10TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE JOINS EUROPE FORCES

John Vandiver
Stars & Stripes
Gordon Block
Watertown Daily Times

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade offloaded hundreds of pieces of equipment at the port of Antwerp in Belgium on Feb. 8, 2017, and was bound for Germany with helicopters that will add air power to a growing Army force along NATO’s eastern flank.

The Fort Drum-based unit, which is beginning a nine-month rotation in Europe, took with it nearly 2,000 troops and about 50 Black Hawk, Apache and 10 tandem-rotor Chinook helicopters.

Some 700 pieces of support equipment were transported by the brigade for their mission as well. The Army says that aviators will hold medical transport, exercise support and aviation operations roles in the region, which they said will improve interoperability between nations and strengthen American relationships with military forces across Europe.

Though most of the approximately 1,750 soldiers will be based in Illesheim, Germany, the Army has said that small groups of soldiers will also be spread to places such as Lieflaghe Air Base, Latvia, and Mihail Kogainiceau Air Base, Romania. Future plans call for soldiers to be placed in Poland.

The latest reinforcements, which are seen as a provocation by Russia, came just three weeks after the inauguration of President Donald Trump, who has indicated he will seek to reduce tensions with Moscow and seek cooperation with Russia in combatting international terrorism.

“We’re going to be all over Europe joining the ‘Strong Europe’ team and integrating into their training plan for the next nine months,” brigade commander COL Clair A. Gill said in a press release. “Aviation really is what I like to call that three-dimensional problem solver for the Army, the joint force and our coalitions. We move faster than they do on the ground and we shoot farther in some cases than some systems from the ground.”

The 1st Battalion of the 501st Aviation Regt, 1st Armored Div from Texas will also join the brigade during their deployment.

The deployment, announced in November, is a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve 2.0. It is the brigade’s first to Germany after previous deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

IN COLORADO, DESCENDANTS TAKE ON SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL SKI-IN

Gary Burton
(Desc 87-L)

Beautiful weather, old friends and some new additions marked the 42nd annual 10th Mountain Division Ski-In, Feb. 15-22, 2017, in the Colorado mountains. This year is the first year the annual event was organized by descendants, led by Denise Taylor (126-ENG-D), from the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Hugh Evans (85-C, A), our previous organizer and our only WWII Vet this year, was in full participation to oversee all the planned activities. Hugh also became the subject of a CBS News 4 report on Tuesday evening the 21st.

A short and not all-inclusive synopsis of highlights follows. Wednesday (15th) found us at the Lake County High School where the 3rd grade class honored the 10th with songs and this year’s reports of their history study of the WWII 10th. Very touching and Hugh held them rapt as he answered student questions. Jimmy Nasar (85-C), who passed away last year, was given special honors for his longtime patronage of the school’s student skiers.

Thursday, 10th skiers were invited for the first time to ski Copper Mountain. That evening the Leadville Library presented a public showing of “The Last Ridge” to a full house with producer Abbie Kealy (86-L) and Hugh there to answer questions. We skied Cooper Hill Friday and Saturday to commemorate Belvedere Day (the 18th). The serpentine ski down on Friday at noon was a sight to see.

The Tennessee Pass Memorial ceremony was short, sunny and highlighted by an unexpected flyover by a Chinook
DIVISION MAKES PLANS TO WELCOME NEW COMMANDER

The Pentagon has named the next commander of the 10th Mtn Div. MG Walter E. Piatt, a former deputy commander of the Division, currently serves in Washington, D.C, as director of operations and of rapid equipment fielding for the Army Rapid Capabilities Office.

Piatt is scheduled to replace current commander, MG Jeffrey L. Bannister on April 27, 2017, during a ceremony on the parade field. Bannister is expected to transition to a senior position within the Pentagon, although an official assignment has not been announced.

Patriots Partner with Arrowhead Division

SGT Nathan Akrige

Soldiers from the 3d Bde, 10th Mtn Div (LI) "Patriots" trained side by side with members of the 116th Inf Div "Arrowhead" during Mountain Peak exercise at Ft Polk, LA. They were writing history together as the first two units in the Associated Unit Plot program, or AUP, to participate in a major training event together.

In September 2016, the Patriot Brigade became the only active duty brigade combat team to wear a National Guard Patch. By partnering an active duty brigade with a National Guard unit, the Army hoped to drastically cut the time needed for the National Guard to prepare for a deployment.

COL Brian Sullivan, commander, 3d BCT, says the exercise shows that the AUP program is more than just a patch change.

"The pilot has specific benchmark events that assess the effectiveness of the particular associations increasing readiness," he says. "For 3/10 and 36 ID, our benchmark for this year is our JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Comdr) rotation in May.

"Mountain Peak serves as a critical rehearsal to ensure we are successful at JRTC. Right now there are 80 soldiers from the 72nd IBCT (Infantry Brigade Combat Team), 36th ID serving as exercise control for Mountain Peak, which means a National Guard IBCT from 36th ID is training its sister Active Component BCT better during JRTC and in combat."

FORT DRUM PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Bannister leaves after about 27 months of command, including an 11-month deployment to Afghanistan with the division Headquarters, where he served as Deputy Commanding General of Support, United States Forces Afghanistan. He credits his success and that of the division under his leadership to the soldiers, civilians, families and local community (see the General’s letter to the community, “Blizzard” Edition #3, 2016).

The 10th remains the most deployed division in the Army since 2001. The last two years have been no exception. During that time units have deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Africa, Iraq, and Korea.
Members of the Advisory Committee of the Resource Center at the Denver Public Library met Jan. 14, 2017, and covered a wide range of topics from preserving the recent history of the Division, to attendance at 10th Mtn Div.-related events.

Archivist Keli Schmid reported that the Resource Center processed 26 donations in 2016: 21 of them were from new donors. Currently the donor list includes the names of over 1,145 individual contributors. Reference requests for 2016 topped out at 316, making 2016 the busiest year since 2006. There is a marked increase in requests coming through Facebook.

Keli noted that outreach efforts have been made through the Library’s Western History and Genealogy blog, the “Blizzard,” and in attending 10th Mountain Division-related events and ceremonies. An exhibit is being planned for 2020 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Elisa Phelps with History Colorado reported that they are also planning a 2020 exhibit for WWII. The group has submitted a variety of 10th Mountain Division objects to be considered for the “History of Colorado told through 100 objects” project. She also made a proposal to the 10th Mountain Division Foundation for funding for an archivist position; it will be considered at the July 8 board meeting.

Lynn Hutchinson is new Administrative Director of the Foundation. She has created three videos, all available online. Who are we? This video showcases all the components of the 10th community; a walking tour of DPL Resource Center, the re-patching ceremony at Camp Hale, welcoming members of the Colorado National Guard to the 10th (see Blizzard, Edition #3, 2016).

Tom Hames noted that the Foundation has voted to revise its mission and be more active with current 10th Mountain Division (see back page, this edition).

Denise Taylor provided a preview of the schedule for the annual Ski-In in February (see this edition).

The Living History Group headed by Dave Little is proposing an expansion of its exhibit capabilities. They are also discussing working with 10th veteran Doug Schmidt in his capacity as unofficial historian, to record the history of the 10th since its reactivation in 1985.

The Committee will be meeting again July 24, 2017, at 9 a.m. at the Denver Public Library.

The Denver Public Library
Western History/Genealogy Department
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80204-2731
Email: kschmid@denverlibrary.org
Phone: (720) 865-1812

Felicity Hallanan
Blizzard Editor, Associate

Separations call for communications, and no more so than when one member of a family is away at war. We are reminded of this by three books that have arrived in recent months (okay, one we ordered on Amazon). The point is, they span the range of 10th Mountain Division history from World War II to today’s ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. And they are a reminder that, even in this electronic age, the written word can offer a more-permanent record of lives than those that vanish from phones and computers in a matter of seconds.

Audrey Syse Fahlberg has provided detailed accounts of what it was to be a young wife and mother during World War II when her husband Willson Joel Piatt is ordered by the Selective Service system to report for induction (interesting that we’re 14 pages into her book before we learn his name). Her one book, “My Triumphant Love” follows with a nearly-daily account of what the growing family goes through until he returns from Italy and is discharged back into civilian life. The second book, “World War II Letters Home,” is just that, with almost-daily letters from the front.

At the other end of the 10th Mountain Division story is an account of the early, current war, “She Came to the Door to Wave Good-bye.” To begin with, the author’s name is already familiar to those who follow the Division today; it will become more-so when MG Walter E. Piatt is welcomed as new Commanding General in April. The Piatts are already familiar with Fort Drum because of his position as Secretary to the General Staff before 9/11, and Deputy Division Commander since then. What comes as a surprise, at least to this reader, is that this is a book of poetry. We can expect that our soldiers write poetry as well as prose – a prime example is that of Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae whose poem “In Flanders Field” still touches the heart over 100 years after it was written. But even-so, poetry is not the usual form of expression most soldier writers turn to, whether in the peace of their homes or on the battlefield.

