



In memory of

Joseph J. Moscati

12 Aug 26 – 20 Dec 20



**Past National Commander
1997 – 1998**

See page 21

29th Infantry Division deploying to Middle East in Spring 2021

FORT BELVOIR, VA — The Virginia National Guard's Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division has received a mobilization order for federal active duty in the Middle East, according to an announcement made Feb. 4, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

In Spring 2021, more than 500 Soldiers of the 29th will begin a 10-month long deployment in the Central Command Area of Operations as Task Force Spartan to provide leadership, command, control and in-depth staff analysis for Operation Spartan Shield. While based at Fort Belvoir, Soldiers assigned to the 29th Infantry Division live all throughout Virginia and Maryland.

"The Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division

embody the National Guard motto 'Always Ready, Always There,' Williams said. "This is not the first time that the 29th has been called on to play a key role on the world stage in support of theater security operations.

"These highly-qualified and experienced professionals are ready to do their part in serving our nation and our global partners. What is truly inspiring is to see their willingness to step up, and not just the Soldiers but also their families and employers. This is what makes our Army and our nation great!"

According to their official web site, Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component organization, made up of active Army and

(Continued on page 14)

116th IBCT completes mission in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The last group of Virginia National Guard personnel assisting civilian law enforcement with security operations at the 59th Presidential Inauguration and the days before

and after the event departed Washington, D.C., Feb. 8, 2021.

On Inauguration Day, approximately 2,400 VNG troops were among the more than 25,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the country on duty assisting authorities with keeping people safe and protecting property. A group of about 1,000 VNG personnel remained to assist with the enduring National Guard support following the inauguration.

Governor Ralph Northam, Senator Mark Warner, Senator Tim Kaine and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton were on hand to send off the last group from the D.C. Armory and express their appreciation to the Soldiers and Airmen who left their loved ones, jobs and schools to answer the call of duty.

"We are here to let you know how proud

(Continued on page 16)



Senator Mark Warner and Senator Tim Kaine present thank you letters to COL Chris Samulski, commander of the Virginia National Guard's 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Feb. 8, 2021, in Washington, D.C. Governor Ralph Northam and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton joined Kaine and Warner in thanking Virginia Army National Guard troops for supporting civilian law enforcement for the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

Photo by Cotton Puryear

THE TWENTY-NINER

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Spring 2021 message from National Commander Peter C. Hinz

Welcome to 2021! While “ups and downs” will continue to be part of everyday life, we look forward to 2021 shifting the balance by providing some very welcome and long overdue “ups.”

The “up” we are all so hopeful for is significant progress with the coronavirus pandemic. By the time you read this article, many of you will have received immunizations(s) for Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19. And as the immunization numbers increase, and the weeks and months of 2021 pass, we all should be able to resume most of the activities we enjoy in the manner we enjoy them.

For Association members, we will be able to resume in-person social events and interaction. We will be able to join our fellow 29ers and Association members in meetings, occasions, and gatherings – Post meetings, memorial services for individuals and special days, ceremonies, and conventions. We will be able to share and show our support, joy, sympathy, recognition, and reverence with each other!

In the coming months, these events will incorporate our experience(s) in distant communication over the past year. Our meetings and gatherings will include the ability to attend remotely as well as in person. We should see an increase in attendance like that experienced by the Curtis B. Vickery Round Table of Military History held by the Maryland Military Historical Society (almost a doubling in attendance and the addition of new members!).

Be sure to read and enjoy the article (and plan) about the Association Conference in Gettysburg later this year – the planning team is overly excited to pick up where it left off last year. We want to see you in Gettysburg!!

But I end my comments with words of advice and caution. It is important to understand and accept that although the immunization(s) will protect the great majority of recipients from the effects of the disease, a very small percentage of those immunized may still carry the virus, may still suffer effects of the disease, and may still pass the virus to others. So, even once vaccinated, you should continue the hygiene practices (masks, hand-washing, care in public facilities, and social distancing when unmasked around people you don't know/trust) that have proven to be effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19 (as well as the flu and the common cold, great and significant collateral benefits).

I look forward to seeing as many of you in person as we move through 2021.

"29 Let's Go!"
Peter C. Hinz
National Commander
29th Division Association

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The Preamble

*To perpetuate the friendships
we cherish; to keep alive
the spirit that never knew
defeat; to glorify our dead;
and to further keep
before our country
the record of the
29th Division
in all the wars;
we associate ourselves
in an organization
known as the
29th Division Association.*

Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Spring issue. Note our cut-off date. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by 10 March 2021 then it will not be listed until the next issue. Donation checks must be made payable to the **29th Division Association** and mailed to: **5 Shore Drive, North East, MD, 21901-3327.**

Barbieri, Jim & Jeanne, Post 93, Peabody, MA

In memory of CPL Frank Barbieri, KIA 10 August 1944

Beck, Raymond, Post 88, Woolford, MD

In memory of "Those who gave their all"

Bilo, Robert A., Gambrills, MD

In memory of "Those who gave their all"

Cooley, Glen, Post 94, Son, Slagle, LA

In memory of Carl Cooley

Cresap's Rifles, Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Walter K. Forney

In memory of Anthony P. O'Toole

Eder-George Post 85, North East, MD

In memory of Jack Eder, E/115

Elliott, David, Post 94, HHC/224, Burke, VA

Fournier, Normand, Post 94, Son, Millis, MA

Garguilo, Neil, Post 94, Son, Freehold, NJ

Green, Colleen, Post 94, Daughter, Simms, MT

In memory of PNC Joe Moscati

Hall, Burdell, Post 94, G/175, Morton, IL

Hayes, Steven, Post 94, Associate, Upper Marlboro, MD

Jindar, Dr. Lawrence, Post 94, Son, Floral Park, NJ

Keller, Fred, Post 94, B/629MI Bn, Ellicott City, MD

Kruhm, Fred, Post 94, C/121ENG, Burtonsville, MD

Langley, Joseph, Post 94, HHC/29ID(L), Alexandria, VA

Lauer, Earl, Post 110, Highland, MD

In memory of BG Thomas Baker, MDARNG

McNamara, Margaret, Widow, Missoula, MT

In memory of PNC Joe Moscati

O'Rourke, Hugh, Post 94, Grandson, Northport, NY

Prazenica, Kathy, Post 94, Elizabethtown, PA

Prazenica, William, Post 94, Son, Elizabethtown, PA

Rush, Warner, Post 94, Associate, Waretown, NJ

Shaw, Richard, Post 94, C/224FA, Clarksville, MD

Smith, Marsha, Post 94, Walworth, NY

In memory of PNC John Wilcox

Sparks, Gary, Post 94, Son, Hillsborough, NH

Stoney, J. E., Post 94, Associate, Perry Hall, MD

Ungerleider, Daniel, Post 94, Son, Burke, VA

Ungerleider, Ruth, Widow, Springfield, VA

In memory of PNC Joe Moscati

Veteran Corps, 5th Regiment Infantry, Baltimore, MD

In memory of Ms Carolyn Crosby

Walhovd, Gary, Post 94, Associate, Janesville, WI

Ward, Ronald, Americal Division, Protem, MO

Wilcox, Christina, Widow, Frederick, MD

In memory of her husband PNC John Wilcox

Zwerin, David, Post 94, Associate, Merrick, NY

A poem

I stood beside a Soldier, as the parade went passing by, with its marching bands and shining floats, under a cloudless sky.

I noticed his attention, as Old Glory came near. He saluted to the Flag of which he held so dear.

I also noticed others, with their hats still on, not even a hand over their heart, or did they even respond.

I wonder what the world would be, without his kind around? When his country needed him, he joined with leaps and bounds.

His ranks are getting thinner, and time will take them all, some were lost in battle, and some have answered their last roll call.

I cannot see the future, or what there is to be, but I will always remember the Soldier, who stood right next to me.

Important notice from the National Finance Officer

Post Finance Officers; Please, help me with the National Finance checking account by cashing any check you receive from National as soon as possible.

If they are held, I don't know if you have or have not received the check, and to stop payment after finding out months after I sent the check that if was not received is very expensive. Currently Bank of America charges us \$30 for a stop payment.

I understand there may be a week or two delay but if it is going to be more than that please let me know.

Thanks for your help and understanding.

Tom Knight

National Finance Officer

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from 24 November 2020 through 10 March 2021. We are indeed saddened and mourn their passing. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to their families and loved ones. We pray that they and all of our earlier deceased 29ers and ladies may rest in peace. *Amen.*

LAST ROLL CALL

Anderson, McKenny, Post 88, B/2/175, Oxford, MD 9/30/20
 Bowen, Richard W., Post 88, I/115, Salisbury, MD 9/20/20
 Colcord, Herbert N., Post 93, I/175, Milton, MA 11/15/20
 Earll, Arden, Post 64, H/116, Corry, PA 11/28/20
 Eder, John, J., Post 85, E/115, Chesapeake City, MD 11/21/20
 Elzey, Allen M., Post 88, C/115, Cambridge, MD 1/19/21
 Forney, Walter K., Post 78, A/115, Frederick, MD 1/11/21
 Foxwell, Richard D., Post 88, K/115, Cambridge, MD 10/29/20
 Grier, Thomas, E., Post 64, HHC/29th ID(L), Roanoke, VA 1/23/21
 Held, William Sr., Post 1-72, HQ/29ID(L) Catonsville, MD 3/10/21
 Hurley, Ronald, Post 88, C/2/115, Cambridge, MD 10/30/20
 Moscati, PNC Joe, Post 110, 110FA, Nottingham, MD 12/12/20
 O'Toole, Anthony, Post 78, Associate, Frederick, MD 12/1/20
 Schera, Simone, "Sam", Post 64, HQ/116, W. Nyack, NY 11/18/20
 Sherman, Albert L., Post 64, Associate, Troutville, VA 12/22/20
 Spicer, William, Post 110, Associate, Sykesville, MD 2021
 Tyler, Allen L., Post 88, CSGP, Hebron, MD 1/18/21

LADIES

Crosby, Carolyn, Baltimore, MD 12/18/20
 McCarthy, Elaine, Widow, North Smithfield, RI 9/30/20
 Steimel, Judith K., Zionsville, IN 1/28/21
 Vaccarino, Mary E., "Betty", Widow, Ellicott City, MD 9/20/20

LEST WE FORGET

It was decided long ago, that as long as two 29ers survive, we shall remember and honor our comrades and ladies who have passed to the great beyond.

