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# Santa Fe Express

## "DIVISIONNAIRE"



35th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

www.35DivAssn.org

35DivAssn@gmail.com

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2026

NUMBER TWO

The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

## Message from Association President COL (R) Bruce Becker

As summer nears things are picking up. We had our quarterly leadership meeting jointly with staff from the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on March 7, 2026. Things are moving very quickly. Before we know it, the Division will be heading to their Warfighter Exercise for Annual Training in May and June.

I have been coordinating with the Division Staff, Operation Barbeque Relief (OBR) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to help sponsor the Division's morale and welfare day on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The VFW has provided a Military Assistance grant, and OBR has volunteered to cook the meal for the day.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association is helping unit members by sponsoring a car show on July 11, 2026, in Leavenworth, KS. The proceeds from the car show will be used to help offset the cost of the lower enlisted soldiers attending the dining out in September. More information about the car show and sponsorship opportunities are in this issue of the Divisionnaire.

The annual conference will be September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Kansas City Airport Hilton. We will hold the Presidents reception and a joint



Hail and Farwell with the 35<sup>th</sup> Division on Friday night at the hotel. The business meeting and Hall of Fame Ceremony will be at the Division headquarters in Ft. Leavenworth on Saturday. Saturday evening the Dining out will be at the hotel. Information about all of these events and the link for reservations are included in this issue.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of the Association and the Division. The Soldiers and Staff of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division continue to build their readiness and prepare to conduct their mission when called.

## Message from MG Martin Clay, 35th Inf. Division Commanding General



The Soldiers of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and the Division's aligned brigades, continue on the impressive readiness trajectory that I shared in prior messages to the members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association. Having completed Command Post Exercise (CPX) 2.5 at Fort Leavenworth at the end of January, and having recently provided an exemplary performance at CPX 3 at Camp Atterbury Indiana (CAIN), the Soldiers of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division are proving that they are ready now for both their pending War Fighter Exercise and the Division's next mission. I remain immensely proud of the Division Soldiers as they diligently work to refine their professional warfighting skills.

The successes the Soldiers of the Division achieved during CPX 3 were facilitated by a dedicated team of enabling partners that include the Mission Command Training Program, First Army, the Mission Command Training Support Program, and the Division HST team. These partners helped us see ourselves more fully and helped us create an environment that enabled planning in contact, ensuring our fighting products nested with the XVIII Airborne Corps' products, and that our Intelligence Collection and Multi-Domain Operations were nested with the Corps. Contributing further to the success of CPX 3 was the participation of aligned brigades that included the 35 ECAB, 35 DIVARTY, 35 DSB, 45 IBCT, 110 MEB, as well as participation with training partners from the 29 IBCT and the 155 ABCT.

On the horizon is the execution of War Fighter Exercise 26-04 which kicks off at CAIN in the last week of May. As those that

have experienced the stresses of a War Fighter Exercise can attest, this next step in the Division's readiness build will offer the Soldiers of the Division an intense test of their ability to fight the Division in a tactical environment. Given their performance in the precursor CPXs, I have no doubt that the Soldiers of the Division will continue demonstrating the competent professionalism that the Citizens of the United States expect of its Soldiers.

While the Division's operational tempo will remain high for the remainder of this Spring, and into the Summer, following the War Fighter Exercise the Divisions' operational tempo will slow somewhat as the Division transitions from readiness build to focus more fully on its preparation for the upcoming mobilization. That said, the Division is already leaning into its next mobilization and will conduct a Multi-Component Joint Assessment with First Army this month that will facilitate the synchronization of the Division's deployment readiness following the War Fighter Exercise.

As Citizen Soldiers, it remains ever more important to recognize the support the Soldiers receive from their families and the communities in which they live their civilian lives. The success of the Soldiers in the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is intricately tied to the support they receive from their families, their communities, and their civilian employers. Without their support, the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division would not be as well situated to answer when our Nation calls. I am immensely grateful for the support our Soldiers receive from their families and communities. Because of them, the Soldiers of the Santa Fe Division maintain the ability to train, build readiness, embrace Army Transformation, and win the day!

Santa Fe!

*This edition of  
the Santa Fe  
Divisionnaire  
is sponsored by  
the 35th Division  
Association  
Operating Fund*

**Deadline for the Next Issue  
of the Santa Fe Express  
is September 15, 2026**



**The 35th Divisionnaire  
(USPS 700-160)**

Postmaster send address changes to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS, 66605. Second class postage paid at Horton, Kansas 66439.

Printed at Horton, Kansas, Published quarterly at 133 West 8th St., Horton, Kansas by the 35th Division Association.

Send all stories, notices, obituaries, photographs, etc. to 35th Division Assn., P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

**Division  
Association**

"FOR ALL 35<sup>th</sup> DIVISION - PAST,  
PRESENT AND FUTURE"

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**35th Division Association**

**PO Box 5004  
Topeka, KS 66605**

# Note From The Executive Secretary/Treasurer

## Conference Registration/Dining Out

Conference Registration: Please complete the Conference Registration enclosed with the edition by 26 August 2026. If you are not sending in a donation and are only attending the dinner, please pay the 35<sup>th</sup> Division HQs point of contact on the form directly. Of course, we hope you help support the association and soldiers at this conference, so a donation is appreciated, or if it is easier to send your check to us at the Association, we are happy to transfer it to the Dining Out personnel. If no money is involved, you can simply send us an email saying you are coming and what events you will attend. As indicated by the form enclosed, the Dining Out costs have not been finalized. The 35<sup>th</sup> Division personnel are working with the hotel and ongoing fund raisers to help with the cost. We will send out a revised version by email once it is finalized. You can always email us with questions at [35divassn@gmail.com](mailto:35divassn@gmail.com).

