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Convention Highlights

- Wallops Island Tour
- New officers elected
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THE TWENTY-NINER

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Autumn / Winter 2014

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A great time, with great weather, the 96th Reunion & Convention in Ocean City, MD



Photo by William Mund

Tour attendees gather near the *Little Joe* rocket. This rocket was used to test the *Mercury* spacecraft. Monkeys *Sam* & *Miss Sam* were launched from NASA Wallops utilizing this rocket vehicle.

During the period of October 16-19, the 29th Division Association held their 96th Annual Reunion and Convention at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, MD. Many members began arriving from various parts of the country on Thursday, October 16. There were no activities or dinner planned for Thursday evening. Most members took advantage of this free time and gathered in the Hospitality Room.

The Hospitality Room was again hosted by Limestone Post 72. We are again grateful to Bob Wisch, Lee Hofmann, Barbie Bryant & Jean Insley for their untiring efforts and support in making the Hospitality Room a very nice place to relax and socialize.

On Friday, the group departed the hotel and headed south to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia. At this facility, they enjoyed a self-guided tour of the Visitor Center; a movie about the facility, many artifacts and displays.

For lunch they traveled to the American Le-

gion Chincoteague Post #159 in Chincoteague, VA., and enjoyed a buffet lunch. After lunch, the group toured the Herbert H. Bateman Educational Center located within the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island.

Arriving back at the hotel around 4:30pm, there was some free time that most people spent in the Hospitality Room. The plated dinner began at 6pm, after which most people spent the rest of the night again in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday's activities included the Annual Business Meeting, followed by a Post Commander's Workshop. Many subjects were discussed and some motions were voted on at the Business Meeting. (*Please see the Minutes of this meeting beginning on page 36 of this edition*). The nominated officers for 2014-2015 were elected, and several awards were presented to PNC John F. "Jack" Kutcher, recognizing his tenure as National Commander. The business meeting adjourned at 2pm and the

(Continued on page 11)

Our New National Commander — I. John Vaccarino

My sincere thanks to all for entrusting me with the leadership of this august organization. I am extremely proud of this great honor. With God as my mentor, I will strive to prove to you, my friends and companions, that I was a worthy leader.

We have a lot on our plate as we begin this term.

Several proposals have been given for potential changes to our By-Laws and Charter. An ad hoc committee will be selected to work on this important task. Those proposals include establishing ages for membership and streamlining bill payments and signature requirements for bank drafts. Of course, any time you tinker with By-Laws, anything goes.

We need to find an individual who will attend the next Army Divisions Association in Branson, Missouri. This forum provides a lot of useful information on potential convention locations and, more importantly, information on convention format and content. I would hope to hear from volunteers for this important task.

A committee will be appointed to appoint a standing committee to focus on selection of locations of upcoming conventions.



Of course, if you haven't heard, the 2015 Association Convention will be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia, at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Convention Center, during the period of 15 -18 October 2015.

National Executive Committee meeting (NEC II) will be held 15 January 2015 at the Weinberg Center at Camp Fretterd. NEC III will be held 18 June 2015 in Winchester, West Virginia.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington will be held on 31 May 2015 at 1315 hours followed by a scrumptious luncheon at the Spates Community Center at Ft. Myer.

To Post Commanders – my plans are to visit as many of you at your meetings as I am capable of doing (a promise I hope to fulfill). To me, your meetings and activities are the guts of our being and I need to be a part of them.

I have made a suggestion to the Editor of the "29er" to offer to our members a locator forum – a way for our members to place notices in the publication to help find that missing buddy or for any other information of that nature. This is merely a suggestion. It can only work if you, our members, feed the information to the Editor.

Lastly, I am happy to report that, as Commander of Post 1, PayPal is a reality. I am looking forward to taking full advantage of this program. We need to make dues payments and purchases of association memorabilia and voluntary donations to "the 29er" as easy as possible – and I believe this is an answer to that duty.

*I. John Vaccarino
National Commander*

Editor's Note: A biography of National Commander I. John Vaccarino appears on page 24.

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Thank you for your donations to the "Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund". They are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter coming. Please continue to support our upcoming issues.

Donations can be sent to:

**PNC/NED Robert W. Moscati
P.O. Box 47634, Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634
Without our generous readers,
we could not exist. Thanks again!**

Contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* for this Autumn/Winter issue. From June 15, 2014 through November 1, 2014, these donations totaled \$2,553.00. **Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by November 1, 2014 then it will not be listed until the next issue.** We thank you all and bless you.

Abschutz, Adrienne, Post 94 - Daughter - Edison, NJ
Byrne, Thomas, Post 93 - Assoc. - Wellesley, MA
Curran, Carol M., Post 94 - Assoc. - Vienna, VA
Coblentz, Sybil R. - Baltimore, MD

In Memory of Mervin "Coby" Coblentz

Endean, Robert O., Post 1 - Assoc. - Cornwall, UK
Finn, PNC Robert, Post 94 - A-2-115th Inf. - Westminster, MD
Hobbs, Mary H. Aux. 64 - Cloverdale, VA

In Memory of Mills Hubert Hobbs

Post 64 - D-Day Vet - A-115th Inf.

King, PNC William A., Post 64 - HQ-116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
Lotz, Robin, Post 94 - C-3-116th Inf. - Richmond, VA
McCumsey, Sylvester, Jr., Post 64 - C-116th Inf. (L)
- Keswick, VA

National Guard Association of MD. - Essex, MD
Pearson, Roberta L., Post 94 - Daughter - Beaver Dam, WI
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Rothwell, Donald F., Post 94 - Assoc. - Gainesville, FL
Smith, George A., Post 94 - Assoc. - Fairport, NY
Stup, MSG(Ret.) Richard L., Post 78 - A-1-115th &
RAOC - Frederick, MD

In Memory of Henry E. "Pete" Ponton - A-115th Inf.

Post 78 D-Day Veteran

Thomas, Francis E., Post 94 - B-175th Inf.
WW II - New Orleans, LA
Tweed, Earl, Post 110 - L-115th Inf. - Dallas, TX

French Legion of Honor Recipients

The Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* and the entire membership of the 29th Division Association congratulate the following veterans who have been awarded the French Legion of Honor. We commend the government of the Republic of France for their noble effort to honor these United States veterans for the courage and sacrifice that these men displayed during these most perilous years in the history of mankind.

De Luca, Russell S.

K Company, 116th Infantry
Columbia, Maryland
Post 94

Gomez, Raymond G.

H Company, 115th Infantry
San Lorenzo, California
Post 48

Grossman, Norman

L Company, 116th Infantry
Hingham, Massachusetts
Post 93

Proffitt, Carl D., Jr.

K Company, 116th Infantry
Charlottesville, Virginia
Post 64

Prosser, James M.

D Company, 116th Infantry
Sumter, South Carolina
Post 64

Russo, Ralph A.

E Company, 115th Infantry
New Castle, Pennsylvania
Post 85

New Webmaster for Association's Website — Neil Ungerleider

Neil Ungerleider, the new webmaster for the 29th Division Association site, brings both digital experience and a strong family connection to his position. Neil is the son of PNC Gen. Al Ungerleider and the manager of digital media for WCVB-TV in Boston, where he manages the station's web, mobile and social media work.

He spent his childhood as an "Army Brat," moving frequently as the family was stationed in posts from California to South America to Europe.

As his father became more involved with the 29ers after Gen. Ungerleider's retirement from the Army, Neil had the privilege of

attending the 50th and 60th Anniversary commemorations of D-Day in Normandy. On those trips, Neil met many veterans of the 29th Division and got a true sense of their service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Neil looks forward to advancing the mission of the 29th Division Association by using our website to better communicate our current activities, both nationally and on the local post level, as well as providing more depth on the histories of the units that served from its inception to the present day.

Neil, who manages the dominant television digital operation in Boston, will bring those skills to our online presence.

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from June 16, 2014 through November 1, 2014. 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

Atkins, Richard E, Post 64, D/116, Elliston Va, 6/25/14
 Beiser, Charles, Post 2, A/104Med, New Richmond Oh, 12/29/13
 Clark, Francis M, Post 2, L/115, Albion Me, 7/31/14
 Cundiff, Lester B, Post 64, Band/116, Oriskany Va, 4/29/14
 Gettel, Bruce G, Post 729, B/115, Hagerstown Md, 7/18/14
 Gouker, Thomas E, Post 78, A/1-115, Frederick md, 10/9/14
 Grimm, Cecil, Post 29, C/121Eng, Indian Head Pa, 7/30/14
 Housefeld, William, Post 94, HQ/29ID, Edgewood Ky, 8/23/14
 Joseph, Joseph A, Post 2, B/116, Port Charlotte FL, 8/16/14
 North, Austin R, Post 27, B/175, Baltimore Md, 6/27/14
 O'Neill, John B, Post 72, D/175, Glyndon Md, 7/11/14
 Parkinson, Raymond E, 29ID, Annapolis Md, 9/9/14
 Reid, Jack C, Post 64, A/116, Bedford Va, 2/2/14
 Scattergood, John, Post 48, C/110FA, Melbourne FL, 10/17/14
 Shanley, William, Post 94, B/82Eng, Cederburg Wi, 11/4/13
 Stonebraker, Millard E, Post 84, I/116, Lancaster NY, 9/8/14
 Villwock, Gordon, F/116, Milwaukee Wi, 3/10/14
 Wallenfang, Ellis J, Post 72, HQ/29ID, Greenfield Wi, 9/4/14
 Wideman, Nelson, HQ/2-110FA, Reisterstown Md, 8/10/14

LADIES

Horton, Jane Ellen, Raven Va. 9/19/13
 Smith, Jan, Widow, Bradenton FL, 5/12/14

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 19 comrades and 2 ladies who have died and whose death was reported to us since our last publication. This includes 3 comrades who were not members of our association but were members of our 29th family. This is how it should be. 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.

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Legion of Honor Recipients

In recognition of the French government's noble effort to award the Legion of Honor to veterans who participated in the liberation of France during the Second World War, the editorial staff of the *Twenty-Niner* wishes to publish the names of those recipients in the upcoming issues.

29th Division veterans who have received this award must submit the following information:

Name:
 Unit served in:
 Current address (City and State):
 Post number:
 Date award was received:

Please submit this information to the address listed below:

William S. Mund, Jr.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228
edit-pub29er@hotmail.com

Note: If you've already submitted your name and it has been published, please do not submit it again.

Important Notice

We, Editor William Mund, and Editor Emeritus Donald McKee, have enjoyed our many, many years of service to the association and its members. It is not an easy job but we do treasure our brief respites between issues. As age takes its toll, we hope to continue in our quest to put out a quality piece.

One of the items that we have chosen to highlight are the wartime stories of our WWII veterans and now, similar accounts of those 29ers who have served overseas since then. These, we feel make our 29er recognized as one of the best of all military magazines. However, we must stress again that when you send these in, we are not able to handle multiple pages of typed text. Even though the industry likes to play up their computer scanning abilities, they really are not effective in going from typed versions to the format we need for our page composition and printing. We have had to resort to retyping it in WORD for the shorter pieces. We no longer have this inclination.

So, we ask that in your submission of veteran's stories that you need to find someone who can type it in WORD, or it cannot be used. Once it's in WORD it can be sent to us via the internet and our processing can go forward with dispatch.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For now, computer users, this means finding a family member or a friend to assist. We need your stories. Let's hope that we can move forward in the continuation of our 25 year old publication record.

Also, current copyright laws prevent the Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* from reprinting any article and/or photograph that has already appeared in other publications such as newspapers or magazines, without their written permission. Please do not submit these articles or photos for publication in the *Twenty-Niner*.

No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love

What follows is a greatly condensed version of chapters 1-3 of "No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love," National Service Officer Walter Carter's published memoir about his father, Captain Elmer Norval Carter, 1st Bn, 115th Regiment. The rest of the book will be presented in subsequent issues of "The 29er." For comments or questions, contact Walter at walterfcarter@aol.com, or visit www.walterfordcarter.com.

Chapter 1: Discovery

There was no mystery about it. My mother was dying, and she knew it. It was May 1995, and she was lying in bed, at home, recovering from surgery to remove a tumor from her pancreas. The surgery had failed, and there was nothing more the doctors could do. I had taken her home to the house she had shared ever so briefly with my father before he went off to war and in the town—Huntington, West Virginia—where she had been born, where she and my father had met as children, where she had reared their two sons, and where she had found some measure of comfort as she grew old. I tried to prepare myself for her final moments, thinking about what I would say to her, what she might say to me. I hoped that we might even talk about a subject we had never truly discussed: my father.

Dr. Elmer Norval Carter, a captain and battalion surgeon with the 115th Regiment of the Twenty-ninth Infantry Division, landed on Omaha Beach in the late morning of June 6, 1944. He had volunteered for the US Army in 1942, when I was two years old and my brother, Tom, was five. Fathers were exempt from the draft at the time, but my father, who was serving as examining physician for the local draft board, believed his place was in the service.

After basic training, he sailed across the Atlantic in late 1942 and was appointed chief of psychiatry at an army hospital in southern England, even though he had little experience in the field. In the army's eyes, however, my father's brief tenure as staff physician in a West Virginia psychiatric hospital made him a psychiatrist. If nothing else, it was a safe job, far from the front lines. But my father wanted to play a more active role, and in March 1944 he obtained a transfer to the Twenty-ninth Infantry Division, which was training for D-Day. On that day he was

aboard a landing craft in the English Channel, part of the largest amphibious assault in history. He survived the carnage on Omaha Beach, but eleven days later, on June 17, as the Allies were pushing inland into France, a German sniper killed him as he tended a wounded soldier near an orchard outside St. Lô.

The telegram that arrived on July 6 informed my mother that the love of her life, the big, strapping man who called her Fernie, was dead. She collapsed into a chair in the living room. I was four years old, Tom seven. My mother was thirty-two.

My mother never remarried, never dated again. In pictures of her from that time, she looks too thin, and her smile is wan at best. My brother and I became the center of my mother's world. Beyond our home life, she worked in a series of community service administrative jobs, played the violin in the local symphony, and took refuge in painting, reading, playing bridge, and socializing with three or four close friends. As the years went on, she helped rear my brother's oldest child when he married and became a father while still in his teens. Her burdens increased as she grew older, for it fell to her to care for aging relatives. She never complained.

All the while, over the decades of her life, she rarely spoke about my father. And now, as she approached her own death, the silence on the subject remained intact. We talked instead about other family members or what we were watching on television. We listened to music together. Or we were silent. I was afraid to speak about my father or about my brother, Tom, who had died in a plane crash in 1972, leaving three sons behind, for fear that she would be overcome by the grief she had repressed for so many years. We should have talked about Dad years ago, I thought, but now was not the time to begin that conversation. On the morning of May 27, my cousin, a nurse who was taking

care of my mother, told me that my mother was about to die. It was time to say goodbye.

I sat close to her and told her that I loved her. She was staring aimlessly at the ceiling. I then said some of what had been on my mind for so long: "Ever since I was a small boy, I've had a mental picture of Dad, smiling with an expression of love, watching me. Then, after Tom died, I have often seen the two of them together, smiling, watching me. Now I'll see the three of you together, smiling, watching me. And one day down the road I will join you. Then we will be together again, happy." Her eyes suddenly focused. Her chest rose with a slower, heavier breath. But she was beyond reply. Two hours later, she died.

After the rituals of farewell and burial, my mother's family and friends gathered in her house to share memories. My brother's sons, grown men now, had come to Huntington from their homes in Alaska. It was a sunny day, and we sat on the porch while several women from the church served sandwiches. We listened closely as two of my parents' friends reminisced about the 1930s, when they were young doctors and just starting out in life. Inevitably, they spoke about the war and how all of their friends had come home alive—except for my father. One of them spoke about the last letter he had received from my father, in May 1944, while he was in England awaiting the order to board ship for the hundred-mile trip across the English Channel. In his letter, my father confessed a secret he had withheld from my mother: He had volunteered for combat duty with the Twenty-ninth Division. I knew he volunteered for the army, but I never knew that he actually requested a high-risk assignment, knowing that the division was training for the invasion of France. What was more, my father had written that he would never tell Fernie

what he had done. Although it depressed him, he wrote, to think that he might never see his wife and sons again, he did not fear death.

My children, Norman and Catherine, and my three nephews were transfixed by this story of the grandfather they had never known. Catherine, looking at all the people my father had never met and who never had a chance to know him, became angry and said, "How could he do such a thing? How could he have placed himself in danger when he had so much to live for?" It was a question that I had asked myself before.

After my mother's funeral my wife, Bonnie, and I stayed in Huntington for several days to take care of all the paperwork and housekeeping chores that accompany death. My mother had a safe deposit box in a local bank, so that too was on our to-do list before we returned to our home and our lives in Newton, Massachusetts. Her affairs were in relatively good order. In the box I found a small, pocket-sized notebook, obviously fairly old. On the inside cover were a few handwritten lines: "Finder: Please send this letter to my wife. These are my thoughts of her that I have jotted down just before entering combat. Her address is 533 13th Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia." The handwriting was my father's. There in my hands was a record of his last days on earth. I could hardly contain my curiosity. I quickly collected everything in the box and returned home.

The following morning I rose early and went out to sit on my mother's porch. I opened the notebook and began to read. Inside were entries dated from May 31 to June 4, 1944.

"May 31, 1944 Dear Fernie: "Well, sweetheart, we aren't permitted to send any letters home now, so I'll let them accumulate in this notebook and mail them to you when censorship lifts. This morning we rose at 0400 and had breakfast. Then we got in formation to depart. For days now we have known that this was going to happen and we have been getting rid of all excess belongings. The air has been full of excitement and a very few cases of neurosis have developed. They were for the most part mild panic states and were easily controlled. Our particular battalion has been briefed and the mission has

been studied in detail. We don't make the initial breakthrough on our sector but we follow in about 4 hours to secure the ground and clean up any resistance. We must get 10 miles inland on the first day. This may be tough or it may be easy."

The entry for June 1 read: "I awoke at 0500 hrs, Fernie, and lay there thinking of you, wondering if we shall ever see each other again. While lying there many things came to mind; how I used to hold you in my arms and tell you I loved you. Nothing must happen to prevent our being together. Why is it that I am not afraid? It is normal to be afraid under the circumstances but yet I just am not afraid. Perhaps I shall be when we hit the far shore. I do feel a detached sort of concern as to whether I shall see you and the boys again, and I have that dull ache of longing to be back home with you all, but the constriction and tremulousness and the instability of fear—well, I don't have it. Maybe it would be best if I were a bit fearful."

