



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

- ★ 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

Post Reports

Important Notice concerning PayPal payments

Effective 1 September, dues paid online via PayPal will be **\$15 for both new members and annual renewals.**

It has been many years since we've increased the amount, and higher fees charged by PayPal prompted a review and the need for the increase.

Posts will now receive the higher amount, less the fees charged by PayPal.

Cresap's Rifles Post 78, Frederick, MD Maryland Region

Commander: James Hutts

Post 78 picnic is Saturday, August 28th. Doors open at 12 noon with food being served at 1:00 p.m. at Amvets, Post 9 in Middletown MD. We look forward to see many friends and families. Let Kelly Lockard Toms know if you are still interested in coming.

Also Post 78 is working on getting people together to attend the 29th Division Convention in Gettysburg, PA.

The next meeting for Post 78 is Wednesday September 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the William Talley Rec. Center.

*Dues for Post 78 are \$12 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 78 and mail to: **Cresap's Rifles, Post 78, P.O. Box 1882, Frederick, MD 21703-0882***

*Kelly Toms, Adjutant
kjt063@gmail.com*

Lantern Post 729, Waynesboro, PA Maryland Region

Commander: Steve Zabatakis

No report.

*Dues for Post 729 are \$15 a year. Please make check payable to: Lantern Post 729 and mail to: **Lantern Post 729, P.O. Box 831, Waynesboro, PA 17268-0831.***

*Richard Happel,
richardhappel@gmail.com*

Silver Spring Post 94, Silver Spring, MD Maryland Region

Commander: Jay Garrison

Greetings again to all members of Post 94 far and wide. I hope that all of our members are having a safe and enjoyable summer as we begin to move closer to our reunion in late October. My wife, Blonnie, and I are especially looking forward to the Friday morning Full Battlefield tour.

I'm still fairly active with some groups on social media and have found pages devoted to the 116th and 115th during the Second World War. I also keep up with the Virginia and Maryland National Guard and their activities today.

Little else to report for September. I continue to look forward to seeing some old friends at our convention/reunion in October and making some new ones. See you in Gettysburg this fall!

*Dues for Post 94 are \$10 a year. Please make check payable to: Silver Spring Post 94 and mail to: **William Mund, 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017.***

*Jay Garrison, Commander,
clgarrison@verizon.net*

Florida West Post 2, Sarasota, FL At-Large Region

Commander & Finance Officer: Sean Malloy

Recently I had the opportunity to do some "spring cleaning", going through archives of past copies of The *Twenty-Niner* Magazine. I re-read Volume 58 No. 2 of the Summer issue, 2014. A time when we never worried about Covid, or lockdowns. The opening paragraphs dealt with the excitement surrounding the 96th Annual Reunion and Convention of the 29th Division Association held in Ocean City, Maryland.

As this year's Association readies itself for the Annual Convention to be held in Gettysburg, it was interesting to see how the preparations were different back then when a pandemic was-

n't the focus of attention. If there is one thing that never changes, it is the resilience of the American people! Our 29er's will be ready to focus wholeheartedly on a successful event in Gettysburg this October!

On page 20 I re-read the Post report that was given by our revered past Post Commander, Taylor Thomas. He highlighted the events of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and those in our Post who were fortunate enough to attend the memorials in Normandy and Paris.

Our Cosmo Uttero was accompanied by his daughter and granddaughter to an all-expense paid trip, sponsored by the New Orleans D-Day Memorial Association. Cosmo recalled being interviewed by Diane Sawyer and Tom Brokaw. He said he will remember it for the rest of his life. Ernie Rutherford (deceased) and his son were likewise honored during a celebration at Bedford, Virginia.

Ernie was aboard the Navy Patrol Boat 567 during D-Day. PC 567 was responsible for shelling and firing on German strong points on the beach to simultaneously identify firing positions from the bluffs ahead. Ernie later recalled to our group that he felt helpless as he watched 29er's land into hellfire, while he and his shipmates were stationed static past the whitecaps of the beaches.

I miss those descriptive pages that our past Commander Taylor Thomas provided all of us. He laid out an excellent template for myself. His shoes have been always too large for me to fill, although I continue to try. At this year's Annual Convention, I will make sure to honor his contribution to the 29th Division Association.

