



## 2-34 IBCT HQs Deployment Welcome Home, 11 Feb 2026



**Governor Kim Reynolds and MG Steven Osborn, The Adjutant General of Iowa, welcome home Soldiers from the 1-194 Field Artillery and 1-168 Infantry Battalion on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the 132d Air Wing in Des Moines.**

Approximately 250 Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, arrived home on February 11th, 2026, at both the 132d Air Wing in Des Moines and 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, Iowa. The Soldiers arriving in Des Moines are from both the 1-194 Field Artillery Battalion and the 1-168 Infantry Battalion. The Soldiers arriving in Sioux City are from the 1-113th Cavalry Squadron where the Cavalry Squadron Headquarters is located. The two Soldiers killed in action on December 13, 2025, SGT Willian “Nate” Howard and SGT Edgar Torres-Tovar, were from the 1-113th Cavalry Squadron.

The 250 Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) returned from the Middle East as they finish their mission against ISIS. As part of the phased return from their deployment in support of Operations Inherent Resolve, they significantly reduced ISIS capabilities in Iraq and Syria, and helped to improve security in the regions. As of January, about 1,800 Soldiers were stationed throughout Iraq and Syria from the 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division for Operation Inherent Resolve.

Several thousand family, friends, and supporters attended the two welcome ceremonies in Des Moines and the ceremony in Sioux City.



**Governor Reynolds and MG Osborn applauding the Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Brigade as they march into the hanger at the 132d Air Wing in the Des Moines Airport.**



**Soldiers from the 1-113th Cavalry Squadron arrive at 185th ARW in Sioux City, Iowa.**



**Governor Kim Reynolds’s January visit to the Middle East to visit Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa Army National Guard in Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait.**

## Greetings 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Members,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and brought the New Year in safely and with great anticipation for this year to be filled with family memories, success in whatever your endeavors are and most of all, I wish you good health in 2026. It's been a busy fiscal year for the 34<sup>th</sup> ID with units deploying overseas, units returning and multiple state mobilizations to quell tensions in Mpls /St. Paul.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we heard the terrible news of our two Red Bull soldiers who were Killed In Action while deployed to the Middle East. SGT William Nathaniel Howard and SGT Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar were killed and three of their fellow warriors were wounded by a gunman while conducting operations in Palmyra, Syria. They were all members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reg, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div, deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in the CENTCOM AO. We posted a joint press release on Page 3 of this newsletter to give everyone a more accurate information.

The funeral services were well attended for these two soldiers with an outpouring of love and respect far and wide. One thing that surprised me however and that I'm incredibly grateful for was that one of our Chapters of the 34<sup>th</sup> ID Assoc. sent floral arrangements to each of the memorial services to honor the lives and service of SGT Howard and SGT Torres-Tovar. The Ironman Battalion - Italian Chapter of 34<sup>th</sup> ID Assoc. from Calenzano, Italy and its president Alessandro Querci, sent memorials to the families for each one of the funerals. After thinking about it, I wasn't surprised because that's what this Ironman BN has been doing for nearly 20 years, honoring soldiers from the 34<sup>th</sup> ID who sacrificed their lives in Europe during WWII. Every year on Memorial Day, the Italian Ironman BN lay memorial wreaths at the Florence American Cemetery near Florence and the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery located in Nettuno, Italy, to honor our Red Bull Soldiers buried there. This past year they also laid a memorial at the 34<sup>th</sup> ID monument that marks the site of the conquest of Hill 810 at the Torricella Pass, where the 34<sup>th</sup> ID fought in Tuscany, Italy. We are indebted to SGT Howard and SGT Torres-Tovar for their service and sacrifice, I'm also grateful to the Ironman BN from Italy and its President, Alessandro, for honoring these two Red Bull soldiers.

A quick shout-out to CSM Matt Erickson, CSM of the 34<sup>th</sup> ID along with CSM Christopher Schlubeier and MSG Aaron Hildebrant! Thank you for your combined 106 years of military service to our nation. I've worked with all of these heroes and want to wish them the best in their retirement.