On June 4, as my father prepared to sail across the English Channel, he wrote: "Fernie, my sweetheart, I feel I shall see you again. You and the boys. But if I don't, I want you all to remember that my love for you cannot be said or put on paper. It can only be felt. You have meant everything to me that is good and happy. Since tomorrow is D-Day (and we weigh anchor tonight), I won't be able to write for a few days. May God help us in our mission. I hope to return to you all. God bless you Fernie, you Tom, and you Walter Ford."

Until this moment, my knowledge of my father had been based on a few anecdotes told by family and friends. Now for the first time I was hearing him speak directly. He called me by my full name, Walter Ford. There was more. Along with the notebook was a letter from my father dated May 4, 1944. It was addressed to Tom and me:

"It has been a long time since we have written to one another but your mother has told me some mighty nice things about you both. It seems that you are doing all those things that boys do: grow, lose teeth, get sick, go to school, learn new tricks, and pay homage to some girl. My, but it would be fun to be home and watch you do these things! I would like to joke with you & talk things over, sort of man to man, you know. Fernie seems to

be very proud of you both, and it is no wonder that she is. You must send me the pictures that are being taken so I can sort of imagine myself talking to you now & then.

"In several more months, perhaps, this war will be over and then we can really enjoy doing things together. Then we can go for hikes, or go on the river and really have some fine talks. Sitting and talking is the best pastime there is, I want you always to be happy. Always try to do things the good way & it will give you peace of mind & happiness. You won't always be able to do things the "good way." You will do things wrong at times, all persons do. But if you are sorry for doing things wrong, the chances are you will do much better on future occasions. When you make a mistake (and you will make plenty of them!), don't become too tearful or blue. Always be able to laugh at yourself and with other people.

"Take good care of your mother and also take good care of the advice & help she has to offer you. It may seem at times that she has more of the former than the latter, but the opposite is true. She can really help you. She can make you happy when you are sad. She can lighten your worries. She can make things seem sensible where there is apparently no sense. You are fortunate also in having a mother who is very wise, very sweet, and who will lean over backwards to help you out."

My father's concern for us, now expressed so directly, was a revelation. I wanted to share my discovery with my children and my brother's children, who knew almost nothing about this man who smiled out at them from picture frames in their grandmother's house.

Several days earlier Catherine had found a box of letters in my mother's attic. She had discovered the missing story of my father's life, the story my mother could not bring herself to tell me. Now that she was beyond suffering, however, she would allow me to discover my father, in his own words, through the letters she had so carefully preserved. The letters went as far back as the early 1920s, before my parents were teenagers. There were love letters from school days, letters filled with barely disguised adolescent yearnings, letters that captured a time and a place lost to history—a small town in West Vir-



Norval Carter with wife Fernie, and sons, Tom and Walter Ford, 1940.

ginia, before superhighways, before the age of mass consumption.

I could not read them all right away. We were too busy sorting out my mother's possessions. I brought them home to Newton, and over the course of many months I came to know the smiling man in the photographs. I found my father. After I had read every line, after I had absorbed what this man was teaching me a half century after his death, I had an answer to my daughter's question: "How could he have done such a thing?" He did it because of who he was: Dr. Elmer Norval Carter, captain in the US Army.

Chapter 2: ENC + EFL

I was born into a world at war, on May 13, 1940, the very day Winston Churchill addressed the British House of Commons for the first time as prime minister. Speaking to his worried colleagues and a fearful nation, he acknowledged that he had nothing to offer "but blood, toil, tears and sweat." Three days earlier, Hitler's army and air force had smashed through Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg—neutral nations all—on their way to France. The lightning assault marked the end of nearly eight months of military paralysis in Europe following Hitler's invasion of Poland the preceding September. Europe was in flames, while imperial Japan was on the march in Asia. In the United States, FDR would soon launch his campaign for an unprecedented third term, promising that "we will not partici-

pate in foreign wars, except in case of attack." The fighting—in China, in Western Europe, in Africa—was thousands of miles away, and the United States remained untouched.

In 1940 my parents were just getting established after several years of wandering Depression-era America in search of better jobs and brighter futures. Earlier in the year, with my brother in tow, they had returned to their hometown, Huntington, West Virginia, where my father went into private medical practice with a friend. War was not part of the dream my parents shared for each other and for their children, but now there was no escaping events beyond their control. The capitals of Europe were under attack, the menace of dictatorship threatened millions, and every day in some faraway battlefield soldiers and civilians alike died by the hundreds and thousands. War had not yet come to America. And yet war was everywhere.

Before I was a year old, my father received a letter dated April 21, 1941, from the governor of West Virginia, informing him that the president of the United States had appointed him an examining physician with the local draft board. President Roosevelt, after winning his third term, had ordered a peacetime draft and mobilized the National Guard to bolster the country's small and poorly equipped armed services. On December 7, 1941, the nation's worst fears were realized when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

During the ensuing months, as America geared for global conflict, my father decided that his place was with the young men who were trading civilian clothes for military uniforms. He was exempt because he had two young children. (Fathers did not become eligible for the draft until 1943.) In May 1942 my parents bought a house on the south side of town, no more than a mile from the homes in which each had grown up. The deed was recorded in my mother's name only—by then my father had made his decision to enlist.

On July 7, 1942, as millions of young men throughout America trained for battle against hardened professional soldiers in Europe and Asia, Dr. E. Norval Carter was appointed a first lieutenant in the Army

Medical Corps. The life he had known and wished to share with his wife and children meant everything to him, but he believed that his place was with those who would fight—and die—to defend his country's liberty. The board of the Children's Clinic, where he volunteered to provide health care for the poor, adopted a resolution thanking him for his work, and the board's chairman wished him "the best of luck in your new field of endeavor." That new field was to be the battlefield.

My father was born in Huntington, West Virginia, on October 17, 1911, the only child of Eustace and Sapho Bryan Carter. Eustace had little formal education but no shortage of determination and independence. His father, Salem Carter, ran a carriage and livery service and was deputy sheriff. When America went to war with Spain in 1898, Eustace enlisted in the army and served in the Philippines.

Eustace Carter married Sapho Bryan, the daughter of a doctor who practiced medicine in Huntington. Eustace was among the many Huntington residents who went to work for the C&O railroad. He eventually rose to become a freight-train conductor, a good, solid job that he held onto after the stock market crash of 1929. The C&O transported coal to factories and utilities, and even during the Great Depression those plants needed the C&O's services. This steady demand protected my grandfather's job and allowed him to send his son to college and medical school.

My father was an only child, a spirited redhead. He preferred his middle name, Norval, rather than his given first name, Elmer. In 1922, when Norval was eleven, the Carter family built a substantial two-story red-brick house diagonally across the street from the Lowry family. Three years earlier the Lowrys had suffered a terrible loss when Thomas Lowry, a lawyer, died of a stroke at the age of fifty-seven. He left behind his widow, Anna, and four children. Three were already young adults, but the youngest was only seven years old. Her name was Emma Ferne.

She was born on March 6, 1912, something of a late-in-life surprise for Thomas and Anna. Without siblings near her own age, Emma Ferne had to look outside the home for playmates. As luck would

have it, when she was ten years old, a boy who had no brothers or sisters to play with moved into the new house across the street. My parents met and became fast friends. They rode their bicycles to and from school every day, and before long the two adolescents began to think of themselves as more than just neighbors and friends. In junior high school, Norval sent a note to Fernie, whom he addressed as "Dear, dearest, more dear": "Let's get up at 7:00 and I will come over at your house or you will come here," he wrote, closing with "Love, love, all my love." Underneath his signature, in the time-honored fashion of love-struck teens, he drew a heart with an arrow through it and with their initials: ENC + EFL.

Norval's youth was idyllic. He had lots of friends, some of whom he would remain close to for the rest of his life, and they were always welcome in his home, often gathering on his front porch. His sweetheart lived a few steps away. Fernie and Norval were constant companions, and they grew even closer during their years at Huntington High School. For Fernie and Norval, 1930—their senior year in high school—was an eventful year. Fittingly, their pictures in the yearbook were adjacent. The editors wrote of Norval: "His cheerful grin and clever remarks make him a favorite." Of Fernie they noted that she had "a subtle sense of humor and a certain come-hither expression in her eyes." In his copy of the yearbook, Norval printed "wanted!" across the top of Fernie's picture and her telephone number across the bottom.

Fernie and Norval started at Marshall College together in 1930, but my father—a restless soul, always in search of adventure—transferred to West Virginia University in Morgantown for his sophomore year and wound up finishing his undergraduate work at the University of Alabama. His course load was heavy. He also ran track, swam, played intramural baseball, and got beaten up in the boxing ring. Meanwhile, at Marshall College Fernie double-majored in English and music education. She also taught music to younger students, and, as if that were not enough, for a few weeks she filled in for one of the college's music instructors, teaching clarinet, trumpet, cello, violin, and trombone. "Don't ever teach school,

sweetheart," she complained to Norval, "because it is the hardest work I ever got into."

In the spring of 1933, while still at the University of Alabama, Norval decided to apply to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. His thoughts continued to focus on Fernie and their future. "I am sort of tired being a bachelor for the past thousand years," he told her. "It is just about time to try marriage." That was easier said than done. During the summer, after he returned home from Alabama, Fernie was hired as a teacher at a high school in the coal-mining town of Colcord, West Virginia, about 90 miles from Huntington. Her new job—her first—would begin in the fall, the same time that Norval was scheduled to start medical school in Richmond.

On September 6, 1933—a few months after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany and just days before my father was to begin medical school—Fernie and Norval and three friends piled into a car and drove 12 miles into Kentucky, to the town of Catlettsburg. There, by the authority of a local clergyman and with their friends as the only guests, my parents were married. Their families were surprised by the means but not the result. In later years my mother would say they eloped because they did not have enough money for a traditional wedding. My father, however, had a different view. In a nostalgic letter written while he was in the army, he recalled, "I remember the summer of our marriage, how I lost patience and cussed you out & said we would be married the next day or else! And we were married."

They began their lives together by living apart. After a few days as husband and wife in Huntington, Fernie went on to Colcord to begin teaching, and Norval journeyed to Richmond to start medical school. My mother paid a quick visit to Huntington and took care of some post-wedding chores, such as having her rings engraved with their initials. "I also ordered announcements & picked out the silver," she told her husband. "I selected 'Normandie' pattern. I hope you'll like it."

Fernie did not adjust well to the rural experience, especially rooming with six other teachers in the countryside. She and the other teachers walked 2 miles from their residence to the school, where she

was in charge of students who were, as she described them, "twice as large" as she was. Norval, in the meantime, seemed intent on living up to his reputation as a practical joker. He became known on campus for stunts like eating chalk or even a frog's leg if all of his classmates paid him a dime. (This was the Depression, after all.) The most famous of these episodes, one that many of his classmates would remember for decades, involved a jar of sour pickles. To earn his dimes, he ate every last pickle. Then he raced to the bathroom, where the pickles reappeared. A few years later one of his friends wrote in his yearbook, "Loved the pickles!"

Several students remember another side of my father, however. A friend named John Morris lacked the money to go straight into medical school from college. He worked for a year to save enough money but became discouraged. Had my father not encouraged him, he would have given up, he told me in later years. When John was accepted at the Medical College of Virginia, my father lent him his microscope and books.

In the spring of 1934, after only eight months in Colcord, Fernie lost her teaching job and finally joined her husband. The school board had run out of money and could no longer pay her salary, a reflection of the severe economic distress in the early 1930s. But Fernie's arrival in Richmond apparently did little to inspire Norval to study harder. His grades through his third and fourth years were pretty dismal—he received a D in neuropsychiatry, which was to become his wartime specialty. But John Morris and several other classmates remembered my father as a very bright student, one who scored near the top on medical aptitude tests. He managed to graduate on June 1, 1937.

As millions of Americans knew firsthand, jobs were hard to come by in 1937, even for freshly minted medical doctors. Norval obtained an internship at the prestigious Scott and White Clinic in Temple, Texas. Once again, he was on the move. This time, my mother went with him, and that summer they awaited their first child. On July 17, 1937, they became parents of a baby boy they named Tom Eustace Carter. According to my father, Tom was a "fine-looking, red-headed, blue-eyed boy

whose features resemble practically nobody." After his internship, Norval decided to start a private practice in Timpson, Texas, where he leased a twelve-bed hospital and clinic. It was a risky business at best—when he took over, the facility had \$32.47 in cash on hand. Although he brought in plenty of patients, few of them could pay. It quickly became clear that the practice could not be sustained. In October 1938 he and his young family moved back to Huntington.

In November 1938 Norval accepted a position as a staff physician in a state hospital for mentally ill patients in Spencer, West Virginia, about 100 miles from Huntington. The state hospital position lasted only fifteen months, and in 1940 the family moved back to Huntington yet again, joining the private practice of another doctor. Finally, it seemed, Fernie and Norval could settle down and live the life they had been dreaming about since they were teenagers. Then my father went off to war.

Chapter 3: Doing What is Right

In early August 1942, my father gave the three of us a farewell hug and then hopped into his bright yellow Chevrolet convertible. He was bound for basic training at Camp Pickett, Virginia, near the town of Blackstone, about 60 miles southwest of Richmond. It took him ten hours to drive the 365 miles between our home and the base, but other drivers would have taken even longer. My father, much to my mother's dismay, loved to drive fast.

Blackstone in 1942 was a town of about 2,700 and a trade center for dark-fired tobacco. Following the outbreak of World War II in Europe, the area near Blackstone was surveyed as a potential US Army training site. Construction began only twelve days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was unfinished when my father arrived at dusk on August 10. He was astonished by what he found: a bustling, mid-sized city that he estimated to be home to as many as 45,000 people. Finding his assigned unit—the 110th Station Hospital, one of many hospital units within the camp—took several hours.

His new home was a small room with a steel-framed cot, a ceiling light, and one steel chair. That spartan setting soon gained a few added touches, thanks to his gift for improvisation. He found some

boards and built three shelves, grabbed an iron pipe that lay underneath the barracks and used it for what he called "the sturdiest towel rack I have ever seen," and fashioned a clothesline out of spare copper wire. During his first few days in camp, Dad bought a life insurance policy worth \$10,000.

In his first letter to my mother, after discussing details of camp life, he broke some bad news. "This Station Hospital," he wrote, "is being trained for one thing only; and that is for foreign service." Apparently Fernie had clung to the hope that he would stay stateside, and she took the news hard, as she indicated in her reply: "It surely was a blow to hear about the foreign service side of things. I just somehow can't help but be bitter about the whole thing, but I'm trying to not think and do all my worrying at one time."

Her bitterness dismayed my father and perhaps made him feel a little guilty about his decision to volunteer. He tried to reassure her: "I can readily see how resentful you feel about my leaving this continent & I expect you to continue to feel badly about it 'cause I do myself. But please, sweetheart, try, try to get rid of that resentful feeling. . . . It may seem overdramatic to assume that it is my duty to do, and that I should go, but it is better for one's peace of mind to adopt just such an attitude. Otherwise it rankles in one's inwards & creates a bitterness that is unhealthy. It also makes me very sad to know you are bitter about it all. I know you are unhappy but I can stand that: I can't stand to know that you are bitter."

My father did have some good news: he would be granted leave every other weekend. He would not be able to come home that often, because he would have to spend twenty hours on the road for a leave that lasted only from Saturday noon until Monday morning. But at least he would be home a few times before he was shipped overseas. I was just over two years old at the time, and, according to my mother's letters, I had a difficult time understanding that my father could not be an everyday presence in our lives. "The boys are getting along fine, but things about 'Daddy' pop up constantly," she wrote. "Walter Ford came into my room this morning, peeped over me and said

'Where is Daddy?' & I had to explain at great length all over again."

Fernie was lucky to have a support network close at hand. My parents' relatives and their many friends in Huntington helped keep us busy and relieved some of her burdens as a single parent. Not long after my father left, when I was still demanding to know where he was, my grandmother Sapho Carter invited us to a fried-chicken dinner, which she knew I would enjoy. My grandfather took my brother and me on a pleasant, late-summer walk to the depot to see the trains as they chugged in and out of town. I held my grandfather's hand the whole time. Tom, who had just turned five, proudly told our grandparents that he would look after Mom and me while Dad was gone.

Fernie received a welcome distraction in early September, when one of the local junior high schools asked her if she would be willing to work as a substitute teacher. With no shortage of family members willing to mind my brother and me, she accepted. "We dropped the children off at your mother's," she told wrote Norval. "I taught math & typing!! Wotta day! I didn't know head or tails of their math problems but I managed, some say." The instant soldiers of the new American army were not the only people who were asked to become experts in unfamiliar fields. "Tomorrow I am to go back & teach mechanical drawing, something I still know nothing about. . . . What is mechanical drawing, anyway?"

The excitement of being back in the classroom, away from her worries for a few hours, was dampened when my brother asked whether she was going to teach all the time and leave him behind. "I felt like saying 'to hell with teaching,'" she confessed. "If I had anybody to tell me not to do it—I'm afraid it wouldn't take long for me to decide about the whole matter." On October 5 she wrote, "I substituted down at West Jr. High last week. Had music & nothing but boys again! There ought to be a law against jr. high boys taking music—none of 'em can sing. Their voices crack on every other note so they like to spend the time throwing paper wads & airplanes around the room. I really had to get tough on 'em."

Sapho Carter was our occasional baby

-sitter, sometimes for days at a time. A few words in a letter to her son captured a sense of how life in America had changed. Describing one of her favorite meals, she wrote: "Huntington any more seems so quiet. I suppose it is because of all the young men that have gone into the service. . . . I had one fine mess of squirrel & hot biscuits the other day, also some good country honey which tasted great." It had been decades since Grandmother Sapho's girlhood, when she used her squirrel gun to hunt down prey on her grandfather's farm, but the years had not changed her idea of a good meal.

On October 17, he turned 31 years old. Grandmother Sapho wrote her only child a birthday letter: "It just doesn't seem you are going to be 31 years old. . . . I still think of you [as] our only dear red head "boy" running in and out as you have in years gone by (when you were close enough to be home). The last two years have been such a joy for you and your dear, precious family to be able to settle down, here in your home. Then comes along this terrible brutal war to snatch and take the best boys of our land, the future of tomorrow, who are giving their blood and very lives for their country and loved ones back home. That's the hardest to bear of all. Now we all want to do everything we can to win and have peace on earth again. "I am glad we have some very great leaders, men who are courageous and stand for the right, and right will win in the end. Gen. MacArthur said in yesterday's paper he wanted the people back home in America to pray for our "boys" as that was our main hope in this great struggle for peace. Norval, please don't forget this! Wherever you are on land, or sea, in USA or abroad, that we have a God of justice, and right, and the only one to whom we can go for safety, and one to stay us, when the world seems to be tottering or held only by a threat. Still we must strive to be cheerful and do all we can for a better day. . . . Dad and I shall always "night and day" be thinking of you. Remember this. And don't forget us."