In Post news, our annual dues will stay at 12.00 for the foreseeable future. We are hoping to attract new membership through our Florida West Post 2 Facebook page and through an upcoming ad campaign this Fall through our meeting place, The Sarasota Red Lobster and through city newspapers.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on September 18th. Please invite your family and friends to join The 29th Division Association!

Dues for Post 2 are \$12 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 2 and mail to: **Sean Malloy, P.O. Box 511364, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1364**

Sean P. Malloy, Commander
sean.malloy@rocketmail.com

Eder-George Post 85, North East, MD
Maryland Region

Commander: Gary Brown

Greetings to all from the members of Eder-George Post 85. If you have not yet paid your 2021 dues, please send them in now. Thanks to those who have sent their dues payment.

We enjoyed seeing each other at the last meeting. **We plan to meet September 1 for our next meeting.** We will be meeting at the North East VFW. The meeting will start at 10am. We would love to see you again!!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our Honor Guard, please let me know. Our current members are looking for some younger members to be able to carry on the tradition.

Don't forget to register for the National Convention in Gettysburg, Pa October 28 – 31. It will be a Convention to remember!!!

Stay healthy and safe as possible. **The next meetings will be October 6, November 3, and December 1, 2021.**

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Dues for Post 85 are \$10 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 85 and mail to: **Valerie Simmers, 5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327.**

Valerie Simmers, Adjutant
vhawk0926@gmail.com

Harry M. Richardson Post 64, Roanoke, VA
Southern Region

Commander: Richard Carr

Greetings from Post 64, we had our third post COVID meeting on 7 July at the Roanoker Restaurant. We had 26 Members at our last meeting and continue to have old friends come back to visit.

We have several events coming up in the next couple of months. First is the Freedom Fest 2021 at New Freedom Farm in Buchanan VA. This events runs 11-12 Sept, 18-19 Sept and 25-26 Sept. We will have a table out there to sell Raffle Tickets and talk about the 29th Division Association. Post 64 will also be at the Salem Red Sox's Game on 18 September as a part of the Military Appreciation Night. There will be a Fashion Show on 27 September at the Dublin Lions Club to support the Wreaths across America program at the SW VA Veterans Cemetery.

An update on our Charter Bus to Gettysburg: We now have 13 Paid Seats on the bus. The cost is \$35.00 per person. If anyone at Post 116 wants to catch a ride please let Jimmy Kilbourne know.

We are starting to plan our Post Holiday Meal which would be on 11 December 21. The location is still to be determined. More information to follow in the coming months.

Lastly a couple of reminders, we still have raffle tickets for the beautiful 29th Division Hand-Made Quilt (that is a correction from last month) and the WWII 75th Anniversary Statue of D-Day. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. Let's continue to reach out to members of the post and check up on them and if they haven't paid 2021 dues to please do so.

Again, as we come out of the COVID restrictions I hope to see more and more members. **Our next several meeting will be on 1 Sept 21, 6 Oct 21 and 3 Nov 21 at the Roanoker Restaurant at 11:30.**

29 Let's Go and Ever Forward.

Dues for Post 64 are \$15 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 64 and mail to: **Dean Jones, 931 West Point Road, Salem, VA 24153-2727.**

Richard Carr, Commander
rcarr7102@yahoo.com

Jerome L. Day Post 48, Westminster, MD
Maryland Region

Commander: Frank Rauschenberg

Jerome L Day Post 48 held its regular Bi-monthly meeting at the American Legion in Westminster on June 24th with a good turnout of active members.

This month, I want to focus on the upcoming 102nd Annual Conference of the 29th Division Association. Comrades, this conference is to be held in Gettysburg, PA at the Gettysburg Wyndham, October 28 -31, 2021. As your Post 48 Commander, I plan to attend the conference and enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow comrades.

The Gettysburg Wyndham offers a wonderful and most appealing lodging facility. The Conference offers well designed social gathering and a business meeting the Gettysburg Wyndham. Numerous activities for you and your family during the day and evenings. Example; A tour Guide of the Battlefield, a cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg, a possible visit to the Eisenhower National Historic site (President Eisenhower home and farm) and many in town pubs and breweries. A shuttle bus for you and your family to downtown Gettysburg and back will be available.