You have just read a list of our comrades who have died and whose deaths were reported to us since our last publication.

We ask survivors, friends, Post and Region Officers to forward information, as complete as possible, on the deceased to the National Executive Director, so that we can include them in the next issue of "The Twenty-Niner" and in the National Reunion Memorial Service. This will only be possible with your help.

Valerie Simmers
 National Executive Director
 5 Shore Drive
 North East, MD 21901-3327
 E-mail: vhawk0926@gmail.com

Online Store Update

The online store continues to add items including most of what was available from the previous inventory that now has been combined in one location. We have an ample supply of the Official Dress Hat in most if not all sizes as well as the newly created "Official Class B Hat just to mention a few.

We also have a good supply of most sizes of the coach's jackets in sizes up to 3XL. We will not be re-ordering these so when a size sells out that will be it. They are being replaced with a very nice, embroidered V-neck wind shirt. Also available is the association license plate frame. Why not get one of these and advertise YOUR Association?

If you for whatever reason cannot order online, just let me know and I will help figure out how to get you what you want. I can be reached via email or phone. Email is NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com and phone is 410-688-6307.

Finally, keep an eye on the Merchandise Website for an upcoming Spring Cleaning Sale of some items.

Tom Knight
 National Finance Officer

**Be sure to check out our new and improved
 website at: www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

Back from the front – between the lines

Part 3

By James A. Frick, E/175

I boarded the train and they said we were going to Fontainebleau. A big repo depot, i.e. replacement depot. We were in that car like sardines. Half stood, half sat. I think there were 150 cars in the train and every time we started or stopped, we got 150 jolts. The cars seemed to be attached by a chain and they had a bumper on each side. What a ride. It was so cold there was ice on the rivets inside. I sipped my bottle and kept warm.

Fontainebleau had some stone barracks three stories high. They were built for Napoleon's troops. It was a nice place; you could see the palace up on the hill. I got paid while I was there. The first time in 11 months. I got \$650.00. I sent most of it home to my wife. When I was in the hospital, I got 11 packages one day. One was 6 months old and the newest one was 12 days old. In the oldest one, my wife had sent me my wrist watch and my wedding ring. Well, I thought if I were going up to the front lines again, this \$18.00 Elgin watch would fall apart when the first shell went off. I let it be known that I had a gold watch for sale for \$100.00. Some Sergeant who was stationed there said he wanted and would try to scrape up the money. I was there about two days and as my train was pulling out, he ran up waving a hand full of Francs. He said all he could raise was \$60.00. So I gave it to him. I sent that money home later, too.

I ended up in a monastery in Holland, where I spent the night. I was told I was on breakfast K.P., me and

a sergeant, but what the heck. I'll never forget the pancake syrup. The cook took three maple flavored pills and dissolved them in a cup of hot water. He then added 25 lbs. of sugar and the cup of pills to a huge kettle of hot water. I stirred it and dished it out as syrup for the pancakes (some slop).

I was taken by jeep to the 29th Division. There was a big sign "Welcome Back to the 29th." I ended up at the kitchen of E Co., my old outfit. I got new clothes and shoes. I stayed all night. I dreaded going up to the front again. The next morning, I had to go.

My outfit was in Aldenhaven. It was around the 1st of February, 1945. Little did I know they had been sitting on the Roer River since the end of December. They gave me a squad of all new people. We trained and more or less laid around. We had a formal battalion formation one day the big brass started to call officers forward and present them with a medal. Was I ever shocked when they called my name. I froze and the LT shouted over his shoulder to get up there. Well, I did a fancy right face and marched up. The commander read my citation and pinned a bronze star on my blouse. (I have a picture somewhere). That was the first medal I had seen handed out by my outfit.

One day, they loaded us in a 2-1/2 and we went to Alsdorf to a coal mine building for a hot shower. It felt good to be clean. We also got the chance to walk a mile or so and get some coffee and doughnuts from a red Cross mobile truck. I think it was

when I got my medal that the 2nd Battalion had a formal parade. It was the first formal parade of American troops on German soil. You could tell here was a lot of build-up of troops and equipment in preparation for the Roer River crossing. I was moved several times from one village to another. I think it was the day before the attack when we were huddled in a building and someone came in and asked, "Is there a Jim Frick in here?" It was Gale Tharp from Irwin. We had a good talk about home. He was with the 105mm SPMs which were going to support us on the crossing.

About February 23, we crept to the rivers' edge and watching in the semi-dark as the engineers put in a foot bridge. At approximately 6:00 a.m. it was still semi-dark. I crossed the bridge leading the way for my men. The first thing I stepped on the other side were two dead German soldiers. We spread out and waited for the rest of our troops to get across. We pushed forward, but ran into heavy machine gun and rifle fire. (We found out later it was a German N.C.O. training ground with all the defense you could imagine.) We finally got some mortar and artillery fire and charged our way through. As we were moving up, we got behind a stone wall. We had to take turns running across an open courtyard. A couple of men had made it and the man in front of me ran. He got half way when a mortar shell landed and blew him to bits. I was next. I ran, jumping over his parts to the safety

of the other side. Everyone else got across and we moved on to our day's objective.

We were pinched out by other advancing divisions, so we got a little break. Then we started our advance across the plains to Munchen-Gladbach. It was mostly run forward, dig in, run forward, dig in. I got very little sleep, until we took Wickrathberg and then we settled down to attack the big city. I was on the point as we advanced through Rheydt toward Munchen-Gladbach. We routed them out street by street and house by house. There was not too much resistance, but enough to keep me on my toes. I remember going through a soap factory and finding a bass accordion. It was too heavy to carry, so I left it. As I moved forward, I went through a large factory that made heavy rubber cable. Some of the aisles were 100 yards long. They must have just laid down their tools and left, for the batteries in the fork lifts were full-charged and one of my men jumped on a took a ride. He did not know how to stop it and was hurt bad when he slammed it into a wall. I carried him out and laid him on the sidewalk for the medics to find. (I never saw him again.) As we moved forward, we were held up by machine gun fire. I went forward to survey the situation. The gun was behind a brick front of a Shell gasoline station. Just like at home.

One of my men worked his way around and tossed a grenade in and we moved on. We pushed through the city and stopped. We were relieved and sent back to Hockeneukirch for rest and recreation. I was sent on ahead as a quartering party. I had an interpreter G.I. with me. I secured homes for my company and

picked out a building for the C.P. Naturally, I took the best house for my platoon. It was a red brick home with the cellar floor tiled with white tile with a blue pansy in each tile. It was pretty. The lady said it was tile country and tile was cheap. She had four chickens. I told her to take two and leave two. She did, and I had two eggs every day. Some treat. We stayed about a week. Played basketball against the officers and almost got into a fight. I think they forgot they were just playing a game.

While I was there, my company were issued Eisenhower jackets, made of British wool. We were chosen to stand honor guard for all the Generals of the 9th Army for our part in capturing the city. The first day the British gave them all a decoration and on the 2nd day the French did the same. I stood both days at present arms for 45 minutes each day (no easy job). We were to wear our jackets in combat until the end of the war to see if they would hold up. They did and I brought mine home only to have someone steal it on my job one day. This was a much different war than in Normandy and Brittainy. You would fight a while, then pull back and live in a house with bed and good chow.

About this time, we were mopping up in the outskirts of the city. There were three houses in a row and we had stopped to take a break. There were four of us. We looked and there were two German and two American fighter planes having a dog fight. First, we saw an American plane catch fire, and the pilot bailed out, but his chute did not open. All I could see was arms and legs falling. (I heard he hit in a courtyard several miles away, nothing but bones and blood).

Later a German plan was hit and he came down, twisting and turning, and screaming just like in the movies. One of the men was standing on the street and three of us were in the doorway. I could tell that the plane was going to land close, and I hollered for him to come over were we were, Well, he came running and hit us as we all went flying down the cellar steps. When we got up and came back out we saw the plane had hit the house next door and it was burning to the ground. We got out of there in hurry.

The next day, we had our part of the city cleared and were resting. I heard that the outfit my old buddy, Dan Grubb (who I trained with at Camp Wheeler) was in, was on the other side of town, so I asked a buddy to go with me to try and find him. I owed him a British pound and I wanted to pay him back while I had the chance. We were walking down a narrow street and there was aircraft activity overhead. All of a sudden, my buddy hollered, "Ouch," and dove in a store front. I hollered, "What's the matter?" and he is pulling off his combat boot. There, stuck in the heel, was a spent .50 caliber round. It had just burnt his heel. He would not go any further with me, so I went alone. I finally found Grubb and paid him. He thanked me but said I was crazy for coming up where the fighting was taking place. I got back ok and my conscience was clear. I did not owe anyone anything.

Around the end of March, we loaded up in 2-1/2 ton trucks and crossed the Rhine River at Wesel on a pontoon bridge put in by our engineers. We stayed the night and moved out to some place near Munster. We were told to round up, and all D.P.'s

and P.O.W.'s My squad came across an Italian P.O.W. camp which the Germans had abandoned. They were all enlisted men, so I had their Sergeant clean up the place, put lime in the toilets, eat and get the men cleaned up. Our Division was in charge of this operation, so I turned them over to military government. We moved forward rounding up strays. There were a few small arms incidents but nothing serious.

I ended up in Minden on the Wesel River. I stayed in a lovely home there. It was a nice as any middle class home in America. It had a tile bath with built-in tub. There was a white water tank on the wall with a long spout that could service the sink or tub.

The dining room floor was 1" oak. It started in the center with a 1" square pad and went out to the walls. We found a ping-pong set in the basement and set it up on the dining room table. You should have seen that G.I. she-marked floor when we left. I wanted to take a hot bath; I had the water but no gas. I traced the pipes to the furnace and I built a fire and had all the hot water I wanted. I stayed there for several days before we moved out to mop up stragglers.

One evening we came up on a big farm complex. The sign said Benninghauser Gut. I crawled through a hasty mine field marking each mine with a white strip of cloth so the tanks could avoid them. I found a gate opening, leading into a courtyard to the house. I could hear some German soldiers coming, so I put my buddy on one side and I went on the other, and when they came through the gate, I put my rifle against one end and said, "Halt" He said "Lewis."

