

Nocher, Luxembourg Celebrates 70 years of Liberation

Bill Black, 2nd Vice Commander, 80th Division Veterans Association

ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 18, 1945 at 0700 hours the 3rd Battalion of the 319th Infantry Regiment along with Company "G" from 2nd Battalion; one platoon of Company "C" from 702 Tank Battalion; one platoon of Company "A" 610 Tank Destroyer Battalion; one platoon of Company "C" 305th Engineer Battalion, jumped off in the attack on NOCHER, Luxembourg minus any artillery preparation to effect the element of surprise. The enemy had secured NOCHER since the beginning of the Battle of Bulge on December 16, 1944. NOCHER, and its neighbor community, DAHL, were high ground townships and along the strategic transportation corridor between Germany and Bastogne, Belgium.

After the attack commenced, progress was slow due to deep snow and poor visibility. By noon, 3rd Battalion plus Company "G" had taken the following positions: Company "L" protecting NOCHER from the North and Northeast; Company "I" from the East and South; Company "G" from the West and North, with Company "K" advancing into the heart of NOCHER. The Germans fiercely shelled NOCHER, with Company "E" taking direct fire at a nearby road junction. In addition to the shelling all companies were taking small arms fire from the enemy.

Over the next 24 hours, the attack team encountered stiff resistance from the enemy; however, by the morning of January 19, 1945, 3rd Battalion occupied NOCHER and began clearing the town under heavy shelling. Once NOCHER had been secured and all resistance stopped, the cost of 80th Division men was significant. In this battle alone, 161 American men were killed, wounded or missing in action. For those that participated in this attack, they recall it being one of the hardest fought and bloodiest battles during their time at war.

One of those that participated in this attack was my father, Staff Sergeant William Black (319 IR, Company "G", 2nd Battalion). Dad had come over to Europe in August, 1944 with the original 80th Division. He had trained for nearly two years at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, and other training sites in Arizona, Kansas and New Jersey. He had earned the Bronze



Front Row: Veterans - Bob Burrows, Ed Glofka, Burt Marsh, Albert Goldberg and Charlie Parker

Second Row: CEBA Members - Roland Daniels, Erny Kohn, Tom Scholtes and Lex Elcheroth



Nocher Monument

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SPRING IS JUST AROUND the corner and I cannot wait for warmer weather!! I'm sure most of you feel the same way. Trees and flowers are beginning to bud and all kinds of birds are showing up at my feeders. There was an article in today's paper about Spring starting to show all around. It mentioned all the birds that are coming back to this area, especially on the James River. They had a picture of an Osprey eating a fairly good size fish. The Eagles are beautiful as they fly high above in the sky. We have several hawks that nest in the woods out back and they are a treat to watch.

I think you can start putting your cold weather coats away and go for a lighter one for the next couple of months before hanging them up all together. Of course with the change to warmer weather means yard work. It is time to get your flower beds cleaned out as well as around all your shrubs. I know I have a lot of leaves to get up especially in the ditch. With all the snow we had leaves are packed in the ditch and just waiting for me to clean them up. As a child I remember we always burned leaves but now most areas do not allow it. I could probably get away with it but my boss – Ard – is a city boy and doesn't like burning them. I might just sneak out

there and do it anyway with the help of my daughter, Margie.

Forty Days of Lent has begun as we enter the Easter Season. Did you remember to give something up during Lent? It doesn't matter how big or small as long as you show your love for Christ. There are a lot of church services going on during Holy Week so hopefully you will be able to attend something somewhere.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and got to visit with family and friends during that time. Regardless if you live close by or far away from your family it is always nice to get together and reminisce about old times. My family is spread out so we don't get together very often. Hopefully we will this summer.

We still have several Annual Members that have not paid their dues. Some go back a couple of years. Please send your payments as soon as you can. After three years in arrears you automatically get dropped from membership and I do not like doing that. Remember that dues are now \$20 a year.

Put the snow blowers away and get out the leaf blowers.

*GOD bless each of you and remember the 80th
"Only Moves Forward"!!*

Get ready for a Great time in Harrisburg PA for the 96th Annual 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion!

Douglas Knorr, Chaplain and Senior Vice-Commander



HERE WE ARE in March and the 96th Annual Veterans reunion is just a few months away! I am personally looking forward to seeing all of you again!

This year the 80th Division Veterans Association will gather at the Clarion Hotel in Harrisburg PA. (New Cumberland to be exact) August 19-22 and plans have been made for an exciting 4 days of reuniting with friends, sharing memories, making new friends as well as taking care of the business of the association.

2015 marks the 70th year of the end of WWII! And so we are preparing a special "commemorative" edition of this year's 2015 reunion program. Please consider sending in photos of our veterans to honor them in this special edition. We will be pre-selling these commemorative programs for \$7.50 each for those wanting extra copies and especially those who are unable to attend. Please mark how many you want when you send in your registration.

The greater Harrisburg area has a lot to offer both historically as well as for family fun. With museums, paddleboat cruises on the Susquehanna River and one of America's Fa-

vorites "Chocolate Town" in Hershey USA, this is the perfect year to bring kids and grandchildren for the week.

Our Trip on Friday will be to the newly expanded U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle. The day trip will include a light lunch with speaker provided for all attenders of the outing. Many new interactive exhibits will allow fun for the entire family and we have arranged guides with carts to drive those who do not wish to walk around the outside one mile exhibits.

In addition to celebrating the 70 year anniversary of the end of WWII, there will be a focus on WWI and the Persian Gulf War, special entertainment, and period re-enactors from WW1, WW2 and the Persian Gulf War that will provide real-life insight to what they each went through while serving in the 80th.

I hope to see you there as we remember those who stood in the gap that we might enjoy the Freedoms we do today. If you have any questions please contact me by e-mail dougk@knorrmktg.com or by cell 231.218.1747.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America

[See 2015 Reunion info on page 3 →](#)

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



Jeff Wignall
National Commander
2014 - 2015

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS (here) is the Patriots won the Super Bowl – with fully inflated balls, the bad is that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, so we are faced with six more weeks of winter. I've never been clear on how long it will be if he *doesn't* see it, but think as these things go, probably 42 days. But they say he's only about 20% accurate anyway.

At the moment I'm waiting for the remaining six inches of a promised foot of snow to fall before taking a shovel to it for the third time in less than a week. The first hit approached three feet, and was touched up with another six inches a couple of days later. This latest foot (plus a half as it turned out) wouldn't be worth a mention except for the problem of where to put it. The answer is "up" but the doing is something else.

I have been thinking lately about the present state of the Association, and a snow day is a good day for addressing that. As with most organizations, only a relatively small number of members are actively involved in operations. In our case, that group can be defined as "those who attend the annual reunion" since it is there that our business is conducted. The result is that relatively few beyond those who attend the various meetings at the reunions are fully aware of our overall situation. I have previously mentioned our deteriorating financial condition, but that problem is more deeply rooted in our declining membership.