**MG (Ret) Jerry Lang – President, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

[jerry.lang52@outlook.com](mailto:jerry.lang52@outlook.com) or (320) 3250-3754

## **34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Final Roll Call Spring 2025**

John W. Bortz, 234 Sig Bn, 34 RAOC, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
George Polak, 2-133 (M) Inf 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Greg Henry, 2-133 (M) Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Daniel Tungesvik, 234<sup>th</sup> Sig Bn  
John Zavodnick, 194<sup>th</sup> AR Bn, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
David Hicks, HHC 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Harold Turner, HHC, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
Robert E. Wege, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Bde, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Thomas R. Stone, 185<sup>th</sup> FA, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Lyle E. Cain Jr., 1-168 Inf Bn, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Timothy Konecny, 1-168 Inf Bn 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Larry D. Johnson, 2-133<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bn, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Richard (Dick) Jepsen, 1034th QM Co 34ID  
Gregory N. Benberg 1-194 FA Bn, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div

### **Fall 2025**

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

### **Winter 2025**

Darrel Jackson 168<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn, 2 IBCT, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
SSG Edgar B. Torres-Tovar, 1-113 Cav, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
SSG William N. Howard, 1-113 Cav, 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
COL James E. Lalley, 2-133<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div  
Rodney Fitchner, 2<sup>nd</sup> IBCT, S-2 NCO 34 ID  
Mark David Flattery, 113<sup>th</sup> Cav Sqdn 34<sup>th</sup> ID  
Dennis Dietz, 34<sup>th</sup> Bde, & 2<sup>nd</sup> IBCT, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div

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

### **National Office-34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,  
7105 NW 70<sup>TH</sup> 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, 515-975-3201, [edward.graybill1@gmail.com](mailto:edward.graybill1@gmail.com)

Asst. Secretary Appointed: COL (Ret) Russ Bierl

**Treasurer:** COL (Ret) Mark Newhall, 515-210-1812, [mark.d.newhall@gmail.com](mailto:mark.d.newhall@gmail.com)

**Facebook Manager:** CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee, [pogjack@gmail.com](mailto:pogjack@gmail.com)

**Website, Historian:** MSG (Ret) Daniel Ewer, [justcallmesarge@gmail.com](mailto:justcallmesarge@gmail.com)

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

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

Also, follow Red Bulls at

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

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

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

**34<sup>th</sup> DIV SUS BDE:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/1a73Dvh8p2/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



## Two Red Bull Soldiers Killed in Attack in Syria



Two Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers were killed and three were wounded Saturday, December 13, 2025 in Palmyra, Syria by a gunman with suspected ties to the Islamic State. A civilian interpreter was also killed in the attack. "The gunman was engaged and killed," according to a U.S. Central Command report.

The deceased Soldiers were Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, 29, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, 25, of Grimes, Iowa. Both are members of the 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

"Today, we honor the memory and sacrifice of Sgt. Howard and Sgt. Torres-Tovar by sharing their names with a grateful state and nation," said Maj. Gen. Stephen Osborn, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard. "They were dedicated professionals and cherished members of our Guard family who represented the best of Iowa. Our focus now is providing unwavering support to their families through this unimaginable time and ensuring the legacy of these two heroes is never forgotten." Three other Iowa National Guard Soldiers were wounded in the attack. Two of the Soldiers required medical evacuation for further treatment and are in stable condition. The third Soldier has been treated locally and is in good condition.

Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to fly at half-staff effectively immediately until sunset on the "final day of interment" for Howard and Torres-Tovar.

"Their memory will live on through their families, their fellow warriors still serving our country, and in my unwavering commitment to our warfighters around the globe," said Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

In a Facebook post after the attack, Jeffrey Bunn, the Police Chief of a small Iowa community and Howard's stepfather, said the 11-year Guardsman was "a dedicated soldier through and through. He loved what he was doing and would be the first in and last out."

