

# The 95th Division Journal

I R O N   M E N   O F   M E T Z

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Iron Men, Steel City
- Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year: Sgt. Jared Moss
- Memorial Day Remembrance

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chaplain's Message	2
Drill Sergeant of the Year	3
Pittsburgh Reunion	4
President's Comments	6
Victory Belles	8
Departed Comrades	10
French Connection	11
Legal Eagle	12

## FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR AWARDED TO 95<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN

*By Capt. Jennifer K. Cotten,  
95<sup>th</sup> Training Division (IET)  
Public Affairs*

Douglass J. Denman was 17 years old when he enlisted in the Army Reserve. He was sent to join the 95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Indian-town Gap, Penn. in February 1944 and was trained as infantry. He served with C Company, 379th Regiment as a rifleman, platoon/squad runner and scout. The division landed at Omaha Beach on the coast of Normandy, France in August 1944 and his unit moved to the line in October 1944. Denman was injured on November 14, 1944, when his unit was ambushed during an attack on Germans in the town of Gravelotte. He lay bleeding in a mine field. His platoon sergeant yelled, "Denny don't move." He didn't move until the next morning when he was captured by the Germans and they carried



Douglass J. Denman is awarded the French Legion of Honor by the President of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, Guy Wildenstein, in a ceremony at West Point in May. Denman was wounded during an ambush when his unit attacked the Germans in the town of Gravelotte during WWII. *Courtesy photo.*

him out of the field and later put him in a hospital basement in Metz where they were holding other prisoners. "A German officer kept asking us what outfit we were in but we only told him our name, rank and serial number," said Denman.

After the division liberated Metz later that month, Denman was rescued. He was flown to England where he was treated for his wounds. He returned to the division in

March 1945 and was in combat until the Germans surrendered in May 1945.

For his service in France, Denman was awarded the French Legion of Honor in May by the President of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, Guy Wildenstein, in a ceremony at West Point. "My family was with me and it was a great thrill for everyone," said Denman.

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## To Give—And To Receive

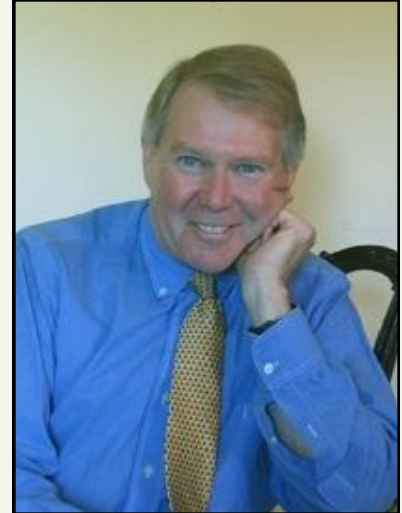
*By Rev. Dr. Michael Prewitt, Chaplain,  
95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association*

I think there is another name for the generation that the 95<sup>th</sup> veterans belong to. Of course you've been called "the greatest generation," at least since Tom Brokaw's book made that appropriate designation famous.

But I think there is another appropriate name for the generation who grew up during the Great Depression, who were called to serve in WWII, who came back and got an education, raised a family, found a productive career and participated in the greatest economic boom in history. And that doesn't even begin to touch on the personal challenges, tragedies, and triumphs that each of you has experienced. You know the old Chinese curse: May you live in interesting times. To paraphrase Charles Dickens, you have lived through the best of times and the worst of times. You certainly have experienced your full measure of blessings and curses.

And here's my point: you've done all that you've done with a spirit of unquestioned giving. When called to serve, you have served. When called to sacrifice, you have sacrificed. When called to give, you have given your full measure.

I think an appropriate name for your generation is The Giving Generation. I think of my mom and dad, born in 1920 and 1921 respectively. They grew up as Depression kids, and were hyper-conscious money managers their entire lives. Their lives changed dramatically on December 7, 1941. They were seniors in college, engaged to be married, and ready to settle down and start a family. Dad was an athlete (a



basketball guard from Indiana) and Mom was set to be a homemaker (back when the term really meant something). Pearl Harbor changed all that. They planned a hurry up marriage six weeks after Pearl and Dad got a commission to become as a supply officer in the Navy. He served on a LST in the Pacific. They never questioned what they were called to do.

Their lives were shaped by these two huge historic events: the Great Depression and WWII. They knew what it was to sacrifice, and they knew what it was to serve. They spent their lives giving. To their country, to their jobs, to their children. I know. I was the recipient of so much giving.

What I want to suggest here is that for the Greatest Generation, the Giving Generation, it is time now also to RECEIVE. What do I mean by this? Isn't it better "to give than to receive?" I'm suggesting that receiving requires a different mindset than giving. To receive is to be open to the actions, the gifts, the quirky differ

(see **CHAPLAIN** page 9)



## 95TH SOLDIER NAMED RESERVE DRILL SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



FORT EUSTIS, Va. (July 2, 2012) -- The U.S. Army selected Staff Sgt. Jarod Moss, representing the 95th Reserve Division as the 2012 Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year.

The winner was announced in a military ceremony at Fort Eustis, hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. John R. Calpena and reviewed by Maj. Gen. Bradley W. May, Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Moss was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

The competitors endured physical and mental challenges during a four-day competition, June 25-28, which tested their knowledge of Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills and their ability to teach these tasks to new Soldiers.

On the first day of the competition, Moss thought that he may not be able to finish. He said, "My first station was combatives and I had to achieve the clinch."

