



34th Inf Div Assn. 78th Annual Reunion, Camp Dodge, IA

This year's 78th annual Reunion of our Association was hosted by the Des Moines Chapter on September 26-27, 2025 at Camp Dodge, IA.

The Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center is a 6,300-acre training base operated by the Iowa National Guard (IANG) and is located just North of 70th Street in Johnston, IA, about 15 miles North of downtown Des Moines, IA.

This year marks the 80th year since the 34th "Red Bull" Division returned from Italy and arrived at Camp Myles Standish, Mass on November 3rd, 1945., after almost five years of deployment for WWII,

President SGM (Ret) Dan Cain, and VP MG (Ret) Jerry Lang, welcomed all the attendees at the Friday afternoon Social at the Iowa Gold Star Museum, on Camp Dodge. Col (Ret) Chad Sackett, represented the Commanders Own Chapter at the reunion event.



The Des Moines Chapter members who hosted the 78th Annual Reunion for the 34th Infantry Division Association, are listed, (L to R. Back Row:) Chap Pres. Doug Clabaugh, Chris Klink, Mike Halpin, Jamery White, Larry Woodworth, Ed Graybill, and Jerry Jensen. Front Row: Carroll Tungesvik, Herman Poggensee and Russ Bierl.



MG Charles Kemper, former 34th Infantry Division Commander and current Special Assistant to the Director Army National Guard at the US Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS, was the guest speaker at the 78th Annual Reunion for the 34th Infantry Division Association on September 27, 2025, at Camp Dodge, IA.



Mr. Roger Rutherford and his wife, Ms. Nancy Rutherford travelled from Lititz, Pennsylvania (near Lancaster) to Camp Dodge to attend the 78th Annual Reunion for the 34th Infantry Division. Mr. Rutherford and his wife were former members of the Tri-State Chapter for the 34th ID Association and are Life Members. Mr. Rutherford's father, Russell, served with I Company, 168th Infantry Regt, in both the North Africa and Italian Campaigns from 1943 to 1945.



Fall 2025

Greetings Red Bulls, I'm looking forward to serve as your president for another year and I hope to work on a few a personal agenda items for the Association regarding our comrades from WWII still listed as MIA.

But first of all, thanks to the Des Moines Chapter and President Doug Clabaugh for hosting our annual reunion in September. Thank you CSM Danial Cain for your service as the President of the 34th Inf. Div Assn last year. Job Well Done! We had some great presentations at the reunion and a special thanks to MG Charles Kemper, former commander of the 34th Infantry Division, for speaking to us on Saturday night about the division's recent deployment to Kuwait and throughout the Middle East. Very interesting mission spread out over a vast AO of several countries. We also had our annual election of officers and I'd like to note a new name on our list; COL (Ret) John Kolb, a Red Bull combat veteran from Iraq, is our new 2nd VP who will be taking over in the fall of 2027. Thank for stepping up John. And thanks to Chad Sackett for bringing out a bottle of The Commander's Own 34IDA American Whiskey distilled by Brother Justus Whiskey Company for everyone to taste test. Great whiskey, not for the faint-hearted, will definitely keep you in the Attack mode.

This newsletter is a labor of love and the result of the efforts from a lot of our members. Ed Graybill, our association secretary, puts it all together along with the help of Russ Bierl, our past secretary. Then it goes to this group of members, Jerry Jensen, Herman Poggensee, Larry Woodworth, Doug Clabaugh, Rose Williams, Carroll Tunesvik, Galen Heaberlin and Russ Bierl who meet at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum where they sort, fold, attach address labels and mail over 800 newsletters. Mark Newhall, our association treasurer provides the address validation and printing. Thank you all for your work to get this newsletter out three times a year. I wish you all a safe and warm upcoming Holiday Season. See you all after the new year with our winter newsletter.

