



Executive Director's Message:

Greetings to all my comrades both here in the United States and abroad who are members and supporters of the 29th Division Association. I am very pleased to report that Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, endorsed in his referral to Congress the recommendation of the Congressional Naming Commission that the iconic blue and gray, yin yang patch of the 29th Division be retained and unchanged in the US Army.

We are extremely grateful to now PNC Ted Shuey for his leadership during this fraught time when the very existence of the Association was on the line. He rallied the troops, reached out to his colleagues in the military and business community, liaised with the US Congress and raised funds through the "Save the Patch" Foundation.

All of these efforts led to an outpouring of support for the retention of the patch that was unparalleled among veteran community.

With this battle won we are now

(Continued on page 16)

103rd Convention features visit to US Army Museum and Commanding Generals panel



From left: MG Carroll Childers; LTG H Steven Blum; MG Grant Hayden; MG Frank Batts; MG Blake Ortner; MG John Epperly and MG John Rhodes.

With fall in the air, it was once again time for the faithful members of the 29th Division Associate to reunite at the annual convention. This year the venue was Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, VA, located across the street from the Pentagon. We were definitely in the right place for veterans to meet as we turned off of Army Navy Drive to enter the hotel driveway.

Like so many conventions over the years, this was another memorable event. Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin had recently referred to the US Congress the Naming Commission's recommendation that the 29th Division patch be retained in the US Army. There was both a sense of relief as well as a joyous moment for all. National Commander Ted Shuey had spent almost his entire tenure successfully leading the fight to preserve blue and gray, yin yang symbol of unity, honor, bravery and service.

As attendees began to gather on Thursday, 13 October, at the Potomac View Room on the top floor of the hotel to register for the event, they were greeted with a magnificent view of the Washington DC skyline featuring the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the Washington Monument and the US Capitol building. The room would serve as the hospitality suite for the duration of the convention

and became the focal point for sharing stories and enjoying refreshments.

Friday, 14 October, saw beautiful fall weather return and all of the rain and clouds dissipate from the previous day. The morning was set aside for everyone to be on their own, to visit the many attractions in the area and shop at the finest venues on the east coast at Pentagon City, Tyson's Corners and downtown Washington.

In the afternoon, everyone gathered in the hospitality suite for the bus trip to the National Museum of the US Army in Ft. Belvoir, VA. The museum recently opened to a great deal of fanfare, and after visiting no one was disappointed. Starting with a 360 degree movie enhanced by special effects that made the viewer feel like part of the action, the film traced the history of the US Army from its inception in the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Upon entering the museum the visitor was immediately presented with the stories of many courageous soldiers presented on freestanding pylons that lead into the main exhibit area. The exhibits flowed in a chronological set of rooms starting with "The Founding of a Nation" through "The Changing World" where the US Army has been confronted by issues around the globe.

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THE TWENTY-NINER

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National Commander 2022 - 2024**Richard D. "Dick" Snyder**

Let me begin my remarks by saying what a great honor it is to be the National Commander of the 29th Division Association. I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you and express our appreciation to our Past National Commander, Ted Shuey. His leadership, guidance, and vision during the past year was extraordinary. We have just concluded a very successful Conference and Reunion of the 29th Division Association under his leadership.

I would like to thank the membership for having confidence in me and the newly elected Officers and appointed Officers of the Association to carry on the tradition of the 29th Division Association. We will need your support, but more importantly, we need your *involvement* in this Association. We would love to hear from you with your suggestions and ideas. **Membership is the backbone of the Association.**



During our most recent convention and reunion we heard from Leadership of National Guard Bureau and 29th Division Headquarters. They all noted how important and relevant this Association is to their success. Each member of this association should be proud of what we stand for and the recognition we received.

I will have more to say in the future, but I wanted to say hello and pass my thanks to you for this prestigious honor to be your National Commander.

I enlisted in the US Army in September 1967, as a Communication Specialist. I did tours in Vietnam, Washington DC and Ethiopia. Upon my discharge in August 1971, I enlisted in the Maryland Army

National Guard and worked full-time for the Guard. I served in several different types of positions in full-time assignments before being commissioned as a Warrant Officer in January 1980.

As a Warrant Officer, I served in the field of Logistics. Upon the reorganization and the activation of the 29th Infantry Division, I was assigned to 29th Division Support Command (DISCOM). I served in 29th DISCOM as Property Book Technician and progressed to my last assignment of DISCOM S4 in September 2004 when I retired from the Maryland National Guard.

During my membership in 29th Division Association I have served as Post Commander, Vice Post Commander, Maryland Region Vice Commander and I am currently serving as Maryland Region Commander as well as National Commander.

I live in Dallastown, Pennsylvania with my wife Lois. We have two wonderful adult children, Amanda and David, as well as a grandson, Austin. I'm proud and honored to serve as your National Commander. 29 Let's Go!

Richard D. Snyder
National Commander
29th Division Association, Inc.

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Important Notice to all Post Commanders from the National Finance Officer

As in the past, the National Finance Officer will file the required IRS Form 990N for each Post for Fiscal Year 2022.

For this to happen, each Post must submit on Post Letter- head, a statement that "Post XX's normal revenue stream is less than \$50,000 a year."

This statement must be signed by either the Post Commander or Post Finance Officer. In the unlikely event a Post exceeds this amount, please contact the NFO for additional information. The statement can be sent via email or USPS to the following **NLT 15 January 2023.**

NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com or mail to: NFO, 29th Division Association, 1702 Mews Way, Fallston, MD 21047

Thanks in advance for your support with this important requirement.

Tom Knight
Assistant National Finance Officer

Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this issue. Note our cut-off date. If your contribution did not reach our National Executive Director by 23 November 2022, then it will not be listed until the next issue. Donation checks must be made payable to the **29th Division Association** and mailed to: **PO Box 548, Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548**

Bennett, David, Port Saint Lucie, FL

In memory of LTC Anthony Miller

Bennett, David, Port Saint Lucie, FL

Roland V. Miller & Norman A. Miller

Cresap's Rifles, Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Mark Poling, Frederick, MD

In memory of Harold Shank, Middletown, MD

In memory of Robert L. Strine, A/115, Frederick, MD

Delahunty, Stephen

In memory of COL Edward "Craig" Norman

Fleming, Thomas J., Post 93, Son, Auburn, MA

In memory of SGT Thomas F. Fleming, G/115

Held, William J. Jr., Post 94, Son, New Freedom, PA

In memory of William J. Held, Sr., HHC/175

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

Liknes, Greg

In memory of Orion D. Zurcher, WWII veteran of the 29th

Limestone Post 1-72, Baltimore, MD

In memory of Orion D. Zurcher, WWII veteran of the 29th

Wilcox, Christina, Widow, Frederick, MD

In memory of PNC/PNEC John Wilcox, A/115

Yarrison, James, HHC, 29th ID(L), Alexandria, VA

In memory of COL Edward "Craig" Norman

The Preamble

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

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from 24 July 2022 through 23 November 2022. 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

Edenfield, Bernard C., Post 2, A/116, Maitland, FL 5/12/22

Fuller, J.W. "Butch", Post 110, HHB/110FA, Summerville, SC 10/22/22

Gilbert, Harry D., Post 85, 729MT, Aberdeen, MD 10/17/22

Langley, Joseph H., Post 94, HHC/29ID(L), Alexandria, VA 8/28/22

Lesage, Denis, Post 93, Associate, France 9/22/22

Strickroth, Raymond G., Post 85, 224/AVN, Bel Air, MD 8/28/22

Peregrin, John, Post 93, E/115, Milford, CT 5/12/22

Poling, Mark, Post 78, Associate, Frederick, MD 10/20/21

Shank, Harold, L., Post 78, Associate, Middletown, MD 11/5/22

Strine, Robert L., Post 78, A/115, Frederick, MD 9/6/22

Worley, Earl P., Post 64, Associate, Roanoke, VA 8/7/22

LEST WE FORGET

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

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

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

Frank Armiger

National Executive Director

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2-224 Aviation Battalion ends mission in Kosovo

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – The Virginia Army National Guard's Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division officially ended its mission in Kosovo as Kosovo Force's Regional Command-East welcomed the Soldiers of their new aviation task force during a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 11, 2022, at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

The battalion mobilized as Task Force Pegasus, and they relinquished responsibility of all RC-E's aerial operations to the 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard, mobilized as Task Force Yellowhammer.

As part of the ceremony, leaders from Task Force Pegasus cased their unit's flag, or colors, officially signifying the culmination of their nine-month mission in the region, followed by leaders from Task Force Yellowhammer uncasing their unit's colors, representing the beginning of their mission in Kosovo.

"I think before we left, we wanted everybody to come back with three things they could say, which were

that we made ourselves better, made the unit better, and made Kosovo better. And I think after our TOA, we can look back and say that everyone is coming back better off than they left," said Lt. Col. Matthew C. Lewis, the Task Force Pegasus Commander. "The unit is much better trained than we left, and Kosovo is a better place because we were here. So, I think looking at all those things and then collectively we take a step back, this is something that they will be able to take with them for the rest of their lives."

During Task Force Pegasus' rotation, over 1,700 flight hours and 275 aerial missions were completed, five multinational multi-ship flights, and 14 MedEvac missions, two of which required the use of a hoist and countless hours of training.