Moss said the clinch is a maneuver that teaches you to close the distance and control your opponent so he cannot hit you. He said in order achieve the clinch, you have to run in and grasp your opponent while he is punching you in the face and body repeatedly.

Although the competitors wore boxing gloves, Moss said, "It still does not feel too good."

The selection process concluded with each drill sergeant appearing before a board of command sergeants major to evaluate their knowledge of leadership

and drill sergeant training tasks.

The Army Reserve winner receives the Ralph Haines Jr. Award, named for the commander of the Continental Army Command (forerunner of TRADOC) from 1970 to 1972. The award will be presented in a special ceremony in Washington at a later date.

As the Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year, Moss will spend the next year working with the IMT Sergeant Major. He said, "I will be going around to all the different basic training locations and talking with Drill Sergeants from around the Army." He said he will discuss issues and learn ways to improve basic training.

Moss was born in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Winfree Academy in Irving, Texas, and in June 2001 he enlisted into the U.S. Army. In February 2002, he completed Bradley Fighting Vehicle Maintainer Course, One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky. Drill Sergeant Moss completed Drill Sergeant School in 2006, where he distinguished himself by graduating in the top 20 percent of the Drill Sergeant School. In 2012 he was selected as the 95th Division Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Moss currently serves with the 1/354th in Grand Prairie, Texas. Other assignments include: HQ Company 2/72nd Tank Battalion, Camp Casey, Korea; Alpha Company 204th Field Support Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas; Alpha Company 1st Bn 355th Regiment Field Artillery Battalion, Grand Prairie, Texas; Alpha Company 2nd Bn 354th Regiment, Grand Prairie, Texas; and Delta Company 5/46th Infantry Battalion Fort Knox, Ky. His mobilizations included duty at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Drill Sergeant Moss' military and civilian education includes: Warrior Leader Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course Phase I, Combatives Level I, Drill Sergeant School, Combat Life Saver Course, and 224 hours of training through the Army Distance Learning Program. He has earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas-Arlington.

Moss' awards and decorations in-

clude: Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4OLC), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, AFRM W/"M" device, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Medal, Basic Rifle Marksmanship-Sharpshooter, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

Drill sergeants are the cornerstone of Army readiness, entrusted with the task of preparing new Soldiers to fight and win the nation's wars. The skill of producing quality Soldiers demands that only the Army's best and brightest can serve as drill sergeants. Approximately 2,000 drill sergeants train 160,000 new Soldiers each year.

Drill sergeants are located at four TRADOC installations: Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Jackson, S.C. and Fort Sill, Okla. Reserve component drill sergeants represent training divisions located across the United States.



**95th Drill Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Jarod Moss, was named Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year in June. He said that a Drill Sergeant should treat a trainee like a new tree and ensure that the tree's roots are in good soil and that roots should be solid around Army values and core principles. If a drill sergeant does this, once a trainee leaves the controlled environment of basic training, they will be able to stand strong, he said.**





# IRON MEN, STEEL CITY

63rd Reunion in Pittsburgh, PA

*By Capt. Jennifer K. Cotten, 95<sup>th</sup> Training Division (IET) Public Affairs*

Soldiers from several eras of service in the 95<sup>th</sup> gathered in Pittsburgh June 6-10 for the Association's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion.

Pittsburgh, known as the Steel City, has a special connection with many of the WWII Soldiers because it is home to Carnegie Tech (known today as Carnegie Mellon University) where they began their careers by attending the Army Specialized Training Program before it disbanded in 1944.

The reunion hosted several events. Attendees rode the Duquesne Incline on Thursday for a beautiful view of Pittsburgh from above. Soldiers were honored at the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game on Friday night.

**L to R: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James E. Archer, Ceo Bauer, Walter Blenko, Joseph Januszkiewicz, Tom Riley, and Floyd "Kid" Shafer were invited on to the field prior to the Pittsburgh Pirates game at PNC Park on June 8. The ballgame was one of the many events soldiers and families attended during the 63<sup>rd</sup> reunion of the 95<sup>th</sup>. Photo courtesy Pittsburgh Pirates/Dave Arrigo.**

During a formal dinner on Saturday evening, Col. Donald Nalls, deputy commander of the division, was the guest speaker. He told the audience, "I have been touched by the presence of the sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters who are here this night and who want to understand their fathers, and grandfathers, contribution to liberty."

Maj. Gen. James E. Archer, former 95<sup>th</sup> commanding general and current president of the Association, said the reunion was a resounding success and that the events and camaraderie were as good as he had seen in the past 10 years.

The reunion always provides a great opportunity for Soldiers to share their experiences, create new bonds, and make new friends.

"We not only had a great time, but conducted very important business on behalf of the Association, agreeing to conduct a 64th reunion and to establish outreach committees to increase membership from the families of those from the WWII generation, from current and recently retired Soldiers of the Division, and other friends, to include our dear friends in France and greater Europe," said Archer.



## 95<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL RECEIVES DIVISION FLAG FLOWN IN AFGHANISTAN

The 95<sup>th</sup> Division flag flown at the Kabul Military Training Center in Afghanistan by 95<sup>th</sup> detachments during the Division's nine year mission training the Afghan National Army ("ANA") was recently donated to the 95<sup>th</sup> Memorial located at Ft. Sill, Okla.