Iowa had not lost a Guardsman in combat since July 2011 in Afghanistan. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military effort to advise, assist and enable partner forces to eliminate what remains of ISIS.

## 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry “Ironman Chapter”

President Gary Czuba

Sec: Marv Peters [marvepeters@gmail.com](mailto:marvepeters@gmail.com)

Tres: Curly Albrecht [pantherfanforlife@gmail.com](mailto:pantherfanforlife@gmail.com)

Monthly Coffee at the Waterloo Armory at 9:30 am  
On 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. All are welcome.

Dinner at 63 Diner in Waterloo at 5:30 PM on 3rd  
Monday of October, January, April and July.

Chapter email is [ironman50701@gmail.com](mailto:ironman50701@gmail.com)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Chapter – “To The Last Man”

President CSM (Ret) Chris Stroer

VP: Adam Stock, Sec/Tres: Sgt (Ret) Kyle Kosloske  
Mankato -based 2-135<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn & Southern Minn.

Contact: Chris Stroer [cstroer@hotmail.com](mailto:cstroer@hotmail.com)

First Minnesota Chapter, 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn.

3400 South Coon Creek Dr, Andover, MN 55304

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/1stMN3434thIDAssociation>

## Des Moines Chapter 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn.

President: Doug Clabaugh 515-314-7821

Secretary: Chris Klink (515) 418-5994  
[Chris.klink@hotmail.com](mailto:Chris.klink@hotmail.com)

Chapter Meetings and Dinner are held at the Iowa  
Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, Johnston, IA on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Mar, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep and Nov.

## Commanders Own Chapter

President COL (Ret) Chad Sackett 320-412-6736

[Chad.mitchel.sackett@gmail.com](mailto:Chad.mitchel.sackett@gmail.com)

The Chapter is collocated with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Division HQ's in Arden Hills, MN.

The chapter meets four times a year. Call, Text or  
email Chad for the meeting time and site.

## 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry “Lethal” Chapter

Facebook:

168<sup>th</sup> Get Togethers



SFC Jim McCoy

HHC 1-168 IN

BN HRNCO

712-322-1168 Office HQ's

402-990-9555

Follow our Soldiers and support them and their  
families while they are deployed.

Ironman Battalion - Italian Chapter of  
34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association

[ironmanbattalion@gmail.com](mailto:ironmanbattalion@gmail.com)

President - Alessandro Querci

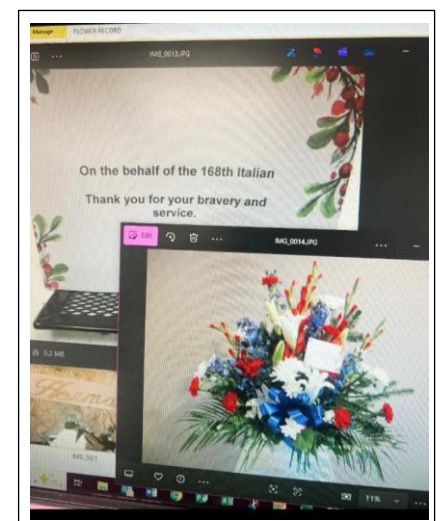
[quercialessandro@yahoo.it](mailto:quercialessandro@yahoo.it)



## Italian Ironman Chapter Sends Beautiful Bouquets of Flowers for SGT Howard and SGT Torres-Tovar

Mr. Alessandro Querci, President of the Ironman  
Battalion – Italian Chapter of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Division sent beautiful bouquets of flowers to both  
SGT Howard's funeral in Marshalltown, IA, and SGT  
Torres-Tovar's funeral in Des Moines, IA, all the  
way from Italy.

Thank you to our  
Italian Chapter  
friends for this kind  
remembrance and  
for all of their  
exceptional support  
that they continually  
show to our Soldiers  
and families during  
the year, such as the  
many wreaths laying  
ceremonies across  
cemeteries in Italy.