## Finances

**Operating Funds:** We appreciate the generous contributions throughout the year. Please review our donor list in this paper for all those that shared their treasure with us. **It is our policy to list all contributions unless the donor wishes otherwise.** If you contributed and were not mentioned, please accept my apologies and notify us through the Association Email. Although the number of those contributing did not increase, the size of the contributions and grant requests approved assisted in maintaining an adequate operating fund. The pistol raffle program has also improved our ability to continue operations. If you are not a member and are reading this edition of the "Santa Fe," please consider joining. Publication, mailings, and the support we offer have increased in cost like everything else.

**Museum Investment:** The investment set up by the association about twenty years ago to help support the Kansas National Guard Museum, which has a large section for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division History and Hall of Fame, is performing well enough to fund our annual \$5,000 maintenance grant to the museum. Contributions received for the museum operations also assist and are much appreciated. If you have not visited the museum in Topeka, you will be overwhelmed at the quality and quantity of history the board members and volunteers deliver with no admittance charge.

## Hiring of an Executive Secretary and Treasurer

It is time for Betty and I to hand off these duties after this year's conference, which coincides with the association's tax-exempt filing season. This next person with a vision, passion and technical skills can enhance the value of the association. The association has a great legal and membership foundation of by-laws to build from. This position is a blessing and has allowed Betty and I to meet and hear from so many outstanding Veterans and their families. I would not have had this opportunity if I had not taken the position. A shift in the paradigm of where the association is located and how an employee is reimbursed is probably needed if we cannot find someone to perform the detailed records my wife does, and the editing, tax preparation, meeting prep, conference assistance and numerous duties that I as the Exec/Treasurer performs. A few of these duties that require ongoing support are listed for those that may be interested: Routinely check mail from post office, Cheddar Up and PayPal accounts, and email. Record and send receipts to donors, and categorize them in Quicken for monthly report to the Executive Council; Bank administration as needed; Reply, research, or find a person to answer inquiries about Veterans, History, etc.; Receive, review and file items for the newspaper; Order Sales items as required; Maintain Deceased list by Regiment; Maintain Excel Spreadsheet on all members; Balance checkbook and trust accounts; organize and prepare documents for financial meeting; Maintain and prepare Annual Tax Report information for Preparers; Attend as Rep on Museum Board (or find someone to represent the DIV); Early each year, print, stuff, and mail about 300 envelopes for our fundraiser; receive, edit and send articles to the editor for publication every four months; Conference prep as requested by the planning committee to include hotel contracts, transportation needs, make welcome packets, et.; Mail conference registrations to those not on the email list. This is a paid position.

**Questions about the report or those interested in the position can contact COL, (Ret) Robert Bloomquist, 785-969-7548 or email at [35divassn@gmail.com](mailto:35divassn@gmail.com).**

# 35<sup>th</sup> ID MIA T/SGT James E Gadsey, recovered

## WWII Soldier T/Sgt. James E. Gadsey, Missing Since December 1944, Accounted For- Submitted by Roberta Russo

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has announced that T/Sgt. James E. Gadsey, who was killed in action during World War II and listed as missing since December 1944, has now been accounted for.

T/Sgt. Gadsey served as a platoon sergeant in Company I, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. On the morning of December 16, 1944, the 134th Infantry attacked through a series of wooded positions approximately 1,500 yards northeast of Habkirchen, Germany. During the assault, Gadsey was killed by heavy mortar fire, and his body was not recovered. The regiment withdrew the following day, and the area was subsequently retaken by German forces.

A postwar investigation—including interviews with local residents—failed to locate his remains.

For his actions during the fighting near Habkirchen, T/Sgt. Gadsey was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. His citation reads:

"Technical Sergeant James E. Gadsey, 34191625, Infantry, United States Army, for heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States near \*\*\*, Germany, on 14 December 1944. Sergeant Gadsey, a platoon sergeant, assumed command of his platoon when the platoon leader became a casualty. After placing a group in an outpost position to guard the platoon's exposed right flank, he moved forward to check on the group and discovered an enemy force approaching to attack the company's right flank. Although his men were armed only with M1 rifles and hand grenades, Sergeant Gadsey led them in successfully repelling the attack. His leadership, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Tennessee."

On April 3, 2026, the DPAA confirmed that T/Sgt. Gadsey's remains had been identified. He had previously been interred as Unknown Soldier X-117 at the Luxembourg American Cemetery. A full accounting of his case will be published once his family has been completely briefed.

**Send all photos, stories, obituaries, etc. for the Divisionnaire to:  
35th Division Association, PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605 [35divassn@gmail.com](mailto:35divassn@gmail.com)**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send all correspondence relative to change of address to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605. Be sure to include old and new address (with new ZIP number) and 35th Div. unit.

NOTICE: Membership dues for the 35th Division Association are due yearly. This includes your subscription to the 35th Divisionnaire paper which is published quarterly. Make checks payable to the 35th Division Association and mail to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. 5004, Topeka, Kansas 66605.