"In the past five years, we have completed two (National Training Center) rotations and one (Joint Readiness Training Center) rotation, as well as deploying to Albania, Bosnia, and Greece in support of Defender Europe 21. In summary, this is a proven team and I am confident they will succeed at this

mission just like they have the others," said Lt. Col. David G. Goodall, the TF Yellowhammer commander. "After 25 months of long preparation, Task Force Yellowhammer could not be more excited to accept responsibility for this mission and get right to work."

During the ceremony, the commander of RC-East, Col. Christopher Samulski, reflected on the accomplishments of Task Force Pegasus and welcomed the new aviation task force to

the region. Samulski relies heavily on his aerial assets to quickly transport troops, supplies, and conduct medical evacuations throughout the region.

"Task Force Pegasus has some of the finest Soldiers with which I have served, and I feel honored and blessed to have had this great organization as part of my command," Samulski said during the ceremony. "To Task Force Yellowhammer: Welcome to Kosovo and Regional Command-East. I look forward to working with all of you, and I am confident that this unit



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Amouris Coss

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Matthew C. Lewis, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, Virginia Army National Guard (Task Force Pegasus), and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Viera, the battalion command sergeant major, cased their unit's flag, or colors, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Oct. 11, 2022. The casing of the colors signifies the end of the task force's rotation in Kosovo.

will continue to carry the torch of professionalism and expertise that the aviation task force has maintained in this region for the past 23 years."

KFOR RC-East is comprised of ten contributing NATO partner nations working to ensure a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo.

"I was not prepared for just how big of an impact that we have here in RC-East, and how our mission makes such a difference," Lewis said. "I think that this has been one of the most rewarding things in my career, knowing that our presence here as part of NATO has helped in providing stability for the region. It is a worthwhile endeavor that I'm proud to have taken part in."

KFOR RC-East's mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999.

By Staff Sgt. Amouris Coss | 138th Public Affairs Detachment

Normandy Diary

Part 3

By Colin H. McLaurin, CO, I/115

After an hour or so of this slow, tedious, and tiring movement, we received orders to move onto the road. This was a much more dangerous method of movement because of the possibility of ambush. Troops on a road are very vulnerable. Roads often offer perfect fields of fire for an enemy who might be a thousand yards away. A road march is much swifter than a cross-country one and since time was a vital factor at this moment, we took what is known in strategic and tactical circles as a "calculated risk."

Along the road there was evidence that the area had been softened up for us. Partially wrecked houses and shell and bomb craters in the road were grim reminders that we were not engaged in a mere tactical exercise. We walked past a burned out hulk that was once a Sherman tank. And a few minutes later felt that the score was partially settled when we found a knocked out German tank. We threaded our way carefully through the scattered wreckage of a German ammunition truck. We were careful because some of the ammo was live shells.

Toward noon our battalion halted on a hill overlooking the town of Trevieres. According to information received from higher authority, it was still in German hands. We therefore assumed that it would fall to our lot to have a hand in taking this place.

My immediate attention was taken with organizing my position and coordinating its defensive fires with the other companies of the battalion. This is no easy job for a company commander, for he must assign positions for his three rifle platoons and must assign fields of fire for the machine guns and mortars of his weapons platoon. To do this effectively he must reconnoiter the area, then he must check the area after the men are in position in order to ascertain whether or not his dispositions were carried out properly. In addition, I always found it necessary to dig my own foxhole; it would not be fair to make a man dig two. Due to the fact that I could establish my command post where I saw fit, sometimes I could get cover without digging by taking advantage of a ditch or an abandoned hole.

By early afternoon we were established; so I retired to my CP to rest and await developments. As was usually the case, I received more developments than rest. A battalion runner popped in and informed me that four Germans had been flushed up in the battalion area. They had been hiding in the ditches which crisscrossed the position. This news made it necessary to search our position with a "fine toothed comb" to make certain there were not others.

The news that we might possibly be harboring unwanted company within our area did not affect my appetite. I opened my last K ration and proceeded to dispose of it in the proper manner. It was fortunate that I ate when I did, for before I had finished, the telephone tinkled. Major Gillespie on the other end of the line ordered me to assemble the company and prepare to move.

A short time later our battalion was marching back over the same road that we had marched on earlier in the morning. No reason was given for our back tracking but this is the kind of thing

which is an everyday occurrence to an infantryman. I did not like this move, for I felt that I was marching back toward the beach. That was one place I wanted to avoid. Back along the deserted road we marched, back past the ammunition truck, the German tank, and out gutted Sherman. When we came to the point where the modern cement highway crossed our road, we turned off on it and started out in a new direction.

All along the road, at intervals of a few hundred yards, we would pass houses, some occupied and others empty. The occupants would either stand by the side of the road or pull the curtains to one side and peer out the windows. They all appeared friendly and would wave, smile, or call out a greeting. The Frenchmen were a novelty; so the marching was interesting.

Our experience with snipers had made all of us alert. The area in front and on each side was always closely watched. I carried my carbine in my hand ready to use it on an instant's notice in much the same manner that I had done when I had gone quail hunting. At one point we noticed a couple of individuals standing a distance from us; so we stopped to investigate. A white flag was raised into the air, and out walked a couple of French girls and a man. I am sure that they must have felt apprehensive, but they appeared calm and nonchalant.

About four or five o'clock in the afternoon, we turned off the highway onto a narrow road. "At last," I thought, "we are reaching our destination." By now we were pretty tired, for we had been exerting ourselves all day. Someone up in the front column increased the pace and soon we were bowling along at a very brisk pace indeed. A half hour or so of this had us all fagged out. I was tired, but not exhausted, but I passed by a Naval gunfire support party who were about to fall by the wayside. They were probably not as well conditioned to hiking as we were. A little later, a halt was called and we sat down right in the middle of the road and rested our weary bones.

Hearing a commotion up front, I glanced up and saw a few of the drivers of our vehicles. This was encouraging for it meant that our transportation with ammunition, blanket rolls, food, and water had safely gotten ashore. We forgot our fatigue for the next ten minutes while we swapped our experiences of the last two days; it was pleasant to see familiar faces.

Instead of stopping for the day as I had hoped, I received orders to have the company take off their packs, stack them in a pile, and prepare to move on and attack a village which was located a little less than two miles up ahead. I did not have time to call my officers together, but had to pass on the information as they marched by. It was disappointing merely to have to move on, but to wind up with a fight was definitely discouraging. Discouraging or not, orders were orders; so onward we marched.

On the outskirts of some little village (I never remembered the names of the places which I passed through), a sniper or two opened fire on us with rifles. Not knowing what to expect, I moved my advance guard off the road and ordered one of my

machine gun squads to set up their gun and prepare to return the fire. Since an open road is a vulnerable spot, I planned to move through the village in a deployed formation along the route parallel to the road.

Before I could put my plan to action, the battalion commander came walking up and wanted to know what was causing the delay. He seemed to think that a few sniper bullets should not have slowed us down. For some reason higher commanders always seem impatient when their operations slow down. They must always have speed and more speed. Their desire for speed seemed unreasonable at times to me.

With Major Gillespie's impatient urging ringing in my ears, I gave the signal to move out. Directly in front of me was some sort of dugout which I concluded might contain Germans. I cautiously walked up to its entrance and called, "Kommen Sie aus!" With the idea it would be unmistakably clear to Germans, and if there were Frenchmen in there, they would be more likely to understand German than English. Hearing a noise inside, I repeated my instructions and held my carbine ready. Instead of Germans, out popped six or seven very scared French women. Their ages ranged from a young girl to a feeble old woman. The old lady paused at the entrance, I noticed a bewildered expression on her old wrinkled face. As a gesture of reassurance I reached over, took her by the arm, and helped her out and smiled at her. This expression of friendliness had its effect, and it touched me to see the relieved look come over her face. I pointed toward the rear and watched them walk away. Feeling that there might still be a German or so in the dugout, I called down it again. Getting no answer and not having time to investigate, I thrust my carbine down in the hole and fired three or four rounds just to make certain that no one would fire upon us from behind.

There must have been quite a few snipers stationed through the town, for shots seemed to be fired from different locations. It is hard to locate the point from which someone is shooting, for only the crack of the bullet in passing is heard and not the sound of the exploding powder charge.

In spite of the snipers, we moved on through the village and on to a narrow trail on the other side. We made no attempt to round up the snipers, for it would have taken too much time. There was still a mile or so between us and our objective, and the sun was rapidly sinking toward the horizon.

It often seemed strange to me in the early days of my military life, how large bodies of troops could operate with definite objectives in mind while in an absolutely strange country. Maps were the answer to my question. They enable the strategist to plan his campaign and his forces to execute his orders without wandering around blindly. In France I always had my map with me, and when moving, it was just as important as my gun if not more so. So, by frequently checking our maps, we marched on.

On the outskirts of the village, which was our objective, I moved my company off the road, got them employed to be ready for whatever resistance we would meet, and moved in. All my mental agitation turned out to have been unnecessary; we were unopposed. The enemy had evidently withdrawn to some other position. On the far side of the village lay the edge of what had been designated to us as the inundated area, a marshy area partially

covered with water and crisscrossed with large ditches and canals. A few months previously this area had been entirely covered with water so as to form a large lake two or three miles wide and seven or eight miles long. There was one road across this great tactical obstacle and observed from aerial photos, but it was out of our zone of advance and besides, it could not be depended upon as an aid in crossing. As an indication of the importance which the planners had accorded this obstacle, our battalion had received and operated under the strictest secrecy about forty amphibious vehicles called "weasels" a couple of months before we embarked. At the time the personnel of the lower echelons did not have the slightest idea why we were getting them and did not know until they were briefed in England about two weeks before the great undertaking started. This inundated area had caused us considerable anxiety, for it had to be crossed whatever the cost. Now it confronted us. What had been the future concern had become a present problem.