I guess that was their password. I said, "Lewis, hell, drop your weapons." I made them lie face down on my side of the opening. Pretty soon, two more came stringing wire. I did the same to them. Then two more came from their outpost and I got them too. I had six when one of our tanks hit a mine and alerted the Germans in the house. They ran down a prepared trench and escaped. We moved with prisoners forward and picked up a lot more and some civilians. By dawn we had about 40 in all. Not a bad haul for one night's work.

As we moved across the plains of Germany, we stopped at an isolated farmhouse and were told we were going to take a rest. I went snooping in and out of buildings and spotted a white porcelain-like tub. Then I saw a galvanized bathtub hanging on the wall. I put two and two together and filled the white tub with water from the pump, built a fire under it like you were supposed to, and got hot water. Took down the bath tub and had myself a nice bath.

We advanced some on the Autobahn Highway in the back of 2-1/2 ton trucks. It was a nice road. It was interesting to see how the Germans had blown the stone arch bridges, but our engineers put in Bailey bridges and we hardly had to slow down. We stopped near Klotze with orders to clean out a pocket of resistance in a forest. I learned the sector my outfit was to clean out was called Wolfbungschen Forest. We were advancing in a line of skirmishers when our battalion jeep went ahead. It was hit by heavy machine gun fire, killing a couple and wounding one. There was a small thatched roof cottage in a small clearing where the shots ap-

parently came from. As we assaulted it, there was a person in a German uniform in the attic window with a weapon. Someone shouted "Don't shoot, it's a woman." Just then, she opened up with a machine pistol and I think everyone of us fired back, and she came tumbling out just like in the movies. The rest surrendered without much to-do.

As we moved out again, everyone was a little on edge. The First Sergeant from HQ Co. was with us for some unknown reason; we had never seen him before. Well, a German officer came out of the woods with a white handkerchief and his hands up. This Sergeant cut him almost in half with a .45 cal. grease gun. Well, that made all the rest of his bunch run and hide. We had to hunt them down one at a time. A lot of them were shot running away.

Evening came and they ordered us out of the woods. We had killed and captured quite a few. According to the history book, the next day the 1st and 3rd battalions combed the 8 sq. mile of woods, captured 67 and counted 45 dead.

The next day, we cleared out Forest Kressbeck without incident. The next day, I was moved from Wittingen to the Elbe River where we formed a line to wait for the Russians.

A few Germans came across the river and we stripped them of their pistols and whatever they had to drink in their packs. I did not see this but some German officers came over to surrender a whole V-2 Division (10,367 men). I did watch them come across and helped to herd them in pens, trucks or anything to confine them to one area. I got a nice 1917 Luger out of the deal.

They were all sent to the rear and I waited for the Russians to come.

On 4 May, we moved back from the Elbe River. We all thought the war was about over and that we were to be occupation troops somewhere in Germany. We went by 2-1/2 ton trucks. I got a good view of the Autobahn Highway and the rolling countryside from the back. We, along with 2nd Battalion HQ, stopped at a little town of "Leitite" to get organized for our roles on occupation. While we were there, V.E. day was declared. We had a little parade and fired off a cannon to celebrate. Everyone, including me, breathed a sigh of relief and thanked God that we made it through safely.

It was all taken calmly. I carried the E Company guidon in the parade and I took it back to Battalion. While I was gone, they called a surprise roll call. We were told before that there was to be no fraternizing or be fined and lose our rank. Well, when I got back, they were well past the F's and I was considered A.W.O.L. After the roll call, I went to the Captain and told him where I was. He called Battalion to verify my story and said, "OK, we have two cooks missing. Jump in the jeep and we will try to find them." We found them at the first farmhouse we came to. They were sitting at a long table with their feet up, a bottle of Schnapps in one hand and a fat German girl in the other. The Captain said, "You will be fined and lose your rank." The one cook said, "If that is so, we will see you in a couple of hours. We just got here." We all laughed and left them alone.

The next day, the chow was not fit to eat, the Captain went to the mess building to see what happened. The

two Sergeants were peeling spuds. They said, "Since we are PFC's, we don't cook anymore." The next day, they had their stripes back (big deal).

We heard the division was to occupy the Bremen-Bremerhaven area. We, along with the 2nd Battalion HQ Co., moved into the town of Hagen, a town about the size of Manor, only in was fairly flat country. E Company occupied the southern part of the town.

I had a very nice two-story house with five other men. The cooks from the company had come across a macaroni factory on our way back and loaded a 2-1/2 with macaroni. They proceeded to trade off our good rations for booze and we had to macaroni almost every meal. They had a chalkboard in front of the mess hall and we had a very powerful set of German binoculars. If the menu looked good, we went to eat. I only stayed there a few days.

One morning, a Sergeant from HQ Co. came down and told me I was wanted at HQ right away. I walked up and was told to go in and see the Company Commander. His name was Captain Otis Osborne. He said, "I want to hear your army background." I told him that I had 17 weeks basic training in the states, was shipped overseas to Ireland, then England, then France as the first replacements for the 29th. I fought in the front line for three months, was wounded, went to England to the hospital for three months. Came back, rejoined the 29th and went three months to the Elbe and here I am. He said, "Good, you are my new First Sergeant." I said, "I know nothing about the job." He said, "You will be back here, bag and baggage by 10:00 a.m., and that is

an order." I had no choice but to obey. I thought I could relax in E Co. and goof off. But now I thought I would have to work.

I moved up and took a room on the 2nd floor over the orderly and supply room. It had been a dry goods store. That evening, at retreat, the Captain introduced me to the Company. He said, "This is Sergeant Frick and I will tell you why I chose him to be your new First Sergeant. During the push from the Roer to the Rhine, the 9th Army was the largest army of men and equipment ever massed under one command in the history of the world. It was under the British General Montgomery. Out of the 9th Army, the 13th Corps was picked, out of the Corps, the 29th Division, out of the Division, the 175th Infantry and out of that, the 2nd Battalion, E Co. was chosen to spearhead the attack and out of E Co., the 2nd platoon, and 2nd squad. I want you all to know that Sergeant Frick was the first man across the foot bridge in this grand undertaking and that is why he is your new First Sergeant, dismiss your company."

I told the Captain after the formation if I had known that at the time, I think you would have had to have a bayonet up my ass to make me cross. He laughed and said "You are a good soldier; you would have gone anyway." I will say, I never had any trouble with anyone in the Company.

As far as the paperwork was concerned, I knew nothing. I asked where the Company clerk was. He was living at Regiment. I got him the next day. He was teed off. But after being with us for a few days, he said he never had it so good. The men did exercises and close order drill

but most of the time they did as the pleased. I spent a lot of my time fixing up a beer garden for the noncoms and the men. It was called Cueft dem Kaller. We scoured the countryside for material, bar tops, coils, ice, nails and we found some tongue and groove white pine and built a long curved bar. We sanded the floor so we could dance and built a bandstand. I put out a call for anyone who could play an instrument and we got a good dance band together. The army gave the Company two barrels of beer a week and we put it on tap. Some British officer came through town and sold us \$650.00 worth of 3-Star Hennessey Cognac.

When we were ready to open, I had tickets printed and sold them to the men to pay for the booze. I hired German men and women to tend bar and wait on tables. The day we opened, we sent out trucks to pick up girls who wanted to come to eat and dance. We had a good crowd and everyone seemed to have a good time. We were only open two nights when I was shipped home. But, I'm getting ahead of myself. Earlier, my buddy and I went to Bremen and walked over to the luxury liner Europa. I never imagined a ship could be so big and so luxurious. We spent all afternoon looking it over. It was tied up right against the street and the warehouses on the other side were leveled by our air corps and the ship was not touched. That is what I call precision bombing.

Another thing during occupation – We had a man in our motor pool who had been a pro golfer at home. Division called him to set up a 9-hole golf course they had located. I told him when it was ready to call us and

we would come and play a round. After several weeks, he called and four of us went to play. I asked for left hand clubs and he said. "I don't have any, if you want to play, you will have to do it right handed." So, I played, not too well, but on a par 3 with a 5-iron I hit one and it rolled in the cup. The only hole-in-one I ever had and I did it right-handed!

One thing I did as First Sergeant was to find out that the chief cook and baker from the Luxury Liner Bremen lived in our town. So I recruited them for our kitchen. I told them military government would pay them. (I don't know if they ever got paid or not before I left.) I'll tell you, you could not have eaten better tasting food and baked goods from any rations.

We had jeep patrols out most every day looking for weapons or any other contraband. One day, I was riding in the front seat with the driver and I had two boys in the back from South Carolina. We were going along when they stood up and said, "Stop." We stopped and they sniffed the air and said. "Someone is cooking off a batch of whiskey." Well, I didn't smell anything but they said to the driver, "Go over to that little town on your right." We went over and they got out and walked up the street until they came to the house where the smell was coming from. We went in and sure enough, down in the cellar was a small still working.

The German said he was the Burgermeister and we could not take it. I told him to finish his cooking and we would be back tomorrow to take it. We got it and I put these two in charge of making some for the men in the Company. They got a big wooden barrel and I really don't

know what they put in it except I got them a large can of powdered yeast from the mess hall. They said, "Give us a week and we will have whiskey." There were as good as their word, but the stuff was hard to drink—180 proof they said. You had to cut it with fruit juice or something to drink it, but it sure had a kick to it. They put in in pop bottles and every man in the Company got one. We had a party at a beach house on the Weser River and I, along with everyone else, got drunk. I don't remember how I got home.

Some of the men were guarding barges loaded with things from the liner Bremen. I got a sea bag full of sheets and pillow cases. It was so heavy; it took two men to carry it. I put it in my room and told the neighbor lady when she saw sheets coming out my window, to gather them up and keep them as long as she washed and pressed my clothes and shined my shoes. It worked out really well. We also got red plaid deck blankets and every jeep in my company had seat covers. They really looked good. I was just getting everything organized the way I wanted when my orders came to go home. I had enough points. I was planning on getting a pass to go to Switzerland but I said, "I'm going home."

I was trucked in the back of a 2-1/2 to Heidelberg and joined up with the Seventh Armored to be shipped home. I stayed a couple of days in a large stone hunting lodge. The walls were covered with deer and stag horns. The place must have been hundreds of years old. I was loaded into a box car, a forty and eight, and we took off for LeHavre. Right before I left the 29th, some fellow in the company got trench mouth and

washed his mess gear in the same cans as the rest of us and we all got it. I was in a car about 20 from the front and the medic was in the first car. Every time the train stopped, I ran up and had him swab out my mouth to stop the itch in my gums. It helped and by the time we got to LeHavre (Camp Lucky Strike), I felt much better.