Comrades, all information of the Conference and attractions are listed in the Summer 2021 *Twenty-Niner*. Please take a moment and review the *Twenty-Niner* for additional information.

The conference committee has put together a well-planned conference and attractions for you and your family to enjoy all day and evening for your pleasure. More information can be found in the Summer 2021 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*, including the registration to attend the conference. Please plan to attend the conference and the many attractions. Hope to see you there.

The Bi-monthly meetings for the remainder of the year for Post 48 will be August 26th and October 28th.

Comrades, if you see or meet a veteran, please take the time and effort to acknowledge his or her service to our country and ask if they would be interested in joining the 29th Division Association.

Please let me or the Welfare Officer, Charles Foreman know of any veteran dealing with an illness or a deceased family member.

Be safe and stay healthy.

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

Dues for Post 48 are \$15 a year. Please make check payable to: **Jerome L. Day, Post 48, and mail to: P.O. Box 1564, Westminster, MD 21158.**

Frank Rauschenberg, Commander
fm32@erols.com

Stonewall Post 116, Staunton, VA
Southern Region

Commander: Barent Parslow

Post 116 did not meet in August. Our next meeting is 14 September 2021 at Mi Rancho Mexican Restaurant, Exit #227 on I-81, Verona, VA starting at 1145 hrs. Located on Route 11, 571 Lee Hwy, Verona, VA 24482, directly across the street from The Museum. This is a lunch event with a little Post and Association business thrown in. Come share some fellowship!

1) We are coordinating with Post 64 from Roanoke to have some seats on a bus to travel to the 29th Div. Assoc. Convention in Gettysburg, PA, 28 to 31 October. Price will be about \$35 per seat and includes use of the bus to get around all weekend in Gettysburg. It will stop at The Museum in Verona for pickup and return. Watch your email or call 540-248-0116 for more info.

2) The 116th Regiment Muster has been scheduled for 1700 on Saturday 13 November 2021. Please check the 116th Foundation website for more info and to register online or print off the mail-in forms. **ALL 29ers are invited** to register for and attend this veteran reunion event.

3) 2021 History Experience Tours to France with the 116th Foundation have been postponed to 2022. Check the 116th Foundation website or contact the 116th Foundation at 540-248-0116.

Check our Facebook pages and websites to confirm if these meetings below will be occurring or not!

*****NEXT POST 1116 MEETING***** Tuesday, 9 November 2021. Location and time may vary, but usually held at 1145 at Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant in Staunton. The post meets every other month on ODD numbered months (January, March, May, etc.)

The Winchester 3-116th veteran's group is meeting again. Breakfast meeting Monday, 13 September 2021. Meet at 0900 at the Backseat Bar & Grill in Winchester, VA. Address is 104 Full House Drive. Hope to see some of you there!

The "C Company" 116th veteran's group in Harrisonburg, VA is not meeting yet.

ANY Post 116 Member, former Stonewaller or 29er is *invited, welcome, and encouraged* to attend!

*Dues for Post 116 are \$12 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 116 and mail to: Post 116, 566 Lee Highway, Verona, VA 24482
Jimmy Kilbourne, Finance Officer
116thdirector@gmail.com*

HQs Post 29, Richmond, VA

Southern Region

Provisional Commander: Tim Williams

Members of Post 29 concluded our support to the Commonwealth's COVID response this past month. As conditions permit, we plan to restart our monthly meetings on September 11th. More information will be available closer to the event. If you are interested in joining, please email: hqpost29@gmail.com We look forward to seeing everyone soon. Please remember to pay this year's dues (\$12.00) at 29thdivisionassociation.com, or mail to Post 29 / Todd Hubbard at 13903 Highpaige Way, Chester VA 23831.

*Dues for Post 29 are \$12 a year. Please make check payable to: Post 29 and mail to: **Todd Hubbard, 13903 Highpaige Way, Chester, VA 23831-6536.***

*Todd Hubbard, Provisional Finance Officer:
HQPOST29@gmail.com*

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

Southern Region

Commander: John Lane

Hope all are well and safe. Thanks for all your support for the 29th Division Association, Norfolk Post 5, and all associated events.