Fernie's birthday gift—a watch—and her greetings were less philosophical and more upbeat. She had spent the night before listening to Bing Crosby and Rudy Valee on her new record player and "thinking how much more I would have enjoyed 'em if you had been in the other chair across from me."

Training at Camp Pickett was beginning to intensify. Early every morning he and about 200 other soldiers would be summoned from their barracks, marched to a drill field, and put through their paces. "Then perhaps we go over an obstacle course. After my first time over I thought I was done for. Damn, we crawled through pipes, jumped ditches, ran mazes, swung across a creek on a rope, ran a horizontal ladder over a creek. Oh hell. We were really worn out. More exercises in the afternoon & lectures. Also tent-pitching and ass-scratching & nose-picking." He also trained with members of medical regiment combat teams that would be deployed on the front lines in battalion aid stations. As part of his regimen, he attended lectures on topics such as map reading and watched a movie demonstrating the different sounds of weapons.

Norval was relieved that he was not put on one of the combat teams, a high-risk assignment. "It is pitiful to see the reaction of doctors assigned to [the teams]," he told Mom. "All of them are destined to be sent to Battalion aid stations. They have an excellent chance of never 'coming back' and every man of them knows it. All of us in the 110th Station Hospital are envied by those poor apes, & some vainly try to get into our outfit." Within a year he would be trying to get out of the 110th to join a combat unit himself.

Fernie knew the day was coming when her husband would leave for a place she did not know and did not care to imagine, but she continued to immerse herself in the daily life of a family without its father in a town without its men. My father's chores were now hers. She made the decisions; she managed the budget. When leaks developed in our ceilings, she had to get them fixed. When it was time to hang new bathroom curtains, she had to climb on the stool.

My parents treasured every moment they had with each other during his leaves. After one visit, just before Thanksgiving, my mother spent a Sunday evening sitting in the den and listening to the popular radio program, *Take It or Leave It*. The previous week Norval had been sitting across from her, and they had enjoyed the show together. "I can't help thinking about how nice it was to have you sitting in the green chair & me opposite," she wrote.

With the holiday season almost on her,



Cherished image of home life during Norval's leaves from basic training, Autumn 1942.

Fernie's thoughts drifted to what she knew would be her last Christmas with her husband for the foreseeable future. She asked him to "please, please" think of something he wanted for Christmas. Norval knew that this Christmas would not be a season for gift giving: "Sugar, I'm damned if I need anything for Xmas. I'll be going "over" soon & won't be able to take much stuff along. Most of the things I have will have to be left behind. The only things I can think of would be (1) binoculars (or telescope), (2) water-proof match box, (3) compass (good one). I now know definitely that I won't be home Xmas. I'll be coming home the 23rd probably, or the 22nd. It will be my last trip in, Sweetheart, so we must make the most of it."

Before his last visit home, in late November 1942, Norval learned that he would ship out of New York, bound for England, in early December. I do not remember anything about this last visit. When his leave was over and it was time for him to return to Camp Pickett, we said goodbye and he waved to us from that yellow Chevrolet. We never saw him again.

The men at Camp Pickett prepared to move to their point of embarkation. Myrtle F. MacBrayer, the wife of Norval's commanding officer, wrote to the wives of all the officers in her husband's command, expressing her thanks for their sacrifice and expressing her own appreciation of their strength and character. Her letter to Fernie read in part: "I have the greatest respect for your husband and know he'll be of much help to my husband. As a special favor I have asked him to watch over my husband's health. He has so much responsibility I'm afraid he will break under it if someone does not watch him. I know

somehow we shall find the strength to "carry on." It is a mighty difficult time we are going through."

Norval left Camp Pickett at eight o'clock on the night of November 28. His unit's movement was a closely guarded secret, even from fellow soldiers, so he and the other members of the 110th Station Hospital had remained out of sight all day. Under the cover of darkness, a convoy of fifteen trucks ferried the men from camp to the train station, where they boarded a special train of five Pullmans and two baggage cars. After dinner the soldiers retired to their beds and their thoughts. They rattled up the coast, toward Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, arriving just in time for breakfast. He was barely installed in his barracks when he received a nice surprise: permission to visit New York City, about an hour away by bus, which he had seen only once before.

He sent Fernie some candy from the city and then took in a movie starring the now-forgotten comedy team of Olsen and Johnson. "It was magnificent. My sides are still sore due to laughing. There was only one thing keeping me from enjoying it to the fullest—and that was an undercurrent of sad loneliness—your absence. It made my throat feel mighty tight at times. However, I feel content & at peace with myself & with God. It seems to me that we are doing what is right; that we are sincerely fighting for something worthwhile—the right for individual peace & happiness. I'll be back to see you & the boys someday and we can all be happy again. Then we can do the things we

dream about today. And I can whisper into your ear. The boys are growing very fast & I miss seeing them do it, but their being with you can only make them fine young men, which will be a delight to both of us later on."

On or around December 7, the staff of the 110th Station Hospital boarded the grand cruise ship *Queen Mary* on New York's waterfront. The *Queen Mary* and its sister ship, the *Queen Elizabeth*, had been converted from luxury liners to troop ships to ferry hundreds of thousands of American soldiers from the East Coast to Great Britain. The crossing, which took about five days, was perilous. The Battle of the North Atlantic was well under way, with German submarines on the prowl for Allied ships. The *Queen Mary* sailed with an escort for part of the journey, but even friendly ships posed a danger. On October 2, the liner had collided with a British cruiser serving as an escort. The *Queen Mary*, which had about 10,000 American troops aboard, sliced through the escort ship near the Irish coastline, killing more than 300 of its crew. The captain, ever fearful of enemy submarines and under strict orders to continue on his journey, did not stop to rescue anyone.

Poor weather accompanied my father across the Atlantic, and at one point the *Queen Mary* "damned near capsized," he wrote. He was visiting an anti-aircraft battery at the height of the storm, and was amazed to see the huge ship tossed about so easily. "One moment the top deck was at its usual height (several stories, about seven, I suppose) & then, swoom! down, over, and forward she would pitch. It was

magnificent! I thought for sure I'd get seasick, but didn't."

Once in England, Norval rode a troop train that took him through the English countryside, much of it bearing the scars of nearly three years of war, and he even met the lord mayor of one city along the way. "I don't know which he would rather I do, kneel, or present him with one of my few chocolate bars," he commented. The affection and hospitality of the British people genuinely moved him, especially when he caught glimpses, for the first time, of the realities of war that the British had known since 1939: "As we traveled across the Isles the people waved and cheered our train. Their attitude was quite pitiful & it put lumps in our throats. I saw many children & I got to give one girl a chocolate bar & one boy 5 cents. These kids have it very tough but seem to be quite happy." Tell Tom & W.F. that I think of them a lot & hope to get back to you all as soon as possible. Am glad the "Jerries" haven't done to you all what they did over here."

It was Christmas, and despite the excitement and the new surroundings, Norval and his fellow soldiers could not hide their loneliness. "I never saw so many long faces," he wrote. Like hundreds of thousands of GIs, he tried to imagine what the day had been like at home. "How many times did the boys turn over the tree?" he asked. From his lonely post in England, he confided that he wished he could see us all.

To be continued in the Spring 2015 edition

A great time, with great weather, the 96th Reunion & Convention in Ocean City, MD

(Continued from page 1)

Post Commander's Workshop commenced at 2:30pm.

The Post Commander's Workshop was a new venture conceived of by Vice Commander David Ginsburg. The purpose of this workshop was to get all the Post Commanders to attend the convention and have them address various issues, challenges and initiatives that they or their posts have conceived of, or participated in. The results of which, successful or not, could be of a benefit to the other posts. This workshop was not only open to the Post Commanders but to the other Post officers as well. About 30 members attended this workshop.

The Joe Balkoski Symposium followed

the Commander's Workshop. We are indeed always grateful to have Joe conduct this symposium. This year, Joe talked about the 29th and its last days of WWII, from just before V-E Day all the way to the return home to New York City in January 1946.

The formal banquet occurred at 6pm at the Clarion in the Crystal Hall ballroom. Guest speaker was the Adjutant General of Maryland, Major General James A. Adkins. The newly elected officers of the association were installed in a brief ceremony and several individuals were recognized afterwards.

PNC/PNED John E. Wilcox, Jr., was the recipient of several awards as he is retiring from his 12 year tenure as National Executive Director. The awards he received were:

The Maryland Distinguished Service Cross; the Meritorious Service Medal, awarded by the Military Order of Foreign Wars; and the Distinguished Service Award, awarded by the 29th Division Association Inc.

William C. "Bill" Doyle was presented with a birthday cake from the hotel, and a Certificate of Recognition from National Commander, I. John Vaccarino. Mr. Doyle turned 100 years of age on October 31, 2014.

The 96th Reunion & Convention concluded with the Annual Memorial Service that was conducted on Sunday by the National Chaplain, Reverend John Schildt. The 29th Division Association members enjoyed their time in Ocean City and look forward to next year in Fredericksburg, VA.

Submitted by Editor William Mund



Walter at the grave of his father, Captain Elmer N. Carter, with nephews Jim (left back row), Paul and Tom (left front), wife Bonnie, daughter Catherine (front, 3rd from left), son-in-law Eric (back right) and niece-in-law Denise (front right). Walter's son, Norman, was unable to make the trip.

October 19, 2014

Hello Marsha, Pete, and Charlie,

Bonnie and I were in Normandy from October 4 to 11. The occasion was to show my 3 nephews (sons of my older brother, Tom, who died in 1972) the places of their grandfather's experience in the Battle of Normandy. I've been trying to organize this trip for about 15 years, and this was the first time we could get it together. My older nephew's wife, plus our daughter and her husband, also came, bringing us to a group of 8. Our son, a teacher in Vermont, was unable to be with us.

In Normandy, we followed a reduced version of the Normandy Allies itinerary, augmented by a few places specific to my father's path. I had arranged to have Michael Yanneghas meet us at the Chappelle Madeleine, where Jean Mignon, the curator, and Jeannine Verove also welcomed us. (Jeannine and Michael are the president and vice-president of St. Lô 44 – Roanoke.) Michael's wife, Helena, joined us for lunch, happily reporting that she passed the driver's test and has a license. Michael and Jeannine then led us on a walk around St. Lô, pointing out the places related to WWII.

On another day we arranged to meet Pierre and Collette Labbé at the Wall of Memory. After we had viewed the many plaques dedicated to 29ers, they led us over to the Bois de Brêtel, where my father was killed. As always, they had placed flowers on the gate and mowed the grass in front of it. At the Pegasus Museum we met Mark Worthington, the curator. He graciously led us around the exhibits of the bridge and gliders. At Pointe du Hoc, where we were hit by a brief hail storm, I ran into Gen. Graham Holland, who was leading some group around (otherwise the weather was good). In the park-

ing lot of the Carrefour grocery store up at the roundabout in Grandcamp I ran into one of Mme. Brard's Grandcopaise sidekicks, but didn't get down to see Madame herself. At the 29th Division Monument in Vierville Draw we were spotted by student-hosts Serge and Michel and their wives (who were driving by), and had a group photo with them by the Monument.

We stayed most comfortably at Hilary Cornet's B&B, "le Vermont," which she has attractively expanded. She hosted us for aperitifs one evening, where Jacques Chambon joined us.

We enjoyed meeting Marsha's friend, Mary Kay Muscarella, her husband, Tony, her brother, Jake, and his wife, Katie, in Bayeux. They were tracing the WWII path of Mary and Jake's late father. We had a fine dinner with them at *Le Volet Qui Penche*, greeted warmly by the proprietor & friend of Normandy Allies, Pierre-Henri Lemessier.

It was a very enjoyable and gratifying trip for us all. Our family now has a deeper understanding and appreciation of our legacy and each other. Benefitting from 16 years of Normandy Allies' experience, I was able to show and tell them much about this place and its history, but I missed Marsha's formidable punctuality discipline, Pete's wise-cracks, and Charlie's supply of euros.

See you soon at the next Board meeting,

Walter

(Walter Carter, National Service Officer of the 29th Division Association, board member of Normandy Allies, and son of Captain Elmer Norval Carter, 1st Bn, 115th Regiment, KIA 6/17/44, wrote this note to fellow members of the leadership team of Normandy Allies' International Experience: Marsha Smith, Peter Combee, and Charles Frick.)

John J. Trzaskos, E Company, 115th Infantry, returns to Normandy, 2014

My father, John J. Trzaskos, was a member of the 29th Division, 115th Infantry, Company E which landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944.

At the age of 89, my father and our family, attended the 70th Anniversary Ceremony at the American Cemetery in Colleville sur Mer, Normandy, France on June 6, 2014.

Although we were not part of Fran Sherr-Davino's trip, we joined up with her and the 29ers at numerous points during our trip. My father was assigned an escort from the current 29th Division, Army National Guard Unit.

The following are some of my father's statements and observations:

"This was the last commemoration for many of us. They only hold the big celebrations every ten years. The majority of us are getting close to 100, so when they hold the next one, we are going to be dead. It was important for me to not only attend the commemoration event to honor the fallen, but also to visit the various places in Normandy that left their marks in history. One of those places was Omaha Beach and beyond, where we fought with the U.S. Army's 29th Infantry Division after successfully landing here during the June 6, 1944 invasion.

I was 19 and working at General Electric when I was drafted and sent to England on the Queen Mary to train for the invasion. The invasion is something I will never forget.

I was part of the second wave. We came in during high tide, three hours after the first wave. We got to shore and we saw all the other Americans dead. Our officer yelled at us, that we had to get off the beach because the Germans were going to pick us off. The guy a few steps in front of me stepped on a land mine and he got his leg blown off. I was lucky.

Our division fought its way up and over the cliffs for four days and four nights.

On the night of June 9-10, in the fields of Normandy, not that far from the beach, the Germans opened fire before surrounding us until we were trapped. The Germans took 58 of us as prisoners of war. They put us in a vehicle and took us to Paris to show the French people that the invasion had failed.

After that, they locked me in a box car, with a few other guys. We ended up in Czechoslovakia, and that is where I would spend my winter and the rest of the war.

After the initial capture, I had been reported missing, but later on my parents found out that I had been taken prisoner. My parents received the news through the International Red Cross.

I remained a prisoner for 11 months, until the end of the war.

The details of my imprisonment have begun to fade, but I do recall that the living conditions weren't the greatest. They gave us some type of black bread in the morning. We also got some horse meat on Sundays. It was red, but when you are hungry like that you will eat anything. The sleeping quarters consisted of double bunks, but rather than mattresses, we were given bags to fill up with straw. At night, we would be attacked by bed bugs.

A week before World War II ended, I and two other men were able to escape from the guards, and were taken in by a postmaster who had an office with an attic nearby. While we were up there, the only bathroom was downstairs behind his office. This German came in and slammed his stuff down on the counter in the office. He was going to make the office his headquarters. I was in the bathroom and I remember I took off my shoes and



Photo by Christine Traskos

John Trzaskos at the location where he was captured on the night of June 9-10, 1944, during the invasion of Normandy. As indicated by the monument, 150 men were either killed or captured that night in those fields.

tiptoed back up to the attic. After the German left, the postmaster told us we had to leave.

The three of us wandered in the street and we were caught by another German. However, this German knew the war was ending and ended up feeding us. He cooked us a chicken dinner and we sat down with him to eat.

Two days later, the war ended, and the 42nd Division of the U.S. Army came to rescue us in the camp. One of GIs commented that I spoke English pretty well. I told him I was an American GI. It was 11 months after I had been captured. Soon, I and my fellow former prisoners of war boarded a boat back to the U.S. I got back home in Amsterdam, NY about two weeks shy of my 21st birthday.

It was important for me to return to Normandy this year to remember all that had happened and share my story with others. It meant a lot to me. I realize now that I am lucky that I wasn't killed.

I went to many ceremonies on this trip, including the official American Ceremony where I met President Obama and French President Hollande. I also attended the official International Ceremony at Ouistreham (Sword Beach) where Queen Elizabeth II, President Obama, the heads of State of many countries as well as Angela Merkel of Germany, and Vladimir Putin of Russia, were guests of the French President.

The French people were very friendly and kind to me and my family including treating us to many long good lunches. They treated me like a rock star and many people asked for autographs and photos. The French people remain very grateful of their liberation by the Allied forces.

I also enjoyed meeting and talking to my fellow surviving WW II veterans. I met American veterans, British veterans, French veterans and bombing survivors. I was very appreciative of the assistance that I received from Fran Sherr-Davino and the present day 29ers."

Article by Christine Traskos and John J. Trzaskos

Doc's Corner: Dr. Harold "Hal" Baumgarten

Hal underwent basic training for 17 weeks. Because of his ROTC training he was promoted to honorary corporal. He was scheduled for special training but because of being ordered overseas this was canceled.

After being in England for three weeks he was subsequently sent to Plymouth, later to join Company A First Battalion, 116th infantry of the 29th Division, being sent as a replacement. He underwent amphibious training at Woolacombe Sands, practicing getting onto the landing craft, climbing rope ladders and cargo nets. Final rehearsal for the invasion was practiced at Slapton Sands, where rehearsals for the invasion even included boarding of his future invasion ship, the HMS Empire Javelin. It was during this time that he saw his first Sherman tanks. Just prior to D-Day the unit moved to Blandford, England, issued new equipment and burning all of the old gear. Camp D-1, near Dorchester was the last stop prior to deployment.

At Omaha Beach, the first Battalion was assigned to Dog Green sector, which was 900 yards long and 300 yards wide but heavily defended by German troops. There was a 25 foot cement seawall the entire length of the beach overlooked by a 100 foot cliff. German mortar pillboxes and machine-gun emplacements guarded the entire area, supplemented by 88 mm cannons up the beach.

