

COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT OCTOBER 2020



Alfred C Serrato — National Commander
cibassoc.com 828.490.9303 Ext 1
PO Box 11044, Hickory NC 28603



Message from the Commander

Combat Warriors & Support Members:

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your National Commander these last 12 months. I am proud of the extraordinary progress that has been made since October of last year. Wait until you see our charts!

Representing you has been similar to being a war commander on the battlefield. Preparing battle plans with my Company Commanders and Executive Board to determine tools and methods for Membership targets; increasing and securing the presence of our Combat Infantrymen's Association; increasing our assets and logistics so that we can become better equipped to modernize our association; Sharpening our spears. All have helped to shape and mobilize the recent and future

successes of our Association.

Our modest budget and finances required me to write my own messages. Something I thoroughly enjoy doing. Judging by the overwhelming responses I have received, those simple messages from a fellow Infantryman seemed to have touched a nerve - in a positive way, with my fellow Combat Warriors.

Organizations sometimes fail in fulfilling a mission. Good organizations, however, adapt and move forward. Your Executive Board has made a difference by its willingness to accept responsibility, identify old but cherished ways that were not working, adapt, plan and attack. We are now better prepared than we have ever been to handle the unpredictable. We are also listening to our membership and responding. Let us not forget that your Board listened to complaints to bring back our old CIB logo. We have done that!

A big thank you to our membership for your donations. Older Combat Vets, especially those alone, without computers or email addresses - are now reconnected with us thru mailed newsletters. I received countless letters of gratitude from them for being reconnected to the Combat Infantrymen's Association. Thank you for your donations that helped make that happen.

Lastly, your Board is laying the groundwork for the following two long-range major projects:

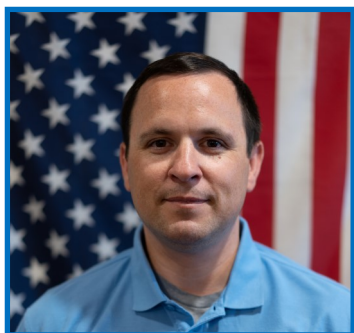
- The creation of a \$250,000 CIB Monument at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.
- The creation of a First-Class Postage Stamp bearing the Combat Infantrymen's Association logo.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Serrato
National Commander

2020 COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL OFFICERS



**Joshua Rand-Castillo—
Deputy National Commander**



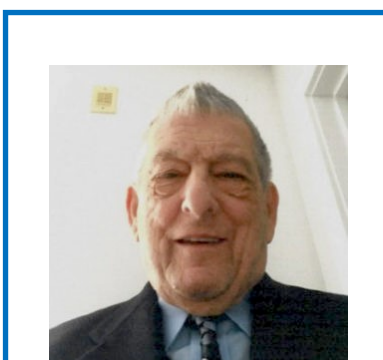
**Alfred C Serrato
National Commander**



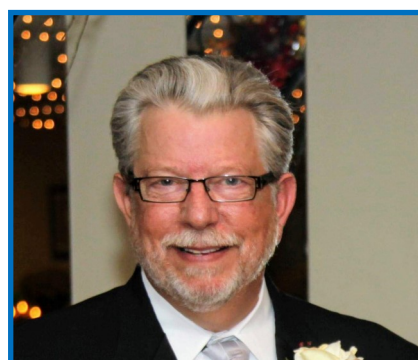
**Fred Bourjaily
Chief of Staff**



**Earl Kennedy
Senior Trustee**



**Irwin Fischman
National Finance Officer**



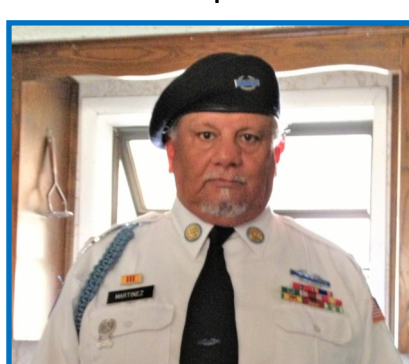
**Rodney Williams
Membership Officer**



**Ted Jackson
Junior Trustee**



**Pasquale Caputo
Director of Business Relations**



**Tony Martinez
Forms Compliance Officer**



**Ramon Diaz
Support Member Chairman**

2020 COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

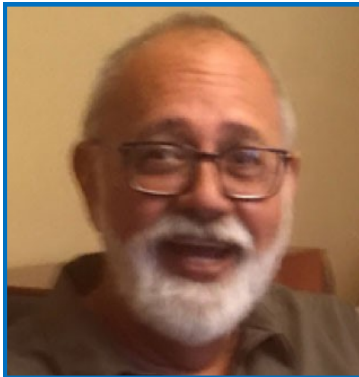
NON-VOTING OFFICERS



Jenn Knowles
Director of Legislative Affairs



Johnnie Downs
Chaplain



Richard Serrato
Historian



Dina Coffey
Data Manager



Blue Badge Editor



Judge Advocate

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Command
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As of August 1, 2020