Meeting Room Renovations Update: Post 5 meeting and museum room renovations at the Armory are complete and we are working to reorganize museum artifacts in a more chronological fashion. However, existing items mainly consist of WWII artifacts and we desire to make it more inclusive of later times. Therefore, the Post is seeking items for display related to the

29th Division and/or 1-111th Field Artillery, from the Korean War up to modern times. We request items such as photos, newspaper clippings (originals preferred), war souvenirs, items purchased abroad, etc... Items may be given as a donation or provided on loan for a limited time for display. By including more recent "history" of the units, younger Soldiers that are currently serving will see more of a connection with the post and the 29th Association.

Facility Access Still A Work in Progress: Post Commander John Lane is working to determine facility access details and protocols due to increased security restrictions added for the facility and facility grounds. Gate access for getting on the property is dependent on personnel on site and thus not always assured since renovations are still ongoing and the facility is not yet fully manned. John with the assistance of Joel Harris regularly visit the Armory on most Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining them to help or just check out what is happening, call John on his cell at (757) 497-6263.

2021 Meeting Schedule: Post 5 meets twice yearly on the Saturdays before Memorial and Veterans Day from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at the Norfolk Readiness Center (Armory). Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, 6 November 2021, 10 AM to 12 PM, followed by our Veterans Day ceremony on Thursday, 11 November 2021, at 11:00 AM at the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Dues for Post 5 are \$15 for one year, \$12.00 per year if you renew for 2 or more years by mail. Starting September 1st, renewing on line via PayPal has been increased from \$12 to \$15 at www.29thdivisionassociation.com. Website payment limits dues to only one year at a fixed price. Please be sure to describe the online payment as "Post 5 Dues." Otherwise, make checks payable to "Norfolk Post 5", and mail to Post Commander: Mr. John Lane, 340 Aragona Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2702.

*Randy Hess, Adjutant
rjshess@verizon.net*

Limestone Post 1-72, Baltimore, MD

Maryland Region

Commander: Bill Held, Jr.

Greetings everyone from Limestone Post 1-72. I would like to recognize Lee Hofman for his tenure as Post Commander and thank him for his leadership.

My name is Bill Held and I am honored to be elected as Post Commander, and look forward to working with the other officers in the Post. I did not serve in the 29th Division nor the military, but have always been a staunch supporter of those who serve this great country.

My dad, William Held, served in the 29th Division from 1960-1964 and I learned a lot from him about his time in the 29th. I'm not sure what year I joined as an Associate Member, but I did

find a *Twenty-Niner* newsletter filed away in my dad's office dated 1998, so it's likely he and I joined the same time. Our family began attending the Christmas parties and crab feasts at the Fifth Regiment Armory sometime around 2001 and we went to many. Our family had such a great showing at these events, that Houston Matney, Past Commander and current Senior Vice Commander, thought to name us "The Held Platoon". It's got a nice touch.

Please try to attend the 102nd Annual Conference of the 29th Division Association to be held in Gettysburg, PA at the Gettysburg Wyndham, October 28 -31, 2021 and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow comrades and the many activities that are planned. All information of the Conference and attractions are listed in the Summer 2021 *Twenty-Niner*. Please take a moment and review the *Twenty-Niner* for additional information.

We still have members on sick call. PNC Bob Wisch, Brian Becker, Bob Bryant, M. Hall Worthington, Gil Crosby, and Jim Laughland, to mention the few of which I am aware. Please keep these gentlemen in prayer.

There was no meeting held in August. **Next meeting 20 Sep 2021.**

I want to thank everyone who have continued their membership in the Association and supporting Post 1-72 and keeping the history of the 29th alive.

*Dues for Post 1-72 are \$15 a year. Please make check payable to: Limestone Post 72, and mail to: **Bill DeHaven, 139 Chestnut Hill Lane, Reisterstown, MD 21136-3206***

*Bill Held, Commander
held927@gmail.com*

Eastern Shore Post 88, Cambridge, MD

Maryland Region

Commander: Jon Black

Comrades and Ladies of the Post,

What is normalcy anymore? This is the questions folks ask themselves each day. From COVID-19 restrictions and the variances, political questions, foreign policy and the list can go on. We all need to stand up and face that the world has changed before our eyes, and respect each other. Life has started to return on the Eastern Shore. Businesses are open and families are out and moving around. Again as I have written before everyone should stay vigilant and take necessary precautions.