Operation Snafu

As I gazed out from the near bank of the inundated area, I could see that this area would provide difficulties. This area was absolutely flat all the way across and on the far side the ground sloped upward. The elevation on the far bank coupled with the fact that there were patches of trees, hedges and ditches providing excellent cover and concealment for the Germans who were anticipated to resist our advance, made me realize that our battalion would be at a disadvantage at the outset. A few hundred yards from the far side was another village (Colombieres), and again higher authority had reported that it was in enemy hands.

I spent the remaining hour of daylight, (it stayed light until 11pm) in organizing my company area into some sort of defensive position, and talking over the situation with the battalion commander and the other company commanders. By studying my map and the terrain, I tried to impress a picture of the area in my mind; no lights were permitted after dark out in the open.

The general tactical plan decided upon was to attempt to cross the area under cover of darkness. Patrols were to be sent out as soon as it became dark with the mission of reconnoitering a route through the network of ditches and canals. The success of the entire operation would be dependent on finding a route across and also on crossing without being detected, for once we were detected, the Germans would be expected to open up with everything they had. This could possibly be disastrous for us, because of the perfect fields of fire and observation the position provided the Germans.

The time to move out was set for two o'clock which gave us approximately three hours for the patrols to get back, assemble the men, issue the attack order, and get going. This operation was no easy task, for a night operation is one of the most difficult of all tactical operations and requires very careful planning and well trained troops.

The men, now tired and sleepy, dropped on the ground and soon most of them were sleeping. The air was growing chilly and would soon be cold enough to be uncomfortable. We did not have even our raincoats to cover up with now that our packs had been left behind. (This decision proved to be an error on the part of the battalion commander). Knowing how diffi-

cult it is to keep contact and control of a unit in darkness, I kept the platoon leaders with me; so they would be quickly available in case I needed them.

I lay there on the ground thankful for the opportunity to rest my weary muscles. I wished that I could close my eyes and sleep like the rest, but the responsibility of command forced me to keep alert. Frankly, I was worried, for we were not in a very good position for defense and the men were not alert. They realized the danger of the position, but were too tired to worry about it. A surprise attack by the Germans would have played havoc with our battalion, but the darkness, our weariness, lack of coordinated orders from higher up, and the fact that we would move out in a few hours were factors which were the basis for our unprepared state.

About this time an incident occurred which we had witnessed before and would witness and experience later. This incident was an air raid on the beachhead. I heard the plane's engines roaring overhead but could not see the aircraft themselves. Immediately, our anti-aircraft units went into action. The shells and bullets from thousands of guns created a tremendous and awesome fireworks display. Long curving lines of orange tracers climbed slowly into the sky, crossing and re-crossing each other forming a beautiful pattern of blazing lead and steel. Clusters of flares dropped by the enemy planes hanging suspended and practically motionless lit up the countryside with an eerie brilliance. The combined and blended sound of the guns created a dull chattering roar. Twice, I saw the glare of burning planes; at least two batteries marked up kills on their score boards. The raid last perhaps fifteen minutes, and after the planes had departed, the guns ceased shooting, and all was quiet once more.

I was aroused from my rest a few minutes later when I heard a voice calling softly for me. After calling the man over to me, I found that I was wanted at the battalion CP. I instructed my runner to accompany me, and using the messenger as a guide, we stumbled back to see what was wanted of me. We were led to the front door of one of the stone cottages in the village. Someone on the inside responded to our knock, and after a brief pause, the door was opened just long enough for us to get through the entrance, then it was closed and relocked. Inside, I saw the Regimental Commander, the Battalion Commander with his staff, and the other Company Commanders of the battalion. The officers were gathered around a crude wooden table upon which were their maps and a burning candle which lighted the room. The other men, runners, communications men, and others were sprawled around the room, and I was surprised to see a family of Frenchmen staring at us from the doorway of an adjacent room with looks varying from fear and wonder to curiosity and interest. It was no wonder, for their home had been appropriated for the moment by the American Army.

Seeing me, Major Gillespie motioned for me to join the circle. I slid down into a vacant spot on the bench by the table, pulled out my notebook and pencil, and, seizing the opportunity of the blacked out room, lit a cigarette. There in the small, strange, room filled with foul, smoky air, a small stove, old furniture, and men's combat equipment we discussed the situation and received out last minute orders. In answer to a question as to the

state of affairs within my company, I said that everyone was in need of rest and sleep. The regimental commander replied that he needed some too, but that it would be an impossibility to stop as we had been ordered to cross the inundated area that night.

The plan called for us to move out in a column of companies with the men in a column of twos. Men who composed the patrols and who were still out reconnoitering the route would act as guides for the column. I was also informed that rations would be sent down shortly, and we were to eat before starting out.

It is hard for me to describe my feelings and thoughts at this time. The strain of combat operations for the past two days, the night with its strange surroundings, and the prospect of our immediate undertaking combined to induce a state of depression in my mind. The hasty, fragmentary orders, and the shortage of time and information of the enemy made me uneasy.

As we prepared to return to our units, I took advantage of the occasion and beckoned to a member of our French audience, pulled out my empty canteen, and motioned for him to fill it with water. Drinking water is a very important commodity to an infantryman in combat, and it is a serious matter to be without it for any length of time.

Just as I got outside in that inky, black night, I bumped into my injured Company Commander, Captain Spry, who had just driven up with the ration vehicles. He had not been injured badly enough to be evacuated, but his eye was giving him a little trouble; so he was accompanying the battalion supply train. I envied him for his good luck in avoiding our forthcoming operation, but I also resented the fact that his job had been thrust upon me. Of course, the situation had been brought about simply by the fortunes of war, and I accepted it as such.

Back in the company area everyone was apparently asleep. In the darkness not a man was visible. If I had not known that the men were there, I would have sworn that I was alone. By feeling around, calling out in a low voice, and dispatching a few runners, I gathered my platoon leaders and key non-commissioned officers around me. I told them to get ready to eat, after which I would issue the company order for the operation.

Most of the time the distribution of rations is simple, but that night it was an involved undertaking. We received the rations in several wooden boxes which had been constructed for overseas shipment; so it was difficult to open them. The second difficulty was "breaking them down" as we say in the Army. As luck would have it, the rations were of the type known as 10 in 1, which was food for three meals for ten men packed in one box. The food was packed in cans, boxes and bags. The problem was dividing the rations so that everyone received an equal share of everything, and this division had to be accomplished in the dark. This aspect may not sound so important and difficult to a well fed and under exercised civilian, but I knew that the men would howl if somebody else had something that they did not have or if the shares were not equal. The task was eventually accomplished though, and in due course, I received my share.

There in the darkness about one o'clock in the morning, I ate the cold meal. While my jaws were busy chewing, my mind was busy composing my company order for our crossing operation. In this instance, the orders were very simple. Since the order had

originated high up along the chain of command, my tactical talents would not be strained while formulating my little plan of action. My job on this occasion would consist mainly of passing on to my subordinates the information which I received.

A few minutes before 2 a.m., I sent out my platoon runners with instructions for the platoons to assemble at the designated spot. After much stumbling and fumbling around, we were lined up and ready. For once my company did not lead the column which meant that I was not responsible for maintaining march direction, etc., but just had to follow the unit ahead of me.

Before we had walked two hundred yards, the column stopped. I walked up to the head of the column to see what was the matter. It seemed that the patrols who had been sent out to reconnoiter a route had not done so. They had been instructed to be back by a certain time, and their time had expired before they had fulfilled their mission. We were therefore faced with, instead of a well-planned night movement, a hit or miss proposition in which all our eggs were placed in the basket of luck. Such a situation was very unsound from a tactical viewpoint, but we had orders to proceed; so we moved on, but not until the lead company commander, a very capable and conscientious officer, had expressed his opinion of the set up.

I never had thought that we would have begun this operation with so little preparation. When we had been briefed three weeks before the landing, this particular obstacle had been given a lot of attention, and here we were attempting to cross it at night without a route mapped out. This was my first experiences with an aspect of combat operations which I was to experience later a good many times. I mean by that, the attempt to seize strong local objectives with adequate preparation and planning. Anyway, for better or worse, we resumed our movement.

It was sloppy going. The entire area was covered with black, sticky, mud and marsh grass sometimes a couple of feet high. Every hundred yards or so there were some kind of drainage ditches varying in width from three to seven or eight feet. Yes, they were filled with water. When we would come to one of these, we would try to get a running start and jump across. As my equipment was fairly light, I was able to leap most of them. Every once in a while, I would slip and with a loud splash, in I would go. After a few slips, all of us were muddy and wet from our heads to our toes. The going was very rugged for the men who had to carry the heavy equipment.

After two hours of slipping and sliding in the mire, we came to a fair sized stream which we could not wade or jump. Upon investigation, we saw that in order to cross this, we would have to swim. I figured that I could manage it, but I knew that most of the men could not. The decision as to whether we should or should not attempt the crossing did not rest with me, however, but with the Battalion Commander. His decision was to march back to our starting point. It was exasperating to have to retrace our steps after expending all that energy and time getting up to this point, but it was maddening to have to expend an equal amount getting back.