The Memorial was originally created by the veterans of WWII with artifacts they collected during their service. Since its move to the new headquarters building at Ft. Sill in April 2011, the Memorial has expanded to include a post-WWII collection to honor the contributions of 95<sup>th</sup> Soldiers from those eras and the flag will be included as part of the display.

Detachment 64 conducted the final mission in Afghanistan and brought the flag home at its conclusion earlier this year. Lt. Col. Michael



L to R: Col. Donald Nalls, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James E. Archer and Edwin A. Kolodziej participate in presenting the Division Colors to the 95<sup>th</sup> Association at a reunion dinner June 9 in Pittsburgh, Penn. The flag will be included in a new section of the Memorial honoring current Soldiers' contributions to the 95<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Capt. Jennifer K. Cotten.

Oliveri, detachment commander, presented the flag to Brig. Gen. A. Ray Royalty, commanding general, in February at Ft. Polk, La. during the detachment's redeployment. Oliveri

said the detachment wanted to donate the flag because it was part of division history and should be displayed proudly.

Col. Donald Nalls, deputy commander, presented the Colors on behalf of the Division at the Association's reunion in Pittsburgh, Pa. in June. Maj. Gen. James E. Archer, Association president and former commander of the Division, along with WWII veteran, Edwin A. Kolodziej, accepted the flag for inclusion in the Memorial.

The goal was to present to the Association Iron Men at the reunion and mark the end of the 95<sup>th</sup>'s nine year mission to train the ANA further bonding the generations and acknowledging the transfer of the Warrior Spirit to the current Soldiers, eliciting a "well done," and a source of pride for all said Archer.

## LUCK WOULD HAVE IT

As he was watching his local news, Paul Mendlowitz was surprised to see a story about a reunion of soldiers from the 95th Division. He had served with the division during WWII and was had not seen anyone since 1945.

He joined the regular Army in 1942 shortly after his 18th birthday. In 1944, he was in Europe serving in a signal unit when he got word he was being sent to the 95th as a replacement right after their famous battle at Metz. He was assigned as a machine gunner for D Company, 379th.

Mendlowitz had no idea the division had an Association that had been hosting reunions for sixty plus years and that it was by luck he spotted the news story. He immediately started calling around to local hotels until he found the host site. He then took a

drive and found himself walking through the lobby hoping to see a familiar face. Although he didn't see anyone he knew, the hats with the distinctive 9-V were unmistakable.

He mingled through the crowd showing old black and white photos and told how the photos were taken with a German box camera that he found in Europe during his combat tour. He tested his memory trying to recall the names of his fellow 95th soldiers in the photos. "I still have that camera," said Mendlowitz.

As a veteran who earned the Bronze Star, Mendlowitz said he looks at soldiers of today and thinks



Paul Mendlowitz grabbed up his photos from his combat tour in WWII and head to the host hotel to see if he knew anyone. This photo of 95<sup>th</sup> soldiers was taken by Mendlowitz with a German box camera that he found during the war. The names on the back of the photo: Zebal - N.J., Helfrich - N.Y., James - N.C., Farmer - Ky., Landis - Ohio, Ordway - Ohio, Kortanick - Ohio, Esgritch - Ill. Courtesy Photo.

about all the resources available and remembers "we were cold and wet." Those are the kinds of memories shared at reunions. This was his first, but if he is able, Mendlowitz said he will be there next year.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### MAJ. GEN. (RET.) JAMES E. ARCHER



Dear Members and Friends of the Association,

#### PITTSBURGH REUNION KICKS OFF ANOTHER YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE

It's great to address each of you, again, regarding the Association and its activities. If you were unable to join us at the Reunion in Pittsburgh, June 6-10, you missed a truly memorable experience. Many thanks are due to COL Vince Geiger, sons Rob and Jim Geiger, and Walter Blenko, our local hosts and tireless organizers of a superb event. I have visited Pittsburgh, before, but had no real appreciation of what a great City it is and what it has to offer. Several of you spent part of your war experience there in the ASTP program, but if you haven't been back, I think you, too, would be impressed with the architecture, museums, sports facilities (Go Pirates!), history, universities, and vibrant culture. Thanks to these great Association families for their contribution to keeping our Reunion spirit alive. Jim and Rob were everywhere, ensuring our comfort and enjoyment. We had television news coverage, were

recognized by the president and owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates on the field at the game we attended, and were greeted at the historic Incline on Mount Washington by the local VFW, a Color Guard, and Piper. The honor shown the Iron Men moved us to tears. Walter also contributed a beautiful glass medallion commemorating the Reunion to each attendee, as he did in New Orleans. These were produced at his family's glass plant and are treasured for their beauty and his generosity.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank Secretary/Treasurer Jim Anderson for his continuous communications with the hotel and coordination with the Pittsburgh committee to ensure that all of our guests and members were greeted with excellent accommodations and that their needs were met throughout the week. Jim has decided to step down as an officer in the Association. He, Betsy, and their children have worked so hard on your behalf over the past several years, as President, Secretary/Treasurer, webmaster, *JOURNAL* editor, shopkeeper, and numerous other functions. Transfer of responsibilities, since the days of the officer team being centered in Chicago, has always been a tenuous process, and we all owe the Anderson family much for carrying the burden of leadership. We hope for their continued involvement in leading the Association. Thank you!

I will also single out Mary Beth McCarthy for her devotion and outreach to the Victory Belles, with special emphasis on maintaining ties with the widows of our Veterans and in instilling continued interest from following generations of spouses and children of Association members in this aspect of our activities. She and her committee had another outstanding luncheon with entertainment and developed additional ways for the Victory Belles to contribute. Thank you!