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**NOTE: ALL 9 ABOVE ARE THE
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As of August 1, 2020

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Vacant

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California: State Commander Fred Bourjaily (810) 614-8749

Oklahoma: State Commander JL Rhodes; jlrrhodes@cableone.net (580) 332-8811

Oregon: State Commander Bill Castro (808) 286-9670

Texas: State Commander Tony Martinez (512) 228-7045

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020 FIRST PRIZE WINNER



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020 FIRST PRIZE WINNER

Congratulations to our 1st prize Scholarship winner Robert F. Williams. Mr. Williams had the unprecedented experience of being unanimously selected by all 4 judges. Williams is a Ph.D. student – Military history, Department of History, Ohio State University. Robert earned his CIB in Iraq, serving as Fire Team Leader. In Afghanistan, he served as a heavy weapons Section Leader. His 3rd tour was as platoon sergeant, 1-501st Infantry (Airborne) Khost Province, Afghanistan. Williams was honorably discharged on November 1, 2017.

ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

Describe the circumstances of the event during which the CIB was earned.

My first firefight occurred the day after Saddam Hussein was captured in December 2003. My unit came under fire from Iraqi insurgents loyal to Hussein in the city of Samarra after my platoon captured a military-aged male riding a motorcycle. I was manning an M2 .50 Caliber machine gun on a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle. Usually, this weapon is fired from inside the vehicle. Yet on this day, the remote weapon system was not functioning, and I was firing from on top, providing suppressive fire. At the same time, elements of my platoon maneuvered on enemy positions. Throughout my three combat tours and thirty-six months in combat, I came under fire more times than I can count, many in some very hair-raising experiences that resulted in numerous casualties.

What makes the CIB special to you?

The Combat Infantry Badge is special to me because it signifies my competence at the most important job I ever had—leading men in combat. Earning the CIB places a soldier in a fraternity of previous recipients that earned the badge in conditions most Americans cannot fathom. I am fortunate in that I can now apply for this scholarship, whereas many of my friends can not, as the badge was the last thing they earned.

If our government called you up for the Draft due to a military conflict, how would you respond?

After a career as an infantryman, I am afraid I would be precluded from service in the event of a draft. However, if called, I would eagerly re-enter service to apply my hard-won experience on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan to whatever situation the United States needed me. I am, however, a recent addition to my local draft board in Ohio. After arriving at Ohio State University for graduate school, as I get older, I thought the best use of my experience and patriotism was to enroll as a local draft board member. Military service is a crucial component of my family's history. My father served in the Navy during the Cold War. My grandfather was an artillery officer in World War II, where he provided much-needed fire support to the infantrymen of the 96th Infantry Division in the Philippines and Okinawa. I can trace my family's

military history to the American Revolution, including an infantry Sergeant in the 4th Minnesota during the American Civil War. Needless to say, if the government called me up during a draft, I would eagerly respond and hope that I am not too advanced in age to do my part.

The United States is a unique experiment in self-governance. Far from perfect, it is a participatory democracy that requires buy-in from each citizen. Sometimes, in an existential crisis, this requires donning the uniform of one's country and pledging to defend it from all enemies—foreign and domestic. The draft, as President Woodrow Wilson once said, is the most democratic way to raise an army.

ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Last Year we had 7 applicants. This year we had 22! The thoughts expressed by the students were deeply touching. Many of the younger students had never asked their father or grandfather about their Army background or the event they endured to earn the Combat Infantry Badge. As the CIB awardee began talking to his/her family member for the very first time in all those years, about his battle experiences, about being a soldier -there was obvious wonderment from the listener that the old guy they knew who mowed the lawn and puttered around the house was once a very brave soldier who put his life on the line for his country.