Important Details for the 2015 Reunion:

Location: Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
148 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland, PA 17070
Phone: 717-774-2721 Room rate is \$89 + tax. Be sure to mention that you are with the 80th Division to get this rate. *Remember to reserve your rooms early to assure you are able to get your room.*

Program Ads: the size of ads and prices are listed on the registration form. Please help us fill this special reunion book with photos of our veterans!!

For those who are unable to attend: please complete the contact information on the Registration Form, write in the number of copies if you would like to purchase the reunion program, and return the form to us so that we are able to update our records.

As of now – although these numbers are constantly changing – our total membership stands at 684: 365 ETO Veterans, 186 Family Members (and Friends of the 80th), and 133 from the Army Reserve (alternatively known as the Blue Ridge Association, or Post 50). The rate of decline has not been well monitored, but regrettably there is no mystery about the shrinking number of ETO members. In fact the number of 365 is open to question as we do not always learn quickly of a member's passing. With the passing of the ETO members, many of their connected Family members tend to allow their memberships to expire, which seems to be the cause for the significant number of members in arrears on their dues. New Family members are coming in, but not in sufficient numbers to offset the losses. The progress with USAR members has been similar, with new memberships running very close to losses in the group, so stable, but low.

This has an obvious effect on our finances. A full two-thirds of our members are Life Members. With interest rates being flat for so many years the mutual benefits of the one-time payment have become one sided, and do not favor "the house." Except for those who volunteer "Life Plus" contributions, there is no new income from that direction, and we rely almost totally on the payments from the one-third of Annual members to continue to operate.

Also, in years past, our larger numbers nearly always included members with professional qualifications who could assist us in their specialty areas if a need arose. If there are any reading this with legal or financial backgrounds who would be willing to take on a little "pro-bono" we – I – would love to hear from you. At the moment we have a *Judge Advocate* position for all intents open, a nice title, although like *Commander*, "Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Going, going, gone. A few copies of the 95 Reunion program book remain available for those who missed out. As previously mentioned, these are 48 page commemorative books, and include a complete reproduction of the *Stars and Stripes* booklet *80th Forward*, a send-home history of the 80th printed for the GIs in 1945, along with some other "items of interest." Email me at <member9219@aol.com> to insure I can fill your order, and I will hold for your check (or Paypal). Copies are \$7.50 each including postage, and \$12.50 will add a set of reunion "dog tags." Don't wait and pay the Ebay price!



Jeff Wignall

NOCHER... continued from page 1

Star Medal while fighting near the France-German border during the Lorraine Campaign in early December, 1944 (just before pushing up to Luxembourg to fight in the Battle of the Bulge).

During the NOCHER attack, my father took a piece of German mortar shrapnel to his right elbow. The shrapnel shattered his arm and he was bleeding profusely. Heavy snow was falling and there was over a foot of snow already on the ground. Without transportation, dad started walking back to the nearest aid station, which was located in the basement of a house in DAHL, approximately 1 mile from where he was wounded. He recalls seeing a red trail of blood following him as he walked toward the aid station. Finally, he reached the aid station and collapsed in the doorway from loss of blood. He was treated there, sent to Luxembourg City, then Paris hospitals where he received care prior to being shipped back home.

The surgeons had to use screws to permanently “set” dad’s arm in a bent position. He was never able to use his right arm again like he did prior to the war. In many ways, he had to teach himself to be left-handed. But, to his credit, he never complained and, in his older years, referred to himself as an “old soldier”. Dad died August, 2002. We buried him on his 92nd birthday.

Fast forward 70 years to January 18, 2015. The people of NOCHER have not forgotten the sacrifices made on their behalf to drive out an occupying enemy and restore freedom and liberation. On this day they celebrated and memorialized the fighting men that brought their liberation, and recognized those that made the ultimate sacrifice on their soil.

I was fortunate to be present for this ceremony, along with my family and other descendants and five veterans from the 80th Division and attached units. The five veterans that attended the week-long festivities and ceremony were: Charlie Parker, 319 Company “G”, Burt Marsh, 319 Company “M”, Albert Goldberg, 315th Field Artillery, Bob Burrows, 317th Infantry Regiment, and Ed Glofka, 702 Tank Battalion. These men were treated like royalty for an entire week in Luxembourg leading up to the ceremony on January 18.

The ceremony was the idea of the local mayor, Norbert Maes, Burgermeister for the Commune of Goesdorf, Dahl and Nocher, Luxembourg. Mayor Maes and the people of Nocher erected a beautiful monument in the town square overlooking the most picturesque views in the area. A local artist, Knut Butler, was commissioned to create and build the monument. The arch of the monument has multiple meanings, mainly the connection between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the area of the Ardennes Forest where Nocher resides, known as “Eisleck”. It also symbolizes a bridge between former enemies and a bridge between nations and generations.

During the week of January 12 – 18, we started a Battlefield Tour with stops at Ettelbruck, Colmar-Berg and “Brosiusshaff” farm, where we talked about the actions of the 318th Infantry, Col. McVickar’s tragic death and the fighting on

the first days of the “Blue Ridge” Division’s attack into the German flank. Then our journey took us to Michelbuch and Mertzig where we were welcomed by Mayor Mister Claude Staudt and his Aldermen Mister Amaro Garcia and Mister Jos Clees. Together we had a small ceremony with a wreath laying at the monument dedicated to the 80th US Infantry Division, before the Mertzig Town Council invited us to a reception and lunch!

The veterans and descendants also enjoyed visiting the National Military History Museum in Diekirch, the Patton Monument in Ettlebruck, the American cemetery in Hamm where General George S. Patton is buried, along with thousands of American soldiers. The group visited many of the battlefield sites throughout Luxembourg and into Germany, including Bourscheid, Heiderscheid, Goesdorf, Dahl, Nocher, Wiltz, Pintsch, Wallendorf and Dilligen. They were also treated to a visit to the Bastogne Barracks Museum in Bastogne and a liberation ceremony in Weiswampach where they were treated to a hero’s welcome and luncheon, along with over 100 WWII vehicle parade.

Perhaps one of the most moving stops on the tour was at the farmhouse in Dahl where SSgt. Day Turner (319, Company “B”) earned the Medal of Honor by leading his squad in the defense of the house against an intense German attack. Fighting hand-to-hand at times, the squad successfully repulsed the Germans and took dozens of prisoners. Turner was killed in combat exactly one month after his actions in Dahl. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on June 28, 1945 and buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.

The five veterans were brought to this farmhouse following the monument dedication on the evening of January 18. There, the CEBA organization (a local group committed to the circle of studies of the Battle of the Bulge and preserving the remembrance of those that liberated the people of Luxembourg from the Nazi occupation) awarded the veterans with the distinguished Battle of the Bulge Liberation of Luxembourg Medal. It was a fitting tribute to these men and a wonderful way to send them back home to the United States.