Attack Attack Attack

MG (Ret) Jerry Lang –
President 34th Infantry Division Association
jerry.lang52@outlook.com 320-250-3754

34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call

Spring 2025

Roger McHone, 34th Army Band, 34th Inf Div
Philip LeRoy Didier, 1034 QM, 34th Inf Div
Kent M. Freise, 113 Cavalry Sqdn, 34th Inf Div
Ervin Lutz, 1034th QM Co, 34th Inf Div
John W. Bortz, 234 Sig Bn, 34 RAOC, 34th ID
George Polak, 2-133 (M) Inf 34th Inf Div
Greg Henry, 2-133 (M) Inf, 34th Inf Div
Daniel Tunesvik, 234th Sig Bn
John Zavodnick, 194th AR Bn, 34th Inf Div
David Hicks, HHC 2nd Bde, 34th Inf Div
Harold Turner, HHC, 34th Infantry Division
Robert E. Wege, 168th Inf, 34th Bde, 34th ID
Thomas R. Stone, 185th FA, 34th Inf Div
Lyle E. Cain Jr., 1-168 Inf Bn, 34th Inf Div
Timothy Konecny, 1-168 Inf Bn 34th Inf Div
Larry D. Johnson, 2-133rd Inf Bn, 34th Inf Div
Richard (Dick) Jepsen, 1034th QM Co 34ID
Gregory N. Benberg 1-194 FA Bn, 34th Inf Div

Fall 2025

Douglas Denham, 1-168th Inf Bn, 34th Inf Div
Ronnie Snyder, HHC 34th Inf Bde, A, 47th Avn
Ron Wray, Trp D 1-194 Cav, 34th Inf Div
William (Bill) M. Judge, D, 109th Avn, 34th ID
LaVerne Anderson, 34th Avn Det, 34th Inf Div
Jim Wolf, 234th Sig Bn, 34th Inf Div
Richard (Dick) Mann, 1-168th Inf, 34th Inf Div
James (Jimmy) S. Schultz, 2nd IBCT, 34th ID

Final Roll Call Prayer

*May they have no
more hills to climb,
nor cold, nor rain, nor mud,
nor enemy fire,*

National Office-34th Infantry Division Association

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,
7105 NW 70TH Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Association Website <http://www.34IDA.org>

79th Reunion 2-3 Oct 2026 at Camp Ripley, MN

Secretary: COL (Ret) Ed Graybill. E-Mail: edward.graybill1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Col (Ret) Mark Newhall 515-210-1812, mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl

Facebook Manager: CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee, pogjack@gmail.com

Website, Historian: MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer justcallmesarge@gmail.com

Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>

Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: <http://www.34IDA.org>

Also, follow Red Bulls at

1st ABCT: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>

2nd IBCT: <http://www.facebook.com/IowaRedBulls> <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

<http://www.twitter.com/IowaRedBulls> <http://www.flickr.com/IowaRedBulls>

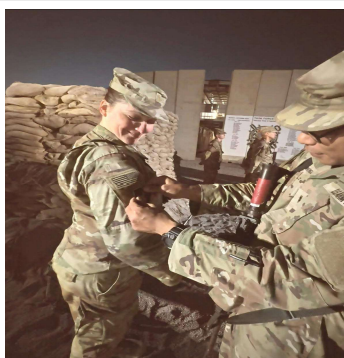
34th DIV SUS BDE



2-34th IBCT Patching Ceremony, US Central Command

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2/34 Infantry Brigade Combat Team had the honor of earning their combat patches at the beginning of September. The combat patch is a long, honored tradition that reminds us of those who served before us. During the ceremony, soldiers got to put a Red Bull patch on their right sleeve. This comes from a World War II tradition, before the concept of combat patches. Soldiers who transferred to a new unit moved the patch of their previous unit to the right sleeve as a form of remembrance for their fallen comrades, and to demonstrate that the wearer was a combat veteran, not an inexperienced replacement.

The significance of the Red Bull patch comes from the 34th Division's origin in Camp Cody, New Mexico in October of 1917. The shape of the patch is an olla, Mexican water flask, and the bull skull symbolizes the dry, desert area. The black denotes durability, firmness, and stability, while the red is for courage and action. After everyone in the unit was patched with the Red Bull, Chaplain Lucas Murphy led the company in a prayer and moment of silence to remember the sacrifice of our fellow soldiers.



