



July

2019

CHIN STRAP

Published by the Maryland Region for all members of the 29th Division Association, Inc.

- ★ Alsace - 25 July 1918 - WWI
- ★ Meuse Argonne - 8 Oct - 29 Oct 1918 - WWI
- ‡ Normandy - 6 Jun 1944 - WWII
- ★ Normandy - 6 Jun - 24 Jul 1944 - WWII
- ★ Northern France - 25 Jul - 14 Sep 1944 - WWII
- ★ Rhineland - 15 Sep 1944 - 21 Mar 1945 - WWII
- ★ Central Europe - 22 Mar - 8 May 1945 - WWII

- Global War on Terrorism
- Iraqi Governance - 2004 - 2005 - Iraqi War
- National Resolution - 2005 - 2007 - Iraqi War
- Iraqi Surge - 2007 - 2008 - Iraqi War
- Consolidation I - 2001 - 2006 - Afghanistan War
- Consolidation II - 2006 - Present - Afghanistan War

The 75th Anniversary of D-Day 6 June 1944 — 6 June 2019



Photo by Neil Ungerleider, Post 93.

Brigadier General Robert Frick, Deputy Commanding General of the 29th Division, lays a wreath in Saint Clair-sur-Elle, France. The monument expresses the eternal gratitude of the people of Normandy for the liberation of their town in 1944.

Post Reports

Limestone Post 1-72, Baltimore, MD

Commander: *Lee Hofmann*

Please mail dues to: **Bill DeHaven**

139 Chestnut Hill Lane, Reisterstown, MD 21136-3206.

Comrades,

Greetings from Limestone Post 1-72. Hopes are that you and yours are enjoying the beautiful weather that we have been afforded lately. Thanks to the efforts of our comrade Al Craemer, our Post was invited to the Baltimore County Executive's office, where upon we were presented with a proclamation designating 6 June as 29th Division Day. In the company of the county executive, John A. Olszewski, Jr, were Al Craemer, Brian Becker, Franklin Shilow, Bill DeHaven, Bill Held Jr., Bill Held Sr., and myself. My thanks go out to these men for their support, representing our Post.

At our May meeting we received a donation of \$100 on behalf of our departed comrade, and friend, Robert Recker, from his lovely wife, Ms. Pat Recker. Our heartfelt thanks, and deep appreciation go out to Pat for her thoughtfulness, and generosity, on behalf of, and in memory of her late husband Bob.

Our Memorial Day Service at Loudon Park National Cemetery was well attended, and widely covered by the *Baltimore Sunpapers*. And as our tradition warrants, we reconvened afterwards at the Fifth Regiment Armory for our combined Post 1-72, and Veterans Corps Memorial service, which was followed by a light lunch, and fellowship, (otherwise known as the bullcrap session), in which all present took part, and enjoyed. My thanks go out to Houston Matney (chairman), Franklin Shilow. Brian Becker and "support group" at the Armory, headed up by Gil Crosby.

Our best wishes for a full recovery go out to our comrades, Bob Wisch, and Hall Worthington, both of whom are recovering from medical issues. I look forward to being in their company soon.

Upcoming events: Next meeting 15 July. Annual picnic 19 August. I hope to greet you all at these events!

Reminder, the uniform for meetings through now, and September will be short sleeve, or polo shirt, with cap.

*Respectfully,
Lee Hofmann, Commander*

Florida West Post 2, Sarasota, FL

Commander & Finance Officer: *Sean Malloy*

Please mail dues to: **Sean Malloy**

P.O. Box 511364, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1364

It is always a sad affair when we have to say good-bye for the Summer. Our customary tradition here at Post 2, as held by our dearly departed past Post Commander, Taylor Thomas was that it was probably a good idea to take a break in the Summer, since many of the "Snowbirds" are away anyway for the hot season, and for those living here year-round, it is just too hot to go out anywhere ... even for a fifteen-minute ride to an air conditioned restaurant.

That's how hot it gets here in Florida! Air conditioning is your friend here and even a walk to the car is a trial...and then to get into the inferno inside the car, hands on a griddle hot steering wheel! So, every June I have decided that Taylor's idea was a smart move! Our Veteran's wholeheartedly agree, although they miss their friends throughout the Summer...and a three months absence can seem like an eternity sometimes.

