

# DANGER FORWARD

MONTHLY NEWS OF THE

1

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION



SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE NO. XIII

COVER PHOTO BY SPC. KENNETH BARNET



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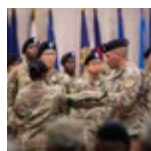
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

SEPTEMBER

Dear Big Red One Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

As summer gives way to the vibrant colors of fall, the 1st Infantry Division has continued its unwavering commitment to duty, honor, and the defense of our great nation. The stories and accomplishments of our Soldiers throughout September are a testament to the dedication and resilience that define our Division.

One of the highlights of the month was the conclusion of our Danger Ready 1 multinational exercise, where we stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our Estonian Allies. The bonds forged during this exercise build readiness, interoperability and trust with our NATO Allies and partners.

The Devil Brigade, having completed crew training, transitioned into collective training, continuing their work on gunnery tables. These efforts are vital for maintaining our readiness and effectiveness on the battlefield, and we are proud of their dedication and progress.

In September, we paused to honor and remember the tragic events of September 11th. The remembrance ceremonies served as a reminder of the sacrifices made in defense of our freedom and the resilience that characterizes our nation.

We also had the distinct privilege of honoring one of our own, former Big Red One Soldier Capt. Larry Taylor, during his Medal of Honor ceremony and parade in Chattanooga, TN. His heroic actions represent the highest ideals of courage and selflessness that our Soldiers embody.

Our commitment to our local community was evident in the Morris Hill Elementary School Ribbon Cutting ceremony, where we celebrated our partnership with the community and our shared commitment to the future of our youth. Additionally, the annual Fort Riley Apple Day celebration brought together around 7,000 attendees, reaffirming the strong connection between Fort Riley and the local community.

During this month, we welcomed our new Division Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Derek Noyes, who will undoubtedly continue the tradition of strong leadership and dedication within our ranks.

September also marks National Hispanic Heritage Month, providing an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans to the Army and our nation. The diversity and strength of our force are enriched by the rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences that our Soldiers bring to their service.

Suicide Prevention Month is a critical reminder of the Army's commitment to the well-being of our Soldiers. We highlight Operation Victory Wellness, and all the efforts to improve access to mental health services and support those who may be struggling.

As we transition into the fall season, the 1st Infantry Division remains dedicated to our mission and our people. Thank you for your ongoing support, and please enjoy this September 2023 edition as we celebrate the spirit and achievements of our Division.

Sincerely,  
Editor-in-Chief of the Danger Forward Magazine



# FOREWORD



## 11D SOLDIERS RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOR

President Harry S. Truman awards Cpt. Bobbie E. Brown the Medal of Honor, 1945. Brown commanded Company C, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Brown was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action on 8 October 1944, against the enemies defense of Aachen, Germany.



President Joe Biden presented Larry Taylor, a Vietnam War Army helicopter pilot, with the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House Sept. 5, 2023.

The president upgraded the Silver Star award that Taylor originally received for his heroic actions rescuing a four-person patrol team in 1968. Taylor, a pilot in D Troop (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam, June 18, 1968.





# 25TH SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

## VISITS FORT RILEY

AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>

Story and photos by  
Spc. Charles Leitner



### FORT RILEY, Kansas

The Honorable Christine Wormuth, the 25th Secretary of the Army, met with Soldiers and leadership of the 1st Infantry Division during her first visit to Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 30, 2023.

Wormuth toured the installation alongside Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, and Senator Jerry Moran, U.S. Senator for Kansas. The group discussed ongoing installation developments and observed a training exercise with Estonian Defense Forces.

"I came out here because the Big Red One has been incredibly busy," said Wormuth. "You all know that they have been deployed to Europe. We've got our combat aviation brigade going out to Europe in just a couple more months

and I wanted to hear from our Soldiers and our [noncommissioned officers] about how they're feeling and how those deployments have been."

While touring a series of newly renovated barracks rooms, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley leaders discussed the potential that Fort Riley has and the opportunities Soldiers might find should they be assigned to the Big Red One.

The rooms offer junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers modernized living spaces aimed at improving the overall quality of life for Soldiers living on post.