**Another Red Bull
Soldier receives
her Combat
Patch on the
Right Shoulder.**

Continued on page 4.



First officially awarded after World War II and informally worn since at least World War I, the right shoulder sleeve insignia – commonly referred to as the “combat patch” – denotes service during wartime or under hazardous conditions. This patch is a coveted symbol and shows the world that the wearer is not only a Soldier, they are a combat veteran! Soldiers of the 1st Battalion 168th Infantry Regiment were awarded their right shoulder sleeve insignia on September 12th, 2025 in ceremonies across the US Central Command area of responsibility. With a patch on both shoulders, these Soldiers are “Red Bulls” all the way through.

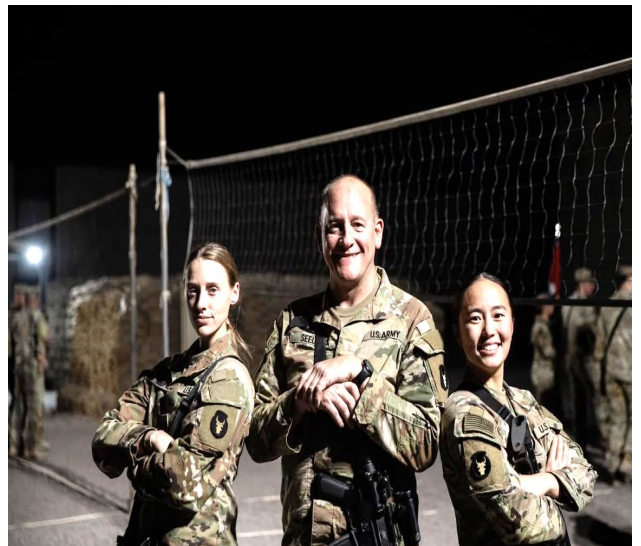
The 12th of September also marks a historic battle for the 168th Infantry Regiments during the closing months of World War I. On September 12th, 1918, southeast of Verdun, France, General John Pershing launched the first American-led offensive of the war. The objective was the capture of the Saint-Mihiel salient and open a corridor to the strategic city of Metz. The 168, then part of the storied 42nd “RAINBOW” Division serving under General Douglas MacArthur, was positioned on the south eastern portion of a miles wide front facing the well entrenched German Detachment C. The 168 Infantry spent a sleepless night encamped in wood lines and scarred farmland. At 1 a.m. on the 12th the American artillery barrage began. At 5 a.m. American and French infantryman began their assault supported by American air power and America’s first tank attack, led by Col Patton.



1-168th Infantry Battalion Patching Ceremony and History in World War I

(continued from page 3)

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Big smiles on these Combat Patch Soldiers from somewhere in CENTCOM. Some of them know their Grandfathers earned their Combat Patch in WWII. And still others know their Great Grandfathers earned their patch with the 168 Infantry Regiment in WWI with the 42nd Rainbow Division.



We do not know the names of these proud 113th Cavalry Soldiers from the 2-34th IBCT, Iowa, but it is easy to see they are proud of their service to their State and Nation. Hough!

34th Infantry Division Association Officers Election

The names of all Officers and Trustees are shown who were Elected or Appointed at the 2025 annual Business Meeting on 27 Sep 2025.

President MG (Ret) Jerry Lang MN
1st VP BG (Ret) Michael Beaman IA
2nd VP COL (Ret) John Kolb MN
Past President SGM (Ret) Danial Cain IA

1 Year Trustees
CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee
1SG (Ret) Larry Woodworth
COL (Ret) Mark Newhall
CSM (Ret) Chris Stroner MN

2 Year Trustees
COL (Ret) Dr. Chris White
MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer MN
LTC (Ret) Rose Williams
COL (Ret) Russ Bierl

3 Year Trustees
COL (Ret) Ron “Curly” Albrecht
LTC Randall Stanford
LTC (Ret) Jeremy DeGier MN
LTC (Ret) Daryl Drake

Secretary COL (Ret) Ed Graybill
Treasurer COL (Ret) Mark Newhall, Until 31 Dec 25
Treasurer SGM (Ret) Dan Cain, Effective 1 Jan 26