Our final meeting before the break was held at the quiet, friendly and cool confines of The Sarasota Red Lobster. The staff is always accommo-

dating and look forward to seeing us every month. Again, kudos go out to Commander Thomas for finding this centrally located gem close to interstate 75. We have no intentions of leaving here.

While our overall membership has faded, we are reaching out to those who are local, but may have family and friends who are far flung across the miles to help support our Post through membership dues and donations. Our cast of "regulars" were on hand for the "good-bye" meeting this month; Joseph Steimel, K/175th, Judy Steimel, Pastor Phil Bliss, Dick Mosier, 44th Inf., Korea, Vice Commander Eric Smith, Adriana Smith.

Our conversation ranged from the past 75th D-Day observances, comparing the ceremonies of those who made the trip on the 70th to missing our father's on this coming Father's Day. Eric and I swapped notes on how our father's might not have talked about the war much, but if something interesting was shown on TV about WWII, we as kids were made sure to sit down and watch it! (or else!).

At the beginning of our meeting I wanted to raise a glass in honor of all of our 29th Infantry Veterans who are no longer with us, who made the long journey across The Channel 75 years ago to reach the hard sands of Normandy, Franceand to secure Freedom for us all! I shined the light on those with us today at our luncheon; in particular, Joseph Steimel, K/175th, 29th Inf. Div, Pastor Philip Bliss, Army Chaplain, Vietnam, Richard Mosier, 44th Infantry, Korea and to our father's, no longer with us; Captain Sidney Smith, 121st Engineers, Co. B, 29th Inf. Div., and Captain Patrick Malloy, 121st Engineers, Co. B., 29th Inf. Div.

Pastor Phil Bliss christened today's meeting with words of comfort and praise for those who fought 75 years ago this week. It was a bittersweet way to start our meeting...but funny stories and great food followed! (As they always do).

Please join our cause in keeping the legacy of the 29th Division alive. Please invite your friends and family to join us in the Post. Contact the 29th Infantry Division Association at 29thDivisionAssociation.com and come join our Post, you do not have to be a resident of Florida to join, just come with your passion to keep our history alive! Thank you! Enjoy your Summer!

Future Post Meetings are as follows: September 21st, October 19th, November 16th, at The Sarasota Red Lobster, 941-924-1297 for information and reservations.

*Sean P. Malloy, Commander
Eric G. Smith, Vice Commander*

Rudolph M. Price, Jr., Post 5, Norfolk, VA

Commander: *John Lane*

Please mail dues to: **John Lane**

340 Aragona Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2702

No Report.

Next Post 5 meeting: 9 November 2019.

Randy Hess, Adjutant

HQs Post 29, Richmond, VA

Provisional Commander: *Tim Williams*

Please mail dues to: **Todd Hubbard**

12421 Liverpool Ln Apt 102, Chester, VA 23836-2773

Post 29 had a tremendous meeting in May to restart the Post. We have gained several new members and are very excited about our future. We hope all our members, and those interested in joining, will attend. The

theme of the evening will be "The Major of Saint Lo". July 17th was the fateful day when MAJ Howie was killed in action. A brief review of the story will be made, along with viewing of photos and artifacts. Look forward to seeing everyone! Let's Go!

Our next meeting will be on July 17th at Legends Brewery.

Todd Hubbard, Provisional Finance Officer

Jerome L. Day Post 48, Westminster, MD

Commander: Frank Rauschenberg

Please mail dues to: **Richard Stem**

12 Westmoreland Ave., Westminster, MD 21157-4420

Greetings Comrades,

The month of June was a busy month with the many Memorial Day events. This year we participated in the Westminster Memorial Day Parade, riding in a Humvee provided by Retired Colonel Donald Graf, a comrade of the Jerome L. Day Post 48. Col. Graf's daughter, Erin, a Navy veteran drove the vehicle. Retired Major Sherman Lee Miller, a comrade of Post 48 and myself rode in the Humvee. Riding in the Humvee in the parade gave a special meaning to us, as Colonel Graf was in the hospital recuperating from surgery.

