



**31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Association  
Annual General Membership Meeting  
August 29, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Commander, Col (Ret) John (Ron) Corson at 10:00 a.m.

**Opening Remarks**

Commander Corson welcomed everyone to the 2009 General Membership Meeting. He stated that when he was elected Commander he was given a gavel to call the meeting to order although he never had the block of wood on which to bang his gavel, he finally got that block of wood and now here at the meeting he left both the gavel and the block of wood back in his room.

There will be a few additions under New Business that are not included on the agenda.

**Minutes of the Last General Membership Meeting**

Due to confusion the minutes of the last meeting were not available for distribution at the meeting. The minutes were published on the website immediately after last year's annual meeting. An apology was extended for this oversight.

Motion was made by Dale Mills to accept the minutes as written, seconded and approved by the body.

The 2008 minutes are posted on the website and can be viewed at this url:  
[http://31stinfantry.org/annual\\_meeting\\_minutes.htm](http://31stinfantry.org/annual_meeting_minutes.htm)

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was distributed at the meeting. (See attachment # 1)

The Treasurer's report states assets of \$70,002.12, liabilities and equity of \$59,641.56, retained earnings and net income of \$12,668.23. The Association remains solvent.

## **Old Business**

- **Status of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial**

Commander Corson reported that the Memorial Monument is well underway. The base of the monument will be polished black granite. Last year discussion was held to investigate Bloodstone for the base of the monument. The Bloodstone was found to be only available in India and at a cost that would prohibit its use for our monument.

The Polar Bear will be sculpted of white granite and approximately 28” – 32” in height. (See attachment # 2)

Of the contract for the monument \$15,000 has already been paid to Columbus Memorial Company. The monument will be completed early next year. The monument site has not yet been determined. Gen Wetzel will oversee the site when the time comes. Our monument is 1 of 15 that have been approved for the Walk of Honor.

The cost of \$32,200 does not include the sub-base on which the black granite base will set. The sub-base will be at the discretion of the Infantry Museum and is expected to cost an additional \$1500.00 to \$2000.00

- **Proposed wording of the two Bronze Plaques planned for the Memorial**

Commander Corson advised the body that there will be two 20”x16” bronze cast plaques on opposing sides of the monument. The verbiage for the plaques was displayed for review by the membership.

The first plaque depicts the Major Actions in which the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment has participated in. The body approved the plaque as shown with the following changes to be Made:

- Korea DMZ should read from 1953-1987
- Vietnam should read 1966-1971

(See attachment #3)

The second plaque gives a brief explanation of why we are Polar Bears. A comment was made that the wording did not use the words: “Infantry or Infantry Regiment”. A discussion followed that centered on whether or not the plaque should read 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry or 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The plaque was approved with the addition of “Infantry Regiment” to the verbiage. (See attachment #4)

- **Confirmation of the Reunion Schedule 2010-2014**

Commander Corson introduced Tim Miller (6-31<sup>st</sup>, D Co) the 2010 Reunion Coordinator.

Tim presented an overview of the 2010 Reno Reunion scheduled for 19-22 of August. The reunion will be held in the 5 star Atlantis Hotel and Casino. Seven star rated restaurants are located on the hotel property offering a wide variety of meal choices. The hotel will honor the \$100.00 per night group rate for a period of one week before and one week after the reunion dates.

There are campgrounds available in the near vicinity for those wishing to use that type of accommodation and Tim will gladly provide information regarding the campgrounds to anyone that contacts him regarding the same.

Optional events include a Dinner Boat Cruise of Lake Tahoe on Thursday evening. A tour of Carson City, Genoa and Virginia City is scheduled for Friday during the day. Saturday the hotel will host a Classic Car Show in which you will be able to vote on your favorite classic car.

Transportation from Reno Airport, Reno bus terminals and Reno train station will be provided by the hotel at no cost to participants, eliminating the need for a rental car. For those choosing to drive or rent a vehicle there is parking available at no cost.

Commander Corson thanked Tim for the overview.