## 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS (CLUB 100) - HAWAII 80TH ANNIVERSARY



**January 3 Shinnen-kai attendees at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Clubhouse. (Photo by Clyde Sugimoto [nephew of Nolan Miyazaki (B)])**

The 100th Infantry Battalion has a long history with the 34th Infantry Battalion dating back to World War II. The 100th Battalion was attached to the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division for over a year to replace the 2nd Bn, 133rd Inf, who were on detail to provide security to the Supreme Allied HQs during the Italian campaign. This year marks the 80th Anniversary for the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (IBV) Club. Below are excerpts from their recent newsletter in January 2026.



**Message from Kathi [daughter of Tokuichi Hayashi (A)], 100th IBV President:**

“2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse – a significant year characterized by energy, freedom, and transformation. I feel it will be an auspicious year to solidify the 100th Infantry Battalion as Hawaii’s heroes. The 100th was the first Americans of Japanese ancestry unit to see combat in Europe. They led the way for the formation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT). Together, they overcame discrimination and unfounded accusations of disloyalty and rose to become one of the most

decorated in U.S. history.

The last month of 2025 and the first two weeks of 2026, were packed with awesome events, all in honor of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

**Chapter Christmas Parties.** This December, approximately 300 descendants, family members, and friends of the 100th gathered at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (Club 100) Clubhouse for four holiday celebrations. Together, we honored our 100<sup>th</sup> patriarchs, celebrated the season, and reaffirmed our commitment to the 100th Infantry Battalion’s motto, “Remember Pearl Harbor,” while we carry on Club 100th’s mission, “For Continuing Service.”

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate America’s 250th birthday in 2026 with the release of “The 100TH, Seeds of Aloha” film (<https://100thfilm.com/>). The documentary highlights how the 100th/442<sup>nd</sup> AJA soldiers proved they were loyal Americans and forged lasting bonds of Aloha still remembered by Italian and French villagers more than 80 years later.

**Mayor Rick Blangiardi, TV news stations, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and Director/Producer of “The 100TH, Seeds of Aloha” honor the 100th Infantry Battalion.** On December 22, 2025, the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (IBV) was deeply honored to welcome Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Medal of Honor recipient Dennis Fujii,

# 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS (CLUB 100) - HAWAII 80TH ANNIVERSARY

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Producer/Director Steve Sue of “The 100TH: Seeds of Aloha,” honored guests, and members for a meaningful dedication ceremony in front of our 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Memorial Building (Clubhouse).



**Spc. 5 Dennis Fujii, Vietnam War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, poses in front of the Medal of Honor display at the Clubhouse.**

The Mayor stated that recognizing Honolulu, and units like the 100th Infantry Battalion with a Purple Heart City sign, is long overdue - especially since the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team are one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history. On his social media account, he posted, *“We are proud to have installed a Purple Heart City sign just outside of the 100th Infantry Battalion headquarters on Kamoku Street. The 100th was a Japanese-American (Nisei) unit and came to be known as the “Purple Heart Battalion” for the casualties they suffered while fighting bravely and fiercely in WWII. This sign will serve as a permanent and solemn reminder of the sacrifices they made courageously on behalf of the United States. Mahalo.”*

This dedication was covered by our local news stations, and Kevin Knodell of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. For more on the ceremony, please view our web article here:

<https://www.100thibv.org/post/100th-purple-heart-city-sign>.”



**Purple Heart City sign dedication ceremony at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (Club 100) Clubhouse. [Photo by: Clyde Sugimoto]**



**100th IBV (Club 100) President Kathi Hayashi, “The 100TH, Seeds of Aloha” Producer/Director Steve Sue, and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, at the Purple Heart City sign dedication ceremony. [Photo by: Clyde Sugimoto]**

## 1-168th Infantry Regiment Awards the 34th ID Red Bull patch to the 438th Military Police Detachment (USAR)

“With great admiration, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment has given the 34th Infantry Division patch to the 438th Military Police Detachment. The Soldiers of the 438th MP Det (Salt Lake City, Utah) are the first Army Reserve unit to wear the Red Bull patch [since WWII].”