"The appropriation bill that has passed the Senate and the House and was signed by the President provides \$15.9

million for design and planning for new barracks, not a renovated barracks but a new barracks," said Moran.

At several locations on the tour, Wormuth recognized a handful of Soldiers and civilians who were highlighted by their respective leadership for various accomplishments including their professionalism and their commitment to developing their craft.

For several weeks now, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley has hosted multinational forces, continuing the efforts that were further developed during Winter Strike 22, a training exercise held in Europe designed to improve communication efforts between NATO Allies and partners while building readiness of combat credible forces.



Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Christine Wormuth, speaks with Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer III, commander of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, and Kristjan Prikk, Estonia's Ambassador to the United States. Wormuth toured newly renovated barracks, observed a training exercise and met with Soldiers of the Big Red One.



U.S. Army Cpl. Eiante Duran, an information technology specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, speaks with the Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Christine Wormuth, during her visit.



Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Christine Wormuth, speaks with Jeff Williamson, Fort Riley Director of Public Works. Wormuth also recognized Soldiers for their professionalism.

In addition to improving methods of communication, these efforts create trust and expose potential problem areas in a training environment.

"Sometimes I think the thought is that we're in the middle of nowhere but really we are in the middle of the country," said Moran. "The challenges we face today are both on the east coast and the west coast. [Fort Riley] is positioned to be able to help the military meet the needs of a dangerous world."

During their tour, Wormuth had the opportunity to observe the exercise as 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers worked alongside multinational personnel to solve battle problems in real-time.

"One of the things that really stands out are the incredible training opportunities that are available here at Fort Riley," said Wormuth. "Because of the sheer space and the terrain that we have is perfect for our armored brigade combat teams to train. There just aren't that many

**"I came out here because the Big Red One has been incredibly busy."**

said Honorable Christine Wormuth



**“The challenges we face today are both on the east coast and the west coast. [Fort Riley] is positioned to be able to help the military meet the needs of a dangerous world.”**

said Senator Jerry Moran

places in the United States outside of our big training centers like Fort Irwin in California where we can have brigades and even a whole division go out and train.”

This visit provided a first-hand look at the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley’s resources and amenities that enhance the overall quality of life for Soldiers and families. The 1st Inf. Div. will continue conducting exercises over the next several months through deliberate training designed to hone warfighting capabilities.

Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Christine Wormuth, speaks with Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division.



U.S. Army Col. Terry R. Tillis, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding officer for maneuver, briefs the Hon. Christine Wormuth.



**“Because of the sheer space and the terrain that we have is perfect for our armored brigade combat teams to train.”**

said Honorable Christine Wormuth



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas speaks with employees of the Directorate of Public Works during a visit to Fort Riley, Kansas, Aug. 30, 2023. Moran toured newly renovated barracks, observed a training exercise and met with Soldiers of the Big Red One.



# THE LAST OF THE WILDCARDS

## 9TH FMSU INACTIVATION

SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

### FORT RILEY, Kansas

The 1st Infantry Division conducted an inactivation ceremony for the 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., at the Riley's Community Center on Fort Riley, Kansas, Sept. 7, 2023.

Big Red One Soldiers, senior leaders, distinguished guests, friends and family of the 9th FMSU attended the ceremony to witness the casing of the colors and to celebrate the end of the unit's storied lineage.

The 9th Finance Company was first constituted on Nov. 1, 1942, as the 9th Finance Section, and activated on Dec. 7, 1942, at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. Throughout its history, the unit has been re-designated and reorganized various times. They participated in three campaigns during World War II and seven campaigns during the Korean War. The unit was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis (later known as Joint Base Lewis McCord), Washington, and on Oct. 16, 2011, the 9th FMSU joined the 1st Inf. Div. Special Troops Bn. at Fort Riley, partici-

pating in three retrograde missions, 14 deployments and various financial management support missions across the division.

After 80 years of service, the colors of the 9th FMSU were cased, signifying the successful completion of the unit's service to the nation.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Rodney D. Jackson, the 11DSB commander, spoke about some of the unit's highlights, the impact of their service to the sustainment mission of the Army, and how proud he is of the Soldiers who contributed to the success and achievements of the 9th FMSU.

