

# The Department of Florida

# News

The official publication of the Department of Florida, Korean War Veterans Association, by and about its members. <http://dfl.kwva.org>



## Convention Highlights



2011 Convention, Ocala Hilton, May 6-8, 2011, Officer photo: from left: Bob Balzer, William Mac Swain, Joan Arcand, Richard Arcand, Jim Bradford, Charlie First, Gene Gillette, Bill Shibler, and Harold Sievers. Association President MacSwain addresses Convention, below. Continued on Page 3.



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# Our President Says



**G**reetings to all you conventioners.

And greetings to all our Florida KWVA members.

What a great weekend.

I want to congratulate all the newly

elected officers and thank all the appointed officers for stepping up and working toward our common goal, remembering and perpetuating the Korean War Veterans memories.

We do not love war, we don't even like it. But because we were needed by a helpless smaller nation, we rose to the occasion and did our best.

Some paid the supreme sacrifice. We remember for that reason.

Knowing the pain, the cold, the sweats and even the shakes we would like to forget but just hold on

to because-----.

Let us never forget those we left behind and in their memory continue what we started out to do.

Help the Veterans and their families, continually remind the country of their sacrifice and our intention never to be forgotten and continue to bring to the attention of our nation our fighting men and women, who even now are being "out of sight out of mind."

Our help to the ROTC, our scholarships, our volunteers at our Veterans Authority, participation in Tell America, the parades and military holidays will never let them forget Korea and the sacrifices made on our brothers' behalf.

Our job as I see it is to stay as active as possible, keep recruiting and work together as the KWVA and make this Department of Florida the best it can be.

For God and Country

Charlie

CID	NAME	ACTIVE REGULAR	ACTIVE OTHER	TOTAL ACTIVE	TOTAL INACTIVE
14	Suncoast	57	0	57	30
15	Eddie Lyon	16	1	17	6
16	COL Alice Gritsavage	16	1	17	6
17	LT Richard E. Cronan	41	0	41	3
106	Treasure Coast	18	0	18	6
110	Miami-Dade	19	0	19	4
124	Osceola County	6	0	6	10
153	Central Florida	32	0	32	6
155	Florida Gulf Coast	29	0	29	9
158	William R. Charette (MOH)	25	0	25	4
159	Sunshine State	35	0	35	24
169	KWVA of Lake County	62	0	62	
173	Mid-Florida	58	6	64	5
175	LT Baldomero Lopez (MOH)	42	0	42	1
188	South Lake County	32	2	34	11
189	Central Florida East Coast	19	1	20	5
192	Citrus County	32	0	32	
199	Manasota	40	3	43	
200	North East Florida	18	1	19	3
210	Brevard County	25	1	26	5
267	GEN James A. Van Fleet	37	0	37	15
318	Indian River County	34	0	34	3
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>693</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>156</b>

**The table at the left** was compiled on June 18 from the Association Membership Database.

What is shown is the number of Active Members the Association shows for each Florida chapter. This is in the 3rd column, "TOTAL ACTIVE."

The right most column shows TOTAL INACTIVE. TJT

## More on the 2011 Convention



Above, DoF Chapter Presidents in attendance were recognized and presented medallions, from left (name and chapter number): C. Appenzeller 158; H. Butler 192; R. Davis 267; E. DeWitt 14; M. Ford 175; T. Hannon 199; R. Hebner 155; H. Moreland 200; T. Thiel 169, C. Travers 173, and M. Tutolo 210



Above, new DoF Officers being sworn-in by Association President, MacSwain, far left in photo. From left: Charlie First, President, Bill Shibler, 1st VP, Bob Hebner, 2nd VP, John Stelling, 3rd VP, Bill Sarver, Secretary, and Joan Arcand, Treasurer.



Above, DoF Korea/America Liaison, Eddie Ko, addresses the Convention.



Photos by Carol Becker.



