# Annual Report

# Veterans of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments Stationed in Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990, Inc.

A Virginia Non-profit Corporation



# Letter from the President

The Board of Directors have worked tirelessly throughout the year continuously improving the state of our organization. We have matured with the transition to a 501(c)(3) private foundation and with generous donations to a point where we can provide support and assistance to members of our organization.

While our business year ending on September 30, 2024 was not a reunion year we have been very busy preparing for our organization's future in many ways.

First, we have had tremendous success with our fundraising efforts in the past year, raising over \$34k to support our operations. This included a generous donation from Bob and Petra Kay, and these donations open several opportunities for our organization to meet its purposes. This also requires us to mature the processes of the organization.

We have developed an investment committee, and a plan to invest money that exceeds today's requirements. We will need this money in the future to meet the needs of an aging veteran population. While we looked at creating an endowment, we instead developed an investment plan that achieves heathy returns on our money, without huge management fees, while keeping flexibility for changing needs.

Since we have raised over \$56k since we formed our veterans' group, we also developed a donor recognition program that provides each donor with a handwritten thank you note and recognizes the contributions of our 113 donors in our annual report, and soon on our website and at our reunion.

Additionally, we continue to mature our financial processes to ensure we are good stewards of the monies you have trusted us with.

Second, we formed an advisory council consisting of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Sergeant Major of the Regiment, and two members-at-large. This group will help us as we look to the future of our organization.

Third, we have been planning for both our 2025 Reunion in Las Vegas and our 2027 Reunion. Under the leadership of Robert Pruitt and Bill Burt, our committee is developing visual displays of the history of our service to the nation in Bamberg, including equipment displays, videos, pictures, posters, and oral histories. They will display the first version during our 2025 Reunion.

Fourth, the generosity of our donors has also opened possibilities of expanding our programs in several areas. We are looking to expand the memorials for our veterans who have fallen by developing a graveside marker for our battalion. And to place additional unit tribute plaques in other appropriate places, such as military museums, and maybe in the future in Bamberg. And to expand the support we can give to our veteran in crisis.

Finally, we are working to expand our membership and participation at our reunions. We start this by just stating a goal – "Expand our membership to 750 and improving the participation in our reunions by 50%". We will accomplish this through several ways, including an improved website and the use of social media, but also through old fashioned networking, to make sure that everyone who served their county with us in Bamberg is aware of what we are doing.

# Dennis Barletta, President

### Mission + Metrics

To connect, support, honor, and when necessary, aid those who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and its reflagged successor battalion, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Bamberg, Germany during the Cold War period 1972 to 1990.

### **Major Programs**

- Conduct reunions of the veterans of the battalion.
- Support memorial activities for deceased veterans of the battalion.
- Aid veterans of the battalion who are in a crisis.
- Record the history of the battalion during the Cold War era.

### **Key Metrics**

- 521 members as of September 30, 2024.
- 123 former soldiers and guests attended the Washington, DC reunion in September 2023.
- 34 groves of memorial trees were planted in 2024 for a total of 55.
- Seven memorial articles were written, for a total of 90.
- Approximately 1,350 soldiers identified on the succession roster.
- Twelve monthly SITREP newsletters were published and distributed by email.
- \$34,130 in donations were raised in our business year 2024, with \$56,936 raised since formation of the corporation.
- \$1,135 was spent to support our charitable and educational purposes.
- \$1,733 was spent on the purchase of memorabilia including company guidons for the companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.
- Nine distinguished members of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment were designated.



# **Program Overview**

# Conduct Reunions of the Veterans of the Battalion.

We have conducted eight reunions to date. They are our signature event.



- 2010 Reunion Las Vegas. June 16-20, 2010. Highlights included:
  - Our first reunion.
  - Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas.
- **2011 Reunion Minneapolis.** June 17-19, 2011. Highlights included:
  - Comedy show.
  - o Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant
- 2012 Reunion Washington, DC. September 27-30, 2012. Highlights included:
  - Capitol visit.
  - Memorials, monuments, and museums on the National Mall.
  - Oktoberfest party.
- **2014 Reunion New Orleans.** October 2-5, 2014. Highlights included:
  - National World War II Museum.
  - French quarter / lunch at Patty O'Briens.
  - Mother's restaurant
- **2017 Reunion Pittsburg.** August 17-20, 2017. Highlights included:
  - Pittsburg Pirates baseball game.