The meeting in August at the usual location did not occur and for that I apologize. I will have an officers meeting in the coming weeks to discuss September. The members of this Post need to get back together for the health of the organization. Bernie Liswell our Maryland Region Commander, represented the Association well during the Easton Armory Open House earlier this month

Lastly the annual Convention will be held in October and those planning on attending should

continue to check the association webpage for updates. Hope to see everyone there.

Dues for Post 88 are \$12 a year and \$5 for Auxiliary members. Please make check payable to Post 88 and mail to: **Ken Wheatley 102 Richardson Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613-1130.**

Jon D. Black, Commander
cdrb2115@comcast.net

Larkspur Post 110, Pikesville, MD
Maryland Region

Commander: PNC David Ginsburg

The Larkspur Post sends best wishes of good health and safety to all of our comrades during these difficult times. We look forward to seeing many of our comrades at the 2021 Convention and Reunion in Gettysburg during the last week-end of October.

This should be a memorable convention with many tours, presentations and other fun events planned, but especially to see and be with each other. The convention headquarters is the Gettysburg Wyndham, perhaps the finest in the area.

The Post 110 held a meeting via Zoom 11 August. PNC Ginsburg advised that the future of the NCO Club for the veterans' groups was looking positive. There has been major progress in negotiations with Baltimore County to take the title from the State of Maryland for the Pikesville Military Reservation. This would allow a transfer to the Pikesville Armory Foundation (PAF), the umbrella 501 (c) 3 that the Veterans of the Pikesville Armory (Post 110, the NCO Club, 121st Engineers, Maryland Military Historical Society Roundtable, and Warrant Officers Association) all belong to.

The PAF has raised \$2.1M so far toward their total goal of \$8m. We will need to raise funds ourselves to pay for the day-to-day costs of running the NCO Club, as well as raising at least \$15,000 in the next few months to have enough funds to pay utilities, repairs, etc. for the Club for the next few years.

Welfare

Our thoughts go out to Ed Rodier who is recovering from some health challenges. Ed has been the cornerstone of this post for many years and we look forward to seeing him at the NCO Club again as soon as possible.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of post member Ashley Fowler.

Ashley was an avid motorcyclist with the military brethren, a former artilleryman in the 110th, a friend, and a post member. He died way too young on August 17th after a fight with cancer.

Future meetings/events:

Next Post meeting: TBA.

If you have not paid your dues for 2021, please send a check to FO Rodier or PNC Ginsburg.

Dues for Post 110 are \$12 a year. Please

make check payable to: Post 110 and mail to: **Ed Rodier, 13344 Cove Landing Rd., Bishopville, MD 21813-1102**

Frank Armiger, Adjutant
farmiger@gmail.com

New England Post 93
Northeast & Worldwide

At-Large Region

Commander: Fran Sherr-Davino

Post 93 member Michael Warner has shared this photo of the uniform worn by his great-grandfather, Harry Wilmer Cullen, who served with the 29th in World War I. Note the 29th Division patch.



Most prominent is the World War I Victory Medal awarded to those who served between April 1917 and November 1918. On the sleeve, the top chevron indicates his rank of PFC. The bottom chevron is the overseas service stripe. The small star on the opposite side of his uniform appears to be the Bronze Honorable Discharge Pin awarded when Cullen left the Army. I hope to see members of Post 93 at the convention in Gettysburg next month.

Dues for Post 93 are \$25/year, but \$15/year for veterans. Dues may be paid for two years: \$45/two years, but \$25/two years for veterans. Please make check payable to: Post 93 and mail to: **Neil Ungerleider, 34 Maple Avenue, Boxford, MA 01921-1424.**

Neil Ungerleider, Finance Officer
neilungerleider@gmail.com

Maryland Region

Commander: **Bernie Liswell**

I had the pleasure of attending the Open House at the Easton Armory a few weeks ago. D /175 was the host unit, using their last day of AT for the event. The unit is now part of the 28th Division (PAARNG).