## CHAPTER REPORTS from the OCALA CONVENTION

Chapter 14 – Suncoast Chapter - E. DeWitt, President

The Honor Guard (HG) performed at 22 funerals, two "Direct Burials," and assisted the local American Legion Post, and our Color Guard (CG) presented colors at Tampa Bay Rays. Our chapter took second place for Volunteerism at the KWVA National level. We support the Allied Military Museum, the "Pinellas in the Park" celebration and, present a Flag Programs at DAR and the Saint Petersburg Police Academy. Participation is still a problem with the same people filling many jobs. We are grateful for their help.

Chapter 153 -South Florida –Don Smith, 1st Vice-President

In January, we visited Nursing Facility Veterans, installed new officers, and volunteered at the Veterans Park & Museum. In Feb., President Ed Torres resigned due to his health, and Past President Ed Kent assumed the Office. In March, Sgt. Sam Marrenelli passed away. In April, 14 members met the plane carrying the remains of M.T.A. James Caldwell that were exhumed near Unsan County, known as Camels Head, and later attended the funeral. We presented a plaque to ROTC Cadet from Deltona High School for his excellence in leadership. The Chapter has had a successful year.

Chapter #155, Gulf Coast, Cape Coral, Robert H. Hebner, President

We supported the "Invest in America's Veterans Foundation," where we will move rent-free soon. We contributed to renovate our city's Iwo Jima Memorial. We are now providing a full scholarship endowment to the Edison Col-

lege Scholarship program. Gen (Ret Army) Douglas Butcher presented a spell-binder speech, and a VA official discussed the benefits of registering with the VA. We served a jambalaya and Italian sausage dinner in the park at our July meeting; this was well received with excellent turnout. We have 95 members, associates and honorary members. Member teams are assigned to visit nursing homes each month to hold real bull sessions with veterans, and for school visitation efforts. The past year has been a very rewarding and successful one.

Chapter 158 - Charette MOH – Charles Appenzeller, President

We gave books to Winter Haven library, Lakeland library, and Bartow library about the Korean War. We had a successful fund raiser at Sams store in Lakeland .

Chapter 169 – Lake County – Tom Thiel, President

Membership is 62 Active. We hand out Tell America brochures, and have an electronic TA presentation on our web site that we use to present to classes. We do TA to the public at our fund raising tables. We visited four schools awarding a total of \$1,275.00. We find our web site a useful chapter tool. Our CG participated in events in the Villages, and at the Boys and Girls Club. Aligning chapter due dates with the Association due date works very well; we thank Jim Doppelhammer for creating a special report listing members in due date order.

Chapter 173 – Mid Florida – Chuck Travers, Commander

Total membership is 90, 68 of whom are Association members, tops in Florida. We received the Vietnam and All Veterans of FL "Organization of the Year" award. We hosted the Korean Senior Society's "New Year's," presented Steve Noble with a Certificate for "Wreaths Across America," and attended the "topping off" of the new Lake Nona VA Hospital. We received a certificate from American Legion Unit 19 for our chapter's participation in the State President's Homecoming Event, and we presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Vietnam and ALL Veterans Coalition of Florida (VVF) to American Legion Post 19's Commander Ray Briere, to VP Jerry Ernst representing the Casselberry Veterans and Auxiliary and Auxiliary and Caretakers, ME, and to Glenn Jackson for the VFW Community Band.

Chapter 175 - LT Baldomero Lopez (MOH) - Murdoch Ford, President

We held our annual strawberry sale fund-raiser, and were honored to be asked to present colors and sound taps at the 19th reunion of the 5th RCT Association reunion at Mainsail Hotel. Eddie Ko and Mr. Kim presented 20 Korean war veterans with the Korean Freedom Medal. Our chapter will host a delayed 60th anniversary of the Chosin Few on October 27-29; I would like to invite any Chosin Reservoir survivor to attend. The Marine detachment at McDill central command is going all-out to welcome this group to Tampa. Eddie and I are both members of the Chosin Few, please contact either Eddie or myself if you might want to attend.