David Meyer, long-time chronicler of our Iron Men's wartime experiences

gave one of the most interesting and riveting presentations I have observed at the METZ HOUR. Coming straight from his heart in remembrance of his father SGT Earl D. Meyer, David shared with us some of the actual comments he has recorded from 95'ers through the years, bringing us, at times, to tears, but mostly to peals of laughter. Indeed, through David's efforts and the contributions of our Iron Men, they live on with us, their indomitable Spirit and the Legacy they and their ladies have made for us. His recording of Chaplain Ribbons' Prayer and the singing of *MY BUDDY*, from the Baton Rouge Reunion was so touching in remembering and honoring our Iron Men who left us in the past year. Chaplain Michael Pruitt made a wonderful contribution, as well, with his prayers and comments at our Banquet and the METZ HOUR. Thank you!

At the Reunion, officers were elected for the 2012-2013 year. I agreed to serve, again, as your President and am proud to announce the following line-up. First Vice-President is, again, Clif Twaddle, my counselor and right arm. Clif had a tough year with some health issues, so it was so good to see him and Kathy, at Pittsburgh and to observe, first hand, his return to health. Second Vice-President is Ceo Bauer, whose wisdom and "clear speak" always unravels the twisted logic I sometimes employ. Secretary/Treasurer is Jennifer Cotten. She has agreed to assume this huge responsibility for the benefit of all of us. At the moment, this includes all of the duties Jim Anderson had, to include managing the website and publishing the *JOURNAL*. We will be reviewing this work load and developing ideas to better balance it to ensure good service and representation to the membership. More will follow on this in the coming months.

At the Reunion, we also established the concept of Outreach Committees to



develop ways of increasing membership from our various constituent groups, namely Children and Grandchildren of the Iron Men, Soldiers and Retirees of the Post WWII Division, Widows, Spouses, and Friends, and the French and other Europeans. We are still in our infancy here, but there will be more information in future *JOURNALS* and on the web site. Many of you can help us and it is my intent to ensure you have the opportunity.

Everyone is wondering about a Reunion site for next year. I apologize for not having resolved this question. Please plan on an August 2013 date. The Executive Council and Officers have selected the Dallas/Fort Worth area for the 64TH Annual Reunion. Please look to the web-

site and the next JOURNAL for more information in the future. We will conclude this process as soon as we can. Also, put on your calendars November 2014. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Metz and surrounding areas. Several of those who attended the Reunion expressed an interest in a large delegation of us going to France for the ceremonies. I was particularly encouraged by the Iron Men who plan to be there and the children and grandchildren who expressed a strong interest in attending. We will be in regular communication with our friends in France and Europe, and convey plans to you, as they develop.

Finally, with Clif's return to health, he and I have renewed work on a new

Constitution and By-Laws to propose to the Executive Council and Membership to create a Legacy Association, designed to be all inclusive to the constituent groups I mentioned above. I strongly feel that the sustainment of the essence of the original and current Association requires major changes to attract future generations. In this effort, we are not unlike the 95<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Foundation in wanting to preserve the legacy of these brave men and their families. We owe so much to their courage and sacrifice. I hope I can count on your support and your active involvement as we bring all of these things into focus. Stay healthy and in touch.

Sincerely,  
Jim Archer, President



**Journal Library DVD**  
**\$20**

It's a library of 95th Journals on one DVD. It can take you back over the years to past reunions, help you with research projects or remind you of old friends and comrades.

It's a gold mine for the younger generations who contact the Association each year, seeking information about a 95er loved one.

Computer-shy? Challenge a grandchild or neighbor kid to fine info grandpa, or old buddies from your unit. Within just 2 or 3 minutes, using the included instructions, the Adobe Reader program it will pull up all the mentions of a name or word you provide.

**Memorial Coin**  
**\$15**

Both sides of this 1-1/2" diameter Memorial Coin are shown above. Great gift or military coin collectors.

# 95th Store

These items can be purchased online at [www.95divassociation.com](http://www.95divassociation.com) with Visa, Mastercard, or American Express. Or you can mail a check to the 95th Division Association, 620 Grant Road, Folcroft, PA 19032, with a note telling us what and where to send.



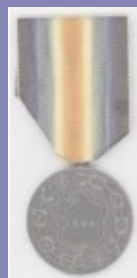
**Medal of Metz**  
**\$26.50**

Originally struck to honor all those who participated in the liberation of Metz in 1944. Proceeds from the sale of this Medal go to the work of the 95th Division Foundation.



**Meet the Old 95er**  
**\$15 or (4 for \$50)**

Our newest item is just 5" tall, and all dressed up in the Class A uniform. Outfitted complete with brass buttons, ribbons, and even a tiny 95th Patch. Great for gift giving.

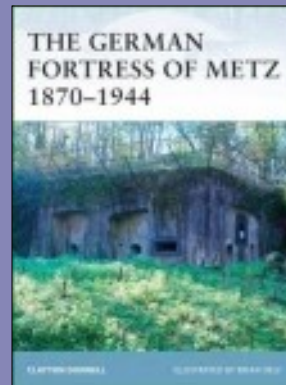


**French Liberation Medal**  
**\$28**

Authorized for all troops who took part in the Battle of France, D-Day to VEDay.