SGT at Arms Pending, (Appointed)
Website Mgr / Historian MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer,
Chaplain CHP COL Martha Kester, (Appointed)
Secretary (Asst) COL (Ret) Russ Bierl (Appointed)

**The 79th Annual Reunion of the
34th Infantry Division will be
held on Fri & Sat, 2-3 Oct 2026
at Cp Ripley, MN**

AUSA Published Items of Interest to 34th ID AUSA 5 Things, Monday, Oct 6, 2025

M250 Automatic Rifle Weapons Training

Fielding of the Army’s newest automatic rifle, the M250, has made its way to the Army National Guard, with soldiers from Minnesota’s 34th Infantry Division among the first to get them. The M250, part of the Next Generation Squad Weapon program, replaces the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and introduces new 6.8 mm ammunition.

What to Watch: Soldiers in the **34th Infantry Division** received hands-on instruction on the new weapon at Cp Ripley, MN, spending time learning about the new weapon before heading out to the range. As the weapons are fielded to more units, experts from Program Executive Office Soldier and the Army Marksmanship Unit’s Instructor Training Group continue to train soldiers on how to get the most out of the new capabilities, the Army said.

First Launch of Switchblade 600 at Ft Hood, TX

The 1st Cavalry Division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team recently conducted the first live-fire exercise of the Switchblade 600 Loitering Munition System at Fort Hood, Texas. The Switchblade 600, a tube-launched unmanned aircraft system, has been used by special operations and light infantry units, but the 1st Cavalry Division is among the first armored units to field it. “This is the first time for all of our soldiers to see these munitions fired, and you can feel the excitement in the air,” said Capt. Jeffrey Weller, commander of the brigade’s Multifunctional Reconnaissance Troop.

What to Watch: The exercise is part of the Army’s transforming in contact initiative, which puts new technology in soldiers’ hands for testing. The second iteration of the initiative is expanding to armored formations, including 2nd Brigade.

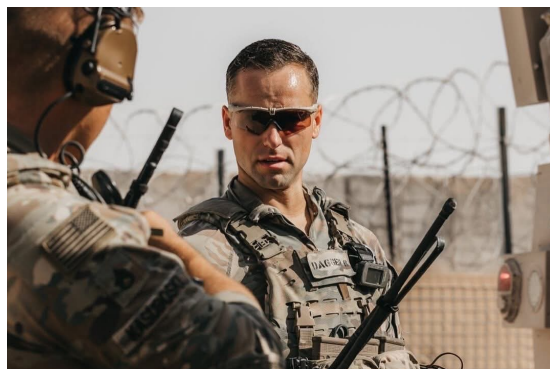
Soldier Update Training Circular TC 7-21.13

The Soldier’s Guide, a comprehensive resource for soldiers of all ranks, has received its first update in nearly a decade. Also known as Training Circular 7-21.13, it covers topics such as the Army profession, the Army Fitness Test, leadership principles, online and social media conduct, the Small Unit Leader Tool and comprehensive training information.

D Company, 1-133 Infantry Regiment in U.S. CENTCOM



Soldiers assigned to Delta Company, 1-133rd Infantry Regiment “The Ironman Battalion”, Iowa National Guard, conduct regular patrols in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, 2025 (U.S. Army photos by SGT Zach Ta)



Army Fields New M250 Automatic Rifle to Minnesota National Guard’s 34 Infantry Division at Camp Ripley



Soldiers in the 34th Infantry Division received hands-on instruction on the new weapon at Cp Ripley, MN, spending time learning about the new weapon before heading out to the range. As the weapons are fielded to more units, experts from Program Executive Office Soldier and the Army Marksmanship Unit’s Instructor Training Group continue to train soldiers on how to get the most out of the new capabilities.



Soldiers with the Minnesota National Guard’s 34th Infantry Division prepares to fire the M250 automatic rifle during a New Equipment Training fielding at Camp Ripley, MN, September 14, 2025. The M250, part of the Army’s Next Generation Squad Weapon program, replaces the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and introduces the new 6.8 mm ammunition (U.S. Army photo by SFC Timothy Hamlin).