I mention this because it was weird seeing the

Keystone patch, rather than the Blue and Gray.

Consequently, it was very challenging trying to encourage the younger soldiers to join our Association. There was no connection. The best opportunity came when noticing the 29th patch on right shoulders. They had "skin in the game", and were much more receptive.

I spoke with the unit's First Sergeant, and gave him a handful of applications, who assured me he would promote membership. He was a 29er with the 2/115, when I was the XO. He is also a member of Post 88. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, I was able to sign up three new members.

Young soldiers today are not joiners, and need to gain an appreciation for history, and the sacrifices made by those that preceded them.

And that - is our biggest challenge in gaining new members, in order to grow our Association, and to keep alive the spirit of the 29th Division.

I hope to see many of you, next month, at the Convention in Gettysburg. **Next Maryland Region meeting is 13 Sep 21 at the Fifth Regiment Armory.**

Bernie Liswell, Commander

National Commander's Comments

Fellow Association Members -

As the outgoing National Commander, thank you very much for your and your Posts' support for keeping the Association alive and well, especially during the Pandemic.

Please continue to promote the Convention in Gettysburg in October - I look forward to seeing you there! Electronic registration will be available shortly and more detailed information about the schedule will be forthcoming as well.

Stay Safe, God Bless, and 29 Let's Go!

PETE HINZ
National Commander

Vouchers available

*for WWII veterans
to attend the convention*

The National Executive Committee unanimously approved at its June meeting that all World War II veterans receive a \$500.00 voucher to attend the convention/reunion.

The voucher is in the form of a check that may be used toward travel, hotel and banquet expenses.

To apply for a voucher contact Assistant National Executive Director, William Mund at **443-529-4233** or e-mail him at **duster197329@gmail.com**.

29ID assumes authority of Task Force Spartan

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, commanding general, 29th Infantry Division, Virginia Army National Guard, assumed command of Task Force Spartan from Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, commanding general, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, July 20. The transfer of authority ceremony was presided over by Lt. Gen. Terry Ferrell, commanding general, U.S. Army Central.

During the same ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Plude, division command sergeant major, 29th Infantry Division, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Horn, division command sergeant major, 36th Infantry Division.

Task Force Spartan is a multi-component organization, comprised of Soldiers from all three Army components: Active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Exercising command and control over Operation Spartan Shield, Task Force Spartan maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen U.S. defense relationships and build partner capacity.

“Task Force Spartan looks forward to working with the Kuwaiti Land Forces and all of our Arab Gulf partner-nations this upcoming year as we grow, build, and learn from each other,” said Rhodes.

During the ceremony, the outgoing commander and command sergeant major cased the 36th Infantry Division colors, signifying the end of their tour. The 29th Infantry Division colors were then uncased, opening a new chapter for both the division and for Task Force Spartan.

“What we will see is the foundation you have laid and now passed to the 29th, that it must be enduring,” said Ferrell, speaking of the 36th Infantry Division’s efforts during their tour. “I will forever be thankful for what you have established here.”

This is not the first time the 29th has deployed for Operation Spartan Shield. The 29th was the first to division to establish Task Force Spartan in 2016-2017.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Rhodes presented an M1918 Trench Knife as a gift to Hamilton as a symbol of his appreciation for all the 36th had accomplished. “Your efforts and contributions will have lasting impact on our partner-nations’ defense and readiness,” said Rhodes.

Both the 29th and 36th Infantry Divisions trace their histories to the European battlefields of World War I, where both divisions first saw combat during the massive Meuse-Argonne Offensive that stretched the entirety of the war’s western front.

In the intervening 100-years, both divisions have participated in a number of conflicts, including World War II, where the 36th became famed for being the first American division to reach continental Europe during the Allied landings at Salerno, Italy and the 29th for being one of the first American divisions to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

In its role as Task Force Spartan, the 29th will command two brigades and four battalion task forces. Units supporting OSS provide capabilities such as aviation, logistics, force protection, and information management, and facilitate theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia and humanitarian assistance/disaster response planning.