On June 6, 2019, members of Post 48 attended the Proclamation Ceremony of the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landing, Normandy, France by the 29th Division at the Carroll County Office building. State Delegate Haven Shoemaker, a comrade of the 29th Division Association presented a Proclamation from the Maryland General Assembly at the same time. Both Proclamations designate June 6, 2019, as the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landing.

Sadly, many of you may have read the notice in the June edition of the *Chin Strap* informing the disbanding of Post 58. Many of their members served proudly with the 175th, 115th and the 110th. Currently, Jerome L. Day Post 48 have several active members who have served with the 175th, 115th and the 110th and we welcome any comrades from the former Post 58 to join the comradeship of Post 48. In this edition of the *Chin Strap*, is the ongoing activities of Post 48. As Commander of Post 48, I am fortunate to have members who actively support our endeavors that "Keeps the Spirit of the 29th Division Alive". Post 48 looks forward to having you as a continued member of the 29th Division Association.

I want to express my gratitude to those who continue to support the post through your contributions.

I'm proud to announce that the American Legion Post 31, in Westminster and the Jerome L. Day Post 48, 29th Division Association have partnered in hosting a Crab and Chicken feed as a fundraising event on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 1pm to 5pm at the Legion Post, in Westminster.

There is a donation of \$40.00 a person to attend and enjoy plenty of good steamed crabs, fried chicken and deserts. Please mark your calendar for this special event, supporting the American Legion and Post 48. Contact Richard Stem, Post Finance Officer at 410-804-7699, Frank M. Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or the American Legion for your tickets.

I will keep you informed of upcoming events at the monthly meetings and by means of the *Chin Strap*.

The next scheduled meeting will be August 29th at the American Legion, Westminster, MD. Dinner at 6 pm, meeting at 7 pm and out by 8 pm. All comrades and their guests are invited to attend the meeting and enjoy some good veteran comradeship. There will be no meeting in July.

As always, I can be contacted by calling 240-367-6110 or E-mail, fm32@erols.com.

Frank Rauschenberg, Commander

Harry M. Richardson Post 64, Roanoke, VA

Commander: Morris Bennett

Please mail dues to: **Jeff Banik**

184 Tanglewood Drive, Blue Ridge, VA 24064-1417

Post 64 met on 29 May, one week early due to D-Day events taking place the first week of June. After having one meeting already in May with 41 present, our second meet had 31 present. Post Commander had a special guest, Rev. R. J. Jun, Pastor of Raleigh Court UMC. He gave remarks thanking the Korean veterans for service to the United States and his country.

We had other guests, one being the active duty First Sergeant Helms, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Karolyn Sink, whose father was a 29th Division Cook for many years, led the Preamble. Our next regular meet will be 3 July, 1130 at the Roanoker Restaurant; and we will have our annual picnic luncheon on Saturday 13 July at the Lakeland Masonic Lodge on Grandin Ave.

Post 64's Quartermaster, Jay Kincanon, head of the Parade on Armed Forces Day, 18 May, gave a report. He had the Military Vehicle Club, K-9 unit, several Post members, and many other units. This parade was for the Salem Veterans Hospital and the Virginia Veterans Care Center patients who were able to be outside. Comrade Chubby gave the report of Vinton Car Show that around \$2,000 was raised for local veteran's group. Ladies of Post 64 are planning and working for our National Convention at Virginia Beach in October. Dianne Raymond supplies the Post with deserts monthly.

Our Post member, Bernard Marie's, annual Dinner was well attended with 402 guests. There were 40 plus WW-II veterans present, as well as Korean and Vietnam Vets, and many other Vets. Also, present at that dinner: BG Jean Pierre Montégu, French Embassy in Washington, D.C., bestowed the "Legion of Honor in the rank of Knight," to our own, Captain Russ Robinson, who flew a B-24 Bomber 34 missions over Germany with the 8th Air Force; and also Dr. George Blume.

Other distinguished guests included: MG Simon S. Hetherington, Canadian Forces Military Attaché; BG (Air) Georges Franchomme, Defense, Military Attaché, Belgium Embassy; and several other foreign dignitaries. After a moment of silence for veterans who have been called by The Supreme Commander, our very own Post 64 Vice Commander and active duty with the 29th Division Band, SFC, Richard Carr, played taps.