The Empire Javelin anchored off this area, carrying company A, B, C, and D which were assigned to attack Vierville. Roughness of the sea required the soldiers to be placed in the boarding craft before it was launched in the water. Being a British landing craft it was lower in the water than the American Higgins boat thus the waves washed over the gunwales and manual bailing using their helmets was required to keep the craft afloat. Waves caused almost everyone to become seasick and much vomiting was prevalent in spite of taking Dramamine pills. Beach preparation by the battleship Texas was ineffective with the cannon fire overflying the beach and the 5 inch rockets falling short of the targets. Air cover and bombing was ineffective due to low cloud ceilings. So landing craft foundered over were pushed off course by the 15 foot waves. In the end, only three boats carrying Co A and boats from Company B landed on the designated sectors. As his landing craft hit the beach and the ramp went down machine guns took out his lieutenant and surrounding soldiers. There were 30 soldiers in the craft, and only two of them, including Baumgarten survived. Gunfire did strike his head area causing his helmet to sustain a crease from a bullet. On reaching the beach he ran at port arms with his rifle. Which – received a bullet in the receiver of the rifle, perhaps saving him from being struck. As the rifle was still able to be fired, he'd shot at the ma-

chine gunner taking him out. In this process the shell casing did not reject and the wood of the rifle broke into causing him to dislodge of the rifle and thus was defenseless. Suddenly, a German 88 shell exploded nearby tearing open his left cheek and upper jaw. A friend encouraged him to get in the protection of the seawall, but German machine guns on the right flank caused him to

be exposed. He grabbed a rifle from a dead comrade and evacuated the exposed position. It was at this point that he found his best friend facedown and dead provoking "one of the saddest moments of my life." Due to the severe slaughter on the beach, Gen. Omar Bradley halted all landings in the area and thus cut off reinforcements. He remembers, "The beach appeared as if painted red and the channel water was red with blood."

A medic, Tech Sgt. Breeden poured sulfa powder in the cheek wound and bandaged him. Sulfa pills were administered. Later, he knelt down to assist a fellow soldier when a shell exploded, causing three pieces of shrapnel to penetrate his helmet and further wound him. In spite of these wounds he felt determined to continue to fight. To reinforce his fighting spirit, he called on his religion, saying the Shema, a Hebrew prayer.

He fell in with Gen. Cota, a band of wounded warriors headed toward Vierville. Sporadic gunfire followed. Near a hedgerow he felt a "standing" in his left foot, a third wound. He attempted to dress the wound but opposing fire made him place the shoe back on rather than the battle dressing. Later that night, he and fellow soldiers were ambushed by a machine-gun this time ripping away the right upper jaw associated with his teeth and gum. He self medicated with morphine from his first aid pouch, providing relief of pain and semi consciousness, enough so that American and German soldiers passing by considered he and his fellow Americans deceased, saving their lives. At 3 AM, an Army ambulance ventured by. In order to attract attention to himself he fired a Thompson submachine gun to the vehicle. He was evacuated to the beach by the only remaining ambulance of the 104th Battalion.

While lying on the beach they were found by German snipers, this time getting his fifth major wound in his right knee. Evacuation to an LST was carried out, after 32 hours of combat without any nourishment. On boarding the LST, he visualized the flag, Old Glory, and felt like this was "a wonderful sight," and felt that God had spared him. Evacuation to England was still an adventure as the LST was struck by a mine and the ship proceeded to port with much difficulty.

In England, surgery was accomplished to debride infected wounds, and finally, on June 26, further surgery closed the open



wounds of the left cheek. Post anesthesia, he reveled by awakening to hear the song *Skylark* by Glenn Miller being played on the PA system. Later on July 4 he was transferred to the 158 US General Hospital where he received a Purple Heart. He was actually asked by the young captain presenting the award if he knew why he was receiving it. Hal felt that "if it wasn't so sad it would have been hilariously funny." It was the only Purple Heart he received for five separate inflicted wounds. His other citations included the E TO medal with battle star and invasion arrowhead, American Theater Medal, Bronze Star with cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, World War II Victory medal. Expert Rifleman award, and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Palm. Later, the president of France awarded him the Legion of Honor. He always felt like he deserved a "cluster" for his Purple Heart and tried for more than 20 years to obtain it but was rebuffed as the regulation stated that an officer had to witness each wound prior to obtaining the credit for an additional award.

Evacuation to the United States followed with his leg still casted. At this time, he weighed in at 110 pounds and was still not fully recovered from his facial wounds. Wounds so much disfigured his appearance that his family at one time walked past him being unrecognizable. He was "depressed" when observing their shocked look on discovering him. Surgical reconstruction followed at Cushing General Hospital in Massachusetts. When returning home on leave for a Jewish New Year holiday he attended synagogue, but friends looked away "in horror." Dr. Baumgarten learned a valuable lesson: "Look beyond the superficial in my fellow man.... This became invaluable in my later life as a physician." After further rehab, he was discharged on February 2, 1945, to be followed by the Veterans Administration. School at New York University followed. He starred on the baseball team and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in January 1947. A move to Miami Beach initiated a study for a

Masters of Science in Marine Biology. In 1948, while engaged in a study at South Beach, was introduced to a "gorgeous" University of Miami girl, Rita, whom he married in June 1949. Three children followed. Rita has remained as his "best friend and lover for 60 years."

In 1955, after teaching for a while in Coral Gables, he applied to the Miami school of medicine at the urging of a friend. He received his MD degree in June 1960, interning at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach. Subsequently he practiced medicine as a general practitioner as well as performing industrial medicine for his professional career. Later he served at the VA receiving many commendations there and throughout his professional career. At one point he was elected as the National Surgeon, 29th Division Association. Recently the designation of National Surgeon, Emeritus, was bestowed upon him.

Dr. Hal has been active over the years in Omaha beach activities, visiting French dignitaries, posting memorial plaques, and participating with American and French personnel in memorial activities one of his fondest memories was the opening of the National D-Day Museum on June 6, 2000, with several dignitaries present including his friend, Dr. Stephen Ambrose, noted historian. Dr. Hal has remained active and frequently visits and addresses guests at the Museum.

As his very active life proceeds, he has requested that a slab be placed by his grave interestedly inscribed with "TAPS," signifying the important elements of his life: Teacher, Author, Physician, Soldier.

No further words are necessary to sum up such an interesting, full, and inspiring career.

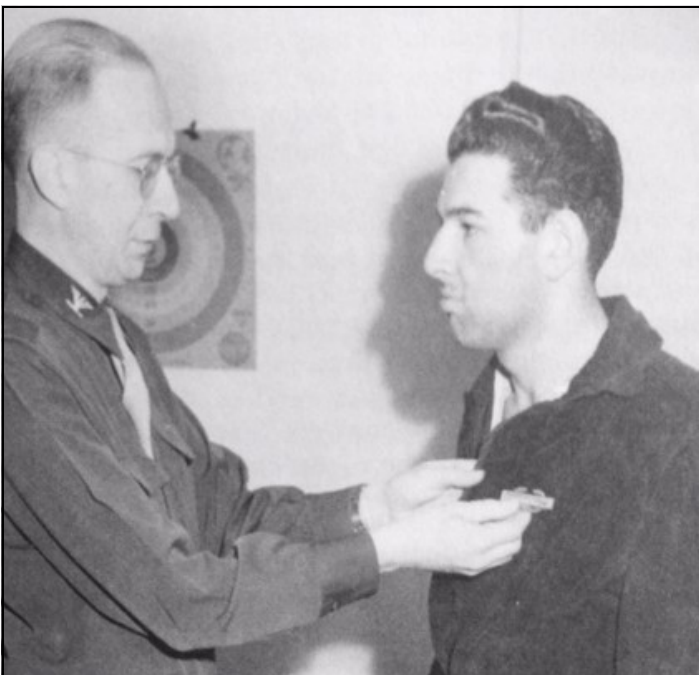
As I originally stated in my first paragraph, "Is he a physician, historian, raconteur, or war hero?" I truly believe that Dr. Hal is all of the above and a role model for all.

Much of this article is attributable to Dr. Hal's book, *D-DAY SURVIVOR: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY*.

I would also recommend viewing *You-Tube* for an opportunity to see him in several venues, such as at the D-Day Memorial and at Omaha Beach ceremonies



Dr. Hal as a young soldier.



Harold Baumgarten receiving the Combat Infantryman's Badge in November of 1944.



*By Past National Surgeon
Dr. Frank T. Barranco, Sr. MD
Post #110*

A Summary of the Normandy Allies International Experience of July 2014

Normandy Allies took another large group (30 travelers) on its 16th annual trip to visit the sites of the 1944 Normandy landings and battles of World War II. During July 13-26, 14 students, two teachers, and ten other travelers toured with a team of four Normandy Allies' Board members: Marsha Smith (President), Peter Combee (Lt. Col., Ret.), Charles Frick (Sgt. Major, Ret.), and Walter Carter (author). The team was ably assisted by Jim Pomeroy, who came last year as a JMU student and returned as an intern team leader.

For the second year, James Madison University (JMU, Harrisonburg, VA) sent nine students and the chairman of its history department, Professor Michael Galgano. Dr. Galgano has made the Normandy Allies program a part of his summer study-abroad course at the university, and hopes to continue this arrangement indefinitely.

The other five students were from high schools in New Jersey (2), upstate New York (1), Ohio (1), and Virginia (1). All five, plus four of the JMU students, enjoyed staying for four nights in the homes of French residents of Grandcamp-Maisy. They typically reported that this home-stay was one of the highlights of their experience.

The students' travel costs were partially funded by grants from the following sources: the 29th Division Association; Post 94; Post 78 Cresap's Rifles of the Maryland Region in honor of PNC Major General Boyd Cook; WWII veteran 29er Archer Martin; the First Division Museum at Cantigny; and a legacy of Stella Wawrynovic, the late widow of WWII 29er Frank Wawrynovic. The overall costs of the trip were also partially covered by donations by many individual members of the Association.

The travel of Colonel Randall Lanning (USAF, Ret.) was partially funded by Diane and David Pennock in honor of Mr. Pennock's uncle, 1st Lt. John Garvik, a 29th Division soldier who was killed in action in Normandy. Randy is a senior instructor in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Mascoutah High School in Mascoutah IL. Randy, whose father served in the US Navy, bringing British troops ashore on D-Day on LCI 506, left a memento to his Dad with the Canadian Museum at Juno Beach. Randy plans to use this experience to enhance his courses.

Twelve members of the group had family connections with WW II's Battle of Normandy or other parts of the European Theater of Operations: four fathers (Walter Carter, Peter Combee, Michael Galgano, Randall Lanning), four uncles (Virginia Galgano, Christine Johnson, Marsha Smith, Tracy Turner), and one grandfather (Maggie Kreienberg, a student). Peter Combee helped Tracy Turner locate the spot where his uncle's unit was when he fell, just on the far side of a field where Walter Carter's father had been killed. The entire group had a memorial moment at both places. Tracy was traveling with his wife, Dianne, and their three children (Ian, age 16), Liam (age 12) and Emma (age 9), all from Chesapeake, VA. Young Liam declared that any student of American history should visit at least three places: Yorktown, Gettysburg, and Omaha Beach.

Our itinerary covered the landing area from Pegasus Bridge and Sword Beach on the east to Utah Beach and Ste. Mère Eglise on the west. We visited major museums, battle sites, monuments (particularly for the 29th and 1st Divisions on Omaha Beach), cemeteries, and other

points of military interest along this 50-mile stretch. We met with French citizens who lived through the Occupation, the Landings, and the post-war recovery. Throughout our trip we were warmly welcomed and given generous hospitality by our French hosts, who are also devoted to keeping alive the memory of Allied accomplishments and sacrifices in World War II.

Donald McCarthy, a D-Day veteran, Past National Commander of the 29th Division Association, co-founder and initial Vice President of Normandy Allies, greatly enhanced our experience by traveling to Nor-

mandy toward the end of our trip to receive the French Legion of Honor medallion for his participation in the liberation of France. This award was bestowed by the French government in a colorful ceremony on July 24 at Omaha Beach, not far from the spot where Don disembarked 70 years ago. Several hundred French citizens attended, along with the Normandy Allies group, with Marsha Smith at Don's side. During the rest of our trip, Don was surrounded by our travelers and others to hear his memories from the war, another favorite of the students' experiences. Don also participated in the retiring of the colors at the American Cemetery

Some of the comments

made by our travelers about significant aspects of the trip:

"This visit has showed me the world. I have seen and experienced so much here in Normandy, and I hope to return. I would like to think that this experience has helped me change from a boy into a man." Miguel (Tony) Delgado, high-school student, Ohio.

"The trip brought our high-school history knowledge to life! Thanks for all that the team does to make this trip the experience of a lifetime!" Christine & Peter Johnson.

"The trip has hugely increased my knowledge of the Normandy landings. [It] has truly made me want to preserve the memory of WWII. Seeing how all the local French people react to us in such a positive way and are so grateful is truly incredible. I can't wait to go home and tell my family all about what I've learned." Ashleigh Henry, JMU student.

The most meaningful experience for me was hearing my host family talk about the "Liberation." My host even had tears in her eyes while thanking me for liberating Grandcamp. D-Day is still significant to the French, even 70 years later." Forrest Schmidt, JMU student.

"The most significant thing was hearing the first-hand accounts of the people who lived in France during the landings. Also staying with a French family was an experience of a lifetime." Patrick Morrison, JMU student.

"Any time you visit Normandy and the beaches and the museums your knowledge will greatly increase. ... I love getting international experience. It opens your eyes to how big the world truly is and how small each one of us is. Until you see the beaches and crater holes in the ground, understanding is small. When you see the sites, you are responsible to carry on the memory." Eric Kennedy, JMU student.

"Seeing the cemetery and the beaches was just mind-blowing. It has definitely changed my view of WW II." Ian Turner, high-school student, Virginia.



Travelers with the Normandy Allies International Experience July 2014 gather for a photo at the 29th Division monument Vierville, (Omaha Beach), Normandy.

Future Voyages to Normandy:

July 12-24, 2015

May 25-June 8, 2016

July 10-22, 2016

Explore the history with Normandy Allies!

The British and Canadian sectors—Caen Memorial to the Peace, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Juno Beach, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, Bayeux British Cemetery... and more...

Enjoy French heritage— Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, afternoon at Mont St. Michel...

The American sector— Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, the Normandy American Military Cemetery at Colleville s/mer, Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, Utah Beach, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Airborne Museum, Graignes, La Fièvre, Saint-Lô, the bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières and the inundated areas, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

Team Leaders: LTC (Ret) Peter Combee, SGM (Ret) Charles Frick, Walter Ford Carter, Marsha Smith

Stories and photos from previous trips are available online: www.normandyallies.org



Find Normandy Allies on Facebook

Send your request to:

Normandy Allies, Inc. PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 USA

Call/email: Marsha Smith 585-748-2357 normandyallies@verizon.net

National Auxiliary President Juanita King's Report

The privilege of serving as President of the Auxiliary has been an honor. I want to thank the officers and members for their assistance and tireless efforts. Also, on behalf of the Auxiliary I want to express our appreciation for the Association's support this past year.

The Auxiliary members have continued to support the members of the association with their activities. The membership has also assisted the veterans in their participation in requested events honoring them as a veteran group or as individuals.

Members of the Auxiliary were also in attendance during the Dedication of the Bust of Bob Slaughter, at the D-Day Memorial, Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, and the welcome of the Honor Flight from Florida. A wreath was laid next to the Association wreath during the services on 6 June at the D-Day Memorial.

Auxiliary members were active participants in the Staunton Veterans Day Pa-

rade during the 116th Regiment Muster. Also, the Auxiliary actively participated in the Clifton Forge, Virginia, Fourth of July Parade and Celebration. No, we did not march, vehicles were provided.

As everyone knows, ladies are wonderful planners and executioners of events, luncheons, dinners and etc. Therefore, the members gave their assistance and attendance in planning parades, luncheons and Legion of Honor ceremonies, including the Legion of Honor ceremony for James Prosser in South Carolina.

National Communications Officer, Nancy Dillon and I attended the 2015 National Reunion and Convention planning committee meeting in July. We look forward to continue working with the committee.

Two fund raisers conducted by the Ladies of Post 64 enabled the Auxiliary to donate \$400.00 to the Military Family Support Center in Salem, Virginia.

Perhaps, one of the greatest accom-

plishments of the past year is the enrollment of 16 new Auxiliary members. With the technology of today and the future, our members can span the United States and beyond. Membership and service continue to be our mission.

Currently, the re-elected officers and members are working on several projects and will continue to explore and execute other activities.

The Auxiliary looks forward to working with the new commander and the Association.

The officers and members invite you to join us and/or notify the Auxiliary of events and activities. An exchange of ideas and activity's participation within our various communities are needed and will strengthen the Auxiliary and the Association.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

*Juanita King
National Auxiliary President*

Memorial unveiled in park honoring WWII hero

A special ceremony was held in Memorial Park, Carbondale, PA on Saturday, June 26, to celebrate the extraordinary life and military career of Gen. Alvin Ungerleider, whose heroic service in WWII took him from Normandy to Nordhausen.

By Tom Flannery
Staff Writer

Carbondale, PA—A special ceremony was held in Memorial Park on Saturday, June 26, to celebrate the extraordinary life and military career of Gen. Alvin Ungerleider, whose heroic service in WWII took him from Normandy to Nordhausen.

A bust of the late general, who passed away in 2011, was unveiled by his wife Ruth, sons Dan and Neil, and daughter Ilene. They were among more than 50 of Gen. Ungerleider's family members who attended the ceremony.

"I'm overwhelmed by the number of people who have shown up here today," Ruth told the crowd of more than 100 people in all who were gathered in the park. "The only person who would have enjoyed it as much as I am is Al."

Sarah Martin, Gen. Ungerleider's niece, hosted the event and noted that the idea of creating a lasting memorial was first proposed by Jerry Palko, a veteran local newsman.

She said Atty. Benjamin Schnessel "took the idea and ran with it," along with the assistance of a committee he formed which included Palko, Historical Society president Dr. S. Robert Powell, City Clerk Michele Bannon, and Michael Delfino, a classmate of Ungerleider's at Benjamin Franklin High School.

Martin also thanked Mayor Justin Taylor and the members of City Council for making the memorial possible, as well as the people of Carbondale for their generous monetary donations toward the project.

During the ceremony, Gen. Ungerleider's family members spoke about how he grew up in Carbondale — having moved to town at the age of 8, along with his mother, shortly after his father died. He lived on Pike Street, where his mom took in boarders to make ends meet, and



Mrs. Ruth Ungerleider standing next to the bust honoring her late husband Alvin D. Ungerleider.

in Nov. 1942 he embarked upon a 36-year military career which began as World War II was raging.

Council member Kathleen Connor recounted his sterling military career through the words of a proclamation issued by the city in honor of Ungerleider — how, as a 2nd Lieutenant, he led 50 men of the 115th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division onto Omaha Beach in the D-Day invasion of June 1944, was wounded twice in the opening days of battle but returned to his platoon within two weeks; how he was part of the force of American and other Allied troops who fought across Europe, freeing countries along the way from occupation; and how he liberated a slave labor camp which was a sub-camp of the infamous Nordhausen prison.

It was there, at Nordhausen, that Ungerleider encountered what he called "the true horrors of war" in the faces and bodies of "living skeletons — the dead and the living dead" among the Jewish survivors of that concentration camp.