This article is an extract of Vol. 1, No. 5, April 14, 1945 of the original Red Bulletin. The "combat newspaper" of the 34th Infantry Division was published weekly in Italy from March 17, 1945, thru Sep 28, 1945. The 34th Infantry Division returned home to the United States after 44 months in Europe and North Africa.

34th Completes 500th Combat Day April 16, 1945

Red Bull Is Still Snortin' and Pawin'

The 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division will complete its 500th day of combat Monday, April 16th- and the old Red Bull is still snortin' and Pawin the earth!

The first American division to go to Europe after Pearl Harbor, elements of the 34th made the initial allied landings in North Africa Nov 8, 1942 (168th and 135th Inf Regts), as part of the Eastern Assault Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, then 34th Division Commander.

In releasing its record of 500 days in combat, the 34th counts only those periods of time during which the Division was in command of a sector and component units were committed to combat. Some of the original infantry and artillery men, who supported other Allied forces in both North Africa and Italy, have more than 600 days of fighting the Germans to their credit.

LARGE TURNOVER

There has been a large turnover in personnel, due to casualties, rotation and transfers to rear units during the 500 days of combat, and few original members of the infantry outfits who came overseas in January, February and April 1942, are still with the Division. Percentage of "old timers" in artillery and service units is greater but faces are changing every day.

The fighting "Red Bull" organization received its baptism of fire at Algiers when

elements of the Division assaulted the North African beaches.

DREW FIRST BLOOD

After the surrender of Algiers (by the French) to Gen. Ryder, advanced elements of the Division were detached and moved from Algiers to fight along side other Allied forces. Thus the 34th Division, as a unified team, did not begin its long slugging match with the Krauts until February 1943, in the vicinity of Pichon-El Ala, although one artillery battalion (175 FA) drew first blood for American cannoneers this side of the Atlantic on Nov 17, 1942, and the 168th Inf Regiment marked its first important action with the capture of Sened Station on Jan 31 1943.

From February until May 11, 1943, when the Tunisian campaign came to an end, the 34th Division cornered the enemy and beat him at Abeltla and Hadjeb el Aion in open, fluid warfare and at Fondouk Gap, Hill 609 and Eddekhila in mountainous terrain and close combat.

WITH ASSAULT WAVES

The Division was in Army reserve status for the Salerno operation but the 151st Field Artillery Battalion landed with the assault waves, and for eight days shot it out with the Germans and fired more rounds in onr action, than during the entire Tunisian campaign.

A Division task force made its first contact with the enemy on Europe's mainland on Sept. 28, 1943, near Montemarano, Italy. Now fighting with Fifth Army, the Red Bulls captured Benevento in early October. Infantrymen had advanced 40 miles in five days to score the first of the Division's great successes in Europe.

MAJOR SUCCESSES

These successes included three crossings of the Volturno River, capture of bloody Mt. Pantano, clearing of San Vittore, Cervaro, storming of Cassino, breakout from the Anzio Beachhead and pursuit through Rome to Civitavecchia, conquest of Cecina and Rosignano, the liberation of Leghorn and the assault on the vaulted Gothic Line.

During the Volturno-Mt. Pantano operations, the 34th Division was in contact with the enemy for 76 consecutive days.

Veterans Day at the Florence Italy ABMC Covered by the 133rd Ironman Italian Chapter

Nov 11, 2025

by Alessandro Querci

Greetings from Italy, to all our friends in the 34th Infantry Division Association. We hope your Veterans Day was a peaceful, and you had the opportunity to recognize all Military Veterans currently serving, and retired.

Members of the Italian 133rd Ironman Chapter, took part in the Veterans Day ceremony held at the American (ABMC) Cemetery in Florence, Italy. The clear and sunny day made this day dedicated to veterans of all wars a success. The U.S. federal budget freeze had a negative impact on the absence of US civilian and military representatives. But the ABMC management and staff handled the situation impeccably, and the simple and composed ceremony took place in a touching atmosphere, focusing primarily on remembrance.