I stayed in a 20-man tent at Camp Lucky Strike. I was to ship out for the States in a couple of days but the British dock workers went on strike and I got stuck there for 14 days. There wasn't much to do but play ball and cards. At night at the end of the tent street was a crap table. You never saw such a game in your life. Every kind of European and U.S. money you could think of and the bets were in the \$1,000 range mostly. I had no money and I had very little knowledge of shooting dice, so I watched from the side as the fellow in the next bed to mine ran \$500.00 up to \$15,000.00. He said, "This is my new home when I get back to New Orleans, stick with me and don't let me gamble on the boat going home." When we boarded, I went with him and he put it all in the Purser's safe so he would be sure he would not spend it. We played three handed pinochle for nine days on the way home.

It was a nice ship, the U.S.S. America. The food was good and the sleeping quarters had plenty of room. The weather was nice and I spent most of my time on deck. Nothing spectacular happened on the voyage home. Everyone was happy to be coming home alive. One thing happened to me. About three days out of New York, I got a sore throat. I went on to sick call and the doctor said he could not see any-

thing wrong. The next morning, I went again and the doctor said; "What are you trying to get out of? I can't see anything wrong, go to the dentist." I went and he said the same.

The day we were to land, I had a fever and went on sick call again with a sore throat. He said, "It isn't even red." Well, I got to thinking of that big stead dinner we were to get and I thought I would not be able to eat it. The ship pulled into New York Harbor and all the fire boats came out to meet us spraying water and sounding their horns. It was quite a sight but the sight of the Statue of Liberty made me cry. I was so happy. We landed and were taken by train to Ft. Dix, New Jersey. The first thing I did was go on sick call. The doctor there could not find my trouble and sent me to the dentist. I went over and he x-rayed my jaw and found a bone lodged way back at the hinge. He pulled it out. It was about $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and as round as a kitchen match. He did not know if it was from my jaw or an old pork chop bone that had lodged there. Well, I felt 100% better and went back and ate that big steak dinner and enjoyed it.

I was shipped from there to Indiantown Gap where I bought a Greyhound ticket to Irwin. My wife met me at the bus stop about 4:30 a.m. and then began a great 8-day leave that went so fast I forgot the details—bit I was finally back home again with my wife and son and relatives and friends.

After eight days it was back again to Indiantown Gap for processing and discharge from the Army.

Civilian Frick worked briefly at Westinghouse before taking three years to learn the carpenter's trade.

Eventually, he built a house of his own. He went into business with Al Case and built homes in the McKeesport, PA area, taking over the business completely when his partner died. Later, he built approximately three hundred homes in an area called "Rolling Hills," where incidentally a street was officially named in his honor. Eventually, he returned to Westinghouse where he worked in Maintenance until his retirement at age 62.

Ed: This is a very informative account of the actions of E Company, 175th Infantry from Normandy to the Elbe River and the part played by Sergeant Frick throughout most of the action. Proof positive of the part played by the 175th throughout the four campaigns of the 29th Infantry Division.

The 175th is the 6th oldest regiment of the United States Army.

This personal account by Sergeant James A. Frick, E/175 was first published in the March 1998 edition of the "Twenty-Niner".

Donations Requested

Please consider making a donation to help with the publication of the *Twenty-Niner*. This is the greatest expense that our association has. Checks should be made payable to:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

and mailed to:

29th Division Association, Inc.

National Headquarters

5 Shore Drive

North East, MD 21901-3397

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your patronage.

The Editor

The Wyndham Gettysburg in Pennsylvania



is the site of our 2021 Annual Convention.

Please mark your calendars now for this upcoming event.

October 28 — October 31, 2021

Registration form and meal selections etc.

will appear in the Summer edition of the *Twenty-Niner*.

The Wyndham is a beautiful facility inside and out, a hotel, dining and entertainment (restaurant and multi-screen theater complex) campus, located just outside the city limits of Gettysburg. Nearby activities include shopping at nearby Outlet Shoppes, wine tasting at local vineyards, or golf at The Links at Gettysburg, to name a few.

Please be sure to read the Proposed/Planned Events and Activities and general information for this event beginning on page 13 of this edition.

The daily room rate is \$114 for up to 3 days before and 3 days after the Convention proper.

Editor's message to our readers:

The inclusion of our World War II 29th personal accounts of our veterans has always been an integral part of our publication. Over the past several years, it has become increasingly difficult for me to obtain recently written World War II accounts of our 29ers during their campaigns in Europe.

The reason for this is due to the attrition that we have experienced with our veterans from that time. There just aren't any more WWII veterans in the 29th around who have the ability to write anything new. It is for this reason that I have had to republish accounts from some of these veterans from 20-25 years ago.

This, in itself, should not be viewed as a negative factor, as these accounts are not available in any digital format and would not be available to our members unless they visited the archives at the Fifth Regiment Armory (FRA) in Baltimore, MD. By my republishing efforts, current members can read some of the WWII accounts that were published well before their time as association members. I do not think that many of our current members were in our association back in the 1990's when most of these accounts were being published.

As I live near and visit the FRA quite frequently, I have the ability to make copies of these accounts and bring them home so

that I can format them for inclusion into our current editions. When I got involved (2008) as assistant editor under PNC Don McKee, we were still able to publish many pages of WWII accounts in most editions.

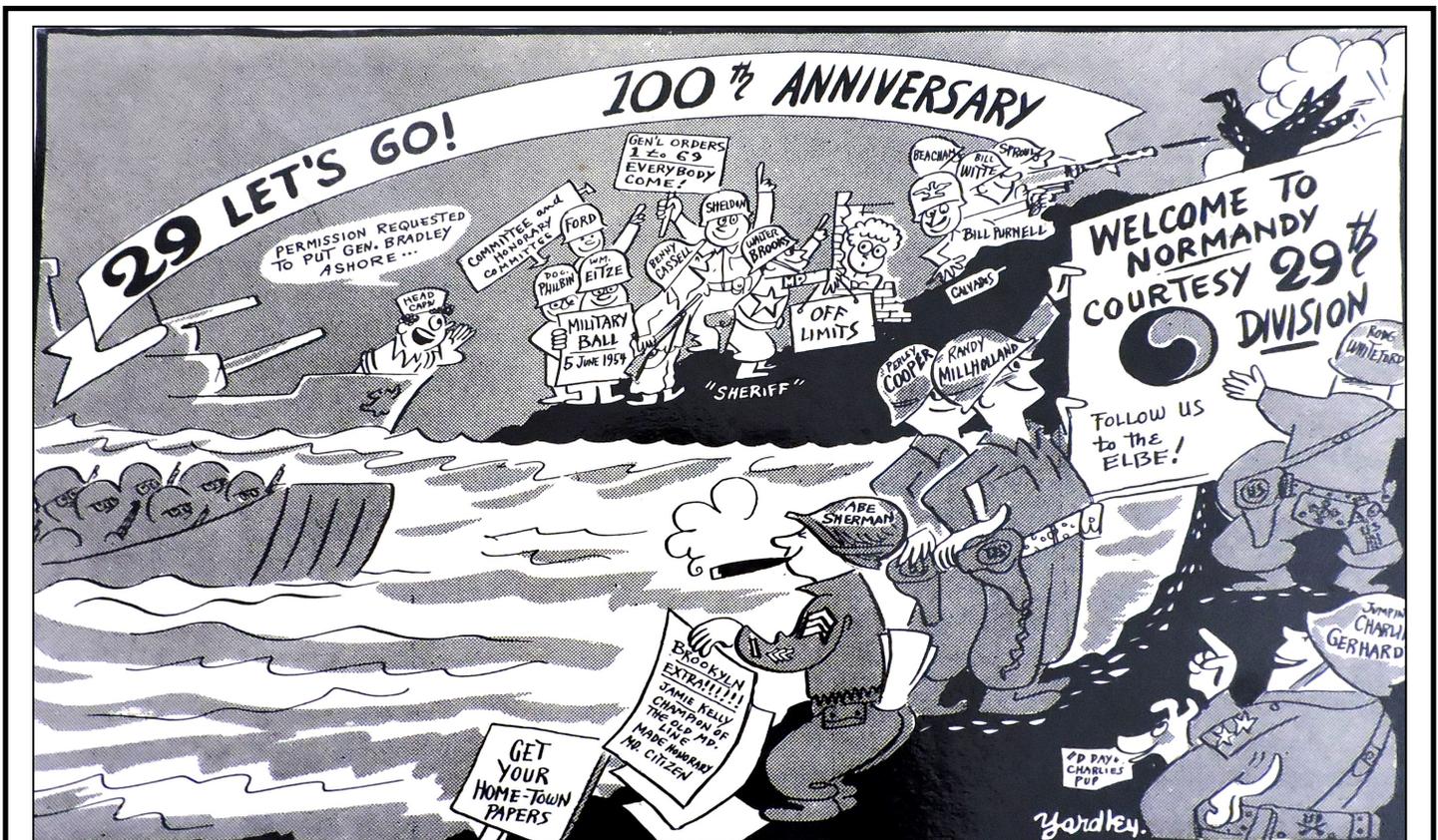
Also, during that time, Joe Balkoski was writing his five-volume series on the history of the 29th Infantry Division in World War II, chapters of which he so graciously allowed us to publish in the *Twenty-Niner* prior to his securing a publishing deal. Joe is no longer writing books, so that source has dried up.

It is mainly for this reason that, with this edition, I have had to reduce the amount of pages in our publication. I was not eager to do this, but the editorial content that we relied on for so long is just no longer there.

Therefore, starting with this edition, I plan on republishing at least one account by a 29th veteran in every edition. Please remember that these republished accounts probably haven't been seen or read by that many current members unless they have access to *Twenty-Niners* from 20-25 years ago.

We have made efforts to change our focus to the recent conflicts of the 21st century, but those 29th soldiers seem not to be ready to share their accounts just yet. It is hoped that as time goes by, these soldiers will begin to realize that what they participated in, is historic and that they will be willing to chronicle their involvement.

William S. Mund, Jr.
Editor



Commemorative placemat given out as a memento at the 99th Annual Convention & Reunion in 2017 that was held in Hunt Valley, MD, honoring the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division.