After leading the fight into the camp and liberating it with his men, he later recalled: "We thought we had entered the gates of hell."

As a Jew himself, Ungerleider was able to comfort and reassure the approximately 300 survivors, and prove that he was "one of them," by leading them in Kaddish, the Jewish prayer of mourning for the dead.

Ungerleider was highly-decorated for his valorous service during the war, earning two Bronze Stars for bravery, two Purple Hearts for battle wounds, three Legion of Merit awards, and the Four Chaplains Award.

In addition, he was one of only 99 Americans to be awarded the French Legion of Honor by the government of France for helping to liberate that country from its Nazi occupiers in WWII.

He also received decorations from the Korean and Vietnamese governments for his service in those later conflicts.

For the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1994, Ungerleider was chosen to personally accompany Pres. Bill Clinton during a wreath-laying ceremony in Normandy. The words that Pres. Clinton spoke to the WW2 veterans who were assembled there on that day are now engraved on the Ungerleider bust in Memorial Park: "When they were young, these men saved the world."

As for the city where it all began, where Alvin Ungerleider boarded a train at the Pioneer Station in 1942 to head off to war, one speaker at the ceremony noted of the Ungerleiders' connection to Carbondale: "It is a place they still call home, a place they spent their summers at Crystal Lake, a place they never forgot."

And with the establishment of the Ungerleider bust in downtown Memorial Park, it can now be said with certainty that the city will never forget Gen. Ungerleider or his humble yet incredible service to our country.

This article is reprinted with the permission of the Carbondale News.

The Editor asks . . . Where will our association be in 2020??

After serving for a year in the position of Editor and Publisher of the *Twenty-Niner*, I feel the time has come for me to personally address the members of the 29th Division Association concerning our official publication and other matters.

For many of our members, the *Twenty-Niner* is their only link with our association. I am extremely aware of this and I can assure you that I take my position as Editor/Publisher very seriously.

There are some new columns and noteworthy items that are being published lately. We have initiated a column by the Chairman of the Futures Committee which deals with the concerns and issues of our future existence. Another relatively new section is "Post Happenings" whereby the individual posts get a chance to inform the readers what they have been doing since the past edition.

Another important addition to our editions in the past several years has been the inclusion of the Minutes of the National Executive Committee meetings that occur 3 times a year in January, June and at our National Convention. It is my opinion that every member should be able to read what goes on at these meetings so that they can keep themselves informed about how and what we spend their money on. I encourage all members to read these minutes every edition.

To provide our readers with the latest, current news coming from the Maryland and Virginia National Guards, I constantly monitor those states websites to gather information. Many times the news published in those websites are not 29er oriented, and I am left without anything newsworthy to publish.

Recently, I haven't been receiving much editorial content from our readers. In years gone by, the *Twenty-Niner* was swamped with World War II articles that

were personal accounts from many of our World War II veterans. Sadly, as these veterans pass on, we are unable to collect as many personal accounts as we did during the past 25 years.

There were times in the past, when the greater part of a *Twenty-Niner* dealt with WWII articles and stories. It's a shame that we were not able to conserve and save some of these articles for future use. As a result, we are unable to showcase our World War II accounts in the magnitude that we once did because the writers and their articles are no longer with us.

But, that was then, this is now. Many of our younger 29th Division soldiers have served on active duty and in "harm's way" for over a decade. These soldiers now have some personal accounts that they could share with our readers. I strongly encourage them to do so.

This all deals with the "recruiting" issue in trying to entice the younger 29th Division soldiers to join our association. The *Twenty-Niner* should now focus on the conflicts that are now occurring in the 21st Century and our soldier's participation in these conflicts.

This "recruiting" issue goes a lot further. We are recruiting for our very "existence". Where will our association be in the year 2020? That's less than 6 years from now. Will the association still be alive? This all depends on how we deal with our continued downward spiral in membership caused by the passing on of so many of our stalwart veterans and our inability to recruit new, younger members.

Just this year, the "Futures Committee" initiated a plan to modernize our website. It is now possible for individuals to fill out the documentation, join the association and pay their initial dues online. Because of this, we have been able to enlist indi-

viduals from all over Europe and other overseas locations. This feature is also available domestically and some posts have initiated electronic payment (PayPal) for their members to pay their dues annually. Website visitors can also purchase 29th merchandise this way as well.

We have to embrace these new ways of doing things and conducting business or we, as an association will surely die. We can't live in the past and succeed in the future. We must remember the old military adage, "Wars are not won by fighting them with the last war's weapons." So too, must we adopt the new ways of fighting our war, which is a war of recruiting to perpetuate our existence, which we will surely lose, if we do not embrace these new technologies.

Having said all that, I would like to close by offering my sincere appreciation and thanks to Frances Sherr-Davino for her outstanding account of the "70th Anniversary Memoire et Honneur Tour to Normandy", commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, that occurred on 6 June 2014. This was featured in our Summer 2014 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*.

Fran was able to provide photographs and many words describing the events of that 13 day ordeal. She has it all there, names of towns; names of mayors; when and where they did what. Fran presented a very complete account and one that we all should be very grateful to her for providing. In addition to writing the account, she was also the Tour Coordinator and was totally consumed by the pressures and stresses related to making that trip a complete and honorable experience for all who participated. Fran, we salute you!

William S. Mund, Jr.
Editor/Publisher
The "Twenty-Niner"

Thank you for your donations to the "Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund".

They are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter coming.

Please continue to support our upcoming issues.

Donations can be sent to: PNC/NED Robert W. Moscati

P.O. Box 47634, Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

POST HAPPENINGS

Florida West Post #2

Florida West Post #2, with no meetings in May thru August, met again in September. At that meeting, we reported the deaths of 5 of our members: Francis M. Clark (L&K/115th/WWII); Charles R. Beiser, Sr. (A/104th Med/WWII); Eugene G. Bujac (G/115th/WWII); Joseph A. Joseph (B/116th/WWII), and Jan Smith, one of our ladies.

In no way are we demeaning the deaths of Francis, Charles, Eugene, or Jan, but the member whose death is felt most by Post #2, is Joe Joseph. Joe was a regular attendee at our meetings and he was very active in Post #2 activities and held all of the officer positions through the years. He also served as the 29th Division Association's National Adjutant when Bud Willis was National Commander in 1998/99. It will be difficult to deal with our monthly meetings without the big guy – rest in peace dear friend. Joe's remains were laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery on October 24, with a full military honor ceremony.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Post #2 did not meet in October, but we will have a meeting in November. At this point, we are not sure if we will have another "Special Luncheon" in February, 2015. However, we hope that our northern 29er members keep that possibility in mind, as their attendance is so very important to the success of the luncheon.

Post #2 officers and members want to congratulate PNC/PNED John E. Wilcox, Jr. on his "retirement" as NED and as the editor of the fine *Chin Strap* newsletter. John and his wife Chris were (no-are!) great friends of Post #2. They attended our Reunions and the "Special Luncheon" for years. We had such great respect for John and for the effort he put into making the Association a success. We wish John and Chris the very best in all of their future endeavors. God bless you both.

Submitted by Post Commander Taylor Thomas

Allen S. Levin, Canada Post #3

Our Post was extremely honoured to send 14 members and spouses to the wreath laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery in May. It was a very moving ceremony. At the post-ceremony dinner, our new Commander, HLCOL Alex Moseanu, and most of the executives of the Post were sworn in. We thank the Command for allowing us this honour.

The Post stood down for the summer and then stood back up in the fall. Our members have been attending various parades and events with our other respective Associations, Regiments and Canadian Legion Branches. We are hoping to spread the word of our Post so we can expand our membership.

All our members are either currently serving or former serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces or U.S. Military. May of our members will be participating in various Remembrance Day ceremonies (Nov 11) all over the Province of Ontario.

We were all deeply affected by the killing of two members of the Canadian Armed Forces in separate acts of terrorism. WO Vincent was run down by a car in a parking lot in St. Jean-sur-Richelieu and Cpl Cirillo was shot while guarding the National War Memorial in Ottawa, our nation's capital. These events have solidified Canadians against these acts of terror and brought national pride to everyone. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning; we will remember them.

Throughout the winter season we will continue to meet for socializing and will extend assistance to any Veteran who needs assistance.

We have Challenge Coins! Please contact us at 29thdivision-post3@gmail.com if you're interested in purchasing one.

Submitted by Heather Janke, Adjutant

Rudolph M. Price, Jr., Post #5

Post 5 has enjoyed a very active fall season. The Post Commander and his wife, Secretary and Chaplain, attended the National Convention this year, had a wonderful time and brought back a great deal of knowledge. Post 5 will also conduct a Veteran's Day ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia. This is an annual event hosted by Post 5 Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, in addition to the annual Memorial Day ceremony.

Upon notification that the Norfolk Readiness Center will undergo a series of renovations to include replacing the temporary walls that have been in place since the 1960s, asbestos removal, and a parking lot renovation, the Post spent a great deal of time cataloging and packing artifacts and memorabilia in order to move them to a safe storage area during construction. This task took several hundred man-hours, and was mostly accomplished by the Post Commander John Lane and his son-in-law, Randy Hess, who serves as the Post Chaplain and Vice Commander Bob Eldredge. Once construction is complete, the post "museum" will be reorganized to display the articles in a time-period progression, so that when walking through the displays will start at the farthest point back in History and work towards newest events.

The Post is also seeking additional items for display (29th Division and/or 1-111th Field Artillery related items, specifically) from the Korean War and Viet Nam eras, up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, including State Active Duty missions such as Hurricane Sandy, snow missions, etc. Photos, newspaper clippings (originals preferred), war souvenirs, items purchased abroad, etc. for loan to display or donation. The more recent the display, the more modern the method of displaying the items becomes. For example, Post 5 recently acquired a digital photo frame to automatically scroll through photos of the 1-111th Field Artillery training events and active duty missions over the last few years. By including modern technology and newer "history" of the units, younger Soldiers that are currently serving will see more of a connection with the post and the 29th Association. This is intended to increase interest and awareness, increase the roll at Post 5 which currently stands at 51 paid members, and provide for the future strength of the Association.

Submitted by MSG Christopher Robbins, Adjutant

Jerome L. Day, Post #48

Post 48 welcomes three new members to the post, Veterans Vincent B. Dell, Phil Luster, and Warren L. Wheeler. Special thanks goes to the Membership Chairman, Junior Fisher for his recruiting efforts.

The October meeting opened with the sad report of the passing of Lt. Col. (Ret.) John Scattergood on October 17, 2014. He was a 32 year veteran of the army with three tours in Vietnam and a life member of the Jerome L. Day Post 48. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor. A prayer and a soldier's poem were read during the meeting by the Chaplain in memory of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Scattergood. He was 86 years old and a patriotic American. May he rest in peace in the Post of Everlasting.

Also, during the meeting the active members of Post 48 participated in a ceremony remembering the MIA/POW's of past and current wars. Chaplain Vince Perricone presided at the ceremony. The national date of Remembrance MIA/POW was September 19, 2014.

Also, a program sponsored by the Son of the Legion in Westminster are sponsoring, *Josh's Dog*. The programs are for the children of a soldier who are deployed and to give comfort to the soldier's child that

their mom or dad are okay and will be coming home. A child's reading book and a stuffed dog will be given to the children of the deployed soldier. Anyone knowing of a family, please contact me for further information.

Veterans of Post 48 will be busy attending and participating in veteran programs on and around Veterans Day, November 11, 2014.

The Jerome L. Day Post 48 meets on the last Thursday of the month except November and December due to the holidays. Meetings are held at the American Legion in Westminster. Dinner @ 6pm and meeting @ 7pm. All comrades and their guests are invited to attend.

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

Submitted by Post Commander Frank Rauschenberg

Harry M. Richardson Post #64

On 4 July, Harry M. Richardson, Post 64 was honored to be part of the honorary guests in the Clifton Forge, VA., Fourth of July Parade and celebrations. 17 members were escorted through the streets of downtown Clifton Forge by the 1-116 Army National Guard unit to the steps of the town hall. Once there the Declaration of Independence was read by members of the town in period dress.

All Veterans in attendance were recognized for their service in all wars represented. Among those whom were recognized were John Kessler and Chuck Neighbor. Bernard Marie was among the speakers of the day and shared his experiences of WWII through the eyes of a child and got a resounding chuckle of his first American word learned, "Hershey".

After the town hall festivities, all Post members were treated to lunch at Jack Mason's Tavern, of which is a must visit if ever this way. Frank and Nancy Dillon hung around town the rest of the day in anticipation for the evening festivities and were not disappointed. The 1-116 band played several musical pieces from patriotic to swing band. After the local chorale group sang an ensemble of patriotic pieces the spectacular fireworks display was unleashed. It was a great day and kudos to Clifton Forge.

National Auxiliary members held a rummage and bake sale on 25 July with the proceeds benefiting the Military Family Support Center of Salem, VA. I would like to thank all who participated in advertising and helping with a very successful fun raiser.

Post Commander William King and new Southern Region Commander Frank Dillon represented Post 64 on 2 August in support of the change of command between the out-going COL Epperly and the incoming COL Coffin at Fort AP Hill, VA.

On 4 August, Frank and Nancy Dillon participated in one of many volunteer work days at the 1-116 Regimental Spoils of War Museum in Verona, VA. During that days activities they cataloged several artifacts and made plans on what to display in the museum show case given for use to Post 64.

Frank and Nancy returned on 8 September and 3 October, attending the museum's board meeting and added articles for display to the Post showcase. Frank Dillon accepted the position of Webmaster for the museum and both Frank and Nancy are nominated to be on the Board of Directors. All are welcome to participate on the museum workdays which are the first Monday of each month except holidays, than it's the second Monday. Hours are 10am til 3pm with lunch break at 12pm til 12:30pm.

On 20 September, several Post members celebrated with James Prosser during his Legion of Honor Ceremony in Sumter, South Carolina.

Submitted by Southern Region Commander Frank Dillon and National Auxiliary Communications Officer Nancy Dillon

Limestone Post #72

National Senior Vice Commander David Ginsburg gave an excellent Futures Committee Report on recruiting and retention using PayPal, a Post Web Site and the embedded program. David also conducted a Post Commander's Workshop after the Association's Business Meeting. The Workshop was very successful in not only bringing all the Post Commanders together in a common forum but identified problems that the Association is having at the Post level. SVC Ginsburg assured me that now that we've identified some of the problems, there will be a follow up Workshop where the Post Commander's can share how they are solving their problems. I will be meeting with SVC Ginsburg to set up a Post Web Site and Pay-Pal account.

Well, our girls Barbara Bryant and Jean Insley, have done it again. They had a great time serving the guests in the Hospitality Room and collecting tips to be donated to a Charity for veterans in need. I was informed that our patrons were very generous and that the girls had a banner year. The amount collected will be announced at the next Post # 72 meeting. Job well done ladies, you made Post # 72 shine. I don't know what we would do without you.

Kudos to Bob Wisch and Lee Hofmann for managing the Hospitality Room and keeping it well supplied with snacks and drinks. A lot of work went into transporting the supplies and setting up the room to serve our guests, and after the convention, breaking down and getting everything back home. Another job well done! I would also like to thank Franklin Shilow for setting up his table of 29th Division Merchandise. A lot of work went in to transporting and setting up for business. Thank you Franklin!

Post #72 will be holding their Christmas Party on December 14th in the William Donald Schaefer Dining Facility on the 4th floor of the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore, MD.

Submitted by Post Commander Thomas Insley

Cresap's Rifles Post #78

Post 78 in Frederick, MD held its annual crab feed on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the Michael Cresap's Armory on Route 144 east of downtown Frederick. The post entertained one of the larger crowds in a number of years with 115 people in attendance. The standard menu for this event was again provided with steamed crabs, crab soup, fried chicken, potato salad, cold slaw, cubed cheddar and Swiss cheese, cold soft drink and other beverages. Each year we ask the ladies to furnish the deserts, and never fail to get a great variety of cakes pies and cookies. This feed which originally began in 1994, was a stag only party for those who had paid-up membership. After about five years, we began hearing from the wives that they felt left out, and so began the feed as we know it today.

At a date close to Veterans Day in November, a small group of Post 78 members are scheduled to visit a local nursing home and provide an afternoon of entertainment. This will consist of showing a film of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, and another of the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia. This will be complemented by a small party of cookies and drink and conversation with the vets.

The "Christmas for the Vets" program conducted by Post 78 is in its second year and we look forward to a very successful event. This program is patterned after the one that the Eastern Shore Post 88 has held for many years. The current Post 88 Commander and Adjutant got us started in the right direction with great advice and guidance. Post 78 members began by visiting 5 local nursing homes in the city of Frederick and determined there were approximately 120 veterans in residence. In December, teams of two or three members visited each facil-

ity and gave small gifts to each of these veterans. This year we have added a much larger facility, providing full-time care, assisted living and retired residents, and will increase our lists by 40 more veterans.

Submitted by Post Commander David Houck

Eder-George Post #85

Post 85 has a new associate member (Virginia Parker) whose father, LT Robert Bernard Williamson, landed with Company H, 116th infantry on Omaha beach. She found her father's grave last June in France. She never knew him. Anyone who was associated with her dad can contact her at ginny@clubparker.com or 410-348-2171. She would very much like to learn more about her dad.

The post honor guard, under the command of Orville Potts, is available for 21 gun salutes as well as final salutes and flag presentations. Orville can be reached at 410-398-3194 and Gary Brown is at 410-920-0764. We have completed around 30 salutes so far this year. Our Thanksgiving dinner for veterans and their families is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday November 22 at the VFW in North East MD. POC is Orville Potts at 410-398-3194.

One of our Post 85 members, Dicky Simpson, drove from West Virginia to support the organization's reunion in Ocean City. Now that's dedication.

Unfortunately, our Post's paying membership continues to decline as the average age increases. Participation numbers at our monthly Wednesday morning meeting at the VFW in North East remains around 12-15. Even Cecil County Salute to Veterans Inc. will not be proceeding with future events. The same lack of volunteers and interest is affecting numerous organizations in Cecil County. Fortunately the schools in Cecil County continue to teach our history and tell the stories of our veterans in wars and other military campaigns. Maybe we should consider starting a Cadet Corps for the 29th and tap into students to keep this great organization going. The students have great questions when we Vets visit them in schools. Our inability to attract young soldiers and airmen in the MDARNG and MDANG is discouraging. Post Commander King's Post #64 in Virginia is a great example of effective leadership, good communication and providing a product that attracts members. I wish we had a common guru like Post Commander King has.