Fort Hays



Fort Larned



Fort Scott

# Military Posts in Kansas

Submitted by Thomas Arnhold

All of us in the 35<sup>th</sup> ID know that Kansas has two active-duty U.S Army posts, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth and most of those who served in the Kansas Air National Guard are familiar with McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita and Forbes Field in Topeka. Some of you may have been to the Kansas Training Center on the former Schilling Air Base in Salina. In its storied history, Kansas has been home to over 50 forts, air bases, and naval stations as well as eighteen Prisoner of War Camps during World War II.

Fort Leavenworth is the oldest federal military facility in Kansas, having been established in 1827, with Fort Riley established in 1857. McConnell AFB and Forbes were built during World War II, with McConnell started in 1941 and Forbes a year later. Some posts were short-lived, like Fort Simple, that was built in 1864 near present-day Kansas Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Topeka. The fort was built to repel the forces of Confederate general, Sterling Price and was occupied for two weeks.

The first fort in Kansas, was not an American fort, but a French fort. In 1744, Fort De Cavagnial was built to protect French fur traders. A few years earlier, 11 fur traders were killed by natives. Fort De Cavagnial was a fixture near present-day Fort Leavenworth until 1764. The fort was constructed of logs and was manned by a commander and 8-10 soldiers. Including fur traders and families, the garrison consisted of about 40 people.

The first round of forts was built in Kansas between 1744 and prior to the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. Their purpose was to police the Kansas Territory and protect settlers from Indian attacks. The forts were also used by those traveling west to rest and resupply. Fort Mann was established in 1857 on the Cimarron Crossing of the Santa Fe Trail in Western Kansas and was purposefully located halfway between Fort Leavenworth and Santa Fe. Fort Mann lasted only three years before it was abandoned because it was deemed too remote. Other forts established during this era were Fort Montgomery near Mound City, Fort Saunders southwest of Lawrence, Fort Scott, Fort Larned near Larned, and Fort Titus two miles south of Lecompton.

A second series of forts was built during the Civil War. One little-known fort with a colorful history was Fort Baxter, established in Baxter Springs in 1862. In October 1863, William Quantrill and his raiders were headed to Texas to winter, and he decided to attack Fort Baxter. Normally Fort Baxter had 150 soldiers in garrison, 75 of which, were part of an African American troop. When Quantrill attacked, sixty of the soldiers left the fort as part of a foraging party. The foraging party returned in the nick of time and charged through Quantrill's raiders into the fort to save it. Other forts established during this time were Fort Belmont in Woodson County, Fort Harker in Ellsworth County, Fort Brooks near Clyde, Kansas, Fort Lincoln in Bourbon County, Fort Row south of Humboldt, Fort Ulysses in Lawrence near the present-day Oread Hotel, Fort Solomon on the Solomon River, Fort Zarah three miles east of Great bend and the aforementioned Fort Simple in Topeka.

After the Civil War, the focus of the nation's army was protecting pioneers from natives. Some of these forts lasted only a few years. Camp Kirwin on the north bank of the Solomon River and Camp Crawford and Camp Leedy, both built in Topeka, only operated for a year. Other Forts lasted decades, including Fort Hays near Hays, Fort Dodge outside Dodge City and Fort Wallace located near Wallace in far Western Kansas. Other forts of this era were Fort Downer, located fifty miles west of Hays and Fort Bissell near Phillipsburg.

During World War II, a number of airfields were built in Kansas. Near Olathe and Hutchinson, the U.S. Navy built large air stations. New Century Air Center now occupies the old Olathe Naval Station, while the Hutchinson Naval Station has become the Hutchinson Industrial Park. The U.S. Army Air Corps built twelve airfields in Kansas, two of which are McConnell AFB and Forbes Field. My favorite was Walker Airfield near Walker, Kansas, which is about fourteen miles east of Hays. A pipeline for the Walker Airfield ran under our pasture. Long after Walker Airfield was closed, the pipeline leading to the airfield was excavated and my family used the large metal pipe to build fences and corrals.

As noted above, Kansas had eighteen World War II POW camps. The largest was Camp Concordia, located 2 miles north and 1 mile east of Concordia, on Union Road. Hastily built in the spring of 1943, the camp consisted of more than 300 buildings, including a hospital, post, restaurants, fire department, and barracks. Total cost of building Camp Concordia was \$1,808,806. At its height, the camp held over 4,000 Germans. Strategically located in the heartland of America, where prisoners could be employed on local farms, the camp saw only 2 escapes and 8 POW deaths during its operation.

Many of the forts can be visited today. Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley have excellent museums and at Fort Riley, the former home of George Armstrong Custer is open to the public. Fort Hays, Fort Scott, Fort Larned, Fort Wallace, Fort Harker and Camp Concordia can be visited. Fort Scott has numerous restored buildings, as do Fort Hays and Fort Larned. All three forts are worth a day visit.

# Chaplain's Corner

A message from Chaplain (Colonel) Ronald Cobb, United States Army Retired.

Love more each day and become your best self. Love is much more than an emotion. Love is a decision. Decide to do your very best every day in every way you can. Forgiveness is an important aspect of Love. Forgive yourself for not being perfect and then lovingly decide how to improve yourself. Forgive others for their imperfections but primarily focus on your own behaviors. Your behavior is absolute proof if you are growing more loving or slowly regressing away from Love. Love is similar to physical fitness. If every day I work out I become stronger. Napoleon cared about his troops. He had a phenomenal memory. A year after he talked with a sergeant about his son's injury, he would ask that soldier how his little boy was doing. Care about yourself and don't forget to care about others. Love more each day and become your best self.