There now began a higher respect for each other. From the soldier – a sense of gratitude that he could help his family member earn a scholarship award. From the listener a new found respect for the revealed battle experiences and a deep appreciation that dad or gramps actually cared enough to help his family member win a scholarship.

The Executive Board was equally impressed with the entries. Though we had only 3 awards to give out, how can you limit it to 3 if #4 and #5 are also touching. The Board thus overwhelmingly voted to extend the awardees to 5.

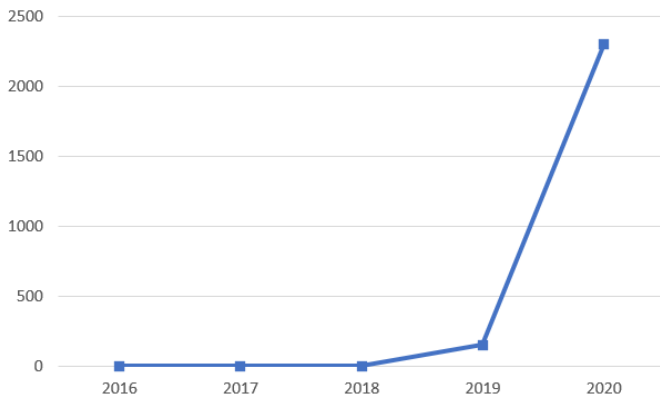
Also, thanks to this year's generous raffle donations the Board took the unprecedented step to adjust the award amounts. Therefore #1 stayed at \$2,500. #2 increased from \$500 to \$1,500; #3 increased from \$250 to \$750; #4 increased from ZERO to \$500; #5 increased from ZERO to \$250. And the WINNERS ARE:

1 st Prize	\$2,500 Robert F Williams
2 nd Prize	\$1,500 Sophia Allen
3 rd prize	\$750 Joshua Forsythe
4 th prize	\$500 Caroline J Bonner
5 th prize	\$250 Richard Riekse

The 1st prize winner will be posted on the Website. Congratulations to all the winners. The rating committee wanted me to convey to all applicants that judging was very difficult. Those who did not win were within fractions of winning.

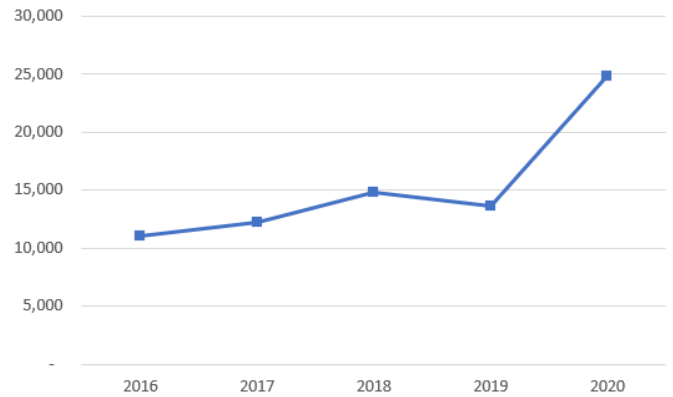
Historic Growth

Scholarship Donations



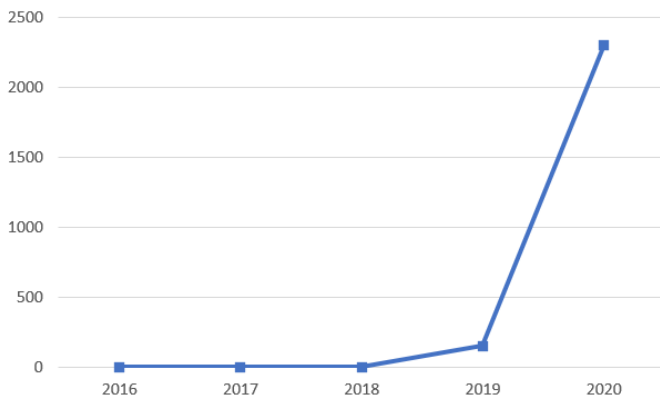
A dramatic increase is shown from our 2019 Scholarship Donations amount of \$150 to our 2020 Scholarship Donations of \$2,300. A whopping **increase of 1,533%**