As my tenure as Commander comes to an end I would like to thank all who have supported our Post. I am not sure what my duties of National Surgeon are but hope someone will guide my efforts. See you all next year in Virginia!!

Submitted by Post Commander William Bernhard

Eastern Shore Post #88

Eastern Shore Post 88 had record attendance of just over 100 participants at their Family Picnic and Crab Feast held at VFW Post 7460 in Cambridge, MD on October 4, 2014. Everyone enjoyed the crabs, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, fixings and desserts. Many thanks to Ken and Janet Wheatley for their hard work on this and every year for organizing this key annual Post event. Also thanks and recognition goes to Jim Cox and family who donated their winnings from the 50/50 raffle to the Socks Drive Fund.

Post 88 is providing a color guard unit on November 11 for the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery Veterans Day ceremony. Our next regular Post meeting is November 12, 2014 at 1:00pm at the Cambridge-Dorchester Airport in Cambridge, Maryland.

Post 88 will be conducting its 23rd annual Socks Drive between Thanksgiving and Christmas delivering socks, lap blankets, and poinsettia plants to over 175 shut-in Veterans at their homes and in Nursing Homes.

Submitted by Post Commander Robert Jones

Silver Spring Post #94

Silver Spring Post 94 is a unique post in that most of its members are spread throughout the United States. Because of this, we have no meetings or events at this time. The extra funds that we collect with our dues are donated to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*, thus making Post 94 the #1 contributor to this fund. We thank our members for this and urge them to continue to support the *Twenty-Niner* by sending in extra funds with their dues. We encourage all posts to support this fund as well.

Post 94 is thrilled to offer our members the option of paying their annual dues with the use of a debit or credit card through "PayPal". This option has just become operational. To do so, just go to the association website at www.29thdivisionassociation.com and click the button on the left side, "Post Locations and Descriptions". Then click on "Maryland Post 94 - Silver Spring, MD". Find the button marked "Donation" and click on it. In the amount box please submit at least \$10 for dues, any extra funds you may wish to donate will be used for the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*.

Our overseas members are especially encouraged to use this "PayPal" option to simplify the currency exchange process. Everyone may begin to pay their 2015 dues this way now.

Submitted by Adjutant William Mund

Larkspur Post #110

Larkspur Post 110 was well represented at the Ocean City Reunion with PNC Bob Moscati, Doc Barranco, Ed Rodier, Bill Bullock, PNC Joe Zang, PNC Dick Smith, Harry Connolly, Joseph Balkoski, Ed Tolzman and Post Commander David Ginsburg all in attendance.

Post member Bob Moscati was appointed as the National Executive Director, replacing John Wilcox – congrats to Bob. Doc Barranco retired as the National Surgeon at the Reunion.

The Post is doing well and is currently sitting at 219 members – our highest total in a number of years.

The Post had its annual Memorial Service and BBQ on Sunday, November 16th at the Pikesville NCO Club at 2pm. The names of the 110th Regimental dead from World War II were read as well as all Post members that have departed since the last ceremony. It was followed by a family BBQ for all of our members.

December will be the Annual Christmas Luncheon at the NCO Club on Wednesday, December 10th at 11am. It is open to all and will be catered at a cost of \$20. Please RSVP to Bob Moscati.

The 2015 calendar has been set. We will be hosting the Field Artillery Old Timer's Dinner on Friday, April 17th. There will be an evening meeting to honor our Global War on Terror veteran's on Saturday, July 18th. The 2015 Memorial Service and BBQ will be on September 19th.

Submitted by Post Commander David Ginsburg

Lantern Post #729

Our Post Chaplain, Pastor Carl Batzel has arranged another wonderful Veterans Day Service for our members. The Hawley Memorial Presbyterian Church's Annual Veterans Sunday Service and a delicious luncheon for the veterans and their guests.

At 7:00PM on Veteran's Weekend a Patriotic Concert, featuring Dave Boyer, will present Gospel music in a unique way. Last years' service was terrific and we know this year's will be even better.

The Post will also participate in wreath laying ceremonies at the Court House in Hagerstown and Veterans Park in Smithsburg.

The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 8th at 5:00 PM at the Keystone Family Restaurant in Waynesboro.

Submitted by Post Commander David T. Yohman

Futures Committee Launches More Website Initiatives and the Post Commander's Workshop

Much of the focus of the Futures Committee has been on helping facilitate recruiting through the organization. A new membership form now resides on the website – one that is much easier to fill out and doesn't require any downloading to fill it out. There is even links paying electronically without ever having to leave that page. Almost all posts that have Post Pages on the site have now gained members through the National Website at this point.

One of the key initiatives has been the Post Commander's Workshop (see the article on it in this issue of the 29er). The goal of the Committee was twofold – to incentivize Post Commander's to attend the National Convention, and to give the Posts a forum to discuss what is working, not working, and things the NEC can do to help the Posts.

More Post histories have been added to the site, and the following unit histories are now live: 29th Division in WWII, 115th Infantry, 116th Infantry, 175th Infantry, 110th FA, 111th FA, 227th FA, 104th Medical, 121st Engineers, 729th Maintenance, 129th Signal, and 229th Supply & Transportation. The 29th in World War I will be coming soon, and the 158th Cavalry, when we find someone to help update its history for the last 20 years. We are always looking to expand the unit histories, so if you have more information on one of the 29th's units throughout its history, please send it to us.

Post-Specific Pages on the site have been a big hit, and helped those posts recruit nationally. Post 94 just went live and joined Canada Post 3, VA Post 5, MD Post



David Ginsburg
National Senior Vice Commander
Chairman of the Futures Committee

48, VA Post 64, MD Post 72, MD Post 78, MD Post 85, MD Post 88, MD Post 110, VA Post 116, and MD Post 729 on the National Site. If your post does not yet have a page on the site, please contact me so we can get one on it.

Working with the new Webmaster, Association Member Neil Ungerleider, there are several new initiatives for the website. These include an upcoming events list that will be constantly updated by the Posts

There is a new way that the Posts can make announcements and advertise events. It will be called "Post Announcements and Events" and will be on the site at www.29thdivisionassociation.com.

Just email David Ginsburg at dginzu@gmail.com with what you want posted. It could be the cancellation of a meeting, the change of an event location, or the announcement of a memorial service

for a fallen comrade. It is intended for announcements that come up suddenly, and can't be published in the *Chin Strap* or the *29er*, or for audiences that may expand outside of the Association. This new page will be updated several times a week.

There will also be a place that members can post pictures from events and blog about some of the events held across the Association.

The Futures Committee will be streamlined for 2015 so it can be more flexible and responsive to the needs of the posts and the Association.

One of the key initiatives for the New Year will be the Embedded Program – one of the less successfully initiatives of the last year. By trying to cover too many units across MD and VA, we really didn't cover any of the individual units very well.

We will pull that program back and pick half a dozen or so units and posts, and then adjust the program to get those running well. Take what works there and then expand it across more units and posts in the future once a good working model is found.

We are looking for a few motivated members to be the embedded contacts for the pilot program. Please contact us if you are interested.

We are always looking for suggestions and ways to help the posts succeed. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 443.641.7208 or email at dginzu@gmail.com.

Submitted by David Ginsburg
National Senior Vice Commander
Futures Committee Chairman

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

Biography of National Commander, I. John Vaccarino

Brigadier General (MD) Isadore "John" Vaccarino was born in Baltimore on January 2, 1935 and was educated in Baltimore Catholic Schools (St. Michael the Archangel and Mount Saint Joseph High School).

He is retired with over thirty four years of service in the Army Reserve and the Maryland Army National Guard. His military career began upon his graduation from the ROTC program at Loyola College (University) of Baltimore in June 1956. While his major was Business Administration, his lifetime was spent largely working in military service.

His first assignment was in the Air Defense Artillery of the Maryland Guard rising to the rank of Battery Commander. In 1963, following the disbanding of the Nike Ajax Missile program, Captain Vaccarino served briefly as full-time Adjutant of the provisional battalion that ultimately became a Special Forces Battalion.

In March, 1963 his branch was changed to Infantry and he became the full-time Staff Assistant/Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry (5th MD). In March 1967 he was transferred to HHC, 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division serving as the S1 and full-time staff training assistant and was promoted to Major in May 1967.

In January, 1968 with the reorganization of units into the Selective Force he was reassigned as S3 of the 3rd Brigade, 28th Infantry Division.

In February 1969, he accepted a full-time state position as State Quartermaster and in June 1969 was transferred to HHD, MDARNG (State Headquarters) and was assigned as Detachment Commander. Through his singular efforts, the present distinctive unit insignia, worn by non-regimental units in the MDARNG, was adopted and subsequently approved by the Institute of Heraldry.

His initiative in packaging a civil disturbance "trains" element proved invaluable to the State Headquarters and subordinate units during three annual deployments to the University of Maryland to quell spring-time anti-Vietnam war riots. In September 1973, he was re-assigned State Recruiting and Retention Officer. In April 1975 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and re-assigned as S5, 58th Infantry Brigade.

In June 1975 LTC Vaccarino was transferred to 29th Support Center, RAO, as S4 and S3. He served as Area Damage Control Task Force Commander during the AT-76 deployment of the unit to Germany. From February 1978 to October 1982, he served in various capacities in the State Headquarters and in the Command and Control Headquarters, MDARNG. His primary M-Day mission was as Secretary, State Survey Board, re-writing MDARNG procedures for processing Reports of Survey. In October, 1982, LTC Vaccarino was re-assigned as Commander, Post Mobilization State Headquarters.

In November 1982 he was promoted to Colonel. In this final Military assignment he worked closely with The Adjutant General to re-institute the Maryland State Guard (Maryland Defense Force). His section became an "advisory group" to the Defense Force. In March 1989, Colonel Vaccarino was separated from the MDARNG and reverted to the Army Reserve.

Colonel Vaccarino was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General (MD) on 20 March 1998.

BG(MD) Vaccarino worked briefly in the Accounting Office of Baltimore City; as a Real Estate Salesman and as an accountant with the Calvert Distillery. From March 1957 until his retirement from state service (January 1997) he worked as a full-time technician; then briefly as a Civil Service employee; then as an employee of the Maryland Military Department (as State Quartermaster, Superintendent, Fifth Regiment Armory, Procurement Officer, Finance Officer and as the Director of Administration) while coincidentally holding various M-Day positions in the MDARNG.

General Vaccarino is a graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Reserve Component Brigade Level Staff Refresher Course, Civil Disturbance Senior Officer Orientation (SEADOC), and the Command & General Staff College.

General Vaccarino's military decorations include the Meritorious Service medal, the Army Commendation medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross, the Maryland Meritorious Service Medal, and the State of Maryland Service Ribbon with one silver botonee and one bronze botonee.

General Vaccarino has belonged to two (2) Councils of the Knights of Columbus, serving twice as a Grand Knight; an incorporator and past President of the Volunteer Auxiliary of Howard and Carroll Counties; founder, past President, past Treasurer and Resident Agent of the Maryland National Guard Foundation; Judge Advocate of American Legion Post 156, Welfare Officer of Post 1961 of the Catholic War Veterans, Past President and current Treasurer of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church; current Director and Past President & Past Museum Director of the Maryland Military Historical Society; immediate past Commander of the Veteran Corps, Fifth Regiment Infantry; Past Commander of the Maryland Region and current Commander and Adjutant of Post 1, 29th Division Association.

General Vaccarino married the former Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Garner in August 1955. They live in Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland and have five grown children, nine grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Thank you for your donations to the "Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund". They are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter coming. Please continue to support our upcoming issues. Donations can be sent to:

PNC/NED Robert W. Moscati, P.O. Box 47634, Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

Without our generous readers, we could not exist. Thanks again!

Coffin takes command of VAARNG Staunton-based 116th IBCT

FORT A. P. HILL, Va. — Col. William J. Coffin took command of the Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Col. John M. Epperly, the 116th's commander since June 2012, at a change of command ceremony Aug. 2, 2014, at Fort A. P. Hill, Va. Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, the Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander, was the senior officer in the ceremony and passed the 116th's unit colors from Epperly to Coffin to signify the change of command of the unit.

"Col. Epperly, you have honed this brigade into a significant fighting force, combat ready as well as disaster ready," Ortner said. He commended the brigade for their significant role in emergency response operations in Virginia as well as their key role in the multiple overseas mobilizations for combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You built a great brigade filled with outstanding Soldiers," Ortner told Epperly, "and you are passing on a well trained and disciplined unit to Col. Coffin."

Ortner described Coffin as the "right officer at the right time to continue to make a difference" and said "I can't think of a better officer to assume command from Col. Epperly. I am confident he will lead the Stonewall Brigade on to even greater things."

Epperly thanked his wife and children for their steadfast support not only during his command, but during his entire military career. He thanked the general officers who gave him the opportunity to command, and in particular he recognized the officers who commanded the battalions and squadrons of the 116th as well as their command sergeants major.

"I am incredibly blessed to have had such a superb group of leaders," he said. "They were dauntless and tireless in their pursuit of excellence, and the Stonewall Brigade stands as one of the best brigade combat teams in the Army regardless of component because of the work and dedication of these fine officers and their command sergeants major."

Epperly, a resident of Fredericksburg who is employed by Digital Management Inc., will become the Virginia Army National Guard operations and training officer.

"We are also a ready, relevant and responsive force for missions supporting civilian authorities and first responders in time of disaster," Epperly said as he assessed the brigade's level of readiness and described how Coffin is the right man to lead the brigade into the future. "The challenge will be to sustain this readiness for whatever missions might arise either overseas or right here at home. This will not be easy as resources become more constrained, however, I'm confident that the man you're about to meet can do just that. Col. Coffin is a creative, resourceful and demanding leader, and he is a combat seasoned officer and is immediately ready to lead the brigade should it deploy."

Coffin, a native of Malden, Mass. who currently resides in Staunton and works full time for the Virginia National Guard, most recently served as the deputy commander for the 116th and the 29th Infantry Division chief of staff.

"We must focus our efforts to improve all aspects of unit readiness in order to be prepared to win when our nation calls us to deploy," Coffin said. "My commitment to the Soldiers of the Stonewall Brigade is to provide you with the guidance, the resources and the flexibility to maximize your ability to meet these obligations."

The 116th IBCT, also known as the "Stonewall Brigade," is author-

ized approximately 3,400 Soldiers and is the largest major command in the Virginia National Guard. The 116th has units throughout Virginia from Winchester to Pulaski along I-81, from Staunton to Virginia Beach along I-64, from Danville to Lynchburg to Warrenton along Route 29 as well as Fredericksburg, Manassas and Leesburg.

A brigade combat team is the basic deployable unit of maneuver in the U.S. Army and carries with it support units necessary to sustain its operations away from its parent division. The 116th consists of two infantry battalions, a cavalry squadron, a field artillery battalion, a brigade support battalion and brigade special troops battalion.

"The Soldiers before you represent a brigade combat team that truly is one of the best in the Army," Epperly said. "Three years ago, we embarked on a five-year journey that will culminate in 2016 with a potential overseas deployment should the brigade be needed."

Under Epperly's command, the 116th IBCT has returned to readiness for expeditionary operations while maintaining proficiency with counter-insurgency warfare. The brigade placed a premium on field and night combat operations in a joint and coalition warfighting environment. During the last two years, the 78 platoons and 30 companies that comprise the brigade combat team have reached proficiency for potential deployment in 2016.

The brigade senior leadership and staff completed a rigorous Warfighter command post exercise in May 2014 with the 42d Infantry Division from the New York Army National Guard, and the brigade was recognized as one of the most proficient of nine brigades in attendance by First Army leadership. The exercise validated the brigade battle staff's ability to command and control the entire 3,400 Soldier BCT.

Additionally, the 116th completed a demanding Exportable Combat Training Capability rotation in June 2014 designed to test the brigade's platoon's proficiency for overseas combat deployment.

Over the past two years of Epperly's command, the brigade has been recognized as being in the top five BCTs across the Army National Guard nationally. In addition to honing combat readiness, the brigade has responded to several emergency missions for the Commonwealth of Virginia ranging from hurricanes like Super Storm Sandy to local floods and winter storms.

The 116th Infantry Regiment has been called into service during World War I, World War II, the Balkans and in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. The 116th was first organized Nov. 3, 1741, as the Augusta County Regiment of the Virginia Militia. The brigade traces its lineage directly from the Augusta County Regiment served under George Washington in the French and Indian War as part of the Virginia Regiment. Elements of the brigade also served during the Revolutionary War and fought in the War of 1812. The regiment also served in the Army of the Shenandoah under Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, Jackson and his men earned the title "Stonewall" at the battle of First Manassas.

"As I look at our brigade colors today and see the battle streamers our generation put there, I see all of you. In those colorful silk battle streamers, there's a little piece of immortality for all of us who were there in those faraway lands together," Epperly said. "We are forever linked to all who came before us from 1741 to now and into the future."

Article by Mr. Cotton Puryear

"From the Hedgerows" is my name!

Itinerary of a French historian from Normandy to Maryland

I was recently asked by my dear friend Donald McKee (E/175th IR) to share my story with all the 29ers.

Well, this kind of enterprise seems delicate to me since I am usually the one who asks the questions ...

My name is Antonin DEHAYS. I was born in Normandy in 1985. As far as I know, my ancestors have always lived in this area since the arrival of the Vikings in the late Tenth century. My last name doesn't lie. As a matter of fact, DEHAYS literally means "From the Hedgerows" in English. That says it all.

On my father's side, the family owned a farm in the late 1930's near the city of Rouen. My grandfather, Bernard, witnessed the German occupation since June 1940. A dark and endless period which lasted 1,457 days. For four years, life remained binding and restrictive. The risk of death was never very far. Like 98% of the French population, my grandparents never entered the Resistance. They remained silent and helpless witnesses facing an undesirable enemy. Their farm was their main worry.

On June 6th 1944, a wind of hope started blowing above the beaches of Normandy. Although my grandparents were living inland, they witnessed one of the greatest bombings ever. Many civilians were killed or wounded. The liberation of our territory had to be done at a very high price. What kind of war doesn't generate civilian casualties? None.

At some point during the battle of Normandy, my grandfather led a group of Canadian soldiers through the fields in order to locate a German installation. Those days were quite intense until the frontline moved further south.

Five decades later, during the 50th anniversary of D-Day, I met my first American veteran. This gentleman soldier wore a ton of medals on his proud chest. I never forgot this elegant blue and grey insignia sewn on his baseball hat. I got a chance to thank him. Who was he? I had no clue. One thing was certain he was a member of the brave 29ers !

My grandparents never stopped talking about the summer of 1944. While sharing their stories with me, they also started giving me some of their WWII books. Here rose a deep interest in this very specific topic: D-Day and the battle of the Hedgerows.