2011 Reunion is scheduled for Fort Benning, Columbus GA with Gen Wetzel as the Reunion Coordinator. This reunion will coincide with the dedication of our 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Association Memorial Monument.

2012 Reunion – the board of directors of the Association has proposed Washington DC as the reunion location. Karl Lowe has agreed to be the Reunion Coordinator although he will need assistance from those in the greater DC area. The logistics of a reunion in Washington DC will be an effort to plan for a sizable reunion and the intent is to find a hotel outside the city with easy access to the metro system for transportation.

2013 Reunion – Dayton OH was proposed as the location for the 2013 Reunion and could include a tour of the Wright Patterson AFB Museum. Note: John Howdeshelt had offered to Association leadership to volunteer to be Reunion Coordinator if Dayton was selected as the site for the reunion. The final decision on the location of the 2013 Reunion was to be resolved at the next membership meeting

A question from the floor was raised as to the timing of the reunion and the feasibility of moving the reunion to a fall time period. Commander Corson responded that one of the reasons is the ease of a late summer reunion for attendees especially those in the education field. The lower cost of travel and hotel accommodations and reduced traffic in city areas also plays a part in the decision of late summer reunions. Karl Lowe then stated that August 13<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the birth of the Polar Bear, the activation of the Regiment and therefore we try to hold the reunion as close to the 13<sup>th</sup> of August as possible.

- **Establishment of a Fund Raising Campaign for the Memorial**

Commander Corson reported that the establishment of a fund raiser to support the Memorial Monument as suggested last year will be acted on. The intent is a one year effort with a central mailing requesting small donations to subsidize the purchase of the monument as well as to provide a source of funding for future maintenance of the monument itself.

Louis Dominguez was appointed to be the Campaign Fund Raiser under the direction of Commander Corson.

A motion was made by Grady Smith to initiate the fund raising activities. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership body.

### **New Business**

- **Walk of Honor Memorial Pavers**

General and Mrs. Wetzel addressed the membership regarding purchasing a paver for the Walk of Honor Memorial Wall. The pavers are available at a cost of \$250.00 each and can be inscribed with any wording you desire. General Wetzel had his paver for viewing as well as the commemorative miniature that you receive when you purchase a paver. Order forms are available on the registration table.

John Howdeshelt stated that his family purchased a paver in his name, and they used the online ordering system which is very easy to use. He also has received his commemorative miniature of the paver.

Commander Corson stated that the Board of Directors heard and supported a proposal made by Noah Halfacre to purchase five pavers to honor the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiments Medal of Honor recipients.

Noah stated in fact there are seven pavers needed not five. The miniatures of the pavers would be given to the families of those honored by the pavers.

A motion was made by Jerry Carlson to purchase the seven pavers for the Medal of Honor recipients at a cost to the Association of \$1750.00. The motion was seconded by Floyd Bennett. A question from the floor relative to whether or not a paver would be purchased for those men that served with the 31<sup>st</sup> however earned their Medal of Honor while assigned to another unit. Noah replied the reason for the change from five to seven pavers, so all would be included.

Hearing no other discussion the motion was passed by the membership body.

Vin Zike requested approval from the membership to process the Shanghai cup for the current CSM Ben Jones of the 4-31. This questioned was not posed as an item needing

vote as that was determined at an earlier time that all Commanders and CSMs of the unit receive a replica Shanghai cup to be included with the bowl. Vin received an affirmative to proceed with the engraving of the cup for CSM Ben Jones.

A question was raised as to whether or not we should consider purchasing Shanghai cups for the Medal of Honor recipients as well. Commander Corson responded that he would entertain a formal proposal under Old Business at the next annual meeting.

- **Nomination and Election of Officers**

Commander Corson stated that there is a slate of officers for election at this time and apologized for not having a formal ballot for the election process. The positions open for this election are as follows: Commander, Vice-Commander, Treasurer, Quartermaster, and Regional Directors of the Great Lakes, Mid-west, and West. Commander Corson opened the floor for nominations.