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*(Continued from page 4)*

**Chapter 188 – South Lake County - Carleton Hogue, Pres, by Bill Shabler.**

The chapter gave out scholarships, plaques, did HGs for other organizations and collected donations with the Rose of Sharon. One of our life members passed away in March; the HG served at the wake. On March 13, Kings Ridge had a parade to celebrate its anniversary; they wanted to have all the local veterans' form a CG with their unit flags. Carl Hogue represented our chapter. We committed to having two of our members go to Hope Lodge in Tampa every two to three months and pick up \$200 per month of supplies at the local Target or Sam's Club for the Hope Lodge. At the January 19 meeting we presented a \$1,200 check to Sandra Placencian for the Fisher House at the new VA Hospital being built at Lake Nona in Orlando.

**Chapter 192 - Citrus - Hank Butler, Commander**

We donate \$100 each quarter to the

Citrus County Veterans Foundation. We gave: \$500 to the Welcome Home Committee for the 690 MP Company, \$200 to VFW Post 10087 for use for our meetings, \$200 to Citrus County Veterans Coalition Food Pantry, \$75 to the DoF May Conference Book, \$100 each for three High School JrROTC Programs, and \$100 each for Navy Cadets, Young Marines & two Cap groups. This totaled \$2075. Twelve members attended the Annual Purple Heart ceremony; future ceremonies will use our display. We participated in a parade in Carrabelle, FL honoring Camp Gordon Johnston, an amphibian training base in 1942-1946. A Rose of Sharon fund raiser at Publix netted \$500. We are sad to report the passing of Leonard Lynch and Ralph Nardone. We joined with a large group honoring 160 men and women of the 690th MP Company who were returning from a one-year deployment to Afghanistan on Saturday, April 9. I will have tickets available at the September Council Meeting for our annual Military Ball to be held December 3 at the Elks Lodge in Homosassa.

**CHAPTER #199 – Manasota - Thomas G (Skip) Hannon, Commander .**

Our new officers are very dedicated and involved; for the first time we have an officer who also volunteered to be our historian. Several of our members joined the Association, and our new treasurer did a fine job of separating the chapter and national dues. We presented our TA program at Braden River MS—five of us spent the entire day and were very well received. We will give a \$500 scholarship for the best Korean War essay by students at Richard Millburn Academy HS, I will make the award at their graduation ceremony. We honored a bedridden Korean War vet sent to us by the State of CT. Our CG posted colors at 14 Pittsburgh Pirate games. We had a slide presentation on the exchange of POWs at Freedom Bridge. We also donated to the survivors of the USS Liberty that was attacked by Israeli forces. We signed several new members, but we have lost many others who have refused to join the Association despite numerous efforts to explain the reason for this requirement.###

If your chapter would like to be included in this column, please send your report in electronic format to the Editor.

**<—2011 Convention**

**SATURDAY LUNCHEON—  
MEMORIES FROM THE DRIVE  
IN"**





# Senator Nelson presents Memorial Day Awards, President First presides over ceremony

President First very capably represented the Department at a Medals Awards Ceremony held by KWVA Chapter 173, on Memorial Day evening in Orlando.



DeToma left with Senator Bill Nelson, and display of all medals presented.

Frank DeToma, Senior Constituent Advocate in Senator Bill Nelson's Orlando office compiled the information, obtained the medals and read the citations; Senator Nelson made the presentations.

Among those Chapter 173 members recognized were:

1st LT Ronald York who received the Bronze Star Medal,

PFC James Montgomery who received the Purple Heart,

SGT John Sorrentino, US Army who received medals



Senator Nelson, right, pinning medal on Charles Travers' shirt.



Historian Becker and Editor and Webmaster Thiel at ceremony.

for his service in the cause of freedom and democracy during WWII,

Robert Crossman who received The National Defense Service Medal, and

Charles Travers who received the Korean Defense Service and Cold war Victory Commemorative Medals .

The event was held at the American Legion on Lee Road in Orlando; a very nice pick up lunch was provided by the Legion Axillary.



DeToma at podium, President First, Ron York, and Senator Nelson. York served with the 5th RCT/24th Inf Div in Korea.