**Paperback Book**  
**\$21.95**

This newly released, easy to read book has been very carefully researched, and generously illustrated, much of it in color. Many 95ers have already purchased it.





HELLO AGAIN VICTORY BELLS,

Hope you had a very nice & "cool" summer.

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the so nice Reunion we had in Pittsburgh, PA. To those who couldn't attend as well as to those who were there, I am extending you an early invitation to be there for the one being held next summer—time & place to be announced later. Of course, we will have the Luncheon again to renew old friendships and gain new ones.

At the luncheon this past summer we had superb entertainment with a Frank Sinatra impersonator, who not only sounded like Frank, but resembled him almost totally. We also had delicious food for lunch and a raffle with some very nice crafts which were so graciously donated through the efforts of several members. Susan Feeley brought lovely bird houses; Tom Mack and Jennifer Cotten likewise donated a lovely bird house, as well as some beautiful flag t-Shirts; Kathy Twaddle contributed some adorable box lamps; Joyce Rinehart sent some very appropriate USA needle point refrigerator magnets. Irene Kolodziej, Jennifer Lawson, Jackie Klemmer, Nancy Bubb, Noreen Riley, Roseann Sisco,

Dawn Buckley, Denise Jamison, Jacque Rolland, Jane Kolodziej, Olive Bever, and Liz Bubb were the happy recipients who took these lovely items home with them.

Jennifer Cotten inspired us with her comments at the conclusion of the luncheon. Thanks goes to her for all her efforts for the 95th Association. Thanks goes out to those who so generously donated and contributed to the Raffle.

Much thanks goes to my two invaluable assistants, Susan Feeley and Kay Grosinske, who helped make the luncheon so successful.

Now we go to the future of the Victory Belles. Certainly the luncheon remains the focal point for the Victory Belles at the Reunion. We are contemplating some future ideas for us, however, which I am presenting to you in this article. One of these ideas is for the Victory Belles to donate crafts not only to the raffle but also to a silent auction whose profits would contribute to the

benefit of the Association as well as the Victory Belles. We would have this perhaps in the hospital room. This could add to our being more involved in the Association in a very positive way.

Another idea is developing a Victory Belle Cookbook with contributions of our most beloved recipes, with a short story to accompany the recipe if you so desire. Let me know, if possible, by October 15th which, if either, sounds like a good idea. All of the ideas would be on a strictly volunteer basis.

Hopefully, you are anticipating our next get together with as much enthusiasm as I am.

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**"Frank Sinatra" sings *Nancy with the Laughing Face* to Nancy Bubb during the Victory Belles' luncheon on Saturday, June 9.**





**CHAPLAIN****(Continued from page 2)**

ences of others. To receive is to listen. To receive is to allow others to do for you. To receive is to allow others—friends, neighbors, family—to give to you and to show their love for you.

A personal story: My mother had a nickname. The General. That's right, she managed the lives of her husband, her children—and

anyone else who would let her—with a firm hand and with a lot of practical wisdom. Imagine being called the General—and pulling it off.

But a mysterious change happened in her mid-seventies. She began to allow her family to give to her. And she was so appreciative. She had been an amazing provider, organizer, planner—giver. In those later years she became a gracious “receiver.” And her family loved

her all the more for it. After decades of doing for us, she allowed us to do for her. And that made all the difference.

So ask yourself. How good a “receiver” am I? Am I able to receive the care that people want to give to me?

A message to The Giving Generation from your chaplain: Sometimes it's better to give—and to receive.



By Francoise LeClerc

Independence Day was celebrated in France when U.S. General Consul in Strasbourg, Evan G. Reade, his wife and son opened the door of their beautiful residence to their friends in Strasbourg.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

In a short address, Mr. Reade reminded us that this day of deliverance, of in-

dependence from Great Britain, has been commemorated for 236 years, but it was his first National Day in France, where he praises the kindness and the friendliness of the French.

There were lots of friends and it was pretty lively. The

fabulous reception was sponsored by Hilton, Kronenbourg, Dow, Coca Cola and Pizza Hut. Lots of Americans brought homemade cookies and brownies that were delicious.

The party was accompanied by an American band of young musicians abroad. They played the Star Spangled Banner and the Marseillaise.

## FOUNDATION NEWS

The 95th Division Foundation has purchased another 95th Division Memorial Highway sign.

The sign is located approximately one mile from the eastern edge of Bastrop, Texas on Texas State Highway 71 East.

Bastrop is approximately 25 miles from Austin and approximately 10 miles from Camp Swift

where the 95th Infantry Division was activated.

Many WWII veterans were at Camp Swift and were well acquainted with Bastrop while there.

A second sign is located on 71 West near Columbus, Texas at the intersection of 71 and Interstate 10.

The highway is the main route between Houston and the capitol



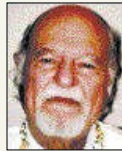
city of Austin.

Stephen Bodnar, said the above sign is easy to spot when you're driving from Austin to Houston.

## DEPARTED COMRADES

### James F. Averill, A Co., 379th

Jim joined Company A in March 1944 at Indiantown Gap, coming from the ASTP at Carnegie Tech. He was a member of the 1st Squad of the 2d platoon. Jim was wounded December 13, 1944 in Saarlautern, Germany and hospitalized. In December 2009, he received the French Legion of Honor by the French Government.