The point in the case of both of these authors is that which they have in common, and that is the 10th Mountain Division. The Fahlberg book addressing life on the home front reaches spouses and children who know what it is to stay behind and wait for news while at the same time dealing with day-to-day issues. Wives (for the most part, at least in WWII) take on responsibilities they haven’t known before; children are born and go through the growing-up stages without their fathers present, and always there is the concern about what is happening in faraway places.

For the Piatt family, those places have included both Bosnia and Afghanistan, and while the general’s book is of course written from his perspective, it raises these same matters, of what his wife and children are experiencing in his absence — the lines, for example “Yesterday my son took another step, and as usual I was not there…” — At the same time, we read of the war in Afghanistan as seen by a commander in the field with connections both to his soldiers and the heads of state in that country. He left from that tour in 2002 with what, unfortunately would be prescience: “This was my war and the feeling of leaving too early hit me again — The war will grow. I am sure of that now. And we will pay a hard price for the constraints we placed upon ourselves…”

More than 60 years before, combat medic PFC Will Fahlberg was also looking forward to coming home, in July of 1945, and for him there was also still the fear that the war was not over. Those familiar with the early history of the 10th Mountain Division know that when the fighting in Europe ended, there were still months before hostilities culminated in the Pacific as well, and there was a probability that the Division would find itself overseas on another front.

For this reader, the most-interesting portion of Will’s letters home follows the surrender of Germany, because censorship is then eased and he can write in greater detail about where his unit (85th INF) is located and what’s going on. And so he describes the Division’s rapid advance across the Po Valley; he does note with some annoyance that “I’m sending a pictorial story of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in booklet form. Unfortunately, it neglects to mention the 10th Mountain Division breakthrough. We were the first to break out of the Apennines. We spearheaded the Fifth Army across the Po Valley and were the first to cross the Po River. We were the first to reach the Brenner Pass. We received a lot of publicity at first and then it was toned down. I’m not bitching, but I guess I’m proud because I think so highly of my division.”

It’s also a reminder of our heritage to read “Did you get the copy of the “Blizzard” I sent you a few days ago? During the war here in Europe, we could not send a copy home. The paper is published for the 10th Mountain Division personnel. A great many of the articles within the paper were forbidden by censorship for civilian consumption. This issue has articles on the crossing of the Po River, etc. They are much more comprehensive and lengthy than any I could write concerning it to you.” How’s that for a compliment to those editors?!

In the end, as we said earlier, there is still something to be said for the written word. It can only be hoped that people continue to put their thoughts and desires, and loves, in words for others to read. And as for Walter Piatt’s touching words, we urge readers to find out for themselves more of his title poem in which “She came to the door to wave goodbye for one last embrace, And as I drove away I could see the door open and her shape emerge from the darkness, And I thought this is the moment that happens in every life, The image you remember forever…” War on a personal level, in words that matter.

Note: “World War II Letters Home,” “My Triumphant Love” and “She Came to the Door to Wave Good-bye” are all available online at Amazon.com.
John R. “Bob” Dial
(SSG Ret. 1-105 Infantry, 27th BDE (Roundout), 10th Mtn Div (LI))

Ed. Note: SSG Dial’s comprehensive history is the result of an appeal to soldiers who have served in the 10th since it was reactivated. This is Part 2 of his account (see Edition #3, 2016) in which he describes rigorous training undergone by the unit. “Blizzard” hopes to continue to publish these pieces in coming issues, so please, let us hear from you at blizzarded@gmail.com.

One element of the historic 10th Mountain Division seldom recalled today is the 27th Brigade of the New York Army National Guard, which for more than a decade served as the 10th Mountain’s third brigade (then known as “Roundout” brigade).

During our normal Annual Training periods at Fort Drum, we trained primarily on squad- and platoon-level battle drills — such as movement to contact, break contact, and raid — under the watchful eye of observer/controllers (OCs) from the active duty 10th Mountain. OCs we trained with usually came from the battalions of 2-22nd Infantry (“Triple Deuce”) or 1-87th or 2-87th Infantry.

Guard soldiers from the 27th Brigade wore the 10th Mountain Division shoulder sleeve insignia and felt like full members of the division. To be honest, I feel we fell short of active duty soldiers in both overall physical fitness and general discipline (with individual exceptions), but that we excelled at maintaining a high esprit de corps and often were able to “think outside the box” in developing tactical solutions to various field problems. After each training iteration, we would conduct a detailed AAR (after-action review) conducted by the active-duty OCs. We trained as hard as we could to meet the standard.

Here are two memorable training events I recall from the late 1980s. The first involved an unexpected snowstorm at a local training area near our armory, and the second involved intense training at Fort Drum. In early October 1987, my unit at Leeds (Co C, 1-105 Infantry) was conducting its weekend drill training with a rappelling and patrolling exercise high up in the Catskill Mountains. We were in a remote area called Platte Clove when the un-forecast monster Oct. 4, 1987, snowstorm hit that seemed to knock down about every tree in the capital district of upstate New York. The storm struck during the overnight period while we were bivouacked above 3,000 feet elevation, and it dropped two-and-a-half feet of heavy, wet snow, with many trees snapping from the weight because they all still retained their leaves at that early date in October. We struggled mightily to get out of there the next day, suffering some cold-weather injuries along the way.

The second memorable event involved Annual Training 1988 at Fort Drum. Normally, Annual Training would begin with a night in “cantonment” in the old wooden WWII-era barracks on Fort Drum (since demolished, I am told) before moving out into the field. This year (1988) marked a difference as we went straight from the buses that deposited us at Fort Drum on to an extended road march with full rucksacks directly into the field.

We stayed out for the entire 15 days, conducting patrols, ambushes, raids, reconnaissance missions, movement-to-contact, etc., on a remote part of the base — I realize that 15 days doesn’t sound like much to active-duty light infantry 10th veterans who would spend months at a time in the field.

One particularly interesting event occurred when we began to run short of drinking water and our company commander requested a resupply by helicopter. We had to use machetes to hack a small LZ in dense vegetation so that a helicopter could slingload down a cargo net full of 5-gallon water cans to us. And then it was “Charlie Mike” (continue the mission). Good training for us!

Also one night, we conducted a large helicopter pickup that took an unexpected turn. We were broken up into chalks in the treeline around a darkened pickup zone — read large open field — when our company commander recognized that instead of the UH-1H Huey helicopters we normally operated with, several large Chinook helicopters were inbound.

Problem was, we were set up for Hueys and few soldiers in our company had ever ridden on a Chinook before. Our CO quickly re-assembled the chalks and delivered a revised safety brief to instruct us to enter the aircraft from the rear in two columns — completely different from loading a Huey. And, despite the SNAFU, we successfully, safely and rapidly loaded our night pickup. This was also good training in always remaining flexible and adapting to the situation, no matter what.

To my knowledge, no Roundout Brigades ever deployed to combat zones in the 1980s or ’90s. The closest time came during Operation Desert Storm in 1990–91. Three mechanized Roundout Brigades from Southern U.S. states were activated and some units were sent to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., for their train-up period.

Despite the additional training, none of these Guard mechanized brigades were deemed ready by the Regular Army to be sent overseas for Desert Storm. Although the death knell of the Roundout Brigade concept was probably sounded by the failure of these mechanized Guard brigades to deploy during Desert Storm, we soldiered on as part of the 10th Mountain Division for another seven years, doing our best to train to standard and to fulfill our obligation in the hierarchy.

In both the late 1980s and early 1990s, we often trained using elaborate “low intensity conflict” scenarios that generally involved a guerrilla insurgency in some fictitious Central American nation and with OpFor (opposing forces) provided by active duty 10th soldiers. OpFor could be identified because they wore their BDU shirts inside-out. They even had names for both this fictional country and the fictitious guerilla leader, but they escape me now. In fact, in 1994 our battalion was scheduled to go to Honduras for Annual Training as a reward for superior performance, but budget cuts of the post-Cold War era canceled that overseas training and we went to Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, instead — not nearly as exciting as Honduras, but “new dirt” from Fort Drum nonetheless.

After Desert Storm, our training also involved many trench-clearing exercises. Also in the early 1990s, we participated in Operation Bold Shift during training at Fort Drum, navigating many training lanes and live-fire exercises. My particular unit in Leeds was subject to several
100 YEARS OF THE 10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION??

Doug Schmidt
10th Mountain Division Historian and Division Veteran

With the 100th Anniversary of the United States entering World War I fast approaching, the Army will begin to celebrate its units that took part in “the war to end all wars.”

Much of the Army’s modern history revolves around its Divisions; however, there are only a few divisions active today that can trace their lineage back to WWI. Since those first Divisions were formed, many things have changed about how the Army constructs its units’ histories. It seems that the Army’s standards have been unevenly applied across the history of its Divisions.

Officially, according to the Center of Military History (CMH), the 10th Mountain Division was activated on 15 July, 1943, as the 10th Light Division (Alpine). Most histories about the Division begin with the War Department’s inquiries following the Finnish successes against the Russians and Charles Minot (Minnie) Dole’s idea for soldiers on skis in 1940. However, in August 1918, the 10th Division was activated at Fort Riley, KS. This begs the question: Why does the 10th Division’s history not start with the Army’s standards have been unevenly applied across the history of its Divisions.

While many things have changed about how the Army constructs its units’ histories, it seems that the Army’s standards have been unevenly applied across the history of its Divisions. When one begins to look at the official lineages of other Divisions listed by CMH, there is a significant gap in the lineage of the 10th Mountain Division. The 10th’s time during WWI was not without significance, as it is believed that “patient zero” for the 1918 influenza pandemic was part of the Division. The impact the virus had on the Division delayed its deployment to Europe and its entry into WWI.

During the interwar period, both the 82nd and the 101st were active as part of the National Army (Organized Reserve), but neither was manned except with a skeleton crew. The 10th, part of the Regular Army, was not active. On 15 Aug., 1942, the 101st Division was “disbanded” and at the same time was redesignated the 101st Airborne Division. On the same day the 82nd Division was “reorganized and redesignated” as the 82nd Airborne Division.

Both Divisions operated under similar circumstances between the wars, but their transformations into the new airborne division formation were different. The airborne division was seen as an elite unit, as was the 10th Mountain Division; all three showed this with their respective tabs above their unit patches. Of the three Divisions, the 10th’s unit patch saw the most change from WWI, but maintained the Roman numeral “X” as its defining feature.

Following WWII, all three Divisions went through several changes. The 101st and 10th would both be reactivated as training Divisions, combat Divisions, and convert to the Pentomic formation. The 10th was reactivated at Fort Riley, KS, as the 10th Infantry Division, maintaining its WWII unit patch, minus the MOUNTAIN tab.

There is speculation that the 10th was assigned to Fort Riley in an effort to tie the Division to its historical home from WWI. Unfortunately, this information is difficult to verify and becomes more so with each passing day.

Unfortunately, because veterans of the WWI 10th Division have all passed on long ago, their stories and accounts are lost to time, making reconstruction of that history very difficult. The evidence exists to tie the two histories together and would be simple enough to amend, if for no other reason than to maintain the history of the WWII Division.

Do you have questions regarding this article or the history of the 10th Mountain Division in general? Doug looks forward to your questions; feel free to contact him via email at: doug.w.schmidt@gmail.com.

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2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>Meeting, Ft Drum, 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>Meeting, Ft Drum, 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Delaware River Valley</td>
<td>Memorial Day picnic, Winter’s farm, Pottstown, PA</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>Lower Michigan</td>
<td>Memorial Day program, Military &amp; Space Heroes Museum, Frankenmuth, MI, noon; lunch at Bavarian Inn, 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>Strongest Warrior competition, Bruce M. Wright Conference Bldg, Watertown, NY</td>
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<td>June 9-18</td>
<td>Descendants</td>
<td>Return to Italy Trip</td>
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<td>July 8</td>
<td>Resource Center</td>
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<td>July 24</td>
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<td>Sept. 8-10</td>
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<td>Sept. 13-15</td>
<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>Congress, International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS), Fort Drum and Clayton, NY</td>
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Frontiers of Flight Museum

Preliminary schedule:
Friday September 8, 2017 Arrival – 3 - 5:30 hospitality room (get packets/visit) 6:00pm Dinner (self-pay)
Saturday and/or Sunday Frontiers of Flight Museum and/or Holocaust Museum, President GW Bush Library Saturday Night 6 PM Banquet and White Elephant sale  Sunday 10 AM Business Meeting / Devotional

For More Information or to Register:
Karen Case at 501-472-4588 — karencase0303@gmail.com
Jeannie Geuras at 512-441-2167 — jgeuras@gmail.com
Phebe Davol at 512-917-0423 — phebe.davol@gmail.com
Joyce Kirkpatrick
CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THE GREATER MIDDLETOWN CHORALE INC.

In 2013 the Greater Middletown Chorale in Hartford, CT, premiered its commissioned musical drama “Letter from Italy, 1944” that was based on the true story of Dr. John K. Meneely, who saw service with the 10th Mtn Div in both Alaska and Italy as a regimental surgeon, and returned home suffering from PTSD.

The two-hour musical oratorio was written by his daughters, composer Sarah Meneely-Kyder with libretto by poet Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely. A subsequent documentary film “Letter from Italy, 1944: A New American Oratorio” was narrated by Meryl Streep and won an Emmy award.

Now there is a second performance of the oratorio — on an even grander scale and scheduled for May 4, 2017, in Hartford. It is being produced by the Greater Middletown Chorale (now known as the GMChorale) and the Hartford Chorale, with accompaniment by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

Former Senator and Army LT Bob Dole (85-I) is one of several individuals named to the honorary board for the Hartford Premiere. He says “The experiences and struggles in the mountains of Italy of this courageous and admirable man parallel my own experiences during WWII as a member, as was Dr. Meneely, of the 10th Mountain Division. Thank you for giving me the honor of participating in this most impressive and important endeavor.”

In preparation for the event, a series of eight Community Conversations will be featured in central Connecticut. They include a lecture by Dr. John H. Warner, Yale University, entitled “Mental Health, the Media, and the U.S. Veteran: Historical Perspectives on PTSD/Military” and a screening of the documentary followed by conversation with Dr. James Marinichak, VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

There will also be an exhibition, a presentation by Jack Anthony Pott, tenor lead soloist, and Joseph D’Eugenio, production director; a three-lecture series, “Transforming the Silence,” will be presented at University of Hartford’s Presidents’ College; a screening of the documentary, followed by conversation with Filmmaker Karyl Evans; a reading by poet and lyricist Nancy Meneely; and a lecture, “Looking at PTSD,” presented by Dr. Jason DeViva, VA Connecticut Healthcare’s PTSD and Anxiety Disorders Program.

Roundout
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

reorganizations, going from Co C, 1-105 Inf to Detachment 1, Co B, 3-108 Inf, and finally to Detachment 1, Co A, 1-105 Inf — all as part of the 27th Brigade and 10th Mtn Div (LI).

Personally, I ETS’d after 12 years of service in 1996, but the 27th Brigade continued as part of the 10th until 1998 before becoming a separate brigade. Later, many of the soldiers I served with in 1-105 Inf, redesignated as 2-108 Inf, deployed to Iraq in 2004 as part of OIF 3, seeing tough duty in the Sunni Triangle area and Samarra.

The 2-108 Infantry was the first New York Army National Guard battalion since WWII to serve overseas in combat, and it was commanded by LTC Mark Warnecke, who as a captain had been our company commander in Co C, 1-105 Inf in the late 1980s. While in Iraq, soldiers from 2-108, including at least one man I had personally served with, SFC Mark Forbes, were able to rescue American civilian truck driver Thomas Hamill, who was being held captive by insurgents. Many of these same soldiers from 2-108 had earlier served on state duty at Ground Zero in New York City in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. Later still, they served in Afghanistan and continue to this day.

It has been many years since I served in a small way as part of the 10th Mountain Division, but it is a time in my life I look back on now with both fondness and pride. While some may view Roundout brigades as a “failed experiment,” I believe they provided an opportunity to learn many lessons that helped integrate reserve forces into their many combat roles in conflicts that would come later during the Global War on Terrorism.
**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION TO CONVENE IN NORTHERN NEW YORK**

**James Redmore**  
(10TH MTN DIV [LI] RET.)

The XXXII IFMS (International Federation of Mountain Soldiers) Congress will be hosted Sept. 13-17, 2017, by the Fort Drum Chapter of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division.

Events will begin with an opening ceremony and wreath laying at a memorial site. Participants will see the Light Fighter School of the Division, including a demonstration by soldiers, and enjoy a barbecue at the end of that day. Further local activities will feature a visit to the nearby 1000 Islands Winery, owned and operated by a retired member of the 10th Mtn Div (LI), and an Uncle Sam’s boat tour of the 1000 Islands.

Business sessions will include an executive committee meeting and an IFMS General Assembly. There will also be free time to enjoy the area, as well as a tour of the renowned Antique Boat Museum in Clayton. The Congress will conclude with a closing ceremony and gala dinner.

We are fortunate to have the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY, provide the accommodations; to register, participants will want to contact the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, 200 Riverside Drive, Clayton, NY 13624, Phone: 315-686-1100, Website: www.1000islandsharborhotel.com. Additional information will be published on the IFMS website (www.ifms.si). Please email your registration to Event Coordinator Jill Bruce at jillbrucedesign@gmail.com and any questions to James Redmore, jredmore@uso.org, vice president, National Assn., 10th Mtn Div.

**10TH AVIATION BRIGADE IN ROMANIA**

10th Aviation Brigade on the ground in Europe, where one of their first stops was Romania. They trained with local aviators who, in turn, presented at least some of the Fort Drum contingent with flowers in thanks — what a traditional custom!