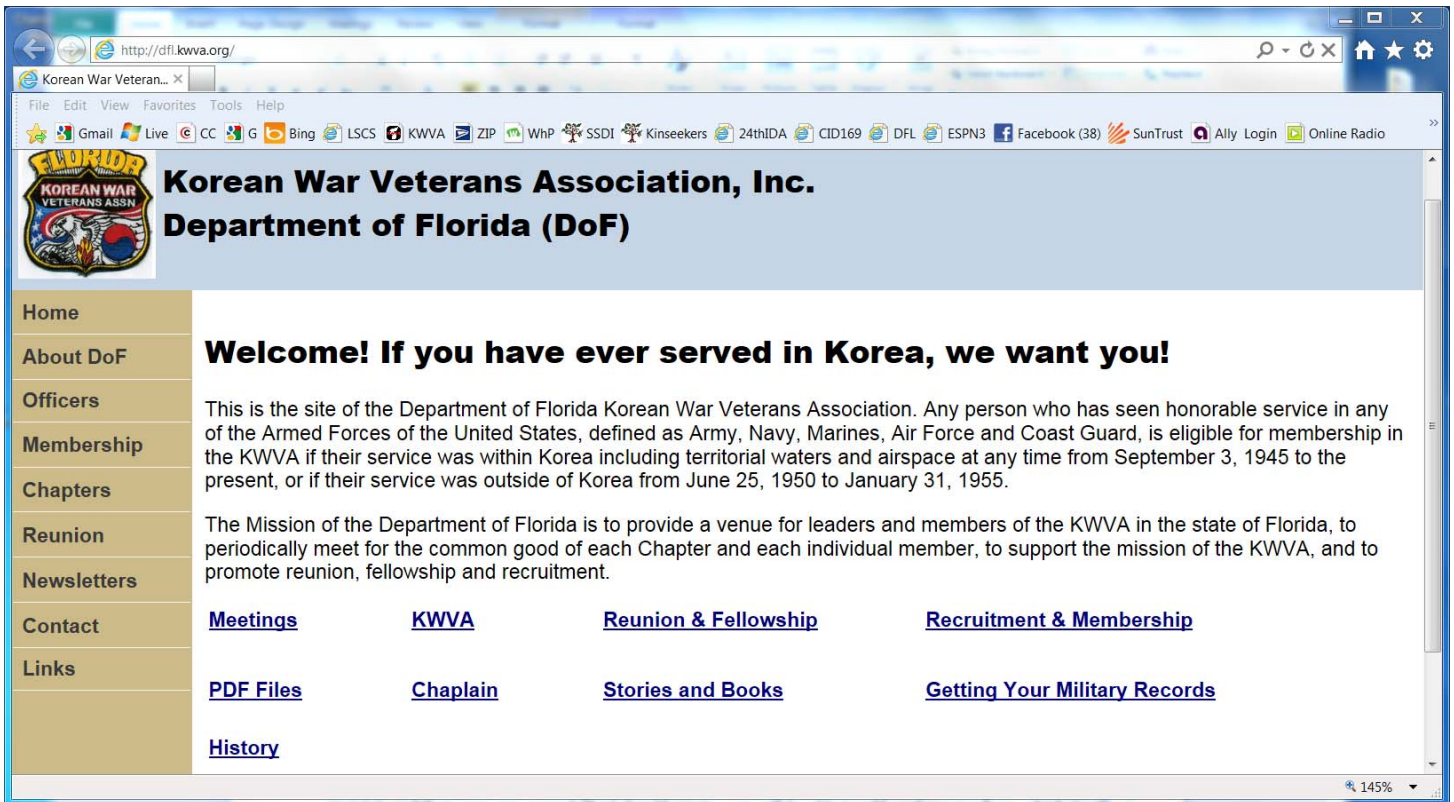
This was an outstanding ceremony; all DoF Chapters should implement similar programs.



Carol Becker brought quilts for each awardee to select.



## DOF Website, <http://dfl.kwva.org/> now up and ready for your use!



One of the actions President Jim Bradford brought to members at the Ocala Convention was the question of the DoF Website; the one created perhaps 10 years ago that was woefully out of date.

A motion was offered and approved to discard that site in total, and that some guy named Thiel should create a new one within the Association's framework.