Many thanks to the Luxembourg-based CEBA organization for paying all hotel, meal, ground transportation and museum entrance costs for the veterans. In addition, the officers of CEBA – Erny Kohn, Tom Scholtes and Lex Elcheroth – not only served as transportation drivers, but incredible guides and subject matter experts on the 80th Division’s role in the Battle of the Bulge. All that attended were eternally grateful for their hospitality and genuine respect they paid to all of us that participated. Finally, a very special thank you to Delta Airlines for providing air transportation for the veterans and their companions to Luxembourg.

The people of Luxembourg are warm, friendly and very appreciative of the sacrifices made so many years ago. It was an honor and privilege to help arrange this ceremony for the five veterans and all descendants that attended this special week of remembrance.



TOP: Group at memorial. Above: Ed Glofka Tank Cdr
TOP RIGHT: Burt, Bob, Bill. CENTER: Burt Marsh in a Jeep
BOTTOM RIGHT: Charlie Parker and Albert Goldberg



Frank Mondello (317A) of Gloucester, Massachusetts.
2014 recipient of the French Legion of Honor award.

Request for Information on Rudolph "Rudy" Weir, Jr

Rudy died on Dec 5, 1944 and is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery in St Avoird. If you know of any information regarding his death, please reply to Dean Dominique at Dean.Dominique@USPTO.GOV.



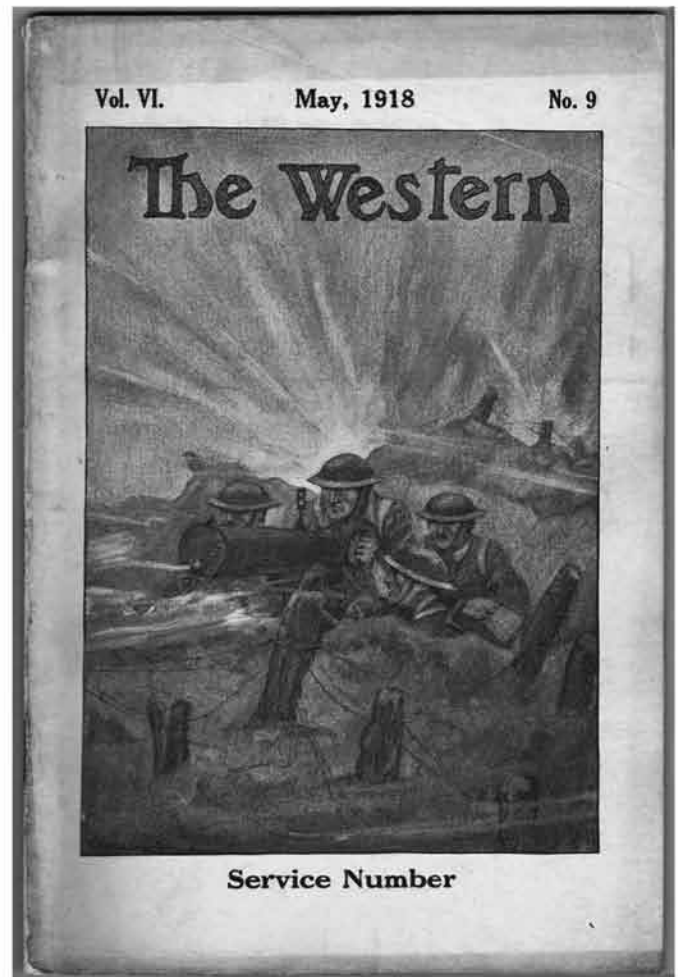
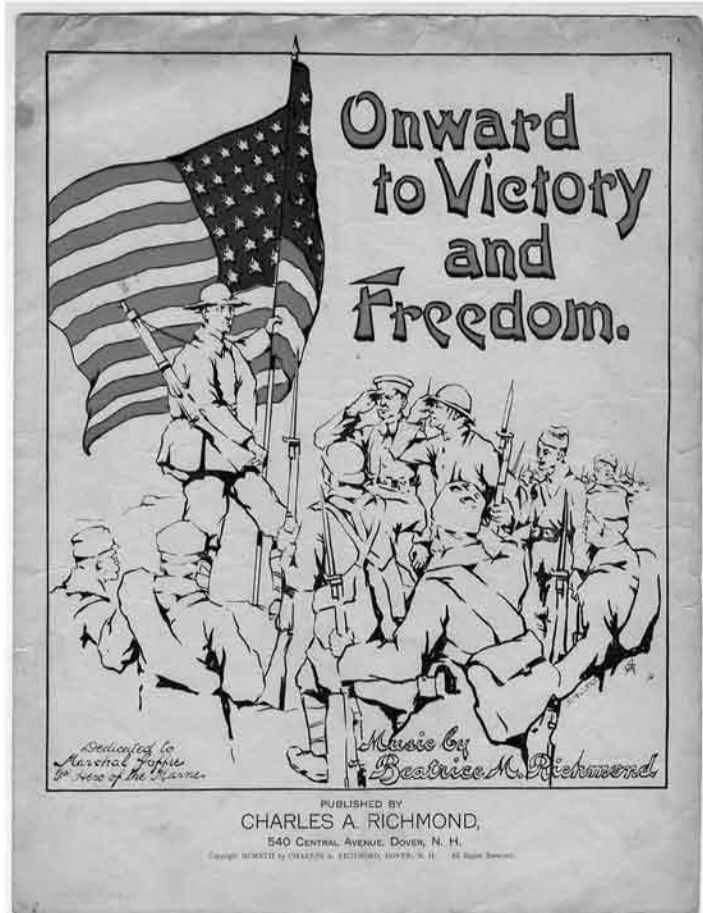
Youngest 80th AEF Veteran

“Elmer Goyer, Pvt. 1st Cl., Co. E, 318th Inf. is probably the youngest veteran in the 80th Division.

When he was sent to Camp Lee he was just sixteen years of age, and weighed less than a hundred pounds, but in spite of his youth and weight he stuck through the hard training period, and rendered valuable service at the front as a battalion runner. On the night of October 4, 1918, Goyer was wounded by a machine gun bullet, and after a tour of the dressing stations and hospitals of France, was returned to the United States.”

Reprinted from the *Service Magazine*, Feb. 1920

Note: The photo of Pfc. Goyer shows the Pfc. chevron of the WWI period on his right sleeve. This style of chevron - two crossed rifles (possibly machine guns - his specific assignment is not known) on a circular patch. This preceded the single inverted V stripe in use to the present day which at that time signified the rank of Lance Corporal. The two ranks were merged about 1920.