Editors Note: Chaplain (Colonel), and association member, was a therapist at Menninger Psychiatric Hospital when he was called to active duty to Eagle Base in Bosnia Herzegovina. When he retired after serving 30 years, Menninger Psychiatric Hospital moved to Houston. He then started his own Clinic, "Hope for Life," in 2003 in Holton, Kansas. His book, "Memories of Bosnia: The 35th Division's SFOR 13 NATO Peacekeeping Mission," is available online or at the 35th Division Museum in Forbes Field, Topeka, Kansas.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association 108th Annual Conference and 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Dining Out Registration SEP 11-12, 2026, 4 Wagon Wheel Way, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027 and Kansas City Airport Hilton

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: (CO/BN/ RGT/BDE) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Donation:**

- \* HONORARY ATTENDEE – IF CANNOT ATTEND \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- \* CONFERENCE SPONSOR \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

#PERSONS      TIME      EVENT      \$\$

**FRIDAY, SEP 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

\_\_\_\_\_ 5:30PM-7:30 PM Hail and Farewell/ President's Reception, at Airport Hilton  
Kansas City, MO (Pay \$20.00 at the door)

**SATURDAY, SEP 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

\_\_\_\_\_ 8:30AM-9:30 AM Executive Committee Meeting (Association Committee Members)  
35<sup>th</sup> IN Division Headquarters

\_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Hall of Fame Selection Meeting (Association Committee Members)  
35<sup>th</sup> IN Division Headquarters in Ft. Leavenworth

\_\_\_\_\_ 11:30 AM- 12:15PM Lunch – 35<sup>th</sup> Div. Assn. Conference Room/Headquarters, by Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ 12:30PM-2:00PM Hall of Fame Ceremony & Reception (Div. Headquarters)

\_\_\_\_\_ 5:30PM-6:30PM Social Hour at Airport Hilton

\_\_\_\_\_ 6:30PM Banquet/ Dining Out– Awards & Program, Hosted by 35<sup>th</sup> DIV  
(Civilian rate is same as spouses' rank) at Airport Hilton

\_\_\_\_\_ Meal PVT to SSG (not finalized, estimated \$35-\$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Meal SFC to CPT (not finalized, estimated \$45-\$50) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ MAJ-General Officers (not finalized, estimated \$55-\$60) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Make checks payable to: 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn. Send to: PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

\*(If no donating and just attending the Dining Out, mail to 35<sup>th</sup> DIV HQs: 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, ATTN: CPT Hannah Byun, 4 Wagon Wheel Way, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027)

or on their website: <https://www.35id.org> or 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn.: P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

\*Deadline for Dining Out registration is 26 August 2026

**HOTEL:** Kansas City Airport Hilton, 8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City, MO 64153

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms> or Call 816-801-4008 and use room code 915

Cost is \$122/room/night (1 King or 2 double)

\*Deadline for Hotel for special rate is 26 August 2026 (Direct to hotel)

### SAVE THE DATE

*35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division*

*Dining Out*



UNITY THROUGH FAMILY, SERVICE,  
AND MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

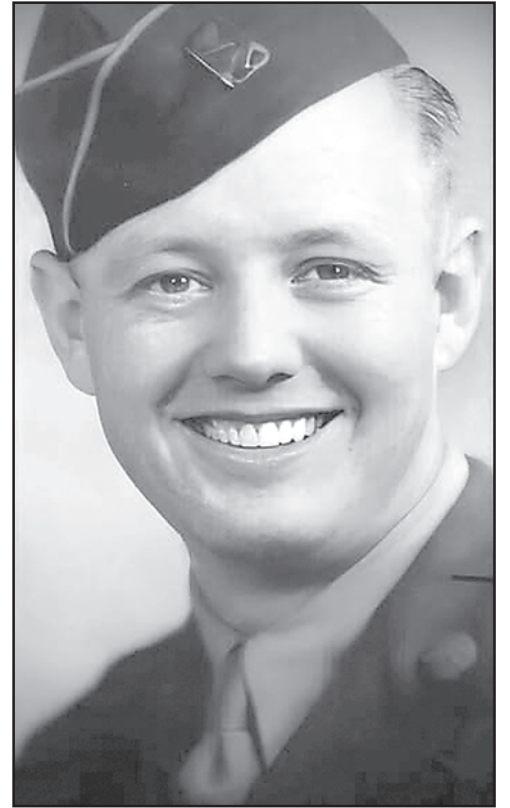
*Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

Hilton Kansas City Airport

Formal invitation to follow



35th Division Veterans of World War II pay their respects to 1st Lt. Jack L. Yost (H-137-35) at his grave site in the Normandy Cemetery.



## In Memory of TSGT K. L. FAULKNER

By Mike H Ven

Kenneth Leroy Faulkner (born and reared in Salina, KS) of Hoover, AL passed away on Friday, May 3 - 2013, at the age of 94. He was born November 7, 1918 and was a lifetime member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL.

TSgt Kenneth L. Faulkner joined Company C, 137th Infantry on February 15, 1941, at Camp Robinson, AR. Training with the unit in California, at Camp Rucker, AL, and at Camp Butner, NC.