- Hofbräuhaus Pittsburg.
- 2019 Reunion Atlanta. September 26-29, 2019. Highlights included:
  - $\circ$  National Infantry Museum, where we dedicated a unit tribute plaque for the 1st Battalion, 52  $^{nd}$  Infantry.
  - Rangers in Action demonstration at Fort Benning, Georgia.
- **2021 Reunion San Antonio.** November 10-14, 2021. Highlights included:
  - The Alamo.
  - Wurstfest in New Braunfels.
- 2023 Reunion Washington, DC. September 13-17, 2023. Highlights included:
  - Arlington Cemetery where veterans of the battalion laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
  - National Museum of the United States Army, where we conducted a memorial service to our fallen brothers and dedicated a unit tribute plaque for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.
  - Traditional visit to a German beerhall, with lunch at the Alexandria Bier Garden.
  - Annual meeting, followed by the President's reception in the hotel. General (Retired) Dave Rodriquez and his wife Ginny attended.
  - Awards, with Ted Gesulga designated the Colonel of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, Kim Boyink the Sergeant Major of the Regiment, and nine veterans recognized as distinguished members and one honorary member of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment.
  - Banquet with Representative Keith Self of Texas as the guest speaker.
  - Recognition of eight "Bamberg Babies" who attended the reunion.
- **2025 Reunion Las Vegas.** Plans are coming together for our 2025 reunion in Las Vegas from September 29 to October 3, 2025. We have two goals for this reunion. The first is to increase our attendance by 50%, as the reunion is our signature event. Second is to create a traveling museum, including memorabilia items, videos, pictures, and oral histories which highlight the service of our veterans in Germany. We have conducted our recon, signed contracts with the hotel, and made initial announcements to the membership. Hightlights include:
  - A return to the place of our first reunion.
  - Visit to Las Vegas strip and the Las Vegas High Roller Ferris wheel.
  - A visit to Old Las Vegas.
  - A group photo at the Bellagio Fountain.
  - Display of the traveling museum including displays of period equipment, photos, videos, posters, and oral histories of the stories and experience of our veterans during their service to our nation in Germany during the Cold War.
  - Lunch at the Hofbräuhaus.
  - A memorial service to our fallen brothers.
  - Our traditional reception and banquet.



- **2027 Reunion** Location to Be Announced. We are also thinking ahead for our 2027 reunion and are working with the group Armed Forces Reunions on locations that are veteran friendly and affordable for our members. We will announce the location in September. Possible locations include:
  - o Nashville
  - o Kansas City
  - $\circ$  Jacksonville
  - o Dallas

Support Memorial Activities of Deceased Veterans of the Battalion.



- **Memorial Trees.** We planted 34 memorial tree groves this year for fallen members of the battalion, for a total of 55. Each grove has five trees.
- **Memorial Articles.** We have collected obituaries and developed memorial articles for 90 fallen members of the battalion, including seven new ones in 2024. Memorial articles can be viewed in our Memorial Day (May) SITREP each year and soon will be placed on our website.
- **Future Activities.** In the coming year, we plan to develop a 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry memorial medallion / grave marker that can be given to the families of our fallen veterans for them to place at the veteran's gravesite. We will model it after markers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Below is an example from a gravesite in South Dakota.



**Examples from Commercial Vendors** 



**Custom Grave Marker** 



**Custom Grave Marker** 



**Custom Grave Marker** 

# Aid Veterans of the Battalion Who Are in a Crisis.

• During the year we made an assistance payment to one of our veterans whose wife died while he was recovering from a serious illness. Additionally, we have helped a veteran whose home was damaged during the hurricanes last fall. In each case, the need was researched and confirmed as per our policies and procedures and the board voted to provide the assistance.