Magazine cover by artist Ed Shenton for his high school magazine while in training at Camp Hancock in 1918. Shenton is the subject of the book, *The Lost Sketchbooks*, by Rex Passion, and the unpublished illustration above provided by the author.

The following relates to the installation and dedication of a monument to the 80th Division in the town of Seingbouse, France, liberated by elements of the 80th at the end of November, 1944 during the assault on the West Wall defenses of Germany.

This Event was organized by members of the "Amicale" of the French Foreign Legion in Forbach, France. They contacted the Mayor of Seingbouse, Mrs. Léonce CELKA, who supported the idea, and the French asked for my support in getting military attendance, including the German military. I retired from the U.S. Army in March of 2001 and live in Germany in the Saarland Region just across the border from France. I am both an honorary member of the French Foreign Legion Association and the German Reservist Camaraderie in Ottweiler. The latter attended the ceremony along with members of the German Reservist Command of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. A contingent of Austrian military members were present, as were French military units, Military Police, Fire Brigade, Retired military personnel, and the ceremony was supported by the Sovenir Francais of the various districts in the Region. Local French Mayors and other district political figures attended. The U.S. Consel General, Amy Westling from Strasbourg was the guest of honor and gave a moving speech at the unveiling of the Monument dedicated to the brave men of the 80th Infantry Division. The ceremony began with Mass Services in the Catholic Church in Seingbouse and was followed by the raising of the French and U.S. Flags at the war Memorial next to the church. The U.S and French National Anthems were played by a French Military Band and several wreaths were laid at the Monument by French, U.S., and German guests. Speeches were made by the French dignitaries. I acted as the U.S. Color Bearer, standing at attention during the entire ceremony. I could not obtain any active duty support due to the long Thanksgiving weekend, which was unfortunate as young Soldiers stationed in Germany do not realize what they are missing out on. A second retired U.S. Air Force friend also attended along with myself, and he raised the U.S. Flag during the ceremony, and stood at my side as we marched to the location of the Monument, and during the unveiling ceremony itself. I was able to arrange for a bugler from Bugles Across America, (also a friend of mine), and he performed TAPS after the unveiling of the Monument that brought tears to my eyes. About 200 locals attended the ceremony and remained during the "Vin d' Honeur", Reception at the City Hall. A WWII Reenactment Group was present in original U.S. Army WWII uniforms, driving original trucks, Jeeps and such. It was an almost unreal image, giving a sense of authenticity - as if it were 1944 again. The Consul General insisted in speaking to me and the U.S. Air Force retiree, Robert Stanaback, and personally thanked us for being there and taking part in the ceremony. We replied that it was an honor for us! The event wrapped up with a noon meal in a local reception hall.

Thomas A. Favia
SFC, U.S. Army Retired

Mardi 2 Décembre 2014

SEINGBOUSE

Une libération étoilée



Les enfants ont reçu des drapeaux américains et français à agiter. Photo RL

La commémoration du 70^e anniversaire de la libération de Seingbouse s'est tenue dimanche sur le parvis de l'église, dans un froid mordant.

Après une messe célébrée à 9 h en l'église Saint-Jacques, le maire Léonce Celka a remis la médaille d'AFN à Lucien Scherer, habitant la localité. Des gerbes ont ensuite été déposées au monument aux Morts. La batterie fanfare de Farebersviller a magnifiquement joué l'hymne américain The Star-Splanged Banner (la bannière étoilée) ainsi que la Marseillaise. Les élèves de l'école de Seingbouse ont à leur tour chanté la Marseillaise mais aussi le Chant du partisan.

Le maire de la commune a, dans son discours, rappelé les événements précédents et suivants la libération de Seingbouse le 27 novembre 1944. « La douleur des habitants, revenus sur place, qui ont découvert leur maison partiellement détruite

ou complètement rasée pour certains. Nous n'oublierons pas de saluer le courage des soldats américains venus nous rendre notre liberté ». Laurent Kalinowski, député maire de Forbach, Laurent Kleinhentz, maire de Farebersviller ainsi qu'Amy Westling, consul général des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, ont respectivement mis à l'honneur ces soldats et ont remercié tous les participants à cette commémoration.

Les enfants ont ensuite reçu leurs petits drapeaux français et américains qu'ils ont agités avec beaucoup de ferveur lors du défilé.

Dans la salle Bleu-Blanc-Rouge et au parc Streiff, une exposition de véhicules militaires anciens ainsi que des tenues était proposée par le CLMVA et l'association Trailblazers. C'est d'ailleurs dans cette salle qu'un vin d'honneur a réuni tout ce beau monde.

A Starry Liberation

The commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Seingbouse was held yesterday in the courtyard of the church, in the biting cold.

After a mass celebrated at 9:00 in the St. Jacques Church, Mayor Leonce Celka presented the AFN Medal to local resident Lucien Scherer. Wreaths were then laid on the monument to the casualties. The Farebersviller band played a magnificent version of the American Star Spangled Banner, and the Marseillaise. The pupils of the Seingbouse school in turn sang the Marseillaise.

The mayor of the town, in his speech, recounted the liberation of Seingbouse, 27 November 1944. "The pain of the residents who returned to find their homes partially, or for some, completely destroyed. We will not forget to salute the courage of the American Soldiers who gave us our freedom. Laurent Kalinowski, Deputy Mayor of Forbach, Laurent Kleinhentz, Mayor of Farebersviller, and also Amy Westling, Consul General of the USA respectively honored the Soldiers, and thanked all who participated in the commemoration.

The children were given small French and American flags that they waved fervently during the parade.

In the Red White and Blue room at Streiff Park, a display of old military vehicles and equipment was put on by the CLMVA and the Trailblazers Association. A wine reception was held in this room for all present.







Major General Paul M. Benenati

Deputy Commanding General – Support, First Army
Commanding General – First Army Support Command
Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, Illinois 61299-8400

Maj. Gen. Paul M. Benenati was assigned as the First Army Deputy Commanding General-Support on September 21, 2014. He is responsible for assisting the Commanding General with the training, readiness and mobilization of Army Reserve and National Guard units across the United States and two U.S. territories. He is also the Commander, First Army Reserve Support Command.

Prior to becoming First Army Deputy Commanding General-Support, Maj. Gen. Benenati served concurrently as Commander, 7th Civil Support Command, and Deputy Commanding General, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, at Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he was responsible for Disaster Response, Humanitarian Assistance and Consequence Management throughout Europe and Africa. Previously, he was Commander, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Wichita, Kansas. Immediately prior to that assignment, he served concurrently as Commander, 102nd Training Division (Maneuver Support), and Deputy Commanding General for Mobilization and Training for the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Major General Benenati's primary focus areas are: First Army's Operation Bold Shift USAR transformation (the shift from a post-mobilization focus to one of pre-mobilization to enhance readiness will reducing the amount of post-mobilization training time needed at a mobilization station); consolidation of the 87th and 85th Training Divisions(TD); transfer of 87th TD assets to the 84th TD; development of Army Reserve specific assessment methods and opportunities to increase pre-deployment readiness, across all sustainment, operational support and Maneuver support forces; the development of standardized exercise design for combined multi-component exercises, including required equipment sets, in support of the Total Army Force Policy; enhanced readiness of Army Reserve units participating in multi-component exercises; and subject matter expertise on the development of Foreign Consequence Management training in support of Combat Readiness Center training.