This latter means that DoF must create and maintain the site, but that the Association's server in Charleston, IL will host the name and the site for free—actually it is maintained from our Association's funds.

This is to report that the site has been created, and a considerable amount of material has already been uploaded.

The address of the site is: <http://dfl.kwva.org/>, and the graphic above is of the home page.

A website generator, Microsoft's Expression Web 4, was used to create the site. It was built on one of the many templates that comes with EW.

It is not fancy, and does not have any special features like, for example, Site Search, which someday maybe we will be able to add, and waving flags, which it will never have.

Our objective for the site is to provide current and accurate information about what is going to be happening and what has already happened at DoFa to DoF, to Chapters, and to the world.

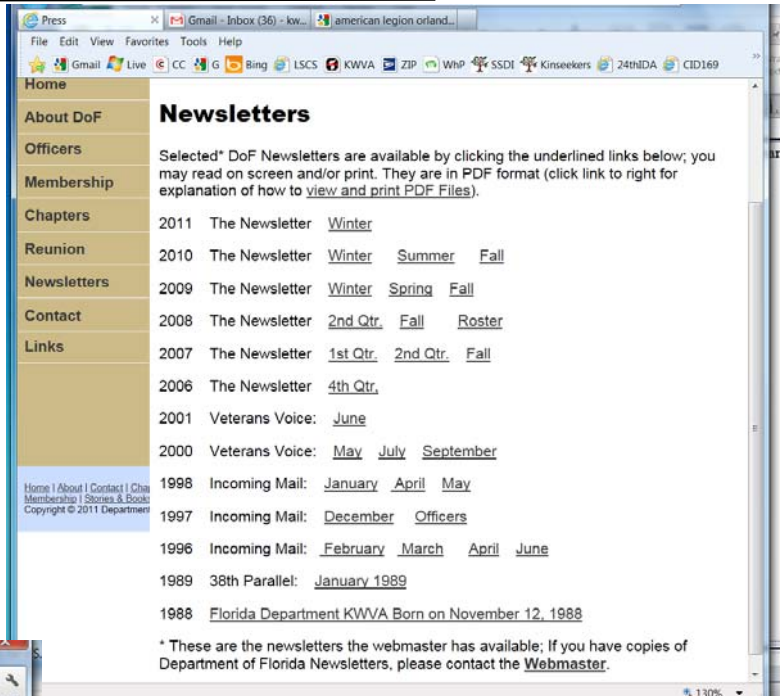
You can get an idea of what is on the site by looking at the graphic of the home page above.

The main menu consists of the Buttons along the left margin. Each page has also has many links to pages that are not on the main menu, for example, Meetings through History in the above graphic.

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If, for example, you were to click on the Newsletter Button from the main menu you would be presented with the screen at the right. You will note that newsletters beginning with the 1988 announcement of the birth of DoF on Nov. 12, 1988, up through the Winter 2011 issue, and many in between are already posted.

As a side note, this is an appeal for all of you to examine your old files for those newsletter that are not yet included, and send them to the webmaster for scanning and uploading. Your original will be returned. Other such materials are also welcome.



So, the Department now has a new website. But the site is only as good as its content, which is just stuff—reports, photos, newsletters, planning announcements, and on and on. Content now is 95+ percent of the total effort of maintaining the site.