### Gerald "Jerry" Duckor

Jerry died surrounded by his loving family. He served in the 95th from 1943-1945 and was awarded two Bronze Star Medals and a Purple Heart. He is survived by Julie, his wife of 58 years, and his children and grandchildren.



### Paul H. Kappel, Co. B, 379th

Paul served as the platoon leader and participated in three major campaigns including Metz, Ruhr, and Northern Germany. He received a Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Cluster for his heroic efforts. Paul also received a Purple Heart when he was wounded in combat after the Battle of Saarlautern. Later he received the French Legion of Honor. He is survived by his loving wife, Millie.

### Frederick Rice, Co. A, 379th

Fred joined Company A in March 1944 at Indiantown Gap, Penn., coming from ASTP at Univ. of Penn.



### George Sammet, Jr., HQ Battery, 359 FA

He joined the 95<sup>th</sup> at Camp Swift and served with the 95th until the deactivation at Camp Shelby in 1945. He retired from the Army as a Lieutenant General. General Sammet is survived by his wife, Gail, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military Honors.



### Joseph A. Testa, A Co., 379th

Joseph joined Company A in November 1944 at Metz and served in the weapons platoon in a machine gun squad. He returned to the states with the company in July 1945.

### Carl C. Ulsaker, Co. I, 378th

Carl was a West Point graduate and retired as an Army colonel. He served in the Army from 1942-1969 and commanded infantry and combat units. He was a veteran of WWII and Vietnam. He received the Silver Star in April 1945 for his actions during the seizure of the town of Hamm, Germany. He braved enemy fire to signal his company where to fire on German machine guns. He received two Bronze Star medals. Carl is survived by his wife, Patricia, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

### Luther W. Yerger, A Co., 379th

Luther joined A Company in December 1944 in Saarlautern, Germany and was a member of the weapons platoon. He was wounded April 22, 1945 in the Ruhr area and hospitalized. He and his wife, Mary, who predeceased him, attended several reunions.

### What Color is Blue?

Blue's the glint in a newborn baby's eye  
And the uncertain waver in a widow's sigh.  
It's the bayonet's blade in the afternoon light  
And the diamond's glow on the hand of a bride.  
A graduate's glance as the real world encroaches,  
And an aging man's thoughts as his birthday approaches.  
It's thoughts of a son who—too soon—has passed,  
Amazing Grace being sung at his funeral Mass.

*Poem written by Edwin Kolodziej for his son David Kolodziej,  
and fitting for departed comrades who lost their young lives during WWII.*



# The French Connection

## \* Memorial Day Remembrance \*

By Francoise LeClercq

On Sunday, May 27th, ceremonies of remembrance were held at all American cemeteries in France continuing a tradition that began in 1923.

We attended the ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery of St. Avold, where 10,489 American soldiers and heroes who gave their lives for our freedom are buried. All the graves are decorated with flags of our two countries (France and the United States).

Three families of American veterans were greeted and welcomed.

Cadets from the French Naval Preparation at Air Base 133, Nancy, Color Guard Honor Platoon, Firing Detail, Chaplain, Cadets from Stuttgart, and a Brass Quintet Military Band from Heidelberg participated in the impressive commemoration.

After presentation of Colors and welcoming remarks, the 37th Air

Squadron from Ramstein Air Base provided the flyover with a C-130 in honor of the dead. Joint Tactical Air Controllers from Avino Air Base, Italy were on the roof of the chapel to cope with security.

After an invocation by Chaplain David Chapman, the Naborian Choir (from St. Avold ) sang *The Longest*

there. Sergeant Clemenson, flying a B-17 was hit by heavy clouds before he reached his target and his plane broke in the middle. Lieutenant Handy, who was very dear to Mr. Reade, because he flew missions together with his father, was flying a B-24 and was able to land safely in Hungary, but he was shot on the ground afterwards.

After prayers came the wreath laying, then the choir sung the *Chant des Patriotes* and *May You Come Dove*.

Very moving were the firing of volleys, Taps, raising of Colors, then the benediction by Chaplain Chapman and closing remarks before the retirement of Colors.

Lots of citizens, veterans from other campaigns, and Americans stationed in Germany attended this moving ceremony and are aware how important it is to re-

member the deeds of these heroes; everybody was deeply moved!

Mr. Reade told us as we found him again in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery (where soldiers of WWI are buried and a significant ceremony took place as well in the afternoon), he wasn't ubiquitous, he was supposed to participate in the commemorations at the Epinal American Cemetery, Meuse-Argonne and Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon, but he thought these commemorations, where lots of young people took part and were very involved were more important than any movie or any class or any lesson.



The Firing Detail fired volleys during the Memorial Day remembrances at the Lorraine American Cemetery of St. Avold to honor the fallen soldiers French and American military. Courtesy photo.

Day and we had remarkable remarks from the mayor of St. Avold. Brig. Gen. Michael A. Bills, Operations Officer of the U.S. Army in Europe stressed the friendship between the two nations.

Mr. Evan G. Reade, General Consul of the U.S. in Strasbourg focused his speech on two pilots buried in St. Avold, who paid tribute to the victorious end of this awful war and rest in St. Avold among the 1,705 pilots buried



Mr. Evan G. Reade, General Consul and Elizabeth Gozzo lay a wreath dedicated to the 95th Division during the Memorial Day commemoration at the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold. Courtesy photo.



## Legal Eagle: Election Guidance for Soldiers/Veterans

Questions often arise about when it is not permissible to wear your uniform when off-post or after duty hours. As the campaigns for the election season are in full swing, this question becomes even more important. The first thing to keep in mind is your "situational awareness" as a Citizen-Soldier.