# Record the History of the Battalion During the Cold War Era.



- We have recorded and published historical summaries for both the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry and have placed them on our website. We are now focusing on compiling a detailed history of the Battalion during the Cold War.
- Starting at the 2021 Atlanta Reunion we set out to create a "Succession List" of those that served in the Battalion. Our goal was, and continues to be, to record the names of members of the Battalion, the Company they were assigned, and the position(s) they served in during their tenure.
- The history of both the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry has been published and placed on the website. Research does not stop, and as new details and facts are discovered the history pages are updated.
- To highlight the contributions of our veterans, we have placed plaques at two military museums. These are a Unit Tribute Plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army, and a Memorial Paver at the National Infantry Museum. We placed a Unit Tribute Plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army during our 2023 reunion.



Paver Stone at the National Infantry Museum



Unit Tribute Plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army

• During the coming year, we will look for additional places where we can place memorial plaques highlighting the history of our battalion.



1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Unit Tribute Plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army

# Manage the Organization.

- Member Awareness / Communications. We publish a monthly SITREP newsletter to keep members informed, by our (should be award winning) publisher, Bill Burt. We have developed a new website and continue to have an active Facebook page. We email members to announce special events such as our annual meeting. The newsletter includes Department of Veteran Affairs phone numbers, articles from Veteran Affairs website (mental and physical health), member highlights, and historical articles.
- **Recruitment**. We continue to use every means possible to reach out to our veterans, and have increased our membership to 521, including six new members. We plan to increase this to 750 during the coming year. We will use social media and old-fashioned networking to meet this goal.

- Annual Meeting. We conducted our 2024 annual meeting virtually, since we did not have a reunion this year, with attendance by Zoom meeting or through a proxy statement. We achieved a quorum and conducted our annual elections as part of the annual meeting, and reelected board members for the two expiring terms.
- Investments Committee. We have money that we do not need for immediate needs which we have invested for the future, when we anticipate we will have increased needs for our charitable and memorial activities. Although we looked at creating an endowment, an endowment involves a lot of additional management structure and costs which we do not think we need. Additionally, the fact that our group will have an end date (one of you will drink that bottle of Asbach) pointed us to investing in certificates of deposit. They offer good returns right now, at lower risk, without management costs while keeping flexibility for changing needs.
- **Committees List.** We have developed a committee structure to manage many of our activities. Below is a list of our committees and members.

### Audit Committee

- Bob Domenici Chair
- Robert Pruitt
- Zak Kozak

#### Investment Committee

- Bob Domenici Chair
- Mike Streff
- Bill Paterson

### **Fundraising Committee**

- Bob Domenici Co-Chair
- Mike Streff Co-Chair
- Bill Burt

### Nominating Committee FY 2025

- Dennis Barletta Chair
- Bob Domenici
- Bill Burt
- Bill Patterson
- Zak Kozak

### Memorial / Assistance

- Bill Burt Chair
- Mike Streff

### History / Succession

- Dennis Barletta Co-Chair
- Zak Kozak Co-Chair

### **Reunion Committee**

- Mike Streff Chair
- Robert Pruitt Co-Chair 2025 Reunion
- Bill Burt Co-Chair 2025 Reunion

### **Communication Committee**

- Bill Burt SITREP / Facebook
- Bob Domenici Web Site
- Advisory Council (non-board)

  - Ted Gesulga Chair
  - Kim Boyink
  - Bob Kay
  - Lamar Crosby

 Advisory Council. The Board of Directors voted to establish an advisory council consisting of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Sergeant Major of the Regiment, and several members-at-large. The purpose is to provide advice on the strategic direction of the organization; provide advice on fundraising; provide advice on donations and spending; and explore and address other subjects as determined by the Board. The Council will meet with such frequency as determined by the Chair. The Council will report its activities to the Board on a regular basis. The Council may invite any non-council people to attend meetings. Members of the Advisory Council are:









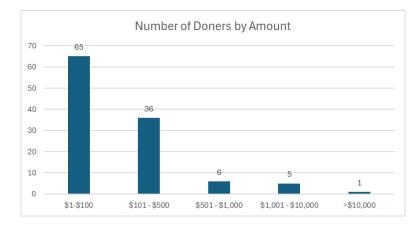
Theodore B. Gesulga

Kim Boyink

Lamar Crosby

Bob Kay

• **Donor Recognition.** The charitable and educational work we do is only possible though the support of our members. They have contributed over \$56k, from 113 different people to support our work to date.