On Memorial Day several Post 64 members attended a service at the War Memorial in Roanoke, VA. Still other Post members were attending events at the D-Day Memorial all during the week. On D-Day, 6 June, in Bedford, VA many Post 64 comrades were involved at the 75th D-Day Celebration in Bedford.

The main speaker was Vice President of the United States, Michael R. Pence. Laying the 29th Division Association Wreath were Active Duty Col. Preston Scott, Chief of Staff; Post 64's David Leighton, National Commander 29th Division Association; and Morris Bennett, Post 64 Commander. It was reported by TV Channel-7 that the attendance numbered near 20,000. A great number of WW-II Veterans were recognized, including two Post 64 comrades: Chuck Neighbor who was on the beach on D-Day; and, Russ Robinson who flew 34 Missions over Germany.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Post 64 Finance Officer, Jeff Banik, took hats from the Hats for Vets program to Alderson, West Virginia to attend an event held especially for veterans. Jeff's friend, Stuart Brugh, hosted the program at his restaurant, "Stuart's Dawgs and Smokehouse" and donated a portion of his proceeds from that day to the Hat Fund in the amount of \$185. With donations received from Vets, we added \$200 to our Fund. Jeff enjoyed meeting with many veterans from the Alderson area and handed out 15 hats while he was there.

Our next three stated meetings will be 1130 at Roanoker Restaurant on 3 July; 7 August; 4 September. Our annual picnic luncheon will be 13 July, 1130 hrs. at Lakeland Lodge.

The comradery we enjoy in Post 64 is outstanding.

Morris Bennett, Commander

Cresap's Rifles Post 78, Frederick, MD

Commander: James Hutts

Please mail dues to: **Cresap's Rifles, Post 78**
P.O. Box 1882, Frederick, MD 21703-0882

Members of Cresap's Rifles Post 78 performed the duties of placing 29th Division Association flags on the graves of former 29ers buried in Frederick County cemeteries during the week preceding Memorial Day. This practice had its beginning in 1997 and has continued uninterrupted since that time.

Past Post Commander Dave Houck who now coordinates the program, gathered a group of about 15 - 18 people at Mt Olivet Cemetery in Frederick on Saturday May 18th. Dave made assignments and distributed flags and maps to those in attendance. Mt Olivet is the largest cemetery and demands the most attention.

In addition, helpers also go into the county to visit roughly 33 other cemeteries for a total flag placement of about 370 flags. Frank Rauschenberg, commander of Post 48 in Westminster very graciously gives his time to assist Post 78 in placing flags on grave sites in the Thurmont and Emmitsburg areas.

Post 78 has picked up 3 new members since our last report, now giving us a total of 203 members, with all but five (5) of those being paid for 2019. New members are J.M. Greensheid of London, ON Canada; Ronald deBois of Stillwater OK; and Gerard Cortese of Colorado Springs, CO. Our thanks to PNC Dave Ginsburg and Will Mund, National Executive Officer for helping add these new members.

Post 78 meetings July 10th and August 14th at the Talley Recreation Center (old armory in Frederick).

PNC John E. Wilcox, Adjutant

Eder-George Post 85, North East, MD

Commander: Howard Bond

Please mail dues to: **Valerie Simmers**
5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327

Greetings to all from the members of Eder-George Post 85. With the new year, please don't forget to pay your 2019 dues. Our Post 85 Honor Guard continues to perform Military Honors. There will be a presentation at Cecil Woods the afternoon of July 3.

At our June meeting, Vice Commander Ginny Parker read the last letter her father wrote before heading out for D-Day, where he would be killed along with many of his comrades from the 116th Battalion. She also had some photos of her father and mother during his time in England. Since it was the day before D-Day, that letter and photos had a strong effect on all present.



Mike Long & Pastor Clark.

For the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, I had a viewing of the "29 Let's Go" DVD and discussion at the North East Library. Those that attended seemed to enjoy the presentation. It felt good to honor those who could no longer be present.

