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SEMPRE ITALIA 2009 UPDATE

Steve Coffey (Desc. 87-F)

We are happy to report that as of the cutoff date we had 106 travelers registered for the Main trip with well over thirty of these continuing on for the Extension trip. Our planning team made an inspection trip to Italy in November to meet with the various officials and groups along our route. The U.S. Embassy staff in Rome and the Consulate staff in Florence have helped us with the arrangements for our visit to the American Cemetery, where we will have our own time on the grounds to explore after a short ceremony. While not certain just yet, we hope to be joined at the Cemetery by an active-duty color guard from Camp Darby, as well as members of the Florentine Alpini and other dignitaries.

Moving north, our friends in the Hill Towns have once again planned a full slate of activities for us including a service at the summit of Mt. Belvedere for all to attend, and the dedication of a new memorial to PFC John Magrath in Castel d'Aiano, along with a full schedule of ceremonies and festivals. As an

aside, while on the inspection trip our team was escorted to the summit of Mt. Belvedere for a Veterans' Day wreath-laying ceremony at the 10th Mtn. Div. monument dedicated during the 2006 reunion trip. We want to express our appreciation to the many people in the Hill Towns who arranged this for the 10th Mountain family.

Finally, for those continuing on the extension trip, our friend BG (Ret) Janez Kavar in Slovenia is completing the detailed plans for our stop in Bovec to visit near the site of the 1945 ski races. This, too, promises to be a memorable event for our travelers. One added note of interest, descendant Bryan Pullen will be working on the development of an "e-book" while on the trip. Bryan's project is to create a 10th Mtn. Div. GPS Travel Guide using GPS (Global Positioning System) to mark and record all historical battle sites, buildings, aid stations, post-war memorials, etc. that are significant to the Division's WWII history. For more, see his story in the Descendants' Section of this issue.



Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division still ski –only today they're just as likely to head downhill on a single, fiberglass snowboard instead of two wooden slats, like this Wounded Warrior on the slopes at Cannon Mountain., Franconia, NH. Ten soldiers and some of their spouses from the Warrior Transition Unit (3-85 INF) at Ft. Drum enjoyed several days of activities on and off the slopes in February. Story below describes another event sponsored by 10th Assn. –Photo by Megan Hammari

NEW ENGLAND WINTER SPORTS CLINIC WELCOMES DISABLED VETERANS HOME

The 12th annual New England Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans was held Jan. 12-16, 2009. The event is organized by the New England VA Healthcare System, and sponsors include the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn.

Fifty-three disabled vets took part, while staff included retired members of the Division including SFC (ret.) James M. Sheets. Also attending from the Ft. Drum area were SSGT Danny Swank (110 MI) who served in Afghanistan, and SSGT Brian Wells (2-14 INF) who was participating for the fourth year.

Activities over the six days ranged from skiing and snowmobiling to air rifle shooting and adaptive kayaking. There was also sports massage therapy, fishing, and plenty of entertainment.

A banquet marked the end of the clinic, and Danny received Rookie of the Year award for having done an outstanding job as an amputee, sit-skiing in a mono-sled for the first time.

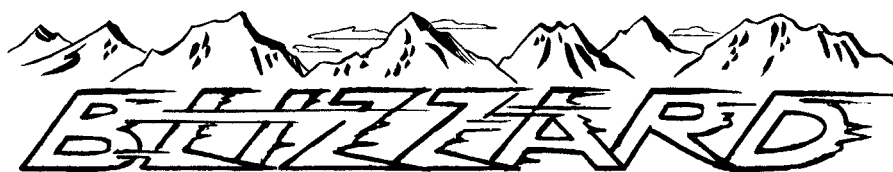
For his part, Brian told organizers at the end that he'd participated in other activities, but never felt he was truly "home" from Iraq until this event.

10TH COLD WAR VETERANS

The Association seeks to expand its membership to include veterans who served in the 10th Infantry Division during the Cold War (1948-58). This will enable them to meet with their Cold War comrades, with WWII veterans of the 10th Mtn. Div., and with members of the modern, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI). Please contact Mike Plummer, President, National Assn. of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI), email: plummike@aol.com. Send articles, photographs and notices to the Editor for publication.



Sempre Italia 2009 will feature a service at the summit of Mt. Belvedere like this one which was held on Veterans' Day, 2008, with members of the trip's advance party. –Photo by Don Perkins.



Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender's name and address. No photographs will be returned unless specifically requested. All materials should be sent to Felicity Hallanan, *Blizzard* Editor, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, or by e-mail to blizzarded@gmail.com. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the magnificent soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to accepted journalistic standards. Editor reserves the right to rewrite, renegotiate or refuse materials submitted for publication. Questions? Contact the editor at 315-387-2929 or by e-mail. Members should also feel free to contact National President Mike Plummer at 315-782-4178 or e-mail plummike@aol.com. Subscription rate for non-members: \$20. per year.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)

1. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. It should help you understand what your Association is doing and where it is headed.

2. Our membership continues to grow. The following are our membership numbers through 31 Dec., 2008:

Category	2006	2007	2009
WWII 10th Mtn. Div. Veterans	1850	1718	1340
WWII 10th Mtn. Div Widows	323	335	277
10th Mtn. Div. Veterans	69	73	58
10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Veterans	166	269	1046
Other Mtn. Units	23	30	51
Associates	77	77	33
Honorary	24	26	7
Friends	24	64	61
Total	2556	2592	2893

3. In order to continue to increase our membership I have asked John Russell (10th Mtn. Div., LI) to chair the Membership Committee. He is asking for your help. He needs point men and women from all Army posts to nominate themselves to help. The concept is to equip them with a membership kit useful in a PX lobby. Give up one half-day if there are more than two of you at a post, and we can exponentially fill our ranks from the estimated 150,000 Light Infantry Division veterans out there in Armyland. Contact John at Facebook group: 10th Mountain Div. (Light Infantry) Veterans; or johnnyboy80133@comcast.net

4. The mission and goals of the National Association were reviewed during the Nov., 2008, EXCOM. No recommendations for changes were made:

A. Mission statement: The Association exists to preserve and enhance the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division for future generations.

B. Goals:

Goal 1. Complete the transition by 2012.

Goal 2. Preserve and enhance the legacy of the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division.

Goal 3. Attract and retain membership.

5. In support of the strategic plan, the Chapter Presidents have begun the development of a Chapter transition plan that provides for the orderly turnover of leadership to the descendants or 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) members who are in or have partnered with their chapter. Jan., 2010, is the not-later-than date.

6. As winter activities are being held, please have someone take pictures and submit them along with a summary of the event to the "Blizzard" editor, Felicity Hallanan, at blizzarded@gmail.com.

7. The 10th Mtn. Div. Descendants Organization has over 100 folks signed up for the 2009 trip to Italy. It retains the principal features of the very successful 2006 trip by including a visit to the American Cemetery in Florence, multi-day trip to the Hill Towns, Riva del Garda via the Po Valley, along with optional pre- and post- trips.

8. The Tenth Mountain Division Foundation granted \$10,000 to the Ft. Drum Chapter to allow them to send some of their Wounded Warriors to Disabled Veterans Mountain and Winter Sports Clinics, and \$5,000 for the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Scholarship Fund. Fifteen Wounded Warriors have attended Winter Sports Clinics in NH and VT so far this winter.

9. 10th Mtn. Div. Wounded Warriors who are in a military or a VA hospital are receiving a Wounded Warrior care pack. It consists of a cloth rucksack with 10th Mtn. Div. logo on it to hang on a wheelchair or crutches, a Climb to Glory bathrobe, a hat and tee shirt with 10th Mtn. Div. logo, a set of tear-away sweats and an NFL-quality 10th Mtn. Div. football jersey. Once a 10th Mountain Division Soldier, always a 10th Mountain Division Soldier.

10. The 2008 International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) Congress was held in Spain in October. The President of the National Association attended and represented the Association. Three other members attended at their own expense (Bert Anger, Jerry Nash, Harvey Wieprecht, Harry Coleman and Ann Marie Mattson). The 2009 IFMS Congress will be held in France, dates to be determined. The National Association will present a briefing to the membership on the 10th Mtn. Div.'s lessons learned in Afghanistan.

11. Planning for the 2010 National Reunion has begun. It will be hosted by the Ft. Drum Chapter and held during the last week of June at Watertown, NY.

12. The 2009 10th Mtn. Div. Foundation Board meeting will be held on July 16-17, and the Descendant's Board meeting will be held on July 18, 2009, both in Denver, CO.

13. An update on activities in your Division:

(Continued on Page 3)

RESOURCE CENTER ACQUIRES BRONZE STAR CITATIONS

Dennis Hagen

Thanks to the incredible efforts of John Duffy, John Imbrie and Barbara Imbrie, your Resource Center has recently obtained a treasure trove comprising more than 3,800 Bronze Star citations for World War II veterans of the 10th Mountain Division.

John Duffy discovered these citations hidden away at the National Archives in Maryland. Armed with a funding commitment from the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, Duffy obtained photocopies of the citations. He then labeled each individual citation with the veteran's name and alphabetized all of the citations. Duffy then forwarded the citations to John and Barbara Imbrie, who indexed them into the 10th Mountain Division database.

Imbrie has since provided an updated copy of the database, along with the paper copies of the citations, to the Resource Center where they are now available to researchers and descendants as part of collection TMD2, 10th Mountain Division Database Records.

Prior to Duffy's discovery, the Resource Center had uncovered approximately 1,500 Fifth Army press releases, which were contained in the Charles M. "Minnie" Dole Papers (collection WH1001). Many of these press releases included excerpts from Bronze Star citations. Between these two collections, the Resource Center can now provide copies of citations for approximately 4,500 Bronze Star awards out of the total 7,709 that were presented to 10th Mountain soldiers during the War.

The U.S. Army began awarding Bronze Star Medals in 1944. President Roosevelt authorized the awards in an Executive Order dated February 4, 1944. His order permitted awards to be made retroactively to December 7, 1941. The

Bronze Star Medal was originally designed to provide ground troops with an equivalent to the Air Medal, which had been adopted some two years earlier.

Bronze Star citations are an incredibly valuable addition to the Resource Center's collection because they add such an important dimension to a veteran's story. Although copies of the general orders awarding Bronze Stars have been available through the Resource Center for many years, these general orders merely indicate whether the award was for meritorious achievement or for heroic achievement. They fail to include specific details about the circumstances of the award, which only the citations can provide.

Bronze Stars were often awarded for a specific acts of heroism deemed to be of a lesser degree than that required for the award of the Silver Star. However, they could also be awarded for acts of merit or meritorious service, which were less than those required for the Legion of Merit. Since the use of two different criteria for Bronze Star awards can lead to confusion, the clarification afforded by the citations becomes extremely valuable in telling a veteran's story.

In 1947, Bronze Star Medals were retroactively awarded to all soldiers who had received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II. The rationale for these awards was that only soldiers who had borne the hardships of battle could receive the badges. The Combat Infantryman Badge and Medical Badge in essence defined why the Bronze Star had originally been created. These retroactive Bronze Star awards are often referred to as "Truman Bronze Stars," since they were authorized two years after the War during the Truman administration.

Dennis Hagen, Archivist, 10th Mountain Resource Center
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT: DIVISION ON THE MOVE

(Continued from Page 2)

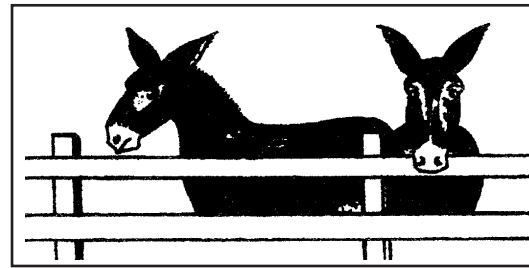
A. The Division HQs (1,000 Soldiers), the Aviation Brigade (3,000 Soldiers) and the Sustainment Brigade (1,500 Soldiers) are in Iraq. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) (3,500 Soldiers) is in Afghanistan.

B. The 57th Transportation Company and the 511 Military Police Company have recently returned and are now getting ready for their next mission. The 4th BCT (3,000 Soldiers) is returning this month.

C. The 2nd BCT will most likely deploy in the fall of 2009 to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

D. To date in the Global War on Terror, the Division has had 156 KIA and over 1,500 WIA.

Climb to Glory!



STABLE
CALL
Felicity Hallanan
(Associate)

Early in my career in journalism, an editor used the unfamiliar term "Gee whiz factor." He was encouraging me to break out of standard format in a story and look for the element that would make the reader say "Gee whiz!"—only now maybe it would be "Cool!" or "Rad!" We think there are a lot of dramatic stories in this edition of the "Blizzard" — accounts that speak for themselves, and make the reader sit up and say, "Gee Whiz!"

At the same time, I confess to still feeling the "Gee Whiz" factor when I consider the technology that's part and parcel of today's military life. Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. who boarded a troop ship at Hampton Roads, for example, had no idea their destination was the mountains of Italy. But today's soldier, his and her family and the public at large knew early-on that the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), for example, had its deployment redirected from Iraq and would fly out of Ft. Drum to the mountains of Afghanistan.

On their way and once they arrived, those soldiers had communications with their families that earlier veterans could not have imagined, whether through text messages, e-mails or blogs. The result is the need for cautionaries like that which appeared recently in "Mountain View," the daily newsletter from 10th Mtn. Div. headquarters in Baghdad. "In today's military," writes SPC Darryl Montgomery (MND-C) "soldiers have the option of signing on the Worldwide Web and posting a Web Log, or blog, and family members back home can read it instantly." At the same time, soldiers are cautioned about just how much they share.