Fund Raisers



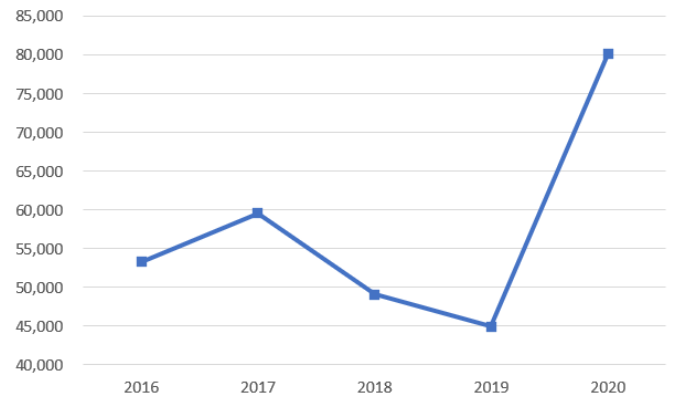
A dramatic increase is shown from our 2019 Spring Fundraiser amount of \$13,660 to \$24,798. A whopping **increase of 82%**

New Member Growth



A dramatic increase is shown from our 2019 New Members of 210 ??? to 300. A whopping **increase of (###%)**

Total Income



A dramatic increase is shown from our 2019 Total Income amount of \$44,927 to our 2020 Total Income of (\$80,132– waiting for October 2020). A whopping **increase of 78%**

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT



Service Officer issues are processed by National Commander Alfred Serrato. Serrato has been a Service Officer for 12 years. He only processes Appeals. "I'm moved by soldiers and widows who I believe have been treated unjustly." His work was done primarily in Thailand. Service Officers working from Thailand cannot be "accredited" because there is no Veteran Administration presence in Thailand. Serrato only processes DENIALS related to service-connected disabilities; Denials of a CIB award; Denials of a Widow's Pension.

- **April 2020.** Yo C., a Thailand widow of MSgt Bill C. was denied her just claim for a Widow's Pension. DCAS claimed that Widow Pension payments were being made (they were actually being paid to a woman the soldier had divorced 10 years before). National Service Officer Al Serrato filed a claim six years ago. In April 2020, after years of dogged determination, she received a retroactive claim payment exceeding \$50,000. June 2020.
- **Steve W.** Service Officer Serrato successfully assisted the Army Veteran by increasing his rating to 100% using the concept of "Unemployability."
- **July 2020.** Judi S., a California widow of army veteran Jack Sharkey, was denied a Widow's Pension by the Veteran's Administration claiming her husband's death was not service-connected. Service Officer Serrato filed an appeal based upon the premise that the cause of death was from a condition Secondary to an existing and approved Service -Connected disability. In July 2020 the VA reversed their denial and the widow was granted full Widow's Pension Benefits.
- **August 2020.** Jit L. Though ten years had passed since the Widow's husband had died, she never received status on her claim for a Widow's Pension. She was near destitute. Her claim had been started but never submitted because the person helping her had Alzheimer's disease and never followed through. Service Officer Serrato was able to get a waiver for the old claim. Eventually, the widow's claim was approved and she received an award of over \$80,000. The widow brought a luggage full of old papers to Serrato who agreed to review documents. He found the "needle in the haystack." To Serrato's astonishment, he found documents confirming \$225,000 in stock with Fidelity Pension. Regrettably, the husband forgot to add his wife as Beneficiary. That claim is now being processed on behalf of the Beneficiaries.
- Service Officer Serrato is currently processing 4 applications from four 11Bravo Combat Warriors who have been unjustly denied their Combat Infantry Badge. Serrato is meticulously gathering supporting documents to support the soldiers' rightful claim.

NOTE: Any offers of assistance in researching claims would be greatly appreciated.

Legislative Report



April 2020: The National CIB Commander sent a letter of support for HR 5995/ SB 3393, The Major Richard Star Act.

Both of these bills correct the injustice that is caused when combat soldiers, who are so severely wounded in combat, are forced to retire early from the military and do not serve 20 years. These bills repeal the unfair offset of retire pay from the military being subtracted from disability compensation benefits from the VA. Retirement benefits are from the military. Disability benefits are from the Department of Veteran Affairs. They are not the same awards. One cannot be subtracted from the other.

September 1, 2020: National Commander is working with State Senator Bob Archuleta that would allow veterans with a DV License plate to ride in the Car Pool Lane. Daily, thousands of disabled veterans are driving to a VA Hospital for treatment. Many of those drivers often arrive at their VA facility late due to congested traffic and frequently can not find parking spaces available. They are often required to make another appointment.