Our next 3 meetings will be July 3, August 7, and September 4, 2019 at the North East VFW. There will be coffee and donuts at 9:45 with the meeting starting at 10:00am. We are still working out the details of setting up the next meeting in Harford County.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
Valerie Simmers, Adjutant

Eastern Shore Post 88, Cambridge, MD

Commander: Jon Black

Please mail dues to: **Ken Wheatley**
102 Richardson Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613-1130

Happy Summer to all Association Members and Ladies from Post 88. Since the last Chin Strap, submission Post 88 members attended many Memorial Day Ceremonies. The most noted was the wreath laying ceremony at Long Wharf in Cambridge which is the location of a 29th Division Memorial. Post Commander Black and MD Regional Representative Bernie Liswell attended the wreath laying ceremony at the Maryland Station Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock, Maryland. The Post Commander also attended the rededication of the War Memorial in Salisbury, MD.

On June 5, 2019 the Post held a meeting at Kay's Diner filling the restaurant to capacity as usual. The Post had a special keynote speaker who gave a presentation about his father-in-law who was part of D 1-175 landing on D-Day. Very ironic that D 1-175 will be headquartered in Easton, MD. The presentation was great following the path D-1-175 through Normandy and onward. The membership is growing and still looking to recruit new members to the organization. The membership sponsored flags in Cambridge at Sail Wind Park in memory of 29ers. Thanks to all members who met the challenge. The post will be starting the initial planning for the fall sock drives.

Next meeting: 11 Sep 19 at Kay's Diner in Cambridge, MD.

Jon D. Black, Commander



**Comrade Elmer Willey,
Post 88 Commander Jon Black,
Comrade Jesse Hurley.**

New England Post 93, New England

Commander: Fran Sherr-Davino

Please mail dues to: **Neil Ungerleider**
34 Maple Avenue, Boxford, MA 01921-1424

I am just returning from Normandy & the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Several Post 93 members were present among the 52 people we had with us. We bonded like family and several other people have joined the Association since their return.

We had many great ceremonies in the small villages liberated by the 29th Infantry Division in 1944, thanks to the work of member Michael Yan-

naghas who lives in St Lo. We were joined by Chief of the NGB, General Lengyl and 29th Division Commander, MG Epperly and Assistant Commander BG Frick, as well as members of NGAUS including Adjutant General MG Dunbar.

We were honored to have 25 active-duty 29th Division soldiers including a superior Color Guard with us. We had local children sing our National Anthem and French songs that say Merci to us. It was touching to hear stories from the Mayors of what the life was like for children during the Nazi occupation.

Member Heather McPherson, after 4 years of research, visited the grave of her Great Uncle Ralph Ferguson at Colleville Cemetery and placed flowers and a cross on the spot where he was killed in Saint Clair with the aid of a Post 93 member, Mike van den Dobbblesteen who lives in Saint Clair sur Elle. We also visited Mike's home where he and wife Deborah keep the memory alive of many WWII 29th Division soldiers and medics including my Dad, Melvin Sherr, SgtMaj 104th Medical Bn.

Ian McCarthy and his children placed flowers at the 29th Division Monument on 6 June in honor of their Grandfather and Great Grandfather, Donald McCarthy, 116th Infantry Regiment and all those soldiers who lost their lives on 6 June on Omaha Beach.

Kathleen Newman laid flowers on Hill 203 in Vire in honor of her father, Robert Walker, and the 116th soldiers who died in the Liberation of Vire.

It was a trip not to be forgotten. I hope if you ever get a chance to visit Normandy, you will go to honor the history and the men who gave all.

We will have a Post meeting in August and Neil will send an email to Post members with exact time and place. I am looking for members to serve as officers so please let me know if you are interested in serving.

Fran Sherr-Davino, Commander

Silver Spring Post 94, Silver Spring, MD

Commander: Jay Garrison

Please mail dues to: **William Mund**
441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

No meetings scheduled.

Will Mund, Finance Officer

Larkspur Post 110, Pikesville, MD

Commander: PNC David Ginsburg

Please mail dues to: **Ed Rodier**
13344 Cove Landing Rd., Bishopville, MD 21813-1102

The Larkspur Post 110 sends greetings to all our comrades. Although there was no Post 110 meeting in June, there is news to share from the Post.