Planning for the Conference at Gettysburg resumes

After a year's delay, we have picked up where we left off to begin the planning for the Association Conference at Gettysburg. The dates for the Conference are October 28-31, but our hotel rates are in effect for 3 days before and 3 days after the Conference proper – start your family vacation planning now!

So after only a few very minor edits, below is a repost of last year's introduction:

Excitement and Anticipation! These two words capture my feelings as we have entered the detailed planning phase for the 102nd Annual Conference of the 29th Division Association. We have two goals for this Conference – we want to increase attendance and we want attendees to come for a longer stay than the usual one, two, or three days. Hence we are putting together a robust, expanded schedule of events at an excellent location with some additions and changes to broaden the appeal of our gathering. So read on!

Conference Proposed/Planned Events and Activities

1. Visit to the Eisenhower National Historic Site - the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Located adjacent to the Gettysburg Battlefield, the farm served the President as a weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders. In addition to serving as the home and farm of the 34th President, it provided President Eisenhower time away from Washington and an environment for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions. The Eisenhower National Historic Site affords look at the home life of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower. It was renovated in the early 1950s; after retiring to the farm in 1961, the Eisenhowers gifted the property to the federal government in 1967. The farm was designated as a National Historic Site in 1969.

2. Visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center. The new center opened in 2008 and consolidated key facilities and resources for visitors to Gettysburg. We plan to:

- View the film "A New Birth of Freedom," which follows events from the Civil War's beginning to the Battle of Gettysburg and Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address;
- Visit the Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama, originally displayed in 1884 and relocated and fully restored by 2008, is a massive, 360-degree painting that places the viewer in the middle of Pickett's Charge on the decisive third day of the Battle;
- Visit the Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War View the war and its aftermath through authentic artifacts and interactive exhibits in museum;
- Visit and shop at the Museum Bookstore, an excellent collection of related books, gifts and memorabilia.

3. Tour (guided) of the battlefield in the Gettysburg National Military Park. The Battle of Gettysburg was the Civil War's

bloodiest battle and is considered by many as a turning point in the Civil War, the Union victory that ended General Robert E. Lee's second and most ambitious invasion of the North, and the "High Water Mark of the Rebellion." We will arrange for a guided tour, with one possible approach being somewhat chronological:

- Day 1 - McPherson Ridge, town of Gettysburg, Cemetery Hill
- Day 2 - Culp's Hill, Seminary Ridge, Peach Orchard, Devil's Den, the Wheatfield and Little Round Top
- Day 3 - Cemetery Ridge and Pickett's Charge

4. Brewery/Brew Pub Crawl. Craft and Microbreweries are a recent and popular addition to the American landscape and cultural experience. Some in the Gettysburg area that we are considering for the event include Appalachian Brewing Company, Fourscore Beer Company, Tattered Flag Tap Room (veteran owned), Thirsty Farmer Brew Works, and Battlefield Brew Works.

5. A second wreath laying at the Gettysburg National Cemetery during the Conference – we will incorporate this into the exciting schedule of events we are planning; and

6. Seminars and presentations from which attendees can pick and choose from:

- Roundtable Discussion led by family descendants of WWII 29ers.
- "The 29th Division for Dummies"
- Militia units comprising the 29th Division had performed valorous service in all of America's wars, from the renowned "Maryland 400" at the Battle of Long Island in 1776 to the "Stonewall Brigade" in the Civil War.
- Sessions addressing topics from selected major periods of activity of the 29th and militia units comprising the 29th (e.g., Revolutionary War, Civil War, War of 1812, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Bosnia & Kosovo, Global War on Terror).

Conference Lodging

WE have confirmed our arrangements with the Wyndham Gettysburg (<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/gettysburg-pennsylvania/wyndham-gettysburg/overview>) for hosting our Conference and providing lodging and other services. The Wyndham is a beautiful facility inside and out, a hotel, dining and entertainment (restaurant and multi-screen theater complex) campus, located just outside the city limits of Gettysburg. Nearby activities include shopping at nearby Outlet Shoppes, wine tasting at local vineyards, or golf at The Links at Gettysburg, to name a few.

There is regular shuttle service from the hotel to downtown Gettysburg, making it easy to take advantage of the shopping, dining, and attractions without driving and parking hassles!

29th Infantry Division deploying to Middle East in Spring 2021

(Continued from page 1)

National Guard units, rounded out by U.S. Army Reserve support units. Through Operation Spartan Shield, Task Force Spartan maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen our defense relationships and build partner capacity. 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. Soldiers of the Texas National Guard's 36th Infantry Division currently serve as Task Force Spartan.

"These Soldiers are carrying on the historic tradition of the 29th Infantry Division," said Maj. Gen. John M. Rhodes, commanding general of the 29th ID. "Deployments are not a stranger to the 29th. Even though we have many challenges ahead, these selfless Soldiers are here and are ready to answer the nation's call. They and their families are willing to put America above their own personal interests, and this demonstrates who they are and what they represent. They will perform their duty with honor, and they will proudly represent the United States, their home states, and the Army National Guard."

Soldiers will conduct mobilization training in Maryland and Virginia over the next few months, then will report to Fort Hood, Texas, for the final mobilization training and will deploy from there.

This is the second time in recent years the 29th ID has deployed as Task Force Spartan with Soldiers serving on federal active duty from November 2016 to July 2017. They were the first intermediate division headquarters under U.S. Army Central Command and provided mission command for joint training exercises and military-to-military engagements with partner nations to promote regional stability and theater security cooperation. Read more at <https://go.usa.gov/xA5xC>.

Task Force Spartan web site:

[https://www.usarcent.army.mil/About/Units/Task-Force-Spartan/About-the-29th-Infantry-Division:](https://www.usarcent.army.mil/About/Units/Task-Force-Spartan/About-the-29th-Infantry-Division)

Known as the Blue and Gray Division, the 29th Infantry Division is an Army National Guard operational-level headquarters located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Its origins date back to World War I and is most known for its participation in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach in World War II. Its wartime mission is to provide mission command to subordinate brigades and forces tailored for an assigned mission. It is one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard.

The 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment and the 29th Infantry Band are aligned under the 29th. The division currently has training relationships with the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

from Florida and Alabama, the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team from North Carolina and West Virginia, the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade from Maryland, the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Alabama, the 113th Sustainment Brigade from North Carolina and the 142nd Fires Brigade from Arkansas.

From October 2001 to April 2002, the 29th Infantry Division was mobilized on federal active duty as the headquarters for Multinational Division (North), Task Force Eagle, in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the 10th rotation of NATO's peace stabilization forces known as the NATO led Stabilization Force. Task Force Eagle provided command and control for units from the Army National Guard as well as forces from more than 11 other nations.

Maryland and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 29th Infantry Division served on federal active duty in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2012 when they conducted two rotations assigned to NATO's International Security Assistance Force Joint Command Afghan National Security Force Development Team. During that time, they served as advisers and mentors to senior Afghan leaders with the mission to provide Afghan national army and national police subject matter expertise to facilitate ANSF growth and development.

Prior to their service in Afghanistan, Maryland and Virginia Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division deployed overseas for peace-keeping duty in Kosovo from August 2006 to November 2007.

By Cotton Puryear, JFHQ Public Affairs

Message from the Commanding General:

The 29th always answer the calls from our Nation and States with a high degree of success and professionalism.

Less than 24 hours upon receiving notification to mobilize to our Nation's capital, our Soldiers were on-site conducting their assigned missions and with many remaining on duty until February 8.

In addition, the 29th continues to prepare for our upcoming overseas deployments by the 29th ID Headquarters and the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

I am extremely proud of our dedicated Soldiers. Their selfless efforts and devoted service speak for itself. They are carrying on the proud tradition of the 29th Infantry Division.

"29, Let's Go"

Thank you again.



JOHN M. RHODES
Major General
29th Infantry Division (VAARNG)
Commanding General

29th Infantry Division supports 59th Presidential Inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Virginia National Guard's Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division assisted federal agencies in securing the nation's capital during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The 29th ID Soldiers were among more than 26,000 National Guard members from 50 states and three territories who were activated to support the inauguration by augmenting the Capitol Police, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police and D.C. Metro Police Department.

"I am extremely proud of the immediate response of so many Soldiers from Virginia and Maryland in support of an unprecedented set of events over the last two weeks," said Col. Joseph A. DiNonno, the 29th ID deputy commanding general for operations. "These patriots seamlessly integrated into the D.C. National Guard's historic operations to ensure a peaceful transfer of power during the inauguration with virtually no notice and with complete professionalism."

DiNonno led a task force of more than 9,000 personnel from 24 states that was responsible for securing property at the U.S. Capitol, protecting government employees, providing logistical support, staffing traffic control points and providing crowd management.

The Staunton, Virginia-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team served as the mission command headquarters for the Virginia Army and Air National Guard personnel on the ground, as well as Soldiers and Airmen from 23 other state National Guard units. At the peak of the response, the 116th IBCT was responsible for more than 7,400 National Guard personnel.

"If you look at our history, from hurricane responses to COVID-19 to last summer's civil disturbances, the National

Guard is an adaptable organization that can assume control of any situation and respond appropriately," said Col. Chris Samulski, the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander. "I am very proud of what the Soldiers have done. We moved very rapidly to ensure that we had the flexibility to support our elected leaders."

Virginia National Guard personnel made the transition from citizen to Soldier in a 24-hour period, some with a mere 12-hour warning before they were packing their gear, leaving family, school and jobs behind as they boarded busses. Shortly after arriving in D.C., Soldiers and Airmen started a rotating 12-hour shift schedule to provide 24-hour security details to assist civilian law enforcement in protecting property and providing a safe environment as multiple states started to fill the ranks.

"The responsiveness of Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to deploy in less than 24 hours and begin conducting missions speaks volumes to their professionalism and patriotism," said Lt. Col. Beau Mason, commander of the Fredericksburg-based 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion. "I visited with Soldiers and Airmen on their posts and I couldn't be more proud of their steadfast discipline and high morale."

As Virginia National Guard personnel support the security effort in the nation's capital, additional Soldiers and Airmen continue to support COVID-19 testing across the state and assisting the Virginia Department of Health with planning for administering COVID-19 vaccines.