TSgt K.L. Faulkner, landed on Omaha Beach on July 7th 1944.

Wounded in the eye at St. Lo and evacuated to England, he rejoined his unit a month later to continue fighting the enemy until the end of the war.

Awards: 2 Purple Hearts, Infantryman badge, Bronze Star, The Order of St. Maurice Centurion, The French Legion of Honor (in Atlanta by the ambassador of France).

Tsgt Faulkner was active with the 35th Div. since the war, serving on the board of directors and Pres. of the 137th and Comp. C and publishing monthly newsletters. He was inducted into the 35th Div. Hall of Fame in 2010 and an award "Tech. Sgt. Kenneth L. Faulkner" is presented each year to a non-comm officer in the active division today.

Dearly missed and a great inspiration on how to live, never give up and getting the job done.

## International Liaison Committee Column

April 15, 2026

Our 35<sup>th</sup> Division European Friends will be attending Memorial Day Services in May at the overseas cemeteries to remember and honor our fallen 35<sup>th</sup> Division soldiers.

The American Battle Monuments Commission operates and maintains 26 cemeteries in 17 countries throughout the world, including the United States. Memorial Day is specifically to honor those who died in service.

Approximately 92,958 World War II soldiers are buried in overseas cemeteries. Following World War II, families were given the option to bring their loved ones home or have them buried in permanent overseas cemeteries maintained by the ABMC. There are approximately 78,985 individuals honored on the Walls of the Missing.

According to Roberta Russo, 35<sup>th</sup> Division historian, of the 2,969 casualties of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division in World War II, 1,273 are buried in overseas cemeteries, and another 1,696 returned home to their families for reburial. There are 40 35<sup>th</sup> service members still Missing in Action. As a personal note, Paula's and Marilyn's fathers who were killed in action in World War II were returned home to their families in 1948.

We remember and honor them on this Memorial Day 2026.

International Liaison Committee

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44 [paulap5@cox.net](mailto:paulap5@cox.net)

Marilyn Bowers Jensen, daughter of PFC Rex M. Bowers, C-134-35, KIA 01/25/45 [mbowersjensen@msn.com](mailto:mbowersjensen@msn.com)

Col. (retired) Thomas Arnhold, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, [arnholdtom@gmail.com](mailto:arnholdtom@gmail.com)

**Deadline for the  
Next Issue of the  
Santa Fe Express is  
September 15, 2026**





## The Challenge Coin Challenge

Submitted by Robert D Bloomquist

We are attempting to add an interest piece in future publications of the "Santa Fe" about unique coins received or presented to service members and those created by Commanders involved in the 35th Div. Association. Please consider submitting a picture of your Coin (Front and Back) and a small paragraph on the significance of the event you received it or presented it. The example above is a series of Coins from the National Guard Museum. If you would like to send in a picture of your full collection like the example used in the fundraising, that is also acceptable.

There are three articles in this paper that reference Coins. One is the presentation of coins to supporters from a local corporation, this article on the history of Coins and the last is a picture of a coin display case donated as a fund raiser.

### The History of the Challenge coin

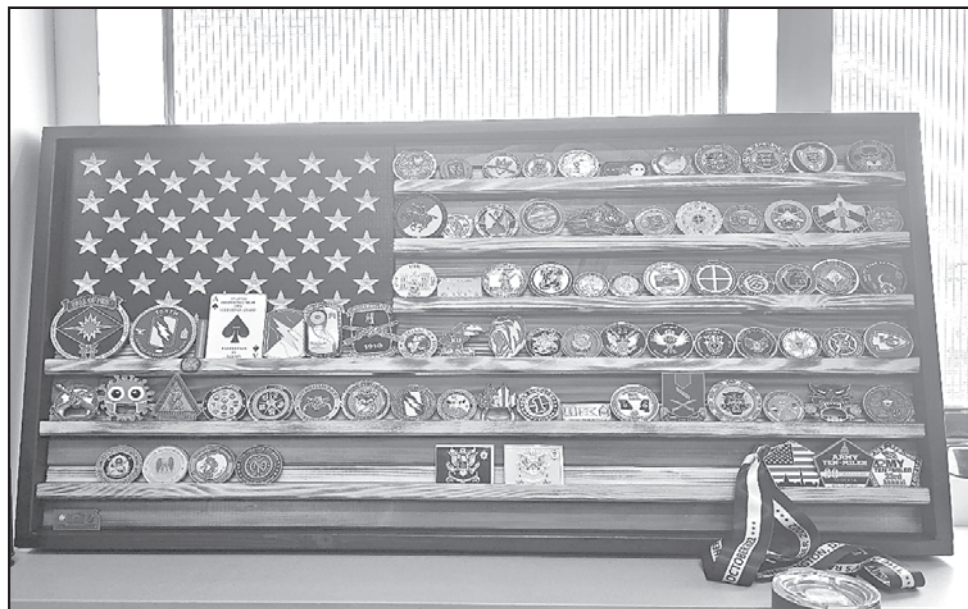
The purpose of this article is to hopefully expand your interest in the many displays of Challenge Coins in offices seen not only in the Department of Defense, but other agencies and museums and proudly displayed in homes of many of our service members. They have become as unique as the many units' history, mottos, and anything else that may make that coin special to that organization. Coins are also created specifically for the person holding a position like Generals and Commanders to show their individual appreciation to those they present it to. Every coin on display represents an event or recognition about that service member. The value of the coin is a memory or insight into an individual or unit at a certain point in history. I have found that asking someone about their favorite coin on display offers a better understanding of that person.