In the meantime, this edition of the "Blizzard" has been through its share of the challenges this electronic age brings with it—computer viruses, updated programs that take getting used-to—new opportunities for learning every day. (Reactions haven't always been "Gee whiz" but something a little stronger.) But we promise to keep trying if you will, and to stay in touch no matter what that means, whether it's through a letter in an envelope or an e-mail to blizzarded@gmail.com.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL PROJECT

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

From documents archived at the Resource Center in the Denver Public Library—mainly the 10th Mountain Division General Orders—we know that soldiers of the 10th were awarded 7,887 Bronze Star Medals for heroic or meritorious actions in the Italian campaign during World War II. For each of these medals the General Orders give the soldier's name, along with the date and place of the award action. But unfortunately these documents do not contain the Bronze Star Citations, i.e., the official descriptions of the actions for which these awards were made. And it is these Citations which, if found and made available, would provide an historical account of what the individual soldier accomplished and endured while under fire during the campaign in Italy.

About ten years ago, while gathering data in the National Archives in Maryland for the 10th Mountain Division WWII Database, I came across four thick file folders labeled "Citations" in the Division official records. These contained 3,940 old, brittle, "onion skin" carbon copy sheets that had been typed by our company clerks. After the war, these documents had been filed in a random manner, thus making it very difficult to find the Citation of a medal awarded to a particular

soldier, or to members of a particular unit on a particular date.

With more time on my hands after retirement from the Association Presidency in 2007, I decided to unscramble this Citation puzzle. I formed a small project, the goal of which was to obtain copies of the available Citations; to organize them appropriately; and to archive them at the 10th Mtn. Div. Resource Center.

Our first step was to obtain Xeroxed copies of the 3,940 Citations. The Citation team then went to work, organizing and identifying the Citations and collating them with other information in our Database files. Early last November the job was done, and we shipped to our Resource Center three cartons containing copies of 3,940 Bronze Star Citations, alphabetically arranged by the veteran's name, along with appropriate digital files. These efforts now make it possible for the library staff, when requested by the family or friends of a 10th Mountain veteran, to obtain a copy of any of the 3,940 Citations now on file.

Our satisfaction in doing this job is lessened by our failure to locate the 3,952 Citations that have either been lost or are missing from Government files. If you have any idea or clue as to where the

(Continued on Page 4)

DEPLOYED FATHER, SON AVIATORS SPEND TIME TOGETHER

SPC Tiffany Evans (MND-C)

Reprinted with permission from "The Mountain View," Baghdad, Iraq

CAMP VICTORY – Two generations of Army pilots were able to spend time together in Iraq, although they served in different units.

Chief Warrant Officer Tom Driscoll, a native of Winthrop, ME, and Capt. John Driscoll II, a native of Gloucester, ME, were both stationed in Tallil, Iraq from June until September of 2008.

Tom, a medical evacuation pilot with Company C, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, last saw his son at Thanksgiving, 2007, before running into him at Tallil.

"While I was at Camp Adder, my father and I were able to hang out at lunch, dinner and occasionally after work," said John, G-3 Air battle major, 10th Mtn. Div. "We were able to spend Father's Day and my birthday together while I was there."

While the son was working in the command section at Camp Adder, his father lived at Sparrow Hawk, ready for any mission that might arise.

"John had the nice chow hall, air-conditioning and bed while I was sleeping on a cot at a forward site eating rations," Tom said. "In September, I moved to Camp Delta in Wasit Province to take a spot for another pilot on mid-tour leave."

In October, John took a three day break to visit his father at Camp Delta. The visit may have been the last chance they will get to see each other in Iraq.

"At Delta, we were able to hang-out, relax and chat with my mom, wife and kids on a web camera with both of us present," John said. "One day, we took a long bike ride around the camp's perimeter and took lots of pictures together to send home to our family."

They explored old bunkers and bombed-out hangars while on the ride. Mostly, they hung out at the MEDEVAC living area with fellow soldiers from Maine.

"I play guitar, and both John and I sing; so we recorded some kids' songs for his twins Hannah and Eve, 3, and his new baby, 6-month-old Lillie," Tom said. "Also, I took several photos of John playing for the girls. They think that we are in the desert trying to rescue 'The Princess.'"

BRONZE STAR MEDAL PROJECT

(Continued from Page 3)

missing onion skins were sent after the war, please drop me a note.

My thanks go out to the 10th Mountain Division Foundation for the funds to reproduce the onion skin copies— and to the other members of my team: Sally Os-



Capt John Driscoll II and CWO Tom Driscoll together at Camp Adder, Iraq, last June.

The twins are into Barbie Doll princesses, and my son concocted that story to help explain his absence."

John was hoping to attend his father's going-away ceremony in December if the mission permitted. If not, they will see each other on John's mid-tour leave at Lillie's Christening.

"This is both my father's and my second deployment, but the first time we've been in country together," John said. "It's been surreal being able to physically be in the same location in a war zone as father and son."

Not many people get the opportunity to serve in war time with their fathers, let alone be in the same theatre and get the chance to be in the same location, he said. "It's been a very unique and emotional experience. It made both of us proud. Looking back, it will make a great story to tell the family, and even further in the future, when I tell my grandchildren stories about Iraq and how their grandfather and great-grandfather served together in Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Tom is very proud of his son for carrying on the family tradition of military service. "My dad was a B-17 bomber pilot in World War II flying missions with the 8th Army Air Force from England over France and Germany. He was 21 at the time of his combat missions," Tom said. "My son is a third generation Army pilot and is named after his grandfather. He proudly carries on our family's military heritage."

terling (87-HQ-3) (Sister), Pete Naylor, Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C).

Questions? Contact John Duffy (86-HQ-2), 65-25 160th Street Apt 10A, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365; tel. 718-591-7775; NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS duffylavergne@verizon.net.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COMBAT MEDIC

Bill Kehres (85-F)

In March, 1945, after leaving Campo Tizzoro, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon of 85-F was sent into a valley for outpost duty near the town of Canolle, where there was a really shot-up San Christophora Church. We were reinforced with a machine gun and mortar, our platoon leader and one medic.

One morning I was in the belfry of the church, and coming down the mountainside to our bivouac area was an Italian woman waving a big, bright red tablecloth. When she saw the Red Cross on the helmet of our medic, she became very excited. She was in desperate need of medical care for her son who had stepped on a German mine that had blown off his foot. Lt. Pierce and S/Sgt Kelly determined that Francis Lovett (Bud), our medic, would go with her to help her son.

Bud left at a very fast pace, led by the Italian mother. Lt. Pierce sent two riflemen to follow. Soon, they came to a fork where the trail split. After more splits in the trail, all hopes of catching up with Bud were gone.

At the top of the mountain near her house, she pointed to her house and said to Bud, "dui Tedeskie." Bud thought of turning and leaving, but knew how vulnerable he would be, so he went forward. Sure enough, there were two German soldiers in the house, one a medic and the other a rifleman. Bud and the German medic put the boy on the kitchen table and proceeded to mend him as best they could. Bud was well supplied with equipment and the German had an

empty medical bag.

After the treatment to the boy, the woman prepared a meal with fresh eggs and fresh milk, the first Bud had seen since leaving the U.S.

The next thing on the agenda for Bud was the surrender of the German soldiers. The medic, who was 24 years old, had six years of war and was ready to get out of it for good. The rifleman was afraid to surrender because he had heard that the 10th Mountain Division did not take prisoners. Communication between Bud and the medic was in French. They finally began to believe Bud on how well the treatment of POWs was in Texas. The rifleman took his rifle to the corner of the house and broke it in two.

About four or five hours later I was again up in the church tower looking for unwanted visitors. There on the mountainside I spotted an entourage with four Italian men carrying a boy on a makeshift litter, the Italian woman, two German POWs and one American medic. When they got into our area, the German medic came to our squad and hugged everyone as though they were long-lost relatives. He was really happy to have his war at an end.

The next day the Italian woman brought down a live chicken to Bud in payment for his medical service. The German medic stayed around for a few days helping G-2, pointing out minefields and intelligence info. Bud was awarded the Bronze Star for his medical service to the young man.

TENTH VETERANS SKI SURVEY

Hugh W. Evans (85-A&C)

My perennial ski buddy and friend, George U. Nelson (85-C), father of Cindy Nelson of Olympic fame, suggested the other day, when I sent him information on the 10th 2009 Colorado Ski-in, that we should have a survey on how many 10th Veterans are still skiing.

I passed this suggestion on to Felicity Hallanan, our dedicated *Blizzard* editor, but she dumped it right back in Yours Truly's lap. Thanks a lot George and Felicity. Well, for better or worse here's the deal.

Those 10th Veterans that are still skiing and read this article, please send me the answers to the following questions:

1. About how many days did you ski the Winter of 2007-08?
2. About how many days do you plan to ski this Winter, 2008-09?
3. Are you skiing downhill or cross

country or both?

4. Where do you usually ski? List your first three choices for ski areas.

5. Any comments?

6. Have you passed along your love of skiing to others—family, friends, who?

Send your answers to T/SGT Hugh W. Evans at hevans621@aol.com or write them to me at 4840 Thunderbird Dr., Apt 486, Boulder, CO 80303.

Have your answers in by May 1, 2009, and the survey results will appear in the next *Blizzard*.

I'm leaving for the Italy Trip on May 26 so you have to have your answers in early so that I can compile them around mid-May and send them in. The deadline for that *Blizzard* is June 15 and we won't be back from the trip by then.

Now get to it!

KISKA INCIDENT STILL A MYSTERY

Don Kitzman (87-F)

On August 15, 1943, in the wee hours of the morning, the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment invaded Kiska. As I recall, after six days it was determined the Japs had left the island, and in time that proved to be right. After the six days, we were ordered and marched to a location near Quisling cove, to shovel out, dig deep into the hillsides, to set up housing, using pyramidal tents, 16' x 16', which became our homes. To those who were there, is that right so far?

Many of the details have been forgotten, but one thing was for certain, we still had to have defense of the Island. One method used was patrols sent out to strategic points, where we were would stay a week or more. The WE part consisted of about 12 men more or less on each patrol. I took part in a least two of these patrols.

One of these patrols I was on, from 87-F Co., was sent to a point on the Bering Sea side of Kiska Island. The land rose above the sea, as I remember, about 90 to 100 feet and with a cliff straight down to the water's edge. As we approached the area, which was approximately 7-8 miles from F Co, the terrain rose. I do not recall there was any area on Kiska that you would call flat or level, but rough and rougher. The terrain was like walking on a mattress all over.

Another F. Co. buddy and I could see some bones and OD dress trousers on the ground before us. Also, amongst the remains, a pair of dog tags. No flesh remained on the bones. Completely stripped off! Some of the leg bones were exposed, but parts were still in the pants. Blue fox were the cause of the flesh being stripped from the bones.

There was little sign of the plane wreckage at this location. It appeared at that time that the plane was shot down, that the pilot was just able to land or crash the plane just clear of the cliff, with some small parts of the plane scattered at the

It appeared at that time that the plane was shot down, that the pilot was just able to land or crash the plane just clear of the cliff.

crash site, but the bulk of the plane skidded a distance of about one-fourth of a mile, into a small lake, down grade.

The plane, though damaged badly, was well enough intact to identify as a P-38. Though I was not involved, the body parts and dog tags were gathered and a patrol member or members was sent back to Headquarters. (Where the remains were delivered, I don't and never knew.) To this day, I have never heard anyone discuss or question or bring up the subject, except myself. The only person I know who would back me on this true story has passed on a few years ago.

A little extra spice to add to this story: that same evening after sunset, matter of fact it was already dark, we had set up our pup tents and were preparing a dinner of C-rations. My tent buddy was lying inside, watching me cook. I had lit the Coleman camping stove with Sterno, and had some beans or succotash cooking, which even gave off a nice odor.

Suddenly, as I was crouched at the entrance, a blue fox appeared in the doorway. He scared the heck out of me! It was very dark. The fox left the entrance like a bat out of H—! As quick as I could recover, I grabbed my M-1 and out of the entrance I went. He was barely visible in my gun sights as I fired off one shot. Since there were a number of pup tents in the area, no further chances could be taken. The fox disappeared and as long as we were on Kiska, I never saw another fox, blue or otherwise, and no sign of dead fox could be found the next a.m.

HOSPITALITY FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS AT SYRACUSE AIRPORT

Volunteers in the greater Syracuse, NY, area are giving their time and donating items to meet the needs of special travelers passing through Hancock International Airport.

Employees and other passengers were concerned about members of the military who had nowhere to go between flights, especially during delays, or when they were waiting for transportation to Ft. Drum and other destinations. As a result, the facility has recently opened a USO-type volunteer-operated room where military passengers can make phone calls, get

transportation, have a cup of coffee/snack, and sleep if a flight is delayed or if they have to arrive early because of threatening bad weather –not uncommon in Upstate New York!

The airport is about 75 miles south of Ft. Drum and so not easy for Chapter members to give of their time. Instead, the Chapter has donated 10, 10th Mtn. Div. blankets to the room in hopes that those who keep warm under them will take away the message that the 10th Mtn. Div. Association cares for everyone in uniform.



U.S. delegates and family members at the 23rd Congress of the IFMS. Front row, left, Beverly Sullivan, Paula Boilard, Dawn Talbot, Debra Nash, "Banana" Giancarlo Ghirardato, Harrison Coleman; second row, Gerald Nash, Q. Peter Nash, Harvey Wieprecht, Priscilla Clegg, Harvey's friend Betty; back row, Bert Anger, Mark Nash. Eight countries were represented at the annual event.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS ATTRACTS EIGHT NATIONS TO 23RD CONGRESS

Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)

The International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) held their 23rd Congress in Jaca, Spain, which is in the foothills of the Pyrenees, 22-25 Oct. 2008. Delegations from France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States attended.