“It is with great honor that we are able to award them with a renowned patch full of history”

**LTC Ross Nibaur, Commander of the 1-168<sup>th</sup> IN BN, awards the Red Bull patch to the 438 MP Det (USAR) on December 2, 2025.**

# Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum Progress

- MG (Ret) Jerry Lang

Progress continues to be made at the MN Military & Veterans Museum this past fall and winter with both the building and the surrounding area of the museum site alongside US Highway 371, just outside Camp Ripley. The exterior of the museum is mostly complete and the roof was put on this fall after they finished placing a number of big pieces equipment in the museum through the roof. Work on the inside will continue throughout the rest of the year until September. Huge progress was made outside the museum this fall and during the winter on the museum site as you can see by the pictures. The tanks, howitzers and other heavy equipment are in the process of being moved from the old museum to the new one with a very interesting and unique item one will probably never see at any other museum. The decommissioned nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, *USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul's* towering sail and rudder is back home in Minnesota. It was transported to the Museum in Little Falls from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. This submarine served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm and was the first submarine to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles specifically designated for use in strikes against Iraq.



The tower and rudder of the submarine received extensive renovation over two years and were placed in the ground this past fall. The unique feature of the display is that the surrounding area of the submarine is landscaped and raised with a walkway around it so visitors can actually see the size of the entire submarine as if it were sitting in the water.



Major work occurred outside the museum this fall and early winter with the parking lots and parade field taking shape and concrete pads were placed where all the heavy equipment will eventually be sitting. Outside exhibits will be placed on both sides of the parade field and other locations in front of the museum. The inside will feature galleries from conflicts MN personnel have been involved in. Anyone can register for an e-newsletter that could be a good means for members to stay current on monthly museum developments at [www.mnvetmuseum.org](http://www.mnvetmuseum.org).



This 40,000 sq ft museum will be more immersive and interactive, connecting artifacts with the people and stories behind them. The museum will open mid-September, about two weeks before our 34th ID Association Reunion at Camp Ripley on October 2-3. The Saturday afternoon of our reunion schedule is dedicated for visiting the museum with our fellow Red Bull Association members. Be sure to register to attend our 2026 Red Bull Association reunion when our Spring Newsletter comes out and be one of the first groups to visit America's newest military museum.



## Commander's Own Chapter Whiskey Program

During our last 2025 34th Infantry Division Annual Reunion many attendees were interested in finding out more about the new Commander's Own Whiskey Program. This next year's Annual Reunion will be at Camp Ripley, MN. COL (Ret) Chad Sacket, president of the Commander's Own Chapter provided a sample of the new whiskey from the Brother Justus distillery. Mr. Sacket also noted that funds from last year's sales helped fund three (3) \$500 scholarships for their chapter. Here is the latest on the Commander's Own whiskey:

"The Commander's Own Chapter of the 34th ID Association from MN rolled out their "Commander's Own" 34ID Association American Whiskey in collaboration with Brother Justus Whiskey Company last year and it is getting a good response. To date, they have it offered in more than 25 locations in MN plus one BX. If you have a relationship with a liquor store or off sale establishment and would like to help make this product more available to fellow Red Bulls, please let us know the Establishment Name, Location, Nature of your relationship (i.e. good friend of the owner or if the manager is a retired Red Bull), and your phone number by contacting the Commander's Own Chapter info in this newsletter. You can also order it direct from Brother Justus and they will ship (<https://brotherjustus.com/commanders-own>).

Or better yet, stop in at their distillery in NE Minneapolis, it has a great bar where you can sample all their products. This is a great looking bottle that would look nice sitting in the middle of your whiskey collection. Or better yet, this is a great gift to one of your fellow warriors who is getting promoted or retiring.

The fates of nations and destinies of peoples are determined by decisive moments. From Gettysburg to Italy to the Middle East, units of the 34th Infantry Division have been there for America's decisive moments, tipping the balance toward freedom and preserving the union



of our great nation. This legacy of courage endures in today's "Red Bulls."

## Chief - National Guard Bureau visits Red Bulls on a gunnery range at Camp Ripley

General (GEN) Steven Nordhaus joined MG Shawn Manke, Adjutant General of MN and the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division on a tank gunnery range at Camp Ripley recently. General Nordhaus observed the 1st ABCT as they build readiness to deter America's adversaries and win decisively if deterrence fails. He further stated, "The Army continues to modernize the Army National Guard with upgraded weapons platforms to deliver overwhelming lethality for the warfight. Proud of these warriors keeping readiness razor-sharp."

GEN Steven Nordhaus is the 30th Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB), having assumed the role on October 2, 2024.



He is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and serves as the primary military adviser to the President and Secretary of Defense on National Guard matters. He is responsible for ensuring the more than 430,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel are accessible, and ready to protect the homeland and provide combat ready resources to our nation.



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

**34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division National Membership Application Form**

**NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (5) you do not owe dues for the Current Year**

( ) Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Annual Membership in the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div or soldiers who have been members of the National Guard.)

( ) Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Associate Membership in the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mark.d.newhall@gmail.com)

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

**Museum Store - 34<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Assn Price List – Oct 2021**

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

**Special Price on Books: Roaring Bull, 34<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**  
**7105 NW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692**  
**Johnston, IA 50131**

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

After we printed out all the Winter 34<sup>th</sup> ID Association newsletters to send out, we received this letter from CPT Derek Silverthorn, Troop Commander from the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, commander of the unit that SGT Howard and SGT Torres belonged to. For some that get a printed copy of this newsletter, some of the page numbers may not line up. We felt it was important to include this letter in our Winter Newsletter and the Lineage and Honors of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment on the following page. Thank you, CPT Silverthorn, for telling us about your two Soldiers and the update on your wounded soldiers. MG (Ret) Jerry Lang – President, 34<sup>th</sup> ID Association



### 34 ID Association Post

There is no question that the events of December 13th, 2025, are devastating and will have lasting effects on our formation. The impact is deeply felt across Bushmaster Troop, the Redhorse Squadron, the Ryder Brigade, and the Red Bull Division. The loss of SGT William “Nate” Howard and SGT Edgar Torres-Tovar will remain with us for years to come.

SGT Howard had extended his service for six additional years prior to mobilization—a testament to his dedication and commitment to serving. He was a subject matter expert and a vital asset to the Troop and Squadron, particularly in mounted gunnery, with an exceptional understanding of both friendly and enemy weapon systems. SGT Howard treated every Soldier with respect and made each one feel like a valued member of the Cavalry family.

SGT Torres embodied the highest standards of character, camaraderie, and dedication to duty—qualities that set the example for fellow NCOs. He was a loyal friend to many, known for his infectious spirit and unwavering positivity, as reflected in the memories shared from his deployment to Kosovo in 2020–2021. As a gunner, he remained vigilant and steadfast, never leaving his post during long hours on mission. Regardless of his role, he was fully committed to the mission and deeply devoted to his fellow Soldiers.

The deaths of SGT Howard and SGT Torres are profound losses to the Iowa National Guard. They were highly motivated, trusted, and principled leaders. They represented the very definition of force multipliers—demonstrating technical and tactical excellence alongside strong moral and ethical leadership. The Iowa National Guard was stronger because of their service.

For our Soldiers who were wounded in action, care and support remain ongoing. They are focused on their recovery and rehabilitation and look forward to reuniting with their families, friends, and communities. Their resilience and grit reflects the strength of this formation.

Our Soldiers and their families have received an outpouring of support from national and state leadership, nonprofit organizations, and communities across Iowa and beyond. That support is a testament to the deep respect and gratitude held for our Soldiers and their sacrifices. The bonds of the Red Bulls and the Iowa National Guard run deep and enduring—reminding us of the strength of the organization to which we proudly belong.

CPT Derek G. Silverthorn  
Bushmaster 6



# General John W. Vessey Readiness Center



The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, 2026, at Camp Ripley, MN.