In May, Finance Officer Ed Rodier represented Post 110 at our annual leadership/scholarship award presentation to an outstanding Army JROTC cadet at a local high school. For 2019 the program leadership team at Wicomico High School, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, selected cadet SGM Simon. He will be en-



Ed Rodier presenting the Post 110 annual scholarship/leadership award to Cadet SGM Simon.

tering the U. S Army and is scheduled to attend basic training at Fort Benning shortly after graduation.

Governor Larry Hogan's Commission to determine the best future usage of the Pikesville Military Reservation that sits on 14 acres, had its final meeting in May and is submitting a report that is favorable to Post 110 continued usage of the NCO Club for future meetings and events.

Furthermore, we have formed an alliance with the three groups most influential in the future of PMR - the 1,000 Friends of Pikesville, the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce, and the Pikesville Rec Council to take this entire plan forward - the best way for Post 110 to influence what happens to our building going forward.

Upcoming meetings/events: Maryland Artillery Reunion – TBD in July or August. Post Meetings – 11 September and 13 November 2019

Frank Armiger, Post 110 Executive Director

Stonewall Post 116, Staunton, VA

Commander: Barent Parslow

Please mail dues to: **Jimmy Kilbourne**
1816 Springhill Road, Staunton, VA 24401-9023

No Report.

Jimmy Kilbourne, Finance Officer

Lantern Post 729, Waynesboro, PA

Commander: Randall Beamer

Please mail dues to: **Lantern Post 729**
P.O. Box 831, Waynesboro, PA 17268-0831



Post 729 installs officers for 2019-2020

Left to right: Frank Rauschenberg the Installation Officer, Randall Beamer, Commander; Richard Hardman, Trustee; Gregory Mason, Public Relations; Donald Hurley, Judge Advocate; Carl Batzel, Welfare Officer; Richard Happel Jr., Finance Officer; Ward Simmons, Ways & Means; Robert Kint, Trustee; Dave Yohman, Adjutant; Charles Foreman, Joint Installation Officer. Post Officers not pictured Vice-Commander Steve Zabatakis, Chaplain Leon Harbaugh, Historian & Past Commander Ralph Scruton, Trustee Richard Poffenberger, and Trustee Raymond Sanders.

Our next three meeting dates are July 18th, Aug 15th and Sep 19th 2019.

Randall Beamer, Commander

Maryland Region

Next Maryland Region meeting—8 July 2019—Fifth Regiment Armory at 1100 hours, in the Veteran Corps quarters.

Bedford ceremonies mark 75th anniversary of D-Day

BEDFORD, VA — Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen greeted World War II veterans and acted as military escorts during a roll call honoring their service at the observation of the 75th anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2019, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band performed ceremonial music, and members of the Virginia Defense Force volunteered their time to assist local law enforcement with traffic flow, parking and pre-security checks before the event.

More than 100 World War II veterans, including more than 40 who participated in the invasion of Normandy June 6, 1944, were in attendance among the thousands of service members, veterans and citizens who came to the Memorial for the event.

Before the ceremony began, Virginia Senator Bryce Reeves presented Virginia Senate Resolution No. 110 commending the 29th Infantry Division to Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, VNG Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Col. Preston Scott, 29th Infantry Division chief of staff, and Lt. Col. Steele McGonegal, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Read the full resolution at <https://go.usa.gov/xmeWm>.

The program began with a fly-over from a series of World War II-era aircraft. After the aerial display, Vice President Mike Pence, Robert Wilkie, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Senator Mark Warner addressed the massive crowd, calling attention to the sacrifices made by the D-Day veterans and the freedoms they fought for.

"It's so important that this memorial is here in Bedford, a town that sacrificed so much on this day," said Warner.

The 29th ID's 116th Infantry Regiment was in the first assault wave to hit the beaches and more than 800 members of the 116th were killed, wounded or missing during the assault on Omaha Beach.

"On that day in 1944 they gave up two lives: The one on the beach, and the one they would have led had they come back," said Wilkie. "They gave up the chance to be husbands, father, grandfathers, teachers, pastors. They gave it all up so the rest of the world can be free."

When the 116th Infantry was activated Feb. 3, 1941, Virginia communities provided Soldiers to serve in the unit, and Bedford provided Soldiers to serve in Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. During the assault on Omaha Beach, 19 of the "Bedford Boys" of Company A died. Bedford's population in 1944 was about 3,200, and proportionally the Bedford community suffered the nation's most severe D-Day losses.