By now the sky had changed from black to grey which indicated that a new day was about to dawn. Getting caught in the middle of this area in the daylight could be compared to getting caught with your pants down, for any enemy artillery observers on the far side could have a field day with us as their target.

This thought was shared by many and presently by the entire battalion as the men expressed their fears vocally. They visualized

batteries of 88's lined up on the far side and picking them off at sunrise. And so I observed another phenomenon which would also occur later. It had long been known in military circles that in combat often the mere order to retreat or withdraw, no matter what the basis for the order is, is a stimulus to panic, an inexcusable emotion for a soldier. I am sure that the withdrawal order had as much to do with the men getting panicky as the mention of the 88's.

Someone passed the word back that the Battalion Commander had ordered the men to spread out and also to head for the nearest cover. I had always thought that a leader must always retain control of his unit regardless of the situation. I know that the vital control element would be lost to the Battalion Commander if the companies were allowed to break away from the column and go their separate ways, and it would also be lost to the Company Commanders if the companies became intermingled. I vowed that I would retain control of my company by keeping the unit together even if the enemy artillery did open up. The more confused the battalion became, the madder I got; I was seething with anger.

In spite of everything that I could do, by the time we got back to our starting point the battalion was not much more than a military mob, a mob without much spirit.

My next thought was to reassemble my company and get the outfit into some sort of orderly disposition. They were divided into three groups and scattered over three different areas. Even before I had the entire company gathered together in one position, Major Gillespie called me over to him and informed me to prepare to move back out in a half hour.

I was surprised and a little indignant when I received this notification. Surely, I thought, how can we be expected to keep going without a rest? We had been on the go since the previous morning, and the ill-fated night crossing had left us tired, muddy, wet, mad and depressed. Nevertheless, I gave the necessary orders to reassemble, and received a compliance that was prompt but not very cheerful.

Once more we started out, but this time by the light of day which made the operation more hazardous in case we encountered resistance. This time we would be better prepared for stream crossing; some of our weasels accompanied us carrying engineer equipment to bridge the stream.

Daylight with its improved visibility enabled us to choose a much better route than the one we had used during the night, and in a short time we encountered the troublesome stream which I mentioned earlier and with the aid of the engineer equipment, crossed it.

On the other side we took up a deployed formation and began to move forward cautiously. I expected to be fired on momentarily. We had the same marshy ground to bog down in and the same drainage ditches to flounder in. In addition to the muck and mire, we passed through several areas which were completely covered with water at depths ranging from a couple of inches to a couple of feet. In fifteen minutes our clothes, weapons, ammunition, and equipment were again soaking wet.

In spite of the ditches and water, the crossing was much easier than I had anticipated. We were lucky not to have found the whole area covered with deep water. Best of all, however, was the fact that the Germans on the far side—if there were any there—did not offer any resistance. I breathed a great sigh of relief when finally, I safely reached the high ground on the other side.

To be continued

The Boys of the 29th

Early after the 29th Division Association launched its effort to save our historic patch, a number of former Twenty-Niners reached out offering to join the fight. One of the first, COL (Ret.) Bob Simpson a former member of the Division, offered to speak with his cousin Michael Higgins, a Nashville musician, to see if he would consider producing a song to capture the spirit of the Blue and Gray.

Coming from a family with vast military service, Mike quickly agreed and began working on the wording to capture the spirit and sacrifice of the Division. The moving song, "The Boys of the 29th," was produced and recorded as our patch fight wound down and now becomes another way to tell the Division story. Performed for the first time during the recent 55th Annual Muster of the 116th Infantry Regiment on 14 November, the lyrics are printed below.

PNC Ted Shuey

The Boys of the 29th

*He was my Grandmama's daddy, he'd just turned 95
When he showed me his old uniform
He said, boy, the first good reason this old man's still alive
Goes back to June of '44
We were the first to hit the beaches,
as a fiery rain came down
The first of so many more to die
He said, son, you and me wouldn't be here now
Without the boys of the 29th*

*The flag we all saluted stood for what was right
And told us we all fought for home
But it's the patch on that left shoulder,
just above my sergeant's stripes
That said we'd never fight alone
It told the kid beside me, shakin' in his boots'
That I had his back and he had mine
Yeah, we were young and we were scared,
but we were damn proud to be there
We were the boys of the 29th*

*For you, it's just blue and gray thread,
faded and frayed by the hands of time
For me, I'll always see blood red,
hear the surf and the guns crash in my mind
It's there for the scars we all brought home
And for the souls of those we left behind
It's a part of me, son, that'll always be one
Of the boys of the 29th*

*There was Jimmy Hayes from Brooklyn,
I knelt with him and prayed
On that last mornin' of his life
And smilin' Charlie Wilson, I never saw a man so brave
I brought his dogtags to his wife
Has it really been a lifetime? It feels like yesterday
And it still sends a chill down my spine
How those colors always meant we'd be brothers to the end
The boys of the 29th*

*For you, it's just blue and gray thread,
faded and frayed by the hands of time
For me, I'll always see blood red, hear the surf
and the guns crash in my mind
It's there for the scars we all brought home
And for the souls of those we left behind
It's a part of me, son, that'll always be one
Of the boys of the 29th
Yeah, we were brothers and we were friends...
and I'd do it all again...
For the boys of the 29th*

*Words and music by Michael Higgins
Composer and Lyricist.*

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103rd Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Each room is chocked full of artifacts, lifelike mannequins in the uniforms of the era, military equipment and weapons, as well as soldier profiles. For example, there was a Civil War exhibit that featured a full artillery crew serving a muzzle loading cannon, the



U.S. Army Pack Mule

colors of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, an African-American unit featured in the movie "Glory," and the forage cap of General US Grant.

As you move through the rooms you are greeted with such military hardware as a Sherman tank, a Black Hawk helicopter, and a Stryker vehicle. But prominently displayed in the hall outside the rooms, is the venerable pack mule that spanned many eras and is still being used today.

When the museum closed to the public, our attendees were treated to a reception in one of the private rooms that featured delicious hors d'oeuvres, an open bar and inspirational music (including the "Beer Barrel Polka") from members of the 29th



LTG Jon Jensen, Director of the Army National Guard.

Division band under the leadership of SFC Richard Carr, Post 64 Commander.

We had special invited guest, LTG Jon Jensen, director of the Army National Guard. LTG Jensen praised the 29th Division Association on the successful fight to retain the patch and complimented NC Shuey on his leadership during that effort. He also talked about the importance of veterans'

organizations like our Association in mission of preserving history and relating to current soldiers in the National Guard who are being actively deployed throughout the world.

Saturday, 15 October, was another beautiful fall day in Crystal City. The day began with a catered breakfast in the Jackson Room and moved to the Washington Room for the annual business meeting.

The meeting began with the presentation of the colors by the 29th Division HQS followed by the band playing the National Anthem. JVC Jimmy Kilbourne led the members in the Salute to the Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States, and the Preamble, followed by Chaplain Joel Jenkins providing the opening invocation.

MG Tim Williams, The Adjutant General – Virginia, followed the first session of the business meeting that is summarized in the National Executive Director's column elsewhere in this edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. MG Williams talked about the important role that the Association played in the preservation of the patch in the US Army. He said that the groundswell that arose was very impressive and showed the Naming Commission the passion and love that so many people have for the Division. In particular, he recognized the efforts of our partners in France as a key element that the Commission considered in its recommendation.

He then moved on to the current situation and the importance of tying our soldiers to the Association. In the past year and a half more National Guard soldiers have been deployed around the globe that at any time since World War II. Consequently, it is very import for the Association to consider the needs of these soldiers who are separated from their families for a significant period of time.

The recruitment and retention of soldiers is another issue facing National Guard leaders. With a very low unemployment rate in the US, many potential candidates often have several jobs to consider. This is an area where MG Williams would like to leverage the Association and its members who can share their experiences in the NG and relate the value of military training and service to young men and women who are developing career plans.

Exacerbating this issue is the fact that there is a shift in strategy focusing on the Pacific. This means that the Navy Sea Lift and new Air Force fighters will probably come at the expense of US Army resources. In addition, the US Army is getting back to large scale operations forming around the division structure as opposed to the brigade.

One of the recommendations from the Congressional Naming Commission that affects MG Williams' command is the renaming of Fort Pickett. He was very satisfied that the new name will be Fort Barfoot, for Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot, a World War II combat



MG Tim Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

(Continued on page 14)

National Officers - 2022-2023

Elected Officers

National Commander: Dick Snyder

Vice Commander: Jimmy Kilbourne

Finance Officer: J. Brian Becker

Chaplain: Joel Jenkins

Historian: Dr. Edmund "Rick" Potter

Judge Advocate: Houston Matney

Surgeon: Dr. Howard Bond

Futures Committee Chairperson: PNC David Ginsburg



Appointed Officers

National Adjutant: Charles "Buddy" Faulconer

National Executive Director: Frank Armiger

Assistant National Executive Director: William S. Mund, Jr.