The Congress was formed after World War II as a means to open communications between Mountain Soldiers who had fought each other in the mountains, with an expectation that if we talked more, we would fight less. So far it has been very successful.

Delegates were welcomed the night of 22 Oct. by the Mayor of Jaca at City Hall. The next day they visited the historic monastery ruins of Canfranc and Candanchu which date to the 11th Century, and had a great Spanish traditional lunch in Sabidnanigo. On Oct. 24 all attended the General Assembly, where the business of the Federation was conducted. It was headed by General Secretary BG Jaime Coll from Spain. That afternoon another traditional lunch was served in Panticosa in the restaurant La Ripera.

The 25th was spent with the Headquarters and school of the Spanish Mountain Soldiers, with displays, ceremonies and lunch with the soldiers. They are preparing for a deployment to replace the Spanish contingent in Afghanistan next November. A farewell banquet with folk performances was held that evening.

Attending from the U.S. were Mike

Plummer, Association President; Bert Anger (86-B) who has represented the U.S. at almost all of the Congresses; Jerry Nash (605-A) and his four children (Mark Nash with Paula Boilard, Peter Nash with Dawn Talbot, Priscilla and Debra Nash, and family friend Beverly Sullivan.); Harvey Wieprecht (86-F) with Betty Anderson; and Harry Coleman (86-B). Ann Marie Mattson was also there from France and did a great job as translator.

The topic for the Congress was relations of Mountain Soldiers Associations with the active soldiers of their mountain units. In a paper Mike Plummer submitted for the Congress, he discussed the Adopt-a-10th Mountain Platoon, the 10th Mtn. Div. Scholarship Fund, and efforts the Association is making to support our Wounded Warriors. Several countries were interested in more details on the programs, which Mike has since sent.

The 24th Congress will be held in Chamonix, France, in 2009, and the 25th will be held in the German Alps in 2010. The theme for the 24th Congress will be lessons learned from combat in the mountains, and Mike will present a briefing on the 10th Mtn. Div. lessons learned in Afghanistan.

Word was received at press time of the death of Egidio Furlan, who was among the founders and the first Secretary General of the IFMS. His funeral was held in Trieste, Italy, on March 13, 2009. He is survived by his daughter.

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE 2009

Issue No.	Period covered	Articles Deadline
1	January - April	February 15
2	May - August	June 15
3	September - December	October 15

SEND MATERIALS TO:

Felicity Hallanan, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, blizzarded@gmail.com

TWO GENERATIONS OF WARRIORS FIND MUCH IN COMMON

Brad Davis (Cadet, U.S. Military Academy at West Point)

Apres Ski: For most of American society, the term refers to relaxing by a fire, sipping a hot beverage, and recounting the day's conquests on the groomed trails of the ski slope. For 16 cadets of the Scoutmaster's Council Club, it was climbing into WWII gear, hoisting 90-lb. wooden framed rucksacks, and reliving the lives of three of the 10th Mtn. Div.'s original ski troops...all in Colorado.

The club is made up of cadets who served in the Boy or Girl Scouts prior to coming to the Academy. "Every year our club runs Army Football Scout Day, conducts tours for visiting scouts, Habitat for Humanity over Spring break, and the West Point Camporee in May," according to Cadet Matt Schlesinger, Club CIC. "I wanted the club to do one event that was physically challenging and helps build my leadership team." This year the trip was to Vail, Colorado, home of the 10th Mountain Ski Museum, and world-class skiing to challenge every ability.

Justin Henderson, Anthropologist and Curator for the Colorado Ski Museum, hosted three 10th Mountain veterans at Vail's premier resort just to meet with the cadets. Dick Over (110-SIG), Sandy Treat (86-H), and Chappy Chapman (86-HQ-1, -F) each spoke at length with the cadet team and highlighted their shared bond as Warriors in a time of war. "I was just so impressed with these young men and women," Dick Over said. "Like us, they are training to head into combat and they know the stakes are high."

Similar to the Scoutmaster's Club now, the original 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers had to be proven and accomplished outdoorsmen before they could join. In addition, they had to have either ski or mountaineering experience. "We thought it was normal to wake up to icicles hanging from the insides of our tents, and we knew how to keep weapons and machin-

ery operating in intense cold," said Veteran Sandy Treat. Treat, 86, has won the National Alpine Ski Championship three times and was an active skier until a bad fall knocked out one of his eyes. Veteran Chappy Chapman recounted that the dominant mode of transport in the mountains was mules. "I watch for the mules at every Army game and chuckle at memories of cleaning their hooves. When we got to Italy, the 10th was given Italian mules...they didn't speak English!"

Cadet Brian Kent was impressed with the veterans, in turn. "These men fought and sacrificed to fight an entrenched enemy, but look back on it with a sense of adventure and necessity." Their unit, the 10th Mtn. Div., had to be built from scratch at Camp Hale in the harshest of conditions. "While on a smaller scale, we face similar challenges when we turn Lake Frederick into a 3,500-person village for the camporee this May."

"As a club, I encourage the leadership to never do anything for only one reason," said LTC John Graham, Club OR. Matt Mitchell, club trip coordinator, set the trip up to meet with the WWII veterans, learn how West Point can set up an Adaptive Ski Program, test some new high-tech winter gear from PM-Soldier at 11,000+feet, and ski until everyone's legs were like rubber. Oh, and add a few minor cases of altitude sickness.

Lindsay Blanton, Manager for the Vail Adaptive Program, volunteered part of Saturday to explain program requirements. Nate Sheehan, Club SGM, was impressed, "Our club makes an equipment donation to USMA MWR every year. This year, we would like to donate adaptive ski equipment to the Cadet Ski Instructor Club and Victor Constant Ski Slope so they can support the West Point Wounded Warriors and local families" (a program also supported by the 10th Mtn.



Past and future members of the U.S. Army met this winter at Vail, when cadets from the U.S. Military Academy heard first-hand from World War II vets at the Colorado Ski Museum. 10th Mtn. Div. veterans Dick Over, left, and Sandy Treat discuss challenges of mountain warfare to Cadets Matt Mitchell and James Whitier. -Photo by Cadet Nicole Siegrist

Div. Association). Lindsey made it clear that there are many complexities to the program. "Not every ski instructor can be an adaptive ski instructor—they are a special breed."

The cadet team members were easy to pick out anywhere on the Vail slopes as they wore Advanced Winter Army Combat Fleece shirts. The new shirts are a moisture-wicking fleece base with a new fire-resistant sleeve designed to be worn by soldiers operating at high altitude in Afghanistan. PM-Soldier sent the prototypes to the Department of Behavioral Sciences & Leadership for testing. "I wore the shirt constantly as we transi-

tioned from 11,555 ft to 8,000 feet and back again," Cadet Sean Wester said. "I have some opinions to share with the designer, but the overall performance far exceeded the high-end winter gear you can purchase in any outdoor store." One shirt was left behind at the Ski Museum to add to the Army Winter Gear display.

"This was an incredible experience," Cadet Derek Brown said enthusiastically. "Every time I rode a chairlift or gondola, I spoke with a family or individual riding with us. They all either had a connection to the Academy or they had a lot of questions" —one more great reason for the trip of a lifetime.

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP AND WOUNDED WARRIOR FUND DONORS



Olaf Rodegard (87-C, 10-RECON), may be 97, but he only stopped skiing at 96. He and wife Mari live about 4 hours from Oslo. Terry Ploot and wife Kari visited the two in the summer of 2008. Olaf has written a book about their life back in the States, and would enjoy hearing from 10th Mtn. friends, at 3540 Nesbyen, Norway

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Beiniks, Nicholas
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Dunn, David W.
Easling, Chih-Hsiung
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Eckstein, Lawrence L.
Ellis, U. Berkley
Eridon, Florence
Evans, Hugh W.
Farrow, William A.

Folderman, Beverly
Ft. Drum Chapter
Gall, William O.
Gallo, Silvio L.
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Hill, Bob
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Martin, Mark
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Melas, Michael G.
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Morrison, William
Muenzinger, John
Muffoletto, Daniel J.
Murray, Larry
Nanninga, Ralph E.
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Norem, Earl H.
O.C. Chapter 140, Vietnam Veterans of America, NH 10958
Owen Jr., Charles
"Jim"

Palmer, Don
Parke, Kelly
Pash, Edgar A.
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Wolcott, Stan
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BEATING THE BLUES: REACHING OUT TO COMRADES

SSGT Michel Sauret (MND-C)

Reprinted with permission from "The Mountain View," Baghdad, Iraq. While the piece was written during the Christmas season, its message about the importance of bonds formed during wartime seems a timeless and ageless one for any veterans. Certainly it is one that has been recognized by the older members of the 10th Mtn. Div. Association.

CAMP VICTORY – Most people call it homesickness – whether we miss children, waiting to be swept up and hugged; or a spouse, anticipating a sweet first kiss on our return.

Personally, I miss my wife; my parents; brother and sisters; my cute little nephews; my church, and my dog Floyd, named after the band Pink Floyd.

When deployed, it's not just a longing for home soldiers experience. That's a squeeze on our emotional well-being. It's not a stretch to call it "emotion sickness," similar to the motion sickness people feel when reading a book in a moving car or riding in a rocking boat bobbing to the splash of waves.

If you felt that just now, you know what I'm talking about. Doesn't that feel a lot like missing home? I think the two are pretty similar in fact (motion and emotion sickness). Motion sickness happens in the car when our body feels like it's moving, but our eyes are fixed on a stationary object. What our body experiences is disconnected from what our mind thinks.

It seems to me the same is true about our experiences during deployment. While deployed to Iraq, we miss home —obviously. This causes conflict between our body and mind—which is separated by more than the

6,000-plus miles of land and water. Here, we move to the motion of Iraq's operational tempo, while our mind can remain still—consumed with thoughts of home.

I'm not suggesting we detach ourselves from our family and friends at home while deployed. In fact, that's the last thing I'm suggesting. It's healthy to call home, e-mail our spouses or even say hello to our dogs over the phone— weird maybe, but healthy. It is critical to remain in touch with the world to which we'll soon return.

What is unhealthy, however, is getting our minds stuck in a gear that does not fit the motions around us. We need to remain grounded; we can't be so connected with home that the world around us slips and falls through the cracks. That's when the soldiers around us help fill that void.

I don't feel corny or fraudulent by calling the soldiers I serve with my family. Heck, we probably fight a lot less than my real family (well, at least during the holidays). We pull for each other. We care about one another.

I know what you might be thinking: after 12 hours in the office arguing over briefing slides or front desk duty, the last thing you want to do is spend Mountain Time and weekends with these same people. Let's face it: everybody needs a break; everybody needs some privacy. Don't make that an excuse to avoid the family you have here with you.

Going through the motions of deployment won't do much for the sickness you feel if your mind is not in the same place. We all miss our siblings and long for home, but there is no reason we should avoid the brothers and sisters-in-arms we have around us today.

EDWARD KENNEDY (86-I): LEADER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING IN THE NORTHWEST

Dale Smith (10th MP)

The climbing of the volcanic peaks of the Northwest began with the ascent of the first one, Mt. Helens, in 1853. This was followed by Mt. Adams in 1854, Mt. Rainier in 1887 and Mt. Baker in 1884.

Military personnel, surveyors and adventurers made up the first volcano climbers. They had no special clothing or equipment, so they wore everyday clothing and improvised their climbing equipment. They drove nails through their shoe soles to provide spikes and improvised crampons. Ropes were not used, as it was feared that if one climber slipped, others would be pulled down. Later, ropes were used as handrails in difficult places.

As time passed in the 1920's and 1930's, men in climbing clubs brought in equipment and techniques from the Alps. In the mid-1930's the Mountaineer's Club started a climbing school, and mountaineering in the Seattle area took a great step forward. The need for improved equipment, e.g. ice axes, crampons and special clothing, grew dramatically, but it was difficult to find at a reasonable price.

At this time Lloyd Anderson, an electrical engineer, recognized the problem, and in 1938 he and his wife Mary founded REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) as a cooperative to fill this need. He arranged to import equipment from Europe to sell at a reasonable cost. For example, he sold a \$25 Austrian ice ax for \$5, which was a real service in those Depression days.

Ed Kennedy was very active in mountain climbing during this period. At that time and until today, a low REI number is considered a status symbol in the Northwest outdoors community. Lloyd Anderson had REI No.1, his wife, Mary, was No. 2 and Ed was No. 5, of which he was quite proud. The REI membership is now more than 8,000,000.

In his book, "The Challenge of Mt. Rainier," Dee Molenaar described Ed as "a well-rounded Northwest climber, who during the pre-war period made numerous first ascents and explorations in the Cascades." He led climbing parties in a number of these explorations. Along with Fred Beckey and Jim Crooks, he made a first ascent of 8,040-ft. Fisher Peak on the Fisher-Grizzly-Granite Creek Divide. Ed suffered a broken back in a fall from The Tooth, a peak near Snoqualmie Pass, before WWII, but recovered sufficiently to serve as a staff sergeant and climbing instructor with the 10th Mtn. Div. during the war.

After being wounded and hospitalized in the war, Ed returned to the Northwest in 1946, and as chief guide directed and revived the mountain climbing guide service on Mt. Rainier. His fellow guides included 10th Veterans Gordie Butterfield and Jim Nussbaum.