As a teenager I explored the battlefield on my bicycle. I used to leave home for several days in order to meet some D-Day eyewitnesses. Immersing myself in this topic naturally led me to study History in College. I wanted to

find out what war is and what war does on human beings.

I finally became a PhD candidate at the University of Caen (Normandy). I was fortunate to put a fascinating topic together: "Death and the battle of Normandy". In order to collect the sources, I travelled to the US for the first time of my life, in 2011. I spent almost a month gathering documents at the National Archives (College Park – MD). But during this stay, I found much

more than simple documents... As a matter of fact I also met a pretty American girl who was meant to be my wife. We got married in Normandy in the summer of 2012. This made me one of the luckiest men on earth.

I embraced this new life moving to Maryland in order to spend my days besides my loving wife. Soon, I started working as an Independent researcher at the National Archives creating my company (WWII Archives). After my arrival

in DC, I met a very kind man at a veterans convention in Silver Spring, MD. Don McKee (former 29th Div. Association commander) agreed to spend some time with me, answering my questions. Right away I enjoyed his company and his tolerance regarding my poor English. After our second meeting, he offered me the opportunity to join the 29th Div. Association which I considered as a privilege.

Entering this new family, I got a chance to attend the annual reunion that took place in Virginia Beach, VA, in October 2013. A friend of mine and I interviewed and filmed all the WWII veterans who were there about the battle of Saint-Lô, in June-July 1944. Thanks to Frances Sherr-Davino, I met a dozen very special men this weekend. As the icing on top the cake, I also met Joseph Balkoski, a historian for whom I have a lot of respect. This past June 2014, we all met again in Normandy, in Vierville-sur-Mer for an incredible meal. I was so happy to see Steve Melnikoff, Frances, Joe Balkoski and the others at Omaha Beach. It was priceless.

Back home in August 2014, I decided to pay a modest tribute to the veterans of the 29th ID. I got the association's license plate. Don McKee and John Wilcox made it very quick and simple. Now, with pride, I show the colors of our association.

Thank you all for your service, your dedication and your sense of duty.

I am proud to be affiliated to this group of men and women. "29, Let's Go!"

This article was written by Antonin Dehays, of Post 94



Antonin DeHays showing off his brand new 29th Division Association license plate.

Photo by Lisa Dehays

96th Annual Reunion & Convention 16-19 October 2014



Photos on this page by Robert E. Wisch

On Friday, 17 October, 29th Division Association members toured the NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia. (above) and the Herbert H. Bateman Educational Center (below) located within the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island.



National Officers - Elected and Installed for 2014 - 2015

National Commander: I. John Vaccarino

Senior Vice Commander: David H. Ginsburg

Junior Vice Commander: Robert E. Wisch

Finance Officer: J. Brian Becker

Chaplain: Reverend John Schildt

Welfare Officer: Richard Jordan

Service Officer: Walter Carter

Surgeon: Dr. William Bernhard

Historian: Joseph Balkoski

Judge Advocate: Frank Rauschenberg

Sergeant-at-Arms: Randall Beamer

Southern Region Vice Commander: Frank Dillon

Maryland Region Vice Commander: William DeHaven

At-Large Region Vice Commander: Richard "Dick" Smith



Appointed Officers

National Executive Director: PNC Robert Moscati

National Property Officer: Franklin Shilow

Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: William S. Mund, Jr.

Editor *Emeritus The Twenty-Niner*: Donald M. McKee

National Parliamentarian: Thomas Insley

Adjutant: William S. Mund, Jr.

National Surgeon *Emeritus*: Dr. Hal Baumgarten

Adjutant, Post 29, At-Large: Jonathan Levin-Turner

Ladies Auxiliary

President: Juanita King

Vice President: Dianne Raymond

Secretary: Mary Hobbs

Treasurer: Karylon Sink

Chaplain: Edith Paul

Communications Officer: Nancy Dillon

Tech Officer: Blonnie Garrison



Post Commander's Workshop



Photo by William Mund

29th Division Association Post Officers participating in the Post Commander's Workshop.

The first inaugural Post Commander's Workshop took place at the Ocean City Reunion, following the completion of the Business Meeting. Each post was asked to send 1-3 people and there were 30 post officers in attendance.

The Workshop was the culmination of efforts to both incentivize the posts to attend the Conventions going forward as well as a unique forum by which the posts could communicate with all the other posts on issues such as recruiting, retention, meeting times, whether there is interest in allowing the post to do electronic payments, etc.

14 posts of the Association sent representatives: 1, 5, 29, 48, 64, 72, 78, 85, 88, 93, 94, 110, 729, and the newly forming Post 58 (Dundalk, MD).

Communications was stressed by many posts – the more you talk to your members, the easier it is to keep them in the Association and recruit. One of the most successful methods discussed was newsletters, whether physically mailed or done in electronic format.

The challenges of recruiting and keeping younger

members was a pain shared by all posts. Having events that working people can attend and bond with the older members was emphasized, as was having events that center around the younger members such as Global War on Terror events and ceremonies.

Many posts shared interest in the Embedded Program and how it could benefit them. The challenges of the existing program were shared and how it will be refocused for 2015 and then expanded as the pilot begins to experience success in a more limited deployment.

Guest speakers seemed to be a common theme among many posts, both as a way to energize long-standing members and potential recruits.

An email forum will be built as a way for the posts to continue to communicate directly and there seemed to be unanimous response toward making the Workshop an annual event at every reunion. Most importantly – the posts finally had a chance to discuss their needs and challenges directly.

Submitted by NSVC David Ginsburg

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

Saturday Evening Banquet



Eder-George Post #85 Color Guard



Ms Valerie Hawkins from Post #85 singing the National Anthem.



The Adjutant General of Maryland, Major General James A. Adkins.

All photos on pages 30 and 31 by Robert E. Wisch or William Mund.

Saturday Evening Banquet



From left: NC Vaccarino, PNC/PNED Wilcox and MG Adkins.



PNC/PNED Wilcox with PNC Kutcher.



William "Bill" Doyle (seated) and NC Vaccarino.



Newly installed National Commander I. John Vaccarino.



From left: Edith Paul; NP Juanita King; Diane Raymond and Nancy Dillon of the Ladies Auxiliary



Standing: Arden Earl; Steven Melnikoff; Cosmo DeFazio. Sitting: Bill Doyle; Chuck Neighbor; Don McKee and Donald Robertson.

Attendees at our 96th Annual Reunion & Convention

115th Infantry

Black, Jon
Bowen, Richard & Lena
Christopher, Ron
Daveler, Harry
Futty, John & Ronda
Houck, David & Janet
Jones, Bob & Helena
Liswell, Bernie
Meadows, Charles & Carolyn
Mund, William
Potts, Orville & Janice
Schildt, John
Simmons, Ray
Simpson, Howard
Simpson, Richard & Marjorie
Wheatley, Ken
Wilcox, PNC John & Chris

116th Infantry

Dillon, Frank & Nancy
Earl, Arden & Shirley
Kessler, John
King, PNC Bill & NAP Juanita
McCarthy, Don, Elaine & Don Jr.
Neighbor, Charles

175th Infantry

Becker, J. Brian
Bryant, Bob & Barbie
Crosby, Gilbert & Carolyn
DeFazio, Cosmo & Dan Nankivell
DeHaven, Bill
Doyle, Bill & Kathy Brumberger
Koehler, Ed
Kutcher, NC Jack & Maxine
Linthicum, George & Dorothy
McKee, PNC Don
Melnikoff, Steve & Steven A.
Recker, PNC Bob & Pat
Robertson, Donald
Shettle, John & Joan
Shilow, Franklin
Vaccarino, John & Betty
Wisch, Bob & Linda

110th Field Artillery

Barranco, Frank
Bullock, Bill
Connolly, Harry
Elwood, John & Vivian
Ginsburg, JVC Dave & Amy Krantz

Moscatti, PNC Robert
Rauschenberg, Frank & Peggy
Rodier, Ed & Beth
Smith, PNC Dick & Mary
Tolzman, Ed
Zang, PNC Joe & Shirley

111th Field Artillery

Lane, John & Shirley

729th Maintenance Battalion

Beamer, Randall & Shirley
Foreman, Charles
Gilbert, Harry
Jordan, Dick & Dick Jr,

Other Units

Bernhard, William & Therese - Aviation Bde
Dooley, PNC Ivan - 121st Engineers
Hawkins, Val & Margret Edmondson - Aviation Bde
Insley, Tom & Jean - 104th Medical Battalion
LeFevre, William - HQ/29ID
Raymond, Richard & Dianne - HHC/2BDE
Roush, Bruce & Carole - Aviation Bde
Snyder, Richard - 29 Sup

Widows

Paul, Edith

Daughters / Granddaughters

Cadwallader, Billie, & Jessica & Mark Mantz
Parker, Virginia & Thomas
Sherr-Davino, Fran

Sons / Grandsons

Arrants, Brandon & Ernie
Faries, George & Mary Linn
Garrison, Jay & Blonnie
Krauss, Michael
Swilling, Bill
Yusna, Carl

Associates

Balkoski, Joe
Banik, Jeff & Christine Nichols
Bennett, Mark
Griffey, Russell & Ella Gericke
Hess, Randy & Janice
Harter, Wilbur & Charlene
Hofmann, Roland
Matney, Houston

Guests

Barranco, Catherine. & Mary DelRosso

Sunday Memorial Service

Every year at our Memorial Service on Sunday morning, we honor those who have departed us during the past year. Listed below are the names of all the deceased since our last Annual Reunion and Convention in 2013.

We pray that they may rest in peace.

Auld, Charles	Joiner, Tommie Lynn	Smith, Orville
Abschutz, Samuel	Joseph, Joseph A.	Smith, William L.
Atkins, Richard E.	Keyser, Richard V.	Sommer, Ronald R.
Baker, George M.	King Earl R.	Stansbury, Donnie G.
Bangs, E. Donald	King, Sterling	Stokes, Robert M.
Barnes, John J.	Knight, George L.	Stonebraker, Millard E.
Bean, Robert S.	Kopp, Vance D.	Swank, John
Beiser, Charles R.	Laymon, Russell A.	Troxell, Richard
Brown, Dale M.	Leigh, L. Cass	Villwock, Gordon
Bujac, Eugene	Lindeman, Charles M.	Walker, Malvin E.
Burke, Milton A.	Lofthouse, Joseph	Walters, Voyle M.
Cecil, Joseph O.	May, Robert L.	Weaver, Ronald J.
Christiansen, Galen L.	McAllister, Robert	Wheeler, Walter H. III
Clark, Francis M.	McCauley, James A.	Widerman, Nelson
Corkran, John	Meyer, Ernest H.	Willett, John D.
Cundiff, Lester B.	Mullinex, Harold B.	Wills, Hugh E.
Deater, Harry R.	North, Austin R.	Wingfield, Pride
Dettmer, Gilbert S. Sr.	Oliver, Freddie L.	Wishard, Kenneth E.
Diblin, Robert	O'Neill, John B.	
Fischhaber, Joseph G.	Parkinson, Raymond E.	<u>Ladies of the 29th</u>
Gettel, Bruce G.	Perhai, Kenneth J.	Baines, Kitty
Gouker, Thomas E.	Ponton, Henry E., Jr.	Gorinski, Betty J.
Grimm, Cecil	Reid, Jack C.	Grymes, Patricia
Hobbs, Mills H.	Schlentz, Warren	Horton, Jane E.
Honick, David	Shanley, William	Smith, Jan
Horan, Nelson L.	Shoemaker, Glenn	Swilling, Louise
Horst, John H.	Showers, Norman A.	Vecchioni, Joan

96th Annual Reunion & Convention 16-19 October 2014



Photo by Robert Wisch

From left: David Briggs, 1st Vice Commander of American Legion Post 159, Chincoteague, VA., and NC John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr., cutting the cake during the luncheon hosted by Post 159.



Photo by William Mund

After the election of officers held at the business meeting on 18 October 2014, PNC John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr., is presented with his "Past National Commander's" pin by PNC/NED John Wilcox.

Memorial Day at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten on 25 May 2014



Photos by Ralph Peeters, Post 110

Pictured above is Angelo Lombino, Adjutant of Post 27, 29th Division Association, of New Port Richie, Florida. Mr. Lombino participated in the wreath laying at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands, this past Memorial Day.

We are indebted to Ralph Peeters, a member of Post 110 for providing us with these photos. Mr. Peeters is a citizen of the Netherlands and attended the 29th Division Association Annual Reunion and Convention that was held in Virginia Beach, VA, in 2013.

The Reactivation Era, November 1984 – October 1985

In November of 1984, a small group of Maryland and Virginia National Guardsmen began to congregate at Building 2247 on North Post at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Their purpose was to establish a provisional headquarters for the 29th Infantry Division, (Light) which would be reactivated on a date, which had not yet been determined. This was occurring as a result of the Secretary of the Army's announcement on 6 June 1984, the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, that the famed 29th Infantry Division would once again unfurl its colors, this time, as a Light Division.

It is not the intent of this writer to repeat to the readers, the sacrifices, trials and tribulations, of the 29th Division in the Second World War, or of the Great War. That story has been written in blood and told many times by others more accomplished than this writer.

This "Reactivation" process turned out to be a monumental undertaking for the Military Departments of both Maryland and Virginia. Personnel had to be assigned and plans made for the occupancy of their provisional headquarters. This provisional headquarters was located in Building 2247 on North Post, Fort Belvoir. Coordination with the active Army in identifying and relinquishing several other buildings to the 29th had to be accomplished. Some of these buildings were in a bad state and had to be renovated. Office equipment and furniture had to be obtained. Also, a new phase of training had to be established to convert the division troops into the new concept of the "Light Fighters" of the first reserve component Light Division.

In addition to all of this, a "Reactivation Ceremony" had to be conducted to present the division to the military leadership and the general public. These were the many challenges facing the "provisional" headquarters in the middle of November 1984.

This small group of guardsmen was headed up by Colonel William C. Bilo, Chief of Staff. COL Bilo, formerly, Director of Personnel, of the Maryland Army National Guard (MDARNG) was recommended for this position by the Adjutant General of Maryland, Major General Warren D. Hodges. He was selected by the 29th Division Commander designee, Brigadier General James A. Baber, of the Virginia Army National Guard, (VAARNG). Bilo, a former artillery officer, had held sev-

eral key staff positions during his career. He had also commanded at the battery level in Europe and Vietnam during his Army active duty time.

LTC Edward C. "Craig" Norman, VAARNG, was the Division G3. LTC Norman had served at the National Guard Bureau. His assistant was MAJ William D. Wolf, MDARNG, a former staff officer from the 58th Brigade (SEP) in Pikesville, MD.

Several other officers who appeared at this time were: MAJ Donald Mundy, VAARNG; Assistant G1; MAJ Joe E. Harris, VAARNG, Assistant G2; MAJ David Forbes, VAARNG, Assistant G4; And MAJ Robert Ballenger, MDARNG. Other officers, and enlisted personnel, too many to mention here, joined the Division over the next several months.

An officer to oversee the coordination of the "Reactivation Ceremony" had to be identified and CPT John McLaughlin, MDARNG, was selected for this position.

These officers were also supported by numerous enlisted personnel who were instrumental in helping establish the headquarters at Fort Belvoir. Most of these officers and enlisted personnel were on Active Guard Reserve (AGR) status, meaning that they were on active duty and received all the pay and benefits of being so.

Concurrently, with the establishment of a division headquarters, there had to be a training site/facility identified and occupied by the nucleus of the troops who were to conduct the "Light Fighters" training. The area designated, "Cooke Campsite" at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, was about a 90 minute drive from Fort Belvoir.

The major problem confronting these troops was how to initiate light fighters training for National Guard troops who only drilled one weekend a month and two weeks at annual training. Some of the Light Leader Cadre and other 29th staff officers were sent to Fort Ord, California to observe training with the 7th Infantry Division (Light), an active component and the only light division in existence at that time in the U.S. force structure.

The 7th ID(L), as an active component, didn't have the constraints of a limited amount of time for training. This would have to be compressed into a schedule that would be viable with the reserve component's limited time constraints.

When these soldiers returned from Fort Ord, they were better qualified to go about

setting up and conducting Light Fighter training. Training schedules were then established and training began.

The original officers involved in coordinating and implementing the training for the light fighters were: CPT Robert Finn, (OIC) MDARNG; CPT James Harmon, VAARNG; 1LT Randy Everett, MDARNG; and 1LT Pete Combee, VAARNG. They were supported by a group of AGR non-commissioned officers who were assigned to Cooke Campsite at Fort A.P. Hill, VA.

In the summer of 1985, MAJ Thomas Johnson, MDARNG took over as Commander and the name of the cadre was changed to the Infantry Training Detachment (ITD).

As this was happening at Fort A.P. Hill, events were moving ahead back at Fort Belvoir. The building next to Post Headquarters (Williams Hall) on South Post was identified and renovated as the permanent headquarters of the 29th Infantry Division (Light). This building was a far cry from the privations that existed in the area of Building 2247 which had its share of sewerage, running water, and heating problems.

Williams Hall boasted two carpeted floors of office space and really looked like a division headquarters facility. Several months before the "Reactivation Ceremony" the renovated building was occupied by the full-time AGR personnel and operations began.

After a few rehearsals, the full 29th Infantry Division (Light) Reactivation Ceremony was conducted on 5 October 1985 on the parade field in front of Williams Hall and Post Headquarters. The general public attended this event along with many of our elected representatives. Special guests were the Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr. and Army Chief of Staff, General John A. Wickam, Jr.

This was how the 29th came into being once again. More history would be written by the 29th soldiers of the 21st Century in places like Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This account was written by "Twenty-Niner" Editor, William S. Mund Jr., who was then a member of the VAARNG and assigned to the 29th Division Headquarters in November of 1984. SGT Mund served as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Commanding General and Chief of Staff until November of 1986.

Minutes

of the 96th Annual Convention & Reunion
Business Meeting held on 18 October 2014 at the Clarion
Resort Fontainebleau, Ocean City, MD

The 96th National Reunion and Convention Business Meeting was called to order by National Adjutant William Mund at 0900 hours. National Commander John F. "Jack" Kutcher asked everyone to stand and pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and recite the 29th Division Association preamble. National Chaplain John W. Schildt offered a special prayer asking our Heavenly Father to bestow His guidance on the members of the 29th Division Association and especially on the families of our recently departed comrades. Commander Kutcher welcomed everyone to the convention and briefly reviewed various administrative details.

Adjutant Mund called the "Roll of Officers" and reported that a quorum was present and a regular meeting could be conducted. The minutes of the 95th National Reunion had been published previously in the Autumn/Winter 2013 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or alterations, these minutes were approved as published.