"When you look at the 9th FMSU accomplishments over the years, it's apparent that this organization has had an impact on the sustainment mission of the Army, the 1st Inf. Div., 1st Sust. Bde. and especially the Special Troops Bn.," Jackson said. "Today we close out 80 years of service and I can't think of a better formation to bring it to a close. To the soldiers before me, you have made the financial corps proud, the Big



U.S. Maj. Ashleigh J. Rivera, commander of the 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, cases the unit colors for the last time.



The 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stands at attention during their inactivation ceremony at Riley's Community Center on Fort Riley. The ceremony honored the service and commitment of the 9th FMSU and celebrated the "Wildcards" one last time.

Photos by Spc. Kenneth Barnet  
Story by Spc. Daniela Lechuga



U.S. Maj. Ashleigh J. Rivera, commander of the 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, renders honors during an inactivation ceremony at Riley's Community Center on Fort Riley, Sept. 7, 2023.



**“... Congratulations Wildcards. You saw us through to the end with excellence.”**

said MAJ Ashleigh J. Rivera

U.S. Army Spc. Kim, assigned to the 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stands with the colors cased during the ceremony.



Red One, the Sust. Bde., the Special Troops Bn., but most importantly, you should be proud of yourselves.”

Maj. Ashleigh J. Rivera, the last 9th FMSU commander, shared insight on what the 9th FMSU has done to support the finance mission, Soldiers and their families, and the challenges and accomplishments of the unit.

“We are a huge part of the morale of every formation across the Division, ensuring the military pay of each Soldier is accurate according to the limits in which each is entitled. Our Soldiers have taken on this challenge and crushed it! They’ve done it all — All while feeling the pending changes drawing closer each day. Now, we are here,” Rivera said.

In a bittersweet conclusion to her speech, Rivera expressed her appreciation to the Soldiers in the formation and assured that she would never forget about being a Wildcard.

“The pride I carry in my heart to have the privilege of serving and leading you will never be lost on me,” Rivera said. “We may be the last of the Wildcards, but I want you to know that in my heart, I will forever be a Wildcard. I pray that the standards of the Wildcard way will live on in us and through our experiences; in the challenges, the fun, the lessons learned. We train hard and will continue to execute finance support until the last of us leaves this battalion, till we leave the Big Red One. Congratulations Wildcards. You saw us through to the end with excellence.”

Following her closing remarks, Rivera recited the “Long Motto Call”, the Division’s motto, as her final order for the Wildcards.

Among the audience was Brig. Gen. Paige M. Jennings, the commanding



U.S. Soldiers from the 9th Financial Management Support Unit, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, gathered for one last meal together after their inactivation ceremony at the Riley's Community Center. The unit celebrated the conclusion of their 80 years of service to the nation.

general of the U.S. Army Financial Management Command, who joined the unit after the ceremony to speak about the future of finance in the Army and awarded Soldiers with challenge coins.

The U.S. Army’s Finance Corps is nearly as old as the Army itself. Born just two days after the Continental Army was created, the position of Army Paymaster General was established on June 16, 1775. Since then, the Army’s Finance Corps has been integral to winning our nation’s wars, funding and sustaining the fight around the globe.

Army leaders directed the most significant reorganization and technical innovation since the end of the Cold War, to

build the Army of 2030. In that effort, Army finance leaders determined the Finance Corps needed to be restructured to meet the emerging needs of the Army of 2030 and shore up strategic and tactical capabilities.

The activation of the 45th Finance Center, under USAFMCOM, will be on Oct. 16, 2023. All reorganization efforts are expected to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2025.



Story by Spc. Dawson Smith  
Photos by Spc. Steven Johnson  
& Spc. Daniela Lechuga  
& Spc. Dawson Smith

## KANSAS CITY, Kansas

**1**st Infantry Division Soldiers participated in a joint service enlistment and reenlistment ceremony at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, on Sept. 10, 2023.

The Soldiers of the Big Red One received public recognition for their unwavering service and dedication to defending the nation.