As the First Army Deputy Commanding General for Sup-

port, MG Benenati will assist with the span of control, re-organization and consolidation for First Army's assigned personnel, including over 10,000 Soldiers assigned to 16 brigades and 103 battalions that conduct training and mobilization for Reserve Component units from both the Army Reserve and National Guard.

Major General Benenati's leadership and expertise are indispensable as First Army and the Army Reserve undertake a year of significant transition in deployed force requirements, off-ramping and re-missioning of Reserve Component units, a possible further consolidation of Mobilization Force Generating Installation operations, a possible further consolidation or expansion of the CRC mission, and determining the optimal design of pre- and post-mobilization training and readiness resourcing and validation for the future. MG Benenati is the only full-time DCG assigned to the First Army headquarters at Rock Island, Illinois.



Two-Star Banner



MG Benenati being Promoted



LTC Talley, MG Benenati and LTC Tucker

Deaths of Past National Commanders Reported



IRVIN ROBINSON, 94, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, Past National Commander 1978-1979

Irvin passed away Saturday, January 3, 2015 at a local hospital. He was born August 7, 1920 in Detroit, Michigan to the late Louis & Mollie Yavelberg Robinson.

He was a member of Temple Judea of Laguna Hills in California; a United States Army Veteran serving in World War II and a Purple Heart recipient.

Irvin was predeceased by his parents and wife, Hilda Robinson, Past National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, 1980-1981.

Survivors include his son, Lewis (Evelyn) Robinson and special friend, Kathryn Powell.

Graveside services were held Tuesday January 6th at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona Del Mar, California.

Hot Springs Funeral Home, 1017 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901



MARVIN RAY SPENCER SR., Past National Commander 2004-2005

Marvin, 90, of Texas City, Texas passed away Saturday, December 24, 2011 at Mainland Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 28, 2011, at the Emken-Linton Funeral Home.

He was born in Oakalla, Texas, December 5, 1921, and served in the 80th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in WWII. After earning the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, he returned to Texas to raise his family with his loving wife Helen. Marvin served as an Elder and Deacon in the Church of Christ.

Mr. Spencer was preceded in death by his son, Robert Dale Spencer and granddaughter, Angie Christine Scott.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Helen Ruth Lewis Spencer his sons, Marvin Spencer, Jr. and wife Fran, Timothy Spencer, and wife Kay his daughters Joy Clark, and husband Glenn, Gaynell Simpson, and husband Lawrence and Carol Looney, and husband A.D Marvin is survived by his grandchildren, Windi Fleming, Ricky Scott, Shane Spencer, Timothy Spencer, Jr., Melissa Ramin, Joey Selesky, Daniel Durdin, Jennifer Wilson, Dustin Durdin, Austin Looney, Jill Looney, and Brooke Looney 23 great-grandchildren and his two sisters, Mary Green and Anita Faye Hamilton.

Pallbearers were Timmy Spencer, Shane Spencer, Danny Durdin, Dustin Durdin, Joey Selesky, and A.D. Looney.

Memorial donations in honor of Marvin Ray Spencer, Sr. can be sent to Fosters Home for Children, P.O. Box 978, Stephenville, Texas 76401.

Ed. Note – Marvin's wife Helen recently passed away.

Emken-Linton Funeral Home, 5100 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Texas City, TX 77591



EUGENE THOMAS "IKE" REFICE, 93, of Fleetville and Bay Harbor Islands, Fla., and formerly of Moscow, died Sunday at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton.

Born Sept. 18, 1921, in Scranton, he was the son of the late Francis and Augusta Vallecorsa Refice. Ike was a graduate of Scranton Central High School. He served in Gen. Patton's Third Army 319th Infantry Regiment

of the 80th Infantry Division during World War II. He fought in four major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, and was wounded in France. Although he was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, he never wore any medals or citations in memory of those who should have received one or more but didn't. Ike volunteered for many years at the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center. He organized a committee of veterans and others who erected a monument at Courthouse Square honoring Medal of Honor recipient Gino Merli. He also organized a group to hold an annual Special Day for the Disabled at Lake Scranton.

Ike was a well-known photographer who owned his own

photo studio and continued to work for The Scranton Times for 34 years. He was also a stringer for the New York Times, Time Magazine and The Washington Post before his retirement. He was a founding member of the Scranton Ski Club and enjoyed a lifetime of skiing at Elk Mountain.

Surviving are his wife, Kathryn Gilkeson Refice, with whom he recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary; and son, Paul Refice and wife, Babette Biesecker.

He was also preceded in death by six sisters, Lillian Buscarini, Anna Morasini, Josephine Bucari, Hilda Baracaia, Ida Sandy and Margaret Seybolt; and four brothers, Fred, Paul, Victor and Leo.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Mario Sebastianelli, Dr. Jila Kaberi-Otarod and the ICCU nurses at Geisinger Community Medical Center for their excellent care. Ike deeply valued the caring relationship he had with Dr. S. Sree Kesan before his admission.

A Mass of Christian Burial were celebrated Thursday at 11 a.m. in St. Eulalia's Church in Elmhurst by Monsignor John Jordan, pastor.

Friends may call Thursday from 10 to 11 at the church. Memorial contributions can be made to the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center, 401 Penn Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