**SLOVENIAN MUSEUM HOSTS GREAT SKI RACE EXHIBIT**

**Janez Kavar (BG, ret.)**  
SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS

On Nov. 17, 2016, in Trzic, Slovenia, we had a great event! U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia His Excellency Brent R. Hartley came to our town. He visited the Slovenian Skiing Museum and opened an exhibition of “Americani na Mangartu, 3. junija 1945” — Americans on Mount Mangart, June 3, 1945.

The exhibit features the story of the 10th Mountain Division Great Ski Race, the Giant Slalom. The race was the first skiing competition of American alpine skiers on European soil since the 1936 Winter Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. First SGT Walter Prager was winner of the Mount Mangart Great Race, SGT Steve Knowlton took second place and PFC Sig Engl, third place.

The exhibition was prepared by the Slovenian Military Museum and Slovenian Association of Mountain Soldiers. The Atrium Galery Trzic was too small for the more than 100 visitors to the opening ceremony.

Opening 10th Mountain Division exhibit at Slovenian Ski Museum, from left, are Rok Perko, Olympic alpine ski racer, Svetozar Gucek, Slovenian ski historian, LTC Krist G. Thodoropoulos, U.S. Defense Attaché to Slovenia, U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia Brent Hartley, Jana Babsek, Slovenian Skiing Museum director, BG Janez Kavar (ret.), who helped assemble the exhibit, and Trzic Mayor Borut Sajovic.

**SLOVENIAN MUSEUM HOSTS GREAT SKI RACE EXHIBIT**

**Janez Kavar (BG, ret.)**  
SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS

On Nov. 17, 2016, in Trzic, Slovenia, we had a great event! U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia His Excellency Brent R. Hartley came to our town. He visited the Slovenian Skiing Museum and opened an exhibition of “Americani na Mangartu, 3. junija 1945” — Americans on Mount Mangart, June 3, 1945.

The exhibit features the story of the 10th Mountain Division Great Ski Race, the Giant Slalom. The race was the first skiing competition of American alpine skiers on European soil since the 1936 Winter Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. First SGT Walter Prager was winner of the Mount Mangart Great Race, SGT Steve Knowlton took second place and PFC Sig Engl, third place.

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As is traditional, we gathered at the Silver Dollar Saloon for libations with music by Craig Clark (87-HQ-1). To honor Jimmy Nassar’s contributions to “Jimmy’s Kids,” a second serpentine ski down occurred Saturday morning. And for the first time the Ski-In included a snowmobile tour of Camp Hale and Machine Gun Ridge on Saturday afternoon. Reportedly all, including Hugh, survived and had an amazing time.

Ski-In Daze was honored to have many active duty soldiers from the newly “10th-patched” Colorado National Guard and 10th Special Forces from Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. They were a welcome and fun addition to the festivities; we hope they continue to participate in even greater numbers.

Special thanks to committee members Denise Taylor, Joy Ellison, Rick Johnson and his wife Victoria Zanin, Craig Clark and his wife Trish, and Rich Spotts. Other folks who helped out are: Terry Ploot, Debby and Steve Clem, Melanie Loveland, her sister Missy, and Keli Schmid.

Finally, Breckenridge, Vail and Keystone ski areas hosted the 10th skiers Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The weather was a little worse and the snow that much better. Saying farewell, we all are looking forward to the next Ski-In in February 2018.
The 10th Mountain Division Biathlon, sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter and facilitated by the Auburn Ski Club, was held Jan. 15, 2017.

This annual event is held on the premises of the Auburn Ski Club located at Boreal Ridge, CA. There were close-to 60 participants this year ranging in age from 10 to 70 who demonstrated both their skiing and shooting skills.

Medals were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in Pro and Youth-Novice categories. Sierra Nevada Chapter President, Val Rios, represented the Chapter and gave recognition to the 10th Mountain Division prior to the medal ceremony.

Living history members Jim Ronka and Bruce Hradback, dressed in their WWII gear, were also present and answered many questions about their WWII display.
ITALY TRIP PREPARATIONS COULD INCLUDE A LITTLE EXTRA READING

Anne Leslie Saunders

“A Travel Guide to World War II Sites in Italy: Museums, Monuments, and Battlegrounds” (2nd edition, 2016) is a comprehensive guidebook with 20 chapters. It focuses almost exclusively on WWII sites, which rarely are noted in the standard guidebooks to Italy. The first edition of this guide was published in 2010; the updated and expanded second edition was published in December of 2016.

The book’s first chapter, titled “Italy 1914–1945,” reviews the events that led to Italy’s participation in the war. It also provides a brief summary of the Allied campaign to liberate Sicily and mainland Italy, a grueling series of battles that took almost two years (July 1943 - May 1945).

Chapters 2 - 20 contain tours of WWII museums, monuments and battlegrounds in particular areas of Italy, including those where soldiers of the 10th Mtn Div fought. Each chapter has a geographic focus, such as the coast of Sicily or western Tuscan. Most begin with a brief historical overview that provides a context for the sites described in the tour. Directions and GPS coordinates are supplied for each location. The chapters in general follow the course of the armies from southern to northern Italy.

Chapters 2 and 3 describe sites related to the landings and 2 American armies in Sicily, where they battled both German and Italian forces. To-day memorials to the U.S. Seventh Army and British Eighth Army stand along the island’s eastern and southern coasts, sometimes near monuments to the Italian troops that tried to defend Sicily.

Chapter 4 focuses on monuments and battlegrounds in the Salerno area, where the U.S. Fifth Army and selected British divisions met stiff resistance as they invaded the Italian mainland in September of 1943.

Chapter 5 describes the numerous memorial sites in and near the city of Cassino, where German forces blocked the Allies from advancing for five months in early 1944. Cassino is perhaps best known for its magnificent abbey, which was destroyed during the war but has been rebuilt and is open to visitors.

Chapter 6 concerns the landings of Allied forces in January 1944 at Anzio and Nettuno, towns an hour south of Rome. Here numerous plagues, an American cemetery, and two Commonwealth cemeteries honor the thousands who died in combat in this area or in southern Italy.

Chapters 7 and 8 are devoted to World War II sites in Rome, which was liberated by Allied troops in June of 1944. These include an apartment building (now museum) used as a prison during the German occupation, and the city’s Jewish Museum, which has exhibits about the deportation of Roman Jews to concentration camps.

Chapters 9–13 describe a variety of WWII sites in or near Orvieto, Florence, Lucca, Bologna, and numerous mountain villages. For example, chapter 13 is devoted to the 10th Mtn Div, which fought in the peaks southwest of Bologna and elsewhere in northern Italy. Today many plagues, monuments, and museums honor that division in the villages of Castel d’Aiano, Querciola, Lizzano in Belvedere, Montese, and others. Near these villages are former battlegrounds where visitors can see the remains of bunkers and trenches.

Chapters 14–17 focus on memorials to units of the British Eighth Army, which spent much of the Italian campaign fighting the Germans along the Adriatic, from Bari to Rimini. Noted also are the many war cemeteries between Rimini and Bologna, where the Eighth Army endured some of its toughest battles in the wet and cold winter of 1944–5.

Chapters 18-20 offer tours of World War II sites in Bologna, towns near Bologna, and Trieste. Several national monuments of great importance are described in detail.

The appendix of this travel guide contains excerpts from the journal of Donald Wafal, an American soldier who was captured in North Africa and spent almost a year in Italian POW camps. In his journal he had much to say about how he and his fellow prisoners made productive use of their time while held captive.

Note: The updated, second edition of the guide, published in November 2016, can be found on Amazon; the author is Dr. Anne L. Saunders, research associate, Department of Classics, College of Charleston, Charleston SC 29424.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

John Russell
(10TH MTN DIV [LI] RET.)

The Rocky Mountain Chapter had a busy event calendar in fall and early winter, which culminated with the annual Holiday/Christmas party.

Held Dec. 26 at Christies in Genesee, approximately 90 people attended, with some, including WWII veteran Clark Wingate, traveling multiple hours to attend. Other WWII veterans in attendance were Marlin Wineberg, Hugh Evans, Dick Over and Neal Yorker.

This year’s party had some new guests — members of the Colorado National Guard 157th, who are now aligned with the 10th Mtn Div. The 157th was welcomed with a standing ovation during the program portion of the party. Humbled, Colonel Hancher of the 157th gave each of the five WWII veterans in attendance a special gold coin. Also in attendance was 10th Mtn Div (LI) veteran Zach Mott, who had the opportunity to meet other 10th LI personnel from the 157th.

In February 2016, the chapter held its strategic planning meeting and adopted some new initiatives geared towards preserving the 10th Mountain Division legacy. One of the initiatives was to play a more active role in educating the public about the Division.

As a result, the chapter is beginning to look at potential public education events and community-service projects. Wanting to enhance its communications to members, potential members and the general public, the chapter recently launched a new website. Content includes a detailed overview of both the WWII and today’s 10th, 10th community happenings, and Rocky Mountain chapter news and events. You can tour 10thmountaindivisioninfo.com when you have a moment.

As the time of this writing, the chapter is putting the final touches on the 2017 Ski-In. The Ski-In committee has done a great job and added some additional events, including a snowmobile tour of Camp Hale and the showing of the documentary, “The Last Ridge,” which will be open to the public in the Leadville, CO, area. This year, we’re expecting over 75 10th personnel from the 157th, some 10th Special Forces members, and WWII 10th veterans and their descendants.

CAMP HALE ‘ROOTS’ DRAW VETERANS

Gathering at Camp Hale, CO, in January, from left, John Breeding, 10th Mtn Div Living History Display Group; Sanford ‘Sandy’ M. Treat Jr. (86-H), David Little, History group and 10th Mtn Div Foundation; Foundation Chair Tom Hames. It was Sandy’s 94th birthday!

ARMADILLO

Phebe Davol
(DESC 86-L, HQ)

Plans are underway for the Armadillo Annual Reunion to be held in Dallas, TX, Sept. 8-10, 2017. Other Chapter Veterans, Descendants and Friends are invited to attend.

Activities include visits to the Frontiers of Flight Museum and the George W. Bush Presidential Library. For more information and to request a reservation form please contact Karen Case by phone at 501.472.4588 or via email at karen-case0303@gmail.com.

Karen Case (Desc James W. Stanley, Sr. 86-HQ) and Phebe Davol and many other descendants and 10th Mountain Division Veterans, both WWII and current National Guard attended the 2017 Ski In Daze Feb. 15-22. The group spent several days in Leadville, skiing at Cooper Hill, and other days traveling to the other ski areas including Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, Vail, and Keystone.

On Feb. 18 after skiing at Cooper Hill, about 14 attendees did an afternoon snowmobile tour of Camp Hale and Machine Gun Ridge. We were fortunate to have remembrances and commentary provided by Hugh Evans (85-C, A) during the tour. The view from Machine Gun Ridge was spectacular.

We want to thank Denise Taylor (Desc 126-D) and all other Descendants and Veterans who planned and orchestrated a wonderful week.

Times have changed since these bunkers at Camp Hale were used during WWII. From left, Karen Case (Desc James W. Stanley, Sr. 86-HQ) and Phebe Davol (Desc 86-L, 86-HQ) during Ski-In snowmobile tour.
Almost 80 travelers are signed up for the Return to Italy Trip, which leaves June 9 for 10 days following in the footsteps of the 10th Mountain Division in World War II.

Descendants of those vets are responsible for planning and leading the trip this time. They’ll be focusing on the Hill Towns following a traditional memorial service at the American Cemetery near Florence, where some 345 members of the Division are buried.

Participants will stay in traditional facilities enjoyed by earlier trips, but also take part in activities like a cooking class.

The logo for this year’s journey was designed by descendant Joie Morrison and the trip is being arranged by Intertrav Corp.

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GOLDEN DRAGONS

Pete Tingstrom
(2D BN, 14TH INF REGT, 10TH MTN DIV [LI])

Ed. Note: Today’s newer Chapters are taking new directions; this is a prime example of communicating via Internet — and Blizzard welcomes the addition!

Golden Dragons, Right of the Line, and Climb to Glory ... wanted to give everyone an overview of the Golden Dragon Chapter (Virtual) of the 10th Mountain Division Association. My name is Pete Tingstrom, member of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment from 1985-1988 and the current Chapter President of the Golden Dragon Chapter.

We started a Facebook site called “Sand Hill Bldg. 3210,” which is where we lived at Fort Benning, GA, when the 10th Mountain Division was reactivated in 1985. It was started by two of our members, Kevin Moran and Andrew Ealy -our Golden Dragon Chapter VP- on Feb. 8, 2011. I joined six years ago and we have all continued to reach out and find as many original unit members as possible. We have grown our “closed group” on Facebook to 218 members strong.

Through social media we have rekindled relationships, made new friendships, promoted America, and show our Mountain Man spirit. We have shared our pictures and stories of service (past and present), laughed at some funny moments, are saddened by tragic accidents and loss, are motivated by what our members are doing today, meet and greet all around the country, and use it to support each other.

I discussed starting our own Chapter of the 10th Mtn Div Assn with then-President COL (10th Mtn Div [LI], Ret) Mike Plummer, who was our first Brigade Commander (2nd Commando Bde). He told me the requirements: have a President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer and have 30 members, then the National Board of Directors could make us a chapter. We quickly went to work and officially became a chapter in February of 2013. Our membership numbers average around 60 with 32 Lifetime members.

Why did we want our own chapter? Our members did not want to join local/regional chapters. They felt that they may not know anyone, and that their strong bond was with members they physically served with.

So how do we run a virtual chapter with members spread across 50 states you ask? Our Chapter leadership has meetings virtually via ooVoo (VTC). We share our minutes from the meeting with our chapter. We plan events and encourage others to “host” mini-reunions all across the country. We also encourage members to reach out to those local chapters in their own area.

Our first big event was a reunion where we started it all at Fort Benning, GA, Sept. 13-15, 2013. We called it Operation DRAGON LAIR, “Return of the Golden Dragons.” We also invited our then-Brigade Commander, COL (Ret) Mike Plummer and Brigade Sergeants Major, CSM (Ret) Thomas Cruise, who both attended. We had many activities, to include: informal dinner/drinks at local brewery, Command Brief/Maneuver Center of Excellence overview (a lot had changed in 30 years since we were there), Airborne 5000 demonstration (watched an Airborne class graduate), lunch at Sand Hill dining facility (boy, has the DFAC changed). We also watched a demonstration by the Army Marksmanship Unit, toured the 30th AG Reception Center (interesting to see how recruits are being processed today), Weapons Simulator (enjoyed shooting MK-19 and 50cal machine guns), and had dinner/barbecue at the main hotel, a guided tour of the National Infantry Museum, visited the Main Post PX, and culminated with a Dining In at the VFW. Here is a link to a video I put together of the event. http://youtu.be/QMFUVOXdyVg.

We have an Embedded Google Map where members voluntarily offer their location so as our members travel across the United States they can see where others live. We have had dozens of “mini-reunions” of our members. We have also had many members step up to offer a “mini-reunion;” I’ll highlight two of them. On Sept. 11-13, 2015, Al Schwab offered his home and yard for members to enjoy an outing just outside Nashville, TN. Fifteen showed up for a great time which included a paint ball battle, camping and hiking, and of course downtown Nashville. In Sept. of 2016, another member, Tredd Barton, held one in West Alexander, PA. He had 11 at his “mini-reunion” where they all shot live machine guns and had a great time reminiscing and bonding. This is just a snapshot of some of the things we have done.

I personally have visited fellow mountain men in Hawaii, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Colorado, Georgia, Florida and California over the years. Some interesting encounters were walking around the Hale Koa hotel in Waikiki, HI, and running into Chris Roberts (in my squad back in 1985) and his family at the hotel. In 2009 when I was still on active duty, I ran into John Itzin (fellow Jumpmaster) on a drop zone at Fort Bragg. Seems that everywhere I go, I run into a brother-in-arms.

Through Social Media (Facebook), we have been there for each other. We honor those who have passed away like our brother SGM Robert “Odie” Odell who was KIA by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE 2017

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SEND MATERIALS TO:
Felicity Hallanan, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145
blizzarded@gmail.com

SANDY ELDREDGE
(DESC 87-L)

In January 2017, several Utah Chapter members returned to Soldier Hollow — home of the 2002 Olympic Nordic venue — to help run the annual National Guard’s Biathlon competition.

After the Olympics, Soldier Hollow became a world acclaimed Nordic facility hosting both novice and elite ski events every year. This inspired Utah Chapter’s President Ron Sawdey (Desc 87-B) to pursue partnering with the facility during the National Guard’s Biathlon annual competition — an apt fit for 10th Mountain Division involvement.

This is the second year that the Utah Chapter, Soldier Hollow and Utah National Guard have collaborated on this mutually beneficial project, building strong relationships based in part on their shared love of the mountains, outdoors, and skiing. Hopefully this event results in increased awareness of the 10th Mtn Div and will help to preserve the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division for future generations.

Volunteers, including Sandy Eldredge, Ron Sawdey and Bill Christensen (87-E), were assigned stations at the shooting range where we scored competitors’ hits and misses. We were thrilled to be so close to the action and had lots of fun.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HELD

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HELD

Utah Chapter members, from left, Chris Held (guest), Sandy Eldredge (Desc 87-L), Ron Sawdey (Desc 87-B), Bill Christensen (87-E). Stephanie Held, who took the photo, is a local student and author of the senior paper: To What Extent was the 10th Mountain Division’s First Offensive on the Germans’ Winter Line a Turning Point in the Allies Northern Italian Campaign?
**LOWER MICHIGAN**

Camilla Williams (DESC 87-E)

After a Michigan winter, we in the Lower Michigan Chapter always look forward to spring.

We would like to invite all 10th Mountain Division veterans and their family and friends to join us Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. We will have a short meaningful program starting at noon at Michigan’s Military and Space Heroes Museum, 1250 Weiss St, Frankenmuth, MI, 48734. Bring lawn chairs or there will be folding chairs for the outdoor program if weather permits.

We then will go to the Bavarian Inn Restaurant at 713 S Main St, Frankenmuth, for wonderful food and fellowship. Gathering begins at 1:00 p.m. and the luncheon is at 1:30 p.m. Please bring any pictures or memorabilia to share. Lunch is your own responsibility. Again, all are welcome.

Frankenmuth always has a festival on Memorial Day, so you may want to stay later to enjoy the bands and beer tents.

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**ROADRUNNER**

Rebecca Joyce (DESC 604 FAB)

Roadrunner Chapter is going to meet for a day of camaraderie soon.

We wanted to meet in February, but didn’t because several were planning on attending the Ski-In in Colorado. They included Alan Wright (Richard Wright 87-E), his wife Patricia and grandson Matt.

Our next outing will include a visit to the National Museum of Nuclear science and History in Albuquerque, NM. The chapter will pay admission for veterans and their wives. We will end our day with an early dinner.

One of our members is fighting cancer right now and we hope she recovers very soon. May all of you have healthy, peaceful times ahead.

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**UPSTATE NEW YORK**

Bill Morrison (86-L)

Dave Morrison (DESC)

Like most chapters of the Association, Upstate New York gathered on a special day for members of the Tenth all affected by the events of Feb. 18-19, 1945. On that fateful day came the introduction to the realities of war, and the names of special places — Riva Ridge, Mt Belvedere, Gorgolesco, and nameless ridges beyond. We quickly learned that the price battle demands is always high; the monument at Tennessee Pass bears such witness.

Again this year as in many years long gone, our thoughts and memories remain in silence as they have for many years. We do remember, often in a mixture of sadness and gratitude. This year we gathered once more to remember; Taps in the “Blizzard” names comrades who will not be with us this year.

Many Tenth veterans of the war in Italy have been fortunate to return to Italy at least once in our lives, something we may feel is our duty and privilege. For many of us, the solemn ceremony held each trip in the American cemetery south of Florence holds special memories, especially when we chance upon one of the simple white markers that bears the name of a friend or comrade. Several hundred friends and fellow soldiers remain there in the soil of their adopted land. One doesn’t need to linger long in such a place to know, without the slightest doubt, that war exacts a terrible price that must be paid.

We remember, thankful for those still with us at this special Belvedere gathering. In attendance were: Lorraine and Harold McAfee (85-L), Emmy and Phil Santasiero (87-K), Bev Felderman and Bill Millette (605 FA-A), Nancy Looby (W 85-I), Bill Morrison, and Descendants Charlie Wheeler Jr. (Charles Wheeler 87-I HQ), Paul Sonricker (Earl Sonricker 87-B), Jill Hamlin (Norton Stanton 86-A), and Dave Morrison.

Because of our geographic location, we have been fortunate to keep in touch with Ft Drum and the Tenth (LI). We have been pleased to make the acquaintance of a long line of Commanding Generals, starting with MG Bill Carpenter in 1985, up through the present Commander, MG Jeffrey Bannister, soon to leave the Tenth and join the Pentagon as have a few before him. We wish him great success, but we’re sure he’ll miss the North Country, and the Mountaineers at Drum. We look forward to welcoming his replacement, MG Walter Piatt, back to the Tenth.

We read in the post, “Mountaineer,” that the Tenth will be re-classified as a Zone 7 Arctic unit re-supplied with new clothing and equipment better suited to extreme cold weather survival. A few of the original Tenth may recall some of the unusual clothing and gear we were testing at Camp Hale.

Finally, congratulations to chapter member Charlie Smith (85-I), Silver Star holder, chosen to help lay the memorial wreath this past Veteran’s Day at Fort Drum. How many of us can still wear our uniform from the 40s? Charlie can, and proudly — thank you, Charlie!
The Delaware River Valley Chapter held its annual “Celebration of All Veterans” event on Nov. 13, 2016, at the Overbrook Country Club in Villanova, PA.

While our group was not large, the club seated us at a large dining room table that reminded us of a Thanksgiving dinner, and we all felt like part of the 10th Mountain family. In fact, conversation flowed so freely that we forgot to take our usual group photo.

Joining us at the luncheon were two WWII vets, Paul Kitchen (86-A) and Weldon Storey (87-A) and Wilma Brenn (W Gerald [85-A]). We also welcomed new members Mary Donaldson-Evans (Dtr Lawrence Prudhomme [ORD]) and her husband Lance.

Mary Donaldson Evans and family are planning to join the Return to Italy trip this year, as are Jud Anderson and family.

Sadly, we lost a strong member of our group, Peter Binzen (86-H) on November 16, 2016. A lovely memorial Service was held in Wayne, PA, on Dec. 10 to honor a life lived fully, with tributes from various family and friends.

On Dec. 10, Adolfo Demarco and I met Ginny Condo for lunch. Ginny and her husband Al were very involved in the Delaware River Valley Chapter. Ginny has not been able to attend many events now that her husband is ill. It was good to catch up with her.

Our next event for Memorial Day will again be at Barbara Winter’s farm in Pottstown, PA. If you plan to be in the Philadelphia area on Sunday, May 21, 2017, please join us. My email is barbacat9@aol.com.
ARMADILLO

Phebe Davol (DESC 86-I, HQ)

Members of the Armadillo Chapter joined early in the year for a notable occasion. Charles Lloyd (Jack) Elam (86-D) celebrated his 100th birthday at a fabulous event in Gatesville, TX, on Jan. 21, 2017.

Phebe Davol and Sean Ellis (10th Mtn Div 2/22-I) attended the party, hosted by Jack’s daughter Linda Kay Elam-Comer (Desc 86-D) and her family. Sean Ellis gave a moving speech highlighting his participation in the 10th Mountain Division in the Somalia and Haiti campaigns. Sean’s father Jeffery Ellis was a Green Beret (6th SF) from 1966-1970 in Vietnam; Sean’s grandfather, George Ellis, was in the 503rd Parachuting Bn in the WWII Asia Theater and served as one of the first paratroopers in the U.S. Army. Sean closed by thanking Jack and other WWII Veterans for paving the way so that today’s 10th Mtn Div could also Climb to Glory.

Karen Case (Desc James W. Stanley, Sr. 86-K) attended a 75th anniversary celebration of the 10th Mountain Division in the Somalia and Haiti campaigns. Karen Case at 501-472-4588 or karencase0303@gmail.com.

Members and guests present included Cindy Duell (D), Bill Payant (87-E), Al Field (85-I), Nancy Payant Middlemas (D), Gil Kroll (10th INF), Randy Payant and Carol Maywood.

Members visited and enjoyed lunch together in the dining room. We were delighted to welcome a new member to our group. Cindy Duell, who is a granddaughter of Floyd Davis (85-K).

It was noted that Phil Lieberman (38 RCT, C CO2EN) died on Feb. 22, 2016; his work as former President of our AZ Chapter was appreciated by members. Elma Davis, widow of Floyd W. Davis (85-K) is recovering from a recent illness. We wish her well in her recovery.

Our chapter will not participate in the East Valley Veterans’ Day Parade this year, as no members contacted us to be included.

VETERANS HERITAGE PROJECT

All 10th Mountain Division veterans (from any service era) are encouraged to participate in the Veterans Heritage Project (VHP). Interviews can be conducted in your own home, or most convenient location. In addition to having your story preserved, students gain listening, writing, and presentation skills that help them mature and succeed in future activities. They also gain a real-life glimpse into our nation’s history. To participate, contact Don (dondickinson3@gmail.com, 520-780-7827), or Carol (520-795-3511, cjmaywood@att.net).

Honor Flight contact information: for flights from Phoenix: www.honorflightaz.org, #928, 377.1020, email info@honorflightaz.org; for flights from Tucson: www.honorflightaz.org, #520, 204.1390, email info@honorflightaz.org.

The goal for the 10th Mountain Foundation for the next 3 years: Increase the Foundation’s relevance and impact on the greater 10th community. The vision for 2016–2019 is a greater focus on defined programs within 3 pillars, each with charter, budget, & committee; improved connections with key stakeholders, both within and beyond the National Association; succession planning and recruitment; marketing and communication to increase awareness among relevant segments; an increase in efficiency & outreach by consolidating like programs and/or collaboration as appropriate.

The Three Pillars of Focus:
A. Promote the legacy of the 10th and its soldiers – both WWII and today’s 10th
B. Further the spirit of the 10th’s connection to outdoor industries
C. Continue to support the education of 10th veterans and their children.

MAJOR CHALLENGES

Members discussed the focus and suggest the major challenges would be dwindling membership, inconsistent communication, and that the greater 10th community is highly fractured. It was recommended that the Foundation 1) Create a hub website that is comprehensive to all the entities we want to bring together. Provide links to all relevant market segments, chapter contacts, etc. Provide access to The Blizzard online (It is, at 10thmtdivas.org); Share financial reports and communications with all; Consolidate separate entities into one organization, to the extent feasible. Communicate as one; Focus on membership growth: a) Include the veterans of the 10th Infantry Cold War era; b) Seek ways to engage members of 10th Mtn Div (LI) while still enlisted, demonstrate value; Promote “Friend of the 10th” option to outdoor enthusiasts.

NEWSLETTER

Al Field (85-I) presented his Newsletter #74, and distributed copies to attendees. Al’s presentation focused on the Division’s action in three WWII war zones: Attu and Kiska in the Aleutian chain; Italy in December/January of 1944/45 to fight in the Apennines and Alps and defeat the German Alpine troops; the Yugoslav border on May 17-19, 1945 to contain Marshal Tito’s attempt to advance into Italy (Mission Udine), with British and New Zealand troops.

Other excerpts included in the newsletter include some from the books Birth of a Division by George F. Earle, Good Times and Bad Times edited by Dr. John Imbrie and Hugh W. Evans, Cassino to the Alps, Ernest F. Fisher, Jr.; Mission Udine by Thomas R. Brooks; and The Memoirs of Field Marshal Kesselring.

The next meeting was set for Feb. 14, 2017, starting with lunch at McDowell Village Senior Center, 8300 East McDowell Road, Scottsdale.
The Breckenridge episode of the 42nd Annual 10th Mountain Division Ski-in Daze is taking place at this writing.

Events began with a Ski Copper Day on Feb. 15, followed by Ski Copper Day on Friday with the traditional 10th Mountain serpentine forming up at noon. Hugh Evans (85-C, A) was the only WWII participant, and he made his mark by skiing Copper, and two days at Cooper, leading the flag procession.

Fifteen members of the Colorado Army National Guard’s 1st Bn, 157th Mtn Inf joined the procession and enjoyed being welcomed by the throng of Descendants and other Tenth Mountain supporters on the slopes. I estimate 250 skiers including military and civilian onlookers joined the serpentine. U.S. and organizational flags were borne downhill by active and retired Special Forces, largely of the 10th Group (Fort Carson, CO).

Friday afternoon a memorial service was held at the 10th Mtn Div National Memorial at the ski area entrance. A dozen 10th Mtn Div (LI) veterans were photographed together afterward.

Saturday’s events were a “Memorial Ski Run” for the late Jimmy Nasser, whose skis were used. That afternoon 14 Descendants and I enjoyed a snowmobile tour of Camp Hale and the surrounding high back country training areas. We topped out at 12,000 feet above sea level on Machinegun Ridge, from which we observed Copper Ski Area from about 20 miles, and the 14er, Mount of the Holy Cross about 15 miles distant.

Two important items for future reporting are worthy of mention. First, with Hugh Evans being the only WWII member participating in Ski-In Daze this year, it is starkly evident that the Rocky Mountain Chapter leadership will have to move firmly and intelligently to build up the numbers of Light Fighters, so that we/the can sustain the numbers and renew or model the commitments shown by our forebears.

Second, there is a strong movement to have Camp Hale recognized as our nation’s first “national historical landscape,” or some such designation. The effort is coming out of the offices of Sen. Michael Bennet (D, CO). There is much work and liaison to be done to ensure we have a fingerprint on this effort.

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The annual Sierra Nevada Chapter Riva Ridge/Mt. Belvedere luncheon was held Feb. 11, 2017, at the Old Spaghetti factory in Redwood City.

Only eight Chapter members were able to attend, but we had a great time listening to stories from Art Schimke (87-K) and viewing slides taken in 1945 by Bill Ferguson (86-MED-2).

President Val Rios gave updates regarding 10th Association and Foundation news. He also shared information about the recent 2017 10th Mtn Div Biathlon, and upcoming 2017 and 2020 Return to Italy trips.

There are plans for the annual wine tasting picnic at Sebastiani Winery in Sonoma, but the date is yet to be determined.

The Washington, D.C. Chapter enjoyed a wonderful Veteran’s Day Luncheon Nov. 12, 2017, at the Clyde’s of Tyson’s Corner in Vienna, VA. The 118 attendees had plenty of time to catch up with gossip and Chapter upcoming events.

Several members attended the National Assn of the 10th Mtn Div and 10th Mtn Div Descendant board meetings in Reston, VA, Oct. 22-23, 2016. Descendants’ President, Steve Coffey, set up a wonderful catered barbecue dinner to allow the board members to socialize.

The evening was opened up to Chapter members to meet and mingle with the board members and friends.

Our next chapter get together is set for March 25, 2017, at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA. We plan to have a docent tour and then meet for lunch at the facility’s cafeteria.

Plans are in the works for a VE Day informal lunch near Baltimore, and a belated Flag Day picnic some time after the Hill Towns Discovery Tour is back from Italy.
Alford, Phil Jr. (604th FA-A), 93, March 7, 2016, Lewisville, AR. Survived by wife Dorothy J., three sons, seven daughters, a stepson, eight grandsons and eight granddaughters. Predeceased by wife Virginia (Jones). Owner/operator of Phil Alford Farms in Burleson County, TX, and Lafayette County, AR. Credited with developing first successful large-scale stocker cattle operation in southwest Arkansas. Elected to Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame; founding member, state Cattleman’s Assn. vice president, Red River Valley Assn. chairman, Red River PCA, Board of Directors, People’s Bank and Loan, Lafayette County Soil and Water Conservation District and Red River Commission, President of Board, Southwest Arkansas Water District.

Barabas, Joseph Gerald (110th Mtn Signal Co, 133rd Mtn Signal Co Det), 92, January 20, 2017, Granada Hills, CA. Survived by wife Catherine, 1 daughter, three sons, four grandsons, many nieces and nephews. Part of 1943 Kiska Occupation, 9th Amphibious Task Force; transferred to 9th Sig Corps as Combat Photographer with 1st Marine Div, Okinawa. Attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst and Russell Sage College. Spent 30 years as medical technologist at GlaxoSmithKline Bio-Science Laboratory. Ski patrolman, medical technologist at GlaxoSmithKline. Attended 10th Mountain Division Return to Italy trips. During one trip, hugged by a woman who thanked him for saving her as a young girl during the war. Attended 10th Mountain MN Chapter events, trip to Fort Drum and events in Colorado. Won first place in the Bessemer, MI, Fourth of July parade with 10th Mtn float with four others and a theme of “Honoring Those That Served in the 10th Mountain Division.”

Binzen, Peter Husted (86-H), 94, November 16, 2016, Bryn Mawr, PA. Survived by a son, three daughters, nine grandchildren; predeceased by wife Virginia (Flower). Spent 31 years at The Evening and Sunday Bulletin, specializing in education and urban affairs. After The Bulletin closed, recruited to The Philadelphia Inquirer by executive editor Gene Roberts. Hailed as dean of Philadelphia journalism, covered the city for more than five decades; his several books presciently explored frustrations of working-class Americans, rise of Mayor Frank L. Rizzo as bellicose local political hero and bankruptcy of Penn Central railroad.

Cartner, Vernon J. (87-L), 91, September 28, 2016, Spring Hill, FL. Survived by four children, two grandchildren, one great- and one great-great grandchild; predeceased by wife Allien. Avid outdoorsman. Loved downhill, cross-country skiing into his late 80s, fishing, canoeing, camping, boating on Lake Superior, golfing, making apple cider and wine. Participated in three 10th Mountain Division Return to Italy trips. During one trip, hugged by a woman who thanked him for saving her as a young girl during the war. Attended 10th Mountain MN Chapter events, trip to Fort Drum and events in Colorado. Won first place in the Bessemer, MI, Fourth of July parade with 10th Mtn float with four others and a theme of “Honoring Those That Served in the 10th Mountain Division.”

Cleasby, David Marshall (86-L, 10 Recon), 91, January 2, 2017, Laconia, NH. Survived by wife Elizabeth “Betty” (Rock), two sons, two daughters, a stepson, six stepdaughters, 23 grand- and 13 great-grandchildren, nieces and a niece; predeceased by wife Arlene (Cashmore) and a son. A general practice physician, specialized in anesthesiology, taking residency position at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Hanover, NH; Board-certified Anesthesiologist at Laconia Hospital for 25 years. Member, Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia and of Rotary Club. Member, New England Chapter, participating in annual climb to the summit of Mount Washington for memorial services until late into his 80s. Avid outdoorsman, enjoyed hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing and snowmobiling.


Haden, David H. (616 FA-C), 95, December 22, 2016, Hatton, MO. Survived by two sons, three grandchildren, nieces and nephews; predeceased by wife Mittie (Shryock). Lived on a University of Missouri farm in Columbia, as foreman of University Farms; taught beginning animal husbandry at the University. Widely known for knowledge about mules, served as respected mule judge in several state fairs. Well-known Registered Quarter Horse breeder and harvested row crops. In 1969, couple named Missouri Farm Family. Member, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church.

Henderson, Dale H. (HQ 10th Div Art), 94, April 12, 2016, Emmaus, PA. Survived by wife Darleen, five daughters, 11 grand- and numerous great- and great-great grandchildren. Retired in Colorado after over 50 years in automobile business. Life Member, Elks for nearly 40 years, serving as treasurer in Greatee and Pueblo, CO. Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Greatee Saddle Club. A Colorado native, also a long-time Broncos fan.

Jorgensen, Raymond Carl (604th FA-B), 94, October 1, 2016, Dallas, TX. Survived by wife Lenore (Winkel), a son and a daughter, five great-grandchildren and a grandchild; predeceased by a son. Worked in construction industry in Chicago, IL, retiring at 83. Enjoyed continued affiliation with veterans of the 10th Mountain Division and couple’s many travels.

Kueffner, William (85-6-MED), 96, February 10, 2017, Southport, CT. Survived by 6 sons, 8 grand-, 3 great-grandchildren; predeceased by wives Elizabeth (Berg), Nancy (Hurst-Brown). Battalion surgeon, later studied extensively; started practice in Fairfield, CT, later moved to Southport. Volunteered his skills at Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Haiti. Worked to slow the spread of Lyme disease; enjoyed sailing, tennis, skiing, traveling, reading, birds & gardening.

Ludemann, William R. (85 HQ-3), 93, January 24, 2017, St Charles, IL. Survived by two sons, one daughter, 10 grand-, 5 great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Dorothy. Following his successful career as a plumbing contractor, enjoyed retirement years fishing, gardening, painting & spending time with his family. Treasurer for Midwest Chapter for many years.


Mizel, Harvey S., (86-M), 93, February 15, 2017, Pueblo, CO.

Moor, Thomas “Tom” Arthur (604th FA-A), 92, January 23, 2017, Kingwood, TX. Survived by wife Elizabeth “Betty” Ann (Schmitz), four daughters, two sons, 20 grand- and 19 great-grandchildren; predeceased by a daughter. Career in manufacturing management included 28 years with RT&E Corporation, followed by many years of positions which utilized his home improvement and repair expertise. Served as president, Armadillo Chapter. Missouri was home for 47 years; also lived in Arlington, TX; Montgomery, OH; Nacogdoches and San Angelo, TX, and Little Rock, AR. Enjoyed bowling, playing poker and an ardant Packer backer.

Kenneth W. Oja, (86-I), 90, February 23, 2015, Ishpeming, MI. Survived by one daughter, one son and seven grandchildren; predeceased by wife Lillian and one son. Prior to retiring in 1982, was employed at Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. for over 35 years, most of the time at the Research Lab. Member, Bethel Lutheran Church. An avid ski-jumper and Class B World Champion 1947. Member, Ishpeming Ski Club, enjoying both downhill and cross-country skiing; in summer kept active by biking, jogging and swimming.

Owens, Harry W. (86-D), 93, November 24, 2016, Lakewood, CO. Survived by wife Anne, a daughter, two sons and three grandchildren. Oil and gas geologist. Proud of his membership in National Assn of 10th Mtn Div.

Speddy, Kenneth Wayne (87-SVC and 87-HQ 3), 95, August 5, 2016, English, IN. Survived by wife Clara, two daughters, one son, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A dairy farmer, served as Crawford County Surveyor and was a director for Dubois Rural Electric Cooperative. Involved in many farm organizations. Enjoyed traveling genealogies and collected local history; active in his church and community.

Golden Dragons

We support those who are struggling financially. We have members like Barry Hitechew who motivates us all to continue with physical fitness with postings from his Spartan Races.

In June of 2015, we had a member, David Curiel who was in the wrong place at the wrong time; he was assaulted by two muggers, one holding a gun in his face. David struggled with the gunman and was shot point-blank in the right side of his chest. The 9mm bullet entered at an angle that broke 6 ribs, pierced his lung, diaphragm, and liver. After 3+ weeks, a couple surgeries, dozens of IV’s, blood transfusions, lots of x-rays, CT scans, an array of antibiotics, he finally left the hospital. We had many members visit him, cheer him on and pray for his speedy recovery. We are family.

Our chapter plans to have a reunion in August/September of 2018 and have volunteered to team up with cosponsoring a 10th Mountain National Reunion with the Rocky Mountain Chapter. We are working to develop a proposal to sponsor, plan, coordinate and execute the reunion.

In closing, social media and our virtual connections have made our chapter what it is today. It is posts like this one from Richard Carlisle that keeps our bonds strong: “To all my Brothers out there, I wanted to make sure I got it out. I Wish a Merry Christmas to all of you and a Blessed New Year! You are all in my thoughts and prayers, and it’s an Honor to have served with you and a privilege to have made a very special connection with Honorable Men. Thank You and God Bless!”

To the Editor:

Is there anyone who remembers Henry Eldi? (He was in) Division HQ from 1942-45. I have gathered all the information left except for eyewitness accounts. They are needed as he never told me of his Army life. He never admitted that he went to Italy. He told us nothing. But there is a letter in Italian where someone thanks him for saving his life.

George R. Eldi
Ridge, NY

To the Editor:

My grandfather, Harley Dale Kimble, was a Sergeant with the Headquarters Battery of the 616th Field Artillery Battalion. He also served with Headquarters of the 605th Field Artillery Battalion.

My grandfather joined what would become the 10th Mountain Division — the 10th Light Division (Alpine) — at Camp Carson, CO, and was transferred with the Division to Camp Hale and then to Camp Swift, TX. It was at Camp Swift that the Division was reorganized and officially designated the 10th Mountain Division.

I’ve been interested in trying to find more information about his time in the service and learn more about his experiences.

I’m not sure why I did not ask him about his time in boot and Italy while he was alive, something I regret often! I know he was very proud of his time in the Army and I know he participated in some 10th Mtn events in his later years. I miss him dearly.

Dennis Pierce
Columbus, IN
They still get you downhill, but skis have changed in 75 years.

DIVISION RETURNS TO ITS COLD WEATHER ROOTS

In what seems like déjà vu all over, the Army announced this winter that 10th Mountain Division soldiers were to receive $12.5 million in fiscal year 2017 to purchase cold weather equipment to enable training in extreme cold and heavy snow conditions.

The Army recently designated Fort Drum as an Arctic Zone, which will seem to many like an even-further irony considering its location in northern New York state. The Division, according to a release from PAO, requires specialized training and equipment consistent with the zone rating and its global mission.

The Mountain Warfare course on post conducted training with equipment used in cold weather environments in January for the media, providing an opportunity for reporters to learn about the new equipment the division is expected to receive and its impact on the division’s number one goal of mission readiness.

Note: This article includes contributions from Fort Drum Public Affairs.

TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION, INC.
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Tenth Mountain Division Foundation
4th Quarter Update - 2016

President’s Message (Trux Dole): You asked for more transparency of Foundation activities. This quarterly update, our first, provides a snapshot of our various efforts and summarizes funds received and grants made. We have organized our reporting and budgeting around our new pillar approach to help donors and grant seekers better understand our mission and to clarify where you can get more involved or volunteer on a committee. Over this past quarter, we focused on collaboration across organizations in the greater 10th community. We are also closely watching the Camp Hale historic land designation project and corresponding federal legislation. If you are interested in participating in Foundation efforts, we are seeking marketing talent as well as committee leadership in our Legacy and Spirit programs. For more information, contact admin@10tmdf.org. Onward!

Finance:
total 2017 grant allocations approved at Foundation annual board meeting = $133,242.

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Memorial Donations (Oct – Dec): Andre Benoit, Clarence Kentz, Loyola Murphy, Orville Tomky, Homer and Dutch Matson, Dean Peterson, Alton Jameson, Gerald Frawley, Edward Jones, Glen Dawson, Martin Bockelmann, William Boddington, Sandy Gregg, Don Olson, Harold Owens, Alfred Davidson, James Nassar, Jr., Harold Reynolds, Donald Clucas, Peter Binzen

Legacy
2017 Funded Programs:
• Memorial Tennessee Pass Maintenance and Ceremony
• 10th MTN Resource Center Archivist position
• 10th Mountain Monument Watertown, New York
• CO Freedom Memorial 10th Mountain Flag Pole addition
• Living History Display Group
• The National Army Museum


Spirit
2017 Funded Programs:
• 10th MTN Hut Association maintenance and programs
• Disabled Soldier Winter Sports Clinic, Vermont
• Snow Show Participation Denver, Colorado

Education
2017 Funded Programs:
• Public Education/Research
  • CO Ski and Snowboard Museum
  • 10th MTN Resource Center on-line research tools
• History Colorado Center artifact collections
• Military History Scholarship
• Foundation Scholarship
• National Outdoor Leadership School Scholarships
• Outdoor Recreation

Marketing/Communications
We are in the process of updating our website to reflect our new mission, vision, organizational structure, leadership, partnerships and application processes. We hope to launch a new and improved website by May. Until then, please follow our Facebook page for updates on ongoing events and initiatives. https://www.facebook.com/tenthfoundation/

Upcoming Events

- 16-22 Feb
  TMDD sponsored Ski-in Daze, Colorado
- 29 May
  Memorial Ceremony, Camp Hale
- 9-18 June
  TMDD sponsored Italy Trip (Hill Towns)
- 21 July
  TMDD Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 24 July
  Foundation Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 13-17 Sept
  IFMS Congress, Clayton, NY