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

Assistant Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: Frank Armiger

Assistant Finance Officer: Tom Knight

Chaplain *Emeritus*: Reverend John Schildt

Historian *Emeritus*: Joe Balkoski

Attendees at our 103rd Annual Reunion & Convention

Armiger, Frank & Susan	Kilbourne, Jimmy & Sheila
Balkoski, Joseph	Knight, Tom & Donna
Banik, Jeffrey & Christine	Krauss, Michael
Bennett, Morris & Ann	Langille, Rick
Benson, Bill & Carol	Leighton, David & Ann
Black, Jon	Linthicum, George & Dorothy
Bond, Howard	Liswell, Bernie
Buchanan, Charles & Susan	Matney, Houston
Burgos, Ricardo & Sarah	Mayhew, Christopher
Carr, Richard & Denise	Melnikoff, Steven & Amy Carrick
Davis, Milton	Mund, William
Dennehy, Kevin	Nathan, Robert
Faulconer, Buddy	Noble, Charlie & Christina
Garrison, Jay & Blonnie	Ortner, Blake
Gilkerson, Michael & Ellen	Raymond, III, Richard & Dianne
Ginsburg, David & Amy	Sheppard, Andrew
Goldin, Andrew & Lili	Shuey, Theodore
Hayden, Grant	Sink, Karolyn
Heesen-Schoch, Margaret	Snyder, Richard & Lois
Hinz, Pete & Lynda	Sproul, III, Hugh & Anne
Jenkins, Joel & Donna	Ungerleider, Dan
Jindra, Leonard	Ungerleider, Neil
Jindra, Diana & Stephen Trachtulec	Williams, Timothy
Kahl, Bruce & Bonnie	Yarrison, James

Sunday Memorial Service



*This year at our Memorial Service on Sunday morning,
we honored those who departed since
our last Annual Reunion and Convention in 2021.*

Listed below are their names.

We pray that they may rest in peace.



Alexander, John H.	Harter, Wilbur, R.	Purner, Marshall L.
Atkinson, Charles M.	Kint, Robert R.	Rush, J. Warner
Bliss, Philip	Lane, John F.	Schulman, Israel R.
Blucher, James E.	Langley, Joseph H.	Scruton, Ralph J.
Brooks, Robert M.	Lantz, Jr., Walter	Sieling, Anne
Cadwalader, Benjamin R.	Lesage, Denis	Silverwood, Harry E. Jr.
Chick, Woodrow W.	Lhamon, Samuel	Simpson, Howard
Cox, Linda	Lynch, Leonard B.	Smith, Crowell, T. Jr.
Craemer, Albert J.	Marie, Bernard	Smith, Gregory A.
Dent, Gavin	May, Lloyd A.	Stagg, Paul A.
Duvall Harry J.	Morris, Kraig M.	Strickroth, Raymond G.
Edenfield, Bernard C.	Neighbor, Charles H.	Strine, Robert L.
Firebaugh, Larry D.	Norman, Edward "Craig"	Sutor, Robert N.
Fitzhugh, James H.	Parker, Virginia A.	Trzaskos, John J.
Fowler, Ashley P.	Peregrim, John	Walker, James, A.
Furzeland, Robert	Pezzi, Richard	Walsh, John M.
Gilden, Michael	Poffenberger, Richard B.	Willey, Elmer L.
Glock, Raymond	Poling, Mark	Worley, Earl P.
Hackett, Patrick,	Potts, Maurice Orville	Wyant, Avis L.
Hall, Harold B.	Prosser, James M., Sr.	Zarachowicz, Joseph, J.

103rd Convention

(Continued from page 10)

veteran and Choctaw Native American, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Italy and retired in Virginia as a colonel, winning a battle against his Henrico County homeowners association to fly an American flag in front of his house.

Next, NC Shuey asked his good friend from Normandy, Margaret Heesen-Schoch, to come forward and say a few words about the efforts in France to save the patch. She cited the visit by the Naming Commission Public Affairs Officer (PAO). He had been traveling through Europe and made a special trip to Normandy to meet with local supporters of the 29th Division. He was particularly impressed with Charles Norman Shay, a 98 year old veteran who served as a medic in the First Division, treating 29th Division casualties on Omaha Beach. And after viewing the Wall of Remembrance, the PAO had nothing but positive comments about his visit.

Our next speaker in the morning was MG John Rhodes, current commander of the 29th Division. He spoke about the recent deployment of Division HQ to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield to build partnerships and stability throughout the region. However, the mission was expanded to building a base camp in Kuwait to handle the refugees that were beginning to flow out of Afghanistan. This work had to be done quickly because the expectation was many planes carrying 500 per plane.

However, as the Taliban offensive took over much of the country as the Afghan army disintegrated, there was a rush to escape. As Afghans crowded at the Abbey Gate at Bagram Airfield, a suicide bomber detonated his bomb killing and maiming hundreds including the deaths of 13 US soldiers. Consequently, MG Rhodes and his team oversaw the honors for those casualties as they were airlifted to Kuwait and on to Dover AFB. The HQ operation was then moved to Qatar where it continued to provide aid and comfort to the evacuees.

MG Rhodes introduced his Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Daryl Plude who talked about developing partnerships with the nations of the area, in this case Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It was an opportunity to reestablish relationships at the soldier level through training and fraternization. One of the key elements of the training was to help rebuild the NCO component in the partner nations' armies that is such a vital part of the effectiveness of the US Army.



29th Division Band performing at the National Museum of the United States Army on Friday afternoon.

Up next was Steve Melnikoff, C/175, WWII. Steve talked about the role of a combat infantryman whose job it was to make physical contact with the enemy. As an example, he related a mission with General Norman Cota to take two railroad bridges on the Vire River. Unfortunately, for the assault party, the Nazis were there in force and repelled the 29th soldiers with 50% casualties. This was also the operation in which the Nazis captured two Jewish 29ers who were never seen again.

After a delicious buffet lunch in the Jackson Room, NC Shuey introduced the commanding general panel that included 6 previous CGs and the current CG, MG Rhodes. In order of their period of command, the panel was composed of MG Carroll Childers, LTG H. Steven Blum, MG Grant Hayden, MG Frank Batts, MG Blake Ortner, MG John Epperly and MG John Rhodes. This was very special group and NC Shuey deserves plaudits for assembling it.

The 29th Division was reactivated by the Reagan administration in 1985 as a highly trained light infantry division composed of the Maryland 58th Brigade and Virginia 116th Stonewall Brigade from the state's National Guards.

MG Childers was the first to speak and talked about his service that began in 1964 in Armored Cavalry Troop C. He retired in 1968 and was deployed to Vietnam as a civilian employee with the Department of Defense. After the reactivation of the Division in 1985 he took command in August 1996. He was especially proud of three War Fighter exercises in which the Division was pitted against the computer and did very well. He attributed the performance to superior leadership at all levels.

LTG H. Steven Blum, appointed CG in August 1999, spoke next and had effusive praise for the quality of the Division while he was in command. As an example, the Division competed with 3 active Army units in war games and won because the soldiers were so well trained. While the 29th Division was deployed to Bosnia, it captured the first 4 Al Qaeda operatives outside of Afghanistan.

While deployed in Bosnia, he was particularly disturbed when a regular Army general referred to National Guard soldiers as grocery store clerks as they prepared take an airfield. But the performance in that action spoke for itself and the prejudices about National Guard soldiers started to melt as they were deployed throughout the Middle East in the 2000's They were well trained, mature and ready to go.

MG and PNC Grant Hayden was up next. He took command of the



**WWII veteran
Steve Melnikoff, C/175.**



**MG John M. Rhodes
CG, 29th Division**



From left: Karolyn Sink; Blonnie Garrison; Christine Nichols and Dianne Raymond, enjoying themselves at the welcome reception at the NMUSA on Friday afternoon.

29th Division in September 2007. At that time the National Guard was very brigade centric in a modular structure that required the CG to coordinate with multiple Adjutant Generals. Essentially, like other division commanders he had no subordinate units. Therefore, the Division HQ rotated to develop necessary response forces. In the case of the 29th, MG Hayden and his staff developed a plan for the support of the inauguration of Barack Obama.

Following MG Hayden was MG Frank Batts who served as Deputy Commander before he was appointed CG of the 29th Division in January 2010. He had previously served in the Aviation Brigade of the 29th and was nominated for Brigadier General by MG Williams and worked on MG Hayden's staff as ADC. He was the first African American to serve as CG and oversaw the mobilization of the first unit to provide training to the Afghan army.

MG Blake Ortner stepped up to the podium next. He was appointed CG of the 29th Division in July 2017. He had previously served in the 9th Infantry Division but left in 1987. In 1989 he became intrigued with the 29th Division (Light) and decided to join the National Guard. He served with LTG Blum in Bosnia and thought it would probably be his last chance to deploy. And then the horror of 9/11 occurred.

As things exploded in the Mideast, the mission of the National Guard units like the 29th expanded to meet the challenges after 9/11. In that vein the 29th participated under MG Ortner in Operation Saber Strike deploying to the Baltic states where A10s landed on highways designed by the Soviets when Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were Soviet Socialist Republics.

MG John Epperly assumed command of the 29th Division in April 2018 after serving in the Division for 23 years. Under his command, the Division was rebuilt for large scale combat and became the pri-



World War II veteran Leonard Jindra, F/115 of Post 94 and Morris Bennett of Post 64, at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.

mary unit as opposed to the brigade. The new formation would include 16,000 soldiers and an aviation brigade. As a division, the 29th competed very well in Warfighter games with other divisions across the country. The 29th also proved invaluable during the COVID 19 pandemic providing testing, vaccinations and food support.

MG John Rhodes was the last to speak and he kept it short to allow sufficient time for questions. To a vigorous round of applause he announced that everyone in the Division should be back in the states by the end of the year.