There are conflicting stories about how the Challenge Coin began, so I included a link to a story on three versions which is worth your time to read. The Challenge Coin Tradition: Do You Know How It Started? > U.S. Department of War > Story | U.S. Department of War. I'll summarize the 2017 article listed above by Katie Lange, DOD News, explaining her research and three ways Challenge Coin came about. She explains the lack of official records in several Military institutions, so she included three separate stories in her search on the internet.

The first version is a well-known story that the internet produced linked the challenge coin tradition back to World War I. The story describes the wealthy lieutenant in the Army Air Corp that wanted to give each member of his unit a coin-sized bronze medallions memento he had made. It is an interesting story about how the coin helped identify him to the French soldiers after his escape from the Germans. The next story the article explained was the tradition being started in Vietnam, linked to the Army infantry-run bar that required proof that they had been in combat. The proof was initially items from the battles, but as it got a bit dangerous, so "a coin-sized item emblazoned with the unit's insignia became the accepted form of proof". This is now known as the coin check or as called today, the "challenge" coin. The other possibility explained in the article came from the Soldiers magazine I 1994 that is like the Vietnam story, but a member of a Special Forces Group using over stamped old coins which led to the traditional first coin to be created. If interested in the full stories, please refer to the article provided above.

The Kansas National Guard (Home of the 35th Division Museum) Membership coins.

Your museum has been creating an annual coin for a decade and given to members for the much-appreciated support. The back of every coin has the minute man which is the display case far upper right. The fronts each represent a significant anniversary or event for that year. As you can see, the 35th Division, Army Guard and Air National Guard are all represented.



## Donation of American Flag Coin display rack

MSG (Ret) Mark Wilson donated an American Flag coin display rack, which is much appreciated. We will raffle or auction the rack off during the Annual Conference. COL Robert Sands has provided a picture of his display rack as an example of the donated item. The display is a great example of the many collections and different styles of challenge coins. Please see the article discussing the history of the challenge coin in this edition.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Training and Readiness 2026

Submitted by MSG Justin Goad

2026 has begun at a high operational tempo for the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division. Training and readiness have remained the division's primary focus as subordinate units, including the 1-138th Infantry Regiment deploying overseas and the 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade preparing for deployment, executing critical mission requirements.

"It's been a crazy couple of weeks," one Soldier with Alpha company, 1-138th said while getting ready for a live fire drill at Fort Chaffee Arkansas. Many of the future missions overseas have required soldiers to increase their training. This comes over and above the many state missions of 2025 that the 35th ID assisted in various states.

The collective training activities across the division have been implemented at a faster rate, with units specializing in lethality, communication interoperability, and sustainment operations in contested environments. Field exercises, live fire convoy exercises and command post exercises have been synchronized to maintain expeditionary units and ensure they're mission ready. The leaders at all levels have stressed disciplined implementation of basics as well as adapting to the changing operational needs.

In the case of the 1-138<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the preparations involved route clearance operations, integration of base defense, and integration with joint and multinational partners. These have strengthened the capability of the Regiment to offer essential protection, engagement, and support to complex operational environments.

In addition, ground troops have continued to emphasize their infantry squad and platoon level competence in order to have the confidence of Soldiers at the level of weapons systems, battle practices and small unit tactics. The training severity is indicative of future deployments and the weight each Soldier bears.

For the 110<sup>th</sup> Maneuver enhancement Brigade, their mobilization training has ramped up for their upcoming mission to the Horn of Africa. "I'm excited to support our upcoming overseas mission," said Sergeant Kenny Thompson. "It's going to be a great opportunity to execute some of the training we've been conducting over the past few years."

In spite of the bustling operation tempo, morale has not declined yet since Soldiers have in turn expressed resilience and dedication to the mission. The establishment made last year throughout the domestic response operations has been directly converted into increased cohesion and preparedness throughout the formation.

The 35th Infantry Division is ready to respond to the call of the nation, at home or overseas, in 2026, again demonstrating that readiness is not a one-time event, but an ongoing process that is motivated by committed Soldiers.

# TASK FORCE THUNDER *Public Affairs Office*



**SSG Evan Anderson**  
BRIGADE PAO



Serving as this Brigade's PAO during wartime has been one of the true highlights of my young career. Being behind the lens, right there as our warfighters make history every single day, is something I'll never take for granted. From missile launches deep into enemy territory to the steady, unglamorous sustainment work that keeps the whole mission moving, it's all humbled me in ways I didn't expect.

What we capture isn't just imagery. It's the story of our Soldiers, our formations, and our nation at a moment that will be in my own children's history books. Every frame, every launch, every call for fire, every product we push out, becomes part of a record that helps explain what happened here and who made it happen.

This deployment was also the first time I've worked this closely with other PAOs across the theater. Seeing our combined work show up on major cable news networks, in Pentagon briefing rooms, and even on screens in the Situation Room has been surreal. It's a reminder that what we do matters, not because our names are on it, but because it helps tell the truth of what our Soldiers are doing out here.