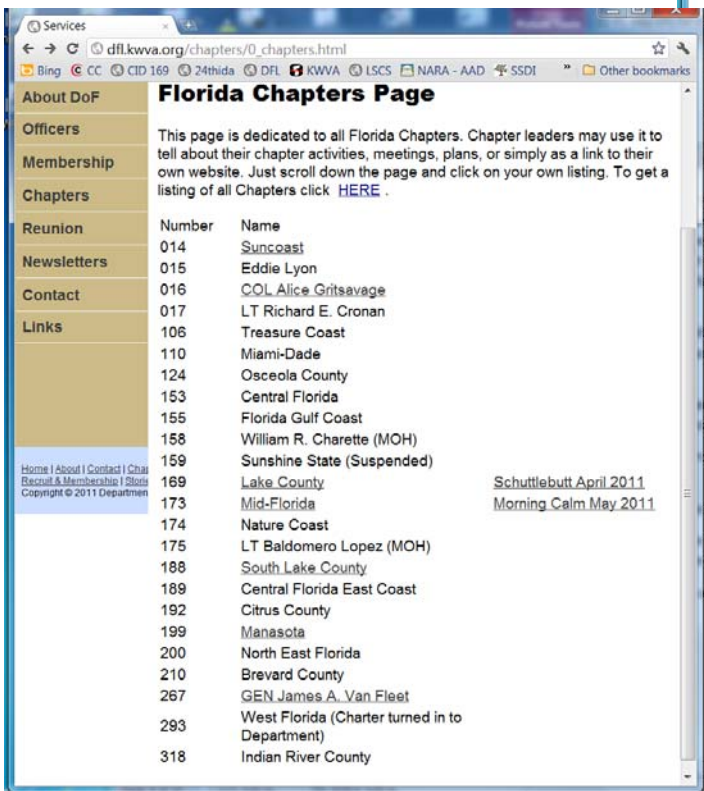
The webmaster cannot create this stuff anymore that he can create content for this newsletter. That is your jobs, from the President on down the DoF hierarchy. Without your input there can be no meaningful website!

Some of you may say: “don’t give me all that crap about a website—I am computer illiterate and am not going to try to learn computers!”

I reply, “This is your site and you ought to know what it is and what is on it.”

Ask one of your children or grandchildren to show it to you; you will learn something about your site and your descendent might become more interested in what you were doing 60 years ago!

Or ask a librarian at your local library to assist you, they also might become interested in the Korean War, and that also is what we are after. TJThiel 352-357-3943, kwva169@gmail.com.



The page at the above is what you will see if you press the Chapters Button on the left margin of the Home Page. Chapter’s, this is your page if you wish to use it. The idea here is to allow you to post some brief item of your choice. Not a whole site but a page or two where you can publicize your Chapter and maybe your meetings. Let me know if you are interested. You will need to provide me the content you wish posted.





## *Chaplain's Column, by Harold Sievers*

### Memorial Service, Final Farewell, Sunday, May 8, at Convention

#### **Suncoast, 14**

Jack Danley  
Elmer West  
Michael Szal  
Charles Dawson  
Edgar Thompson  
Kenneth Milheiser  
David Preshur  
Charles Grauel  
Donald Beland  
Albert Smith  
Daniel W. Hall, Jr.

#### **Eddie Lyons, 15**

Joseph Firriolo  
Alfred H. Pepin, Jr.

#### **Colonel Alice Gritsav- age, 16**

Alexander A. Durante

#### **Lt Richard Cronan, 17**

Kenneth D. Lane  
George Demas

#### **Central Florida, 153**

John E. Horrocks  
Robert E. Wallace

#### **Florida Gulf Coast, 155**

Armand Collard

#### **William R, Charette, M.O.H., 158**

Everett E. Barrett  
Robert Alster  
Don And Helen Norman  
Louise Black  
Earl O'connor

#### **Lake County, 169**

Denny B. Young  
Billy C. Gaston  
John A. Yohn

#### **Mid-Florida, 173**

Jose L. Amalbert  
David W. Bassett  
Thomas Roberts

#### **Lt Baldomero Lopez**

#### **M.O.H., 175**

Daniel W. Hall  
Robert A Maclean

#### **S. Lake County, 188**

John C. Evans  
Joseph E. Madeline  
Thomas Wainwright  
Ray G. Wilson

#### **Citrus County, 192**

George Black  
Henry L. Oppenborn  
Linard Lynch  
Ralph E. Nardone

#### **Manasota, 199**

Virginia Chambliss

#### **Brevard County, 210**

Thomas Abruzzo  
Norman C. Klein  
Howard Schilling  
H. Blair Hornel  
Carl Allen, Jr  
Nelson Ring  
Robert Holloway

#### **Indian River County, 318**

Everett Wright  
Edward Gomersall



### Service Award



Eagle Awarded for outstanding service to the DoF; 2009-11. Started as Secretary 2006. Elected 2nd Vice 2007-2008. Elected 1st vice 2009-2010. Elected President 2011.