When wearing the uniform, there are risks of the "message" that is being conveyed to the general public if you appear in uniform at public marches, election rallies, or on-military related public demonstrations. Whether it is a protest against the American presence in Afghanistan, appearances with groups like the "Occupy Movement," or supporting your local politician – your appearance in uniform could end up on the front of the New York Times.

Army Regulation 670-1 and DoD Directive 1334.1 prohibits Soldiers, including active, reserve and retired members, in uniform appearing in these events if that presence could imply that the military supports the event's cause. It is important to note that a Soldier is not allowed to participate in an otherwise lawful demonstration; they just cannot do so while in uniform. It should be noted that this prohibition is not applicable to the use of the joint Armed Forces color guards at the opening ceremonies of the national conventions of the Republican, Democratic, and other political parties formally recognized by the Federal Election Commission.

The United States Army wants every Soldier to take full advantage of the honor, privilege, and obligation to take part in our elective proc-

ess. The Army also recognizes your right to free speech as accorded under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. What the Army and you as a Soldier should most concern yourself with is the use of the "uniform" to endorse, or the potential appearance of, an electoral candidate.

As a TPU Soldier, you have full authority to help campaign for a candidate and speak your voice publicly (letter to the editor, Twitter, Facebook, etc.). What you cannot do, is do so in a way that would appear that you are speaking for the Army or your fellow Soldiers.

An active duty (AGR) member may become a "friend" of, or "like," the Facebook page, or "follow" the Twitter account of a political party or partisan candidate, or cause. However, active duty Soldiers will refrain from engaging in activities with respect to those entities' social media accounts that would constitute political activity. This would include, for example, suggesting that others "like," "friend," or "follow" the political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group, or cause, or forwarding an invitation or solicitation from said entities to others.

A Soldier on active duty may vote, and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, as a private citizen, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces. Soldiers may make financial contributions to a political party or committee as long as they do not contribute to another soldier or federal employee. They may sign petitions for issues or candidates provided they do so as individuals and not as members of

the Army. Soldiers may also display political stickers, but not large political banners or signs, on their private automobiles. Soldiers may generally take no active part in partisan political management, any phase of campaigns, or conventions, nor may they solicit contributions, canvass for votes, write political articles, or perform any duties for a partisan political committee.

In addition to consulting your local Voting Assistance Officer, Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members stationed overseas and/or planning to vote by absentee ballot may check the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website, <http://www.fvap.gov/index.html> for information on the voting rules at federal, state, and local levels. Where you vote is an important indication of your domicile or legal residence. If you were not registered to vote before you joined the military, you should register now, so that you can vote by absentee ballot. If you do not know how to contact your civilian home voting registrar, ask your military voting assistance officer or visit the FVAP web site and consult the Voting Assistance Guide for information on registering to vote by absentee ballot.

In addition, President Obama signed into law the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act in 2009. This law mandates official with county electoral boards to send overseas ballots no later than 45 days before Election Day to allow for them to be returned and the vote counted on time. With this law, more military votes were counted than ever before in the 2010



elections. In addition, this law compels jurisdictions to provide voting materials and information on the internet.

Civilian control of the military is a fundamental concept of the Constitution, federal law and policy. As such, members of the Armed Forces should never be seen as supporting a particular candidate, political party, or issue. Soldiers who inappropriately wear the uniform at these unauthorized events or bring discredit to the Armed Forces while wearing their uniform are subject to military punishment for failure to obey an order

or regulation in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. In the case of an officer, the disregard of this regulation could be found to be conduct unbecoming an officer in violation of Article 133, UCMJ.

#### IRON JUSTICE!

*LTC Bobby Don Gifford is the Staff Judge Advocate for the 95<sup>th</sup> Training Division and is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Oklahoma City and Chief Judge for the Kaw Nation Tribal Court.*



## 64TH REUNION Dallas/Ft. Worth August 2013

Plans are underway to organize the Association's 64th reunion in Dallas/Ft. Worth. The Iron Men of Metz will take the cities by storm in August 2013.

According to the Discover Dallas website, there are many highlights Association members can enjoy during the reunion.

While in Dallas, tours are available of downtown, uptown and Highland Park. At the Old Red Courthouse you can see the old city center and learn about the founding of Dallas in 1841 as a frontier outpost.

Visit world famous Dealey Plaza to hear details of the tragic assassination of John F. Kennedy...see the grassy knoll and Kennedy Memorial.

Visit stunning Pioneer Plaza to experience a western cattle

drive...see life-size sculptures of seventy Texas Longhorns...hear stories about cowboys, trail drives, and outlaw gangs.

Visit Chase Tower SkyLobby for spectacular Dallas skyline views.

You can also enjoy the best of Fort Worth by visiting the top rated Fort Worth Zoo or take an exciting tour of the cultural district, Sundance Square, and historic stockyards.

At the stockyards, experience the Old West...see an authentic western cattle drive...vintage saloons frequented by cowboys...Billy Bob's the world's largest honky tonk...and much more!

Stay-tuned for more details in the Journal and on the Association website at [www.95divassociation.com](http://www.95divassociation.com).