“Representing the Big Red One at the Kansas Speedway allowed me to share my Army experiences with those in attendance,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Angelica R. Gonzalez, a satellite communications systems operator assigned to Signal, Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. Artillery, 1st Inf. Div. “Seeing the continuous outpouring of appreciation towards our service members is heartening.”

Local communities interacted with Soldiers and experienced hands-on learning as crowds gathered around the Buffalo (mine-resistant ambush protected) vehicle and Joint Light Tactical Vehicle.

“I think the military presence is always great,” said Dirk Huston, a former media operator for the Kansas Speedway. “Having the service members come out to Kansas City shows how much they care about the community.”

After the recruiting event ended, the service members participating in the enlistment and reenlistment ceremony made their way into the stadium. The service members marched onto the field as the crowd cheered their arrival.

# A JOINT SERVICE REENLISTMENT AT THE KANSAS SPEEDWAY

SEPT 10<sup>TH</sup>



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Deputy Commanding General of Support, rendered the Oath of Enlistment during the joint enlistment and reenlistment ceremony.



A child sits in a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle at the Kansas Speedway. 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers showcased a portion of what the Army has to offer in an effort to inspire the next generation of Soldiers.



Kansas City residents interact with U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division and climb onto a Buffalo (mine-resistant ambush protected) vehicle.





U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Deputy Commanding General of Support, waves at the crowd as she arrives on stage at the enlistment and reenlistment ceremony at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, Sept. 10, 2023. Knell rendered the Oath of Enlistment during the enlistment and reenlistment ceremony.

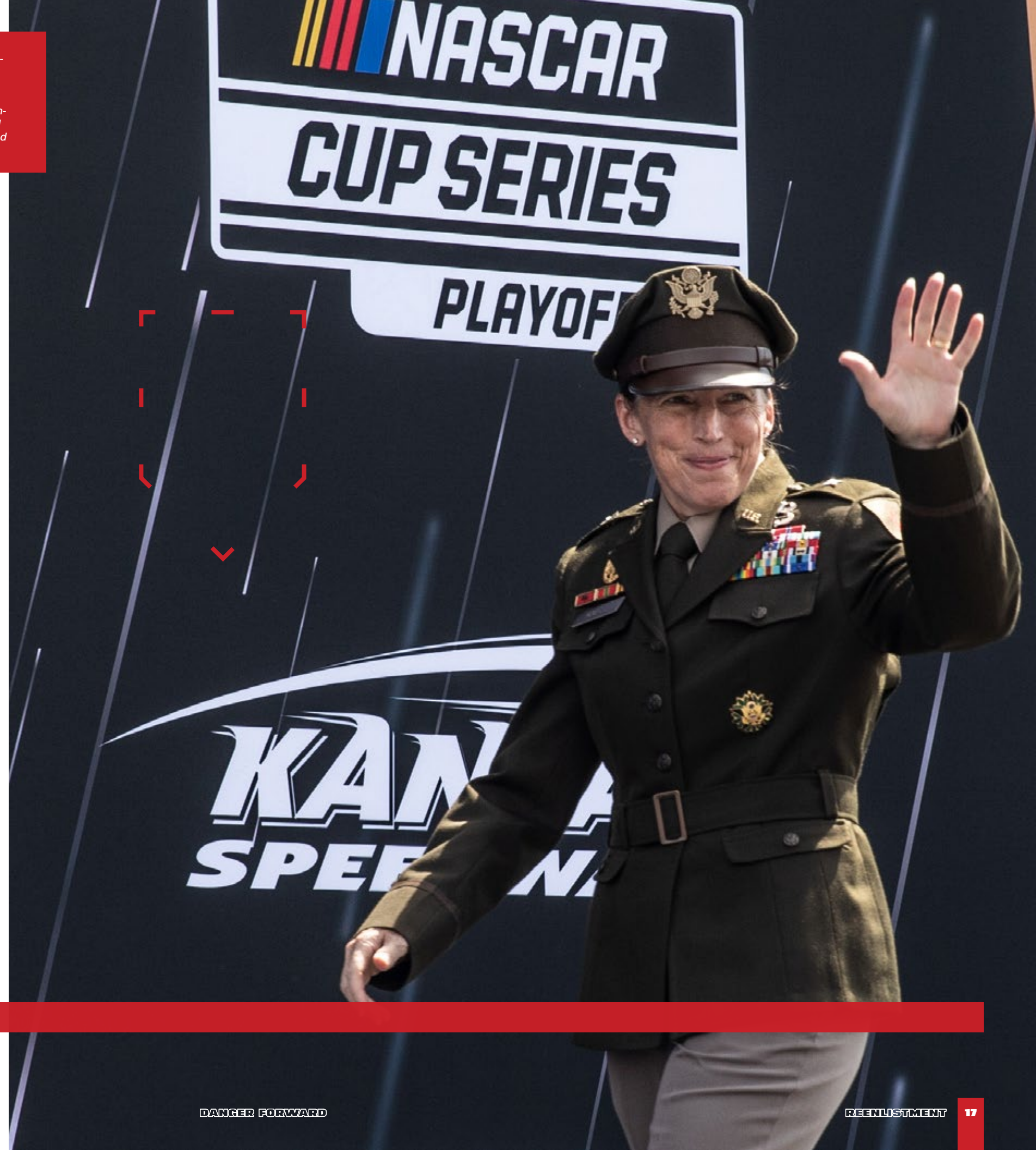
**“I have never experienced a public reenlistment before, much less in the pit of NASCAR. It was something unique to stand beside my brothers and sisters in arms to share a moment like this.”**