By Staff Sgt. Marc Heaton, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

Congressional Gold Medal for members of the 29th Provisional Ranger Battalion

The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc. has re-launched its project to get the WWII Rangers awarded the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM). This single 3.0-inch diameter National award, after being signed into Public Law by the President, will be presented collectively to the 368 members of the **29th Provisional Ranger Battalion**, 29th Infantry Division, which trained at the British Commando School at Achnacarry, Scotland, in February and May 1943.

After this training, commando teams from the 29th Provisional Ranger Battalion conducted several raids on German facilities in the Channel Islands and in Norway. The other 6579 veterans of the six, authorized and numbered WWII Ranger Battalions will also be honored with this CGM when awarded. These six battalions fought in every combat theater of WWII including North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Germany, and the Philippines.

The CGM, after presentation to remaining WWII Rangers and families in Washington, DC by senior politicians and military leaders, will be permanently displayed at the Smithsonian. It may be loaned out to museums and institutions related to the recipients.

Records indicate a total of only 19 still-remaining WWII Rangers, all in their 90s, out of the almost 7000 who volunteered to serve. Sadly, there are no known members of the 29th Provisional Ranger Battalion still with us. The goal is to push this project as quickly as

possible so that many of the still-remaining WWII Rangers will be able to participate in the national award ceremony.

Per the Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc., the award of the CGM is a legislative process that requires introduction in the House and Senate of same-worded bills, then approval of these bills by both bodies with 2/3rds majorities, and then approval by the President. After Presidential approval, the single CGM is designed, minted, and presented.

The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc. states that **Senate bill S.1872** has been re-introduced by Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) and **House bill H.R.3577** by Representative Jason Crow (D-CO). Senatorial co-sponsors need to number 67 before the bill can move to the full Senate for a vote, and Representative co-sponsors need to number 290. The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc. organization is seeking assistance from members of the 29th Infantry Division Association to contact their Senators and Representatives to encourage them to co-sponsor **Senate bill S.1872 and House bill H.R.3577**. “Co-sponsor” is the critical word. You can go to: congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1872/text and congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3577/text to see the text and co-sponsor details of the two bills.

If you want to assist in this effort to nationally recognize and honor the members of the 29th Provisional Ranger Battalion, then please contact your Senators and Representatives and request they co-sponsor the respective bills. You can email Ron Hudnell, Project Manager for the Congressional Gold Medal project at RonHudnell@gmail.com if you have any questions. **Rangers Lead The Way!**

New Members:

Albanese, Mark, Post 94, Springfield, VA
 Angert, James, Post 94, Carlisle, PA
 Crim, Lemiel, Post 116, Sterling, VA
 Hudnell, Ron, Post 64, Winston-Salem, NC
 McMullen, Randy, Post 729, Lewistown, PA
 Obal, David, Post 94, Olney, MD
 Winters, George, Post 64, Madison Heights, VA

Maryland 29th Division Association Inc. License Tags

The forms to obtain these tags are available by contacting Will Mund at duster197329@gmail.com and requesting the MVA Form VR 124.

An appeal to the posts

As in past years when we offered vouchers to our WWII veterans to attend our convention, we solicited the posts for help in funding this initiative.

We are hoping that once again the individual posts will step forward and make a donation to support our WWII veterans.

If your post would like to participate in this noble effort, please contact Assistant National Executive Director, William Mund at 443-529-4233 or e-mail him at duster197329@gmail.com.

More on Time

Whether we are rich or poor, famous, or ordinary, we are all alike in the fact that God gives us life in daily installments. Voltaire says that "time is man's most precious asset." Time is free as we cannot buy or sell it, rent or borrow it."

Time is life. To waste time is to waste life. Each person decides the way his or her life shall go, and each determines what we do with time.

Time is personal. What have we done with it, what will we do? We invest money; however, how do we invest time?

John Schildt

Donate button on website

The Association is now set up to accept online donations that are made to honor (or in memory of) an individual, or support our efforts such as providing stipends for WWII vets to attend the upcoming convention. There is a prominent link on the main menu of the 29thDivisionAssociation.com website which takes users to a "Donate" page where they can make a donation via PayPal using a PayPal account or credit card.

***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.**

Rev John Schildt, Post 78, Sharpsburg, MD

PNC Bill King, Post 64, Roanoke, VA

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