In addition to the interest in visiting the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum on Camp Ripley, several attendees at the last reunion were also interested in receiving a tour of the 34th Infantry Division Headquarters at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) near Minneapolis.



The General John W. Vessey Readiness Center on AHATS has many military displays as well, and has a 34th ID Gift Shop. Those interested in visiting the General John W. Vessey Readiness Center on Friday, 02 October 2026, should get with Chad Sacket, president of the Commander's Own Chapter. If enough attendees are interested, we may be able to arrange a visit to include the Red Bull Gift Shop.



Croatian President Zoran Milanovic visits the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Division Headquarters at Arden Hills on Sept. 26, 2025.

# 1-113<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT Distinctive Unit Insignia HQs located in Sioux City, Iowa



*The Institute of Heraldry* (<https://ttoh.army.mil/default.aspx>)

### **Description/Blazon:**

A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/32 inches (2.78 cm) in height overall, blazoned: Or, a horse rampant Gules bridled of the field, in dexter chief a fleur-de-lis of the second and in sinister chief a prickly pear cactus Proper. Attached below the shield a Gold scroll inscribed "WE MAINTAIN" in Red

### **Symbolism:**

Yellow is the color traditionally associated with Cavalry. The "red horse," symbolizing the popular name of the regiment, is in a rampant position to denote aggressiveness and is bridled to indicate discipline. The prickly pear cactus represents service on the Mexican Border and the fleur-de-lis signifies service in France during World War I of the original 113th Cavalry.

### **Background:**

The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 113th Regiment Cavalry, Iowa National Guard on 12 February 1927. It was redesignated for the 113th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion on 8 June 1950. It was redesignated for the 113th Armor, Iowa National Guard on 31 October 1960. The insignia was redesignated for the 113th Cavalry Regiment effective 1 September 1992, with the description and symbolism revised.

### **Decorations (including 15 campaign streamers):**

Headquarters Troop (Sioux City) and Troop C (Le Mars), 1st Squadron, each entitled to:  
French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered BELVEDERE.

Troop A (Johnston), 1st Squadron, entitled to:  
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ AUG 2007-APR 2008.

Troop C (Le Mars), 1st Squadron, entitled to:  
Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2005-2006.

*Lineage and Honors may be found at the U.S. Army Center for Military History at: <https://history.army.mil/Unit-History/Lineage-and-Honors-Information/Armored-Cavalry/>*

### Accepting Nominations for Camp Ripley's 2026 Court of Honor Ceremony

The Camp Ripley Memorialization Board is accepting nominations for candidates to be inducted into the 2026 MN Army National Guard Court of Honor Induction Program at Camp Ripley, MN. Nominations must be received by 01 APR 26 The 2026 Ceremony will be held on Sunday, 4 October 2026.

#### Nomination criterion as follows:

- a. Members of the Minnesota Army National Guard who are officially recognized for acts of valor or heroism at the risk of one's life, while in either state or federal military service.
- b. Past members of the Minnesota Army National Guard who have obtained uncommon prestige' as a member of the Minnesota ARNG and have contributed to the Minnesota National Guard over an extended period of time after retirement.
- c. Nominators who need to request Records from our Service Verifications

Section please complete attached SF Form 180 and forward by S: 06 MAR 26 to: Kathy Radziej.

Nomination forms, information and questions can be: obtained / answered by Kathy M. Radziej, Exec Asst to TAG MN Minnesota National Guard, 20 - 12th Street West, St. Paul, MN 55155-2004.

Office: (651) 268-8924 E-Mail [Kathleen.m.radziej.nfg@army.mil](mailto:Kathleen.m.radziej.nfg@army.mil)

#2: Mailed forms sent to: Department of Military Affairs, ATTN: Office of the Adjutant General, 20 - 12th Street West, St. Paul, MN 55155-2004.

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**34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

**Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692**

**7105 NW 70<sup>TH</sup> Ave**

**Johnston, IA 50131**