said CSM Toriano G. Lauer

“I have never experienced a public reenlistment before, much less in the pit of NASCAR,” Gonzalez said. “It is something unique to stand beside my brothers and sisters in arms to share a moment like this.”

As the clapping subsided, the military personnel raised their right hands. Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley deputy commanding general of support, led them in reciting the Oath of Enlistment, marking the beginning of the next phase of their careers. After the ceremony, service members gathered their friends and family to watch the race.

The event highlights the 1st Inf. Div.’s commitment to developing exemplary leadership by recognizing exceptional performance.





U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division gather for a group photo with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley Deputy Commanding General of Support, at the Kansas Speedway. The Kansas Speedway invited service members to be publicly recognized for their commitment to service.



U.S. service members and civilians recite the Oath of Enlistment during an enlistment and reenlistment ceremony at the Kansas Speedway. The Oath of Enlistment signifies commitment and devotion in service to the Nation.



U.S. Soldiers gather for a group photo with NASCAR driver, Ross Chastain, before the race at the Kansas Speedway. The Soldiers engaged with the local community and interacted with the drivers following the enlistment and reenlistment ceremony.





Story by Spc. Charles Leitner  
Photos by Spc. Steven Johnson



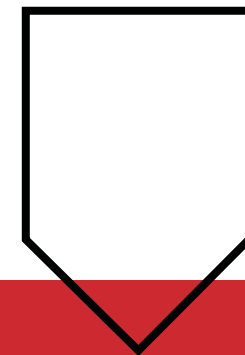
U.S. Army Capt. (Ret.) Larry Taylor, Medal of Honor recipient and former 1st Infantry Division Soldier, attends a press conference following the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sept. 11, 2023. The parade was held to pay homage to Taylor.



**“Just land and they’ll be on this ship like another coat of paint,”**

said CPT (Ret.) Larry Taylor

# 1ID PAYS HOMAGE TO **CAPT. (RET.) LARRY TAYLOR**



SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

## CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division participated in a Patriot Day and Welcome Home Parade in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Sep. 11, 2023.

The event was held in honor of Capt. Larry L. Taylor, a veteran of the 1st Inf. Div., who was recently awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War.

“On behalf of the Commanding General of the First Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. John V. Meyer, I just want to express to everyone here how proud we are,” said Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell, the 1st Infantry Division Deputy Commanding General for Support, who attended the event. “We are incredibly proud of him. We are proud that he wore the Big Red One patch during Vietnam.”

Soldiers of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard, the 1st Inf. Div. Band, and 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, marched alongside Taylor as he was celebrated down Market Street in his hometown.