That evening we had a sumptuous dinner with entertainment again by the 29th Division Band. NC Shuey had invited newly elected governor of Virginia, Glenn Youngkin, but unfortunately he was unable to make it. However, the ever resourceful NC Shuey had a great back up plan. He asked Joe Balkoski to speak and when he was done there was no doubt that he was the right person for this convention. Joe talked about his love for the Association and all the fine people he met over the years, many of whom became close friends.

It was a very moving and heartfelt talk without notes and Power-Point. But he mesmerized the audience that hung on his every word. Perhaps the most poignant moment was when he talked about his



National Commander Ted Shuey (right), presenting Joe Balkoski with a thermal mug after his presentation at the Saturday evening dinner.

family. Both his sister and brother were very successful professionals. Joe's father who was WWII veteran, wondered about Joe's as an historian. However, when he read one of Joe's books, he knew that he had a son who understood the turmoil of the war and would bless this world with his sincere contributions.

After dinner we all headed up to the hospitality suite for one last get together. Jimmy Kilbourne had procured a fine bottle of Calvados and we all joined with Steve Melnikoff and Leonard Jindra to once again toast the 29th Division: those who have served, those who are serving and those who will serve.

On Sunday, 16 October, we held our customary memorial service to recognize those members who had died over the past year and there were many this year. Chaplain Joel Jenkins led a very moving service and read one by one the names of those who had passed.

After the service, we held part two of the business meeting approving the new Association By-Laws and electing and installing the new officers.

As we all bade farewell and headed home, no one will forget the comradery that they experienced throughout the weekend. Here's hoping that we will see many more of you next year. The time and location will be announced shortly.

*By Frank Armiger, Assistant Editor/National Executive Director
Photos by Frank Armiger, William Mund and Amy Carrick.*



On 11-12 November the 116th Infantry Regiment's 54th Annual Muster Weekend was held in Staunton, VA. A Friday night reception at the 29th Division Museum with adult beverages and heavy snacks and the Saturday formal dinner banquet with the 29th Division Commanding General MG John Rhodes as speaker. Several National level Association officers attended the events: National Commander Dick Snyder, Past National Commanders Dave Ginsburg, David Leighton and their wives Amy and Anne, as well as National Judge Advocate Houston Matney.

Executive Director's message:

(Continued from page 1)

focusing on attracting and retaining members under the leadership of National Commander, Dick Snyder, and Futures Committee Chair, PNC David Ginsburg.

With that in mind, we are continuing to work with Mike Marx-Gibbons of Aliceanna Collective on a second video that will link the service of our veteran community over the entire history of the 29th Division from its founding in 1917 to the present day with an emphasis on the post 1985 history. We will use the video to attract new members and to highlight the National Convention and Reunion in October.

Highlights of the Business Meeting held 15 – 16 October at the Annual Convention in Crystal City, VA

We held the annual business meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City (Arlington), VA on October 15-16. National Commander Shuey opened the meeting with and update on the patch decision and thanked all who helped in the efforts to retain it.

NED Armiger reviewed the status of the restoration of the 115th colors housed at the Maryland Museum of Military History. Museum Curator, Barbara Taylor, awarded the project to Washington, DC-based Textile Conservation Services. She is currently overseeing their work.

The project at the Bodmin Keep Museum in Cornwall, England to restore a plaque at the entrance to the museum honoring the soldiers of the 29th Division who trained there prior to the D-Day landings moved to the next phase. Drew Memorials of Bodmin is currently restoring the plaque under the direction of Verity Anthony, Assistant Director at Bodmin Keep Museum.

Assistant National Executive Director Will Mund reported the following membership information as of 13 October 2022: 1,587 paid members (pre December 2021), 853 new members (2022) without dues for a total of 2,440 members.

PNC David Ginsburg, chairman of the Futures Committee, reported that the committee is working on increasing membership through the following initiatives: improving the Facebook page and the newsletter to attract new members, developing methods for recruiting with an emphasis on current 29ers and those who have recently retired, providing ample reasons to attend the annual convention by advertis-

ing how the camaraderie and great stories flow at the hospitality room and marketing the Friday night event as a great place to share stories and team build.

PNC Ginsburg received an approval at the meeting to expand the current 29th Division video that is available at the Association website and on CD to include the deployments to Bosnia, the Middle East and Europe that highlight the more recent history of the Division.

Under the direction of now Senior Vice Commander, Jimmy Kilbourne, the Association placed a unit tribute plaque honoring the 29th Division along the Path of Remembrance leading to the US Army Museum in Fr. Belvoir, VA.

NFO Tom Knight is stepping down from his position. Brian Becker will replace him for the interim until a new NFO is in place. If no one in the Association volunteers, we will engage a paid outside party to address the NFO tasks.

Judge Advocate Houston Matney presented the new recommended Bylaws for review and approval. The recommended Bylaws featured the following revisions: deletes the Constitution; clarifies the By-Laws as core policy provisions reflecting the Association principles; authorizes creation of a Procedures Manual (SOP equivalent) to guide day-to-day operations; updates individual membership requirements; allows for the possible addition of a non-voting business class membership; authorizes broader use of electronic means for meetings and communications; increases the tenure of the National Commander to two years; provides flexible emergency powers for the National Commander and NEC; defers the rigid membership-dictated duties of the Officers and Committees to the NEC; eliminates out-of-date Officer positions (National Regional Vice Chairs, Welfare Officer, Service Officer, Sergeant at Arms and Jr. Vice Commander); and acknowledges the need to include a larger forum for currently serving members of the 29th Division.

After discussion, the Bylaws were accepted as written and are available on the Association's website.

The new slate of officers was duly elected and installed: NC Dick Snyder, SVC Jimmy Kilbourne, JA Houston Matney, NFO J. Brian Becker, Surgeon Dr. Howard Bond, Chaplain Joel Jenkins, Historian Dr. Rick Potter, Futures Committee Chair PNC David Ginsburg.

*Frank Armiger
National Executive Director*



Virginia and Kentucky National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as Task Force Red Dragon, conduct a transfer of authority ceremony with the Manhattan, New York-based Task Force Wolfhound at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Sept. 19, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Jeff Clements (TFRD) and Staff Sgt. Alex Rector (TFWH)

TF Red Dragon conducts transfer of authority, ends mission in Horn of Africa

Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti – Virginia and Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as Task Force Red Dragon, conducted a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 19, 2022, to officially end their security mission for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, known as Task Force Wolfhound, assumed responsibility for the mission.

Approximately 1,000 Soldiers from across Virginia and Kentucky began serving on federal active duty Nov. 27, 2021. With their mission complete, they will return to Virginia and Kentucky in the coming weeks.

Col. Jim Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wolfe, the TFRD command team, cased the battalion's colors, signifying the end of its nine-month deployment.

"Our accomplishments here are a direct result of the leadership

of the junior officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the task force," Tierney said. "Their sense of duty, selfless service, and dedication to mission success is inspiring."

The mission of CJTF-HOA is to conduct operations to enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional peace and stability, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests.

Maj. Gen. Jamie Shawley, CJTF-HOA commanding general, addressed the ceremony attendees about the importance of the security mission in Africa.

"It's a geo-strategically important place," Shawley said. "Molded by competing forces of prosperity and poverty, peace and conflict, plenty and famine, good governance and corruption. It's challenged with instability caused by violent extremist organizations and by our strategic competitors which continue to weaken the rules-based world order, and Red Dragon, you have stood in the gap this whole time."

At the end of the ceremony, Tierney welcomed Task Force Wolfhound and wished them great success as they take over the mission in the Horn of Africa. He also expressed his gratitude to the Soldiers of Task Force Red Dragon and the many joint partners they worked with over the course of the deployment.

"We came together as a task force to fight and to win," Tierney said. "We sharpened our edge by partnering with some incredible teammates. Our Soldiers walk away from this deployment as

experts in their profession. It's rewarding to see the growth of the team over this past year. Red Dragons, you are truly the next generation of leaders for the 29th Infantry Division and the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team."

TFRD Accomplishments

Task Force Red Dragon provided security forces throughout the Horn of Africa, maintaining a presence in Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya. This defensive mission included 24/7 perimeter security of military installations, to include manning guard towers and vehicle entry control points to constantly safeguard U.S. forces, partner forces, and civilian contractors. The task force also provided land-side security for multiple U.S. Navy port calls, enabling refueling and refit operations for U.S. ships operating in the vicinity of the strategic Bab-el-Mandeb strait. Throughout this base defense mission, the task force effectively integrated their enabler units into the defensive plan by augmenting medical personnel at each site, establishing indirect fire capabilities, and continuously worked to improve their defensive posture.

Additionally, TFRD provided the ground component of the East Africa Response Force, tasked with execution of a broad range of military operations, to include crisis response and security augmentation to Department of State or other U.S. facilities, support for military-assisted departure or non-combatant evacuation operations and other missions as directed. The EARF conducted monthly emergency deployment readiness exercises to ensure readiness and preparation in responding quickly to crises within East Africa.

Over the course of the deployment, the EARF supported Department of State missions in Nairobi, Kenya; Mogadishu, Somalia; and Durban, South Africa. The EARF also conducted two emergency deployment readiness exercises to rehearse the reinforcement of contingency support locations in East Africa.