*Ed Kennedy scaling an ice wall.
Photo by O. Phillip Dickert,
Seattle, WA 1941.*

After he was discharged from the Army at Baxter General Hospital in Spokane, WA, and although the Army gave him a generous amount of money for travel expenses, Ed hitchhiked home. After 33 years at S.S. White Dental Mfg. Co., working in sales and management, he retired in 1979. Ed enjoyed hiking and skiing with longtime friends, and he and Mildred, his wife of 62 years, whom he married just after WWII, had many years of travel together, both here and abroad. Ed died on August 18, 2008, in Seattle, WA.

Much of the history related here came from a paper that Ed had prepared for the Mt. Rainier Chapter in 2002. Unfortunately, he became seriously ill with meningitis before he could present it, and never recovered to the extent that he could do so. We later presented him with the 10th Mtn. Div. Association Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the Mt. Rainier Chapter.

Ed's daughter, Corinne Kennedy and son, Bruce Kennedy, provided essential input and the photograph for this article, and I thank them for their splendid cooperation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION
Last Thursday of each month	Northwest	Luncheon	Milwaukie, OR
Last Thursday of each month	10 th Mountain Division (LI)	Mtn. Remembrance Ceremony	Main Post Chapel, Ft. Drum
May 2	Northwest	Service, Memorial Grove	Hiway 26 east of Banks exit
May 3	Midwest	Lunch	Elmhurst, IL
May 5-7	North Central	Reunion	Grand Hinckley Inn, Hinckley, MN
May 16, 17	IFMS, Germany section	52 nd Annual Commemoration	Monument to Mountain Troops, Hohen Brendten, Mittenwald
July 18	Northwest	Service, Memorial Grove	Hiway 26 east of Banks exit
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Midwest	Reunion	Carol Stream, IL
Oct. 31	Northwest	Service, Memorial Grove	Hiway 26 east of Banks exit
June 24, 2010	10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION ASSN.	2010 NATIONAL REUNION: Arrival & Welcome Social	Watertown, NY
June 25		Memorial Service, lunch with soldiers, Salute to the Nation, Fireworks	Ft. Drum
June 26		Tours, Unit Dinners	
June 27		Tours, Farewell Banquet	
June 28	Homeward bound		

GROWING NUMBER OF ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SOLDIERS, FAMILY MEMBERS

The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division is ready to award seven, \$5,000 scholarships for academic year 2009-2010, but the deadline is nearly here. Completed applications must be returned by April 1, 2009, and the monies will be awarded in June.

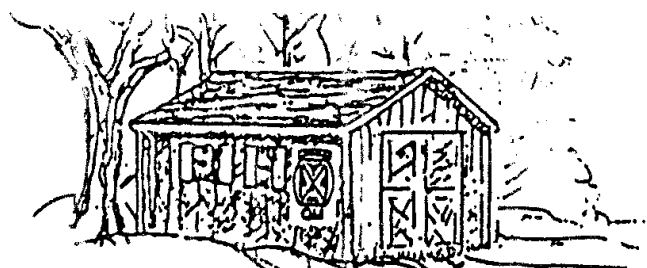
Applicants can be soldiers, or their family members, who are or have served in the 10th Mtn. Div. since its reactivation in Feb., 1985.

In 2007, five, \$5,000 scholarships were awarded, and the next year six were presented. Funds for the scholarships come from Association members and

friends of the Division, and by fundraisers conducted by organizations and businesses that support the Division as well.

These funds are invested by the Northern New York Community Foundation, which last year provided \$100,000 in matching dollars to help grow the fund. The goal is to raise \$5,000,000, so that ultimately the Association will be able to award 50, \$5,000 scholarships annually from the interest.

Applications can be found on line at the web site, www.10thmtndivassoc.org, or at the Ft. Drum Education Center, Bldg. P-4300.



Quartermaster's Corner

RETURN TO ITALY 2009 TRIP SUGGESTIONS
SEE THE QUARTERMASTER CATALOG BY LOGGING ONTO THE 10TH
WEBSITE: 10THMTNDIVASSOC.ORG

PRE-TRIP AND TRIP READING:

Catalog item G2: "A Chronology of the 10th Mountain Division in World War II," compiled by John Imbrie. This easy to read 21-page booklet with black and white maps of combat sites in Italy will give a thumbnail sketch of the 10th from 1940 activation to de-activation in November 1945. \$7.

Catalog item G3: "10th Mountain Division Campaign In Italy 1945," written by Thomas R. Brooks and John Imbrie, diagrams by Armand Casini and maps by Barbara Imbrie. This 52 page book describes the combat action of the 10th from arrival in Italy in December 1945 through the final battles in Italy in May 1945. Colorful maps and diagrams make for a clear understanding of the locale of the combat action. \$20.

Catalog item G75: "10th Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then And Now," compiled and edited by John and Barbara Imbrie. Photographs of 10th combat sites taken in 1945 are side by side with the same site photographed in the last few years and help orient the reader to some trip sites. \$25.

TRIP CLOTHING:

Item I15 (not in online catalog): Khaki baseball cap – adjustable strap, 1 size fits all, with Division logo. This is not the knitted golf cap from prior trips. \$18.

Item I2: Necktie for parades and dinners, silk, dark blue with Division logo pattern. \$45

Item I3A: White cotton golf shirt with Division logo. \$30

Item I10: Pullover windbreaker with pockets, dark blue with Division logo. \$45

Item Q3: Belt with Division logo on ribbon, brass buckle. \$18

Supplies are limited. Orders should be received by the Quartermaster by April 15 to ensure delivery to you before the start of the trip and should be sent to:

Quartermaster, 112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

E-mail: patfrank4@verizon.net; Phone: 610.667.2911

Orders should include item number, quantity of items desired (include size if applicable), where to ship the items, your phone number and payment (check made out to Quartermaster or credit card information): include P+H charge of \$7 for orders up to \$20, \$10 for orders of \$20 to \$50, \$15 for orders of \$50.01 to \$100, \$20 for orders over \$100 and \$25 for orders over \$200.



Musicians from the Songwriters Guild of America at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, MD., where they entertained wounded soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div.

SONGWRITERS GUILD MIXES MUSIC AND HEALING

Janie Ross Coulter

Washington, D.C.—The Songwriters Guild of America Foundation sponsored the first in a series of "songwriter circles" for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on November 19, 2008. Singer-songwriters Pam Tillis, Eric Scott, Bob Sima and Guild President Rick Carnes each performed several of their own songs in an informal setting for the recuperating troops, and then answered questions concerning the art and craft of songwriting.

"This was an incredibly moving event for all of us," said Carnes. "It was an opportunity to give a little back to these young men and women who have voluntarily made such huge sacrifices on our behalf. We talk all the time about the therapeutic power of music. This program is designed to put that into action." Carnes spoke to the assembled troops about his own father's treatment at Walter Reed for serious injuries sustained in WWII. Many soldiers in turn shared stories concerning the importance of music in their lives and recoveries, and their desires to express their wartime experiences through poetry, literature and music.


"I cannot thank these incredibly talented performers enough for the time they are lending to this crucial project," stated Guild Chair Janie Coulter, who organized the program in conjunction with counsel Charles J. Sanders and the 10th Mtn. Div., which hosted the event. "This is about members of the songwriter community of every political stripe trying to

say thank you, and to utilize their own talents and stories to assist others in the healing process." Ms. Coulter noted that the Foundation was especially thankful to hit songwriter and performer Pam Tillis, who made time in her busy schedule to fly in from Nashville with Rick Carnes for the event. Ms. Tillis received a tremendous reception from the audience, which also warmly embraced the other participants. Coulter also thanked underwriters, including SGA, the performing rights society BMI, and the law firm of Baker & McKenzie.

MSGT Edwardo Grigsby of the 10th stressed the appreciation of his soldiers for the opportunity to participate in the program as he led the performers on a tour of the Walter Reed rehabilitation facilities. "If you think it doesn't make an enormous difference to these men and women that you care enough to come here and not only to perform, but to answer questions and to be available to teach them about the creative process, you are wrong. This means a great deal to us, and we return your affection with an equal amount of thanks and respect."

Sima and Scott, along with Scott's accompanist Mike Stacey, joined Carnes and Tillis in pledging to continue their active participation in the program. "This was one of the most moving experiences of my career" said Scott, to the enthusiastic agreement of the other performers. "When it comes to putting your music into action, this is what it's all about."

"This was an incredibly moving event for all of us. It was an opportunity to give a little back to these young men and women who have voluntarily made such huge sacrifices on our behalf."



Descendant
BLIZZARD
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DESCENDANTS HARD AT WORK PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP

On the frigid, but fortunately not snowy, Martin Luther King week-end, a group of descendants traveled to the Bala Cynwd, Pennsylvania, home of Patricia and Frank Thornton (Desc. Fred Finn-85-A, 85-L) from Baltimore, Maryland, New York City, Connecticut and New Jersey for what has become an annual "Descendant Membership Committee Work Weekend." Joining the group this year were Pam Pikla (Hassell Vass-10-AT-A), Don Perkins (Ruso Perkins- 87-I-), Barbara Catterall, (Joseph Croke-85-G), Sharon and Madaline Ahrens (Rodman Ahrens-85-C), Will Nieldes (friend of the 10th) and Marcella Pinou (daughter of 10th vet).

The task involves preparing, printing and mailing welcome letters and membership cards to each of the over-800 paid members of the Association. This year we went "high tech" and drove to Kinko's to have the letters printed and folded while Pam prepared and printed the membership cards on Pat's home printer. Will provided computer technical assistance throughout the weekend.

All nine of us spent Saturday afternoon and early evening stuffing, stamping and addressing envelopes, and then putting the membership cards into the appropriate envelopes. During this time, Pat kept us fortified with lunch, tea and cookies and the promise of a feast, complete with wine, once the job was completed.

By 8:30 p.m., we sat down to a delicious dinner and congratulated ourselves on a job well done! We bonded late into the evening over stories of our



The job of keeping Descendant membership applications up-to-date rests on the capable shoulders of Pam Pikla (Desc. 10-AT-A). And as chair of the "On Belay" program, she also wants to hear from anyone aware of veterans, widows or descendants who are in need of support as they are experiencing loss or illness, at [HYPERLINK](mailto:pmpikla@comcast.net) ["mailto:pmpikla@comcast.net"](mailto:pmpikla@comcast.net) pmpikla@comcast.net.

individual connections to the 10th Mtn. Div. and shared memories of past trips to Italy, conventions in Colorado, Texas and Ft. Drum, and plans for the Spring, 2009, Sempre Italia: Return to Italy tour.

HONORING THE VETERANS

Amy Goyer (Desc. 86-H)

Reprinted with permission from AARP.org, Nov., 2008. The author is Senior Vice President of Outreach for Grandparents.org.

Last week my family gathered at our farm in Ohio to celebrate my dad's 85th birthday. There were 20 of us altogether—a real tribute to Dad. We came from Indiana, Arizona, Maryland, and Virginia to celebrate his big milestone.

While we were together, I asked a few of the children in our family what they knew about their grandpa. "He's like a mentor to me," said my 13-year-old nephew, Dylan. They could tell me about him—who he is, how he interacts with them, and that sort of thing. But when I asked what they knew about his military service, they said they really didn't know much. "He's a World War II veteran, but he doesn't talk much about that," was their answer.

When I was growing up, Dad didn't talk much about his military service

(Continued on Desc. Page 2)

DESCENDANT IS "MARKING" HISTORY WHILE IN ITALY

During the 2009 Return to Italy trip this coming May-June, a special project will be underway. Descendant Bryan Pullen (Desc. 85-M) will be using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology to locate and mark many of the 10th Mtn. Div.'s historically-related sites for an upcoming 10th Mountain travel guide. By marking the coordinates of these sites, users of the guide will be able to find the exact locations of "where it happened." Sites such as the summit of Mount Belvedere, Hill 913 and the tramway base at Riva Ridge are just a few places that will appear in the guide. Other places of interest will also be marked as well, such as aid stations, monuments, and villas used as temporary headquarters.

"I feel this project will further preserve the history of the 10th Mountain Division by bridging the gap between history and present, and serve as another great tool in the Division's records when assisting veterans, descendants, or historians who choose to visit the 1945 routes of the Division," Bryan says. "It will give them an accurate fix on key 10th Mountain related locations in Italy as well as giving them the 'faces' to go with the

names of places such as Querciola."

One location Bryan is excited about locating is the landing site of the DUKWs which crossed Lake Garda April 30, 1945, and allowed members of Company K (85th) to capture Mussolini's home and office in Gargnano. "I have been researching this mission for quite some time," he says, "and plan to write a book about the operation, based on interviews with those present and other historical records. Locating the landing area is my 'Holy Grail' of the trip and it will take some coordination with some Italian friends."

Bryan is also eager to work with veterans on this project. Veterans can get involved in the project by contacting him with any locations, monuments or buildings they feel are important to be included in the project. "This is their history and I would love to include as many places as possible. I will just be marking history, but the 10th Mountain soldiers made history," Bryan adds.

If you have a location you would like to see included in this project, give Bryan a call at (580)369-5515 or email him at bryanpullen@cableone.net.

EXTRAORDINARY NEW BOOK & DOCUMENTARY

Hot off the press, Ordinary Heroes: Six Stars in the Window is the latest 10th Mountain related book and documentary—with a twist. Besides revealing the compelling true story of six brothers during WWII, the book and video are also designed to work together, with book chapters complimenting the video and vice versa, covering life from the homefront to the battlefield. Written and produced by 10th Mountain Descendant Dan Oja (85-F), Ordinary Heroes is an innovative approach to telling the 10th story against the backdrop of turbulent world events, and is perfect for curious minds of all ages. In the next edition of the Blizzard, Descendant Pat Thornton provides an in-depth interview with author Dan Oja looking at how this intriguing story-telling form helps tell this remarkable story. To order the book and DVD, call 1-800-247-6553 or visit www.sixstarsinthewindow.com



The *Descendant Blizzard* is edited by Bryan Pullen. Descendants: News, stories, announcements, letters, photos etc. are most welcome — this is your *Blizzard*! Contact Bryan Pullen at 708 S. 6th Street, Davis OK 73030 or email: bryanpullen@cableone.net.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

Dear 10th Mountain Descendant Family:

I am pleased to announce that approximately 110 individuals will be attending the 2009 Sempre Italia: Return to Italy Trip this coming May/June. This includes a dozen veterans! What a wonderful time everyone will have and what an education they will receive as descendants walk the same soil and hear firsthand accounts of battles fought some 64 years ago.

Several months ago I began calling members from my Sierra Nevada Chapter, asking if they were planning to attend the trip, and it is my conversation with several Chapter members that is the focus of this message.

As you may know I really enjoy talking with our veterans. I can't seem to get enough of their history, their stories, their jokes or anything else they may wish to share. If a wife answered the phone we would chat briefly and then she would eagerly hand the phone over to her husband.

But in our Chapter, as most, there are a number of widows who remain faithful to the Association — women who continue to pay their dues and remain members even though their husbands may have passed away long ago. I had conversations with several such women and I was deeply touched.

Both widows I talked to lived alone. One had a daughter living nearby and could count on her to come by or call regularly. But the other had no immediate family members living in California. And while she did not complain, or even mention for that matter, about being lonely, I wondered what her social life consisted of. She did mention that she drives very little and that was why she did not attend the October luncheon. I told her that as October approached I would call her and, if need be, make arrangements for her to attend our luncheon. But when I hung up the phone I felt sad and a little ashamed.

I have taken it for granted that I am fortunate that both of my parents are still living. And I am also fortunate that I work only three blocks from where my parents live so I can stop by and visit with them 4-5 times a week. So when I attend 10th events I just take them with me.

But what about our widows in the Chapter? Who looks out for them? Yes, there are sons and daughters who take them to 10th events but what about those who have no family members living nearby? How often have they wanted to come to Chapter events but were afraid to ask for a ride as it might inconvenience someone? I felt somewhat ashamed, knowing that as Chapter President, I have not done what I could to help our widows attend Chapter events.

So let us not forget them as we look forward to our various Chapter activities. They too, were young once and played an instrumental role while the world was at war. Not one of them was untouched by all the ramifications that wars inflict upon the nation. Some lost fathers, husbands, brothers or friends to the war. Some played key roles in the building of "Arms for America," or maintaining households and farms while our soldiers were overseas. They deserve our utmost respect and we must do what we can to ensure that they are not forgotten.

So please, as we plan our 10th events, let's do what we can to make sure that our 10th widows are able to attend. They, too, are the Greatest Generation!

HONORING THE VETERANS

(Continued from Desc. Page 1)

Uncle, Grandpa.
during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He wore his army jacket when he was outside working in the yard, and there were always some of those old scratchy green army blankets around the house. There was also a mysterious green footlocker in our garage, but it was locked and I wasn't sure what was in it.

There were friends from the army days, families we would visit. And occasionally a funny story about the adventures he and his buddies had after the war was over and things were a bit more relaxed. But that was about all we knew. It wasn't until I got older and started asking questions that I began to learn more about Robert Goyer: war veteran, as opposed to Bob Goyer: Dad,

Last summer, my sister, Susie, and our parents and I went to a reunion of Dad's Army Division, the 10th Mountain Division, in Denver. It was truly amazing to learn more about what that division accomplished toward the end of WW II and about Dad's role in it; I wish the children in our family had been there.

The 10th was a division of elite troops with specialized operational skills adapted to fighting in rugged mountain terrain. These guys scaled the mountains of the Italian Alps during the night and surprised the Germans at the mountaintops where they had been untouchable for many months. No one could dislodge them,

(Continued on Desc. Page 3)



Sierra Nevada Chapter's Descendants are strong members of the organization, here at the February observance of the ascent of Riva Ridge and Mount Belvedere during World War II.

SIERRA NEVADA

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K) & Bryan Pullen (Desc. 85-M)

The annual luncheon commemorating the Riva Ridge/Mt. Belvedere Offensive was held February 21st at the Del Mesa Clubhouse located in beautiful Carmel Valley, CA.

The MC for the event was Bob Johnston (87-HQ) and assisting him was his wife, Donna, Myrna Hampton (Desc. 86-HQ-1) and Ellen Davidson (Desc. 85-C). Special guests attending the luncheon were Ward Yoder, Peter Stambersky, and his wife Shannon. All three were either part of or attached to the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI).

Chapter President Val Rios gave an update on the upcoming 2009 Sempre Italia: Return to Italy trip, and showed a DVD giving tribute to our 10th WWII veterans.

Bob Johnston introduced the DVD, "Skiing in the Shadow of Genghis Khan." The film gives a short history of skiing and the Altai people, their way of life, their music and their single pole skiing. Everyone enjoyed the film, but especially enjoyed seeing and talking with one another.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Dan Whittemore (Desc. 86-H)

The Rocky Mountain Descendants continuously work with the veterans, descendants, and friends to keep the memories and appreciation of the 10th veterans alive.

Annually, David (Desc. 85-F) and Jane Christie of Golden, Colorado, sponsor a Christmas dinner for all area 10th Mtn. Div. Veterans and their descendants. This momentous event was hosted Dec. 28, 2008, with 150 in attendance at Christie's. The Christies provide a most festive and scrumptious buffet dinner, with entertainment by friends of the 10th.

While the Descendants are active with many other events surrounding the 10th Division, no event surpasses this one.



Rocky Mountain Chapter has members of all ages, ranging from Wallace I. Barkeen (85-B, C), 96, to three-year-old Abby Neville, held by grandfather Gary Burton, son of Lynn (87-L, dec).



Holiday get-together of the Southern California Chapter.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

The Southern California descendants met in Laguna Hills, CA, for the annual Christmas luncheon. President Bruce Campbell (86-I, 86-M) and Descendant President, Val Rios, gave updates related to the Association and Descendants respectively. Cecilia McKinney, wife of Keith McKinney (85-HQ, 85-B), continued with the "Toys for Tots" tradition. Everyone attending brought a toy that would later be given to the Marines as part of their Toys for Tots program. A number of toys were collected and we know this helped make Christmas a bit more joyful for a number of children.

The group was entertained by Eleanor Nunez (Desc. 85-HQ, 85-B) who played the violin to the tune of "Ninety Pounds of Rucksack" and a few other selections. We also watched a DVD of the building of the Po Bridge shortly after the crossing in April 1945. A special guest, Louie Ordaz (Desc. 87-I) who only recently found out about the 10th Association and Descendants, came all the way from Arizona to attend the luncheon. A good time was had by all!

ARIZONA

Mary Broughton (Desc. 126-A Eng.)

The November 11, 2008, luncheon/meeting was held at the McDowell Village in Scottsdale, AZ., with thirty members including veterans and wives, six descendants and two guests.

Due to the fact that our luncheon was held on Veterans' Day and member George Kief (85-L) is living at McDowell Village, I thought as Chapter president that it would be appropriate to honor George at his residence.

Amy Goyer, a resident of Virginia and home for a short visit, honored her father Robert Goyer (86-H) with a beautiful, written tribute. Al Field (85-I) and Don Kitzman (87-F) performed a funny skit titled "Costello Calls to Buy a Computer from Abbott," a takeoff of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First."

As it was Veterans' Day, I thought this prayer in a newspaper article about the Tomb of the Unknowns was appropriate to include here:

"It is the soldier who has given us our freedoms.

It's the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It's the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to object.

It's the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial..."

HONORING THE VETERANS

(Continued from Desc. Page 2)

until the 10th showed up. The troops of the 10th could fight while climbing and skiing with 90-pound rucksacks on their backs (I tried one on at the reunion and could barely walk!). They used donkeys to carry supplies. Things didn't always go as planned, and they ended up in Italy with quite a bit of their equipment back home in the States. But they kept going through the Po Valley and across Lake Garda. They pushed the Germans out, leading to the Nazi surrender in Italy, followed shortly by Victory in Europe Day.

These guys, including Dad, are real heroes. They accomplished the impos-

sible. And there at the reunion were these men in their 80s and 90s all lit up as they sang their old Army songs (maybe it was good the children weren't there to hear some of those!) and reminisced. They looked like a bunch of 20-year-olds getting together for beers. They held their old Carbine weapons and checked out the M29C troop carrier nicknamed a "Weasel"—one of the first snowmobiles.

We visited the monument at Tennessee Pass, Colo., which memorializes the 1,000 boys of the 10th Mountain Division who lost their lives in those mountains of Italy.

(Next edition: More of Amy's story and tips for honoring veterans.)

VISIT THE DESCENDANTS WEBSITE

www.10thmtndivdesc.org



Armadillo Chapter on tour at Fort Hood Texas.

ARMADILLO

Phebe Davol (Desc. 87-L, 86-HQ)

The Armadillo Chapter had an action packed weekend of Feb. 13-15, 2009, in Salado, TX, to celebrate the 10th Mtn. Div. Celebration of the Feb. 18-19, 1945, seizure of Riva Ridge and Mount Belvedere as described in the main portion of this "Blizzard" edition. A record turnout of 54 participants including 13 Veterans, accompanied by wives, 16 descendants with their wives or friends made the assault on Salado and Ft. Hood. Jeannie Geuras (Desc. 710-ORD HQ) and her husband Dean assisted the Chapter President Phebe Davol with the plans and implementation of the event. Frank Davol (Desc 86-L & 86-HQ), prepared and presented a masterful worship program.

Just two weeks prior to the event, Phebe Davol, received inquiries from three "new descendants" who recently learned of the Association after either reading the last edition of the "Blizzard" given to them by their fathers or through discussions with their fathers. Chris James (Desc.85-HQ), whose father Jack "Jessie" James served with Marty Daneman (85-HQ) contacted Ms. Davol and expressed interest in attending the reunion and made her way to Salado from Houston to join the large group. George Sisneros (604-HQ & 85-HQ) gave his daughter Lynn Joyce of Houston, TX, a copy of the last "Blizzard" and she was intrigued by the Salado reunion. After registering for the event, she contacted her brother Ray Sisneros, of Temple, TX, who also registered for the event.

In order to meet the some of the key 2009 performance objectives, additional officer elections were held during the many activities occurring over the 72-hour event in Salado. Nominations were held Sunday morning during the business meeting. Prior to lunch, nominations were formalized and additional officers were duly elected. Phebe Davol was nominated and elected to serve as President for one more year, Scott Daneman (Desc. 85-HQ) will serve as Vice President, and Lynn Joyce (Desc. 604-HQ & 85-HQ) is the Secretary/Treasurer. Additional officers include Ray Sisneros (Desc. 604-HQ & 85-HQ) who will hold the position of Sergeant of Arms for his enthusiasm and knowledge of rules and procedures.

After the brief, concise, and professional worship program given earlier that day, Frank Davol was nominated and elected as the Chapter Chaplain. In addition to duties typically involved with these positions, and due to the geographical expanse of the Armadillo Chapter, these new officers will work as "regional liaisons" to facilitate periodic one- to two-day gatherings for local activities. Lynn Joyce will head the southeastern region (Houston and south Texas, including Louisiana). Scott Daneman, will head the northern region (North Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas) with assistance from Cindy Hitt (Desc. 85-K), and Phebe Davol will focus on the central Texas area with assistance from Jeannie Geuras and new Descendant member and officer, Ray Sisneros, who all reside in the Central Texas area.

The Chapter has a challenging geographical expanse, by spanning four states (Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma). With one New Mexico member already associated with the Chapter, plans were discussed to encourage others from the recently discontinued Road Runner Chapter (New Mexico). Armadillo officers and members are hopeful there are other potential Veterans, Descendants, and 10th Mountain Light members who may be interested in the invigorated Armadillo Chapter. Please express your interest to the President Phebe Davol either by contacting her via e-mail at Davol_Phebe@bah.com, telephone 512-917-0423 or by mail 5675 West FM 487, Florence, TX 76527.

MAIL CALL



My name is Rita Valdrini Morasco and my husband Rob A. Morasco recently died on January 22, 2009 from lung cancer. His father, Robert A. Morasco, was a 10th Mtn. Division soldier in Company K of the 85th Division. His father was killed with another soldier on a scouting mission on February 4, 1945 in the mountains of Italy, 2 months before my husband was born.

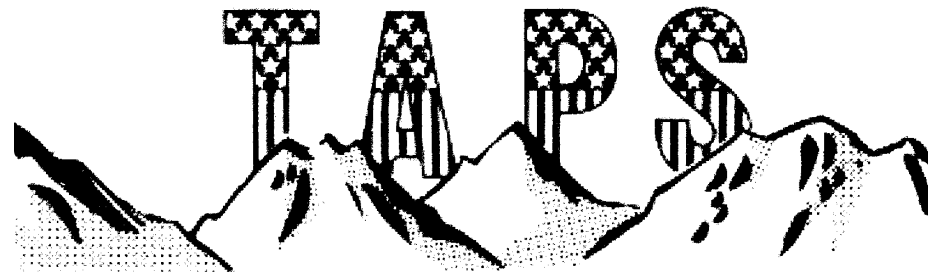
In 1995, my husband and I traveled to the mountainous area of Italy (Mt. La Serra) where his father was killed early in the Italian campaign and met a man there, Valerio Petrucci, who, 50 years before, had found the preserved body of Rob's dad and the other soldier as the snows were melting in the spring of 1945. He directed the Americans to the bodies as they were coming through in the spring and the bodies were brought down from the mountain and returned to the States for burial. When we returned to Italy the

next year to visit the actual site where my husband's father was killed, we found the Italian villagers had, in the year interval, built a 7 foot cross on the spot at the eastern edge of the mountain where his father lay until he was brought down from the mountain. The base of the cross was granite with the inscription, "As the sun rises, so it illuminates your glory," honoring the fact that his father "saw" the rising of God's sun each morning there on the mountain. Every couple years we return to that area, sometimes with veterans from the 10th, walk up the mountain with the villagers, attend mass said by a local priest at the cross, and then return to the town where the villagers have a luncheon to celebrate the American effort in Italy in WWII.