September 5, 2020: National Commander sent a letter to the Democratic Party of Orange County California demanding that Vice Chairman, Jeff LeTourneau be removed from their Executive Board.

LeTourneau drew heated criticisms from both Democrats and Republicans for an e-mail glorifying Ho Chi Minh—the Communist leader during the Vietnam War.

Two days later, after heated debate, LeTourneau was removed as Vice Chairman.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Every November 11 our annual National Veterans Day is especially observed at Arlington National Cemetery where a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is a very moving, somber ceremony.

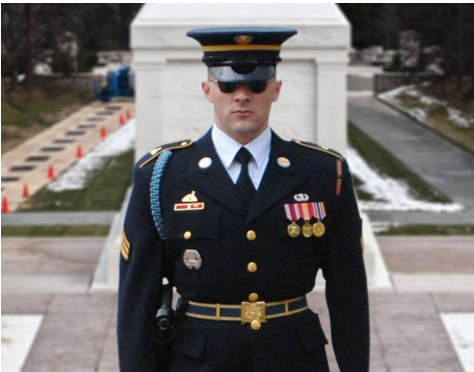
Within a few years of the end of WWI, the United States Congress discussed the importance of erecting a monument to the soldiers who lost their lives. U.S. Army General John Pershing testified before congress favoring a monument - a tribute to the Unknown Soldier who lost his life on the battlefield. Congress approved erecting the monument in 1921. The monument was dedicated to U.S. service members who died without their remains being identified. It has since evolved to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.

The symbolism of an unknown, entombed soldier serves as a deeply profound monument for all who fell in the service to our country. The laying of the wreath is rich with symbolisms. For example, the Honor Guard marches 21 steps down the mat. "21" was chosen because it symbolizes the highest military honor that can be given – the 21 gun salute. Additionally, the Honor Guard soldier "walking the mat" does not wear rank insignia so as not to outrank the Unknown Soldier.

The tomb is guarded 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Bad weather, even terrorist attacks do not postpone the "watch."

On November 11, 2019 the Combat Infantrymen's Association members who were selected to place our wreath at the tomb were retirees Lt. Col. Albert Guarnieri and Brigadier General James D'Agastino from CIB Company 107 – Rhode Island.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Combat Infantrymen's Association Merchandise



Combat Infantrymen's Association Merchandise

A	Large Combat Infantrymen's Association Patch	11" W x 6 1/4" H	\$26.00
B	Small Combat Infantrymen's Association Patch	5" W x 2 7/8" H	\$9.00
C	Small CIB Assn Patch	3 3/4" W x 2 1/4"	\$9.00
E	Support Member tab for small patch		\$9.00
F	Combat Infantrymen's Association ID Tag		\$9.00
G	Face Mask	Face Mask outside layer is 83% Polyester, 17% Spandex; Inside lining = 100% cotton. "It's washable!"	\$5.00
H	Window Decal	6' x 4" 13" x 8"	6'x4' \$5.00 13'x8' \$8.00
I	Challenge Coin		\$12.00
J	White T-shirt	50/50 poly-cotton t-shirts in white. Design featured on front left chest and full back.	\$23.00 S-XL \$25.00 XXL, XXXL
K	Embroidered Polo Shirt	Port Authority brand pique knit polo's, offered in white, or black. 7 oz. 100% ring spun combed cotton heavy weight pique (pre-shrunk), double needle stitching throughout, flat knit collar and cuffs, 3 button placket, side vents. (Logo will be on left side of shirt.)	\$38.00 S-XL \$40.00 XXL, XXXL
L	Embroidered Jacket	A reliable soft shell at a real value. This goto basic jacket sheds wind and rain and is a perfect choice for casual comfort. Jacket is navy blue and black• 100% polyester woven shell bonded to a water-resistant film insert and a 100% polyester microfleece lining Zip-through cadet collar with chin guard; Reverse coil zippers, Front zippered pockets, Open cuffs and hem	\$65.00 S-XL \$68.00 XXL, XXXL
M	Lanyard	Change Lanyard Price to \$6	\$3.00
N	Acrylic Pin	Acrylic hat/lapel pin	\$2.00
O	Ball Cap	Port&Co six panel ball cap, 100% cotton twill with a hook and loop closure at the back.	\$11.00

If viewing this on the internet, You must print out this form and mail it to the address below.