Karl Lowe nominated Charlie Tapp 6-31 D Company for Commander of the Association. No other nominations were heard. Charlie accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved by the membership body.

Karl Lowe nominated Chuck McCammon 6-31 A Company for Vice-Commander of the Association. No other nominations were heard. Chuck accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved by the membership body.

Karl Lowe nominated Joe DeAngelis 6-31 C Company for the Treasurer of the Association. No other nominations were heard. Joe accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved by the membership body.

Karl Lowe nominated Vin Zike 6-31 D Company for another term as Quartermaster. No other nominations were heard. Vin accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved by the membership body.

Commander Corson then asked for any members residing in the Western region to stand.

David Wilson 6-31 C Company and Tim Miller 6-31 D Company stood. Charlie Company in unison nominated David Wilson as Regional Director West Region. No other nominations were heard. David accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved by the membership body.

Commander Corson then asked for any members residing in the Mid-west region to stand, no member in attendance stood. Commander Corson recognized Dean Hess 6-31 A Company as residing in the Mid-west. No other nominations were heard. Dean will be approached regarding the nomination – the membership body approved Dean's appointment in advance of acceptance to the position of Mid-west Regional Director.



5:25 PM  
08/24/09  
Cash Basis

**31st Infantry Regiment Association  
Balance Sheet  
As of August 24, 2009**

	<u>Aug 24, 09</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
United Community Bank	15,472.72
Total Checking/Savings	<u>15,472.72</u>
Other Current Assets	
Morgan Keegan	
Cash Account	54,529.40
Total Morgan Keegan	<u>54,529.40</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>54,529.40</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>70,002.12</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>70,002.12</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Fund Balances	
Awards Fund	3,225.00
History Fund	661.10
Life Membership Fund	55,755.46
Total Fund Balances	<u>59,641.56</u>
Opening Bal Equity	-2,307.67
Retained Earnings	19,728.81
Net Income	-7,060.58
Total Equity	<u>70,002.12</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>70,002.12</u></b>