"You directly supported our mission by working as our local first responders, our 9-1-1," Shawley said. "For our embassies and our outstations, working as the East Africa Response Force, Red Dragon conducted numerous readiness exercises to ensure the safety and well-being of U.S. personnel across not only East Africa, but literally all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Your accomplishments and sacrifices only add excellence to your already distinguished heritage. There is no doubt that you brought great credit upon your unit, the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, the United States Army, and the United States."

From weapons ranges to exercises with foreign military partners, TFRD Soldiers conducted a wide array of training while deployed. These training opportunities included several casualty evacuation, medical evacuation, and mass casualty exercises at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and other locations; participation in the U.S. Marine Corps Corporal's Course for TFRD E-4s; testing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge; a Spur Ride for the task force's cavalry troopers; and the Norwegian Foot March, an 18.6-mile timed foot march. Forty-nine TFRD Soldiers earned the GAFPB, 27 earned their cavalry spurs and 123 earned the Norwegian Foot March badge.

Foreign engagement was a prominent feature of the task force's deployment. TFRD conducted more than 75 combined operations and training exercises with the French, Kenyan, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, and Djiboutian armed forces. These en-

agements allowed for increased combined operational knowledge and the continuation of the strong partnership between U.S. forces and their military partners. These combined training exercises included ranges, combatives exchanges, medical tactical combat casualty care and maneuver knowledge exchanges. Additionally, TFRD continued to build its relationships with foreign partners through various social events and ceremonies between partner and allied forces.

The task force maintained an especially close relationship with French Armed Forces in Djibouti. TFRD Soldiers, French Forces in Djibouti service members, and staff from CJTF-HOA participated in Exercise WAKRI from March 13-15, 2022. Exercise WAKRI, the largest annual French-led exercise in Djibouti, took place across Djibouti and provided realistic training in large-scale combat operations. The task force participated in the exercise with more than 100 Soldiers executing a diverse range of mission sets including reconnaissance, maneuver, sustainment and medical.

One of the highlights of the deployment was the opportunity for participation in the French Desert Commando Course. In preparation, the task force coordinated and ran two FDCC pre-assessments for joint services on Camp Lemonnier consisting of a Ranger physical fitness test and swim assessment. The task force also provided sustainment support for the course. More than 20 members of the task force graduated from the FDCC during the deployment.

In August, the task force conducted a Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise with French forces in Djibouti. Operation Sunrise Strike validated the task force's ability to operate in a joint and combined environment with its French partners. The training consisted of an air assault utilizing French Puma helicopters and U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and seizure of an objective using direct and indirect fires and dismounted maneuver. The exercise focused on integration with partner forces, utilization of reconnaissance and surveillance, actions on the objective, sustainment, and medical support, with the goal of improving U.S. and French interoperability.

The following Virginia and Kentucky Army National Guard units mobilized as Task Force Red Dragon:

- Lynchburg-based Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Bedford-based Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Lexington-based Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Pulaski-based Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Lynchburg-based Golf Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Suffolk-based Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Charlottesville-based Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- The Kentucky Army National Guard's Somerset, Kentucky-based Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

The 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, headquartered at Fort Whiting in Mobile, Alabama is a current component of the 29th Division well outside the traditional divisional geography of Maryland and Virginia. The Brigades most recent overseas deployment was in 2013 to Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The 226th is made up of 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, the 877th Engineer Battalion, the 711th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 31st Signal Company.

The Alabama National Guard traces its origins back to 1807, but the oldest unit in the 226th is the 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, based in the recently upgraded Fort Frank F. Horton Armory in Andalusia. Organized as a cavalry squadron in September 1916, it was assigned to the 31st Division and then converted into the 117th Field Artillery a little over a year later. The Division arrived in France right before the Armistice, saw no combat, and was demobilized in January 1919 at Camp Gordon, Georgia. In WWII, the 117th was again assigned to the 31st Division.

They fought in New Guinea and the Southern Philippines and earning both US and Philippine Presidential Unit Citations. Like the 29th Division, the 31st ceased to exist in 1968 and the 117th came under the 30th Armored Division. It in turn was made inactive in 1973 and the 117th remained a part of the 31st Armored Brigade (Separate). In 2002, the 31st Armored Brigade was deactivated, and its components merged into the 149th Armored Brigade headquartered in Kentucky. Most recently the 117th was part of the 31st Chemical Brigade of the 35th Division.

The 877th Engineer Battalion is one of five units housed at the

Haleyville Armed Forces Reserve Center in Haleyville, Alabama. The original 877th was formed in 1943 as Airborne Engineer Battalion based out of Westover Field, Massachusetts. It served in both Normandy and Northern France. Deactivated in 1946, The unit was reorganized and federally recognized in 1952 in northwestern Alabama. Members of Headquarters Company served in Korea in 1953. In 2006, members of the 877th were part of the 300 Alabama National Guardsmen who deployed to Iraq with the Combat Aviation Brigade, 36th Infantry Division's Task Force Mustang.

The 711th Brigade Support Battalion is based at the Mobile Armed Forces Reserve Center, Fort Whiting, which was built by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s. Originally a signal battalion, the 711th was redesignated a Command Signal Operations Battalion in 1979. It then transitioned into its current role as a support battalion in 2008.

Finally, the 31st Signal Company operates out of the recently completed Foley Armory in Foley, Alabama. The Company was originally part of the 31st Division in World War II. Like the 1st Battalion, 117th, it served within the Division until 1968 and then with the Separate Brigade.

Together, the 1,600+ soldiers of the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade provide operational support to the division command, often in the form of security and rear area defense. As a demonstration of this role, earlier this year, the 226th conducted sweeping training as part of the 40th Divisions Combined Post Exercise II at North Fort Hood, Texas.

Submitted by Edmund D. Potter, National Historian

Museum receives drawing of French D-Day chateau

The Stonewall Brigade Museum has received the donation of a large pen and ink drawing depicting the Vierville Chateau that played a prominent part in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944 as a tribute to 115th and 116th Infantry Regiment soldiers who died during the war.

The painting, by French artist Martine Pageot, was gifted to the Verona, Va.-based museum by Jean-Paul and Odette Hausermann, who own the Vierville Chateau, which was the scene of heavy fighting between 29th Division soldiers and the defending Germans in the days following the landings.

At the ceremony representing the Hausermanns were their granddaughters, Julie and Marie Goetz, artist Martine Pageot and Margaret Heeson-Schoch, who organized the trip. The four travelled from France to Virginia for the ceremony.

The drawing was presented to retired Col. Hugh Sproul, 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation president. Also in attendance was then 29th Division National Commander and retired Brig. Gen. Ted Shuey, who the Hausermanns initially offered the drawing to for the museum when he visited the chateau during the 75th anniversary of D-Day commemoration. Shuey said the drawing was the only depiction of the headquarters of the 11th Port Authority, which was stationed at the chateau from June 7 to the end of July 1944.

The delegation from France also toured the National D-Day Museum in Bedford, Va., and placed flowers on the graves of the famous "Bedford Boys."



Pen and ink drawing of the Vierville Chateau, scene of heavy fighting during and after D-Day. It as gifted by Jean-Paul and Odette Hausermann, chateau owners, to the Stonewall Brigade Museum.

The chateau was visited by Field Marshall Erwin Rommel when he inspected German defenses prior to the invasion. Jean-Paul Hausermann was 14 years old during the battle and lived in the chateau.

By Kevin Dennehy

With eternal gratitude, they tend to the fallen

Among the 40 European members of Post 93, many perform a sacred task.

At American cemeteries in their countries, they have “adopted” and tend to the graves of those who sacrificed their lives to liberate the continent.

In one remarkable instance, their family had met the soldier months before he was killed in combat. But in all others, they have adopted the graves of strangers.

Many of these grave keepers have met the families of the dead. Others are still searching for relatives to assure them their loved ones are still remembered.

“We must not forget all these soldiers who came to fight for our freedom,” said Jan Regis, who tends to the grave of Sgt. Ralph Snyder at the American Cemetery in Brittany.



Jan Regis tends to the grave of Sgt. Ralph Snyder at the American Cemetery in Brittany.

“Flowering their graves and paying homage to them is the minimum we can do, because their families cannot necessarily come and do it where their dad, son, uncle or nephew lost their lives,” Regis said.

He has also built a monument to Snyder and the ten men under his command who were killed in the Battle for Brest. The family of PFC Melvyn Sellinger came to the place near where he died.

Any visitor to Normandy is struck by the eternal gratitude of the French people that is still visible 78 years after D-Day. To this day, young school children still learn the history and visit the cemeteries, where they see the most striking reminders of the consequences of war.

“When our children were young, we took them to Normandy so that they could see the extent of the soldiers’ sacrifice,” said Laetitia Roux-Marchand, who travels many hours from her home near the Alps to the American Cemetery, where she tends to the grave of PFC Adelard Chevalier. It is her heartfelt wish to find his relatives.

Anthony Moustier has adopted the grave of Pvt. Edwin F. Kelley. After meeting his grandson Jim Kelley and his family at the Amer-



The family of Pvt. Melvyn Sellinger at the monument to the men killed in the Battle for Bohars.

ican Cemetery in Brittany, Moustier took them to Guilers where Kelley was killed.

“For me and my children, it was important that they know where they come from,” said Jim Kelley. “My grandfather sacrificed himself for a better world. None of his descendants had come to put flowers on his grave since he was buried here. I am the first.”

There is a volunteer group, Les Fleurs de la Memoire (Flowers of Memory), that encourages French families to lay flowers on graves when the soldier’s own family cannot do it.