Anderson, MAJ(R) Robert HQ 80th G3 Richmond, VA DOD: Jan 26, 2015 Rptd by: Dave Gallagher	Pyles, James 317 Carrollton, KY DOD: Dec 5, 2014 Rptd by: Internet	Asquino, Joseph A-317 Rumford, RI DOD: Jul 8, 2005	Derr, James F-319 Belleville, MI DOD: Dec 1, 1993	Gruetzmacher, Kenneth K-318 St Paul, MN DOD: May 2, 2012
Bailey, John AT-318 1501 N Orange Ave Room 3119 Sarasota, FL 34236 DOD: UNK Rptd by: John Edkrich	Refice, Eugene "Ike" B-319 P O Box 174 Fleetville, PA 18420 DOD: Feb 1, 2015 Rptd by: Helen Patton	Bailey, Robert 7-80 Ord East Alton, IL DOD: Apr 17, 2013	Dickson, William E-318 Toms River, NJ DOD: Oct 14, 2008	Hatton, Ellery "Jake" D-317 Franklin, OH DOD: Jun 21, 2009
Colvin, Harry SV-318 DOD: Oct 3, 2010 Rptd by: Brother, Alan Colvin	Robinson, PNC Irvin H-319 140 Brighton Terrace #314 Hot Springs, AR 71909 DOD: Jan 3, 2015 Rptd by: Bob Murrell	Barres, Samuel G-318 Auburndale, MA DOD: Feb 25, 1996	Dragan, Pete M-317 Warren, OH DOD: Nov 30, 2000	Haviland, Joseph D-317 Warminster, PA DOD: Apr 20, 2014
Drylie, James A-318 505 Penglyn St Irwin, PA 15642 DOD: Dec 22, 2014 Rptd by: Bob Murrell	Spencer, PNC Marvin 317 2102 4th Ave N Texas City, TX 77590 DOD: Dec 24, 2011 Rptd by: Jeff Wignall	Boatman, Bethley HQ-319 Cookeville, TN DOD: May 8, 2004	Duvall, Merle B-305 En Bn Rozet, WY DOD: Dec 5, 2003	Haynie, Thomas B-314 Greenville, SC DOD: Mar 31, 2013
Fones, Norman "Pudgy" 80th IT Chesterfield, VA DOD: Jan 20, 2015 Rptd by: Internet	Sprunger, Edward A-317 Decatur, IN DOD: Dec 12, 2014 Rptd by: Internet	Bomhoff, Harold 317 Chaplain Seoelwein, IA DOD: Jan 1, 2005	Erwin, Earl 80th RCN Westlake, OH DOD: Apr 6, 2013	Hickman, Frank I-318 Palm Bay, FL DOD: Oct 8, 2010
Fulton, Isach 320 Abingdon, VA DOD: Dec 21, 2014 Rptd by: CSM(R) Jim Corrin	Stanley, Thomas HQ 319 31965 Corte Soledad Temecula, CA 92592 DOD: Mar 29, 2011 Rptd by: Jeff Wignall	Borne, Darold 2-318 Monroe, IN DOD: UNK	Ferlo, Olindo G-317 Rome, NY DOD: Jun 19, 2004	Hoffert, Richard A-319 Bethlehem, PA DOD: Jun 3, 1992
Gandy, Kenneth Cameron, TX DOD: Jan 19, 2015 Rptd by: SSG Charlene Ryan & Jeff Wignall	Torres, Antonio A-318 Kingsville, TX DOD: Feb 1, 2015 Rptd by: Son, Tony Torres & Jeff Wignall	Brown, Duffy 319 Medic Baton Rouge, LA DOD: Apr 16, 2012	Fischbeck, Albert H-318 New Braunfels, TX DOD: Apr 23, 2012	Holmes, Rodney D-319 Tylertown, MS DOD: Jan 12, 1995
Hoffert, COL(R) Charlie HQ 80th Div (TNG) Chester, VA DOD: Feb 12, 2015 Rptd by: Richmond News- paper	Turner, John George 305 EN Ferum, VA DOD: Feb 15, 2015 Rptd by: Lee Anthony	Brown, Edward F-317 Arlington, TX DOD: Aug 6, 2012	Flesher, James F-317 Arkadelphia, AR DOD: Mar 9, 2003	Jarr, Arthur B-905 FA Lynnwood, WA DOD: Sep 19, 2004
Hopkins, Robert Bloomfield, NE DOD: Sep 19, 2014 Rptd by: Internet	DEATH NOTICES FROM INTERNET SEARCH By: Commander Jeff Wignall	Brown, Walter 319 Med Det Reno, NV DOD: Sep 26, 2009	Frederick, Leslie C-317 Independence, WV DOD: Aug 27, 2011	Karr, Alfred B-318 Bay City, MI DOD: Jul 22, 2013
Huffer, John Spottswood, VA DOD: Jan 7, 2015 Rptd by: Internet	Aladeen, Kenneth 2-318 St Joseph, MO DOD: Jan 12, 2015	Byrum, Murray A-318 Edenton, NC DOD: May 30, 2014	Frey, Earl E-317 Marysville, PA DOD: Jun 20, 2009	Killie, Charles K-317 Pinellas Park, FL DOD: Nov 11, 2013
Mercado, Jose Maria Castillo DOD: Jan 15, 2015 Rptd by: Niece, Maria Castillo	Allison, Howard HQ, 315 FA BN Mt Pleasant, PA DOD: Oct 4, 2005	Carroll, Forrest L-317 Chillicothe, OH DOD: Jul 28, 2005	Fritz, Raymond B-319 Latrobe, PA DOD: Jun 20, 2014	Kuty, Donald Medic-317 St Petersburg, FL DOD: Apr 25, 2005
McDonald, John USAR Peterburg, VA DOD: Dec 31, 2015 Rptd by: Internet	Anderson, Andrew B-319 Woodbridge, NJ DOD: Feb 25, 1998	Ciszek, Henry A-314 FA BN St Clair Shores, MI DOD: Aug 1, 2005	Gallagher, Charles CN-319 Utica, NY DOD: Feb 13, 2015	Lantz, Warren M-319 Topton, PA DOD: Jul 31, 2007
	Arbogast, Howard L-318 Ocean City, NJ DOD: 2001	Coble, Lewis I-317 Broken Bow, NE DOD: Jul 13, 1998	Garea, Raymond F-317 Youngstown, MA DOD: Aug 10, 2005	Leonard, Raymond C-319 Ephrata, PA DOD: Jun 3, 2013
		Cool, Harry F-317 Cottage Grove, OR DOD: Jun 13, 2013	Goebel, Louis G-317 Yuma, AZ DOD: Oct 2, 2002	Linhart, Robert B-317 Maple Hts, OH DOD: May 1, 2012
		Cross, George L-317 Wyoming, MI DOD: Nov 3, 2009	Good, Charles I-318 Parker City, IN DOD: Aug 5, 2014	Litwinski, Rudolph 318-Medic PA Furnace, PA DOD: Nov 13, 2013
		Curtis, William F-318 West Chester, OH DOD: Jun 2, 2005	Good Clement 80 FA Kewanna, IL DOD: Aug 11, 2014	Maser, Rudolph B-318 Grand Island, NE DOD: Aug 1, 2004
		Davis, William 2-319 Jacksonville, FL DOD: Apr 21, 2013	Gorse, Thomas G-319 Roebing, NY DOD: Apr 6, 2011	Minaham, COL(R) Daniel 314 FA Amarillo, TX DOD: Sep 4, 2010

Monnahan, James 80 RCN Provo, UT DOD: May 11, 2014	Parham, COL(R) Aubrey HQ-318 Mangham, LA DOD: Sep 27, 2004	Schneider, Antone M-317 Burwell, NE DOD: Nov 8, 2009	Stewart, Patrick E-318 Canton, MI DOD: Oct 1, 2014	Wiggins, Robert L-318 Jackson, MI DOD: Jan 13, 2011
Mullins, BG(R) William K-318 Shawnee Mission, KS DOD: Dec 29, 2013	Paul, Stanley SV-317 Northampton, PA DOD: Mar 13, 2010	Scopa, Joseph 315 FA BN Totz, KY DOD: Apr 24, 2002	Sweda, Michael H-317 Russellville, AL DOD: Jun 15, 2013	Willis, Jean Paul C-319 Fort Smith, AR DOD: Dec 14, 2004
Nardoza, James A-318 Syracuse, NY DOD: Apr 5, 2007	Pouletsos, James HQ-317 Westwood, NJ DOD: Jan 27, 2009	Seidel, Clarence 2-318 Bloomsburg, PA DOD: Dec 16, 2011	Tackett, Russell C-314 FA BN Myra, KY DOD: Nov 23, 2008	Wilson, Norris H-318 Tioga, ND DOD: Mar 13, 2011
Niemitz, Howard SV-319 Tinley Park, IL DOD: Oct 17, 2008	Pressley, Edmond A-314 FA BN Lakeland, FL DOD: May 4, 2009	Shaulis, Norman H-318 Somerset, PA DOD: Aug 18, 2004	Tarpoff, Alexander G-318 Granite City, IL DOD: Aug 17, 2008	Wilson, Robert L-318 Indianapolis, IN DOD: Nov 14, 2011
Nitchman, James A-314 FA BN Indianapolis, IN DOD: Feb 24, 2002	Reinke, William CN-318 Kouts, IN DOD: Dec 19, 2006	Shuford, John 2-318 Rio Grande City, TX DOD: Jul 7, 2011	Terry, James F-318 Seminole, FL DOD: Apr 6, 2011	Wolf, Burton E-318 N Ridgeville, OH DOD: Dec 12, 2014
Ohlman, Gerald H-319 St Peters, MO DOD: Jul 29, 2013	Reyer, Raymond M-319 Metairie, LA DOD: Dec 31, 2010	Smith, Donald Lake Placid, FL DOD: Apr 20, 2009	Tremblay, Joseph I-318 Charlestown, RI DOD: Nov 18, 2009	Woy, Robert 80th Sig Keyser, WV DOD: May 25, 2003
Ozimek, Emil A-317 Elkton, FL DOD: Sep 19, 2001	Ritchey, Walter CN-317 Orrstown, PA DOD: Jan 18, 2001	Speed, Albert A-314 FA BN Villas, NJ DOD: Jun 29, 2014	Volzgen, Frederick B-318 Milwaukee, WI DOD: Nov 4, 2011	Young, James L-319 Florence, SC DOD: Mar 26, 2012
Pacolt, John K-317 East Meadow, NY DOD: Jun 5, 2009	Ryan, James 80 Sig N Canton, OH DOD: Jul 2, 2010	Stevens, Adrian SV-319 Elk Grove, CA DOD: Jul 2, 1998	Warman, Clayton F-318 Adamstown, MD DOD: Sep 7, 2012	Zeh, Julius A-305 EN BN Leominster, MA DOD: Jul 15, 2006
Pappas, George SV-318 Omtario, CA DOD: Dec 30, 2010	Schira, Gerald E-318 Portage, MI DOD: Mar 29, 2008	Stewart, Charles HQ-305 Med Newtown, PA DOD: Feb 9, 2007	Wheeler, Edwin A-319 Beaumont, TX DOD: Sep 12, 2014	

The last date I have entered a name is March 1, 2015

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Theresa Gallagher – Annual to Life
M. Charleen George – Annual to Life
James Kincanon, 2174th USAG
Armando Macias, Family of PVT Armando Hernandez F-319
Curtis Sprouse, E-318th - Annual to Life
Helen Tomanic, Daughter of Charles Brown H-319th

NEW MEMBERS

Diana Henry, Daughter of Carl Henry, 305th EN
CPT Richard Siegel, 80th TC Det 82
CW3 Edward Stewart III, Son of CPT Edward Stewart Jr,
317th Svc

Check Your Address Label

Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406

PAID 2015

*Membership
Expiration Date*

*You have paid
through Dec of the
year indicated.*

Check your name and address

(Apt., Bldg., Lot No.). Notify the Secretary if you find an error.

DONATIONS

80th PNCs – In Memory of PNC Erin Robinson
COL(R) John Brown – General Fund
COL(R) Bart Campbell – General Fund
Jan Elvin – In Memory of William Elvin E-318
COL(R) Larry Faison – In Memory of Frank Faison 151st EN
CBT BN "I" Corps
COL(R) Larry Faison – In Memory of Gilbert Faison Fayfan
US Naval Radio Station Balboa
Charles Harris Jr – In Honor of HHD 1st Bde (BCT) Soldiers
Vic Muller – In Memory of PFC Joseph Muller A-317 KIA
2-26-45
Kenneth Nutting – In Memory of Harry Nutting I-317
Henry Tweten – In Honor of Bob Murrell
George West – General Fund
Karl Zangerle – In Honor of G-317 Soldiers
Karl Zangerle – General Fund

NOTES FROM THE HISTORIAN

Lee S. Anthony, PNC and Historian

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, with my associates Andy Adkins and Gary Schreckengost have been busy answering questions posed by descendants of veterans, in most cases now deceased. This is a very important function, providing information regarding the military life of the soldier.

I have recently attended another funeral; Tech 4 John George Turner, 305th Engineers of the 80th Division WWII. He was interred 25 February 2015. He was a great "Christian Soldier". I was able to obtain a rush order for a shadow box from Medals of America, which arrived in my office on a Friday. On Saturday afternoon, I delivered the shadow box to his home. He was unable to talk, so the videographer and I simply read and recorded a 2.5 hour history of the WWII 305th Engineers. The family tells me that he did have eye contact and movement at certain parts of the story. He passed away the day after this presentation/meeting. There were difficulties involving the fact that he had a memorial service at the Bassett Funeral Home, but interment was not possible because of the weather. When the weather permitted, and the interment took place, we could not obtain

a rifle squad for final honors. Believe it or not, the Association's Historian fired six blank rounds, using a Smith and Wesson Model 19 revolver. This was greatly appreciated by the family, who urgently wanted the memorial volley for the interment. It seems to me that we in Virginia who are involved with numerous veterans' funerals need to have a comprehensive list of organizations, both active duty and retired veterans who can support these services. I intend starting this project, but would appreciate help from any of our group who would be willing to do so.

My major ongoing program at the moment is the inventory of my personal reference library. This inventory is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ completed. It will contain approximately 400 titles. In addition to these primary references, I have approximately 100 linear feet of other related books as well.

Roger Nelson is on top of the ABMC situation regarding the procurement of flowers for our overseas graves. It is my understanding that orders through ABMC must be placed prior to April 2015; after that time, one must deal directly with an overseas florist. Please contact Roger for details.

It is my hope that I will be able to attend Memorial Day services overseas in May; if so, I would be attending services as previous in Belgium and the Netherlands (three services during the weekend). I am not sure how long I will be across the pond.

"Keep those cards and letters coming."

80th Division Veteran's Association Memorial Brick Paver Program

The purpose of the brick program is to help the overall financial status of our organization and help it to remain viable for the future. It is a fantastic way to honor our veterans. The bricks (also called "pavers") are approximately 5" tall x 11" wide x 4" thick. The bricks will be placed at the 80th Training Command Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, adjacent to our 80th Division monument.

There are two types of bricks to choose from:

1. **Standard Granite** **\$195 Quantity:** _____
2. **Virginia "Hokie" Stone** **\$295 Quantity:** _____ (*Hokie Stone has metal colored 80th Patch*)

Prices include brick cutting, surface smoothing, three lines of inscription, shipping and installation.

You may inscribe whatever you wish as it can fit on the three lines. If you're interested, please fill in the following information:



NAME (FIRST / LAST) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Three lines of inscription: _____

If you would prefer to have your brick shipped to an alternate address, please provide: _____

Please make checks payable to: 80th Division Veteran's Association. You can mail check and completed information to:
Bill Black / 80th Division Veterans Association • 1031 Overlook Park Lane • Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Phone: 404-493-6601 Email: williamrblack@gmail.com

Eightieth Division Veterans Association 96th Annual Reunion

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania August 19 -22, 2015

Please print all information and return by June 30, 2015

First Reunion: Yes No

Name of Veteran or Attendee: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Spouse or Guests: _____

Unit Affiliation: _____ Period: _____ Handicap: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail address if available: _____

Registration Fee: _____ x \$40 per person \$ _____

Prize Tickets (\$2 each or all 12 for \$20): _____ x \$2 per ticket \$ _____

Wednesday Night Commander's Reception: _____ x \$24.50 per person \$ _____

US Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, PA:
(Light lunch included) _____ x \$30 per person \$ _____

Thursday Night Dugout Party: _____ x \$33 per person \$ _____

Friday Night Buffet: _____ x \$33 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night Dinner: (indicate choice for each person) _____ x \$37 per person \$ _____

_____ x Chicken Marsala

_____ x Pesto Encrusted Tilapia

Program Listing: (PRINT NAMES) _____ x \$5 per name \$ _____

Program Ads (see reverse of Welcome Letter for details): Ad size: _____ \$ _____

1"H x 3.5"W: \$10 2"H x 3.5"W: \$20 4"H x 3.5"W: \$40

2"H x 7.5"W: \$40 4"H x 7.5"W: \$80 10"H x 7.5"W: \$125 (full page)

Program Book (mailed to address above): _____ x \$7.50 \$ _____

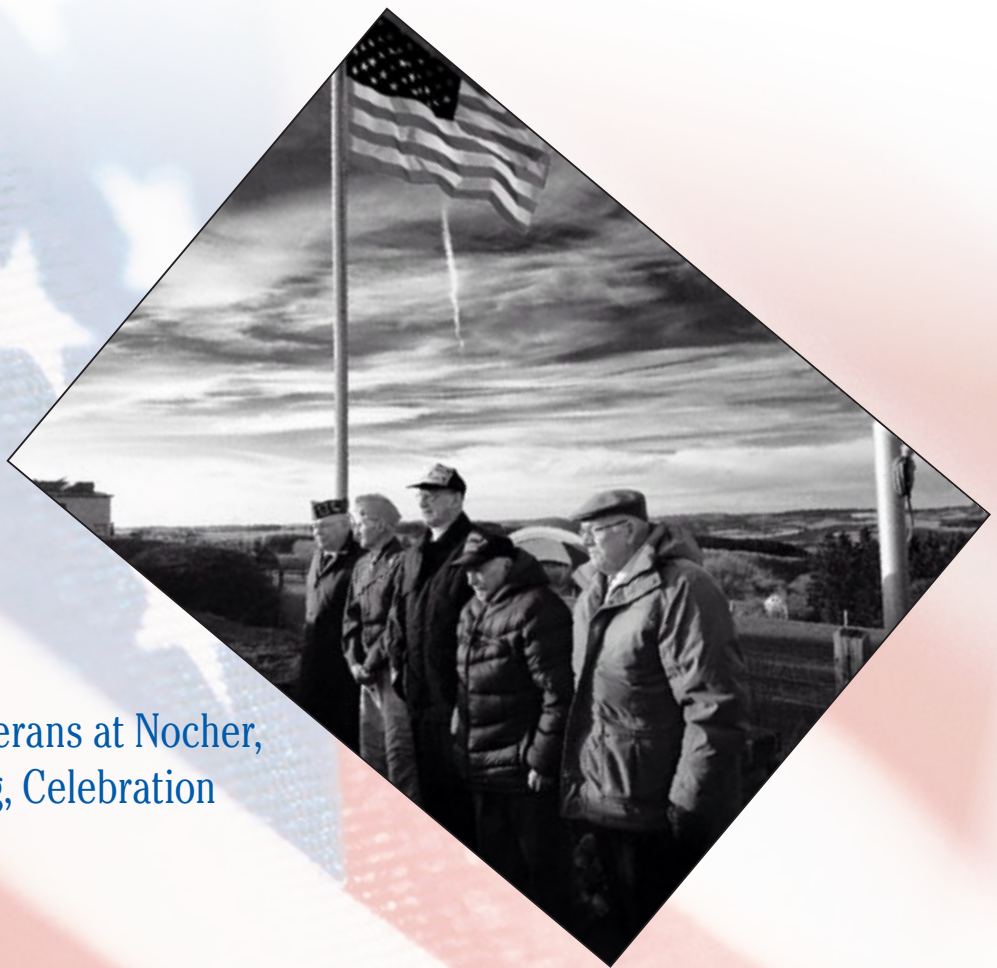
NOTE: ALL MEAL PRICES INCLUDE TAXES & GRATUITIES.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association

Mail Form and Check to: 80th Division Veterans Association

c/o Doug Knorr • 1609 Dracka Rd. • Traverse City, MI 49685



Blue Ridge Veterans at Nocher,
Luxembourg, Celebration

THE _____
80TH DIVISION
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Needs Your
HELP!**



We find that we are in a financial crisis and need financial support to remain viable for the future. Please consider a gift for Veterans Day in the name of a loved one or a friend.

YOUR DONATION WILL BE APPRECIATED!

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Make Check Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association

**IN THE
NAME OF:** _____

Name of your loved one or friend

**FROM
UNIT:** _____

Unit of your loved one or friend

