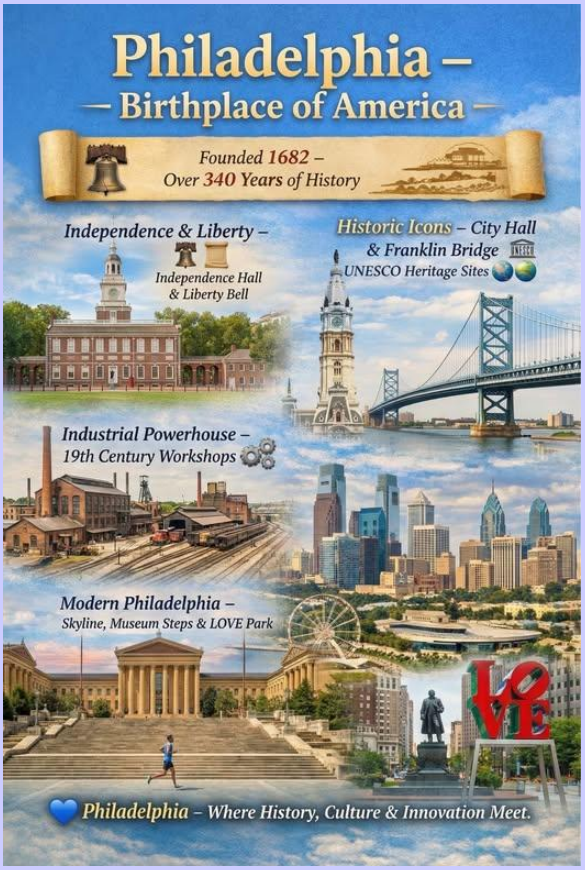



## 2nd Vice President

Looking Ahead to Our Next Reunion!

Chris Dolan




# The 28th FARA 2027 Reunion will be held in Philadelphia, PA

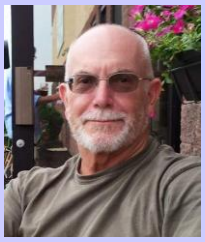
# September 30 – October 3, 2027!!!

Greetings, Members!

We are excited to announce that at the special meeting of the 28th FARA Association held on Sunday, August 9, 2026, it was decided that the **28th FARA 2027 Reunion will be held September 30 - October 3, 2027, in Philadelphia, PA**. Mark your calendars now so you can plan to join us!!! As a reminder, the criteria that is used to help select a site are: near a major airport, hotel with banquet and catering facilities, near a military base, and most of all, affordability.

We are already extremely busy making preparations for the next 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**



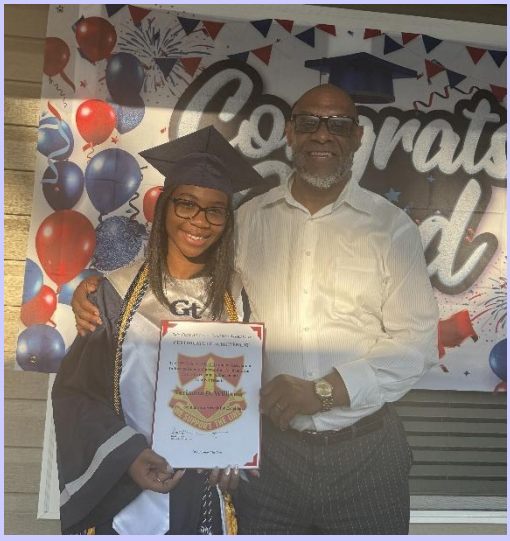
## Scholarship Coordinator

Dave Mohan

## Scholarship Program:

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the **2026 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. Applicants were evaluated on their academic record, extracurricular activities, faculty recommendation, and a written essay. Congratulations to our 2026 Scholarship winners! The grant recipients selected are:

**Dr. (COL) Maureen Baldy-Williams Scholarship**
***McKenna Marksberry***, granddaughter of Danny and Kaye Marksberry. McKenna will be a freshman at the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg KY.



**LTC Thomas D. Houston President Eberitus Scholarship**
***Teriauna Williams***, granddaughter of Robert and Barbara Pollock. Teriauna will be a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in Charlotte, NC.

**MAJ Paul Lange Memorial Scholarship**
***Ernest Ruiz***, grandson of Ernest and Vange Romero. Ernest will be a freshman at Trinidad State College in Trinidad, CO.