“It is an honor to be out here honoring him and to continue his legacy in the 1-4 Cav,” said Sgt. Jacob K. Newberry, a cavalry scout assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. “I hope that we are able to make him proud and continue on his legacy.

“This is my hometown, this is where I’m from, and to know someone from my hometown who is a Medal of Honor recipient, and to be here and see him in person is absolutely amazing. It’s an

honor to be here and I am proud to be a 1-4 Cav Soldier and be a part of Capt. Taylor’s legacy.”

On June 18, 1968, while serving as a 1st Lt. and AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunship pilot with Troop D (Air), 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., near Ap Go Cong in the Binh Du’ong Province of the Republic of Vietnam, Taylor received a call for help.

A four-man long-range reconnaissance patrol team operating in the area north of Saigon had become surrounded and was under threat of being overrun by a large group of enemy combatants.

In the midst of the chaos of battle, Taylor found the courage to support the recon team. After the team made their position known using flairs, Taylor and





*The 1st Infantry Division's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard carries the colors in the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sept. 11, 2023. The CGMCG was part of the parade to pay homage to Medal of Honor recipient Capt. (Ret.) Larry Taylor.*

his wingman engaged opposing units in a series of low-altitude strafing runs.

Unwilling to let the Soldiers perish, Taylor decided to land his helicopter under fire so that the four-man recon team could climb aboard the rocket-pods and skids, a feat that had never before been attempted.

"Before we picked them up my co-pilot spun around and looked at me and said, 'Well how are we gonna pick them up?' and I said, 'Just land and they'll be on this ship like another coat of paint,' remembered Taylor, whose actions saved all four members of the reconnaissance team. "When we picked them up my

co-pilot said, 'What are you gonna do with them?' And I said, 'Well hell I don't know I'll fly them around and they'll jump off when they're happy.'"

Dave Hill, the last surviving member of the four-man recon team also attended the event.

"Who would have bet that any of us would have even seen the sun come up on the morning of 19 June 1968, let alone the dawns of another 54 years," said Hill. "Words are inadequate to describe your actions, nor my humble gratitude, for the many years of friendship given you and me since then, so I will just say, thank you, sir."



*U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Niave Knell, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general of support, gives remarks during the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade honoring newly received Medal of Honor recipient Cpt. (Ret.) Larry Taylor.*

*U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Principe, a member of the 1st Infantry Division Band, plays his instrument as he marches in parade.*

*[BELOW RIGHT] Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, carry their battalion colors during parade.*