Members of Les Fleurs de la Memoire come to the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer on Memorial Day, where Vin-



The family of Pvt. Edwin Kelley at the American Cemetery in Brittany.



Vincent Mourgues with his daughter at the grave of Pvt. Clarence Butcher at the American Cemetery in Normandy.

cent Mourgues tends to the grave of Pvt. Clarence M. Butcher. "I wanted to do this act to pay tribute to the men who came to liberate us and sacrificed their youth in Normandy," said Mourgues.

"He let me know he adopted my grandfather's grave and gave me a lot of information and pictures of where he was buried and the site near Villers-Fossard where he fought and died," said Butcher's grandson Danny. "I am very humbled by his respect and caring for my grandfather's final resting place."

Pierre Schlangen, of the Netherlands, continues the work of his relatives who, in a twist of fate, had met PFC Gerald Lyons months before Lyons was killed by a mine in Germany in November 1944.

Schlangen's grandfather ran a cafe in the Dutch town of Kerkrade where units of the 1st Battalion of the 116th Regiment stopped for R&R before resuming combat operations. Lyons was a regular patron.

When they learned of Lyon's death in Sueggerath, and his burial at the American



Jan & Pierre Schlangen at the grave of Gerald Lyons at the American Cemetery in Margraten.

Cemetery at Margraten, Schlangen's uncle immediately began tending to his grave.

When his uncle passed away, Schlangen's father tended to the grave until his passing in 2020. Pierre is now the grave keeper.

"In forgetting lies the danger of repetition," said Schlangen, who has been in touch with many of Lyon's relatives over the years.



Adrian Rogers wears a replica of the dog tags worn by Pvt. Orin Stamper.



Gloria, the sister of Pvt. Claude Doty, and her husband, Donald, at Doty's grave in the Margraten Cemetery.

Peter Rosenboom tends to the grave of S/ Sgt. Erskin P. Harris, also at Margraten.

"It's for us the only thing we can do to honor his sacrifice. His family can't be here for him, so we come on his birthday and remembrance days to give him the respect he deserves," said Rosenboom, who has been in touch with Harris' nephew.

Dennis De Munck has adopted the graves of four soldiers in Belgium and the Netherlands, including that of Claude Doty with whose family he has been in contact.

"My duty is to respect the grave and his relatives, and to show my thankfulness to them," De Munck said.

Adrian Rogers lives in the UK, but has adopted the grave of PFC Orin H. Stamper who is buried in Normandy.

"Several years ago I found and made contact with his great-niece and we remain in contact on Facebook to this day," said Rogers. "I have visited Orin's final resting place over the years and when I can't make it

a wonderful Frenchman will visit for me to lay flowers on the anniversary of Orin's passing."

All of the grave keepers know that peace is precious with a price to be paid. They do not forget the thousands of soldiers buried in Europe who died for their freedom.

Veterans Day at the National D-Day Memorial

Veterans Day at the National D-Day Memorial was not what was expected—Hurricane Nicole put a damper on the outdoor festivities. But neither rain nor a brief tornado warning could diminish the patriotic spirit of the day, even as for the first time in more than two decades the commemoration was moved indoors.

Hundreds of supporters joined ROTC and JROTC cadets, the Association of the US Army, and the 29th Division Band at the Bedford Moose Lodge to pay tribute to our nation's veterans. The keynote speaker was Major General Antonio Munera, commanding general of the Army's Cadet Command, tasked with training and inspiring future members of our armed forces.

MG Munera captured the spirit of Veterans Day in his inspirational remarks. "Generations of patriots have dedicated themselves to the defense of our country to make us a stronger and more resilient nation. Servicemen and women live by values such as loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. They do not leave these behind when they transition to civilian life."

Munera also paid special recognition to the Vietnam veterans who came home to a divided public. "Today we have six million Vietnam veterans who are still with us...you are an inspiration to those who serve today and those who are getting ready to serve." He further challenged vets to tell their stories and help direct young men and women into service by their example: "61% of those who serve [in the military today] are likely to have been exposed to the military and military life through friends and family. So you veterans out there who have a first-hand knowledge of the benefits of a military career, can help us bridge the gap...with those who have never considered the military as a career. So if you are a veteran, I encourage you to share positive stories about your service this Veterans Day. You can absolutely inspire our future generation of service to our nation."

April Cheek-Messier, president of the National D-Day Memorial, also paid heartfelt tribute. She recalled one poignant scene from the previous November, when hundreds of members of the Virginia National Guard deployed from the Memorial grounds for overseas service: "As the buses full of troops loaded up, one mother and child strolled slowly down the sidewalk alone. I remember watching them, taken by the difficult reality of the year ahead without their loved one. With tears streaming down her face and her child clinging to her leg, the mother looked at her child who peered up innocently and asked 'But where is daddy going?' The mother wiped her tears, patted her child's back, and with a deep sigh simply said 'Daddy's going to work, honey. Daddy's going to work.'

"And so as we stand here today and salute our veterans, we also salute their families. We appreciate each and every one of you."

Especially honored were two World War II veterans who happened to be in attendance. Ernest Fulcher from Riner, VA was a teenage sailor on a patrol boat on June 6, 1944, helping to guide the landing forces to Omaha Beach. Dan Villarial of Bedford was a US Marine in the occupation forces of Europe after major combat operations had ended. The two men—as well as vets from Korea, Vietnam, the Global War on Terror, and peacetime service—were enthusiastically greeted by uniformed cadets from three colleges and several high schools, who recognized that the chance to shake hands with an older veteran was a privilege not to be missed.

"Whether fighting terrorism, defeating fascism, standing up for democracy, or preserving peace in calmer times," noted Cheek-Messier, "our veterans have a remarkable history of achievements. You, our veterans, willingly gave yourselves and counted other lives more important than your own."

The day also saw the dedication of nearly five dozen veterans' bricks at the Memorial, inscribed with the names of veterans through the years, including two Gold Star bricks for servicemen who died in the line of duty. A livestream of the event, including a performance by an elementary school choir which had to be cancelled due to the weather, was available for anyone unable to attend, and is still online to be watched (or re-watched) now at www.dday.org.

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

Important Notice to all Post Commanders from the National Finance Officer

As in the past, the National Finance Officer will file the required IRS Form 990N for each Post for Fiscal Year 2022.

For this to happen, each Post must submit on Post Letterhead, a statement that "Post XX's normal revenue stream is less than \$50,000 a year."

This statement must be signed by either the Post Commander or Post Finance Officer. In the unlikely event a Post exceeds this amount, please contact the NFO for additional information. The statement can be sent via email or USPS to the following **NLT 15 January 2023.**

NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com or mail to: NFO, 29th Division Association, 1702 Mews Way, Fallston, MD 21047

Thanks in advance for your support with this important requirement.

Tom Knight
Assistant National Finance Officer

The FoG — Friends of the Guard

Time for another 2022 update on the FoG's support of the Virginia National Guard Historical Foundation: since our last report most of the effort has been focused on the volunteers restoring a 1944 dated Soviet ZiS3 76mm cannon and the preservation and restoration of our UH-1Huey. The heat in July and August was pretty daunting but the group persevered and continued to work.

This is how the 76mm looked when it arrived at the JFHQ at Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR). As you can see, it was covered with many layers of paint and a thick coat of moss from being outside many years. Most likely captured in the Korean War or in Vietnam, the cannon needed a lot of work.



After many hours of work removing the flaking paint, the group began the slow process of painting the Huey, working from the front to the rear.

Note: the silver circles seen on the painted areas are areas where we found repaired battle damage.



The volunteers jumped right in and began to scrape away the moss and layers of old flaking paint. In many places they got down to the bare metal and rusted areas.

They put two coats of rust converter on it and then began to repaint it in authentic WW2 Russian colors. Seen here are



COL(ret) Ebertowski, MSG(ret) Jewell and COL(ret) Bourgeois.

After many hours of cleaning and repainting the ZiS3 is completed. Following the style used by the U.S. Army Ordnance

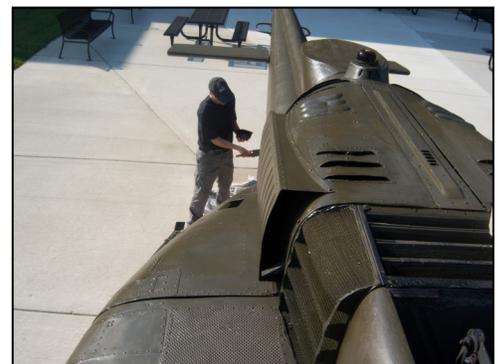
training facility, the battle damaged areas (and there are many) will be outlined in silver. The cannon will then be displayed at the Petersburg Readiness Center.



LTC(ret) Michels paints a portion of the top of the UH1. The avionics, cabin straps, radio mics and control panel indicators were removed from the cockpit so they can be used in a display in the Aviation Hallway in the JFHQ.



Seen from above, **LTC(ret) Malcomb** applies paint to the tail portion of the Huey.



Almost finished, the Huey will get its final touches and then be moved to a display platform near the Virginia national Guard Joint Force Headquarters sign.



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Thank you, for your help

SAVING OUR PATCH!



Our most urgent cause in 2022 was to defend our famous and iconic Blue & Gray shoulder patch from the work of the DOD's Naming Commission to have the patch retired. We were successful in that effort.