I wrote up this story and it was published in Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation Speaks."

Rita Valdrini Morasco

Descendants



Recently our Descendant President, Val Rios, received word of the passing of three descendants who made important contributions to the organization's programs.

Morasco, Robert

Rob Morasco, age 63, died at home in Pittsburgh, PA, January 22, 2009, after having been diagnosed with lung cancer 8 months before. His father, Robert Morasco of Company K of the 85th, was KIA on February 4, 1945, 2 months before his son's birth. On a trip to Italy in 1995, Rob and his wife Rita met Italian Valerio Petrucci who, 50 years earlier, had found the body of Rob's Dad on Mt. La Serra. Rob and Rita thereafter traveled to Italy regularly to visit the spot where his father died and where a monument had been built by the Italian villagers. Rob is survived by 2 sons and 3 grandsons.

Rothwell, Larry

Larry Rothwell, of Austin, TX, died on November 29, 2008. He proudly wore

10th Mtn. regalia and supported wife Phebe Davol's activities with the Association. He organized the golf event at the 2004 National Reunion in Austin, Texas, and played golf with Denise Taylor (Desc. 126-D) and Bob Parker (87-E, 87-HQ) during that event. He also participated in the golf event and other activities held at the 2007 National Reunion in Denver, Colorado as well as several Armadillo Chapter events.

Wells, Reed

Reed Wells died Jan. 3, 2009, in Fountain Hills, AZ. Born April 9, 1957, in New York City, NY, Reed had been a stockbroker his adult life until moving to Fountain Hills in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Wells and his daughter, Sarah Wells, both of Fountain Hills; his father, Crosby Wells (86-E), and step-mother, Hedwig Wells, both of Salisbury, CT. Reed had a special love and passion for the 10th Mtn. Div. and enjoyed sharing stories of Crosby Wells' service with the 10th —his father and hero!



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bruce K. Campbell (86-I, M)

A vote of thanks goes to all of our chapter members, vets and descendants alike, for contributing to the success of our Christmas party on Dec 13, 2008. There were about 55 in attendance - nearly doubling our usual turnout. Maybe this will inspire everyone to turn out in masse at future functions, including Riva/Belvedere Day.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Warren Asa (86-G) gave the invocation, and all were treated to a typical holiday feast.

Our program began with all of us singing "90 Pounds of Rucksack" accompanied by violin played by the McKinneys' (85-HQ, 85-B) grand-niece Eleanor. She treated us to other selections as well.

Our new slate of officers has been filled mostly by descendants: 1st VP- Bob Meyerhof (86-MED-1); 2nd VP Greta Meyerhof (Desc.); Treasurer - Kathleen Jones (Desc 85-L, A); and Secretary - Joyce Ibbertson (Desc. 616-HQ). Kudos to outgoing Treasurer Erich Wittig (86-B) for his outstanding service over the years. Val Rios (Desc. 87-K) gave us an update on descendant activities plus some comments on the 2009 Sempre Italia: Back to Italy tour. Val had brought a DVD covering the construction of a bridge across the Po River, and Bob Greider (126-C) was most helpful with his narration, having an actual role in this project. Val also gave us a special gift of a DVD similar to the conclusion of the remarkable PBS series "The War." Val has created a special slide show set to "American Anthem" sung by Norah Jones. This touching show includes 10th Mtn. Div. WWII photos interspersed with photos of the veterans today, at various reunions including Italy. Val graciously gave out a number of the DVDs for us to enjoy.

The McKinneys' niece Maureen read a wonderful letter of appreciation from the Camp Pendleton Marines for the toys that the Chapter has donated to the Toys-For-Tots program. The McKinneys have been hosting the program for a number of years. Our Chapter has now adopted a platoon of the 10th Mtn. Div. The "Tomahawks" 3rd platoon, Apache Co., 2-87 Infantry is headed by Lt John Donovan.

Keep in mind if you have any 10th Mtn. gear, photos, posters or other meaningful memorabilia, the Ski Museum at Mammoth Mountain will welcome these for their exhibit. A note of interest - The Director/Curator, Kendra Knight is now a "Friend of the 10th." Let me know of any "stuff" and I'll assist in arranging for delivery. Our main speaker was Mark Wenger (Desc. 604-C), who told us of his lengthy involvement in preparing his thesis for his Masters Degree in History at Cal. State Fullerton. The subject matter was the Division from its beginning to the end of WWII. Several members contributed to his efforts with interviews —an intriguing story to which most of us could relate.

To close the meeting, Stu Chalfant (86-G), our poet laureate, read some of his appropriate poems touching the lives of all the vets from his chap book "Journey into the Interior."

NEW ENGLAND

Brewster Bartlett (Desc. 87-I)

A fall luncheon hosted by Jean Dearborn was held on October 18, 2009, at the Lake Sunapee Country Club, New London, NH. It was attended by over 70 people, and all enjoyed the social hour along with the meal.

Guest speaker was Maj. Gen. Michael D. Dubie, Adjutant General, Vermont Army and Air Force National Guard. His talk featured the increasingly important roll his unit plays by instructing troops bound for Afghanistan, including the techniques of mountain warfare.

General Dubie ended his speech by saying that the veterans of the World War II 10th Mtn. Div. give him and his soldiers constant inspiration to continue the training and fighting in Afghanistan.



Veterans compare notes at New England Chapter gathering, left, BG Michael Dubie, Adjutant General, VT Army & Air Force National Guard & Reserve, and 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. historian John Imbrie.

NORTH CENTRAL

Lou Anderson (87-A)

The North Central Chapter met for its Fall Reunion on October 1st and 2nd at the Grand Hinckley Inn in Hinckley, Minnesota. There were 16 in attendance.

As at past gatherings, there was much rejoicing to see one another and inquiring about those who were missing. Our business meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, and after much discussion, it was agreed that we hold another reunion in the Spring of 2009.

Arrangements have been made to hold it at the Grand Hinckley Inn again on May 5 - 7, 2009, and the word has gone out accordingly.



They're still singing! and Marty and Lois Daneman were surrounded by members of the Von Trapp Family Singers, who've migrated from Vermont to Montana, and were in town to sing with the Plano, Texas, Symphony Orchestra. Descendants of two 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers, they include, from left, Melanie, Justin, Sophia and Amanda. As Marty says, "Rupert (86-MED-HQ-1, -3) and Werner (85-B, 86-HQ-1) would be proud."

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Ray Zelina (605-A)

The chapter, once again, gathered in Greenville, South Carolina on October 24th and 25th 2008. Usually, the chapter meets once a year in Greenville, but scheduling conflicts made it doubtful if rooms would be available in the spring of 2009 so a fall meeting was scheduled. Then the economic downturn made rooms available during that period so we will meet again in the spring. The added benefit of a late October meeting is the Fall colors on the drive into the city.

Rain and overcast skies accompanied the members on the Friday drive into Greenville; however, the hospitality room lived up to its name as a warm, friendly place to meet and greet folks. Joanne and Lou Anderson (87-A) from Minnesota stopped on their way to their home in Florida and it was a pleasure to meet them once again. Lou is the North Central Chapter President. Dolores and Paul Gunderman (605-Med) live near the Andersons and they plan to see each other occasionally during the winter season. There were familiar faces from Spring Break 2008 at this meeting: Mary and Glen Robinson (87-M), Gerd and George DeSalvio (85-E) and Dick Hawkins (85-M). Dorothy and Arthur Ramsdell (86-HQ) and Arlene and Jim Cardin missed the Spring Break but managed to attend this meeting. Special mention must be made of Kenneth Allen (86-D&HQ-1) who came from Knoxville, Tennessee with his son Tommy Allen and daughter Tina Lamer and husband Craig. At age 89, he was easily the oldest vet at the meeting.

A sunny and mild Saturday brought folks outdoors. Bernice Detwiler, JoAnn Shahan, and Eileen Joy, escorted by Conness Gillispie, enjoyed the balmy weather by a trip to the local mall. Bernice, JoAnn and Eileen traveled from Ohio for the meeting. Charlie Hunt (86-C), the Association's long time Art Director, passed away in October and the group was so pleased that Jewell Hunt visited on Saturday afternoon.

At the Saturday morning business meeting, Chapter President Ed Van Romer (87-I) proposed that the Spring Break be held and the proposal carried unanimously. Eileen Joy planned to winter in Florida and suggested that the Florida folks plan a winter get-together, an idea that met with an enthusiastic response. Ed Van Romer and Ray Zelina were reelected chapter president and vice president, respectively; Cindy Partridge was elected to the vacant treasurer position.

Glen Robinson opened the final banquet with a prayer honoring our recently departed comrades: Al Partridge (86-A), "Speed" Murphy (85-G), Dan Kennerly (85-D) and Charlie Hunt (86-C). Ed Van Romer presented Reuben Motley (87-G) the Distinguished Service for his loyal support of chapter activities. This closed the activities and everyone departed Sunday morning.



ARIZONA

Don Kitzman (87-F)

The Nov. 11, 2008, meeting commenced at 11:30 a.m. with 30 members and guests present. Arlo Sletten (10-HQ) led us in prayer and thanksgiving, and we all enjoyed our Veterans' Day lunch in the Four Peaks dining room.

After lunch we moved to a private room to hold our business meeting. We thank Bruno Baldacci (87-F, MTG) for displaying flags, after which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes of our meeting of April 8 had been delivered to those scheduled to receive, either by PC or U.S. Mail, and were accepted. The treasurer's report was read.

Penny Keaton (Assoc, 90-C Dau), though unable to attend, had sent a check for \$50 to cover a meeting room charge, and she was thanked and her gift acknowledged.

We recognized six Descendants and thank those in attendance for their effort to be present.

An effort had been made to hold our meeting at the former Williams Air Force Base (AFB), now Gateway Airport, but the facilities were closed for that date. Another attempt will be made to meet there.

William H. Payant (87-K) read a short article entitled "The Bonds of Comradeship, Like No Other, Exist with War Veterans."

Amy Goyer honored her father, Robert S. Goyer (87-H) with a beautiful written tribute. She lives in Virginia but was home for a short visit.

Al Field (85-I) acted out a skit with Yours Truly entitled "Costello Calls to Buy a Computer from Abbott." Response was not LOUD laughter, but you could hear a snicker or two! Al followed up with a bit of history, which as always was appreciated.

The McDowell Village was selected for our meeting, to honor George P. Kief (85-L), our oldest member present; he is a resident of the village.

Out-of-towners attending were Mary (Desc. 126-A) and John Broughton, Prescott, AZ, Robert (86-I) and Nancy Sanctuary, Tucson, AZ, Gill Krolls (10th INF) and guest Carol, Tucson, and Amy Goyer.

FORT DRUM

Taking advantage of the fact that the Chapter potential includes the 10th Mtn. Div. at Ft. Drum, members put out an invitation in the midst of January's snows, for a gathering in early February, when it was still snowing.

Free dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant in Watertown was an incentive. More than that, though, was the opportunity to hear a thorough, first-hand report from Iraq. Col. David Paschal is commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) which returned from a tour in Kirkuk province shortly before Christmas. He noted some satisfaction at elections which had just been conducted in Iraq that week without any incidents, although they were not held in that province because of the volatile mix of ethnic groups in the area.

For veterans used to hearing war stories, it is unusual to hear about a mission that includes both the possibility of being under attack but also efforts toward establishing a peaceful country. "Our exit strategy," Col. Paschal said, "is to train, man and equip the Iraqi army" to carry out that mission.

With the aid of a powerpoint presentation to illustrate his point he said, "You have to live, breathe and work among the population," noting, for example, that in a photo early on, U.S. soldiers were playing soccer with Iraqis while wearing uniforms and body armor. In a later photo near the end of the deployment, they played in shorts and t-shirts like the other team.

Military operations are different as well, the colonel explained. "We are no longer conducting large-scale cordons that involve entire neighborhoods. Instead, because the local people trust us more and bring intelligence, we target individual insurgents." And, in another departure from what earlier veterans might consider typical approaches to communication, Col. Paschal and his staff had held weekly call-in television shows; at the beginning, he said, questions were to him, but before the brigade left, viewers were instead directing questions to the participating Iraqi leader.

Members and guests at the meeting came away impressed though, as one guest said, it was too bad the American people at large couldn't hear the report but, he said, "good news doesn't sell newspapers."

MT. RAINIER

Dale Smith (10-MP)

At the Chapter Oct. 14 meeting at the Seattle Yacht Club, we presented Hal Alford with the Outstanding Service Award. This is a new award, and Hal is the first recipient. In the future, it will be given only to someone who has made an unusual contribution to the chapter.

When he was Editor of the "Avalanche," our newsletter, in addition to doing an excellent job, Hal personally paid for the printing and mailing. All too often organizations do not properly appreciate people who work hard and make excellent contributions. We took a step in remedying that situation with this award. The wording on the award is: "Presented to Harold Alford in 2008 to recognize and honor his many contributions over many years to the Mount Rainier Chapter as a member of the Board of Directors, President and Editor of the "Avalanche."

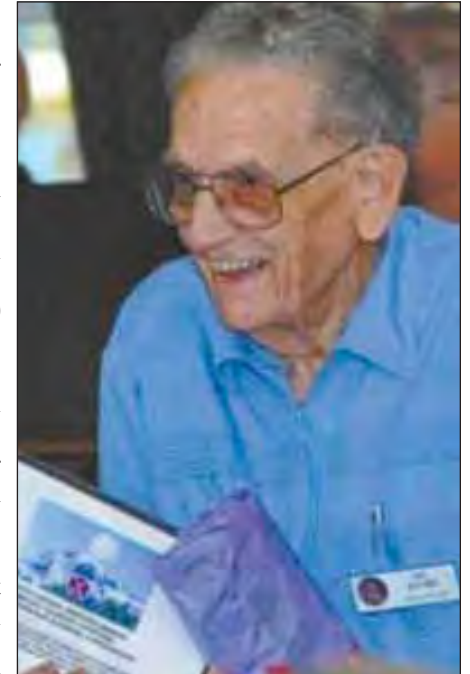
Program Chairman Ed Gibson borrowed President Karl Stingl's video of the 1993 Return to Kiska Memorial Trip. It was an excellent film of the 50-year reunion of the 1943 Kiska Expedition. There were 10 members of the 87th, two members of the Japanese force, who occupied the island, and two members of the press, one from Alaska and one from Japan, participating.

We were honored to have two of our most senior members, John Woodward and Jim Erickson, in attendance. Jim has moved from Kansas into University House in Wallingford, and Warren Elmer brought him to the meeting. John was in town from his home in New York to visit son Craig. He generously picked up the bar tab for everyone's drinks. John is still skiing at 93, and has many friends in the Mt. Rainier Chapter. Hope he returns soon.

Hans Thompson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presided at the election. The membership elected the following slate of officers for 2009: President, Karl Stingl; Vice President and Program Chairman, Ed Gibson, Secretary, Warren Elmer; Treasurer, Royce Ward and Acting Editor "Avalanche," Dale Smith.

For the Nov. 11 meeting, Hans Thompson provided the narrative for the showing of the DVD on the Po River pontoon bridge. Hans obtained a copy from Val Rios, Descendants President, and he added a 1964 picture of it.

Everyone was in a good mood for the Dec. 9 Christmas luncheon. Lynn Phillips and Warren Bakken displayed their unusual Christmas decorations including woodcarvings by Rudy Hoffmeister, who served with her father, the late Danny Phillips (86-F). As usual, the meal was excellent and the Fireside Room was nicely decorated. Gordon Dick led singing, accompanied at the piano by his cousin, Verbeck Smith. Sunny Stingl organized a white elephant gift exchange, so everyone took home something that someone else no longer wanted, many of them quite humorous. Gary Gast played selections on his violin, and then gave a demonstration of his yodeling skills. Everyone left the meeting full of the holiday spirit.



Hal Alford (10-HQ)



A good turnout for Riva Ridge/Mount Belvedere commemoration luncheon of the Sierra Nevada Chapter. From left, Lee Miller (87-MED-1), Carl Landman (86-C, 10-QM, 85-B), Fritz Neff (10th), Gerry Cullinane (87-F), Cruz Rios (87-K), Richard Greene (85-L), Clayton Anderson (10-QM-B), Pierre Delfausse (85-HQ-1), Bill Cullen (87-B), Bob Johnston (87-HQ), Ted Harpainter (85-A), Gerry Cook (87-E).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Hugh Evans (85-A, C)

Another four months have gone by! That's impossible! It seems to this writer that they have just begun. However, 2008 has gone out with a BANG and the New Year has come in very strong!

Talking about the BANG, on Sunday, December 28, 2008, David (Desc. 85-F) and Jane Christie most generously gave the Rocky Mountain Chapter a fabulous luncheon at their beautiful Christie's Event Center at Genesee. This was the ninth year they have done this! They started this tradition in 2000.

Some 140 attended including the veterans, spouses, children, grandchildren and friends. The food was delicious and their staff most welcoming and cheerful. David and Jane were presented the New York Times Bestseller book "Medal of Honor, Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty" as a thank-you.

Mac McKenna (126-HQ), former Chapter member, came all the way from Hawaii, and gave the Christies one of his paintings as a thank-you, too. The oldest vet, at 96, was Wally Barkeen (85-B, C). Abby Neville, 3, was the youngest Descendant. She is the granddaughter of Gary Burton, son of Lynn Burton (87-L, deceased).

The strong beginning of the New Year was the Departure Ceremony for Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade. This was held at Buckley Air Force Base, Denver, CO, on Sat., Jan. 3, 2009. This company is made up of 70 men and women of the Colorado National Guard. It is an intelligence unit, and they are in Baghdad, Iraq. Their oldest member is 53.

A military band played as the official party marched in following the Colors. Clark and Evans were included in this party. There must have been 200 family members and friends in the bleachers, plus several Chapter members. It was very impressive when the huge hangar door opened and the company marched in out of the snowstorm behind them. After Maj. Gen. H.E. "Mike" Edwards, Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard; Brig. Gen. Thomas Mills, Commander, Colorado NG; and Col. Roy spoke, it was the turn of LTC Earl Clark (RET.) Honorary Colonel, 87th Regiment, 10th Mtn. Earl had done his homework and pointed out that it was 64 years to the day that the 85th and 87th Mountain Infantry Regiments of the Division left Camp Patrick Henry to board the USS West Point at Newport News to sail for Italy. The 86th Mountain Infantry Regiment had left on December 10, 1944, on the USS Argentina. The formal ceremony was followed by cake and soft drinks. The whole affair was well done. God Bless those who are serving our country in these difficult times!

Chapter lunches continue on the last Monday of each month at the south Denver Country Buffet. Come join us if you are in town. Phil Berg (D 87-L), assumed the presidency last November, while George Loudis (86-H) went gracefully into retirement.

The 2009 Tenth Ski-in was set to take place in the Keystone, A-Basin, Breckenridge, Cooper Hill, Vail area from Feb. 17-26. Participants were to go into Uncle Bud's Hut on Feb 27 and come out March 1.

Sadly, Grant Ford (85-C), Glen Hines (85-A) and Lloyd Yorker (87-L) left us during the past four months.

Sempre Avanti!

UPSTATE NEW YORK

William Morrison (86-L)

With much of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, ceremonies and other military events to which we are invited have been greatly reduced in frequency. Soldiers of the Division now deployed have far more important concerns and responsibilities. We join with their families in wishing them successful missions and a safe return to Ft. Drum as soon as possible.

WWII veterans and others planned to gather again on Feb. 19, 2009, to remember and re-live events surrounding the assault on Riva and the Belvedere Ridge in 1945. Fellow soldiers pass away, and memory dims, but we who come together share the joys and sorrows, giving heartfelt thanks we are still able to be with comrades.

We will not forget buddies who fell so long ago, as well as those who have since heard the final call of "Taps." We share an enduring legacy. This year we assembled in Albany, sharing camaraderie of stories, lunch and brief business. Planning to attend were Bill Millette and Beverly (605-A), Bob Krause (87-G), Howard Sebald (605-A), Nancy Looby (85-I), Charlie Wheeler Jr. (Desc. 87-I), Jill Hamlin (Desc. 86-A), Phil and Emmy Santasiero (87-K), Nate Morrell (10th- MED), Norma Harter (86-E), Phil and Marguerite Stevens (86-C) and Bill Morrison.

Sending regrets were Jean Vetter (86-MED-3), Bob Dakin (87-D), John Kurnik (86-HQ-3), Otis and Rosemary Levanway (85-G) and Don Curtis (99-G).

Nate Morrell was to present information regarding the "Wounded Warrior" monument he is planning with the help of sculptor Susan Raymond for Ft. Drum, as a reminder of the many deployments and campaigns of the Division.

NORTHWEST

Frank Chuk (85-Med-2)



Members of the Northwest Chapter see soldiers off to Afghanistan at mobilization ceremony. From left, Jim Bray, Lorraine Youngs, Frank Chuk, Devin Wickenhagen, Sara Wickenhagen and Ed Flabetich.

At the Chapter's January monthly luncheon meeting, President Ed Flabetich (86-A) expressed the desire to step down. A short discussion followed and Jim Bray (87-A) was suggested as his replacement; a vocal vote was called for and Jim was elected President. We know Jim will carry out the duties with great distinction, as did Ed. We also know that all the members will do their best to assist Jim no matter what. Right!

Due to extreme weather conditions the Christmas lunch was canceled. Talking about extreme weather, the 1st of Feb., spoke to Ken Hanson and Randy Grider both (85-MED-2) who live in Kentucky. They were under power outages and heavy snow. Must be side-effects of Global Warming.

Ed Flabetich attended the full military honors service held Feb. 6 at Willamette National Cemetery, for Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Tillery. He died near Kirkuk, Iraq, Jan. 26, flying a combat helicopter mission while serving with the 10th Mtn. Div (see TAPS, this issue). Flags were flown at half mast throughout the state in his honor. A tree is to be planted in 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove NW in his memory.

On Jan. 9, Jim Bray, Lorraine Youngs (87-A) and Harvey Wieprecht, Ruth Robinson (86-F), enjoyed a beautiful day of great skiing on Mt. Hood at the Timberline Lodge Ski-In.

A Mobilization Ceremony of the C/7-158 Aviation was conducted Jan. 29, in Hangar 1 at the Oregon National Guard aviation facility at the Salem Airport. The Governor and state and national legislators spoke. Jim Bray, Lorraine Youngs, Frank Chuk and Ed Flabetich were in attendance.

Copter pilot Chief Warrant Officer Devin Wickenhagen, NW Chapter member, is part of the unit. He served with the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) while on active duty, ending up at Ft. Drum with the rank of Major. While at Drum he met nurse Captain Sara, and shortly after they were wed.

As you may recall Sara had been the editor of the NW chapter news letter "Blizz" for a couple of years, doing an excellent job. Sara is now mother of two and nurse practitioner at Oregon Health Science University. Devin and C/7-158 Aviation have been deployed to Iraq and conduct Aero Medical Evacuation and patient transport missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Units of this team have served in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Devin has served three tours in Iraq, his first with this unit. For those of you that pray, keep Devin, Sara and the C/7-158 in your prayers.

Mike Meyers (Honorary) has taken over the chore of editor of the "Blizz" newsletter, from Sara Wickenhagen. His first production arrived the first of Jan. Wow! What layout, composition, and content. We have been blessed by Mike's attraction to the 10th.

Pick and Plant was held Feb 1. Steve and Paula Barnes (W-S-85-K) and Marcia, Jim Bray, Ed Flabetich, Frank Rinella (87-I), Loraine Youngs and Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), met at the 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove. Policed the trash and planted an Austrian Pine in remembrance of Norm Lindhjem (85-L) and a White Mulberry for Eric Somie. This brings the number of trees in the Grove to 64. The next, exciting gatherings at the 10th Mt Memorial Grove will be: May 2, July 18, October 31, on Hwy 26, mile marker 27, just east of the Banks exit, 9:00 a.m. Dedication of the 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove will probably happen sometime in the Fall of 2009.

Monthly luncheon meetings are held the last Wednesday of month at the Elk's Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Millwackie. OR, 11:45 a.m.

ARMADILLO

Phebe Davol (Desc. 87-L, 86-HQ)

During the weekend of February 13-15, 2009, the Armadillo Chapter convened in Salado, TX, for the 10th Mtn. Div. Celebration of the February 18 & 19, 1945, seizure of Riva Ridge and Mt. Belvedere in Italy.

A record turnout of 54 participants including 13 Veterans, accompanied by wives, 16 Descendants with their wives or friends made the assault on Salado and Ft. Hood. That Friday, 35 members enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant prior to early morning roll call to board the bus next day to Ft. Hood, the largest U. S. Army post in the world, where two 10th Mountain Veterans —Ernest “Jack” Davis (10-RECON, 87-I) and Maxwell “Cole” Murphy Jr. (85-E) continued their careers following their return from Italy.

The group visited the 1st Calvary and 4th Infantry Div. Museums with static displays. Following lunch at the Roosevelt “chow hall” (today’s “dining facilities”), Chapter members honed their skills with the M-16 A4 rifles and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons (SAW) in the Engagement Skills Trainer -Clark Hitt (85-K), Austin Daneman (85-HQ-2 Grandson), Scott Daneman (85-HQ-2 Son), Lynn Joyce (604-HQ, 85-HQ Daughter, and Ray Sisneros (604-HQ, 85-HQ Son). Interestingly, the Army saves two million dollars per month training soldiers with this “video game style” facility by simulating target practice rather than actually firing live ammunition on ranges. This cost savings does not include fuel and food for troops traveling to the practice range, or the environmental cleanup associated with removal of lead from impacted soil berms.

The group then enjoyed a banquet with entertainment hosted by Jack Davis, who coordinated Riva Ridge and Mt. Belvedere remembrances from Clark Hitt (85-K), Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2), Robert Duvall (85-B), Robert Foreman (85-B), Mogens Halgren (85-C), Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2), Norman Dorsey (87-HQ), Fred Wendorf (86-G), and Karen Neidner (86-A, wife) who read from her late husband William (Bill) Neidner’s memoirs of the historic assault.