*By Maj. Scott Drugo
29th ID Public Affairs*

Planning for the Conference at Gettysburg resumes

(Continued from page 13)

**Of great importance is the offer from Wyndham to honor the negotiated base daily room rate of \$114 for up to 3 days before and 3 days after the Conference proper. This means you can (and should) enjoy an affordable vacation at a top-notch hotel in an area that is phenomenally rich and diverse in opportunities. **

Other Attractions Near Gettysburg

We hope you come to the Conference as part of an extended stay (4 or more days) to take advantage of other opportunities in the area. Locations in an hour's drive or less from Gettysburg include Frederick, MD (Monocacy National Battlefield, National Museum of Civil War Medicine and much more), Carlisle, PA (Carlisle Barracks, Military Heritage Foundation), Sharpsburg (Antietam National Battlefield), Harper's Ferry, SV (Harper's Ferry National Historic Park), Harrisburg, PA (state capital of

PA, with tremendous tourism opportunities), and Hershey, PA (Hershey Amusement Park, Hershey Chocolate World).

As you can see, a lot of thought and effort has already occurred towards our Convention this year. To that end, we want as many people as possible to enjoy and take advantage of the opportunities we will present.

In addition to Association members, we want to welcome current 29ers, serving members of the military, and historians and history buffs who will see a great opportunity to visit, see, share, and learn from all that Gettysburg offers, from the great opportunities beyond the immediate area of Gettysburg, and, most importantly, from the time we share with each other "To keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat; to glorify our dead, and to further keep before our country, the record of the 29th Division in all wars."

"29 Let's Go!"

Peter C. Hinz
National Commander
29th Division Association

116th IBCT completes mission in Washington, D.C.

(Continued from page 1)

we are of you, and also to thank you," Northam said. "I couldn't have been prouder to initially send in our Virginia State Police and then deploy our National Guard, and within 24 hours, you were on the ground to protect our democracy and bring order back to the United State Capitol."

Joining the elected officials were Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins, Deputy Secretary Kathleen Jabs, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Maj. Gen. William J. Walker, commander of the D.C. National Guard, Maj. Gen. John M. Rhodes, 29th Infantry Division commanding general, and Brig. Gen. James W. Ring, VNG director of the Joint Staff.

Northam also acknowledged families make a sacrifice along with the troops, and he asked the troops to extend his thanks to their families as well.

"I think in the proud history of the Virginia National Guard, this will go down as one of your most important missions," Warner said before he and Kaine presented unit thank you letters to Col. Chris Samulski, commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

According to Maj. Brandon Price, the 116th IBCT operations officer, the 116th deployed with elements of all their organic battalions, including the Kentucky National Guard's 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, as well as elements of the 329th Regional Support Group and the 192nd Wing and units from additional states. On Inauguration Day, the 116th was leading a total of 22 battalion-sized elements from 25 different states with more than 9,000 personnel.

Price said missions included leading four distinct task forces with missions ranging from securing the Library of Congress, providing a quick reaction force to D.C. Metro Police and U.S. Park Police, secured the Capitol Grounds from Jan. 12-23 including providing security through the 59th Presidential Inauguration, providing assistance to the U.S. Capitol Police as they expanded the security perimeter around the Capitol Grounds, providing QRF elements to the U.S. Secret Service staged at the White House, followed by a return to QRF duties with the USPP.

As the mission came to a close, the 116th operations team coordinated to have all VNG personnel tested for COVID-19 prior to departing the Washington, D.C., area for out processing.

Samulski said it was a significant accomplishment to muster all the elements in under 48 hours, and for a brigade headquarters designed to manage about 3,500 Soldiers to led a combined force of more than 9,000. In particular, he said he was incredibly impressed by the team of Soldiers and Airmen who were able to organize and deploy an element of 2,500 troops from the D.C. Armory for duty at the Capitol with just three hours' notice.

Across the board, no matter what state they were from, they were professional and easy to work with," Samulski said. "The ability to adjust rapidly and be flexible was represented in every unit, and it was a great team with positive attitudes. It was pretty amazing."

Supporting the mission created numerous challenges for the brigade staff. For example, the 116th IBCT S4 logistics section coordinated more than 1,300 transportation missions, delivered more than 50,000 meals and thousands of MREs as well as coordinating for the issue of more than 1,000 sets of civil disturbance protective equipment and issue more than 80,000 rounds of ammunition. They booked more than 3,000 individual hotel rooms for 116th personnel, and they coordinated the consolidation from 24 hotels to four in a 24 hours period during hazardous winter weather with no serious incidents.

The experience of managing a large operation was a great training benefit to the staff, Samulski said. A large-scale staff training exercise was planned for annual training this summer, but the mission provided an opportunity to gain real-world experience to help prepare the staff for future state or federal missions. Since the National Guard normally trains one weekend each month and 15 days in the summer, Samulski said they essentially got a year's worth of proficiency in one month and it gave an early look to the staff's ability to track people and synchronize operations.

"Every day an NCO or an officer gets to lead Soldiers is a day in which someone learns something," Samulski said. "Every day you are around Soldiers and you lead is just another day of proficiency you gain. All the things we would do in a military environment were here for us to manage, problem solve and get better."

With Soldiers on duty for more than 30 days, the 116th's scheduled training for drill weekend in January and February was impacted, Samulski said. Once the unit shifted to the QRF mission after inauguration, there was time in between duty shifts for Soldiers to conduct training to help fill some of the gaps. There were also periods of downtime where Soldiers were able to visit locations in nation's capital.

"There are amazing historical sites in the Washington, D.C., area," Samulski said. "Our Soldiers were able to take advantage of the opportunity to see things they normally wouldn't get a chance to see."

He acknowledged what a challenging situation the rapid deployment created for families and what a great job they did reacting and supporting their troops.

"This is a historic moment," Samulski said. "Our Soldiers volunteered to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and they came here and did that on short notice. I am proud of them and proud of the legacy they leave for this unit."

By Cotton Puryear

**Be sure to check out our
new and improved website at:
www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

The Mission Continues!

--Marsha Smith, Normandy Allies



Kate Coffey/EDU Trips President, Geert Van den Bogaert/Normandy Allies Program Manager, and Marsha Smith, Normandy Allies President. July 2019, in the bocage area near Saint-André-de-l'Epine)

A message of gratitude to all in the 29th Division Association from Normandy Allies: Our organizations have benefited from mutual friendship since 1997. Our connections span many years and have born great fruit.

My uncle, S/Sgt Benedict Smith, was a member of the 29th Division, 115/A. Uncle Ben was killed in action just north of Percy on July 30, 1944. He is buried in Brittany American Cemetery. My family first visited his grave in 1996. In advance of that visit, through my brother's research, we found the 29th Division Association. The Association put us in touch with local French historians who helped us to better understand my uncle's service and the action on the day of his death. All of this inspired me to begin the organization that has become known as "Normandy Allies".

Over the years, Normandy Allies and the 29th Division Association accomplished great good together. Many students and teachers benefited directly from Association grants. Many programs were enriched through the participation of Association members. Our work has relied on donors from the very beginning and Association members have been consistently faithful in their support. On behalf of our Board, thank you to all.

So, in the spirit of friendship, I want to share with you how things stand as we begin 2021. As you read, please bear in mind that there are two interconnected yet separate entities when we speak of Normandy Allies:

- *The Normandy Allies Travel Program*—this will continue, I am happy to say.
- *The 501.c.3 not-for-profit, Normandy Allies, Inc.* which has raised funds and provided the legal and financial support for the Travel Program. The not-for-profit will be dissolved as of 30 September 2021, and I will retire on that date.

I have been both President and Program Director since July 1997. In August 2016, I told our Board members that I had decided to retire. Over the next few years, we considered several paths for continuing the program as we have envisioned it: *immersion in Norman life and culture combined with accurate historical understanding of the Landings and Liberation.*

I share with you the good news that the Travel Program will continue even though the 501.c.3 not-for-profit (Normandy Allies, Inc.) will be dissolved as of 30 September 2021 and I will be retired.

A few notes on how this has developed, and continues to develop:

- ~ Spring 2020: the Normandy Allies Board cancelled the July 2020 program because of the pandemic. The Board continued to search for ways to continue the program after my retirement.
- ~ Fall 2020: We notified our American supporters that, though Normandy Allies Inc. would be ending, trips to Normandy could be planned with EDU Trips and Geert Van den Bogaert.

I planned to work with both of them, to develop a 2021 program and to be in contact with our French colleagues in the spring of 2021.

- ~ Effective November 2020, the Board named Geert as Program Director, as he has the dedication and the expertise to carry forward our two-fold vision.

- ~ November/December 2020: The Board realized that because of the enduring force of the pandemic, with schools closed and no travel being authorized, it was impossible to organize a group to commit to travel to France in the summer of 2021.
- ~ February 2021: The Board voted to transition all planning and development of the Normandy Allies Travel Programs to Geert, including administration of the website and Facebook page, and to give Geert the exclusive right to use the name “Normandy Allies”.

The Normandy Allies Board has great confidence in Geert Van den Bogaert as the Program Manager for Normandy Allies. He will be coordinating group travel plans through EDU Trips, whom we have worked with for several years. Kate Coffey, president of EDU Trips, participated in our 2019 program to gain a deeper understanding of what we do and how we do it.

With confident hope in the future, we envision Normandy Allies bringing groups to Normandy in 2044 to remember and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Landings—and then continuing on as the years unfold. The call and duty of remembrance never ends.

Members of the 29th Division Association are welcome to join the traditional Normandy Allies format: 7–12 day group programs offering a well-designed balance of walking tours, interactive presentations, commemorative events, cultural immersion, museum visits and free time. Group bookings, coordinated through EDU Trips, will begin in 2022.

In addition, Normandy Allies will now offer private 1- or 2-day tour experiences for life-long learners and their families that offer historic exploration, cultural immersion, and active commemoration.

- These privately arranged tours will begin in Fall 2021.

Information on both program formats is available on the website: www.normandyallies.org and by contacting Geert directly: geert@normandyallies.org

Maryland Military Historical Society Support for Unit Tribute Program for 29th ID

The Maryland Military Historical Society (MDMHS) is opening a fund-raising campaign for tax-deductible donations towards recognizing the 29th Infantry Division, in partnership with the Division, at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, VA.

The Army Historical Foundation (AHF)'s Unit Tribute program provides an opportunity to commemorate a unit's legacy and its accomplishments in perpetuity at the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA). Unit Tribute plaques are engraved in polished Mesabi Black granite and line the Path of Remembrance, the entry promenade wall, leading up to the Museum.