"Forty-four boys who had never strayed far from home mustered out for England, and some, for eternity," said Pence. "They were hometown folk who became national heroes. They will forever be remembered to history as the Bedford Boys."

Recognizing that Bedford represented both large and small communities whose citizen-Soldiers served on D-Day, Congress warranted the establishment of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford.

Following the keynote speeches, government officials, community leaders and senior military members, including Flora and Scott, presented historical readings of writings and oral histories by World



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 29th Infantry Division greet World War II veterans at the observation of the 75th anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2019, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. (U.S. National Guard photo by Cotton Puryear)

War II-era veterans and leaders. That set the stage for the roll call of all World War II veterans in attendance as VNG Soldiers and Airmen, as well as participants from other branches of the Armed Forces, escorted the day's honorees across the stage to receive thanks and a special memorial coin.

The magnitude of the event was not lost on the VNG service members serving as escorts for the World War II heroes. They described the chance to interact with members of the greatest generation as an incredible opportunity.

"Today was a pretty huge honor walking him over the memorial bridge," said Sgt. Michael Wilcox, who escorted D-Day veteran Ubert McConnell. "It really hit me, seeing him look out over the beachhead monuments. I was just amazed by who I was accompanying and what he must have gone through and just wondering what he was thinking in that moment. I'll never forget that."

"I wouldn't have been anywhere else today," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Leonhardt. "This was an absolute privilege for me. I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

For McGonegal the opportunity to meet and guide the World War II veterans in attendance was a chance to showcase what serving in the Guard is all about.

"I've served over 33 years, and this is one of the highest honors for me as a Soldier, to get the opportunity to say thank you to them," said McGonegal.

"I think it tells the story of what the Virginia National Guard brings to whatever they participate in. They're men and women of honor who want to step forward and do the right thing. It was an opportunity to say yes, we'll serve and help recognize the veterans who are here today."

During the ceremonies, representatives from all of the Armed Forces, including Flora and Scott, placed ceremonial wreaths at the memorial. The ceremony concluded with "Taps" performed by 29th ID Band trumpeter Sgt. Brian Campbell.

Article by Mike Vrabel

New members

We welcome the following new members to the 29th Division Association, Inc.

Applegate, Jarrod, Post 1-72, Dayton, OH
 Ball, Michael, Post 110, Spokane, WA
 Bawden, David, Post 94, Ontario, Canada
 Blewett, Christopher, Post 94, United Kingdom
 Carlin, Scott Sr., Post 29, Falling Waters, WV
 Cole, Cliff, Post 29, Chester, VA
 Cole, Monica, Post 29, Chester, VA
 Coleman, Bryan, Post 29, Mechanicsville, VA
 Cortese, Gerard, Post 78, Colorado Springs, CO
 Dibella, Kenneth, Post 93, Dulles, VA
 du Bois, Ronald, Post 78, Stillwater, OK
 Friedman, Bonnie, Post 110, Winter Park, FL
 Furzeland, Robert, Post 93, United Kingdom
 Goebel, Jeri, Post 94, Vaughn, WA
 Greenshields, Jim, Post 78, Ontario, Canada
 Groton, Barry, Post 93, Sunapee, NH
 Guenthoer, Lois, Post 94, Corapolis, PA
 Haymore, Donnie, Post 64, Danville, VA
 Held, Luba, Post 1-72, Baltimore, MD
 Henrich, Gregory, Post 29, West Point, VA
 Hubbard, Roger, Post 94, United Kingdom
 Leary, Ronald, Post 110, Glenville, PA
 Lytle, Jay, Post 29, Glen Allen, VA
 Mitchell, Frank, Post 85, Havre de Grace, MD
 Montgomery, Esther, Post 88, Easton, MD
 Padgett, Curtis, Post 29, Fredericksburg, VA
 Roberts, James E., Post 1-72, Elkridge, MD
 Sher, Karen, Post 110, New Orleans, LA
 Sher, Rose, Post 110, New Orleans, LA
 Sher, Samantha, Post 110, Philadelphia, PA
 Stepaniak, John, Post 2, Ocala, FL
 Thomas, Bruce, Post 29, Great Falls, VA
 Trumpess, Charles, Post 93, United Kingdom
 Verburg, Arthur, Post 29, Irvington, VA
 Vincent, Mourges, Post 93, France
 Walker, Melanie, Post 94, Tucson, AZ

To all members of Post 58

As you know, Post 58 has disbanded. We are in the process of trying to transfer those of you who wish to continue as members of the 29th Division Association Inc., into other posts.