The Civilian Director of the Camp Darby Community was present, with whom I exchanged greetings. Also present were representatives from the governments of France and Brazil. Also present were the mayors of neighboring municipalities and Italian army officers, including the new commander of Camp Darby. The keynote address was given by Director Eryth Zecher, who, in addition to focusing on the significance of Veterans Day, commemorated a fallen member of the 91st Infantry Division who died during the battle of the Futa Pass in September 1944. A grandson of a veteran of the 10th Mountain Division was also present at the ceremony and read a short message. President Donald Trump's message was then read by the Cemetery Director.

The Ironman Battalion Chapter, with an office at the chapter headquarters in Calenzano (Florence) Italy, on behalf of the 34th Infantry Division Association, presented a wreath (shown below), which I, (Alessandro Querci) had the honor of escorting to its resting place, at the base of the wall, with the names of the MIAs during the ceremony. The 34th Infantry Colors, with Battle Streamers, were posted by Andrea Morbidelli.

In addition to myself, the following Life Members were present: Andrea Morbidelli, Marco Poggiali, Paolo Bellini, along with Members Michela Lombardi, and Maria Cristina Verdone.



(L to R) Andrea Morbidelli, Marco Poggiali, Paolo Bellini, Michela Lombardi and Maria Cristina Verdone and Alessandro Querci.



The Italian 133rd Infantry Bn Ironman Chapter presented a wreath at the Florence (Nettuno) American Cemetery.

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (4) you do not owe dues for the Current Year

() Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Annual Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. Annual membership period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year. (Open to past and present members of units / organizations assigned to the 34th Inf Div or soldiers who have been members of the National Guard.)

() Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Associate Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. (Annual Fee) (Period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year). (Individuals who do not meet membership requirements, ie: Spouses, Friends)

() Enclosed is \$_____ for my LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 34th Infantry Division Association.
(See Fee Schedule Below) {No Further Annual Fee}.

To Age 60 \$100.00 At age 60 & older \$50.00



() Enclosed is \$_____ for my donation to the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Fund.
(Maintain all monuments and annual flowers for the Cemeteries in North Africa, Italy & U.S.)

Name _____ Street _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail: _____ Phone Number _____
Age _____ Military Unit/ Organization _____ Signature: _____

Note: The purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34th Divisional units & attached organizations of soldiers that have served their nation since 1917. The National Association schedules an annual meeting each Fall.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Ed Graybill. E-Mail: edward.graybill1@gmail.com The National Association Website is <http://www.34IDA.org> Membership Treasurer: Mark Newhall (Text 515-210-1812) Email: mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by E-Mail or U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association Website. The 34th Infantry Division Association maintains files and a desk at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Oct 2021

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 25.00	34 th Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$6.00
34 th Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$6.00
34 th Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$15.00		
34 th Red Bull Window Decal	\$2.00	34 th Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 th Red Bull Jacket (Red) Size _____	\$25.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 th Div "Camouflage" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$22.00	34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Special Price on Books: Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror \$10.00

*Add \$5.00 for shipping the first ITEM and \$2.00 per each added ITEM in the same shipment.

Sub Total \$ _____

Shipping \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

34th Infantry Division Association
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692
Johnston, IA 50131

Call 515-210-1812, if you have a question.

Memorial Service at the 34th Inf Div Reunion

The photo shows LTC (Ret) Daryl Drake (L) and Chaplain COL Martha Kester (R) Iowa ARNG Senior Chaplain, prior to the start of the Reunion Memorial Service. CHP Kester had deployed with the 2 IBCT to Afghanistan. LTC (Ret) Drake served with the 1-194th FA Battalion and with the 2 IBCT, and Iowa JFHQ's. For the past 78 years the Division Association has held a Memorial Service for the 34th ID Red Bull Veterans who have passed during the past year, as well as those who were lost in Combat Action while serving our nation. All the names are read during the service. The Memorial service was held on Saturday afternoon, Sept 27, prior to our Reunion Banquet.



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34th Infantry Division Association

Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692

7105 NW 70TH Ave

Johnston, IA 50131