The 12"x 18" plaques will honor individual Army units of any size and period of time and plaques are customized, to include the op-



tion of using a color rendering of the unit's Distinctive Unit Insignia and/or Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. The cost for participating in the program is \$5000 which includes production of the plaque. Plaques are fabricated on demand and installed on a rolling basis. Although the Foundation does not provide dedication ceremonies for Unit Tribute plaques, units/groups are welcome to host their own event in coordination with the Foundation's events team.

To participate in the campaign and make a tax-deductible donation, you can go the donation tab on the Society's website. Until we work out a way to earmark your donation as you make it, in the interim send an email to info@marylandmilitaryhistory.org and note the date, amount, and purpose of your donation.

**Be sure to check out our
new and improved website at:
www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

National D-Day Memorial plans 20th Anniversary Commemorations

On a hot, storm-threatened day in June 2001, thousands of visitors and hundreds of veterans gathered on a hillside in Bedford. Included in the crowd were foreign dignitaries, prominent political leaders, and the president of the United States. Their collective purpose: to dedicate and consecrate the hillside as the National D-Day Memorial.

Twenty years later, that Memorial is still going strong, visited by thousands every year—even in the midst of Covid. Two decades have brought some occasional bumps in the road, and the staff has had to say good-bye to the majority of the D-Day veterans who joined in the opening ceremonies. Still, two decades of accomplishment is worth celebrating, and the National D-Day Memorial is planning a number of ways to mark the occasion and celebrate its success.

This spring, in the Fleda A. Ring Education Quonset Hut at the Memorial, a special exhibit will pay tribute to the man who originated the idea of a National D-Day Memorial. John Robert “Bob” Slaughter was a native of Roanoke, VA and a veteran of Co. D, 116th Regiment, 29th Division. Along with his unit, he landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, and for reasons he could never explain, survived the day when so many of his buddies did not.

In retirement decades later, Bob and some like-minded friends formed a foundation to place, somewhere in the US, a memorial to what had happened on that crucial day during WWII. Eventually, the town of Bedford, which had the highest known per capita losses of any community on D-Day, was chosen as the site for the Memorial. Bob was a tireless advocate in opening the Memorial, and in keeping it open, until his death in 2012.

The special 20th Anniversary exhibit was based on Bob’s papers and mementoes, which were donated by his family to the Memorial in 2016. Included in the display are photographs, the iconic blue blazer with his military insignia which Bob wore for public events, an autographed program from the premiere

of the film “Saving Private Ryan,” and Bob’s “Order of the Day,” an inspirational D-Day message from General Eisenhower to the troops. Bob took his copy of the Order and had his buddies sign their names to it. Twenty-two men who signed Bob’s document would not return home from the war; as a result Bob called it his most cherished memento of the war.

In addition to the exhibit, other events are planned to mark the anniversary. A series of virtual lectures through the spring will be offered, including a video tour of one of the last surviving Liberty Ships from WWII, the SS John W. Brown. Check the Memorial’s website, www.dday.org for the full schedule.

On Memorial Day, a special video release will pay tribute to two heroes who have never gotten due recognition—until now. Paratrooper Clarence Tolle and Navy reservist Frederick Nye Moses both died on D-Day, but due to confusion in military record-keeping the wrong dates of their deaths were officially recorded. Recent research has corrected their death dates to June 6, 1944. This Memorial Day the two names will be added to the wall of honor at the National D-Day Memorial,



Sarah Peed of the National D-Day Memorial works on an exhibit on founder Bob Slaughter.

where the names of more than 4400 Allied fatalities from D-Day are honored, and their compelling stories will be told for the first time in decades.

Then on the weekend of June 5th and 6th the Memorial will commemorate the 77th Anniversary of D-Day with special events and due recognition. As of this writing, it is uncertain whether these events will be held in person or as virtual-only events due to Covid. Once again, check www.dday.org for updates.

20 years of achievement and inspiration are worthy of celebration, but the National D-Day Memorial’s plans for the future are even more impressive.

*By John D. Long,
Director of Education
National D-Day Memorial*

The FoG — Friends of the Guard

A quick update on the FoG's support of the VANGHS&F. Along with these artifacts, the FoG is also restoring a 155mm Howitzer, a Radio-Controlled Aircraft Targeting (RACT). Drone, A Ballistic Aerial Target System (BATS) rocket and a Soviet 120mm Mortar.



Taken on one of the last sunny days in December 2020, seven members of the Friends of the Guard (FoG) volunteers pose for a group photo. The FoG are the vehicle/artifact refurbishing team that is part of the Virginia National Guard Historical Society and Foundation. In 2020 the FoG performed 876 hours of volunteer service to the VANG.

Moved to its display pad on the south side of the VANG JFHQ, this M42 Duster awaits a final coat of paint on its ammo boxes. The red square visible on the side of the Duster reveals the original Maintenance Work Order information for the original installation of the vehicles radios. Removing the camo paint revealed the information; it's now protected by clear coat polyurethane. When completed the vehicle will be marked for 3/111th FA.



A volunteer, COL(ret) James Ebertowski, puts finishing touches on the tracks and road wheels of the M41 Walker Bulldog tank. When finished, the tank will be tac-marked for Troop C, 183rd Cavalry.



Two works still in progress: a 1942-date 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun, and an up-armored HUMVEE. When completed these will also be moved out to their display pads on the south side of the HQ.

Joseph J. Moscatti

12 August 1926 – 12 December 2020

Past National Commander — 1997-1998

Joseph J. Moscatti, a man of exacting standards, a proud military veteran, loving husband, father and grandfather died Dec. 12, 2020. The cause of death was renal failure.

Dementia overtook the last few years of his life at Encore Assisted Living at Turf Valley in Ellicott City, but his sense of humor could not be extinguished by this disease.

Joe was one of six, born into an Italian family in Baltimore, MD. Their Catholic faith was the cornerstone of—what he called—La Familia, and he remained a faithful servant throughout his life. In fact, Joe's interest in wine could be traced to his early years as an altar boy, where it is believed he occasionally sampled the Communion wine in the sacristy at St. Ambrose Church in Pimlico.

On Dec. 5th, 1944, 18-year-old Joe was drafted into the U.S. Army, and assigned to Camp Blanding, Florida for Infantry Replacement Training. Thus, began a lifelong relationship with the military.

Joe was sent to the Asian-Pacific theater in July 1945. The fighting was winding down at that point, and he was assigned to a 60-mm mortar squad in Company G, 165th Infantry Regiment of the 27th Infantry Division on Okinawa. In later years, in his typical self-deprecating style, he referred to this squad as performing mop-up duty. The 27th Division was deactivated and in December 1945, Joe was assigned to General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, where he worked in the 150th Finance Disbursing section.

Following his tour in Japan, Staff Sergeant Moscatti returned to the U.S., enlisted and served two years in the 246th Finance Disbursing section, Enlisted Reserve Corps in the U.S. Army Reserve.

In October 1948, he enlisted in HQ Battery, 110th Field Artillery Battalion of



Joseph J. Moscatti in Tokyo, 1945.

the 29th Infantry Division, Maryland Army National Guard as a Corporal in the Radio section. In 1949 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

In December 1962, Joe was promoted to Sergeant-Major of the 110 Field Artillery Battalion and served in that capacity until his discharge in 1965.

Beyond his official military service, Joe was also a member of the Catholic War Veterans and served as National Commander and Finance Officer of the 29th Division Association.

On the home front, Joe was married to Anna May Moscatti (nee Hanrahan) for 45 years until her death in 1999. They produced two children, Joanne and Joe, who grew up within Joe's strict guidelines, and Anna May's compassionate heart.

Joe was a conservative in the truest sense. Yes, he might have had the viewpoint of a political hawk, but he was also a child of the Great Depression. Wasting resources was equivalent to a venial sin. As was living outside your means. As was NOT saving for a rainy day.

Forever a company man, Joe Moscatti started his professional career below-ground, where he toiled in manholes as a

cable splicer for C&P Telephone. Working his way up, he installed public exchange switchboards, subsequently engineering that technology and moved eventually into management as a cost-analyst, presenting cases before the Public Utilities Commission. He indeed knew the business from below ground up.

During the 1960s and '70s, Joe served as an adult leader and committee chairman of Boy Scout Troop 976, Reisterstown MD. He enjoyed camping—or bivouacking as he called it; pressing his military terminology into service.

He was a longtime member of and sang in the choir at Sacred Heart Church, Glyndon MD.

Joe believed family was one of the blessings of life. For many years, he was the instigator of and Chief Grill Master at the annual Moscatti Family reunions. In its heyday, the event hosted nearly one hundred family members and friends. Uncle Joe was in his element!

In his retirement years he and Anna May traveled with friends to many countries in Europe.

Later, his friendship with Mary Loats and her family kept him active well into his 80's.

Joe is survived by his two children, Joanne Greenberg and husband Dave, of Perry Hall MD; Joseph W. Moscatti and wife Jeanne Turner, of Silver Spring MD; three grandchildren, David Greenberg, Sarah Greenberg and Morgan Moscatti and husband George Marshall, and a brother Robert W. Moscatti of Catonsville, MD.

He is predeceased in death by four siblings: Irene Taylor, Sister Ernestine Moscatti SSND, Eunice Henritz and Anthony Moscatti.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph's of Fullerton on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.

Minutes

of the NEC II held virtually
on 21 January 2021.

National Commander Pete Hinz called the National Executive Committee (NEC II) Meeting to order at 0907 hours. Due to the fact that the meeting was online, Commander Hinz waived the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Since National Chaplain Bill DeHaven was not present, NC Hinz offered the opening prayer blessing those troops who were on duty to defend the Constitution. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Hinz began by welcoming all to the NEC. He recognized members of the 29th who are on duty at the capitol to assure that the inauguration would be safe and peaceful.

Commander Hinz then asked Adjutant Frank Armiger for the roll call. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the previous meeting (NEC I, on 31 October 2020) had been published and were distributed in the winter edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. There was one amendment to the minutes under "Good of the Association". NWO Becker indicated that he did not recommend Bruce Kahl for Property Officer. Therefore, the statement was deleted from the minutes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Officer's Reports

National Commander: Commander Hinz reported that 2020 was a tough year for the Association due to the pandemic. However, membership has not been greatly affected. Overall, we are ready to get back on track in 2021, at least by the summer, and prepare for the convention in October.