Beautiful Bronze eagle awarded by outgoing President Jim Bradford. Along with Presidents hammer.



### THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FALL COUNCIL MEETING *Hosted by the DOF*

*Saturday September 24  
10:30 AM*

*At the  
Plantation Golf Resort and Spa*

*9301 West Fort Trail  
Crystal River, Florida 34429  
800-632-6262 or 352-795-4211*

*Special Room Rates  
\$99 Plus Breakfast*

*For Lunch choose  
Macadamia Nut Crusted Chicken  
Or  
Tilapia*

*With Salad, vegetable, roll, coffee tea and dessert.*

*Details and Reservation Forms later*

## DoF Executive Board

### ELECTED

#### **Charlie First, President/ 173**

5439 Denise Ave  
Orlando, FL 32810  
407-429-5539  
cfirst@cfl.rr.com

#### **Bill Shibler, First VP/188**

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#### **Bob Hebner, Second VP/155**

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Cape Coral, FL 33904-3465  
239-573-1983  
bobh@hifo.net

#### **John Stelling, Third VP/173**

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Apopka, Florida 32708  
407-886-2169  
jstelling6@cfl.rr. Com

#### **Bill Sarver Secretary/175**

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813-948-7769  
Billsr31DOF@tampabay.rr.com

#### **Joan Arcand, Treasur- er/014**

5674 Bay Pines Lakes Blvd  
St. Petersburg, FL 33708  
727-392-5648  
rearcand@yahoo.com

#### **Jim Bradford Imm. Past Pres./158**

1776 6th Street NW Unit #308  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-293-3055  
jbradford15@tampabay.rr.com

### APPOINTED

#### **Harold Sievers, Chap- lain/169**

510 St. Andrews Blvd  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
352-753-4929  
colsievers2@aol.com

#### **Mickey Tutolo, Sgt-at- Arms/210**

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Titusville, FL 32780  
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thetutolos@cfl.rr.com

#### **Hank Butler Judge Advo- cate/192**

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Crystal River, FL 34428  
352-563-2496  
hankrita@tampabay.rr.com

#### **Eddie Ko, America/Korea Liaison/175**

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Tampa, FL 33616-1474  
813-839-8026

#### **Jake Feaster, Assoc. Liai- son/016**

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#### **Tom J Thiel, Ed.&Web/ 169**

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#### **Carol Becker Photo- Historian/169**

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carolbecker@juno.com

#### **Ginny Sarver/ Asst Sec**

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Lutz, Florida 33559  
813-948-7769  
Billsr31DOF@tampabay.rr.com

## Meet your new Editor



Tom J Thiel, ED

Hello. President First is persistent; he

did not give up on getting me to commit to being your new Editor.

So, here I am—a total amateur in terms of training for the job. But somewhat experienced in that I have served as Editor of *The Taro Leaf*, a slick quarterly publication of the 24th Inf. Div. Assoc., and have done or am doing newsletters for a Computer Society, Chapter 169, a 24th IDA Florida group, and now the DoF *NEWS*.

Let me first acknowledge the great contribution of my immediate predecessor, Richard Arcand, who did so well for the past several years.

Thanks also to Richard and Joan for their help in supplying material, both for this newsletter, and the web site.

My goal with the *NEWS* is to try to keep you apprised of what is about to happen, and of what has happened in the De-

partment of Florida.

In order to do that well, or at all, I need to know what is going to happen or what has happened. So, if something that you think ought to have been in this copy isn't here, don't gripe to me but to the person who ought to have provided the content.

I also want you to tell me what you want in your newsletter. In doing the website, I have seen some newsletters going back to the formation of DoF.

If you have any that I do not have (see website) or any other materials appropriate for the newsletter or the website, please send them to me.

While I prefer items be sent either as email messages or as word processing files attached to an email, any printed copy will do as I have optical character recognition on my computer.

My address is to the left.

Thank you all.

Tom Thiel