**Attachment #1**

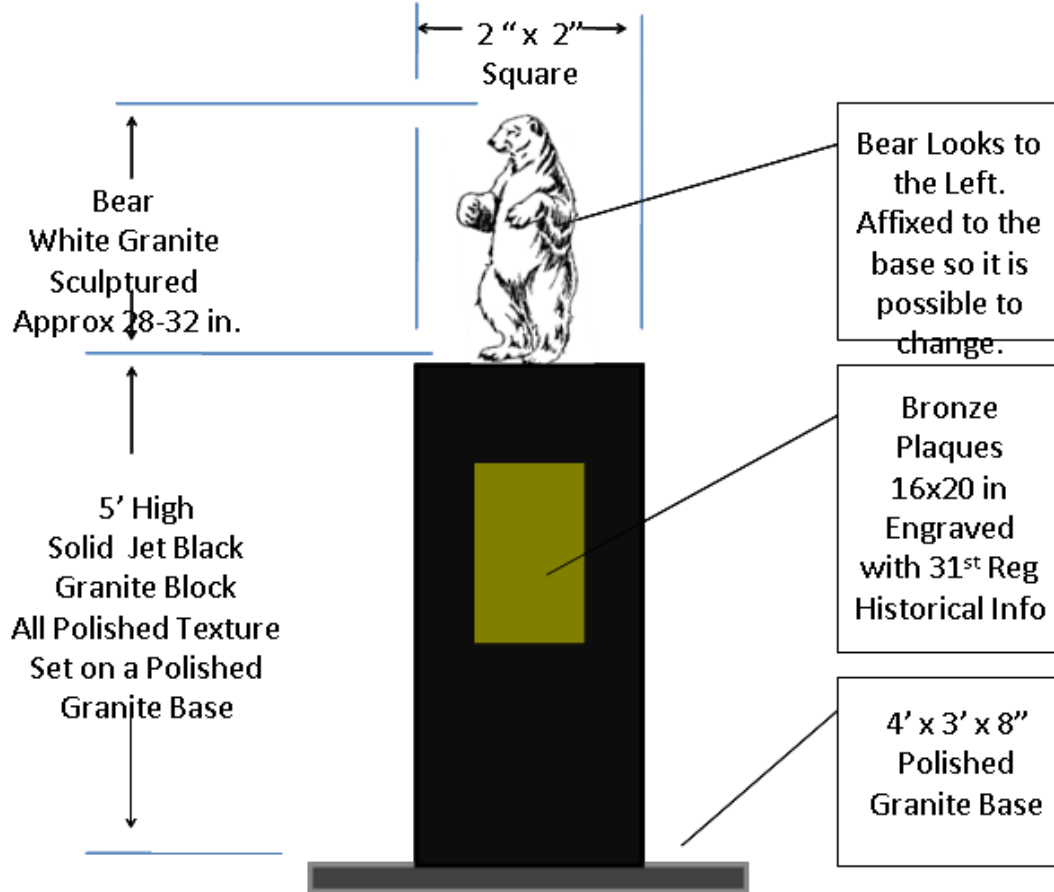
5:22 PM  
08/24/09  
Cash Basis

**31st Infantry Regiment Association**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January 1 through August 24, 2009

	<u>Jan 1 - Aug 24, 09</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
2008 Reunion	
Banquet	160.00
Port of LA Dinner Cruise	40.00
Reunion Registration	150.00
San Pedro Military History Tour	60.00
2008 Reunion - Other	370.00
Total 2008 Reunion	<u>780.00</u>
2009 Reunion Receipts	
Banquet	4,620.00
Boat Tour- No Lunch	224.00
Boat Tour w/Lunch	2,205.00
Registration	3,960.00
Tour of Boldt Castle	609.00
Tour of Sackett's Harbor	1,855.00
Total 2009 Reunion Receipts	<u>13,473.00</u>
Annual Dues	730.00
CD Interest	1,512.06
Interest - UCBI	1.78
Life Membership	1,135.00
QM Sales	1,879.73
Regions FDIC	52.18
Shanghai Bowl Cups	150.00
Total Income	<u>19,713.75</u>
Expense	
2008 Reunion Expense	
Advertising	145.27
Banquet	59.62
Overhead	970.09
Postage	539.34
Refund	30.52
San Pedro Military History Tour	745.30
Total 2008 Reunion Expense	<u>2,490.14</u>
31st Regiment Monument	15,000.00
Newsletter Printing	5,026.15
Postage, shipping, delivery	1,098.08
QM Stock Purchases	3,159.96
Total Expense	<u>26,774.33</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-7,060.58</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-7,060.58</u></u>

**Attachment # 1A**

## 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial – Final Design



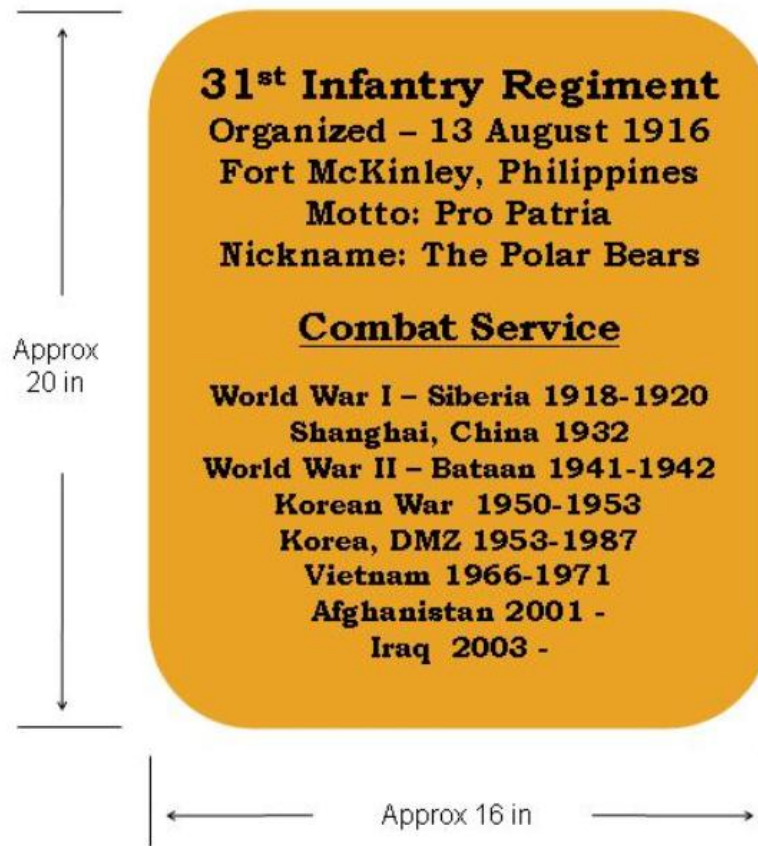
### Estimated Cost: Solid Jet Black Granite Stone