Sharing these stories with the world has reinforced something simple: history doesn't just happen. It has to be witnessed, captured, and shared. I'm grateful to have played even a small part in that. We're all part of something bigger than ourselves, and I'm thankful every day to serve alongside the professionals who make this mission, and its story, possible.





35<sup>th</sup> Division Association  
P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605



**Membership Renewal/Application**  
**Donor or Order Form 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to receive the "Santa Fe" Paper electronically to save postage \_\_\_\_\_  
Organizations of Service with 35<sup>th</sup> Div. (69<sup>th</sup> Bde, 137<sup>th</sup>, 134<sup>th</sup>, 320<sup>th</sup> 161 etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Enclosed*

Annual Dues/ New Member Annual Dues E4 and below \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues/New Member Dues E5 and above and Civilians \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

New Life Membership, for WW II Veterans - \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

New Life Membership for All Others - \$200 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for 35<sup>th</sup> Div. Assn Operating Expenses \_\_\_\_\_

Donation specified for the 35<sup>th</sup> Museum Operating Expense \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Edition of "The Santa Fe Express" - \$1000 and up \_\_\_\_\_

Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 and up \_\_\_\_\_

35<sup>th</sup> Div. Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in recognition of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 35<sup>th</sup> Division Coin \$10.00 (\$12.00 if mailed) \_\_\_\_\_

35<sup>th</sup> Division Lapel Pin-- \$5.00 (\$6.00 if mailed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Pin of DIV Patch with 35<sup>th</sup> In Div. written on edge \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Pin with DIV Patch only \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Make Checks Payable to "35<sup>th</sup> Div. Association" and Mail to:  
35<sup>th</sup> Division Association, P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

\*Or use link to pay with Cheddar Up:

<https://35thdiv-memberships-and-donations-temp-73085.cheddarup.com>



## *Help us find our unsung heroes of the 35<sup>th</sup> division:*

You can by nominating a former member of the Division using the nomination form attached to this page. We have many individuals who should be recognized for their significant contributions to the Division either in wartime or peacetime.

The 35th ID Hall of Fame committee selects three outstanding individuals each year who are inducted into the Hall of Fame located at the KSNG Museum in Topeka.

Follow the instructions on the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (785) 224-1280. If I don't answer the phone right away, please leave me a message and I will contact you. Thanks in advance.

Nominations should be sent to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard ATTN: LTC (R) Doug Jacobs, the Hall of Fame Chairman.



## *Titan Security Group Honored for support to the Division*

Titan Security received a certificate of appreciation from COL (P) McCoy for their support to the 35th Division Association on April 22d, 2026 while preparing for a local leaders orientation flight put on by the KSARNG. Major Argyle also presented the 35th Division Association coin to Kevin Marasco who is instrumental in support between Titan Security and the Association. Titan Security employs many veterans with over 50% of their force being retired or current serving National Guardsmen from both Kansas and Missouri.

# 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame Nominating Form

At this time, there are eight (8) nominations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame consideration in 2026. They are CSM Gale D. Beck, PFC Martin H. Duehring, 2d Lt Theodore Dulchinos, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stevie F. Fox, Staff Sgt Craig Schoeller, Staff Sgt Ralph L. Shear, Sgt John R. "Bob" Sirk, and CPT Edwin S. Young.

Members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn., as well as others, are encouraged to submit additional nominations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame for induction in 2026. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

### **Three things are required for the nomination:**

1. The completed Hall of Fame Nomination Form below.
2. Separate page(s) of the biography of the nominee giving military service and emphasizing what the nominee did in service in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division and/or 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association to merit induction into the Hall of Fame.
3. A photo of the nominee

**Supporting documents** such as copies of award citations, listings of military awards,

copies of his/her service records, letters of support, family information, civilian work, etc. are also appreciated. The 2027 class to be inducted will be selected at the Annual 35<sup>th</sup> Div Assn Conference in 2026.

**Send nominations to LTC Doug Jacobs, Chairman, 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619, or e-mail at [office@kngmuseum.org](mailto:office@kngmuseum.org) so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2026.**

## *Hall of Fame Nomination Form*

Rank/Title of Nominee:

Name of Nominee:

Address of Nominee (if living):

Name & Address of Next of Kin (if deceased):

Nominee Date of Birth:

Nominee Date of Death:

Nominee List of Military Awards:

Nominator Name:

Nominator E-Mail:

Nominator Address:

Nominator Telephone:

# Donor Appreciation List

September 2025 - May 2026

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DONOR APPRECIATION**

The 35th Division Association wishes to thank and recognize the following foundation and individuals for their financial contributions. These are donations made in addition to the Annual or Life membership dues.