**Battery Commanders Scholarship**
***Emily Casterline***, granddaughter of Charles Moretz. Emily will be attending Cameron University in Lawton, OK.

**Look for the announcement of the 2027 Scholarship Program in early December 2026!!!**
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 2027.***

**Treasurer**
Dave Dolan

**Chief Financial Officer**
Barbara Houston

# 2026 Financial Summary as of August 2026

Below is the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association Financial Summary.

**Financial summary as of August 2026 is as follows:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Unrestricted Net Assets** | **$12,640.26** |
| **Net Revenue** | **$15,092.36** |
| **Battery Commanders Scholarship** | **$ 2,450.00** |
| **TOTAL REVENUE** | **$30,182.62** |

## Adjutant/Secretary

Kay Marksberry

**Adjutant/Secretary**

Greetings 2/28 FA Members,

Please allow me to introduce myself as the newly elected secretary of this illustrious association. My name is Kay Marksberry, devoted spouse of Chaplain Danny Marksberry. We have been married 57 years and are proud parents of 3 children and doting grandparents to 7 grandchildren. Dan and I are both lifetime members of the 2/28 FA association and enjoy attending the reunions to maintain connections with old friends and meeting new ones.

I retired from 20 years working in a local school district as a School Psychologist. After retirement, I have participated in various volunteer activities in the community as well as our local church congregation; serving women's and children's ministry opportunities.

Dan and I enjoy traveling and a recent highlight was a return to Germany summer of 2024 with our 13 family members. Our sons insisted on an Ansbach "drive-by", but no one had ID cards but Dan and me. We were able to observe through fencing surrounding Katterbach housing that our old stairwells were not only standing but occupied! Our boys had stories of bicycle escapades into forbidden territories while living there. It was a trip to be remembered and cherished.

If you are reading the newsletters and have not taken the initiative to join the association nor attend a reunion, I encourage you to step up-soldier up and get involved. The years fall away as stories and exaggerations abound. It's stepping back into the camaraderie of brotherhood (and sisterhood) that served our country proudly for a blip of history.

Be Part-Be Proud-Be Present

**Kay Marksberry**

## Director of Communications

Scott Sumpter

Greetings! I am Scott Sumpter and serve as the Director of Communications.

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

Here is some 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:**

+Steven Dunham

+William Dunham

+David Gabbard/Teufer

Kenneth Leonard

+Dwight Wolford

*+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!!!

**NEW MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!!**

**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 proud of our Association and it's the Association's mission to increase our membership!!!**

**On March 29, 2026, the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association Board voted to eliminate mandatory annual membership fees. This decision was made after noticing a steady decline in membership renewals over the last several years. We believe ongoing annual fees may have discouraged some members from staying connected to our Association. Our goal is to make the Association more inclusive and to help members remain in touch with one another.**

**There are two types of membership: LIFETIME and BASIC. ALL members will have access to the website, access to "all member" communications, email of the Association Newsletter, and invitation to reunions.**

***LIFETIME* members will be asked to make a ONE-TIME lump sum payment, pro-rated, based on their age on the date that they join the Association. Lifetime members can apply for annual scholarships, vote in elections, and attend reunions without having to pay conference fees.**

***BASIC* members will be asked to pay a one-time $40 initiation fee and an optional $20 annual fee. Although the optional $20 annual fee for Basic membership is no longer required to receive communications from the association, it is still required if members wish to apply for annual scholarships, vote in elections, and attend reunions without having to pay conference fees.**

**All former members were restored to our email distribution list. If you prefer not to receive these emails, please contact George Hardin at cio@28fa.org to be removed. Members can also create a login on the website to access member contact information, all current and past quarterly newsletters, and other resources designed to help us stay connected. You can create a login ID/Password for our website at https://www.28fara.org/Membership/login.php**

**Please visit the 28th FARA's website to JOIN TODAY!!!https://www.28fara.org/**

# MEMBERSHIP

## *Total Membership: 119*

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

| HHB | A | B | C | SVC | 156 MAINT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | 13 | 12 | 41 | 9 | 2 |

(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

## Please join our Association!!!

We have had great and memorable times at our 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.

**Membership is our major mission in the future.**

**We want to make our Association better and bigger!!!**

COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry
2/28 FA Chaplain 1983-86

## Chaplain's Corner

LTC(R) Chaplain Roger Welsh
2/28 FA Chaplain 1980-83

**KING DAVID**
**1 Samual 25**

King David was a man after God's own heart! He was brave and a great leader…but, as we all know, he wasn't perfect. Only Jesus Christ gets that credit. Nonetheless, God says Jesus will reign on the throne of David forever! God had a high regard for David because he had a heart for God, as witnessed in the Book of Psalms.