Combat Infantrymen's Association Merchandise Order Form

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Please Print Clearly, since we will be mailing your merchandise to this address!!

Return Form & Payment To:

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Item Description	Circle Size	Circle Color	Quantity	Price Each	Amount
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ID Tag				\$10.00	
Face Mask	Lg XL			\$8.00	
Lanyard				\$3.00	
Challenge Coin				\$12.00	
Acrylic Pin				\$2.00	
Decal	6" x 4" 13" x 8"			6"x4" \$5.00 13"x8" \$8.00	
Embroidered Polo Shirt	S M Lg XL	White Black		\$38.00	
Embroidered Polo Shirt	XXL XXXL	White Black		\$40.00	
Ball Cap		Black Khaki		\$11.00	
Embroidered Jacket	S M Lg XL	Dark Blue		\$65.00	
Embroidered Jacket	XXL XXXL	Dark Blue		\$68.00	
White T-Shirt	S M Lg XL	White		\$23.00	
White T-Shirt	XXL XXXL	White		\$25.00	

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email: info@infantryassn.com

www.infantryassn.com

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Support the new National Infantry Museum and Soldier
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American Airborne Association

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& Veterans Day in November**

First Team!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO JOIN: www.1CDA.org

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**VIETNAM
COUNTERPARTS
2020 REUNION
(MACV Team 56)**

**April Reunion
Rescheduled.
Date to be determined.**



Call for information @ (619)298-0511.



**The National 4th (IVY)
Division Association**

Formed at Camp Greene, North Carolina, on December 10, 1917 for service in World War I, the Association is a centennial partner with the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission. The "IVY Division" continues its distinguished heritage through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units.

Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.

"Steadfast and Loyal"

UNBREAKABLE HEARTS!

A True, Heart-wrenching Story About Victory ...Forfeited

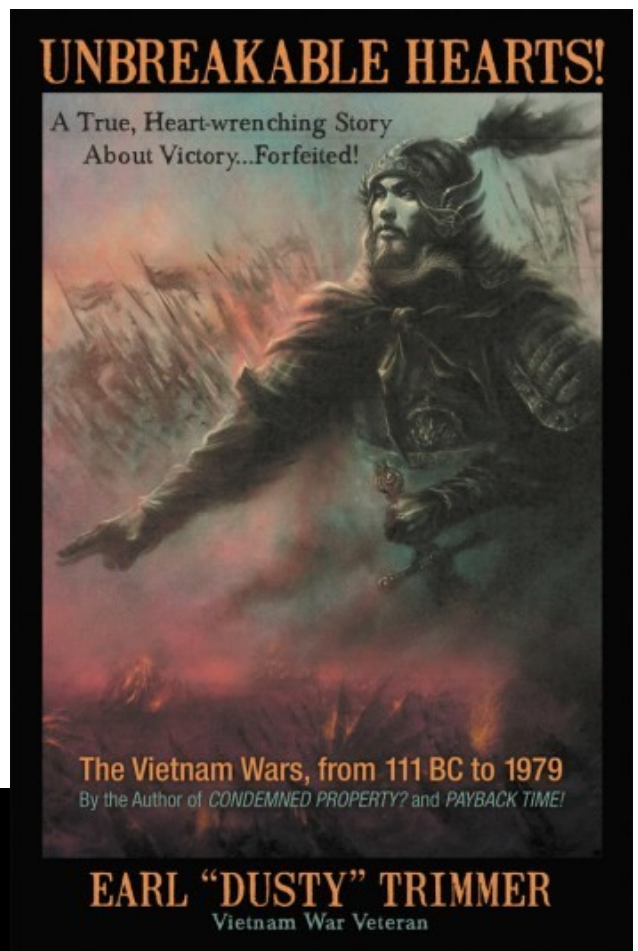
Earl "Dusty" Trimmer relates from personal experience events surrounding the most misunderstood war in America's history. He brings it all home with his down-to earth style and intense passion. *Unbreakable Hearts*, dives into the Vietnamese history and skillfully brings the reader into understanding the Vietnamese enemy's amazing resolve. He explains the evolution of the Vietnamese over thousands of years of brutal wars in defense of their country in order to remain free. This book had to be written, as it leaves our Vietnam Vets and their families a proud LEGACY.

"In love or war, if you have broken their heart, you have broken their spirit, drained their soul, depleted their passion for hope."

