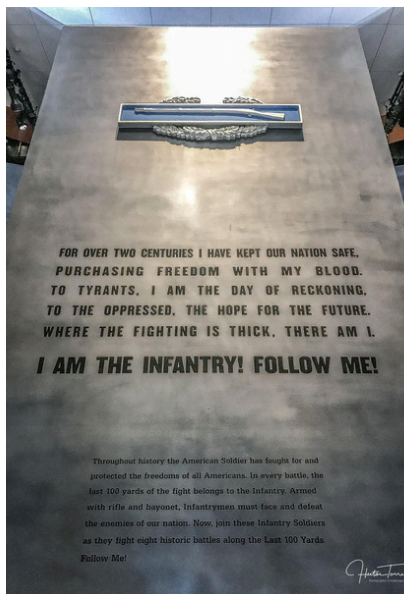




JOIN THE INFANTRY,
SEE THE WORLD



**COL (Ret.) Rob Choppa
President of the National
Infantry Association**



**I AM THE INFANTRY,
FOLLOW ME!**



Dedicated to both past and present Infantrymen and their supporters, the National Infantry Association (NIA) provides invaluable support to the largest branch of the U.S. Army. With over 300,000 active duty and Army National Guard soldiers, along with more than a million veterans, the Infantry is indeed the backbone of U.S. land defense. Colonel (Retired) Robert E. Choppa, President of the National Infantry Association (NIA), serves a critical role in the Infantry community.

Colonel Choppa, a former Chief of Infantry, finds his role at the NIA as a natural continuation of his Army service. The Association plays a vital part in preserving the rich history, traditions, and customs of the Infantry. Through daily tributes to the fallen and wounded, the NIA keeps the spirit and heritage of the Infantry alive, offering education and connection for new soldiers and veterans alike.

The mission of the NIA is robust: to build camaraderie within the Infantry community by connecting members to vital resources, recognizing significant contributions through various awards programs, and safeguarding the Infantry's illustrious history and traditions. The organization also publishes a quarterly magazine tailored specifically for Infantrymen, featuring the latest trends in training and combat, and spotlighting award recipients.

Originally formed in 1893 and undergoing various transformations, the NIA was reestablished in 1982 at Fort Benning, Georgia, and later incorporated in 1994 as the National Infantryman's Association, a 501(c)(19) non-profit organization.

Its publication, the Infantry Bugler (available in print and online), first issued in 1999, remains a cornerstone of its outreach and educational efforts. In 2024, the NIA has a lineup of events that underscore its commitment to excellence and community support. Key events include Infantry Week with international competitions such as the Best Mortar and Sniper Competitions, Combatives Championship, and the esteemed Best Ranger competition. The organization also hosts the Infantry Birthday Ball and the Doughboy Awards Dinner, significant events that highlight the valor and achievements of Infantrymen. Please visit NIA's website [here](https://www.nia.org).

The NIA's proximity to the National Infantry Museum and Fort Moore enhances its educational capabilities, enabling it to reach new Infantrymen and leaders effectively. The NIA's inclusive recognition programs, such as the Order of Saint Maurice for Infantrymen and the Shield of Sparta for Infantry spouses, demonstrate its comprehensive support for the Infantry community.

A quote from WWII Correspondent Ernie Pyle encapsulates the essence of the Infantry and the NIA's spirit: "I love the Infantry because they are underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-wind boys. They have no comforts and they learn to live without necessities. And in the end, they're the guys that wars can't be won without."

As the NIA continues to honor and support the men and women who are fundamental to military operations and victories, its commitment remains unwavering. The NIA not only recognizes the sacrifices made but actively works to ensure that the valor and history of the Infantry are never forgotten.