To recognize this support, and to thank those who have given so generously, we have developed a donor recognition program. Key components of this include

- Handwritten thank you notes for all donations.
- Donation letters for all contributions.
- Donor recognition in the annual report.
- Donor spotlight a special section in our annual report highlighting the leadership of a special donor.
- Donor recognition on our website that we are developing for rollout in the coming year.
- Special recognition for donors at the reunion.

**Donor Recognition.** 113 people have donated to our organization since its inception in October, 2021. Soon we will publish a listing of those donors, both in an amended copy of this annual report and on our website. We ask for donor permission to use their names in our report – your leadership in this is important to our success.

# Donor Spotlight – Bob and Petra Kay

We are pleased to announce that Bob and Petra Kay have made a significant donation to our non-profit corporation created to support our charitable and educational objectives.

In making this donation, the Kay's stated that they were impressed with the operations of our organization during its first two years of operations, and on our mission focus. They stated that they had confidence that the donation will be used to achieve our purposes to connect, support, honor, and when necessary, aid those who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and its reflagged successor 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Bamberg, Germany during the Cold War.

This is a strong endorsement of our mission and purpose by the Kay's and the donation will help to ensure that we operate effectively now and into the future. We thank Bob and Petra Kay for their very generous donation to support the charitable and education work for veterans that we were stationed with us during our time in Bamberg Germany. Their leadership provides us with a strong financial footing to continue existing work and expand our support to our veterans in crisis. The legacy of their donation will be seen by our veterans for years to come.



Robert A. Kay was commissioned from ROTC at the University of Houston, and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in Bamberg, Germany from 1982 – 1985, as a Platoon Leader in Bravo Company, S-3 Air, Executive Officer in Delta Company and the Battalion Motor Officer. Robert's career spanned 31 years during which he commanded two battalions, a brigade, served as a Division G-1 and deployed to from 2005-2007 and in 2010-2011 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Bob's civilian career was as a postal inspector.

Petra was born in Berlin and she and Bob were married in Houston in 1986. Petra ran a non-profit business focusing on children and family welfare. They live in Rankin County Mississippi, and they enjoy formal fox hunting, traveling the world, and sitting on their front porch enjoying the mornings.

Robert and Petra organized and hosted our New Orleans reunion in 2014. Building upon prior work, Robert expanded participation in the 2014 reunion. Robert's knowledge of battalion activities in the early 1980's has been helpful in compiling the Battalion's history. As a strong supporter of the organization, Robert continues to aid the Board and is serving on the newly formed Advisory Council

# Financials

We are exempt from federal taxes and have a letter of determination from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3) private foundation.

We began our year with \$3,890 cash. We did not conduct a reunion during this business year.

We raised \$32,572 in general donations, plus an additional \$1,558 in donations for the purchase of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry company guidons and earned \$519 from the sale of coins and from interest on our investments, for a total of \$34,649 in income.

We had expenses of \$4,021 including \$1,335 for our assistance and memorial programs, \$1,733 for the purchase of memorabilia (including the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry company guidons), \$799 for professional services and fees and \$156 for our donor recognition program and office expenses.

We improved our cash position by \$30,628 during the year and ended the year with \$34,518. Of this \$4,079 was in a checking account, \$5,439 was in a saving account, and \$25,000 in a certificate of deposit.

All financial information of the corporation, including financial reports and tax documents are available for viewing by the membership, along with all our foundational documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws, and letter of determination), and meeting minutes for board meetings and annual meetings. They are located on our website at <a href="https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org">https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org</a>.

While we are exempt from federal taxes, we still must file a federal tax return. This is the way that the government and our members can know that we are using the funds we raise to meet our tax-exempt purposes. In October 2024 we filed our taxes for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. We are required to make these tax forms available for member inspection. Our tax forms are available for your inspection on our website. <u>https://www.152-76inf-coldwarvetsbamberg.org/about-5</u>

And our expenses remain low as a percentage of our program expenses. This is due to the volunteer work by our members, and their in-kind donations to the organization. Our administrative expenses are less than 3% of our total income during the first three years of our existence.

As a reminder, those tax-exempt purposes are:

- Conduct reunions of veterans of the battalion
- Support memorial activities of veterans of the battalion who have died.
- Aid veterans of the battalion who are in crisis.
- Record the history of the battalion during the cold war era.