National Senior Vice Commander: NSVC Shuey reported that he had recently talked with the 116th Brigade commander, COL Samulski, who indicated that as soon as the troops returned from duty in DC, they would get ready for deployment in a month. The 116th may lose as many as four battalions going out on duty. This will probably affect the muster at the Stonewall Hotel which may be smaller or postponed until next year. NSVC Shuey will keep the NEC posted.

National Junior Vice Commander: NJVC Dick Snyder commended ADJ Armiger for setting up the two presentations in the afternoon of NEC I.

Southern Region Vice Commander: SRVC Kilbourne was not present. No report.

Maryland Region National Vice Commander

MD RNVC Mund said that the MD Region made a donation to the 729th unit that just returned from Poland. The MD Region also voted to support the troops of the 175th Infantry and 115th MP Battalion who are serving in the Capitol by providing a donation to the Military Family Relief Fund Mid-Atlantic.

At Large Region National Vice Commander: PNC Ginsburg was not present. No report.

National Executive Director: NED Simmers had no report.

Membership Chairperson: Chairperson Mund added a new column to the membership report entitled "Delinquent Possibly due to COVID-19" to account for members who normally pay dues at the meetings and for those who are financially challenged at this time. Mund introduced Dean Jones who is the new finance officer for Post 64. Dean recently retired after 21 years as a teacher and had been unable to attend Post meetings. He along with the former finance officer analyzed the delinquent memberships and found that some could be due

to COVID-19. In the case of these and others, he plans to proceed to try to recover these members, if at all possible.

In addition to Post 64, Mund cited several other posts that are down in membership in 2020: Post 48 – 32, Post 78 – 15, Post 88 – 51 and Post 110 – 12. Post 2 and Post 29 have both indicated that their checks are in the mail for their delinquent members. Since the mail has slowed drastically during the holiday season, Mund has not yet received the money. Commander Hinz advised that Mund should continue to track these delinquencies before taking any steps to drop them from the database.

Editor 29er: Because he is no longer getting WWII stories, Editor Mund is republishing stories from 25 years ago by retyping them so that they are available for our current members. The cover story for Spring will be about the 29th Division support for the safety of the capitol after the 6 January riots. SVC Shuey indicated that he would send a story about the 29th Division in WWI. Dean Jones mentioned COL John Powell who has a mural that covers the actions of the 29th Division in Europe after the landings on D-Day and may be of interest to the Association. COL Powell is planning to become a member in the very near future.

Finance: National Finance Officer Tom Knight presented the financial report going over the balances in each account. He transferred funds from savings to operations to pay the bills and some funds from investments to savings to offset the transfer to operations. He will need to transfer additional funds from investments/savings through the remainder of the year to cover operating costs.

NFO Knight indicated that Bank of America where the Association has two checking and one savings account is raising fees. Fortunately, at this time we have sufficient balances to avoid the additional charges. However, we may need to consider a new financial institution if our balances dip below BOA's threshold for fees. USAA would be one to consider.

NFO Knight has filed all of the IRS post cards and has letters from all but two posts indicating revenue of less than \$50K. Post 116 continues to be locked out and Jimmy Kilbourne is working the issue.

Chaplain: Chaplain DeHaven was not present. No report.

Service: No report.

Surgeon: NS Dr. Howard Bond talked about the COVID vaccine.

Everyone who is on the VA list should be serviced in time. For others he advised taking the most direct route by contacting health departments and providers. There are websites that one can use to register and schedule an appointment. Frank Shilow recounted that he had a great experience getting his shot at Kaiser in Halethorpe. Even with the vaccine we must still stay safe. Wear your mask and continuously wash your hands.

Welfare: NWO Becker was absent. No report.

Historian: The position is vacant. No report.

Sergeant-at-Arms: No report.

Property: NPO Franklin Shilow reported that all of the Association items that are for sale have been moved out of the Armory.

Parliamentarian: NP Thomas Insley not present. No report.

Judge Advocate: NJA Houston Matney was not present. No report.

Committee Reports

2021 National Convention: NC Hinz has contacted the POC at the Wyndham in Gettysburg to confirm our reservation. He is waiting for a call back. The convention planning committee will recommence

work on the program for October and review the numbers that were provided in 2020 to the Wyndham. The committee will consider utilizing the 29th Division band. Will Mund is concerned about the souvenir program book providing the revenue that it has in the past. Many businesses have suffered during the pandemic. PNC Bill King indicated that Post 64 has done a great job in the past selling ads. He has already sold several ads thus far. NS Dr. Howard Bond has some suggestions for the convention and NC Hinz will contact him to follow up.

Awards/Grants Committee: The Association sent a check for \$10K to the Maryland Military Historical Society per the request from the Maryland Museum for Military History to restore the colors for the 115th.

The Maryland Military Historical Society board will meet on 27 January to review the request and prepare for the payment. However, before any payment the Society will request that the Museum provide sufficient documentation to assure that the restoration firm is paid according to their proposal.

Futures Committee/Association Website: NC Hinz noted that when he went on the Association website and clicked on the 29th Division Museum it linked him to the Maryland Military Historical Society. Neil Ungerleider has solved this issue. The link now takes visitors to the 29th Division Archives Facebook page. Currently there is no active website for the Maryland Museum of Military History that houses a number of exhibits for the 29th Division in WWI and WWII. The two presentations from NEC I are recorded and will soon be available at the website.

Old Business

Future D-Day Normandy/Bedford Representation: NC Hinz advised that we will hold this initiative in obedience while the pandemic restricts events at these locations. PNC Bill King volunteered to help with this event when we restart.

Future Wreath Laying Events: Tabled for the time being. PNC King also volunteered to help with this event.

Association Tax Status: No report.

New Business

Virtual Store: All of the items that are listed in the back of *The Twenty Niner* and *The Chin Strap* housed at the FRG have been inventoried, moved out and placed in storage where they are easily accessible. Bruce Kahl is currently taking pictures of all the items and has already added the books and the bolo tie to the virtual store website. To date he has sold several of the books. Currently, sales at the website are flat and NFO Knight has written an article for the upcoming *Chin Strap* to direct members to the virtual store. We will also seek other avenues to advertise our virtual store on the internet and Facebook. NFO Knight will send the link to the store to ADJ Armiger so that we can link from the 29th Division Archives FB page.

80th Anniversary of D-Day: SVC Shuey advised that like the US, much is on hold at this time in Europe. However, there are two museums that have expressed interest in providing displays on the 29th Division for the anniversary.

NC Hinz pointed out that there is not an official 29th Division museum. The museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore is operated under the auspices of the state and federal governments with the artifacts documented in both property books. Consequently, it may be difficult to borrow artifacts for display in Europe. Since the Maryland Military Historical Society is closely tied with the FRG museum, SVC Shuey will work with NC Hinz, President of the MDMHS, to determine if any items are available to borrow. Under the circum-

stances the best place to supply artifacts for the anniversary displays appears to be the 116th Museum.

Army Unit Tribute Program: NC Hinz followed up on 29th Division representation at the new Army Museum in Ft. Belvoir VA. The museum representative indicated that the unit plaques are \$5K and that the Army Foundation can assist with fundraising. In addition, the Association can work with the MDMHS so that donors can realize a tax deduction. NC Hinz will recommend that a separate line item be created in the MDMHS budget to accrue funds for the unit plaque. The Association will also partner with the 29th Division commander on this effort and the formal unveiling ceremony. NC Hinz suggested that we could enhance the fundraising by calling on all donors to contribute \$29. The Association could also establish a GoFundMe page on Facebook. NC Hinz will follow up on the next steps and potentially request an online vote to seek NEC approval to proceed.

Other New Business

Current 29ers: This is a good time to reach out to current 29ers. With the civil unrest in DC, many have been deployed and the patch has been omnipresent on TV and the internet. NC Hinz indicated that we could consider a separate membership category for these recruits with no dues required. As a part of this type of membership they would receive the *Chin Strap* and *Twenty Niner*. PNC Hayden suggested that the Association could reach out to the new brigades across the southeast with welcome packets to include hats, videos, license plate holders, a flyer with the QR code and applications. NFO Knight suggested that we provide some of the 29th Division books so that the new brigades can learn about the heritage of their new division. PNC Hayden also urged NC Hinz to reach out to the 29th Division commander to coordinate this effort through Post 29. NED Simmers indicated that she could reach out to the Aviation Brigade commander. NC Hinz will follow up with the Futures Committee to proceed with this action.

WWII Veterans: PNC King is interested in sending these members, specifically James Prosser, to the Convention. Post 64 is working on financing the travel and accommodations for some veterans. The process should start at the post level and then reach out to national to provide additional funds for vouchers, if necessary.

Deaths, Sick and Distressed

Houston Matney was in the hospital but is home now and did not feel up to attending the meeting today.

There were inquiries into the status of PNC Ivan Dooley. ADJ Armiger spoke to Ivan about one month ago and he was well. Juanita King asked that everyone remember Chuck Neighbor in Brandon Oaks who is feeling really lonely and try to contact him in any way you can.

Good of the Association

The NEC III is scheduled for 17 June at 0900 hours.

Closing Ceremony and Adjournment

NC Hinz provided a short prayer and adjourned the meeting at 1114 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK A. ARMIGER
Adjutant

**NEC Members please note:
These minutes are distributed individually.
This is your copy.**

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JOIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.



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.

Full Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Postal Address: _____
(Number and Street) (City, State, Zip, Country)

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Did you serve in the 29th? 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.

29th Division Association Membership

Applications and payments can be completed online or mailed to our National Headquarters address below. If you do not choose a post, one will be assigned for you based on your current or former unit or your home address. Dues vary from post to post but a check for \$12.00 made payable to the 29th Division Association will suffice. You may also make application and pay dues at our National web site: www.29thdivisionassociation.com.

National Headquarters, 29th Division Association, 5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327

MD Post 1-72	Baltimore, MD	VA Post 64	Roanoke, VA	MD Post 94	Silver Spring, MD
FL Post 2	Sarasota, FL	MD Post 78	Frederick, MD	MD Post 110	Pikesville, MD
VA Post 5	Norfolk, VA	MD Post 85	North East, MD	VA Post 116	Staunton, VA
VA Post 29	Richmond, VA	MD Post 88	Eastern Shore, DE & MD	PA Post 175	Pennsylvania
MD Post 48	Westminster, MD	NE Post 93	New England	MD Post 729	Waynesboro, PA