To Order *Unbreakable Hearts* in Hardcover or Paperback, Visit:

unbreakableheartsbook.com

Available at Amazon and Barnes & Nobel



FACEBOOK CONNECTION

Facebook Pages for military associations reach numerous individuals, their families, other military associations and organizations that benefit from the professional knowledge and feedback of our membership of warriors. Numerous people all over the world visit Facebook everyday to connect with other members, family and friends to share what they have learned and to learn. The Combat Infantrymen's Association (CIAssoc) Facebook connection helps make the most of our Pages to tell interesting, informative, inspiring stories and build deep, lasting connections with our audience.



Facebook Pages help the CIAssoc members to join the conversation, by sharing their stories and building a meaningful dialogue with their members and potential qualified constituents. Every day, numerous people are already on Facebook sharing the things they care about. In fact, people learn of content (links, news, blog posts, notes, photos, etc.) that are shared each month. The CIAssoc Page tells our story in a voice that other recipients of our prestigious medal that includes photos, video, and links through posts to share and engage our content with their military buddies and their families.

Everyone will have an opportunity to share our Page so others will receive updates on activities, and connect with their constituents. The CIAssoc has assigned administrators that update relevant settings, and access resources regarding how people connect with us and react to our story. Some of the key Page features are designed to allow the CIAssoc to learn the amount of exposure to our page each day and individuals that visit our page are invited to like our page. When you Like our Page, your friends see our page in their News Feed and can also connect to our Page. They can also like, comment, and share our posts.

The CIAssoc will promote our scheduled events and will update these events through announcements. We encourage everyone to attend our events and enjoy the camaraderie with their family. The CIAssoc will share links to breaking news or media about other relevant government organizations or agencies. We will post our milestones, e.g., once we reach a significant number of Likes, administrators will provide a post thanking members and new connections encouraging them to share our Page with their friends. Our members already know the CIAssoc website - www.cibassoc.com. We encourage everyone to visit and become friends with our membership and mission. From our Facebook URL - @CIAssoc, visitors will be given options to visit our website, to call us, to save the page and to view our profile page. The CIAssoc would like to thank those who support and engage with our community of warriors. We ask for your input and to share your stories. Remember to Post appropriate fun content, too. Not everything has to be serious. The CIAssoc would like to express our thanks to the U.S. Army for their continued guidance on our social media experiences.



LEGACY PROGRAM – INTRODUCTION

The legacy program is an endowment Fund Raising program given by our members, our friends and our supporters. The purpose is to provide a steady stream of revenue that will protect our Combat Infantrymen's Association finances; enable us to launch new CIB Companies; sustain our Scholarship awards that promote patriotism.

WHY CREATE A LEGACY?

In one way or another, your life is rooted in military experiences, connecting you to the Veteran community. Even if you never had the opportunity to serve in the military, you recognize that the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans were purchased by the service and sacrifice of men in uniform who served as combat warriors.

Your decision of leaving a "living" Legacy assures that Combat Veterans will be around to help yesterday's Veterans and future generations of Combat Veterans. Your Legacy can be a cash donation to our association or including our association as one of your beneficiaries in your will or estate plans.

HOW TO CREATE A LEGACY

Make an outright cash gift to CIB Legacy Fund or,

Make a gift of stock, bonds or other types of property or,

Add/change a beneficiary on an IRA, 401K, Pension Fund or life insurance policy.

SUMMARY

Creating a LEGACY, will help the Combat Infantrymen's Association FOREVER. There is no limit to your gift. You decide if your gift is large or small.

Throughout the past years, the Combat Infantrymen's Association has worked with our members and donors to build a strong and lasting organization, to properly serve our honored Combat Infantrymen.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the LEGACY program. Two added benefits of your LEGACY gift: First, certain types of gifts qualify for Major tax benefits. 2nd, a full-page memorial ad will be placed in our Website for all eternity. I can provide a sample. If you have any questions, please contact me at (847) 987-5401 or email me at IRWINFISCH@SBCGLOBAL.NET I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Irwin Fischman – National Finance Chairman

the craft

To create something that commands notice, the tools must complement the craftsman.

Inspiration and Experience. At Caputo, we source the very finest ingredients from around the world to be able to offer delicious solutions for your specific needs. Using both traditional and leading-edge techniques and decades of experience, we then customize the form and function of your cheese to help you create memorable and easy-to-prepare menu options.

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