Our financial statement was audited by Lamar Crosby, a non-board member, to ensure it accurately reflects our financial position. A copy of the financial statement and the audit opinion follow.

| FY 2024 Financial Report<br>October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|   | Actuals          |
| Cash as of 30 September 2023  | \$3,890          |
| Income  |                  |
| Annual Donations  | \$2,572          |
| Major Donors  | \$30,000         |
| Memorabilia Fundraising   | \$1,558          |
| Coin Sale   | \$80             |
| Interest  | \$439            |
| Total Income  | \$34,649         |
| Expenses  |                  |
| Assistance  | \$500            |
| Memorials   | \$835            |
| Professional Services (Note 1)  | \$644            |
| Government Fees (Note 1)  | \$155            |
| Memorabilia   | \$1,733          |
| Office Expenses   | \$18             |
| Donor Recognition   | \$137            |
| Total Expenses  | \$4,021          |
| Revenue   | \$30,628         |
| Cash to FY 2025   | \$34,518         |
| Checking  | \$4,079          |
| Savings   | \$5 <i>,</i> 439 |
| CD  | \$25,000         |
| Note 1 – Professional Services - Federal Tax Preparation - \$345<br>Professional Services - Registered Agent - \$299<br>Government Fees - Virginia State Tax Fees - \$130<br>Government Fees - Virginia State Registration Fee - \$25 |                  |

**Audit Opinion** 

12 November 2024

Board of Directors Veterans of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments Stationed in Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990 25 South Pointe Lane Moneta, Virginia 24121

I have audited the accompanying statement of the financial position and related documents of Veterans of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments Stationed at Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990, Inc., a Virginia Nonstock Corporation for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the nonprofit organization. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit.

Independent audits are important for inspiring and maintaining donor trust because they demonstrate that the nonprofit organization is committed to financial transparency and accountability.

I conducted my audit in accordance with my understanding of auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. I performed the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements accurately reflected the financial position of the organization and that it was free of material misstatements. Additionally, I examined whether the financial operations followed the organization's by-laws and accounting principles. My audit included examining evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements on a test basis. I believe the audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the statement represents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Veterans of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments Stationed in Bamberg Germany 1972 to 1990, Inc., as of September 30, 2024.

L Crosby

## Leadership

### Colonel of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment - Theodore B. Gesulga<sup>1</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Theodore B. Gesulga was designated as the Colonel of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment at our 2023 reunion.

He commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, Bamberg, Germany from November 1975 to May 1977. Under his command the battalion participated in gunnery and maneuver exercises at Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, and Wildflecken; NATO partnership training; 1st Armored Division's 1976 BRIDGEX; and REFORGER '76.



### Sergeant Major of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment – Kim Boyink



Command Sergeant Major (retired) Kim Boyink was designated as the Sergeant Major of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment at our 2023 reunion.

As an Infantryman, he has held every leadership position from team leader through Command Sergeant Major in a variety of assignments.

His service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was from 1983 through 1986. His initial assignment was as a squad leader in Charlie Company. After being selected for promotion, he was reassigned as a platoon sergeant in Bravo Company where he remained until his departure.

# **Board of Directors**

Our board of directors are veterans who served with the battalion in both the 1970s and 1980s and includes a member who served while the battalion was both 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

### **Dennis Barletta**

- Term Three years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027
- Roles President / Nominating Committee (Chair) / Unit History Committee (Co-Chair)

Dennis was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from August 1976 to October 1979, as the 1st Platoon Leader, Bravo Company, 1976 – 1977 and the Battalion S-2 from 1977 to 1979. He serves as the first President of the Board of Directors, chairs the unit history program, and along with Zak Kozak, he has worked to expand membership with 1970s era veterans of the battalion.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Since the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry does not currently have active units, we are able to work through the Infantry School to designate the Colonel and Sergeant Major of the Regiment. The 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry still has active units, so we are not able to do the same for it.



# William (Bill) Burt

- Term Three years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027
- Roles Secretary / Memorials and Assistance Committee (Chair) /Reunion Committee (Co-chair 2025 Reunion) / Communications and Membership Committee (Chair) (SITREP / Facebook / Membership) / Fundraising Committee / Nominating Committee

Bill was stationed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from July 1984-December 1985. He served in a rifle platoon and was also the Delta Company's commander's track and jeep driver. Along with Robert Pruitt, he started the group in 2008 and organized the first reunion in 2010. Bill maintains the roster, writes our newsletter (the SITREP), and keeps a record of those we have lost.