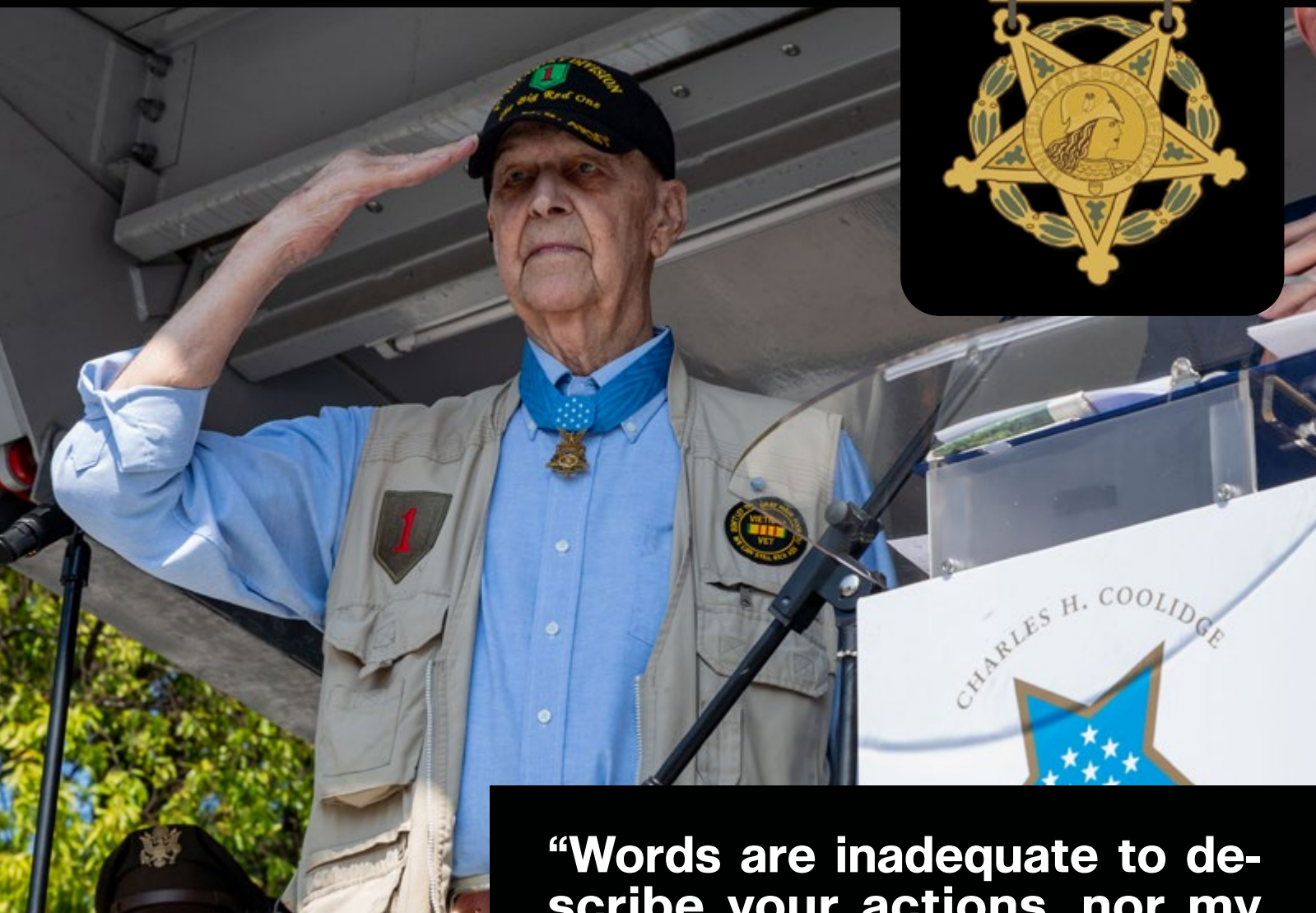
**"I hope that we are able to make him proud and continue on his legacy."**

said SGT Jacob K. Newberry



# CAPT. (RET.) LARRY TAYLOR

# FOR ACTIONS IN VIETNAM



U.S. Army Capt. (Ret.) Larry Taylor, Medal of Honor recipient and former 1st Infantry Division Soldier, salutes during the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade that was held to pay homage to Taylor.

**“Words are inadequate to describe your actions, nor my humble gratitude, for the many years of friendship given you and me since then, so I will just say, thank you, sir.”**

said Dave Hill



[FAR ABOVE] The 1st Infantry Division's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard carries the colors past the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade reviewing stand.



[ABOVE] People gathered to watch the Patriot Day and Welcome Home parade held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, honoring newly received Medal of Honor recipient Cpt. (Ret.) Larry Taylor.



The kind of chopper, then 1LT, Larry Taylor would have piloted during his gallant actions on June 18, 1968, near Ap Go Cong in the Binh Du'ong Province of the Republic of Vietnam; a AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunship.



NATIONAL  
HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH  
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15



TODOS SOMOS,  
SOMOS UNO:  
WE ARE ALL,  
WE ARE ONE

SEPTEMBER IS  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION MONTH



YOU ARE A  
*Light*  
IN SOMEBODY'S LIFE.

CONNECT TO PROTECT, SUPPORT IS WITHIN REACH  
DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT A SUICIDE



WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
NATIONAL DAY OF REMBRANCE  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PATRIOT DAY 2023



1  
NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT  
NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT  
- DUTY FIRST!



Larry  
Taylor

Captain [R]  
Vietnam Veteran  
of the Big Red One

Medal of Honor

Recipient as an AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunship pilot

1



**1ST  
INFANTRY  
DIVISION**