## Donor \$2,000

- Titan Protection Security, Overland Park, KS (Car Show Sponsor)  
Donors \$1,000
- The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation (Operating Expenses)
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (Jan 2026 Edition of the Santa Fe Divisionnaire)

## Donors \$600

- COL (R) Bob Bloomquist (Div. Family Dinner, Museum Op. Expenses)

## Donors \$500

- CSM Robert Istas (Div. Family Dinner)  
Donors \$350
- CPT (R) Douglas Plummer (Op. Expenses, Hall of Fame, Div. Family Dinner)

## Donors \$250

- Carol Freeman (Div. Family Dinner)
- M&K Events, Basehor, KS (Car Show Sponsor)
- O'Reilly Automotive, Springfield, MO (Car Show Sponsor)
- BG(R) Robert Windham (Div. Family inner)

## Donors \$200

- \* SGM Magen Albert (Div. Family Dinner)
- \* Ceo Bauer (Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Rolland Hill, PFC, KIA 14 July 1944)
- \* Diana D Hardison (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses)
- \* Marilyn B Jensen (Div. Family Dinner, Donation in memory of PFC Rex M Bowers 134-35, KIA 1/25/1945)
- \* COL (R) Bruce Becker (Div. Family Dinner)
- \* COL (R) Malen (Butch) Dowse (Div. Family Dinner)
- \* COL (R) Matthew Twombly (Div. Family Dinner)

## Donors \$150

- Chris Collins (Car Show Sponsor)
- COL (R) Mike Dennis (Div. Family Dinner)
- Bruce Hawkins (Div. Family Dinner)
- CSM Tim Newton (Div. Fam. Dinner, Op. Expenses)

## Donors \$100

- MAJ Peter Euler (Div. Family Dinner)
- BG (R) Ed Gerhardt (Conf. Sponsor)
- LTC (R) Craig C Hayes (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses)
- Marilyn B Jensen (Div. Family Dinner)
- COL James Patton (Museum Op. Expenses)
- MG John Rueger (Conf. Sponsor)
- Roberta Russo (Div. Family Dinner)
- COL (R) Paul Waters (Div. Family Dinner)
- COL (R) Cal Warren (Div. Family Dinner)

## Donors up to \$60

- Erin Gash (Car Show Sponsor)
- Arthur Germano (In memory of Arthur Germano Sr., HOF 35<sup>th</sup> Div, 320<sup>th</sup> Reg.)
- Edward F Hayes (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses)
- SGM (R) Lynn Holt (Div. Family Dinner)
- Sharon Lind (In Memory of COL(R) George M Lind)
- COL Timothy Marlar (Div. Family Dinner)
- Jeraida Pantoja Picard (Car Show Sponsor)
- MAJ (R) Stephen Page (Op. Expenses)



## 2026 Gun Raffle



This year the 35th Division Association will be conducting the third gun raffle as a fundraiser. The Santa Fe Sig Sauer Commemorative M17 pistol raffle tickets are \$20.00.

To date we have raised over \$1,000 in tickets!

Here is a link to the Cheddar-Up site to pay, or you can send a check to the 35th Div. Association, PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

## 35th Div. Association 2026 New Members

### ANNUAL MEMBERS

- \*Lisa Irgang
- \* LTC Wesley Dickman
- \* Barbara Schrader

### LIFE MEMBERS

- \*BG Carlin Williams
- \*LTC (R) Dale P Bauer
- \* LTC Lynette M Ham
- \*CPT Hannah Byun



# CAR SHOW

35th Division Association PRESENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026 9AM-3PM

FOOD TRUCKS, 50/50 RAFFLE, MILITARY REENACTORS & MORE!

CATEGORIES: BEST IN SHOW, BEST TRUCK, BEST PAINT, PEOPLE'S CHOICE



**\$25**  
PER CAR DISPLAY  
PRE-REGISTRATION

PROCEEDS GO TO 35<sup>TH</sup> DIV ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF 35<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIERS

RAY MILLER PARK  
4103 S 4<sup>TH</sup> ST,  
LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT:  
WWW.35DIVASSN.ORG





## 35th Division Ghillie Wash Training

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - During the month of May's training, the Ghillie Wash was conducted by the Soldiers of Scout/Sniper Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 3rd Battalion, 138th Infantry Regiment.

The Ghillie Wash is recognized as a fundamental step in the preparation of individual camouflage systems. Prior to employment in a field environment, each ghillie suit is required to be soaked, scrubbed, and treated in order for factory odors and appearance to be eliminated.

Through this process, a natural texture and scent profile is developed, by which a Soldier's concealment effectiveness is significantly enhanced during reconnaissance and sniper operations.

The training was executed in accordance with established sniper and reconnaissance doctrine, ensuring that all camouflage systems were conditioned to standard prior to future operational employment.

The attention to detail and adherence to professional standards demonstrated during this training event are reflective of the commitment to operational readiness maintained by the Scout/Sniper Platoon, HHC, 3-138 Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division.

# HEARTLAND SALUTE TO AMERICA

**JUNE 6,**



**2026**



**Patriot Parade**

**10 am**

**FRI – JUNE 5, 2026**

**EQUIPMENT SETUP**

**SAT – JUNE 6, 2026**

**7-9 AM - PANCAKE FEED**

**8 AM - REVEILLE**

**8 AM-3 PM - MILITARY**

**EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS**

**CIVIL WAR CANNON DRILLS**

**9 AM - TOPEKA BIG BAND**

**10 AM - PATRIOT PARADE**

**SAT – JUNE 6, 2026**

**11 AM - SANTA FE BAND**

**11 AM-1 PM - COOKOUT MEAL**

**11 AM-2 PM - FOOD TRUCK**

**& KIDS ACTIVITIES**

**Face Painting Balloon Animals**

**Vehicle Rides Foam Machine**

**Inflatables Bubble Machine**

**12:30 PM - BAND CONCERT**

**1:30 PM - GENERAL PATTON**

**2 PM - WWII BATTLE**

**RE-ENACTMENT**

**MUSEUM OF THE KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD**  
**Topeka Regional Airport**