Officer's Report

National Commander – John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr. submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

Senior Vice Commander – I. John Vaccarino submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

National Junior Vice Commander – David Ginsburg submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

Southern Region Vice Commander – PNC William "Bill" King submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

Maryland Region Vice Commander – William DeHaven submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

At-Large Region Vice Commander – PNC Dick Smith submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

Finance Officer – J. Brian Becker deferred his report until later in the meeting.

Membership – PNC Bob Moscati explained his report that was distributed to the members present. Posts 224 and 229 in Maryland have been dropped. 82.8% of our members have paid their dues for 2014.

Welfare – National Welfare Officer Jordan said that we will honor the 74 members and 7 ladies of the association that have passed on since last year at the Memorial Ceremony tomorrow 19 October 2014. Welfare Officer Jordan recognized Edith Paul of Texas, who since, 1974, has only missed one convention.

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt attended the 70th anniversary events at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on 6 June 2014. He recognized several individuals for their service to the association.

Historian – Joe Balkoski had no report.

Service – Service Officer Walter Carter was excused.

Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg had no report.

Surgeon – Dr. Frank Barranco is stepping down as National Surgeon. He wished to thank the Association for being the National Surgeon for the past few years. His contact with the National Officers and the NEC meetings has educated him on the functioning of the Association with a much clearer perspective of its inner workings. He also stated that it was very enjoyable and educational in preparing and publishing the Doc's Corner articles for the 29er. Medical subjects require investigation, and the biographical studies such as those of Drs. Beacham, Baumgarten, and Bernhard provided more insight to him on their contributions, both as physicians as well as humanitarians. He said it has been a pleasurable experience.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property Officer – Frank Shilow said he enjoys his job and thanked NED/PNC Wilcox for his help and support. The cost for our 29th headgear has increased somewhat.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley had no report.

Editor/Publisher the *Twenty-Niner* – William Mund thanked Fran Sherr-Davino for writing the article about the recent trip to France for the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Editor Emeritus of the *Twenty-Niner* – PNC McKee spoke about his 25 years of involvement with the *Twenty-Niner*, and the association in general.

Adjutant, HQ Post 29 – PNC Dick Smith had no report.

National President, Ladies Auxiliary – Juanita King expressed her gratitude to the association for their support during the past year. The Ladies Auxiliary participated in events such as the Memorial Day event for Robert "Bob" Slaughter; D-Day observances at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford; Tomb of the Unknowns; the 116th Annual Muster and the Honor Flight from Florida. The Auxiliary has enrolled 16 new members. The Ladies were then excused from the meeting to conduct their own meeting.

National Executive Director – PNC/NED John Wilcox submitted a written report. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.)

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – Adjutant Mund read a report that was submitted to him by Walter Carter who was excused from this meeting. This report covered the July 2014 trip to France. The 2014 group included 30 people. The next scheduled trip for Normandy Allies is scheduled for 12-24 July, 2015. Normandy Allies thanks the 29th Division Association and its members for their continued support.

Army Divisions Association – Adjutant/Editor Mund attended the ADA convention in Knoxville, TN, 1-4 May 2014. He stressed the importance of maintaining our membership in this association. It is hoped that we may learn from the other associations about what challenges and issues are affecting their organizations as well as our own. Next year's convention will occur in Branson, Missouri. Mund indicated that he will not be attending next year and petitioned the incoming Commander to identify someone to represent the 29th Division Association.

Trip to France – Commander Kutcher made some comments and presented a Power-Point Presentation with photos of some of the events/activities that the 29th participated in. He accounted for some of the various expenses and donations (i.e. flags, flowers etc.) that were incurred in support of this trip. PNC McKee asked that the assembled recognize the Commander and Fran Sherr-Davino for their efforts in the coordination and execution of this monumental event.

Hospital/Statue Donations – The Commander spoke about the funds that were donated for the new statue in Normandy, and the renovation project for the hospital in St. Lo.

2015 Date of Wreath Laying Ceremony – SRVC Vaccarino said that the 2015 Wreath Laying will occur on 31 May 2015 at 1:15pm at Arlington National Cemetery.

Committee Reports

2015 Convention Planning – NSVC Vaccarino gave an update on the activities scheduled for the 2015 convention that will occur in Fredericksburg, VA on 15-18 October 2015.

Futures Committee – NJVC David Ginsburg spoke about what has been accomplished over the past year with the Futures Committee. He spoke at length about the website and how the new additions to it have positively influenced its viability. He outlined the goals and objectives of the Futures Committee for the next year.

Convention Committee Reports

Resolutions – Judge Advocate Rauschenberg reported that there were no pending resolutions.

Finance and Audit – Finance Officer Becker presented his report and provided copies for those interested. (This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.) The 2015 Budget will be approved and voted on tomorrow at the NEC I. PNC Recker reported that he and Robert Wisch had conducted an audit and that no discrepancies were noted in the accounting and recordkeeping of the association's finances. PNC Robert Moscati, in his capacity as Chairman of the Budget Committee, stressed the need for members to donate funds to the *Twenty-Niner* Sustaining Fund.

Nominating Committee – PNC Wilcox proposed the following individuals to be elected for 2014-2015. They are: Commander – I. John Vaccarino; Senior Vice Commander – David Ginsburg; Junior Vice Commander – Robert E. Wisch; Finance Officer – J. Brian Becker; Chaplain – Rev. John Schildt; Welfare Officer – Richard Jordan; Service Officer – Walter Carter; Surgeon – Dr. William Bern-

hard; Historian – Joseph Balkoski; Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg; Sergeant-at-Arms – Randall Beamer; Southern Region Vice Commander – Frank Dillon; Maryland Region Vice Commander – William DeHaven; and At-Large Region Vice Commander – PNC Richard Smith. Candidates Dillon and Bernhard introduced themselves to the members present.

Historical – Joe Balkoski had no report.

Old Business

Reprinting “29, Let’s Go!” – PNC/NED Wilcox reported that we only have a few of these books left in our inventory. PNC Wilcox has been trying to get this book reprinted. He has been unable to find a publisher to reprint this book as is. Advance Printers has agreed to reprint this book with a soft cover at a cost that is acceptable to our association.

Tabled Amendment to Constitution on Age – The National Parliamentarian has determined that it is not proper to table a motion from one meeting to the next. Therefore, PNC/NED Wilcox spoke at length about creating a minimum age (16 years of age) requirement for association members. He spoke in support of creating this requirement for membership as an amendment to the Constitution & By-Laws. Many members disagreed with this proposal. PNC/NED Wilcox never made a motion and there was none forthcoming from the assembled members. As there was no motion offered, discussion ended on this proposal and no action was taken.

New Business

Proposed Donation to National D-Day Memorial – a motion was made by PNC Wilcox and seconded by PNC King to donate \$2,000 to the National D-Day Memorial. Motion was passed.

Planning for the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division and the Association – Joe Balkoski made some comments about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 29th Division and their participation in World War I. He made a motion for the association to donate \$2,000 to the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc., (MDMHS) for creating a modern computer generated display to be located in the museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory. This motion was seconded by PNC/NED Wilcox. Motion was passed.

Lodging Reimbursement for 29th WWII Combat Veterans – PNC King made a motion, seconded by Dillon, for the association to reimburse all 29th WWII combat veterans lodging costs at this convention. This motion was tabled until after lunch when it was defeated by a voice vote. A proposal for some sort of reimbursement in the future was referred to the Finance Committee.

Proposed Amendment to Constitution & By-Laws – PNC Moscati made a motion to change the requirement from two signatures on disbursing checks to only one signature. Motion was seconded by Ginsburg. In accordance with the Constitution & By Laws, a unanimous vote is required. Motion was defeated and killed by one dissenting vote.

Donation to the Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund – Bruce Kahl and Dennis Pulket were introduced to the members present. They are in the process of establish-

ing a new post in the Dundalk area. They are also involved in the Maryland Military Organizations Committee (MMOC) that holds a Bull Roast every year to support deploying and redeploying soldiers. Revenues gained from this event are disbursed to various causes and organizations. Comrades Kahl and Pulket announced that they would donate \$2,000 to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*. Editor Mund and the members present thanked Comrades Kahl and Pulket for their kind donation.

Constitution & By Laws – PNC Smith made a recommendation that the Constitution and By Laws be completely revised. The NEC will study this recommendation and a decision will be forthcoming.

Post 88 Monument Dedication – Post 88 has had to postpone the dedication of their World War I monument dedication in Cambridge, MD, until sometime in the Spring. A motion was made by Post 88 Commander Robert Jones and seconded by PNC R. Moscati for the association to donate \$1,000 to support this effort. Motion was passed.

Election of Officers 2014-2015 – Commander Kutcher asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for any of the positions. After Commander Kutcher repeated this request three times for any other nominations from the floor, a motion to close the nominations was then offered by PNC McKee and seconded by PNC King. Motion was passed. A further motion was made by PNC Wilcox and seconded by PNC R. Moscati to elect the officers by acclamation. A single vote was offered by the Adjutant to elect all candidates. This motion was also passed and the officers were elected. The installation is to occur after the evening banquet.

Awards Presentation – PNC/NED Wilcox presented Past National Commander Kutcher with his special pin. Adjutant Mund presented PNC Kutcher and PNC Wilcox with a personalized page 1 of the *Twenty-Niner*.

Sick, Distressed and Deaths – Hal Baumgarten, and PNC Buck Lockard are having some health and medical issues.

Good of the Organization – Post 88 Commander Jones recognized Jon Black for his efforts as Family Assistance Center Specialist for the MDARNG. PNC Smith recommended that the NEC return to a standing committee in the selection of a location for the upcoming conventions.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 1405 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
Adjutant
National Executive Committee

NEC Members please note:

**These minutes will no longer be distributed individually.
This is your copy.**

Minutes

*of the NEC I Meeting
held on 19 October 2014 at the
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau, Ocean City, MD*

The NEC I meeting was called to order at 1030 hours at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau, Ocean City, MD, following the National Memorial Service by Commander I. John Vaccarino

Commander Vaccarino appointed the following officers for the year: National Executive Director; PNC Robert Moscati; National Property Officer, Franklin Shilow; Editor/Publisher “The 29er”, William Mund; Editor Emeritus “The 29er”, Donald McKee; National Parliamentarian, Thomas Insley; Adjutant, Post 29 At-Large, Jonathan Levin-Turner and National Adjutant, William Mund. A motion for the NEC to approve these appointments was offered by PNC Wilcox and seconded by Thomas Insley. Motion was passed and all appointees were approved.

Commander Vaccarino asked if there was any old or new business to come before the committee at this time. A motion was made by PNC Wilcox and seconded by PNC McKee to accept the 2015 budget offered by the Finance and Audit Committee. Motion was passed. Commander Vaccarino then stated

that NEC II would be held at the Weinberg Center, Camp Fretterd, MD on Thursday, 15 January 2015.

With no further business, Commander Vaccarino asked for a motion to close. A motion was offered by PNC/NED Moscati with a second by NSVC Ginsburg. The motion carried. The meeting closed at 1045 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
Adjutant
National Executive Committee

NEC Members please note:

**These minutes will no longer be distributed individually.
This is your copy.**

Request for Information

As the son of 1st Lieutenant Robert J. Harding, Sr., D-115th, 29th Infantry Division, I am seeking any information that anyone can provide concerning my father.

My father was the Executive Officer of D Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry. He was mortally wounded on August 5, 1944 in the attack at St. Martin de Tallevende, near Vire. He died of wounds, on August 6, 1944. He had landed D-Day morning with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry as Assistant Communications Officer. 1LT Harding was assigned on June 14 as Machine Gun Platoon Leader, D Company, 1st Battalion 115th Infantry, at St. Lo and appointed Executive Officer of D Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor as machine gun platoon leader during the fight to capture S. Lo. He entered St. Lo with the 1st Battalion spearhead.

1LT Harding was born in Brooklyn, New York, May 28, 1911. He was a banker in the Foreign Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York with two children and a third on the way, when he volunteered for Army service in November 1942, graduating Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning in July 1943. Initially being assigned to the 84th Division in U.S., he then volunteered to join Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 115th Infantry in England in March 1944 as it prepared for D-Day.

His love for his wife and children and his gallant service remain a living legacy for his three children, Robert the oldest, an artist, living in New York; Maria, the second, a homemaker in New Jersey, and Philip, the last born, an investment banker living in Florida. Florence, his wife, who remarried in 1951, died in 1998. His family welcomes information about Lieutenant Harding from those who served with him in the 29th Division.

Please send any information to:

Robert J. Harding, Jr.
295 Greenwich St., Apt. 2L
New York, NY 10004
Tel: 212-233-2554
or robertjhardingjr@earthlink.net.

Kindle Book available

Twenty-ninth Infantry The Blue and Gray Division of WW II.

While researching their book W. Eugene Cox and Joyce Cox contacted the 29th Division Association who provided a list of veterans. One of those was Clyde Gorum (I/116) 29th Division. In the book they tell the story of Joyce's father and his foxhole buddy who was with him the night he was killed. Gorum's accounts helps fill in the gaps of documentary history (radio logs and so forth). The Coxes subsequently published the *Twenty-ninth Infantry The Blue and Gray Division of WW II*, now out of print.

The Kindle book on Amazon.com is now available on Amazon.com. In the 315 page book they follow the 29th Infantry Division, one of the more famous divisions of the war, from a National Guard division at Fort Meade to England, D-day, and its battles through France and Germany. The combat infantryman's battlefield experiences are told from their own words taken from over one hundred first person accounts. The book includes forty photographs and fourteen maps.

The authors, members of the 29th Division Association, met at Lincoln Memorial University (class of 1963), and live in the historic town of Franklin, Tennessee. Joyce is a retired school teacher and W. Eugene retired from the National Park Service. They have written several publications including a *History of Washington County Tennessee* (2001) that won local, state, and national awards. *Jonesborough's Historic Churches* was published in 2006 and *An American Saga Some East Tennessee Taylors* was well received in 2011.

Jim Laughland High Grand Senior Service Rifle Champion

Jim Laughland of Limestone Post #72, was competing in the 2014 National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, where he was shooting his AR-15 Service Rifle in the Grand Senior category. The competition was fired over four days, with three matches fired each day. The matches consist of 20 shots standing at 200 yards, two 10 shot rapid fire strings in the sitting position at 200 yards, two strings of 10 shots each of rapid fire in the prone position at 300 yards and 20 shots slow fire prone at 600 yards.

Jim fired a score of 1635 – 26X out of 1800 and won the High Grand Senior Service Rifle Championship. (competitors 70 and older) by 23 points over the second-place competitor. In the past he had won this trophy in 2008 and 2009. He has been shooting in competitive rifle matches for 61 years.



29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE & HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	\$17.90	\$5.75	\$23.65
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (hard cover)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—29th, Let's Go—29th Division History	\$29.00	\$5.75	\$34.75
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)	\$19.90	\$5.75	\$25.65
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$1.75	\$1.30	\$3.05
29th Division Association Note Pads (4 1/4 x 5 1/2)	\$1.35	\$0.70	\$2.05
Crest—115th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Crest—116th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Crest—175th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Decal (specify inside or outside)	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Labels, gummed w/29th logo (sheet of 50)	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$1.50
Clear Plastic key ring w/29th Association logo	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$2.50
Lapel pin	\$3.95	\$1.10	\$5.05
Lapel pin, past post commander	\$5.00	\$1.10	\$6.10
Ladies pendant	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Medallion (for plaques)	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Plaque, wood 29th Division Association Logo	\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
Plaque, wood replica of Omaha Beach Memorial	\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
Pocket purse—squeeze	\$2.00	\$0.75	\$2.75
29th Division Association pocket patch	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Pocket patch holder	\$3.00	\$1.10	\$4.10
Shoulder patch, 29th ID	\$3.50	\$0.50	\$4.00
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray—L, XL, 2XL)	\$23.00	\$5.75	\$28.75
29th Division Official Association Necktie	\$20.00	\$2.00	\$22.00
29th Division Association Bolo Tie	\$6.00	\$1.30	\$7.30
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)	\$38.00	\$5.75	\$43.75
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	\$15.00	\$2.60	\$17.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)	\$12.00	\$2.60	\$14.60
29th Division Cemetery flags on wooden staff 12" X 19"	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$8.00

Checks should be made payable to the 29th Division Association & mailed with orders to:

National Property Officer, 29th Division Association, 403 Caledonia Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21227- 4707, Phone — 410-242-1820

You can now buy 29th merchandise using a credit card, debit card, or "PayPal".

Just go to the new updated website at www.29thdivisionassociation.com and click on "Merchandise" and it will walk you through how to order merchandise using electronic payment.

29th Division Association
P.O. Box 47634
Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

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Address Service Requested

Association Membership

All applications of prospective members should be mailed to our National Headquarters address. Assignment to a respective Post is normally made on information taken from the application regarding current or former military unit and/or your current home address. Membership dues vary slightly from Post to Post, but if you send a check for \$12.00 made payable to the 29th Division Association, that will normally suffice. Send your check and application addressed to:

National Headquarters
29th Division Association
P.O. Box 47634
Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

MD Post 1	Ellicott City, MD
FL Post 2	Sarasota, FL
CN Post 3	Brampton, Ontario
VA Post 5	Norfolk, VA
FL Post 27	New Port Richie, FL
HQ Post 29	At Large
MD Post 48	Westminster, MD
VA Post 64	Roanoke, VA
MD Post 72	Baltimore, MD
MD Post 78	Frederick, MD
VA Post 84	Fort Belvoir, VA
MD Post 85	Northeastern MD
MD Post 88	Eastern Shore, DE & MD
NE Post 93	New England
MD Post 94	Silver Spring, MD
MD Post 110	Pikesville, MD
VA Post 116	Staunton, VA
PA Post 175	Pennsylvania
MD Post 729	Blue Ridge Summit, PA

You Can Help Our Association Grow

Support your Post and the Association. Be on the alert for prospective new members and tell them about our Association. Give prospects an application and encourage them to enroll.



"29 Let's Go!"

Application for Membership in
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please Print

Applicant _____

E-mail Address (if available) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

I was a member of ____ Company ____ Battery ____ Regiment

29th Division WWII ____ NG ____ 29th Inf Div ____

*GWOT ____ Children/Grandchildren ____

Phone Number _____

I hereby apply for membership in the 29th Division Association, Inc.
and herewith transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues

In _____ Post No. _____
which includes the National dues and one year subscription to
the official publication of the 29th division Association, Inc. "The
Twenty-Niner." which is published three times per year.

*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature _____