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THE TWENTY-NINER

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Summer 2015

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Please come to Fredericksburg, VA!

Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center

October 15-18, 2015 - 97th Annual Reunion and National Convention

If you have ever gone to a large shopping mall, you are sure to be impressed with a venue in Virginia known as Central Park. Extending at least two miles deep and at least one mile wide, Central Park contains any and all manner of local or national businesses: from all manner of chain or independent restaurants, to a myriad of box stores of any and all types. What a setting for the location of the 97th Convention of the 29th Division Association.

The setting is the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center. Located just off of I-95 and its intersection with VA Rt 3, it is an impressive resort almost a city block in size. Containing nearly 400 bedrooms and as many parking spaces, the 29th Division Association will call this resort home during the period of 15-18 October 2015, with more than ample meeting rooms as well as an onsite restaurant and nightclub. Not to be outdone, nationally known restaurants, such as Outback, Olive Garden, International House of Pancakes (IHOP), etc., surround the Resort. Of course, we will have our traditional Hospitality Room for times when scheduled activities are at a minimum.

A fine touch to registering at the Hospitality House includes a special rate that includes up

to two free breakfasts for each room night of registrations – where? At the in-house restaurant – Lido's Pizza.

For the Ladies, the city of Fredericksburg is a Mecca of shops of all kinds. To make it easy to get to, the Visitor's Center offers free shuttle service from the Resort to anywhere local to accommodate anyone's whim. Fredericksburg is conveniently serviced by air travel between Washington DC and Richmond, VA. Additionally, Fredericksburg is served by AMTRAK with a station only two miles from the Resort.

Now to the meat of the Convention. Significant events include an American Civil War talk by

Chaplain Schildt on Thursday afternoon and a WWII Symposium by Joe Balkoski on Friday afternoon.

The Convention will feature a bus trip on Friday morning to mid-afternoon to the nationally acclaimed Marine Corps Museum followed by a tour and lunch at the Blue and Gray Brewery.

Our regular Saturday business meeting will feature the adoption of the latest amendments to our Bylaws and the election of next year's officers, followed by our Annual Post Commander's Work Shop. While dinner on Thurs-



National Museum of the Marine Corps
Quantico, Virginia

(Continued on page 38)

MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER:**I. John Vaccarino**

I will always cherish my memory of the Wreath Laying I participated in at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington. What an honor! I know I share the same feelings as those National Commanders who served before me.

I was even more proud to have 17 members of my family at the Wreath Laying. And to have Surgeon Emeritus Dr. Hal Baumgarten assist with the Wreath Laying was an even more memorable moment. (Hal did himself proud on the Omaha sector of the Normandy Beach on 6 June 1944. Wounded five (5) times as he worked his way off the beach, he eventually became a spokesman for the 29th Infantry Division. and has dedicated his life to the remembrance of those soldiers who sacrificed their lives back then).

The whole event, culminating with a luncheon at the John Lyon VFW Post in the town of Arlington couldn't have been a more fitting conclusion since John Lyon was a member of the 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division who fought in WWI, earning the Distinguished Service Cross.

Changing the subject, our recent National Executive Committee (NEC III) meeting was held in Win-



chester, VA. I'm sorry we couldn't attract a larger number of members, but so be it! My thanks go to Southern Region Commander Frank Dillon and his wife, Nancy, for making all of the arrangements, including the breakfast snack and lunch.

I'm happy to report that the proposed amendments to our Bylaws were well received – a motion to accept these amendments was approved unanimously. The entire amended text is being published in this issue of *The Twenty-Niner* – in time for ratification at the Annual National Convention in Fredericksburg this October.

Speaking of honors, as Commander of the 29th Division Association, I was asked to be a guest speaker at the dedication of a monument in Cambridge, MD – a monument recognizing five WWI warriors who earned the Distinguished Service Cross. All claimed to be citizens of Dorchester County: four were members of the 29th Infantry Division and

one served in the 3rd Infantry Division. Families of these men were present for the ceremony.

Post 88 of the 29th Division Association was the main sponsor. My sincere thanks go to the Post for its efforts in keeping alive the principles of the Association's Preamble.

As this will be my final chance to address the membership, I am so proud to have served as your National Commander. While, at times, the road was a little rocky, I was graced to have my Command Committee at my side with advice and criticism (often warranted); who are they? the Executive Director, the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, the National Finance Officer, and finally, my mentor and advisor, the National Adjutant – what a great bunch!

To the Posts and their Officers, my thanks for all you do to keep alive the aims of our Association.

And to those who will follow me, keep the spirit – keep innovative ideas at the forefront – and you will be successful.

"God Bless You All, Real Good".

"29, Let's Go!"

*I. John Vaccarino
National Commander*

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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 Summer issue. From March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015, these donations totaled \$4,016,00. **Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by June 30, 2015, then it will not be listed until the next issue.** We thank you all and bless you.

Babcock, Charles, Post 94, Associate, Washington, D.C.

Bailey, Charles B., Son, Winchester, KY

In memory of Fairel Bailey, B&C/110FA, Winchester KY

Balkoski, Joseph, Post 110, Associate, Baltimore, MD

Barden, Patricia, Post 94, Daughter, Maidens, VA

Baumbach, Jeffrey V. Post 94, Son, Brick, NJ

Becker, Brian, Post 72, HQ/1-115, Marriottsville, MD

Briscoe, Robert J., Post 72, H/175, Fallston, MD

Cayce, Walter L, Post 110, Svc/224FA, Stewartstown, PA

Cogan, Gene, Post 2, B/115, Avilla, IN.

Connolly, Donald R., Post 94, B/115, Silver Spring, MD

Craig, Randall L., Post 64, 29th ID, New Market, VA

Cresap's Rifles Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Ralph D. Bussard, A/115, Middletown, MD

Cresap's Rifles Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Paul L. Crum Jr., A/115, Frederick, MD

Dees, Robert L., Post 94, Son, Oakdale, CA

Dilorenzo, Joseph, Post 27, I/115, Port Ritchie, FL

Endler, Anton S, Post 110, HQ/224FA, Hanover, PA.

Falkowski, Irene, Widow, Enfield, CT

In memory of Henry Falkowski, Post 93, M/175, Enfield, CT

Finn, PNC Robert L., Post 94, A/2-115, Westminster, MD

Ford, Alvey F., Post 729, B/729MT, Defuniak Springs, FL

Gritton, Raymond A., Post 94, 81CH Mtr, Burtonville, MD

Hopkins, Charles A. P., Post 88, 175IR, Cambridge, MD

Hornberger, John E., Post 64, E/116, Rock Hill, SC

King, PNC William, Post 64, HHC/116, Roanoke, VA

Koos, Donald J., Post 29, I/175, Whiting, NJ

In memory of PNC Glenwood Hankins, H/116, Martinsville, VA

Krauss, Michael, Post 1, Son, Goldsboro, NC

In memory of PNC Sam Krauss, A/116, Catonsville, MD

Langille, Richard S., Post 94, C/116, Springfield, VA

Lantern Post 729, Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Larkspur Post 110, Pikesville, MD

In memory of "Doc" Barranco, HQ/110FA, Baltimore , MD

Lindsey, Vicki B., Daughter, Frankfort, KY

In memory of Fairel Bailey, B&C/110FA, Winchester, KY

Lotz, Robin, Post 94, C/116, Richmond, VA

Martin, Archer N., Post 110, HQ/110FA, Penn Yan, NY

Maryland Region, Baltimore, MD

In memory of Richard Jordan, Publisher, Chin Strap

McCabe, Nancy A. Daughter, Haddon Township, NJ

In memory of John M. McCabe, Post 92

Miles, Earl E., Post 2, A/115, Dinuba, CA

Moore, Arthur J. Jr., Post 1, F/115, Houston, TX.

Moscatti, PNC Bob, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Baltimore, MD

In memory of Bill Simms, Post 110, Divarty, Reisterstown, MD

Moscatti, PNC Joseph, Post 110, HQ/110FA. Nottingham, MD

Mund, William S. Jr., Post 94, B/115, Baltimore, MD

Nappi, Felice, Post 29, HQ/2-175, New Braunfels, TX

Newton, Richard M. Jr., Post 64, Associate, Roanoke, VA

Normandy Allies, Pittsford, NY

In memory of CWO Richard F. "Dick" Jordan

Peter, George P., Post 94, B/115(L), Rockville, MD

Piper, Samuel M., Post 94, HHC/1-115, Falls Church, VA

Ponton, Henry III & Chanson, Jamie Sloan & Sarah Pionke, Post 78

In memory of Henry "Pete" Ponton, A/115, Frederick, MD

Pulket, Arthur W., Post 72, HQ/175, Bel Air, MD

Post 729, Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Rauschenburg, Frank, Post 48, A/110FA, Emmitsburg, MD

Schimmel, Robert L., Post 29, 29MP, Dayton, OH

Shields, Ann H., Post 94, Associate, Alexandria, VA

Smith, Garrick E., Post 94, Associate, Frederick, MD

Smith, James L., Post 94, 92Ch Mtr, Tucker, GA

Smith, PNC Richard, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Lutherville, MD

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

Sparks Gary Jr., Post 94, Grandson, Dover, DE

Sylvester, Benjamin, Post 94, Associate, Guilford, CT

Thomas, Francis E., Post 94, B/175, New Orleans, LA

Wilcox, PNC John, Post 78, A/115, Frederick, MD

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

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. We are indeed saddened and mourn their passing. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to their families and loved ones. We pray that they and all of our earlier deceased 29ers and ladies may rest in peace. Amen.

LAST ROLL CALL

Anderson, Robert A, Post 110, HQ/1-115, Timonium MD, 4/14/15
 Bailey, Fairel, Post 110, B&C/110FA, Winchester KY, 5/28/15
 Barranco, Frank T, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Parkville MD, 3/21/15
 Barton, Jack D, Post 729, SVC/175, Everett PA, 4/17/15
 Burton, Ronald, Post 88, E/115, E. New Market MD, 3/24-15
 Bussard, Ralph D, Post 78, A/115, Middletown MD, 3/13/15
 Crum, Paul L, Post 78, A/115, Frederick MD, 3/21/15
 Ewing, James P, Post 88, K/115, Chester MD, 3/5/15
 Finks, Alan P, Post 64, C/116, Harrisonburg VA, 9/5/13
 Gilland, Ken L, Post 729, 729 Ord, Blue Ridge Summit, PA, 5/17/15
 Grubbs, Ken B, Post 64, HQ/3/116, Atlanta GA, Dt Unk
 Hamill, Ephraim J, Post 1, D/115, Chattanooga TN, 5/6/15
 Hedlund, Walter R., Post 93, I/115, Chelmsford, MA, 6/30/15
 Hewitt, John P, Post 94, Svc/115, Silver Spring MD, 10/25/14
 Howard, Merrill C, Post 48, B/175, Westminster MD, 2/17/15
 Johnson, J. Robert, A/110FA, Baltimore MD, 6/5/15
 Kinsey, Irvin L. Jr, Post 78, A/115, Frederick MD, 4/30/15
 Lillis, Charles J, Post 64, HQ/3-116, Winchester VA, 12/17/13
 Martin, Donald L, Post 78, L/175, Slater MO, 11/7/14
 McElroy, James C, Post 48, A/175, Orlando Park IL, 4/9/15
 Mosgai, John, Post 94, G/116, Edison NJ, 3/26/15
 Profitt, Carl D. Jr., Post 64, K/116, Charlottesville, VA, 6/30/15
 Simms, William R, Post 110, Divarty, Reisterstown MD, 4/26/15
 Spadell, Michael, Post 48, H/115, Lattimer Hills PA, 12/11/13
 Steinmann, Fred, D/1-175, Lutherville MD, Dt Unk
 Stevens, Lenwood N, Post 1, K/175, Melville NY, 2/23/15
 Wehr, Harry III, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Cambridge MD, 8/8/14

LADIES

None reported

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 25 comrades who have died and whose death was reported to us since our last publication. This includes 2 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.

No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love

What follows is a greatly condensed version of the final three chapters, 6-8, 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. Chapters 1-3 appeared in the Autumn/Winter 2014 Issue; Chapters 4-5 appeared in the Spring 2015 issue.

For comments or questions, contact Walter at walterfcarter@aol.com or visit www.walterfordcarter.com.

Chapter 6: Sacrifice

In the darkness off the coast of Britain, thousands of ships sailed from their points of embarkation into the English Channel. But the assault troops would not be the first Allied soldiers in France on this day. Operation Overlord was already under way. Just after midnight, paratroopers and glider-borne troops had landed behind the beaches to destroy some of the enemy's communications and defenses, sow confusion, and secure bridges and other vital positions. From their assault vessels in the Channel, the soldiers heading for Normandy heard the rumble of bombers en route to France, where they would blast away at Fortress Europe.

Just before six o'clock, the Allied warships in the Channel opened fire on the five invasion beaches scattered along a 50-mile stretch of French coastline. From their landing craft, heading toward the shore, the assault troops watched in awe as Normandy exploded before their eyes. A GI exclaimed, "Look what they're doing to those Germans. There won't be a man alive there."

It was an illusion, as the troops soon learned. The Germans had spent many months fortifying the beachfront defenses. The Allied naval bombardment did not deter the defenders, especially those on the bluffs above Omaha Beach, and the air bombardment, hampered because of cloud cover, fell uselessly behind the German front lines.

The 116th Regiment was to attack the westernmost sectors of Omaha Beach. The battle plan called for Norval's unit, the 115th Regiment, to come ashore later, when the beach would be secure and the men of the Twenty-ninth Infantry Division would be pushing inland beyond the village of St. Laurent.

But little went according to plan that terrible morning on Omaha Beach. The enemy's fire was accurate and devastating. Landing craft were blown out of the water, men were cut down before reaching the beach, bodies lay sprawled on the sand or floated in the tide. Although the Allies made good progress at the other invasion beaches, on Omaha forward movement stalled until, with courage and determination, the GIs carved out a small beachhead.

When the men of the 116th Regiment became bogged down on the beach, the schedule for the second wave was moved up. Instead of landing in the afternoon, my father and the rest of the 115th Regiment were ordered to shore before noon.

The landing craft was one of twelve transporting the 115th Regiment to the beaches, now partially obscured by smoke and pockmarked by shells. Norval's craft, an LCI 554, held more than

200 troops, weighed nearly 250 tons, and had a pair of landing ramps to disgorge its cargo on the beach. The craft's size made navigation through the enemy's tidal obstacles tricky. The obstacles, many of which were mined, were supposed to have been removed by the time the 115th Regiment approached the beach, but like so many other parts of the invasion plan, this assignment could not be accomplished on schedule because of heavy enemy fire.

On the port side, to the east of the original landing position, the 18th Regiment of the First Division was beginning to move inland. The landing craft carrying the 115th Regiment were ordered to change course and land behind the 18th in a sector a mile to the east, code-named Easy Red. At about eleven o'clock, the ramps were lowered, and the First Battalion lunged out into neck-high water.

Norval's unit made it to the beach and quickly crossed it, despite German small-arms fire and artillery. Although casualties were light, my father had work to do. Like the other soldiers of the Twenty-ninth Division, he had never been in combat before, but the carnage of war was not new to him. In England, both in the hospital and in training, he had seen the wounds the war could inflict. What was new was the pressure of working under enemy fire.

The slopes beyond the beach were sown with mines, and although paths had been cleared, the troops moved slowly and with great care. The First Battalion advanced about a mile inland and dug in for the night. But a burst of mortar fire during the night severely wounded the battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Richard Blatt. Norval raced to the colonel's side, treated him, and helped carry him back to the beach. The wound was fatal; he died after being evacuated to England.

For the 115th Regiment, D-Day had not been nearly as terrible as it had for their comrades in the 116th Regiment or in the lead units of the First Infantry. By nightfall the Omaha beachhead was secured, but tenuously—the Americans had moved only about a mile inland. The cost of that small piece of France had been high: nearly 5,000 casualties, according to Joseph Balkoski.

During the afternoon of June 6, the 115th Regiment moved toward the village of St. Laurent. Norval's First Battalion took a position south of the village while the Second and Third Battalions probed and then took the village late that day and early the next morning. As the First Battalion moved through the outskirts of St. Laurent on June 7, its troops saw French civilians for the first time. "The French here in Normandy haven't been as badly treated by the Germans as the newspapers led me to believe," Norval later wrote.

Once Norval's division moved farther inland, the men found themselves on terrain very different from the open, rolling moors of southwest England. In Normandy, as in England, hedgerows lined the countryside, separating one farmer's fields from another. English hedgerows were thin borders of small trees and bushes; Norman hedgerows, some of which were 2,000 years old, could be 6 feet tall or more and 10 feet wide at their base. Composed of earth, stone, vines, and small trees with deep, tangled roots, they formed a maze that obscured visibility and allowed for extremely effective defensive positions. Allied planners, concerned chiefly with getting the troops off the beach, had not adequately considered the conditions inland. The hedgerows caught the well-trained Allied soldiers by surprise.

To the shaken and confused men of the First Battalion, Norval was a familiar sight, frequently exposing himself to enemy fire as he tended to the wounded. Donald Null, a soldier assigned to the battalion's heavy-weapons company, remembered, "Carter was very visible . . . always out in the field with the wounded when we had battles, giving shots and I-Vs." Other officers later recalled that Norval often was too close, in their judgment, to the fighting. In the terrible calculations of combat, battalion surgeons were considered vital—too important to lose to a sniper or a grenade.

As his unit advanced, he had at least two close calls. Norval shook off these brushes with death. As a responsible officer and a doctor with psychiatric training, he undoubtedly understood that many men, particularly the medics, were looking to him for leadership, and he chose to lead by example. Capt. John Ryan, the commanding officer of A Company, later remembered that Norval "was up there getting his medics organized and on the job, and literally was able to pick up our wounded as they became casualties." Ryan himself was sent to Norval's aid station behind the lines. He later noted that Norval "was always there to help the men in any way he could. Somehow he managed to get a few little extra things to offer the men in addition to the medical—coffee, juice, milk, things that were in short supply—and had these things on hand to console those he found needed his care."

When one of Ryan's officers became, in Ryan's words, "a little shaky as a result of his combat experience," he brought him to see Norval. As Ryan related the encounter, Norval "just put his arm around his shoulder and said he would take care of him. He treated the man, rested him up, and in a few days returned him to duty in our company."

In a related incident, my father found one of the medics, George Schultz, taking cover behind a hedgerow, paralyzed with fear, when he should have been tending to casualties. Norval said simply, "Come on with me. Let's go out there and get them." Schultz would remember that my father's firm but gentle nudge snapped him out of his fears.

That kind of leadership helped Norval's subordinates not only in the medical unit but also on the front lines. The commander of the First Battalion's Company C, Capt. William Kenney, recalled that "to those of us in the infantry, it was an incentive to push forward under any situation, because we knew the medics were right there with us and would render assistance at all times, led of course by Cap'n Carter."

By June 9 the First Battalion was slogging its way through

flooded marshlands toward the village of Colombières. As the 115th Regiment moved from Colombières toward Briqueville, a mortar shell landed near Billy Melander. He was thrown against a wall; shrapnel was embedded in his leg, and he had cuts on his forehead and chin. He was brought back to the aid station, where Norval removed the shrapnel, stitched him up, then told him that he would be okay.

Decades later, Melander recalled his amazement at how skillfully Norval and his associates treated the many wounded and prepared the worst cases for evacuation. "Even today, some fifty years later, as I shave and look into the mirror, I see those faint scars on my forehead and chin and thank God that Captain Carter was there to tend to me in my hour of need," he told me.

On Sunday morning, June 11, as the beachhead was expanded, Norval and some other officers left the First Battalion's position, near L'Épinay Tesson, in search of a facility to serve as an evacuation hospital. Near the village of Cartigny L'Épinay they found a chateau owned by a limestone quarrier, René Pagny. The site was perfect: To the west was a field suitable for a large number of hospital tents; to the east was another open space large enough to serve as an airstrip to evacuate the wounded to England.

Norval and three other officers approached the chateau in their jeep just before noon. The owner's daughter, Odette Pagny, a woman in her mid-forties, was thrilled to see them, as I later learned from letters she wrote to my mother.

"There are the Americans, father," she exclaimed. "Look at the star on their car." Approaching Norval, Odette said, "God bless you. My home is yours." He shook Odette's hand. Just two hours earlier, German troops had been in the chateau. Now, after four years of suffering under Nazi occupation, the day of liberation finally had arrived. For Odette, my father was the face and symbol of the liberators.

They set up a medical base in the chateau, and over the next few days Odette prepared meals for them, not failing to notice that these busy men never sat down while they ate. Odette looked up to them not only as her liberators but as her personal protectors. "He was so kind, and we were so much in danger," she told my mother. "The battle in night over air and ground was terrible. I was so afraid. I was always with them. Nobody could tell you and describe what he was, only us who were with them know. What a gentleman he was." She dreaded the day they would have to move on, leaving her unprotected.

Just after midnight on June 12, word passed through the line that the First Battalion would attack enemy positions over the Elle River, and beyond the village of St. Marguerite d'Elle. The troops moved out at 3:30 a.m. After marching a mile and a half, they halted while the battalion opened an artillery barrage against the German position. The Americans, coming down the exposed slope on the north side of the creek, attempted to cross the Elle, but the German defenders, dug in on the high ground on the south side, were in an excellent position to fire on the Americans. They let loose with deadly machine-gun and mortar fire, pinning down the First Battalion. The unit suffered 100 casualties, and the Third Battalion, which was operating nearby, suffered 130. Medics moved

forward and brought many of the wounded to the aid station; ambulances or jeeps took the worst cases to the chateau where Norval was based.

On June 12 the First Battalion pulled back and was given forty-eight hours of rest. In his first letter to his wife from Normandy, Norval wrote:

"This is the first day we have been permitted to write, and it certainly is a privilege. It lessens the lonesomeness to be able to tell you I miss you and I love you. I have been in France since June 6 and have been in some tough actions. I ache for home and you and the boys—the present circumstances make the ache even more acute. Life is now very precious and dear, and home is what life means to me.

"The morale of the men in my battalion is high even though the losses of officers & men have been heavy. We are very tired physically and mentally. Sleep is a rare elixir. Hot meals are non-existent. A bed is a memory. I haven't had my shoes off my feet but once in 10 days. We have been under heavy fire but are giving more than we receive—in other words we are winning. I have lost some valuable aid men and have recommended citations for quite a few others. All my men have done a grand job—a super human job. My health is good (except my nerves) except for a mild conjunctivitis. A gnat got in my eye! Imagine!

"Tell Tom & W.F. I still think of them. Also tell them they are very fortunate to be living in America. All people, English, French, and German, envy the USA. The people of France have welcomed us in a way that is heart-breaking—the Germans in a way that is heart-stopping. The latter are excellent soldiers and superbly equipped. They fight tenaciously & give ground at great cost to us. We are only overwhelming them with masses of manpower and materiel. We shall probably be sent to a rest area soon—we need it. . . . Some of my best friends are no more. I love you, Fernie, and think of you each day. Pray that we shall soon be together again."

Among the top field commanders in Normandy, there was some dissatisfaction with the Twenty-ninth Division's progress a week after D-Day. On June 14 the First Battalion was assigned a new and, headquarters hoped, a more aggressive commander—Maj. Glover S. Johns Jr. A new offensive was in the works.

On the morning of June 16 the men of the 115th Regiment rose early and prepared to attack Les Foulons as part of the Twenty-ninth Division's renewed push for St. Lô. But the First Battalion remained in place until nearly nightfall. Casualties from sniper fire continued to pour into the aid station, and Norval treated several wounded soldiers that morning. In the afternoon he dashed off two quick letters, one to his parents and one to Fernie. To his parents he candidly admitted that the fighting left him anxious and afraid:

"We have had a few terrible experiences and quite a few of us are shaken up. I have never been so nervous and frightened in my life, yet we are able to push on. This is D-9, or the 10th day of the invasion & progress seems satisfactory. Some of my aid men have been killed or wounded. I have had bullets all around me, but my luck is good. My men have shown admirable courage & heroism in removing wounded while under fire. My health is excellent. Save some of the newspapers for me to read when I get home. Take good care of Fernie & the boys."

He told his wife that he had not had a single hour "of freedom from the sounds of gunfire since landing & it sure gets on one's nerves."

"Today we are resting in an orchard & things are fairly quiet, but snipers are 100 yards south of us & I have treated 6 gunshot wounds this morning. Bullets zing night & day, but fortunately the Luftwaffe has been prevented from coming over us except on the nights of D-Day and D-2.

"Sweetheart, I haven't been able to dream about you since being here. It seems that when I fall asleep that it is so sound I don't dream at all & I miss that connection with you. When I do waken I am all alert at once & I miss those twilight states of thinking of home.

"Excuse this writing 'cause I am in a foxhole with the letter on a water-can. I have collected a few souvenirs so far from the German dead. They are really well-equipped. Their dead outnumber ours. But it is a very sad and distressing thing to see (& smell) so many mangled men. It seems to be so useless for nations to do such things to each other."

At five o'clock in the morning of June 17, after hours of fighting, Les Foulons finally fell. The Americans pressed the attack, with the First Battalion marching through hedgerow country toward the area of Bois de Bretel, ever closer to St. Lô. Resistance was heavy. One soldier wrote, "Captain Carter during the heat of battle was ever present with the dead and wounded." Norval spent part of the day with Chester Adams, the litter bearer he had encouraged on the beach during D-Day. While they were taking a pause under a tree, my father pulled out his wallet and showed Adams pictures of Tom and me. "I'd sure like to be home now with my boys," he said.

An orchard separated the American hedgerow from a German hedgerow. After a long and bloody afternoon of combat, the sun was beginning to set, and twilight descended on the battlefield. From the orchard, a no-man's land between the two positions, came the cries of the wounded. Two medics were in the orchard, tending to several casualties. Norval, on the front lines, was with E. J. Hamill behind a hedgerow next to a road when they heard the cries for help. My father prepared to move out from his cover to tend to the soldiers, but Hamill tried to persuade him to stay where he was. There were German snipers in the area, Hamill warned.

"I would help them, too," Norval said.

The medics who had been in the orchard came back for help in retrieving the casualties. Norval went with them to help one of the wounded soldiers, lying along the edge of the road, who had been shot in the leg and the stomach while scouting the German position beyond the hedgerow earlier in the day. Norval checked the soldier's wounds and reassured him, and then he and the medics turned to treat another casualty less than 10 feet away. Hidden in the woods across the road was a German sniper with an automatic weapon. He had the men in his sights.

A burst of gunfire rang out. Bullets tore into the torso of Dr. Norval Carter of Huntington, West Virginia—captain in the US Army, only child of Eustace and Sapho Carter, husband of Fernie, father of two boys. He died at the edge of that orchard in Normandy, eleven days after landing on Omaha Beach. The two medics with him also died.

At the chateau Odette Pagny was making pastry when some American soldiers told her that Captain Carter had been killed. She was stunned. "I never thought one man like him could be hurt," she wrote a few months later.

My father was buried in a temporary cemetery near La Cambre and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. Odette Pagny's niece, Jacqueline, tended his grave, gratefully bedecking it with flowers.

Chapter 7: Life Without Dad

Tom and I were eagerly awaiting the arrival of summer, while our mother tried to distract herself from her worries. The news was filled with accounts from the battlefields of northern France. All was going well, we were assured. The Allies were pushing forward. The Germans were falling back from the coast. Hitler's Fortress Europe had been breached.

For millions of Americans like Fernie, the news reports from France lacked the single bit of information that mattered more than anything else: Is my husband still alive? Is my son lying in a foxhole, bleeding, with no one to care for him? Is my father fighting for his life, right now? Is my brother a prisoner? As they read about the fighting and listened to the radio, they had to wonder: Is he there? Is he safe? Will I ever see him again?

Norval came to Fernie in a dream, silent but smiling. He came nearer and nearer until his presence overwhelmed her. Then she awoke and sat up, crying and shaking. Aunt Becky, her older sister, heard Fernie's anguish from the other room and rushed to her. Fernie told her about the dream. The date was June 17, 1944.

About two weeks later, on July 1, she received his letters of June 13 and June 16, the first since his last letter from England on May 24. She was overjoyed—he had survived D-Day and the days of fighting that had followed. She immediately wrote back:

"Your letters of June 13 & 16 arrived this morning & they were like a drink of water to a man caught in the desert & dying of thirst. I felt a load being lifted immediately from my shoulders. I really believe I am the happiest person in Huntington, just to know that you were still ok, Sugar. I don't know why I love you so much but I sho' do, & always will. I hope by this time that you have been sent to a rest area because I know all of you must need it."

Then, on July 6, came the telegram. Not long afterward, Fernie's last four letters arrived at our house in Huntington, stamped "Return to Sender."

My mother's grief was and still is unimaginable. She left no record of her suffering and allowed her children no more than a passing glimpse of her pain. For our sake, she put on a brave show of being steady and dependable. She almost never let us see her burdens. Years later I learned from friends and family that she was inconsolable. My father's picture remained on her bureau and his image dominated our life as a family, but Fernie rarely spoke of him. There was no scar—only an open wound that would never heal.

As a four-year-old living in a child's world of toys, games, and friends, I could not appreciate my mother's pain. Indeed, I could barely comprehend that I would never see my father again.

Like other spouses and parents of soldiers killed in action, my mother clung to the faint hope that perhaps the news was some bureaucratic mistake, no more real than the dream she had on June 17. Letters from Norval's comrades dispelled any further hopes, but also offered the consolation that he had not suffered. In a letter written "somewhere in France" on August 12, the battalion's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Glover Johns, offered more details about Norval's death and his men's regard for him.

"Captain Carter had gone forward to treat wounded men who were somewhat behind the very furthest lines—yet still under fire from snipers and an occasional undiscovered machine gun. I had warned him not to do this, but he was so intent on rendering really necessary medical aid to severely wounded men that he placed too much faith in his Red Cross brassard and got too far out in front—thinking only of our boys and never of himself. He was actually attending a badly wounded man whose life I am confident his early attention saved, when a sniper hit him squarely. He suffered not at all and if they ever get me, I should like to go as he did.

"Carter was in every real, true sense of the word, a hero. That is small satisfaction to you because you (and we) knew that anyway. But he gave his life for his fellow man, and the sniper who destroyed him robbed the world of a lifetime of splendid work—he would have saved countless others.

"I had known him only for a few days, but he had already become a close friend and instantly, on meeting him, I had known I would have no worries with my medical section and that my boys would have the very finest care."

Despite our loss, mine was not an unhappy childhood. I grew up in comfortable circumstances, thanks in part to the life insurance policy my father had bought while at basic training at Camp Pickett. The mortgage on our house was paid off by the insurance money. The house was substantial. The small back yard was sufficient for a truncated badminton court and flower gardens. The two-car garage held bicycles, lawn chairs, garden tools—and Norval's beloved Chevy convertible, which my mother drove until around 1953. We lived in a desirable section of the city, a short walk from a large park. We ate well, had all the clothes we needed, and never suffered for a lack of toys, books, or friends. Tom and I went to summer camp.

Despite these advantages, however, I envied other kids in the neighborhood who had fancier toys and took more exotic vacations than we did. Although far from dominating my life, my envy lasted through high school and college. I disdained that exclusive group of country-club kids who went off to private prep schools, especially when my girlfriend, the daughter of a doctor who was a former colleague of my father's, joined them. I attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania on scholarships financed in part by the US government's war orphans benefits program, in part by a scholarship from the Norval Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund, established by my father's medical colleagues in Huntington, and in part by the College. Many students at Swarthmore came from wealthier families, had attended private schools, and had traveled extensively. In my view they had what I wanted because they had fathers and I did not.

My envy diminished as I grew older, but my sadness did not. In the first year or two after my father's death, I occasionally im-

aged that he might yet walk in the front door, having been lost rather than killed. I brooded over the framed photographs and the snapshots in photograph albums. Toward the end of my grade-school days I found a small photograph of him. Along its bottom edge I wrote "Dad" and kept the picture in my shirt pocket. At times when I was alone, I stared at the picture, longing for his presence.

I was always proud of my father. If anyone asked about him, I said he was a doctor who was killed in the war while trying to rescue a wounded soldier. Many of my teachers knew him—some had been his patients—and invariably expressed affection and admiration for him. I welcomed these comments, because they gave me new bits of information or confirmed impressions I already had, helping me build an image of him: a well-liked man, a respected doctor, a devoted husband, a practical joker with a zany sense of humor—a lovable hero.

In 1985—the forty-first anniversary of D-Day, the forty-first anniversary of my father's death—I decided to visit Normandy. My wife and daughter, Bonnie and Catherine, flew with me to France. Our son, Norman, was already there, participating in a high school student exchange program. I was hoping to retrace my father's steps, so I asked my mother for any information she had about his time there. For the first time she showed me the letters she had received from Odette Pagny, whose family's chateau had been converted into an evacuation site in 1944.

After meeting Norman in Paris, we drove to Normandy, where my father was buried in the American cemetery on the bluffs of Omaha Beach. We arrived on a chilly, rainy day to find row upon row of crosses and stars of David in an expanse of beautifully maintained open space. As we moved among the graves of those thousands of young Americans, I struggled for composure. We finally found Dad's grave near the far end of the cemetery.

When I touched his marker, I felt a current of connection with him. "Here I am, Dad," I thought. "I've finally come to you." More than forty years after I last saw him, we were reunited. "I had not known what to expect," I later wrote my mother. "I felt my emotion building as we approached the cemetery—I saw troops everywhere—and when we drove in view of the graves, I was overcome by the sight of all those white crosses. It is easy to see people in those crosses, with arms outstretched. My feelings at seeing Dad's headstone were the strongest I can remember. It seemed that this was the end of a long journey, and a reunion."

Years passed, filled with professional work, raising a family, experiencing the ups and downs of life. In January 1997, I came across a note written to myself in June 1994, when the news was filled with commemorations marking the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day. In a news clip I had caught the name of a Twenty-ninth Division veteran from nearby Fitchburg, Massachusetts. I had written down the man's name but had put it aside and never returned to it.

I called him. He encouraged me to contact the Twenty-ninth Division Association. The group sent me its newsletter, which recommended several reference books that veterans' relatives had found useful in tracking down members of the division.

Excited about this promising new lead, I went to the local library on a Sunday afternoon and submitted a request for the books on inter-library loan. I was then drawn to the library's

stacks to see what other World War II books might be available. My eye caught the title of a book—June 6, 1944: Voices of D-Day (St. Martin's Press, 1994), by Gerald Astor. I pulled it from the shelf and flipped through the pages. I found a section titled "Beyond Omaha."

And there I saw my father's name.

The book included the reminiscences of Frank Wawrynovic, a 115th Regiment veteran who had landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. While on a scouting mission on June 17, he had been badly wounded but had managed to drag himself back toward the American front line. He had called out for help, and two medics responded. After checking him quickly, they went off to find litter bearers. When they returned, they were accompanied by Capt. Norval Carter, the battalion surgeon, who examined him and then turned his attention to a wounded soldier lying nearby. Shots rang out, and Captain Carter and the two medics fell to the ground. "These men had answered my call for help and died on account of me," Wawrynovic had written. "To them I owe a debt I can never repay."

Frank Wawrynovic was the man my father had tried to save, the wounded soldier of our family legend. I reread the passage several times. It gave details I had never known. I had a first-hand account of my father's death.

The book listed Frank's hometown as Clearfield, Pennsylvania. I rushed home, called information, and got his number. I dialed the number and a man's voice came on the line. I asked him if he was the person mentioned in Gerald Astor's book. He replied that he was. "I'm the son of Captain Carter," I said.

Chapter 8: Journey's End

Frank J. Wawrynovic was born in 1917, one of six children of Polish immigrants who had settled in the coal-mining town of Clearfield in central Pennsylvania. As a boy during the Great Depression, Frank helped put food on the family's table by hunting and fishing. After graduating from high school in 1935, he worked for a year with the Civilian Conservation Corps, building roads, dams, and bridges. Then, like so many others in his town, he went to work in the mines.

For seven years he worked on his back in the cold, narrow seams, chipping away at the coal overhead as water dripped on him incessantly. It was brutal labor. Then the war lifted him out of the pit. Not long after Pearl Harbor he was drafted, and within a few months the young coal miner was training for war with the Twenty-ninth Division in England. He volunteered for, and was accepted into, the Twenty-ninth Division Provisional Ranger Battalion, an elite unit. After intensive training in Scotland, the Rangers were reintegrated into the division.

On June 6, 1944, Frank landed with C Company, First Battalion, 115th Regiment, on Omaha Beach. He scrambled across the beach and reached the bluffs. As the division pushed inland, Frank's hunting skills and his Ranger training earned him the risky assignment of forward scout. He moved ahead of the American front line, probing the German defenses, eliminating enemy gunners when he encountered them.

On June 17 Frank was moving through an apple orchard separating the Americans, who were ready to advance from their

hedgerow on the east, from the Germans, who were behind a hedgerow at the far end of the orchard. Frank was moving along the edge of the orchard, close to a lengthwise hedgerow that separated the orchard from a narrow country road that ran along the side. A few other Americans, widely spaced to Frank's left, also were advancing through the orchard. Machine guns opened fire, and men to the left of Frank fell instantly. Frank hit the dirt at the base of the hedgerow running parallel to the road and lay still, knowing that any movement would attract the enemy's attention. As he waited for the cover of darkness, he heard the cries of wounded GIs nearby. He wanted to come to their aid but knew that he could not—the Germans would find him. At the moment, Frank believed the Germans saw him and figured he was dead.

Frank planned to wait until dark, throw a grenade over the German hedgerow and vault over the side hedgerow, and then dash across the road. But before Frank could escape, another soldier in the orchard started running toward him. He was cut down. Now Frank was exposed. He got up, ran and jumped over the side hedgerow. There was another burst of fire, and Frank was hit. He fell on the far side of the hedgerow and lay motionless in a ditch next to the road.

Frank had been hit in both ankles and in the stomach. His right leg felt broken. He had neither his helmet nor his rifle—he had lost both as he vaulted over the hedgerow.

Inch by inch, Frank crawled back toward the American line. He was exhausted and was losing blood, but he dared not stop. If the Germans counterattacked, he was a dead man. Frank remembered once seeing a GI put a bayonet through a wounded German soldier and had never forgotten that soldier's frightful scream. He finally edged close to the American position. He had lost so much blood he feared he was dying. He called out for a medic.

When I reached him by phone in 1997, Frank spoke hesitantly at first. The call from Capt. Norval Carter's son, completely unexpected, had thrown him off balance. More than a half century had passed since that day in Normandy when Captain Carter raced to his side to help him and paid for his bravery with his life.

A few days after our telephone conversation, Frank sent me a letter that expressed his gratitude to my father and all those who gave their lives so that we might live in a better world:

"After these many years it was a great surprise, even a shock, to hear from the son of the man who, after helping to pull many wounded men to safety, was killed as he came to help me and another wounded soldier as we lay helpless in a ditch beside a hedgerow in Normandy.

"While I did not know your father personally at the time of his death, I feel that I have gotten to know him very well since then. As I grow older, I do not believe that a day goes by that I do not think of him and of the many other young men, especially of the friends that I had, that were killed in the battles of World War II.

"As a survivor, in spite of many personal hardships, I look back and see how really wonderful life can be. And knowing this, I can also see how it could have been for them and for their loved ones had not their lives been taken from them. What a great sacrifice your father and so many others were called upon to make! I have gone back to Normandy four times since the war (1984, 1987, 1993, and 1994). And I am planning to go back this year. I go

back mostly to visit the graves of those whom I knew. I always stop at your father's grave."

I soon learned more about this man whom my father had attempted to save so many years ago. After my father and the two medics were killed, Frank dragged himself to the American hedgerow as darkness fell. Hearing the voices of GIs from behind it, he called out softly for help. Frank was brought to a field hospital and soon evacuated to England, where he spent a year and a half recovering from his wounds. He was discharged with a permanent disability—as well as a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. When he returned home, the one-time coal miner enrolled at what was then called Pennsylvania State College. With the help of the GI bill, Frank earned a bachelor's degree in forestry and a master's degree in wildlife management. He married a young woman from his hometown, Stella Jedrzewski.

They had three children, all of whom died in childhood or early adulthood. Their son Peter died at birth. Their son John, born in 1950, was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of three and died a year later. Their daughter, Barbara Jean, was born with cerebral palsy in 1952. Although seriously handicapped, Barbara Jean spent her short life—she died in 1969—not in an institution, but at home, with her loving and devoted parents. Frank once wrote that "while the war has left its mark on us, the loss of all three of our children at their early ages has had a much more traumatic effect on our loves. Battle wounds may heal and leave their physical scars, but the effects of such a loss, while leaving no visible scars, are forever painful and always with us."

Despite unimaginable sorrows, Frank and Stella managed to keep going. They formed their own company to clear and maintain rights-of-way for power lines, pipelines, and other utility projects. They started small, with a crew consisting almost entirely of World War II veterans, two of whom, like Frank, had been wounded. Stella managed the home office and Frank ran field operations. Eventually, they established a partnership with seven utility companies in the region and worked on state and local projects. They worked hard and prospered. Even into the late 1990s, when Frank was in his eighties, he rose early in the morning to join work crews clearing paths for power lines through rural Pennsylvania. Eventually, he was forced to slow down.

With their losses never far from their minds, Frank and Stella found time for those in their community who also knew misfortune, tragedy, and limited opportunity. Over the years they made generous donations to local civic and veterans' groups. They contributed a million dollars to Pennsylvania State's College of Medicine to support research in leukemia and cerebral palsy. They quietly provided scholarship money for students in central Pennsylvania who wished to study either forestry or nursing. They gave money or company stock to their original employees or their surviving spouses to help them in their retirement. They supported their church, library, and fire department. And they helped fund memorials to fallen soldiers. In all their acts of giving, they were unobtrusive. They were humble and grateful people.

My father also believed that people are worth helping and that lives are worth saving, and the lives of Frank and Stella Wawrynovic bear him out. Frank and Stella's resiliency, determination, and generosity have improved the lives of countless neighbors, friends, and even strangers. They have helped the Carter family,

too. Several years after I made contact with Frank, he and Stella donated \$250,000 to the Norval Carter Memorial Medical Scholarship Fund at Marshall University in Huntington, a fund established by my father's colleagues years earlier.

Frank never forgot the sights, the sounds, and the sacrifices of war. He wrote a short memoir, "A Soldier Remembers Normandy," which was published in the Twenty-ninth Division Association's newsletter in November, 1991. It was dedicated to my father and the two medics. In September 1997 I joined Frank and other D-Day veterans for a visit to the hallowed ground of Normandy. Together we would pay tribute to the fallen heroes.

When I first visited my father's grave in 1985, I had known very little about him. Now, through my parents' correspondence, my contact with people like Frank Wawrynovic, and my research into the Normandy campaign, I was better informed but still unprepared for the intensity of the experience. In that sprawling cemetery above Omaha Beach, I was deeply moved to witness these elderly soldiers as they solemnly paid respect to their fallen comrades. Some of these men had been with my father, and in their company I felt as if I were in his presence.

One of these was E. J. Hamill, the soldier who had begged my father to clear him for the D-Day invasion even though he was ill, had stood with him as their landing craft approached Omaha Beach, and had tried to dissuade him from venturing into the open to treat Frank and the other wounded soldiers. Hamill led my children and me down to the beach. "I was with your granddad when we landed on this beach," he told them. Hamill pointed out the path they had taken up the hill overlooking the beach.

We boarded buses and moved inland, toward the town of St. Laurent and then on to Colombières, where my father had told Lt. Roger Watson to go to the aid of the injured French children. I looked down a road that led east to Bricqueville. In that vicinity, I now knew, my father had treated Billy Melander of Tonawanda, New York. I stood in a church in St. Marguerite-sur-Elle, the site of another converted aid station and likely where he had treated Capt. John Ryan and had shown him photographs of Tom and me. There, or perhaps in the Pagny family's chateau, my father had written his last letters to his wife and his parents.

A little farther southwest, at the west end of Road D-448, which runs alongside the Bois de Bretel, I stood with my family, the veterans, and our French hosts as Frank Wawrynovic addressed us. He recounted his experience—being shot while on a scouting mission, crawling back toward the American line, calling for help, being attended to by my father and the two medics, and watching in horror as they fell.

Near Frank stood a road sign covered with a banner. When he finished speaking, two of our French hosts drew back the banner and revealed the name: Captain Carter Road. An honor guard presented the colors, a trumpeter played taps, and my children brought forward a bouquet of flowers, which I placed at the base of the sign. I spoke briefly, thanking the veterans and reading aloud from some of my father's letters, including the one to his friend John Morris. "It is rough as hell and I'll admit I fear for the future. However, I am happier here than anywhere else in the Army. A swell bunch of officers and men. One feels very close to these men and I want to do my best for them. I don't fear death per se, but it really de-



Walter Carter placing flowers at the spot where his father was killed, Bois de Bretel, September 1997.

presses me to think that I may never see Fernie, Tom, and Walter Ford again."

Reboarding our buses, we drove along Captain Carter Road, stopping at an opening in a hedgerow. Here my father had taken care of the wounded Frank. We followed Frank to the site, and he pointed out, across the narrow country road, the woods from which the German sniper had fired.

I tried to take it all in. I stared hard at the ground, vainly searching for blood stains. I turned toward the impenetrable woods across the road, wanting to plunge in to look for empty shell casings or other traces of the sniper. From his side of the road, I looked back to frame the picture he saw. I imagined American soldiers on the other side of the hedgerow, poised to attack or repel counterattack. I peered into the ploughed cornfield that was once an orchard, envisaging fallen combatants. It was too much. I knew I would have to come back, to climb over the hedgerows, walk the field, search the woods, and feel the reverberations of my father's fear and determination.

The following day, at the American cemetery at Colleville, we laid a bouquet at the base of my father's headstone and then embraced. I told my wife and children that I wished my father had known them—he would have loved and enjoyed them very much—but that I was glad that they knew him at last.

We also attended a consecration ceremony at the Wall of Remembrance in St. Jean de Savigny. Dedicated to the men of the Twenty-ninth Division, the wall contained plaques bearing veterans' names, including my father's. There we met Pierre Labée, a hard-working farmer and one of several Frenchmen who had built the wall with their own hands. Pierre bore the marks of his tough existence on the land, and he made a profound impression on our children. When Pierre and Norman were engaged in small talk, Pierre suddenly exclaimed something in French and then walked away. Tears welled up in Norman's eyes. Turning to Bonnie, Catherine, and me, he translated Pierre's words: "Your grandfather died for us."

Our trip to Normandy was drawing to a close. I felt as if I had attended his funeral, fifty-three years after his death.

For more than half a century, my father's story remained lost—to us, his loved ones, as well as to history. The pain of my mother's grief, as well as the joy of her life before the war, would have remained unexpressed had those letters not been found. I would not have met Frank and Stella and so many other veterans and

friends of my father's had I not embarked on a journey whose end I could not have imagined.

In death my father showed me—and others—everything I needed to know about courage and sacrifice and the awful price we often must pay for liberty. And my mother, although she mourned every day of her life after receiving that telegram, taught me another lesson. Regardless of our circumstances, each of us must do what we can with the talents we have to bring some light into the darkness of the world. I was always proud of my father's service to his country and my mother's service to her family. But I did not truly understand what that word service meant.

Now I know. And with this knowledge, I have found a measure of peace.

In a letter to his friend John Morris on May 15, 1944, as he was preparing for D-Day, my father tried to explain why he had volunteered for combat, but words failed him. "It is impossible to know why," he confided, "my feelings are all mixed up about it." I do not know why, either, but I no longer believe it is important to know.

Perhaps my father, knowing he might not come home, was determined to introduce himself to his children through these letters. My mother joined in his purpose by saving them for us. She knew we would find them.

I am left with a legacy of words—the words of two people who

were very much in love, who spent childhood days together when the twentieth century was young, who drove off in a car one day to get married, who expected to spend their lives together, and who gave life to me. They were still young when events far from

West Virginia changed their lives and their dreams. Indeed, the war changed everything—everything, that is, except their love. Their stories, like their love, will never die.

In a few years the veterans of World War II will seem as ghostlike to the children of the twenty-first century as Civil War veterans did to children of my parents' generation. Place names that once conjured images of heroism and death—Iwo Jima, Salerno, Omaha Beach—now are heard only in the classroom, if there. Few, if any, tributes are directed to the remarkable women who held families together while their husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers went off to war. Still, as long as there are graves above Omaha Beach, we dare not

forget the men and women who fought and sacrificed not for themselves but for us. Men and women like the people I met on my own journey of discovery—Dad and Mom.



Walter Carter and his family - Bonnie, Catherine, and Norman - at Norval's grave, Colleville-sur-Mer, September 1997.

Editor's note: This concludes Walter Carter's condensed version of "No Greater Love, No Greater Sacrifice."

The editorial staff is very grateful to Walter for allowing us to publish his work.

Locator Forum

I am doing research into my uncle's U.S. Army service in WWII. He was 1st Lt. Harold Chaney, 175th, 2 BN, HQ Co. 29th Division. He was the leader of the Anti-Tank Platoon assigned to the 2 BN, HQ Co and was with the 175th from around September 1, 1944 until April 23, 1945 when he was KIA in Wolfsburg-sche Forst west of Klotze, Germany.

I am attempting to contact other men who served in the 2 BN, HQ Co. during this time and may have known my uncle.

My contact information is:

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Auxiliary President's Message

The Auxiliary welcomed spring with a flurry of activity. Members of the Auxiliary have continued to participate with Post 64 in memorial services, parades, of Change of Commands, and the laying of wreaths .

Profits from a fundraiser enabled the Auxiliary to donate to the Military Family Support Center in Salem, Virginia. Additionally, a paver which is dedicated to the 29th Division was purchased by the Auxiliary and placed at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

Continuing our mission to aid and comfort to the veterans of the 29th Division, the ladies of the Auxiliary planned birthday parties for two World War II veteran members of Post 64, Tom Boyer, 98 and John Kessler, 94. Both gentlemen were delighted with their respective cake, balloons, cards, and the visit from those in attendance.

The Auxiliary members are currently making plans for the upcoming National Reunion and seeing everyone. See you in October.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Juanita King
National Auxiliary President

The Last Roll Call

Fifth and last volume in WWII 29th Division History,
to be released in August 2015

by Joseph Balkoski

Joseph Balkoski completes his magisterial history of the 29th with his customary authority, verve, and artistry. This is a tour de force of historical writing. The narrative is so compelling and so filled with human drama that at times it brought tears to my eyes. No one understands the World War II U.S. infantry soldier better than Balkoski. — John C. McManus, author of “The Dead and Those About to Die: D-Day: The Big Red One at Omaha Beach”.

More than thirty-one years have passed since the day when, on a whim, I voluntarily walked away from a stable, high-paying job to embark on an entirely new endeavor. The idea was to take a year or at most two years off from work to write a World War II history book, something I had never done before and, I had to admit, had no idea how to do.

Much more daunting was the prospect of a significantly reduced income: I was promised a one thousand dollar advance to sign the book contract; then I would receive another one thousand dollar check when the book was released. As I figured I would need more than a year to complete the project, I knew that such a meager amount of money would not come close to cover living expenses; I would have to dig in to savings to sustain even a modest lifestyle.

But when the book, *Beyond the Beachhead*, was finally published in 1988, I knew immediately the financial sacrifices had been worth it. That book has now been continuously in print for twenty-seven years and has sold tens of thousands of copies. My timing had been fortuitous: in an era long before World War II veterans had been christened “The Greatest Generation,” *Beyond the Beachhead* managed to strike a nerve in the psyches of many by relating the brutal realities of front-line combat that Americans had mostly forgotten in the euphoria of the Allies’ great World War II victory over fascism.

Much more important to me than the success of the book, however, were the countless enduring friendships I forged with World War II 29ers who, when I embarked upon the project, were younger men than I am today. They are of course almost all gone now, but I was repeatedly humbled by listening to World War II accounts—most of them sobering—pouring out of the veterans’ memories, knowing full well that they had only rarely spoken of them even to their own families.

I never intended to carry the 29th Division’s story beyond Normandy, where in late July 1944, *Beyond the Beachhead* concludes. But one of those cherished 29th Division comrades, Father Bill Holberton—a wartime member of the 115th Infantry who turned to the priesthood after the war—pointed out to me that the 29th Division still had nine months of hard fighting after Normandy, and those thousands of men like him who joined the 29th at the close of the Normandy campaign or afterward needed to have their stories told too.

I had to admit that he was entirely correct, for a glance at the 29th Division’s battle record pointed out that the division suffered more casualties after Normandy than it did on the tough slog from Omaha Beach to St. Lô. To complete the story of the 29th Division in World War II, therefore, I had to carry it to its crashing finale by depicting the ferocious battles at Vire, Fort Montbary, Brest, Aachen, Bourheim, Koslar, Jülich, Dortmund, and all the way to the banks of the Elbe River in Germany, where the 29th finally met the Red Army in May 1945.

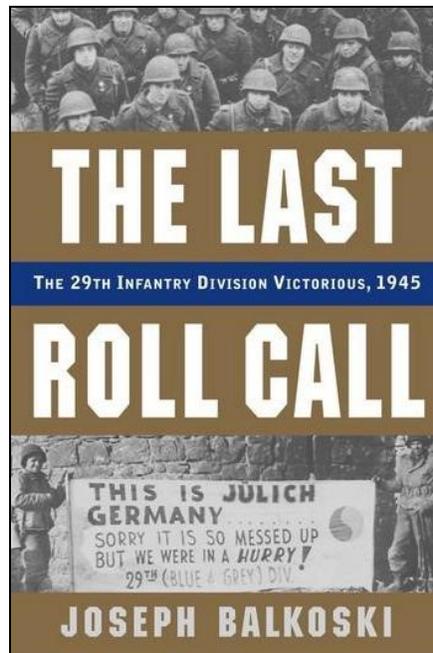
And so, thirty-one years after my impulsive whim to commence writing a book, I’m still at it. I never did go back to that rat-race job. But thankfully the end of my 29th Division chronicle is close, so

close that I have now begun to worry whether any other prospective subject for a book can replace three-plus decades of obsession with the 29th Division.

Frankly, I don’t think it can. Thanks to the magnificent collection of 29th Division archival records held in the Fifth Regiment Armory, a cornucopia of papers and artifacts that is expanding by the month, the follow-on books covering the 29th’s World War II combat history were a joy to write. *From Beachhead to Brittany* (Volume 2) depicts the 29th Division’s fierce three-week struggle to capture the French port of Brest, a battle that was expected to be easy and quick but turned out to be anything but; *From Brittany to the Reich* (Volume 3) covers the 29th’s 500-mile movement to Holland and the German frontier, during which the division got sucked into the terrible battle for Aachen and waged a frustrating period of stagnant warfare as dismal late au-

tumn weather set in to western Europe, triggering thousands of non-battle casualties from trench foot and combat exhaustion; *Our Tortured Souls* (Volume 4) portrays the western Allies’ unsuccessful attempt to end the war by Christmas 1944, a period in which the 29th Division smashed ahead across the Rhineland plain toward the German city of Jülich, gaining only six miles of inconsequential real estate at the cost of thousands more casualties.

The fifth and final volume in the 29th Division World War II quintet, *The Last Roll Call*, is now complete and is ready to go to the printer for release in late August 2015. The story picks up where Volume 4, *Our Tortured Souls*, ends, on New Year’s Eve, 1944, opposite Jülich on the banks of the Roer River in Germany. Compared to what was transpiring forty miles to the south in the Ar-



dennes during the massive German offensive that came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge—from which the Allied high command had mercifully spared the 29th Division—the Jülich front was tranquil: at worst the 29ers endured sporadic German barrages; now and then they ran patrols across the icy Roer to snoop on the enemy.

But every 29er realized that sooner or later the Allies would take the offensive again: it was just a question of when and where. The 29th Division had been within rifle-shot range of Jülich since late November 1944, when that historic city with Roman origins was a major Allied steppingstone on the road to the Rhine River and ultimately Berlin.

That autumn, the enemy had masterfully held back the American juggernaut on the Roer far short of the Rhine, and when the Germans' Ardennes offensive erupted on December 16, Eisenhower reluctantly abandoned any further ideas of reaching the Rhine by Christmas. But nothing had altered Ike's conviction that the Allies would eventually deliver the *coup de grâce* against the enemy on the northern part of the Western Front in that area of the Rhineland known as the Cologne Plain.

When the enemy's Ardennes effort petered out and the weather cleared, the 29th Division stood poised to participate in what Eisenhower hoped would mark the denouement of the European war. This would mark the fourth time since D-Day, only eight months in the past, that the 29th would be at the forefront of a major Anglo-American offensive, exactly where Ike wanted his toughest outfits to be.

And there *The Last Roll Call* begins. The story progresses from the 29th Division's most successful World War II operation, the assault across the flood-swollen Roer, to the division's speedy blitzkrieg across the Cologne Plain, on to the Rhine crossing and the subjugation of the Ruhr pocket, and finally to the stunning advance to the Elbe River in central Germany.

Along the way, the 29ers enjoy a meal at Joseph Goebbels' home, manage hundreds of thousands of desperate refugees, capture an entire German division along with a set of silver worth a million dollars, carry out countless parades, meet boisterous Russian Cossacks, and settle into occupation duties in Bremen. That pesky non-fraternization policy, however, meant that meeting German members of the opposite sex would be difficult. *The Last Roll Call* concludes with the return of both living and dead 29ers to the United States, a country that returning veterans would learn was already beginning to forget the war and focus on a new era of prosperity.

And so my life's work is finally finished... It has been a humbling experience to relate the 29th Division's five-year odyssey from small-town National Guard armories in Maryland and Virginia to western Europe and back again amid the greatest cataclysm in world history. Telling that grueling story honestly and respectfully challenged every fiber in my mind and body, but the battered men who lived and died in wartime episodes related in the five volumes over thousands of pages deserve nothing less. We can never forget what they endured and what they accomplished, and if in some small way I've contributed to our collective memory, then I have succeeded.

People always tell me I should continue the 29th Division's story by writing one or more books on the division's World War I history as we approach the centennial of America's entry into that conflict. I'll have to give that some thought.

Twenty-nine, let's go!

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 veterans displayed during these most perilous years in the history of mankind.

Heline, Walter

A Battery, 224th FA Battalion
Parkville, Maryland
Post 110

Klausmeyer, Milton J.

B Company, 175th Infantry
Parkville, Maryland
Post 72

Martin, Archer N.

HQB, 110th FA Battalion
Penn Yan, New York
Post 110

Miller, Russell P.

I Company, 116th Infantry
Janesville, Minnesota
Post 29

Scalesse, Raymond V.

C Company, 115th Infantry
Somerville, Massachusetts
Post 2

Locator Forum

Trying to find someone???
Looking for relatives of a soldier???
Please contact the editor at:

edit-pub29er@hotmail.com or **duster197329@gmail.com**

or see the contact information for the editor listed on page 2.

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!*

BG (MD) Dr. Frank Barranco, Past National Surgeon

The 29th Division Association Inc., regrets to announce the death of Past National Surgeon, Dr. Frank "Doc" Barranco on 21 March 2015. Dr. Barranco passed away after a short illness at Oak Crest Village in Parkville, MD. He was 84.

Dr. Barranco spent 30 years practicing medicine as an orthopedic surgeon and is remembered for his service in the field of emergency medicine, Maryland Army National Guard and numerous other volunteer and civic activities.

Dr. Barranco served in the Maryland Army National Guard from 1958 to 1987 retiring at the rank of Brigadier General (MD). He was initially assigned to the 110th Field Artillery Battalion in Pikesville. From 1973 to 1976, he commanded the 136th Combat Support Hospital in Parkville holding the rank of Colonel at the time.

He finished his formal military career in the State Area Command Headquarters as the State Surgeon under the office of the Adjutant General. After his formal retirement in 1987, he served as Commanding General of the State De-



fense Force of the Maryland State Guard from 1993 to 1996.

As a volunteer to the community, Doc was well known for his membership in the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company where he initiated a lifetime of service as a specialist in emergency medicine. Doc often responded directly to rescues and fires in his own personal vehicle known by fire dispatch as "Car 602."

Because of his interest in emergency medicine and his role as First Surgeon, he played a significant role in modernizing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Baltimore County through education, instruction and advice.

Dr. Barranco received numerous awards for his work including the Legion of Merit, the Maryland National Guard Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, and one of the first "Baltimore's Best" award for supervising the first aid provided at the Baltimore March of Dimes Walk-a-thon in the early 1980s.

In addition to his parents, and wife Beverly, Dr. Barranco was preceded in death by his brother, Robert S. Barranco, Sr., in 2003.

Dr. Barranco is survived by his six children and their spouses: Deborah and Robert Kearney, Michael and Kimberly Barranco, Frank Jr. and Jean Barranco, Thomas and Mary Jo Barranco, Susan and Timothy O'Haire, and Mary and Jeff Smythe; his sister Mary A DelRosso; 15 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Contributions to *The Twenty-Niner*

In the Spring issue of the *Twenty-Niner*, we asked for contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* in order to continue our efforts to follow the precepts of the preamble to the constitution and by-laws of the Association. Namely to keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat, glorify our dead and ever keep before our country the record of the 29th Division in all the wars. We thanked the generous habitual contributors we have, and asked for a few more people to help.

That is just what we got. 43 of the 2000 members who receive the *Twenty-Niner* sent in a check. These checks ranged from \$10 to \$500 for a total of \$4,016. We are most grateful to these few. Their names are listed in the front of this issue.

I am sure that many of you meant to send a check but in the hubbub of daily life simply forgot. **It's not too late.** Remember that the cost to issue the *Twenty-Niner* exceeds 100 percent of the income from dues. We can only tap the investment account for so long. We need your help. Mail your check made out to the 29th Division Association to P.O. Box 47634, Windsor Mill MD. 21244. For debit or credit card contributions go to www.29thdivisionassociation.com. Thank you for your generosity.

29 Lets Go!

PNC Bob Moscati
National Executive Director

SPECIAL NOTICE!

The National Auxiliary desires to honor all former National Auxiliary Presidents.

Therefore, if anyone knows names and term dates, please forward to: Juanita King, NAP. Additionally, any activities and/or information which occurred during their terms would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please forward to:

JUANITA KING
National Auxiliary President
4715 Glen Ivy Circle SW
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
sargking1@cox.net

71st Anniversary draws a large crowd to the National D-Day Memorial

On Saturday, 6 June 2015, the 71st Anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy was held at The National D-Day Memorial. The annual commemoration ceremony paid tribute to those who participated in the Invasion, the largest amphibious assault in history, while remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice on that fateful day of days.

Nearly 2,000 people from across the country honored our veterans with their presence for the D-Day commemoration. At least 50 D-Day and World War II veterans were in attendance.

The theme for the day was valor, fidelity, and sacrifice. Not a soul uttered a word when the 29th Division Band began the drum roll and *Attention*, followed by the Presentation of the Colors.

The wreath laying portion of the ceremony, in tribute to units involved in the D-Day invasion, was especially emotional to observe, along with the playing of *Taps* shortly afterwards.

The procession of wreaths included representation from numerous embassy officials from Belgium, France, Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands.

Other wreath layers included representatives from the 29th Infantry Division Association, 29th Infantry Division Ladies Auxiliary, 1st Infantry Division Association, 101st Infantry Division Association, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, 8th U.S. Air Force, 4th Infantry Division Association, 5th Ranger Battalion, 2nd Ranger Battalion, The Glider Pilot Regimental Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Keynote speaker Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco brought the audience to tears with her stirring and inspiring speech on the subject of remembering the past and preserving fierce patriotism in the face of evil.

Dame Mary Barraco was an American teenager living in Nazi occupied Belgium. At the tender age of 17, Mary made the courageous decision to join the "Freedom

Fighters", a Resistance Group known for aiding downed pilots, sneaking supplies and knowledge in and out of detention camps, and providing safe haven for Jewish citizens fleeing from Nazi persecution.

Mary and her fiancé were eventually betrayed, for the equivalent of \$15, by none other than a fellow Belgian partisan. Both were captured and separated by the



Gestapo and were sent to a series of detainment camps.

Mary's fiancé was executed while she spent the remainder of her captivity in a Nazi controlled concentration camp. Mary was subjected to unimaginable horrors while imprisoned, yet despite it all, she continued to fight for liberty and freedom, drawing strength from God, justice, and love of country.

After Dame Mary's moving speech, the U.S. Coast Guard Ceremonial Silent Drill Team honored our D-Day and WWII veterans with a *Tribute to Veterans* performance in the main plaza. Once again, the audience was completely silent and in awe of the talented group of men and women displaying phenomenal discipline as they swung their battle ready rifles with precise execution.

Shortly after the conclusion of the ceremony, patrons were treated to the delightful talents of the 29th Division Band featuring guest conductor Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel, legendary conductor and World War II veteran.

Col. Gabriel served as a machine gunner with the 29th Infantry Division in Europe during World War II, receiving two Bronze Star Medals, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the French Croix de Guerre.

He continued his military career with 21

years dedicated to the United States Air Force, conducting the renowned U.S. Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra, and the Singing Sergeants from 1964-1985. Following his retirement, Col. Gabriel was awarded the Legion of Merit for his service to the U.S. Air Force and to music education.

A highlight for so many each year is the Veterans' reunion tent. D-Day and World War II veterans are able to visit with old friends as they and their families share memories of the past and hopes for the future. This year, the reunion tent had a special treat for our veterans and

visitors. The Woodmen of the World, in celebration of their 125th anniversary, wanted to pay tribute to D-Day veterans by baking a patriotic cake for their enjoyment. The cake showcased the twelve Allied nations that took part in the Normandy landings, along with all five invasion beaches.

Warmest thanks to all who supported the National D-Day Memorial for such a special event. AREVA, Financial Designs, Freedom Aviation, Winoa USA, and Woodmen of the World Lodge 175 were fundamental to the success of the 71st Anniversary of D-Day.

Please visit our newly redesigned giving page where your support can further benefit the National D-Day Memorial's mission of keeping their memory alive. Click on the events page for upcoming activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Visit www.dday for more information.

The future success of the National D-Day Memorial rests in the giving hands of our supporters. We appreciate all you do for us and hope you will continue to help us preserve the history and lessons of the World War II generation.

April Cheek-Messier
President,
National D-Day Memorial Foundation

American Hero, the memoirs of Staff Sergeant Leonard Jindra

"American Hero", the memoirs of Staff Sergeant Leonard Jindra, were published in October 2014 by Infinity Publishing. A legal immigrant at age 16 from the Czechoslovak Republic, SSgt Jindra was a rifleman in the 29th "Let's Go!" Division, where, as a Private, he was part of the first wave of the Allied invasion of Europe, which assaulted Omaha Beach, Normandy, France in the early morning hours of D-Day, June 6th, 1944. Originally rejected for military service, young Ladislav worked extra jobs to afford surgery, in order to change his enlistment status voluntarily to A-1; after the invasion phase of Operation Overlord, Staff Sergeant Jindra advanced in combat for 56 days, through the dense Norman hedgerows of Nazi-occupied northern France; he experienced battlefield horrors and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant; suffered three serious injuries and a near mortal wound; convalesced and volunteered to spy behind enemy lines; ... and then came home and worked on the NASA space program and the Space Race to the Moon. His is not just a war story, it is the story of a life: Tom Sawyer meets Walter Mitty meets Forrest Gump, ... and they all met General Patton.

Meeting General Patton

The jeep's driver made a sudden stop and narrowly avoided running me over. I looked over to the jeep, at its passenger in the front seat, and started to yell out to the driver, why the hell he didn't look where he was going. I was glad that I was in one piece, but I was not very diplomatic and I really let both the driver and the passenger have it.

With that, the passenger, an older man, jumped out of the jeep and started to come toward me. He did not say a word and just walked right up to me. As I was just about to yell to him, what the hell do you want buddy, I saw the sight of a lifetime.

I could not believe my eyes. I straightened up to see three shining silver stars on a polished intruder helmet along with two pearl handled pistols, which I had seen once before in England. Wearing them was Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr. We just stood there for a moment, General Patton and I, in the middle of the road, staring at each other.

As the general and I stood there, horses were making sounds in the field above us. General Patton started to say something to me, heard the horses, and turned his head to listen. The general turned to me, looked me in the eyes, then quietly, but firmly demanded for me to tell him where there were horses. I told him they were in the field above us. General Patton suddenly started walking, turned and shouted for me to show him where the horses were.

The general had started off in the wrong direction, and when he turned to look back for me and saw the direction I was walking, he stopped, backtracked, and quickly started to follow me. General



Patton and I climbed up from the sunken road, walked around the rest of the fellas playing football, and proceeded out into the field, where we saw horses tied to a tree. When the general saw them, his expression changed and he told me, with great admiration, that those were military horses.

General Patton walked over, untied one of the horses and, without waiting for a saddle, jumped onto the horse's back and galloped to the far side of the field and back. As he was riding, one of the men yelled out, hey buddy, this was no polo game this was football. General Patton was having too good a time; he just rode on, smiled at the men, and did not even answer.

General Patton Takes a Ride

As General Patton rode around the field, the fellas kept playing football, seemingly unawares of their very famous visitor. I just stood there, in awe and admiration, watching, as the general rode this horse, expertly and easily, with no saddle.

When General Patton was done riding, he rode back to the tree where I was waiting, tapped me on the shoulder, handing me the reigns, and said, Soldier, thank you, he (the horse) is all yours.

I was so close to General Patton that I could see the wrinkles on his face. With that, the general left, slid down the embankment, and made his way back to the sunken road. I tied up the horse, rushed over, looked down, and saw him get into his jeep. I was surprised to see that he was now not alone. There were several jeeps and command cars behind him. Very quickly the convoy moved out and headed down the main road.

When I got back to the game, one of the fellas asked me if that really was "Old Blood and Guts." When I told him that it was, we all just stood there, amazed. For a while we all discussed this surprise visit, wondering why and speculating what General Patton was doing there. Later, we realized the general had gone to see the terrain for himself; we later found out, that area was where he soon was to start his "Break out" towards Paris.

Lesson for Life from General Patton

While our meeting was short and sweet, we only had good memories about General Patton. At that time and on that day, I never knew how much General Patton would influence my life. I looked up to my father, but he had died while I was a young boy. To me, General Patton was a real soldier and a role model.

To this day, I wish I knew on that July day in 1944 what I know now and wish I could have found the words to thank General Patton for what he had taught me in the few times I had the chance to see him and to meet him. The general told us to keep things short and simple; give me a

good plan today, not a perfect plan next week; after a soldier goes behind the lines, he is useless as a fighting man. I never forgot this advice.

I found these teachings of General Patton very helpful after the war, at work and in my private life. I taught these sayings of General Patton to my son and to my daughter. I consider myself very fortunate to have met General Patton, even if it was only for a very brief time, in a small field in Normandy France.

Life in Combat

Excerpts from a speech given by Staff Sergeant Leonard Jindra, 29th Division at United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, 7th May 2010.

Most of us ex-combat infantrymen do not feel comfortable describing in detail what transpired in combat. I shall try to convey some of what I felt and thought at that time.

We trained as infantrymen to save our lives and the lives of our comrades, to destroy the enemy, and to capture territory. In combat, the life of an infantryman is constantly threatened by enemy bullets, shrapnel, shells, artillery, bombs, mines, booby traps, tanks, snipers, and at times even by friendly fire.

An infantryman sleeps in a foxhole, rain or shine. At times he is hot and at other times he is cold; at times he is hungry and at other times he is thirsty; at all times his clothes are bloody, ripped and dirty. Most nights, if the situation allows it,

an infantryman only sleeps in two to three hour shifts.

Through it all, an infantryman hopes he will somehow survive. An infantryman advances to help and protect his buddies. He keeps on going because there is a beach to be secured, a river to cross, a hill to be taken, a town to be captured, a village to be liberated, a forest to hold, or a meadow to advance upon.

An infantryman does not want to show fear or cowardice to his buddies; in combat, they are like his family. When an infantryman sees one of his comrades killed, he doesn't want to admit that another day, the same thing may happen to him. Somehow, he convinces himself that danger will bypass him, death will spare him, and there is no enemy bullet with his name on it.

The territory an infantryman secures and holds is won by supreme sacrifice, by hardship, and by the blood and sweat of his comrades. An infantryman is often afraid and scared, yet he does not admit he is scared. An infantryman goes forward when many others would go back; he goes onward when many other would quit; he keeps going when many would not. His hope is that he will see sunrise and sunset, again and again. This was the life of an infantryman in combat in World War II.

In this memoir, I have tried, to the best of my memory and recollection, to convey to you the highlights of my service with the 29th Division of the US Army. I was proud

to serve in this historic National Guard unit, federalized for service in World War II. It started at 10,000 strong and filled its ranks to 25,000 men for the D-Day invasion. The 29th Division performed courageously and honorably for all it was asked to do.

The 29th Division is known as the "The Blue and the Gray Division" because, during the Civil War, part of it fought for the North and part of it fought for the South. Our motto was and is "29 Let's Go!" We who served in the 29th are proud to say, "I am a 29er," because we are part of its accomplishments and its history.

The 29th Division was one of the first units to land on Omaha Beach, and it remained in combat until World War II ended in Europe. Its legacy is proud and was well earned. The men of the 29th Division kept on going, and they lived up to their motto—"The Spirit That Never Knew Defeat." I am proud to be a "29er."

About the Author

Lawrence F. Jindra, M.D., is a graduate of Harvard University, and the University of Oxford; he served as a White House Fellow, a Surgeon with the US Marine Corps Reserve, as a Chief Emeritus of Ophthalmology at Winthrop University Hospital, and as the Founder of Floral Park Ophthalmology. This is his first foray into general publishing.

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www.29thdivisionassociation.com

and click on "Merchandise".

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:**Achtung: D-Day Imposter, do we have more amongst us??**

Recently, in the course of my duties as editor, I had the sad misfortune of discovering that one of our members is an imposter. This man claimed to have landed on D-Day as a soldier of the 29th Infantry Division and was wounded, the only survivor of his landing craft.

Yet, when I checked the official U.S. Army Morning Reports for that time period, I could not find his name. Further investigation revealed that this man was in the Army Air Corps and never left England. He was never wounded, never participated in any campaigns and certainly wasn't authorized or deserved to wear the many awards and decorations that he has been wearing for many years. He has appeared in several local publications talking about his experience on D-Day when in reality, he was nowhere near.

This man is a total fraud, yet he has been lurking in our association for a number of years basking in the glory of the heroic deeds and sacrifices made by our real 29th veterans. I find this behavior disgusting and disgraceful.

There may be more members out there who have *stretched the truth* somewhat when they relate their World War II experiences to their family, friends and/or co-workers.

I would hope that these members realize that due to the "Freedom of Information Act" we have access to all government records and can check the Morning Reports of their units. We can also obtain their discharge documents (if they weren't destroyed in the "Great Fire" of 1973), which lists what awards they are authorized to wear; campaigns they participated in; and wounds received.

I did not experience any kind of jubilation in discovering that this man has been deceiving his family, friends, and colleagues for possibly 70 years.

It is very sad that an individual should have to resort to something like this to justify themselves in the eyes of their family/peers.

This man did serve during WWII and should have been proud of that service just knowing that he is among those of the *Greatest Generation*. Yet he chose to make fraudulent claims and to deceive everyone.

I truly hope that our real 29th veterans of D-Day and beyond will try to understand what these types of men are all about. There are more men out there just like this man. Should we treat them with "compassion" or "contempt"? I guess it's up to the individual judging them?

If any member wishes to comment on this, please contact me. My contact information is listed on page 2 of every edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. I will consider publishing any comments submitted, however, the identity of those commenting will remain anonymous.

30th Anniversary of the Reactivation

This coming October, marks the 30th anniversary of a very important event in the history of our 29th Division. The 29th Infantry Division (Light) was reactivated on 5 October 1985 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Those of you who read this publication from cover to cover will have read two recent articles that have been written about events from that time. The reactivation didn't happen overnight. It took 11 long months for that to occur.

Initially, there was a small group of soldiers who were assigned to the 29th Provisional Headquarters at Fort Belvoir during the months of November and December 1984.

As the year of 1985 progressed, so too did the amount of soldiers

joining the Division headquarters staff. By October 1985, everything was in order and the reactivation occurred.

Brigadier General (Retired) William C. Bilo, then the Chief of Staff of the 29th Division, has been contacted recently by several Virginia and Maryland Guardsmen with the hopes of having some sort of a reunion commemorating this 30th anniversary.

This editor recommended to BG Bilo that he encourage these former guardsmen to attend our convention in Fredericksburg, VA. 15-18 October 2015, whereby they will be eligible for the reduced room rate and can enjoy the other activities that are planned.

Therefore, at the upcoming convention in Fredericksburg this October, we hope to have a group of the original Virginia and Maryland Guardsmen who were on hand at that time and who were instrumental in the rebirth of our division. I am proud to say that I was part of that group and consider it one of the highlights of my life.

I would welcome any past members of the Headquarters of the 29th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Belvoir, VA during the period November 1984 through October 1985, to please attend our convention. We already have about a dozen individuals who have expressed interest in attending. We hope to increase that amount in the next few months.

Registration, meals and lodging information are listed on page 39 of this issue.

William S. Mund, Jr.
Editor

POST HAPPENINGS

Post #1

Post #1 has suffered two losses: Ephram J. Hamill, D/115 (WWII) and Lenwood N. Stevens, Jr. K/175 (WWII).

To the next of kin for these veterans, we express our condolences for their loss and our sincere appreciation for their service and hope their relatives will continue to support the 29th Division Association.

On a brighter side, we have a new member: James H. Halterman, Jr. SGM, HHC 29th Division. We are looking for great things from this new member

Our Commander, Grant Hayden, developed a distinctive membership application to encourage recruiting exclusive for Post 1. We are already experiencing some success.

This new application form was used by the adjutant who recently attended a Veteran's Resource Fair sponsored by the Howard County, Maryland Commission for Veterans and Military Families. Representing not only Post 1 but the entire Association as its National Commander, he was able to recruit two new members. Their applications are being reviewed as of this date and their names will appear in a subsequent "Twenty-Niner" publication.

Lastly, we are working on our local members to begin attending Post meetings – meetings being held in conjunction with Post 72 – this as a prelude to Post 1 being able to hold its own meetings. Let's pray that this program proves to be a winner.

Submitted by Post Adjutant I. John Vaccarino

Florida West Post #2

Hello, and best wishes to all of our loyal members, friends and supporters! As most of you know, Post #2 is "down" for the summer. However, although we will not be "meeting" until September 10, at the earliest, there will be a "Summer" newsletter.

Judie and I are dealing with the normal problems people of our age deal with, plus a few others.

As you know, we are full time Floridians. I was never found of the term "Snow Birds," but it was what it was! We are currently dealing with selling our home of 46 years, never an easy process emotionally and, for us, from a practical standpoint, in view of the fact that we are doing it 1,021 miles away.

In the future, we will enjoy the beauty of snow storms on TV from Sarasota. Continuing on a personal note, we are still looking for a dog to replace the companionship that we so very much enjoyed from "Sugar."

Our last "meeting" was on May 14. We only had seven people who attended, and although it was different from other meetings, we all enjoyed ourselves; I think because we were able to talk and spend time with everyone. Two of the attendees were WWII veterans: Cosmo Uttero (H/175) and Anne Welk (ET) Nurse).

Unfortunately, so many of the members who were the heart and soul of Post #2 are no longer able to attend. Dick Ford, Bob Brickner, Ernie Rutherford, Edward Kent, Don Mellon, George Cook, Ted Daubresse, and Paul Kramer. We're looking forward to Joe and Judy Steimel returning to Florida full time.

Of course you all know that Joe Joseph and Dick Quigley

passed last year. However, we're going to hold on to "scheduled meetings" as long as we can. Let's face it; our membership is "old" simply because many of us live in Florida.

Judie and I were introduced to Sarasota in 1992. In the laundry room of the motel we stayed in, there was a note on the wall: Old people live in Miami. Their parents live in Sarasota! Facts are facts!!

Although Isadore Berch (B/115/WWII) doesn't live in Sarasota, (he and Virginia live in Buena Park, CA), they are living the Sarasota life style. The last time I spoke with Virginia, she said that at 96, Ike was pulling weeds in his garden! Bless his heart!!

May God bless all of you. Please keep me aware of changes in address, phone numbers, etc. I love to hear from you all!!!!

Submitted by Post Commander Taylor Thomas

Allen S. Levin, Canada Post #3

Post 3 has been very quiet this year, most of our members are also members of several other military and veterans organizations and have been busy with them. We have used this year to sit back and evaluate our resources and abilities. The executives have started to make organizational plans and we hope to implement more of them in the fall.

One of the activities that a large number of our Post members will be participating in this summer is the annual Warrior's Day Parade which takes place during the Canadian National Exhibition every August. This parade has been running continuously for 94 years and draws participants from all across Canada as well as U.S. and foreign veterans organizations. Many of our members are on the parade council and assist with the smooth running of the parade.

We still have Challenge Coins! Please email our post at 29thdivisionpost3@gmail.com for more information.

Submitted by Post Adjutant Heather Janke

Jerome L. Day Post #48

The Jerome L. Day Post 48 welcomes Robert Roys as an active member of Post 48. Comrade Roys was a member of the DIVARTY HQ and the 29th Division at the 5th Regiment Armory. Welcome aboard comrade Roys.

The 2015/2016 Installation of Officers for Post was conducted on April 30, 2015 at the American Legion in Westminster. Several representatives from the Maryland Region and the National Association were in attendance. Past Region Commander Edward F. Tolzman, Jr. conducted the swearing of Officers in accordance to the 29th Division Association rituals. We were pleased to have Past Post 48 Commander Russell Myers in attendance. Robert Alexander accepted the Finance Officer position, thus giving James Eckard, a long member and Finance Officer a break who has done a Yeoman's job. Tom Devore accepted the Assistant Chaplain position. A heartfelt thanks to all members who have accepted an elected position.

The active members of Post 48 were busy during Memorial Day weekend. We visited the cemeteries and placed the 29th Division Association placards at the cemeteries. We were

pleased to have participated in the Westminster Memorial Day parade with the 29th Military Police in Westminster. Once again the 29th Military Police carried a banner supporting the 29th Division Association. I had the distinct pleasure to march in the parade with the 29th Military Police under the command of Captain Marcus Miller, a member of Jerome L. Day Post 48.

On Saturday, August 1, 2015, is the planned rededication of the MG Henry C. Evans Readiness Center that's currently occupied by the 29th Military Police. During the rededication, a bronze plaque, recognizing the Armory and Alpha Battery, 110 Field Artillery is to be dedicated in the Readiness Center by the Adjutant General. MG Linda Singh.

On Tuesday, June 2, 2015, members of Post 48 attended a proclamation reading by the Commissioners of Carroll County, recognizing the 29th Division, the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, and all veterans who had served in the 29th Division.

We were joined by Ronald Pitts, representing Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve who presented a Statement of Support to the 5 member Board of Commissioners.

A special thanks to those who have donated to Post 48 and those who continue to support the sustainability of the 29th Division Association preamble. Post 48 is fortunate to have those who continue to actively serve and those who financially support the post.

The Jerome L. Day Post 48 meets on the last Thursday of the month. Our last meeting was on June 25, 2015, at the American Legion in Westminster. Dinner @ 6pm and meeting @ 6:30pm. All comrades and their guests are invited to attend.

Submitted by Post Commander Frank Rauschenberg

Harry M. Richardson Post #64

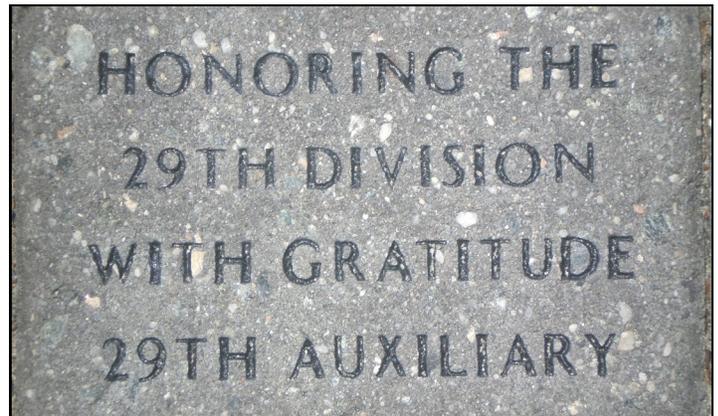
Post #64 started the New Year with a new post meeting agenda. We are now meeting at the Roanoker Restaurant every first Wednesday of the month 11:30am until 1pm for lunch and every first Thursday evening of the month 6:30pm until 8pm. We have grown by several members with our evening meeting and get to see others whom can not make the lunch meeting.

Southern Region National Vice Commander- Frank Dillon and Wife Nancy enjoyed their visit to Hagerstown, MD., to honor Dick Jordon this past January. Not too many days after SRNVC Dillon had the honor to do the same for a very close friend and Past National Commander Glenwood Hankins this past February in Martinsville, VA.

May 9th the 29th Division Association Auxiliary hosted a Vendors Bazaar and Bake Sale. We had 14 vendors participate and an eight foot table loaded with baked goods. Despite the locale events all around the area it was a good success.

May 24th several Post #64 members enjoyed a visit to Post Chaplain Morris Bennett's church for his annual Veterans Memorial service. Post member Russell Robinson was the guest speaker this year. Thank you Russell for sharing your war experiences with everyone young and old that day. A BIG THANK YOU to all the church members that made the delicious after services social for us to enjoy.

May 25th Post #64 members partook of the Memorial Day events at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. After the services



the 29th Division Association Auxiliary was able to see the brick they had dedicated to the Memorial on display now. It's located row 3 brick 2 at the arch beginning of the Annie J. Bronson Veterans Memorial Walk near the Stettinius Parade Plaque.

May 31st Post #64 members represented at the annual 29th Division Association laying of the wreath ceremony at the tomb of the unknown. It was an honor to see National Commander John Vaccarino and Dr. Harold "Hal" Baumgarten perform the ceremony. Even though it was a hot day spirits were high for the annual group picture. When everyone got tired of posing and smiling we jetted off to the John Lyon VFW Post 3150 for a wonderful lunch and fellowship with friends and comrades of the 29th Division Association.

June 6th several post members gathered at the D-Day Memorial, Bedford, VA. for the 71st D-Day Anniversary to pay homage to our fallen comrades past and present. A special resolution was presented to Mary Hobbs in memory of Mills Hubert Hobbs Jr. Among the representatives present were; Col. Child, Embassy of the UK, BG. Cousin, French Air Force Defense Attaché, Col. Goense, Asst. Defense Attaché Netherlands, BG. Ortner, Land Commander VA. National Guard, BG. Watteeuw, Asst. Chief of Staff for Defense Belgian Army, BG. Williams, Adjutant General of Virginia, Embassy of Canada, and the Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All of which whom attended Bernard Marie's, V.E & V.J end of the war dinner that evening, at which two French Legion of Honor Medals was bestowed upon Hayden Furrow, 8th Division and the family of Earl Baker, 384th Bomb Group by BG. Cousin, French Air Force Defense Attaché. A very wonderful dinner and entertainment by "America's bombshell duo- Letters From Home" was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Bernard for inviting us to enjoy the evening with you.

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

Limestone Post #72

Summer is finally here; with the summer months a lot of people will be traveling on vacation. Remember to get plenty of rest before driving long distances. Pull over about every hour and a half to two hours and take a break. Get out and stretch your legs a little. If you're lucky to have someone else with you who can drive, let them drive until the next stop. Safety is paramount.

Post # 72 held its family picnic on June 27th. In spite of the weather, 20 brave souls showed up at Fort Howard. It was cold

and we had gale force winds blowing through the camp site. On the way to Ft. Howard it was raining very hard but when we arrived, the rain had stopped and didn't start up again until we started to pack up to go home.

One and all had a good time at least for a while. We enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by our Chef John Vaccarino, with the help of Gil Crosby and Linda Wisch. I was fired by the General when I tried to put aluminum foil on the grills. We had cakes, salads, old fashioned baked beans, sodas, beer and lemonade and much more. There was also a guided tour of the Fort by a Post # 72 member, Mike Morris, who shared the rich history of Fort Howard and personally I was in awe of the things I learned, especially the role it played in training Special Forces soldiers for Vietnam.

After about 3 hours, the wind finally won and we decided to call it a day. Overall I would call the picnic a success. I want to personally thank everyone for coming out and supporting this event. Special thanks to Gilbert and Caroline Crosby for putting this event together. Next year, weather permitting, I hope the Post # 72 Family Picnic is bigger and better.

The next big event for Post # 72 will be our annual Crab Feast on August 23, 2015, at the Schaffer Dining Room on the 4th floor of the 5th Regiment Armory. TTBA

Submitted by Post Commander Thomas Insley

Cresap's Rifles Post #78

Members of Cresap's Rifles Post 78 in Frederick, MD celebrated their annual Spring Fling Dinner on Saturday, April 25, 2015. The dinner was attended by 65 people and was held at Valley, Post 9 AMVETS in Middletown, MD. Election of new officers for the post is now on a two-year cycle and the installation of newly elected officers is conducted every other year at the Spring Fling.

Also in attendance were PNC Richard Smith and wife Mary, PNC Joseph Zang and wife Shirley and newly elected Maryland Region Commander Frank Rauschenberg and wife Peggy. We are delighted that these three couples attend many of the Post 78 social events.

Navy WW II veteran Charles Toms still serves on our Board of Trustees and is one of only a small number of veterans of that war who are members of Post 78 still residing in the Frederick area. Charles served on one of the ships used during the landing at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The evening turned out to be a great success and the catered food was great.

Submitted by Post Commander John Sexton

Eastern Shore Post #88

The Post has elected new officers for the 2015-2016 year, with the swearing-in ceremony administered by Region Commander William DeHaven at our meeting on 11 March. The new Commander of Post 88 is Bernie Liswell, who will succeed out-going Commander Bob Jones.

Bob Jones performed a fabulous job as Post Commander. His enthusiasm and dedication to the Post increased our membership, as well as a renewed interest in Post activities. Bob will stay on with the Post as a very valuable member. We are pleased to announce that Bob has also agreed to become the Junior Vice Commander of the Maryland Region and was installed at the Region meeting in May by PNC Robert Recker.

Post 88 will have their annual Crab Feast on 3 October, at the Cambridge VFW at 1pm.

Submitted by Post Commander Bernie Liswell

Silver Spring Post #94

Once again, Silver Spring Post #94 was the proud sponsor of the 2015 Annual Wreath laying event at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, on 31 May 2015. See page 25 for photos.

This year's dinner was a little different in that it was held at a local VFW Hall named after a DSC recipient in the First World War. It just so happens that this young man, John F. Lyon was a member of the 29th Division.

We are indebted to our post Vice Commander Jay Garrison for all the time and effort that he put into finding an alternate location for our meal that occurred after the wreath laying. This was mandated by the Spates Community Center in Fort Myer not being open anymore on Sundays.

We still have over 30 members who have not paid their dues for 2015. Your dues helps pay for this publication that you are reading. If you haven't paid your dues for 2015, please do so now.

Submitted by Post Commander Donald M. McKee

Larkspur Post #110

Larkspur Post 110 is relatively strong heading into the summer months. We are at 222 members with the addition of 9 new members in the last 30 days. However, we are still trying to get more members, especially those of working age, to be active and attend our events.

The June meeting was our annual picnic at Skip and Nadine Merkel's house and was well attended. They have been barely defeating our attempts to move all of our meetings there for several years now due to the great food and fun atmosphere.

In July, we have our Global War on Terror Night to honor those 29ers that have served in Iraq, Afghanistan or deployed since 9/11. CSM (ret) Kemp Freund spoke about his deployment to Afghanistan and CSM Tommy Thompson spoke about his numerous deployments with the 115th and 175th Infantry.

In addition, we had a special ceremony to commemorate those 29th Association members that fought during the Vietnam War, on the 50th Anniversary of the start of the war.

The post has no August meetings and September will be the bi-annual elections and the Annual Memorial Service for the 110th Artillery Regiment.

Submitted by Post Commander David Ginsburg

Lantern Post #729

During the month of May we had a new slate of officers elected and installed. Three of our members attended the Wreath laying annual event at Arlington National Cemetery on 31 May 2015.

Post 729 was represented in the Memorial Day parade at Funkstown, MD and the wreath laying at Smithsburg, MD.

On the sad side, we lost our Post Adjutant Kenny Gilland on 17 May. He was 75 years old. Ken will be greatly missed, not only as the adjutant, but also as the fine person he was, always checking on the welfare of his comrades.

Our most recent meeting was held on 18 June at the Keystone Family Restaurant on Route 16 in Waynesboro, PA.

Submitted by Post Commander Donald Fitz

Ortner to take command of 29th Infantry Division

SANDSTON, VA. — Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner will take command of the Virginia National Guard's Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr. effective July 24, 2015, according to announcement made May 28 by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Ortner is currently the deputy commander of the 29th, and he will be succeeded by Col. John M. Epperly, the current operations and training officer for the division. A change of command ceremony for the division is planned for July 24 at Fort Pickett, Va.

"Brig. Gen. Blake Ortner has one of the most impressive service records in the Virginia National Guard," Williams said. "He has led Soldiers in combat at the battalion and brigade level and has extensive experience working in multinational environments where he built successful partnerships that helped his units accomplish their mission. This is exactly the kind of officer we need to build on the outstanding leadership pro-



vided by Maj. Gen. Chuck Whittington and continue to make the 29th Infantry Division a ready and relevant mission command headquarters. Col. John Epperly brings a wealth of experience as well having successfully commanded the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team through multiple domestic response op-

erations as well as a well-executed Warfighter exercise. The two of them will make a great command team."

Ortner is a 1983 graduate of University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn., where he received a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. He also holds a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College Class of 2010.

He received a Regular Army commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps as an Infantry officer and served on active duty until 1987. In 1989, Ortner joined the Virginia Army National Guard, serving in numerous assignments during more than 20 years in the 116th Infantry Regiment and 29th Infantry Division to include rifle company commander, battalion operations officer, battalion commander, brigade operations officer, brigade executive officer, brigade deputy commander, brigade commander and division operations officer. In 2001, Ortner served as the Division Chief of Operations, Multi-National Division – North as part of the 29th Infantry Division support of Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ortner commanded 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment and deployed the battalion in 2004 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the first Virginia National Guard infantry battalion to deploy to combat since World War II. In 2007, Ortner was assigned as the deputy commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as a member of the Multi-National Forces – Iraq Area Support Group and later as the chief of operations for MNF-I. He assumed command of the 116th IBCT in June 2009. In May 2011 the brigade headquarters was mobilized for combat operations in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom where he commanded Combined Team Zabul which included active duty and NATO Romanian infantry battalions.

He resides in Stafford and is employed by Paralyzed Veterans of America in Washington, D.C., as the Deputy Government Relations Director working with Congress to support veterans' benefits and healthcare services.

Article by Mr. Cotton Puryear

Maryland National Guard helps restore peace and order to streets of Baltimore

On the afternoon of Monday, 27 April 2015, civil disturbances began to erupt at several locations in Baltimore City.

Baltimore police were attacked with bricks, rocks and bottles. Patrol cars were set on fire and destroyed. By the late afternoon, looting and arson was occurring and the situation was out of control.

The violent unrest began in the hours following the 27 April funeral of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African-American who died of a spinal injury on 19 April while in police custody.

As the crisis worsened, Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency and activated the Maryland National Guard to assist local law enforcement with the restoration of peace and order in the city.

During a 27 April news address, Major General Linda Singh, the adjutant general for the Maryland National Guard, said, "[Gov. Hogan] has access to our

full complement that's here in the state, which means up to about 5,000 troops that can be put onto the streets to protect property and people."

As of 2 May, the Maryland National Guard had more than 2,600 troops working in and around the city, and more than 150 vehicles involved as well.

Many of these troops were from the 175th Infantry along with troops from the 29th Headquarters Detachment and 29th Combat Aviation Brigade.

This was the first time that the Maryland Guard had been called out to quell civil disturbances since the civil unrest that occurred at College Park, Maryland in the early 1970's.

Within a week the local authorities along with the support of the Maryland National Guard had restored peace and order to the streets of Baltimore.

*Article by Editor, William Mund
and SGT Margaret Taylor
of the Maryland National Guard*

Veterans Administration update and proposed cuts to active duty, reserve component, veteran and retired military benefits

The VA recently introduced an E Claims Took Kit. This allows one to file a disability compensation claim electronically through the VA's E Benefits Website. If you are computer literate, this can allow you to preserve your "Start Date" (the date your benefits would start) and you have one year to submit your claims application electronically along with supporting documentation.

Now for the bad news: This administration's budget proposal for FY 2016 again targets TRICARE, military pay and housing. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) predicts the annual loss of purchasing power for an active duty family of four with ten years of service to be more than \$5,000 for an E5 and \$6,000 for an army captain. Wow!!! This is substantial. Some of the reasons for this are:

- Phasing in a \$1 Billion cut in the commissary subsidy. This equates to a 66% less in savings for commissary shoppers.
- Establishing a TRICARE for Life (where Medicare is your primary medical insurance), enrollment fees for retirees over 65 and consolidating TRICARE Prime, Standard, and Extra programs. Fortunately Congress is not likely to tackle TRICARE in this session.
- Active duty pay raises would be capped at 1.3% versus the 2.3% dictated by law and this cap would be extended through 2021. What good is the law if this administration does not follow it? Also, more Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) costs would be shifted onto the service members. On top of this, they propose to reduce military end strength by 11,300. Keep in mind that military personnel's spending has declined for the past 5 years. These proposed changes could lead to the same retention and readiness problems we have seen in the past.

Fortunately the Senate and House Armed Service Committee heard testimony on 3 and 4 February from the Military Compensation Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC). The commission put forth 15 recommendations for the administration to consider.

Keep in mind the commission's mandate was not to cut costs or reduce compensation and retirement benefits. It was directed to ensure that our all volunteer force would remain viable.

They recommended reforming the military retirement system so personnel leaving the military before becoming vested at 20 years would receive a defined benefit and 401 (K) style plan. But, MOAA calculates this would reduce the pension of those staying 20 years and it gets worse the longer one stays in past 20 years. I personally think those leaving before 20 years should get something but not at the expense of those staying 20 or more years.

The commission also recommended eliminating TRI-



*By the National Surgeon
Dr. William N. Bernhard, MD*

Post #85

CARE for military families and working age retirees. If TRICARE for this group is replaced by commercial insurance plans like to the ones available to federal employees, this sounds appealing. This would mean that DOD would have to offer active duty families, National Guard and Reserve families and working age retirees, a choice of commercial health insurance policies much like other federal employees have. However, copayments would likely be higher than current TRICARE shared expenses.

TRICARE for Life would likely remain intact for military retirees over 65. Also, with the proposed military cutbacks all Surgeons General have stated that Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) would have to decrease services. So, on base MTFs might not be able to treat military families. Think what this would do to military residency training programs where they are required to train doctors to treat patients of all ages.

My wife and I use TRICARE Prime thru Johns Hopkins US Family Health Plan (USFHP). Hopkins is contracted by DOD to serve military families and retirees and it has extremely high approval ratings. It is our primary health insurance; not Medicare!!! If we have to change to TRICARE for Life (TFL), Medicare would become our primary insurance to pay for health services and TRICARE Standard becomes the secondary payer for medical services.

With Medicare projected to run short on funds (some were used to fund Obama Care and the baby boomers are reaching 65), this leaves our promised lifetime medical care reliant on a government insurance plan that may not be able to fully pay for medical services that are presently completely funded. Right now, it does not look like this Congress is going to make any changes in TRICARE for 2016.

One last recent TRICARE update: Effective 1 May, specialty TRICARE prescriptions will be available only thru TRICARE pharmacy home delivery, MTFs, and pharmacies located in WalMart, CVS, Rite Aid, and Target. These are your 3 options to fill specialty medications unless you are eligible to get them thru a VA pharmacy.

It appears to me that this administration is bent on cutting military compensation and benefits such as our commissary privileges for our military families. I hope Congress will closely review the 15 recommendations the MCRMC made and not pass legislation that would cut costs to preserve entitlement programs this administration has included in its 2016 budget proposal.

Tomb of the Unknowns - Arlington - 31 May 2015



Photo by Christina Moscati

29th Division Association attendees, pose for a group photo after the Wreath Laying ceremony.



Photos by Robert Wisch

Left photo: WW II Veteran, Dr. Harold "Hal" Baumgarten, (center) of B Company, 116th Infantry, 29th Division moments before assisting National Commander, I. John Vaccarino, (left) with the laying of the wreath (pictured at right) at the *Tomb of the Unknowns*.

Eastern Shore Post #88 dedicates new monument in Cambridge, MD to WWI soldiers of Dorchester County



Eastern Shore Post 88 dedicated a new WWI monument in the heart of Cambridge, Maryland at Long Wharf Park on May 9, 2015 at 1100 hours. The dedication culminated a period of over two years of planning, fundraising, and obtaining approvals for the monument from the Cambridge City Government.

The project and monument conception began with COL Ray Simmons Jr. (Ret), a Cambridge attorney and resident, when he prepared a Military History of Dorchester County presentation at a Cambridge Middle School for Veterans Day. COL Simmons is a Vietnam Veteran and served in the Maryland Army National Guard. In his research for the Veterans Day presentation he learned of 5 Dorchester Countians who received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in WWI for bravery under fire in combat in France. Four of the men were with the 29th Division and the fifth with the 3rd Division.

COL Simmons (Ret) felt this was something the community needed to be aware of and celebrate. He conceived a monument to memorialize the five men. As a member of Post 88 he requested the Post's assistance at its March 2013 regular meeting to help him complete his vision. The Post membership was unanimous in agreeing to assist since the Project speaks to the very mission of the 29th Division Association, "to glorify our dead and keep before our Country the record of the 29th Division".

A committee was formed with COL Simmons as the Committee Chair. COL Simmons embodied the "spirit that never knew

defeat" leading the Committee through many hours of planning and meetings with various Cambridge Government Departments and Community Organizations and groups who were concerned with a new and significant monument in the heart of the City but ultimately the committee won approval for this tribute to the 5 men.

The five Dorchester County DSC recipients are: 1Lt Henry A. Barber, Jr., 9th Machinegun Bn, 3rd Infantry Division; PVT Harry B. Insley, 115th Regt., 29th Infantry Division; PVT James R. Miller, 115th Regt, 29th Infantry Division; SGT Carl Horseman, 115th Regt, 29th Infantry Division; and CPL Harford D. Smith, 115th Regt, 29th Infantry Division.

All 5 men received the award for risking their lives in the face of severe enemy fire to attack and overcome German positions and rescue wounded and trapped fellow soldiers.

The Monument of dark brown granite stands 5 ft tall, 8 ft wide, and is 2 ft thick. On one face of the monument under the DSC Cross the five men and their units are identified. On the other face the complete wording of their deeds from their DSC certificates is etched in full. The 29th Division symbol and the 3rd Division symbol are both etched into the monument.

Over 300 people attended the May 9 dedication. Included in the ceremony were the son of CPL Harford D. Smith, William Smith; the grandsons of 1Lt Henry A. Barber, Jr., Hal and William Barber; the nephews of PVT Harry B. Insley,

Thomas B. Insley (Post 72 Commander and National Association Parliamentarian) and Denwood Insley, and neice Deborah Lucas-Insley. In addition to the 29th Division Association National Commander the National Executive Director and Past National Commander Bob Moscati, Editor of the *Twenty-Niner* William Mund and Past Maryland Region Commander, Bob Wisch were in attendance.



The Chorus of Dorchester performing World War I Era Songs.

Photo by Robert E. Wisch

The dedication ceremony was conducted by COL Bernie Liswell (Ret), Post 88 Commander, with Monument Chair COL Ray Simmons (Ret), 29th Division Association National Commander BG(MD) I. John Vaccarino (Ret), and The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, Immediate Past President PVT David W. Mills (Ret) as guest speakers.

Eastern Shore Post 88 expresses its gratitude to all the

contributors who made this monument possible and especially the 29th Division Association as a key sponsor. The project was truly embraced by the community.

The Cambridge Rotary Club provided assistance and support with a new brick paver walkway around the monument. Post 88 also received significant support from American Legion

Post 91 and VFW Post 7460 of Cambridge. The amount of community support for this project was very gratifying in today's seemingly busy world where we all at times worry we have drifted from our Nation's principles. This project and its culmination are a refreshing reminder that there are still many citizens who are proud to be Americans! "29 Let's Go!"

Article by Robert Jones of Post 88

Photo of monument on page 26 by Robert E. Wisch



Photo by Robert E. Wisch

COL (Ret) Ray Simmons, Jr., Monument Committee Chairman, speaking at the Dedication in Long Wharf Park, Cambridge, MD on 9 May 2015.



Photo by William Mund

From left: David W. Mills, representing the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and I. John Vaccarino, National Commander, 29th Division Association.

Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise challenges the 116th IBCT

STAUNTON, Va. — For the first time in many years, the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team performed a company live fire exercise during the Multi-echelon Integrate Brigade Training exercise at Fort Drum N.Y., June 6-20.

“The guard has not seen training like this in many years,” said Col. William Coffin, commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “The training is an outstanding exercise that provides opportunities to company commanders in gaining experience to move their companies in a safe and controlled environment.”

The combined arms live fire exercise was just one of many training events during the MiBT, which is run by First Army Division East. They provided observers-coaches and trainers to evaluate each company as they went through lanes. In addition to First Army’s 188th Infantry Brigade, paratroopers from 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division added additional mentors during the live fire exercise for the 116th.

The CALFEX was set up as a three-day training exercise for each of the three infantry rifle companies in the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment. The exercise uses the Army’s crawl, walk, run training principle for each day of training. It was designed to replicate combat conditions using combined arms such as infantry, mortars, artillery and engineer support.

On day one, the company commander receives a mission brief to attack an objective during the day and at night. He must develop a plan using the terrain and assets available and brief it to the company. Once briefed, rehearsals are conducted and the company performs a walk through on the entire lane.

but using live ammunition. After each iteration of the exercise the OCTs conduct after, action, reviews that help Soldiers and leaders improve their performances.

“The strides each company makes from the baseline at which they started to where they are at the end of the three days is tremendous,” said 1st Sgt. Paul Riedel, an OCT from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. “The NCO corps are very receptive to each mentor we have on site. They are motivated to be better at their jobs and want to learn how they can better motivate their soldiers.”

Riedel was just one of 12 paratroopers from the 116th’s active duty partner brigade, the 82nd’s Falcon Brigade, to help serve as mentors during the exercise. For their mentorship and

effort at the MiBT, Coffin awarded the paratroopers with two Army Commendation Medals and 10 Army Achievement Medals.

“I take my hat off to the Stonewall Brigade for their high ambitions and goals in requesting company level live fire training,” said Sgt. Maj. Royce Mannis, range safety officer and trainer from the 188th Infantry Brigade. “The rate of improvement and progression of each company is impressive.”

*Article by SGT Christopher Martrano,
116th IBCT Public Affairs*



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Martrano

Soldiers from the Christiansburg-based Company C, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted a combined arms live fire exercise June 17, 2015, at Fort Drum, NY. The evaluation was part of the Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training exercise that the 116th IBCT participated in during their annual training June 6-20, 2015.

Each element walked through their portion of the assault. The assault force included engineers for an obstacle breach and infantrymen to assault through the objective. The support by fire position included the weapons squad and snipers. Indirect fires such as mortars and artillery are also included in the exercise. Lastly, the exercise tested Soldiers on their ability to call in an air or ground medical evacuation.

The second day of the exercise the company executes the mission at full speed using blanks to assault the objective. The third day is the same mission,

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

TAG-MD meets with National Officers of 29th Division Association



From left: CSM Thomas Beyard; Senior Vice Commander David Ginsburg; MG Linda Singh; Commander I. John Vaccarino; Junior Vice Commander Robert Wisch and Editor/Adjutant William Mund.

On 7 May 2015, several national officers of the 29th Division Association met with MG Linda Singh, the Adjutant General of Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to make MG Singh aware of our association and to brief her on some of our upcoming activities and events.

Attending the meeting were: National Commander, I. John Vaccarino; Senior Vice Commander, David Ginsburg; Junior Vice Commander, Robert Wisch and Editor/Adjutant William Mund.

Fortunately, this meeting was not postponed or

canceled due to the eruption of civil disturbances in Baltimore the week before.

MG Singh has spent most of her military career in units of the **29th Division**. Fittingly, she just happens to be the **29th Adjutant General** of Maryland. She has tentatively agreed (barring any unforeseen circumstances) to be our guest speaker at our 97th Annual Reunion and Convention in Fredericksburg, VA this coming October.

Submitted by William Mund, Editor

Major General Linda Singh poses with 100 year-old William C. "Bill" Doyle of Post 72 at the 127th annual meeting of the Veteran Corps, 5th Regiment Infantry.

This event was held on 17 May 2015 in the Reckord Lounge at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, MD. The guest speaker was MG Singh.

Bill was a member of C Company, 175th Infantry and was wounded during World War II in France.



Reflections from Normandy Allies' Colleague

Dr. Michael Galgano, Professor of History at James Madison University in Harrisonburg Virginia participated in Normandy Allies International Experience 2012. The journey led to a shared venture between JMU and Normandy Allies. Working with Marsha Smith, Normandy Allies president and program director, and LTC Peter Combee, who is an instructor in Military History at JMU as well as the historian for the International Experiences, Dr. Galgano developed a summer course for JMU students. The course combines advance time in France with the International Experience to provide a unique opportunity for JMU students.

In March 2015, Dr. Galgano wrote to Marsha Smith as both were preparing for the 2015 International Experience:

Dear Marsha:

James Madison University and I are delighted to be participating once more in the 2015 Study Tour Program in Normandy in July. This year marks the third year for our students and my fourth. Our students find the program intellectually stimulating and personally valuable in giving them a unique knowledge of the planning and execution of the D-Day invasion and its aftermath in liberating Europe and erasing the Nazi regime. In my campus conversations with many who traveled with us in 2013 they still describe the program and what they experienced as life altering. I am certain this year's group of students will come away with similarly positive memories through their study of what was perhaps America's greatest achievement.

I was fortunate enough to receive the Diane and David Pennock Teacher Grant in Honor of 1st Lt. John Garvik to help support my participation in the summer 2012 Normandy Allies program. That experience brought new life to a range of courses I had taught for many years. My teaching includes three courses that emphasize World War II and the Normandy Landings. The first is a lecture course in which I devote one week to World War II. One lecture analyzes the turning points in the defeat of Nazi Germany by contrasting Stalingrad and Normandy. Students prepare brief essays following the discussions based upon their readings in contemporary accounts and secondary interpretations that reflect upon the significance of one of these two battles. Most write about Normandy. When I first taught the course, I also encouraged them to interview a family member or friend who had a living memory of D-Day. Sadly, such first-hand accounts are rapidly passing. In my sections of 20th century World history, the focus is on understanding some of the primary sources that have shaped the last century. World War II is central and I place a great deal of emphasis on the events from Dunkirk through 1945. Since some of our students come from Bedford, Virginia, the Landing is of special interest to them. These two courses enroll undergraduates and the latter is a part of our General Education offerings. My focus is on written sources, the importance of social memory, and the enduring values of a common history.

What was lacking in my own preparation was a personal understanding of the Landing and its impact. The summer of 2012 filled that void by offering well-prepared lectures by the Normandy Allies' military historian, thoughtful readings, good insights in the sites we visited and plentiful opportunities to talk with the French inhabitants there. An added bonus was the chance to interact with secondary teachers and students. We discussed not only what we were experiencing but the best ways to teach the invasion and its aftermath once we returned to our classes.

In a short period of time, all of us were able to gain real insights into the experience of war in Normandy and its impact on the French people. Our visits with local officials and everyday citizens brought first-person accounts to mix with our readings, lectures and site visits. Each added a special dimension to the program. The study tour also blended personal experiences with the broader picture of what happened. My students learned so much from talking with French survivors of the invasion who shared their personal recollections from their own childhoods. We had occasion to celebrate the liberation of towns and to understand the sacrifices in the American, British, and German cemeteries. These experiences and many more leave an enduring imprint upon all of us fortunate to take part.

What I learned from that first trip and all since has left an indelible mark on my teaching. The program deepened my knowledge of the events and participants. It taught me a great deal about the individual sacrifices of war and the importance of memory for subsequent generations. It also introduced me to the French people and showed how fully they honor those who sacrificed so much to set them free. The pristine beauty and serenity of Omaha Beach today stands in marked contrast to the bloody events of 6 June 1944. I bring these images to my daily classes and they are also responsible for my current research interest in the study of veterans when wars end and they return to civilian life.

The Normandy Allies program influences my teaching and scholarship daily and I am pleased to continue to share that experience with my own students in class and by leading a new group of students there this summer. I know our shared experiences through the curriculum, lectures, visits to sites, and with the French people, will have a similar influence on their later lives and help them to better understand their history and our world. I look forward to the summer and trust you will feel free to share my comments with others who may be thinking of participating in this unique and wonderful experience.

*Sincerely yours,
Michael J. Galgano
Professor of History*

NOTICE**NOTICE****NOTICE**

In accordance with Article XIV – Amendments – Section 1 of the 29th Division Association National Constitution which reads:

This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized delegates present, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the National Adjutant to the Posts, and members of the National Executive Committee, by sending a copy of the proposed amendment to them at least thirty days prior to the convening of the National Convention. Publication in the “TWENTY-NINER” in an issue circulated at least thirty days prior to the Convention date shall satisfy the above notification requirements. It is further provided that it can be amended without prior notice by a unanimous vote at any Convention.

These proposed changes to the National Constitution and By-Laws are now published in adherence to the above notification requirements. Changes are indicated in **bold underlined** type.

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Any person who **is, or has** been a member of the 29th Infantry Division, or those units with lineage to the 29th shall be eligible for membership.

- a. Any person who served in any of the units while attached to the 29th Division shall be eligible for full membership in this Association.
- b. **Relatives** of members who qualify for membership under Article IV Membership, Section 1, shall be eligible for full membership in the association and may hold any office at the post, region and national level except the positions of Commander and Vice-Commander at the National level unless they have also served honorably in the 29th Division. These offices shall be reserved for those who have served with the 29th Infantry Division.
- c. **No member may hold any office at the national, region or post level until they reach their 18th birthday.**

Section 4. Except as provided in Sections 4A, 4B, and 4C below, there shall be no class of membership other than active membership. Nor shall there be any distinction of rank other than Comrades, except in the case of Officers of the Association.

- a. Paid-up or Life Membership may be established by the Association when deemed feasible.
- b. Associate membership may be granted by a Post of the Association when deemed advisable to do so. **A Post may enroll such an applicant who may not be eligible for active membership in the Association or its National Auxiliary. Such person must adhere to the purpose of the Association. Associate members may hold any leadership offices at the Post, Region, or National Level except for the key leadership offices of National Commander and National Vice-Commanders.** This section shall not operate to affect the membership of any person recognized as an associate member prior to its enactment.
- c. **The National Auxiliary of the 29th Division Association shall define the membership requirements of the National Auxiliary. However, the National Auxiliary of the 29th Division Association may not enroll any member of the 29th Division Association, full or associate.** The **National** Auxiliary posts, chapters, regions and national headquarters will function in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of said **National** Auxiliary.

Article VI – National Officers

Section 8. All officers of the Association shall serve without compensation **except as noted in By Laws Article II, Section 12. National Executive Director.**

Article VII – National Executive Committee

Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall meet at the close of the National Convention **and in January and June of each year.** Only National Executive Committee members are authorized to vote on any matters at the National Executive Committee meetings.

Article VIII – Finance

Section 4. The National Executive Director is authorized to spend such sums or to contract such obligations in the name of this Association as may be necessary for the Association’s operations, provided, however, that such sums shall not exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) without prior approval of the National Executive Committee, or in emergencies, approval of the National Commander’s Committee **(See By-Laws, Article 1, Section 4).** He shall make accurate accounting of such transactions to the National Executive Committee.

Continued on next page

Section 5. When, in the discharge of the duties of their offices, it is necessary for the members of the National Executive Committee to incur necessary, reasonable, and pre-approved expenses on behalf of the Association, they shall be reimbursed by the Association upon request and presentation of vouchers or other written evidence of said expenses to the National Executive Director.

Article XII – Adjunct Organizations

Section 1. Deleted.

Section 2. Deleted.

NATIONAL BY-LAWS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Article II – Duties of Officers

Section 4. NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER: The National Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of this Association. He shall record all monies of the Association as deposited in the name of the 29th Division Association as reported to him by the National Executive Director. He and the National Commander, or the National Executive Director, **are authorized to** sign all checks disbursing the funds of the Association, such disbursements to be supported by bills submitted to him by the National Executive Director. He shall furnish to the National Commander a report of the condition of the treasury upon request at each National Executive Committee Meeting and at the National Convention.

Article IV – Suspension, Revocation of Charters

Section 5. DISSOLUTION: In the event the Association dissolves upon the majority action of the NEC, acting at a duly recognized session, any action will be in the best interest of the Association at that time.

Article VI – Association Publication

Section 4. The National Commander, with the approval of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint members of the Association as prescribed in Article VI, Section 2, National Constitution to serve as Editor and Assistant Editor of "THE TWENTY-NINER".

Future Voyages to Normandy:

July 12-24, 2015

May 25-June 8, 2016 July 10-22, 2016

July 9-July 22, 2017

**Explore the history with Normandy Allies
Grants available for Teachers and Students**

The British and Canadian sectors—Caen Peace Memorial, 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, Lebec Cider Farm, 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 and on Facebook/Normandy Allies***

Send your request to:

**Normandy Allies, Inc. PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 USA
Call/email: Marsha Smith 585-748-2357 normandyallies@verizon.net**

The Division's Library — A Publication Nightmare

Following a re-activation ceremony on October 5, 1985, the division staff set its sights on building a "light" division comprising most of the ground units from Maryland and Virginia. This would prove to be a difficult task. It was a tough job because many traditions would end while new ones evolved as numerous state units reorganized into a division. Attitudes would change in time, but not without resistance.

As the reorganization progressed, the division's full-time assistant G-1 recognized that each new unit of the division needed an updated library in order to better administrate division level operations. Prior to the re-activation, the highest level in the states save the state headquarters were separate brigades – the 116th Infantry from Virginia and the 58th Infantry from Maryland.

The assistant G-1 ordered a new set of FMs, TMs, ARs, NGRs, etc. for the "light" division from a publication center across town – the normal procedure. One day in early 1986 an 18-wheeler stopped in front of Williams Hall, 29th Division Headquarters. The driver of the rig announced he was delivering ordered publications. No one questioned the size of the trailer until a detail of soldiers from headquarters & headquarters company (HHC) opened its double doors, and voila! The trailer was stacked from floor to the ceiling and from front to rear, with all the references for not just a division headquarters: it was stuffed to the brim with a library's worth of publications for every echelon down to the company level for the entire division! Somebody goofed big time as the request for publications was intended for only the HHC, not for all its subordinate units. The subordinates, when reorganized and properly staffed, would order their own library.

A detail of two or three soldiers quickly realized that it would take several days to unload the trailer. The bigger question was where to store all the tonnage of reference books? With some fast thinking and a little negotiation on the part of the assistant G-1, the truck driver agreed to leave his trailer behind for a few days. Since the division's general staff had recently moved from Fort Belvoir's Reserve Component Area to its new digs inside Williams Hall, several vacated WWII style barrack buildings under its control would become the temporary holding facility. The truck driver was redirected to the Reserve Component Area designated building, and this became the trailer's resting place for the time being.

As anticipated it took several days to completely un-

load the trailer. Unfortunately the references alone filled the ground level bay of the designated old barracks building. The detail then labored to carry arms stacked chin high up the stairs to the second floor. Naturally, trekking to the second floor took longer not to mention the additional labor involved. The detail's attitude and motivation were great at first but as the day wore on, neatness or the lack of it became obvious. Finally, the job was finished but what a mess - particularly on the second floor – for somebody to reorganize. The detail's non-commissioned officer in-charge reported mission accomplished to the assistant G-1.



Lieutenant Colonel Joe E. Harris

It wasn't long afterwards that the post fire marshal appeared to conduct the annual fire inspection. All went well until the marshal entered the temporary holding facility. Upon discovering the stacks and piles of reference materials, this part of the inspection was quickly flunked and the building was labeled a fire hazard. Word quickly traveled across the fort, so it wasn't but a day or so later that the post engineer became very interested in the situation. He also determined upon a short site visit that the building was unsafe, citing the weight of the books to be far above the load capacity for a forty to fifty year old temporary wood frame barracks building. "Remove the weight and all would be OK", he said, but for now, the building's condemned. It was noted that the post engineer muttered something about "light" divisions as he walked off. So a lot occurred in a week's time. Not only was there a fire hazard present, the post engineer condemned the building. As the publication folly – the gift that kept on giving – continued to unfold, stress began to mount on the assistant G-1.

The story could go on, but to shorten the saga, in time the library issue became a burden on everyone. Reference materials were spread out among the general staff sections, and subordinate units were summoned to division headquarters to pick up their portions of the library. During this time there were no meeting shortages at division headquarters, so the division-wide publication distribution was finished in a month or so. Post sanctions were eventually lifted and the matter became one for the history book. All's well that ends well, but the devil's in the details. Just ask the assistant G-1 about the nightmare created by an error on an order form.

*Article by Joe Harris,
a former member of the "light" division general staff.*

Minutes

of the NEC III Meeting
held on 18 June 2015 at the
Winchester Readiness Center, Winchester, VA

National Commander I. John Vaccarino called the National Executive Committee (NEC III) meeting to order at 1010 hours. Commander Vaccarino led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by PNC/PNED John E. Wilcox, Jr. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Vaccarino began by welcoming all to the NEC meeting and also welcomed the President of the National Auxiliary, Juanita King, and the other ladies present. NC Vaccarino then asked for the roll call by Adjutant William Mund. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting (NEC II, 15 January 2015) had been published and distributed in the Spring 2015 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

Reading of Communications: Adjutant Mund read correspondence from the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation thanking the 29th Division Association for their kind donation in 2014 of \$5,000 to be used to erect a monument in France on the 70th commemoration of the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944.

He also read correspondence from Normandy Allies informing the 29th Division Association that our member, David W. Brubaker had made a donation to Normandy Allies in honor of "29th Infantry Division members killed in action". The officers and members of the 29th Division Association are very grateful to Mr. Brubaker for making this donation.

Officer's Report

National Commander – I. John Vaccarino thanked Southern Region Commander Frank Dillon and his wife Nancy, for their efforts in working out the details and support for today's meeting. The Commander has participated in many events and meetings during the past several months. Several highlights of those were: The Change of Command for the new TAG of Maryland, MG Linda Singh; issued Post 58 their association charter; met with MG Singh with other senior national officers; was the guest speaker at the WWI DSC monument dedication in Cambridge, MD hosted by Post 88; had the honor of laying the wreath with Hal Baumgarten at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington on 31 May 2015. In addition, he participated in the final ritual and services for Richard Jordan and Dr. Frank Barranco.

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

National Junior Vice Commander – Robert E. Wisch submitted a written report. (*This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned*).

Southern Region National Vice Commander – Frank Dillon submitted a written report. (*This report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned*).

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

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

National Executive Director – NED/PNC Robert Moscati has attended as many events and ceremonies as the Commander and others have attended. His close cooperation in working with the Finance Officer is of paramount importance to the daily functioning of the association.

Membership – NED/PNC Robert Moscati explained his report that was distributed. He expressed regret that the post in Fort Belvoir, Post 84, does not seem to be able to produce a responsible individual to admin-

ister the post. It is hoped that things will change with the advent of the new 29th Division Commanding General, BG Ortner, when he takes command on 24 July 2015.

Finance & Budget – J. Brian Becker reported on the financial status of the association. He presented a power point presentation showing pie charts depicting income and expenditures. (*Copies of this report are available by contacting the undersigned*).

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt spoke about the events, ceremonies and observances that he has been involved in over the last several months. He reminisced about past events in Normandy and Antietam. He will have two books for sale by the association property officer.

Service – Walter Carter was excused and no report was rendered.

Surgeon – Dr. William Bernhard said he will continue to inform the members of the association by providing a column to the editor of the *Twenty-Niner* for publication in future editions. He specifically noted subjects such as "Tri-Care"; commissary privileges; and retirement benefits that he hopes to keep the members apprised of.

Welfare – No report.

Historian – Joe Balkoski was excused and no report was rendered.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property – National Property Officer Shilow was excused and no report was rendered.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley was excused and no report was rendered.

Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg had no report.

President, Ladies Auxiliary – Juanita King recounted the events that the Auxiliary has been involved in over the past several months. Continuing their mission to aid and comfort the veterans of the 29th Division, the ladies of the Auxiliary planned birthday parties for two World War II veteran members of Post 64, Tom Boyer, 98 and John Kessler, 94.

Committee Reports

2015 National Convention – Commander Vaccarino gave a report on what has been decided so far concerning the event that will occur on 15-18 October 2015. The Fredericksburg Hospitality House in Fredericksburg, VA., is the site of our event. The trips and dinners have been finalized and all information will be published in the Summer 2015 *Twenty-Niner*. We hope to have the option for paying for registration/trips/meals by credit card operational for this event. He implored everyone to support the convention by placing ads and boosters in the Souvenir Program Book. Post 64 will be handling the Hospitality Rooms.

2016 Reunion and Convention – NSVC David Ginsburg said he will establish a Convention Committee to advise him on this event. He hopes to have the convention in Philadelphia, PA.

2017 Reunion and Convention – NJVC Robert Wisch said he hopes to have the 2017 convention in Baltimore, MD.

Futures Committee/Association Website – With the aid of a "Power Point Presentation" NSVC David Ginsburg focused on the latest website maintenance and activities that have been implemented recently. He mentioned several of the goals and items that he has identified as priorities for the upcoming year. NSVC Ginsburg hopes to have the online registration form for the convention operational very soon.

Report of the Nominating Committee – PNC Joe Zang announced the names of the candidates nominated for office in 2015-2016. Those candidates are:

Commander, David Ginsburg; Senior Vice Commander, Robert Wisch; Junior Vice Commander, Lewis "Frank" Dillon; Finance Officer, J. Brian Becker; Chaplain, John Schildt; Service Officer, Walter Carter; Welfare

Officer, Frank Rauschenberg; Historian, Joe Balkoski; Surgeon, William Bernhard; Judge Advocate, Houston Matney; and Sergeant-at-Arms Randy Beamer. The election will be held at the business meeting on 17 October 2015 at Fredericksburg, VA.

Report of the Constitution & By Laws Committee – As committee chairman PNC Dick Smith is recuperating from an illness, NSVC Ginsburg presented the changes to the Constitution & By Laws that the committee has recommended to be voted on at the convention in October. NSVC Ginsburg went over each change and explained the old and new language. Adjutant Mund made a motion to accept the changes “en masse” and send the changes on to the convention to be voted on in October. This motion was seconded by PNC King and passed. These changes will now be published in the *Twenty-Niner* newsletter in accordance with Article XIV – Amendments – Section 1 of the 29th Division Association National Constitution.

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – Adjutant Mund read a communication from Walter Carter on the activities being anticipated for Normandy Allies in 2015. He thanked the 29th Division Association for their donations over the past years.

The *Twenty-Niner* Newsletter – Editor/Publisher William Mund had no report.

Old Business

Fundraising Efforts – Many suggestions were offered how to raise funds. It was agreed that the recent effort to support the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* was successful.

Underwriting costs of WWII veteran members attending the convention – NSVC Ginsburg announced that donations for this effort should be sent to the Maryland Military Historical Society Inc. as they are a 501c (3) organization and the donations are tax deductible. Please note on check “WWII Veteran Convention Fund.”

New Business

World War I Memorial Church in France – This issue will be referred to the Command Committee.

Assisting our Brother Veterans Associations – PNC/PNE D Wilcox on behalf of the Korean War Veterans (KWVA) requested that individuals contact their representatives in the US Congress and ask them to support H.R. 1475, a bill to authorize a “Wall of Remembrance” as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that “Wall of Remembrance.”

Dedication of plaque at Westminster Readiness Center – MD Region Commander Rauschenberg advised that a re-dedication of the armory, (now known as a “Readiness Center”) will occur on 1 August 2015 at that facility. In addition, a plaque will be dedicated to recognize and honor the veterans of A Battery, 110th Field Artillery.

Medal of Honor (MOH) Grove – PNC Zang announced the recent campaign underway to fund, construct and erect an obelisk honoring the Medal of Honor recipients from Maryland in this area known as the Freedom of Foundation in Valley Forge, PA. He solicited donations from individuals as well as the 29th Division Association. A motion was made by PNC Wilcox with a second by Mund to allocate \$5,000 in the 2016 budget to fund this effort. Motion was passed.

D-Day Memorial – SRVC Ginsburg requested that the association make a better effort to attend activities and ceremonies at the D-Day Memorial annually on 6 June. He recognized that Post 64 and other members from Virginia always support the memorial by their attendance on that day.

Change of Command for the 29th Division is at Fort Pickett on 24 July 2015 at 1000 hours. BG Ortner will assume command from MG Whittington.

Deaths, Sick and Distressed

Longtime Adjutant for Post 729, Ken Gilland passed away recently.

PNC Jack Kutcher is slowly recovering from his recent illness. PNC Dick Smith is currently having some health issues. Tom Boyer is recovering from a broken hip, and John Kessler is in a Veterans Care facility.

Good of the Association

PNC King said that the Adjutant General of Virginia has announced plans to construct a new 40 acre “Readiness Center” in the Roanoke area.

Chaplain Schildt and Auxiliary President King recommended that there be efforts to educate our young people in U.S. History and of the history of the 29th Division.

JRVC Wisch said that a meeting with the incoming 29th CG should be arranged to brief him on our association and related activities.

Closing

With no further business, Commander Vaccarino began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Reverend Schildt along with a final salute to the colors. Commander Vaccarino announced that the **NEC I** meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, 18 October 2015** immediately following the memorial ceremony in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Meeting was adjourned at 1415 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.

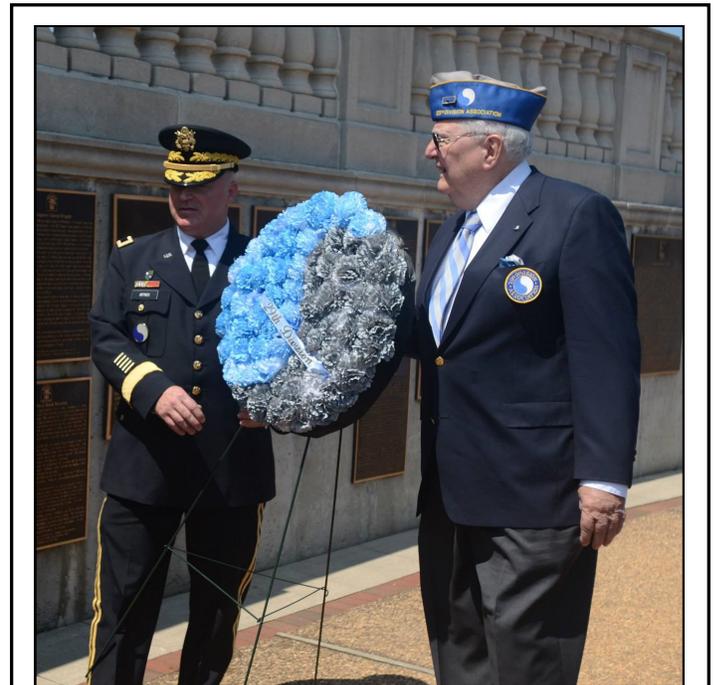
Adjutant

National Executive Committee

NEC Members please note:

These minutes will no longer be distributed individually.

This is your copy.



*Photo by Master Sgt. A.J. Coyne,
Virginia National Guard*

Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, deputy commanding general of the 29th Infantry Division, and PNC William “Bill” King, of Post 64, lay a 29th wreath in honor of 29th ID Soldiers during a ceremony commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy, June 6, 2015, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.

FUTURES COMMITTEE:**Recruit, Honor and Communicate!!!**

To paraphrase the US Army's doctrine of "Shoot, Scoot and Communicate", the Association is really trying to recruit new members, honor the 29th Division and keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat, and to communicate.

The Futures Committee, through various initiatives and the website, are trying to assist the Association and the posts with all three.

"Recruit" - It is now much easier for members to join, being able to go to the website, fill out a form, and use a credit or debit card to join in a matter of 5 minutes or less. This has helped the Association to get younger without losing our identity. The website helps bring the Association to light to many people who never knew we existed. There are additional ideas that need to be converted to initiatives around recruiting the WWII veteran's children and grandchildren to keep this Association alive in 20 years. The Embedded Program is currently running with 4 embedded contacts with the 116th Infantry, 29th Signal Company, the 29th CAB and the Ellicott City Armory.

"Honor" - this is done very well at the post level across the Association. Most of our posts run great ceremonies, dedicate monuments and spend countless hours helping to "glorify our dead, and further keep before our country, the record of the 29th IN ALL THE WARS". The "in all the wars" is capitalized on purpose. We are very cognizant that our predecessors in World War I and World War II made the Division famous. The members of the Association that fought in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, and the Global War on Terror has continued to carry on the proud tradition of the Blue and Gray and we need to continue to honor their valor and commitment as well. In addition, the crea-

tion of the unit histories on the website carries on the tradition of these units from World War I (and often earlier) all the way to present day.

"Communicate" - This element is crucial to keeping the members in the Association. We need to talk to our people as often as we can whether it is events at the post level, notices on new members or the loss of loved ones, or simply keeping everyone in the loop. One thing the Future's Committee created was the "News and Announcements" page. We highly recommend everyone check this page every week on the website and that each post uses this tool to communicate current events, gatherings for final salutes, etc. Many posts have already used this feature and are continuing to provide monthly updates on their events, current officers, etc. We are always looking for more ways to communicate with our members monthly and to get them more active in the events and meetings.

Updates - the 29th CAB and the 629th MI unit histories will go live in the next month. It is still a goal to get the 158th CAV up on the site, but that has proven very difficult. Finally, the Committee will be unveiling the plan to provide assistance to World War II veterans to attend the 2016 Convention and those ideas will be presented to the NEC at the 2015 National Convention.

Summary - the Futures Committee wants to be seen as a tool that each of the posts can use to grow and strengthen. If you have any ideas at all, please do not hesitate to contact me at dginzu@gmail.com or 443.641.7208.

*SRVC David Ginsburg
Chairman, Futures Committee*



Caitlin Marden, Dr. Michael Galgano, Ray Baird, Tyler VanVliet, and Freddy Stein at the Wall of Remembrance with Normandy Allies, July 2012. See Dr. Galgano's letter on page 30.

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—29 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
Book—Fields of War, Battle of Normandy (Robert Mueller)	\$19.95	\$5.75	\$25.70
Book—Not a Moment Too Soon - A.P. Hill (John Schildt)	\$12.95	\$5.75	\$18.70
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 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
DVD, 29th Division Reactivation Ceremony at Fort Belvoir on 5 October 1985	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$13.00

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.

Fredericksburg Hospitality House 29th Division Association 97th Annual Reunion



**15 – 18 October 2015
In Fredericksburg, VA**

- Room Rate \$99.00 plus tax
- Includes up to 2 breakfast tickets per room per day
 - Conveniently located near I95 and Rte 3
 - Served by Amtrak
- In the heart of many Civil War battlefields
- Chance to tour the Blue and Gray Brewery
 - Make plans now to attend

97th Annual Convention — A Grand Event in Fredericksburg, VA

(Continued from page 1)

day will be individual preference at in-house or local restaurants, Friday evening's dinner will be an open buffet; Saturday's traditional banquet will be a fixed seating event featuring the installation of next year's officers. Our Guest Speaker will be MG Linda L. Singh, The Adjutant General of Maryland.

Sunday morning dawns with a traditional memorial service conducted by our Chaplain Schildt. The convention

will close with a brief meeting (NEC I) conducted by our new National Commander.

A lot of sweat and tears have gone into preparation of this Convention. Hopefully, this will pay off with maximum attendance at this Convention.

To expedite registration, a complete registration form is published with this newsletter. Normal payment is by check or money order, with room registration by credit card or check. We encourage the use of Pay Pal to ease the registration process.

The 97th Convention will feature a souvenir program book. All Posts are expected to advertise in this publication. Individual and business ads will help to make the program book a keeper.

We look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. That's what Conventions are all about. Let's outdo the past and establish a new benchmark – turn out for this Convention and keep alive the spirit of the 29th Division Association.

I. John Vaccarino

Souvenir Program Book Ads

You are authorized to insert copy to occupy a space of _____ page for which we agree to pay the rate indicated.

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	70.00
Quarter Page	40.00
Eighth Page	25.00

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **September 1, 2015**. Make up your ad copy, attach to this form with your check payable to the **29th Division Association** & mail to:

William S. Mund, Jr.
441 Chalfonte Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
443-529-4233

IMPORTANT: "Camera Ready" copy is needed. Please make sure your ads are complete and legible. Thank You.

Patrons

During the 97th year of our 29th Division Association, your name and the names of all your family should appear in the Souvenir Program Book. The cost per name is \$2.00. Please print each name legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received no later than **September 1**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 15 – 18, 2015
ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
Please print and make your reservation early.

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Enclose separate sheet for more names. Please select your entrees for the dinners.

EACH PERSON MUST PAY THE REGISTRATION CHARGE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Registration Charge (Non-refundable) No. @ _____ \$20.00 \$ _____

Friday Evening Buffet (Open Seating) No. @ _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet (Assigned Seating) No. @ _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

Choice of:

White Chicken Parmesan _____ Sliced London Broil _____ Grilled Salmon _____

Friday Trip—National Museum of the Marine Corps,
Quantico, VA. Lunch and tour at
Blue & Gray Brewery. No. @ _____ \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

Make checks payable to 29th Division Association and mail to:
Robert Moscati, 1910 Calais Ct, Baltimore MD 21244

The cost of meals and trips cancelled prior to the cut-off date will be refunded. Due to contractual agreements with providers and caterers, cancellations made after the cut-off date will be non-refundable.

Any questions, contact Bob Moscati at (410) 944-1639 or Email at Rmoscati@msn.com

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS OCTOBER 1, 2015

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

FREDERICKSBURG HOSPITALITY HOUSE & CONFERENCE CENTER
2801 Plank Road Call **540-786-8321**
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

The group room rate is \$99 plus tax per night & must be guaranteed with a credit card or one night's deposit by check or cash. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 12 PM.

BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION.

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY. WE ONLY HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS AND YOU CAN CANCEL UP TO 24 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES.

CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS OCTOBER 1, 2015

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1262
Baltimore, MD

Address Service Requested

Association Membership

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

National Headquarters
29th Division Association
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 |
| HQ Post 29 | At Large |
| MD Post 48 | Westminster, MD |
| MD Post 58 | Dundalk, 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 |
| 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 _____