All members of Post 58 are encouraged and welcome to join any post they so choose.

The following posts are active posts in the Maryland Region and meet regularly. Please contact the individuals listed below for more information:

Post 1-72

Baltimore, MD, Lee Hoffman

jazzzer6@comcast.net, 443-618-2669

Post 48

Westminster, MD, Frank Rauschenberg

fm32@erols.com, 240-367-6110

Post 78

Frederick, MD, John Wilcox

wilcoxj154@gmail.com, 301-695-9558

Post 85

North East, MD, Valerie Simmers

vhawk0926@gmail.com, 410-459-3760

Post 88

Cambridge, MD, Ken Wheatley

oakleafcrafters@verizon.net, 410-228-4502

Post 110

Pikesville, MD, Ed Rodier

erodier@comcast.net, 410-352-5222

Post 729

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To avoid any interruption in your membership status going forward into 2020, please kindly make a selection and join one of these posts soon.

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
National Executive Director

The *Chin Strap* is published by the Maryland Region for all members of the 29th Division Association, Inc. Comments may be forwarded to William S. Mund, Jr., 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017. Email: duster197329@gmail.com. Deadline for copy is the 17th of each month for the following month's issue.

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Spiritual Corner

"The Heaven Rescued Land"

We seldom sing the third stanza of our national anthem. However, it is full of spiritual and patriotic meaning.

Francis Scott Key wrote of those "who have stood between their loved homes and war's desolation", the citizen soldier and those who have answered the "Call to Arms."

Then Key notes, "the heaven rescued land should praise the power that has made and "preserved us as a nation." Our country's birthday should lead us to reflect on God's hand in the creation and preservation of America. Much of our history, including deliverance in troubled times parallels that of the Old Testament Israel. Some say that history is "His Story."

The Embattled farmers and militia defeated the world's best army at Yorktown. Ben Franklin's suggestion that a nation could not rise without God's blessings kept the Constitutional Convention alive and led to the birth of America. Then God raised up Lincoln to guide us through the terrible Civil War, 29'ers are aware of God's hand in D-Day. The list is endless.

Thus, as we celebrate July 4, let us give thanks 'for the heaven rescued land," and praise the Power that brought us into being and has preserved us as a nation. And this be our motto, "In God We Trust."

John Schildt

Chin Strap Supporters

We have received financial support for the *Chin Strap* from the individuals listed below in the last month. Thanks to those of you who have helped by providing your monetary support as well as the kind words. Both are deeply appreciated. Please continue to contribute so we may continue to provide you a quality newsletter.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Checks for contributions to the *Chin Strap* should be made payable to the: Maryland Region—29th Division Association, Inc. and mailed to: **Edward Tolzman, 6A S Belle Grove Road, Baltimore, MD 21228-2204.**

A.J. Moore Post 1-72, F/115

Anonymous In Memory of Deceased 29er's

A.J. Moore Post 1-72, F/115

JOIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Full Name: _____
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Postal Address: _____
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E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

The Association is open to anyone who wants to keep the history and spirit of the 29th alive - soldiers who served in the 29th, currently serving soldiers, families of those who served, and anyone who wants to keep the 29th alive.

Did you Serve? Please indicate what unit you served in: _____

Post (optional) – please indicate if you have a preference on what Post you are assigned to: _____

I want to join the 29th Division Association and help keep the history of the 29th Division alive. The \$12 dues includes the National Membership, the monthly *Chin Strap* and the *Twenty-Niner* newsletter three times a year.

Applicant's Signature: _____

To join in minutes and pay by credit or debit card go to <http://29thdivisionassociation.com/membership.html>

Mail this application to: **29th Division Association, Inc. P.O. Box 47634 Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634**