with Polished Granite Base	\$15,000
2 Cast Bronze Plaques 16" x 20"	\$2,200
White Granite Sculptured Bear Approx 28-32" Tall	<u>\$15,000+</u>
	<b>\$32,200+</b>

Company: Columbus Memorial, Columbus, GA

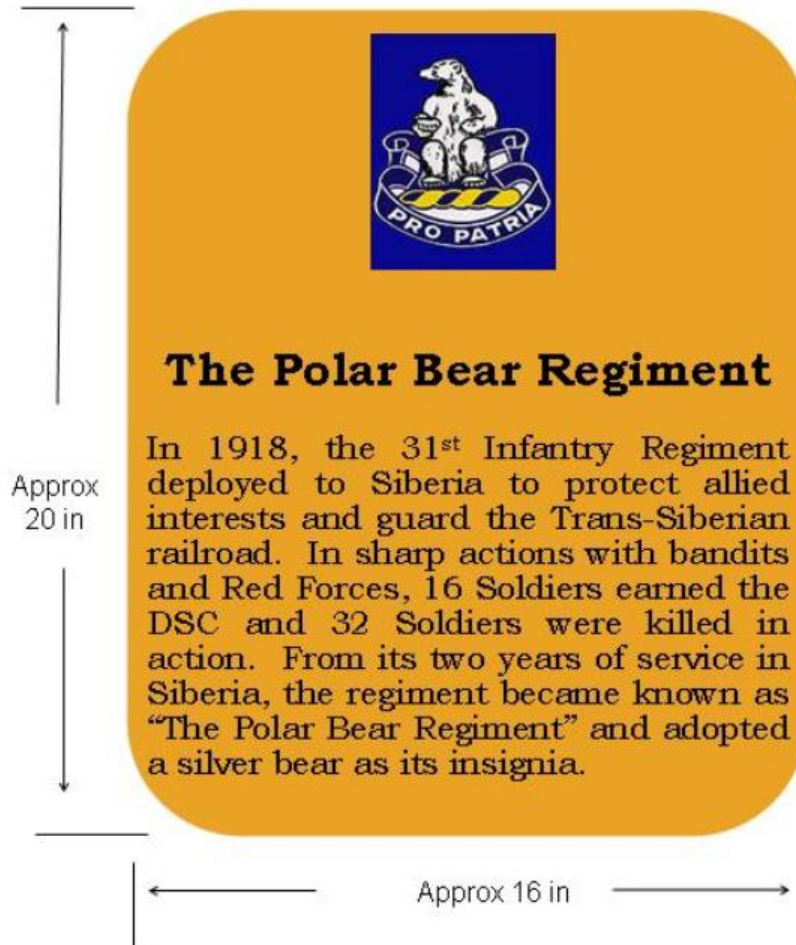
### Attachment # 2

## 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Memorial Plaque #1



### Attachment # 3

## 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Memorial Plaque #2



### Attachment # 4