Today's devotional will highlight a woman that God brought into David's life named Abigail. She was married to an evil man named Nabal who was very wealthy yet very disrespectful to David and his warriors. David decided in a fit of rage to massacre Nabal and his entire male household. David and his 400 warriors proceeded on their deadly mission.

Nabal was blessed with a beautiful, godly, and wise wife named Abigail. Hearing of the situation she met David and his men with ample food, wine and supplies. She fell at David's feet and begged for mercy from the stupid foolish acts of her husband. David listened. The more she spoke, the more sense she made, claiming David would soon be king and this act of vengeance wasn't befitting a great king. She said "let God handle it" and when He does, she said "please remember me". Her faith and wisdom amazed David and he took her advice. Ten days later Nabal died (with God's help) and David remembered Abigail and took her as his wife. In fact, I think they fell in love. What a tremendous and unique love story.

This story also highlights the folly of making rash decisions in a fit of rage. When Jesus said "turn the other cheek", he wasn't referring to being weak or accepting physical abuse. He meant don't let your pride and anger get you into trouble. This can happen on the freeway, at work, or in your marriage. Instead, try to stay humble and ask God for help.

If David would have massacred Nabal's household it would have been a sign of his weakness, not strength. Unfortunately, more poor choices were ahead for David, but following Abigail's advice was a big win!

It's an important reminder to let God work in our lives even when confronted with evil people. The Bible gives good advice on this subject, "Repay no one evil for evil…do not avenge yourselves…for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17-19)

*May God Bless you and keep you in His hand.*

***Chaplain Roger Welsh***

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**
***Danny Marksberry**
***Tommy Houston**
***Vicki Dunham**

## 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.*

# 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 capacility of another.

One of the goals of our Assocation 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 Assocation. 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 Assocation can provide someone for the Family to call and get information. However, depending on location and the availablity 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 appropraite 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 Assocation.

-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 Assocation.

-Depending on member availabilty a 28 FA member/vet who will represent the Assocation/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 assocation functions such as reunions.

The key to all of this is timing. Our Chaplain, Danny Marksberry, is the Assocation’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 Assocation can assist, below is a check list that is used by our Berevement 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 if 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 chaplin 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 assists 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 locations on a map, 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 and 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

## Phishing: What It Is and How to Avoid It

Phishing is when scammers pretend to be a trusted company or person (by email, text, or phone) to trick you into giving passwords, credit card numbers, or personal information.

### Warning Signs

Urgent messages asking you to "verify" something or claim a prize

Sender address doesn't look quite right

Generic greeting like "Dear Customer"

Spelling or grammar mistakes

Links that look suspicious (on a computer, hover to preview the real address)

### How to Stay Safe

Don't click unexpected links or attachments

Go to the company's website or app directly, not through the message

Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA) for your accounts

Use strong, unique passwords (a password manager helps)

Keep your device, browser, and antivirus updated

Use your email's "Report Phishing" button

### If You Think You Fell for It

Change your passwords right away

Contact your bank or the company involved

Watch your accounts and credit activity for anything unusual

***George Hardin***

**Special Assistant to the President**
Dave Dehnel

## Election Information

One of the main events at our bi-annual reunion 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 (Second Term)
**1st Vice President (2 years)** – Bill Dunham (Fourth Term)
**2nd Vice President (2 years)** – Chris Dolan (Second Term)
**Treasurer (3 years)** – Dave Dolan – (Currently serving First Term)
**Adjutant (3 years)** – Kay Marksberry (First Term)
**Sergeant Major/Senior NCO (2 years)** – CSM Keith Young (Second Term)
**1st Enlisted Member (2 years)** – 1SG Miguel Rosario (Second Term)
**2nd Enlisted Member (2 years)** – Steven Weiss (First Term)

**Final Candidate List for 2026 Election**

David Dolan
Kay Marksberry

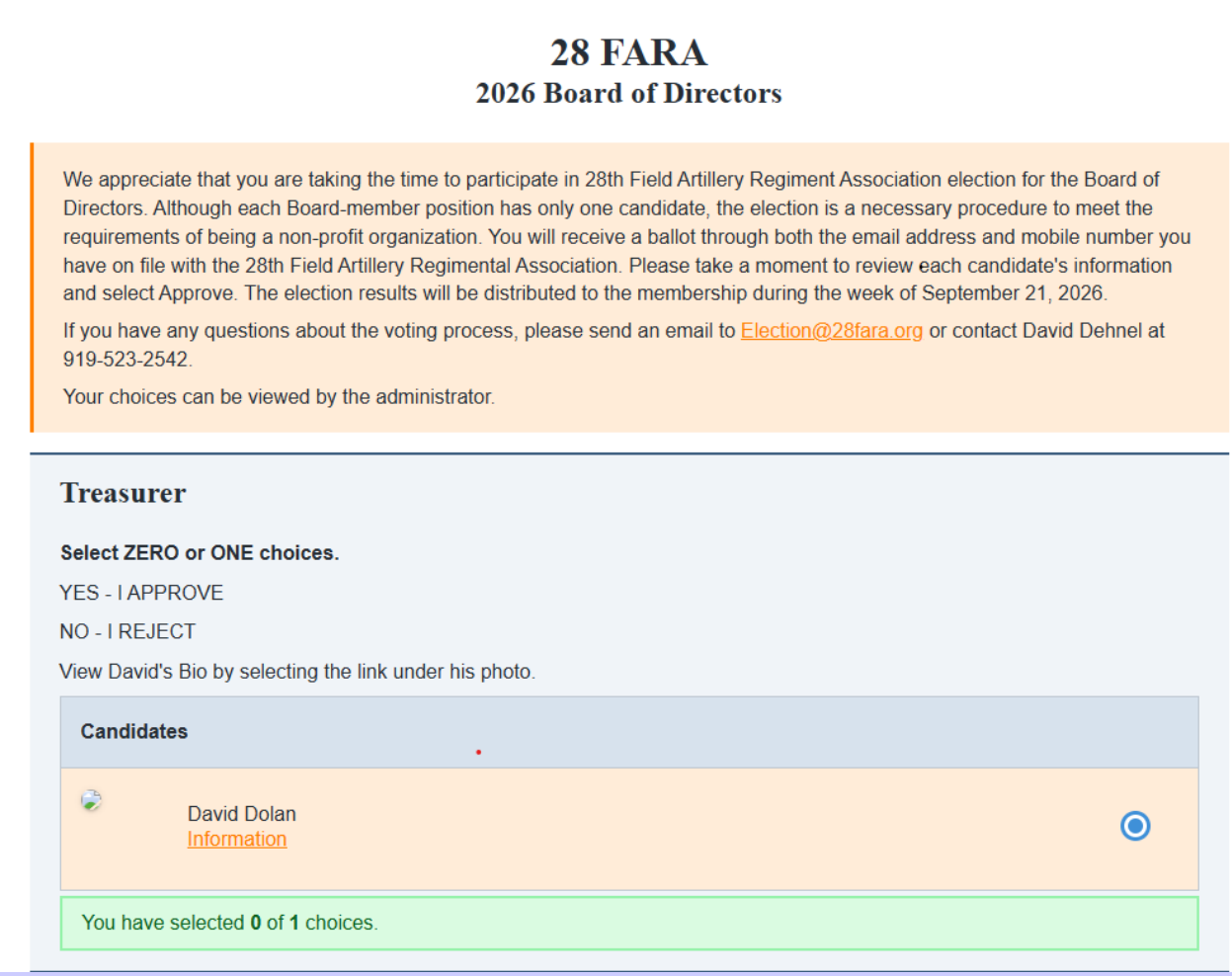
## Election Information continued…

On September 10, 2026, NOON ET, the Election Committee initiated the election process using our election service from Election Buddy (electionbuddy.com). Each active member received an election notification with a unique ballot identifier through email and/or SMS text, if we have an active mobile phone number on file. You can access your ballot by simply selecting the link in the email or SMS text. As you can see from the list, we only have one candidate for each of the two positions. Once in the ballot you can view the photo and bio for each candidate and select one of two options:

YES - I APPROVE the candidate or
NO - I REJECT.

Once you've completed your ballot be sure to select the Submit button at the bottom.

A portion of the ballot can be seen below:



**28 FARA**
**2026 Board of Directors**

We appreciate that you are taking the time to participate in 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association election for the Board of Directors. Although each Board-member position has only one candidate, the election is a necessary procedure to meet the requirements of being a non-profit organization. You will receive a ballot through both the email address and mobile number you have on file with the 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association. Please take a moment to review each candidate's information and select Approve. The election results will be distributed to the membership during the week of September 21, 2026.

If you have any questions about the voting process, please send an email to Election@28fara.org or contact David Dehnel at 919-523-2542.

Your choices can be viewed by the administrator.

**Treasurer**

**Select ZERO or ONE choices.**

YES - I APPROVE

NO - I REJECT

View David's Bio by selecting the link under his photo.

**Candidates**

David Dolan
Information

You have selected **0** of **1** choices.

Shot Out!!
Election Committee
CSM Keith Young and MAJ (R) David Dehnel

**The following positions are appointed positions:**

Appointed Positions

**Chaplain** – Danny Marksberry and Roger Welsh

**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

**Scholarship Chairperson** – Dave Mohan

**Communications Coordinator** – Scott Sumpter

**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

**Adjutant/Secretary:** Kay Marksberry - 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

**Director of Communications:** Scott Sumpter - Sumptersc228@gmail.com

**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 and Roger Welsh - Chaplain@28fara.org

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

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

**President Emeritus:** Tommy Houston - Tdhouston56@gmail.com

## 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, Ansbach, Germany, and other stuff!!! **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 & Other Trivia

***In honor of America's 250th Anniversary, enjoy some Trivia Questions about the United States!!!***

1. What is the modern name of the Pennsylvania State House where the Declaration of Independence was debated and signed?
2. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?
3. Which branch of the U.S. Armed Forces is the oldest, tracing its origins back to a continental force established in 1775?
4. Established by George Washington in 1782, what was the original name of the military decoration known today as the Purple Heart?
5. Which conflict remains the deadliest war in U.S. military history, resulting in the highest number of American combat casualties?
6. Who was the only American U.S. president to receive the Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously for his actions during the Spanish-American War?
7. What 1777 military engagement is widely considered the turning point of the American Revolutionary War because it convinced France to officially ally with the United States?
8. Who was the first female four-star general in U.S. military history promoted by the U.S. Army in 2008?
9. Which two founding fathers died on the exact same day on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration (July 4, 18260)?
10. What is the official national mammal of the United States?

*****Answers can be found on Page 30…***

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: *LTC(R) Roger Welsh*

**Interview with LTC (R) Roger Welsh**
**HHB - Chaplain**

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

My journey as a Chaplain started when I dedicated my life to God by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and following a career path that began at Ft. Gordon, GA in 1976. When transferring assignments, I asked my Pentagon Assignment Officer to try for a unit with more excitement. He suggested Field Artillery. I was then assigned to the 2-28 FA Battalion from June 1980 to June 1983.

I was the first chaplain (56A) ever assigned to the 2-28 FA. I was given an office and a Religious Affairs Specialist (better known as a Chaplain Assistant (56M). When I first arrived at Bleidorn I asked the question, "How's the morale?" My fellow officer replied, "You'll find out!", which I took as not a good sign. In fact, the unit was experiencing a lot of challenging issues which impacted morale. So, I started with, as one could say, on a low note but, upon leaving three years later, it was a much higher note.

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

I lived in a one-bedroom apartment off-post and was unmarried. I tried dating a few times but found the language barrier to be a major obstacle. I absolutely loved Ansbach and the German culture. At that time, my chain of command included LTC Cole, CSM Salt, Maj. Langston, and LTC Swain. These are the names I best remember, with each person being distinctly different.

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

When I hear the name "Graf" I think of a place of utter desolation unlike any place on earth. You must experience it to understand my meaning (as I know most of you have!) It was also a great place to train. It wasn't designed to be easy; we were training for war!

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

Probably my best memory was providing the soldiers with the opportunity to see Europe. The command allowed me to take a large luxury bus full of soldiers to places like Paris, London, Italy and Berchtesgaden. It was amazing and a lot of fun. In Paris I became extremely concerned when several soldiers didn't return to the hotel at night. I thought maybe they got kidnapped or murdered! I was relieved when we had 100% accountability upon departing back to Ansbach. My question to those missing soldiers was "where have you been?" They all said with a smile, "Chaplain, don't ask!" I didn't ask but assumed they had a positive experience as most soldiers did on these trips.

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

What did I like least? Grafenwoehr would be my answer! Not because I didn't understand the importance of the mission. However, freezing weather with mud and boar hogs roaming free wasn't my idea of enjoyment, not to mention only getting a hot shower once a week (if I was lucky). When I was with the Signal Corps we'd field train for about a week, maybe twice a year. I recall with the 2-28 FA we field trained 2-3 times a year for 25-30 days each time!

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

I must say that 2-28 FA had exceptional Battery Commanders, 1st Sgts., NCO's, and, of course, all the soldiers, but the person I remember most was LTC Richard Swain (Battalion Commander). In my opinion, he embodied all the great things of a commander. He was respectful and intelligent yet spoke with the authority of someone who could make tough decisions. He was truly a soldier's commander! He faced difficult decisions with the courage to do the right thing. As a result, I noticed soldiers beginning to take pride in their equipment and the mission. I've worked under several great commanders at all levels, but LTC (aka) COL Swain is easily at the top of my list.

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

After Bleidorn? I was assigned to Fort Ord's 7th Infantry Division (Light) as the DIVARTY Chaplain, then as the 7th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Chaplain. It was a wonderful assignment where I met my future bride, Jane Showalter, and we married on June 8, 1985. We've had 40 years of a rewarding marriage.

After Fort Ord, I attended civilian schooling to obtain a Master's degree in Ethics enabling me to teach 40-hour course instruction on leadership to Officer Candidate Students (OCS) at Fort Benning, GA. After four years at the Infantry School, I then headed north as the Post Chaplain at Ft. Richardson, AK.

For family reasons I decided to retire after 20 years of service in 1996 and to reside in the greater area of Santa Cruz, CA. There I became a civilian pastor of a Southern Baptist Church in Capitola, CA (11 years) and volunteered as a Capitola Police Chaplain (5 ½ years).

Currently I am active in a local church (tlc.org) on their "security team" and also help out praying for individuals after the worship service. For fun, I like to "race around" in my 1991 Mazda Miata and cook dinners for my beautiful bride.

*Thank you for allowing me to share my story.*

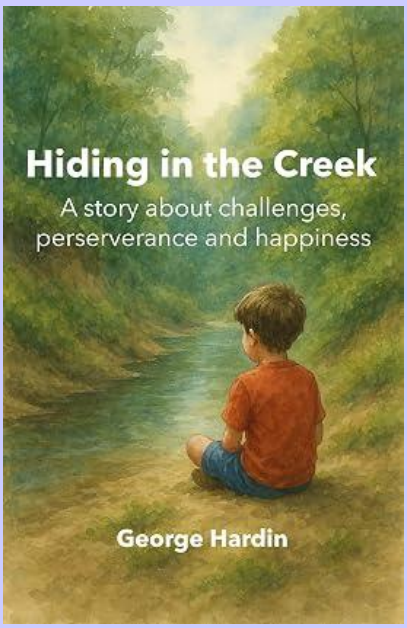
GOOD TIMES!!!

# !!!TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

1. Independence Hall
2. 56
3. The U.S Army
4. The Badge of Military Merit
5. The American Civil War
6. Theodore Roosevelt
7. The Battle of Saratoga
8. General Ann E. Dunwoody
9. Thomas Jefferson & John Adams
10. The American bison

A 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association member,
George Hardin, 28th FARA Chief Information Officer & Webmaster,
written a book called
***Hiding in the Creek***

George served in the 2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery
as a cannoneer and M109 driver in B Battery
followed by the driver for the
Battalion XO, MAJ (R) Paul Lange.




***Book Summary:***
You know George Hardin as a fellow member of our military association, but you may not know the story of what happened after his Army years. Three weeks before graduating from the California Highway Patrol Academy, George jumped 40 feet from an overpass to avoid being hit by a truck, suffering injuries that permanently changed his life. But that was only the beginning. ***Hiding in the Creek*** tells the story of George's difficult childhood, his time in the Army, the accident that changed everything, and the journey that followed. It's a story of perseverance, adventure, family, and learning how to make the most of the hand you're dealt.

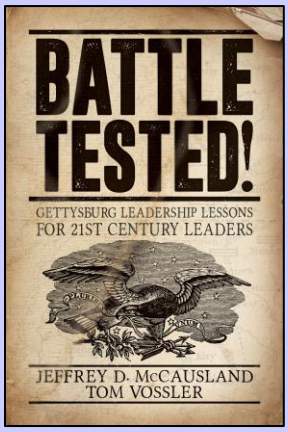
The book, ***Hiding in the Creek***, is available on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0G5WR5G5Y

***CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!!!***

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 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**

Pictures of Danny and Kay Marksberry's grandson Mason Marksberry's graduation from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on February 19, 2026!!!

Danny W Marksberry (& Kay)
Chaplain (Colonel) (Retired)

*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.
Hero 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