## Number, Please?

**Brigades currently under the Division?**

**4**

**Detachments deployed to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army?**

**9**

**American infantry divisions committed against the Axis nations during WWII?**

**66**

**Prisoners of war as of May 19, 1945?**

**68**

**Days the Division was committed against the German army?**

**145**

**Casualties suffered by the 95<sup>th</sup> during WWII?**

**6,370**

## Who Is that Capped Cutie?

In case you're wondering, the little fellow on the Membership Application at page 15 is Enzo, son of Alain Bertolotti, Jr. and his wife Sarah.

Alain Bertolotti, Sr. was a former president of the Club Lorraine Vehicle Military Allies whom Association members met at Metz in the early 1980's.

Alain, Sr. took part in the ceremonies and hosted soldiers at his home in Marange-Silvange. He and other members of the CLMVA drove the soldiers in their jeeps to the various battlefields in the Metz area.

Association members last saw him when they visited his family in November 2009 at the anniversary of Metz. Enzo was born in early 2010. The Bertolotti Family refers to Stephen Bodnar as Enzo's American grandfather.

Alain, Jr. spent a week with the Dollars, the Asimakises, the Bushees and Bodnars when he was about sixteen years old.

The Bertolottis are strong supporters of the 95th and refer to Enzo as the youngest member of the 95th in France.

## 95TH VETERAN VISITS METZ

In May, Marshall Grossbard, a veteran of the 95th visited Metz and meditated quite discreetly at the American Memorial of the Bold Eagle. The Iron Man was 19 when he fought in the area at Fort Jeanne d'Arc.

Grossbard suddenly stops talking, grips his walking stick, wipes his tears. The memories are omnipresent and the grief unbearable, although the wound goes back to 1944. At that time he took part in

back to Lorraine since the end of World War II. His trip was mapped out by a specialized tour operator that took him from Normandy to Lorraine, then to Germany, Luxembourg and Holland.

He landed in Paris May 8. "Trivial detail, on May 8, 1945, I was in Paris, in a hospital," Marshall remembers in front of the American memorial, the Bold Eagle, raised in memory of the Iron Men of Metz. Marshall didn't take

fought hand-to-hand. Awful terrible losses. We were ordered five times to get around the foe-lines, in order to take prisoners."

**"We fought hand-to-hand."**

Then he headed to the Saar campaign, across the Rhine. He was twice wounded and earned a Purple Heart, a Medal he was wearing on

his cap together with the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge.

"So, at the end of the war, I was in a hospital, looking forward to coming home. We had a totally crazy party three days long!"

"This visit makes me aware of how strong the friendship between the French and American people is. I'm really surprised and rather confused, because I had really no idea of it. We're more than brothers! The gratitude of French people is very moving for me."

Marshall and his son Paul are going to the American cemetery of Hamm, then Luxembourg and Sarrelouis.

They will leave Europe from Holland and then back home to Oklahoma.

Marshall will be 87 in August. He'll have fulfilled his dream to come back to the place where he and his mates fought.



**Marshall Grossbard and his son, Paul visited Metz so that he could fulfill his dream to return to the place where he fought with his comrades from the 95th Infantry Division during WWII.**

the battle of Metz, after he landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy. The young 19-year-old man belonged to F Co., 379th Inf. Regt., 95th Inf. Div. in Patton's Third Army.

It was the first time he came

part in the battle, but he remembers "My battalion attacked Fort Jeanne d'Arc at Châtel-Saint-Germain. We moved very slowly nearer, crossing a wide field and we hailed the artillery. Shells were pouring down. We

*This story was translated by Francoise LeClercq from Le Republicain-Lorrain. Photo by Gilles Wirtz.*





I  
want  
you!

## 95th Infantry Division Association Membership Application

The Charter of the Association is:

- ♦ To organize and promote an Association of all persons who have seen honorable service in the 95th Division, or any person who feels a sentimental attachment to the 95th
- ♦ To grant charters to any group of members at large who will agree to accept the terms set forth in the Bylaws of the Association
- ♦ To provide a means of contact and communication among the members of the Association
- ♦ To promote and support the 95th Memorial located at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Fort Sill, Okla.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

95th Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this Application, along with \$10 (new members), or \$30 (renewal) made payable to:

95th Infantry Division Association  
620 Grant Road  
Folcroft, PA 19032

Or you can join online at <https://95divassociation.com/>

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
95DIVASSOCIATION.COM

**95th Infantry Division Association**  
**620 Grant Road**  
**Folcroft, PA 19032**  
*Address Service Requested*

# FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Bravest of the Brave!**

## Now and Then . . .

During WWII, Sgt. Bill Mauldin, while working for the 45th Infantry Division (Oklahoma National Guard), volunteered to draw cartoons for his unit newspaper.

The cartoons featured infantry-

men, Willie and Joe, and depicted the lives of common soldiers.

Mauldin was later assigned to the Stars & Stripes and his cartoons became syndicated and were seen by many soldiers.

The cartoons allowed soldiers to find humor in the midst of the seriousness of war.

In 1945, Mauldin received a Pulitzer Prize for his military cartoons.

Master Sgt. Steve Opet, a current public affairs soldier for the United States Army Reserve Command, drew the cartoon on the left basing it on Mauldin's famous cartoon on the right.

The difference in the cartoons is a definite sign of the times with the advancement and utilization of technology in our current garrison and battlefield environments.

Today's soldiers have many resources that weren't available to our soldiers in the 1940's but no doubt



still have their own frustrations in soldiering.

Note: The 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City houses the largest collection of original Mauldin cartoons (more than 200) from WWII.