### Robert (Bob) Domenici

- Term Three years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027
- Roles Fund Raising Committee (Co-Chair) / Investment Committee (Chair) Audit Committee (Chair) / Nominating Committee / Communications Committee (Website)

Bob was stationed with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from 1984 to 1987, and was the 3rd Platoon Leader Delta Company, 1st Platoon Leader Echo Company and assistant S-3 / Liasson Officer. His company donated the funds to start our operations as a non-profit organization and raises corporate donations for our group. He has also contributed coins as reunion gifts, standards for our battalion colors, and items for the silent auction including a Remagen bridge print.





# G.M. (Zak) Kozak

- Term Three years from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026
- **Roles** Audit Committee / Nominating Committee / Unit History Committee (co-chair) (Succession)

Zak was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from 1974-1977. He was a Rifle Platoon Leader in Alpha Company, Scout Platoon Leader, and Executive Officer of Bravo Company. While there, he met Ms. Tommie Clifton, a first-grade teacher at Muna School. They married at the Bamberg Rathaus in June 1977. Along with Dennis Barletta, he works to expand membership with 1970s era battalion veterans.

### William (Bill) Patterson

- Term Three years from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026
- Roles Investment Committee / Nominating Committee

Bill was stationed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from 1985 to 1987 and with the reflagged 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry from 1988 to 1990. Bamberg was home. He was the battalion executive officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and commanding officer of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Bill was influential in including the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry as part of the association instead of creating a separate group.





# Robert Pruitt

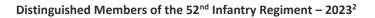
- Term Three years from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025
- **Roles –** Vice President / Audit Committee / Reunion Committee (Co-chair 2025 Reunion)

Robert was stationed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry 1984-1985. He was originally assigned to Bravo Company and then moved to Delta Company when Delta Company was activated in 1984. He was the Radio Telephone Operator under Lieutenant Sam Bailey. Along with Bill Burt, Robert was an original organizer of the group and planned our first reunion in Las Vegas. He serves as the vice president of the corporation.

### Michael (Mike) Streff

- Term Three years from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025
- Roles Treasurer / Reunion Committee (Chair) / Fundraising Committee (Co-Chair) / Investment Committee / Memorial and Assistance Committee

Mike was stationed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from 1984 to 1987, and was the battalion S-1, and company commander of Delta and Headquarters companies. Mike has run four of our reunions, in Washington, DC, Atlanta, San Antonio, and again in Washington, DC and helped form our group as a Virginia non-profit corporation. He serves as the treasurer of the corporation and leads the reunion committee.



- Dennis Barletta
- Mike Bornstar
- Kim Boyink
- Robert Domenici
- Ted Gesulga

### Honorary Member of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment – 2023

Betsy Sheffer

# Distinguished Members of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment – Prior

- Bill Burt
- Mike Streff

- Jeff Hamel
- Robert Kay
- Zak Kozak
- Robert Pruitt

<sup>2</sup> We are only able to designate distinguished members and honorary members of the regiment for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, as the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry has active units.



# Looking Forward

In 2025 we look to achieve several goals, to include:

- Increasing our membership to 750 by networking with 'battle-buddies' and comrades and using social media.
- Continue to research and add members to our Succession List.
- Conduct fund-raising drives with a goal of raising \$10,000 in 2025 to support our charitable work and educational missions.
- Purchase the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry company guidons
- Expand our Cold War history documentation.
- Improve our social media interaction, to include our website as a single source for organizational documentation
- Improve the methods and means to support veterans of our organization that are in need or in a time of crisis.
- Develop a 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry graveside marker for fallen veterans.
- Improve administrative processes to ensure timely reporting and compliance with audits, reporting, taxes, and corporate filings at a reduced cost.
- Use the knowledge and experience of our Advisory Council to enhance the operation and outreach of our organization.
- Run an outstanding 2025 Reunion, with the display of the traveling museum.
- Determine the location of 2027 reunion