The night was still young, so the group held the first “White Armadillo” gift exchange to raise money for the Chapter. Attendees brought wrapped gifts for the auction. Bidders were encouraged by Phebe Davol, Ray Sisneros (604-HQ, 85-HQ Son), and Frank Davol (86-L and 86-HQ, Son) as well as others, to raise bids. The exchange generated over \$500 which will be used for future activities.

Chapter officer positions were nominated and elected on Sunday. This election and officers are discussed in the Descendant portion of this “Blizzard” edition. Those who still had a bit of energy to do more, then visited the vineyards of Florence, located 20 miles from Salado. Phebe Davol, Thomas Jones (86-B) and wife Betty, Norman W. Dorsey (87-HQ), wife Maxine, and daughter Maureen Fenton and her husband Dave Fenton enjoyed a tour of the vineyard with a taste of wine.

Preliminary plans for a 2010 Chapter reunion to take place in New Orleans, LA, were discussed, highlighting the recently-completed WW II museum which contains an exhibit dedicated to the 10th Mtn. Div.’s role in that engagement.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hassell Vass (10-AT-A)

The 10th Light led the way for a well-attended Veteran’s Day meeting featuring a special musical performance from guest Martha Cadd, and an engaging account from speaker Captain Donna Smawley on her recent deployment in Afghanistan.

Front row seats went to 10th Vets Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Al Nencioni (85-I), George Welch (85-E), Edward Doyle (85-M) and Andy Coletti (87-M/L/I). As a nurse with the 10th Mtn. Div., Captain Smawley provided health care to remote Afghan villagers. “When the Taliban was in power, women weren’t able to get medical care,” Smawley noted. “For others, this was the first time in 30 years they were seeing a doctor.”

Stateside, she designed the Ft. Drum simulator that trains 10th Mountain medics using high tech mannequins and rooms that fill with chaos at the push of a button to recreate battle conditions. She currently serves at Walter Reed and is a member of the Chapter.

In December, President Hassell Vass was honored by the Baltimore Ski Club for his service, charm and good will. The Ski Club is also a contributor to our Chapter’s most recent Adopted Platoon, A Co, 1-87 which recently returned from Iraq.

Our chapter’s new Adopted Platoon, the HHC 2-87 Mortar Platoon of the 3rd Brigade, is now stationed in Afghanistan’s Wardak Province for the next 18 months as part of the surge. Wardak is the neighboring province to Kabul, where increased Taliban strength has led to a rising tide of violence. If you don’t have a platoon to support, please join our effort by donating items or making a financial contribution, c/o Hassell Vass at (410) 335-2525, or by email at pmpikla@comcast.net

FOUNDATION GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

(Continued from Page 16)

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Daniel P. Baker
Charles E. Baldwin
Joseph G. Barabas
Bertero L. Basignani
Wendy Beattie
Haskell Beck
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Mark Daley
Marty Daneman
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William O. Gall
Silvia L. Gallo
Joan Geronimo
Ruth Geurtze
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Judi Gilronan
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F. Warren Lovell

(Continued on Page 13)



To the Editor:

I received a pleasant surprise from (Association historian) John Imbrie recently. He forwarded copies of publications which I thought had disappeared long ago ...two issues of the ship's newspaper, "Vox Fox," (Aug. 1, 1945, and Aug. 7, 1945) from The Marine Fox which transported the 85th back to the States. They were sent to him by Giancarlo Bendini, who many of us know as an aficionado of anything concerning the 10th Mtn. Div.

They were of particular interest to me because I served as a feature writer on the staff of that publication under the direction of Lt. Paul Cook and with PFC Joel Cohen, PFC Frank Hart, Sgt. Robert Schlachter, Sgt. Bob Fels, S/Sgt. Pete McMahon, Cpl. Tom Cullen, WSgt. Rowe, PFC Mullins and PFC Hunsberger.

The others wrote a variety of articles which appeared in our mimeographed issues and news flashes which were read over the ship's P.A. system. I did some of that, but my principal job was to write a smart-aleck column called "Cosa Dici," or "What do you say?"

The best answers I got did not appear in these particular issues. But I still smirk when I think of the answers to: "What's the 2nd thing you're going to do when you get home?"

Barney Decker's answer took the cake: "There isn't going to be a 2nd thing. I'm

going to first myself to death." Someone else answered, "I'll take my pack off."

The best part of being on the paper were the special perks. Instead of sleeping on a six- high steel bunk, we slept on cots on hatch covers just under the main deck. We also ate with the crews ...3 meals a day with steak every night and ice cream for dessert, while the poor slob below ate some kind of slop augmented by K-rations for lunch. It was almost a luxury cruise, but it came to an end when we landed at Camp Shanks, N.Y.

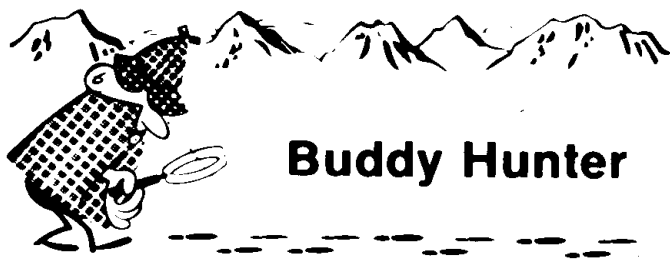
Martin Daneman (85-HQ-2) via John Imbrie (85-C)

John J. Duffy (86-HQ-2) and former Association President, shared the following letter from Jane T. Witzel, whose father is Harry D. Thompson:

His 100th birthday is April 6, 2009, but we will probably celebrate it on Sunday, April 5, in Tamworth, NH. Dad would very much enjoy receiving some greeting cards, and if at all possible, perhaps a visit from one of the men. On his 90th we had a group in attendance from the 10th including Chet Morley (85-C) from Meredith, NH, who gave Dad a handsome plaque of the 10th logo which he treasures very much. Dad really appreciated their effort in visiting him on that day. He served with the 605th. What a wonderful and active group you have, thanks to folks like you who are willing to put in the time and effort.

Dad's mailing address is: 1117 Whittier Rd, West Ossipee, NH 03890; #-603.323.7917.

Jane T. Witzel; ejwitzel@tds.net



To the Editor:

Hello! I was wondering if you could post this in the "Buddy Hunter" section of your newsletter. My Dad, Leo White, was a PFC in the 10th Mtn. Div. in Italy from Feb. 20, 1945, to the end of the war, with 86th L Company as a rifleman.

As many of the guys did, he never mentioned very much about what actually went on. Happily, with the Internet and the ability to research his company and learn what he must've gone through, I learned that he got a Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster for his service in the Riva Ridge, Po Valley, Torbole, Riva, and finally up to the Brenner Pass.

Does anyone have any info at all on anyone who knew him? Any help would be appreciated.

Ed White
Taliesin1935@gmail.com

PS Here's a shot of my Dad and an unidentified friend. My Dad is on the left. Thanks again!



FOUNDATION GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

(Continued from Page 12)

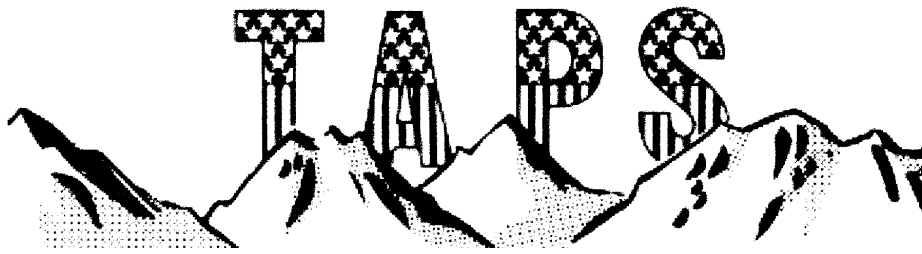
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www.10thmtndivassoc.org



Barrow, Melvin R. (85-B), Nov. 14, 2008, Danville, IL. He is survived by one half-brother and a half-sister. He was employed at the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center for more than 20 years. An avid bowler and history buff, he enjoyed reading and collecting history and religious books, and was a devout member of the Northside Church of the Nazarene. He attended Midwest Chapter reunions frequently and with his talented voice led attendees in singing of "God Bless America."

Baruch, Fernand (87-C), Sept. 30, 2008, Sarasota, FL. He is survived by his wife Margery (Wyckoff), 3 sons and 3 daughters, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He made a career in the reinsurance business, with Guy Carpenter, a subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, canoeing and other outdoor activities and was a member of the Princeton University Ivy Club. The family especially enjoyed trips and reunions of the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn.

Bauer, James M. (85-F), January 19, 2009, Storrs, CT. He is survived by his wife Betty and 2 sons.

Benson, John M "Jack" (87-G), Aug. 30, 2008, Pine City, NY. He is survived by his wife Patricia, a daughter, 2 grandsons and cousins. He retired as owner of Benson, Jessup & Knapp, and was co-founder of the Lake-Wood Sportsmen's Club, Order of Eagles Aerie 3581, BPOE 1148, Loyal Order of Moose 1835, VFW Post 1536, American Legion Post 0442 and others including the Pennsylvania Ave. United Methodist Church. Most recently the couple attended the 10th Mtn. Div. observance at Whiteface Mountain.

Birk, Henry J. (Von) (86-F), May 14, 2008, Glenwood Springs, CO. He is survived by three sons, a daughter and 5 grandchildren, and was predeceased by his wife Ella. He was a carpenter and a foreman for the New York City Parks Dept. The couple retired from Long Island to Colorado, where they skied, hiked and traveled, and were members of the 100 Club, and where he was known for his ability to build or fix anything and share that knowledge.

Britton, Arch Dale (85-H), Nov. 29, 2008, Gainesville, TX. He is survived by his wife Wanda D. (Elkins), one daughter, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He was a partner with his

father in the Britton Drilling Co., discovering several oil fields before a new career in cattle ranching. He was active in Whaley United Methodist Church, Optimist Club, Boy Scouts, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar Mason and several professional organizations.

Copp, Alfred L. (86-G), Dec. 16, 2008, Exeter, NH. He is survived by 7 children, 3 stepchildren, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one brother and many nieces and nephews, and was predeceased by wives Rita and Eunice. He reenlisted in the Army in 1948, working as motion picture cameraman and instructor, then retired as warranty manager for an auto dealership after 30 years. He was a member of American Legion Post 32, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 13, Veterans of Foreign Wars 2181, the National Rifle Assn., a Boy Scout, and active in the First Baptist Church.

Cromie, Eric J. (85-C), Dec. 17, 2008, La Pine, OR. He is survived by a brother and sister-in-law and many nephews, nieces and grand-nephews and grand-nieces, and was predeceased by wives Kathryn and Jo. A native of Wallasey, England, he was parts manager for a car dealership, retiring in Fawnskin, CA, hosting ski-ins for 10th Mountain friends, skiing, and traveling by RV and pontoon boat. He was a member of Elks Lodge 1378, member of Moose lodges in Big Bear and La Pine, American Legion Post 45 and La Pine Senior Center.

Curran, Francis (85-C), Griswold, CT.

Curtis, Leslie M. (86-E), June 27, 2008, Winchester, MA. He is survived by his wife Mavis, 2 sons and a daughter, and 3 grandsons. He opened his first dental practice in Boston, where he also worked for the New England Home for Little Wanderers, then moved to Winchester and worked for another 50 years. He was a member of the American and the Middlesex Dental Societies, secretary, American Academy of Dental Science, and a skier and sailor, and member of the Luders 33 Association.

DeClary, Frank (87-G), Jan. 13, 2009, Cape Coral, FL. He is survived by his wife Lucy, 3 daughters and grandchildren.

Drew, Robert John (87-M), Dec. 21, 2008, Camano Island, WA. He is prede-

ceased by his wife Helen. He was a medical representative for 20 years, then became a certified inpatient treatment counselor. The couple enjoyed hiking and backpacking, mountain climbing, cross-country skiing and fishing, and he is especially remembered for his professional drawings of subjects from mountaineers and animals, which he shared generously with Association friends, including at the National Reunion in Seattle, WA, in 1986.

England, Stanley S. (85-K), Dec. 24, 2008, Rutland, MA. He is survived by his wife and 2 stepchildren. He served as personnel and labor relations specialist for several companies, attended Yale Divinity School, and was active in the Wesley United Methodist Church.

Foley, Forrest L. (85-K), Jan. 5, 2009, Tilton, NH. He is survived by 5 children and 11 grandchildren, and was predeceased by his wife Dorothy. His activities and interests included Boy Scouting.

Ford, Grant Maynard (86-D, I, 85-C), Nov. 11, 2008, Loveland, CO. He is survived by his wife Laura (Wright), a son-in-law, his sister and brother-in-law, and was predeceased by a son and daughter. He worked for Equitable Life of Iowa and was active in the community including All Saints' Episcopal Church, president of United Way, member of the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity, and on the boards of Larimer Co. Mental Health and the Midget Athletic Assn. Active in the ski world, he served 3 terms as Director of the National Ski Assn., and in 1996 was inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

Gilonan, James J. Sr. (85-HQ-3) Feb. 3, 2009, East Lansdowne, PA. He is survived by 4 sons, 5 daughters, 23 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased in 2008 by his wife Sarah (McGlade) and brother Francis.

Goodrich, Ward C. (85-HQ-2), Dec. 1, 2008, Helena, MT. He is survived by his wife Rosie C., a daughter, one son and a brother. He was a country music radio disc jockey during the '50s in Tennessee, Florida, Texas and Louisiana before pursuing a new career as minor league baseball general manager, traveling the country with his family for 30 years and working with some of baseball's biggest names. When his last team was the Helena Phillies, he settled in Montana to enjoy retirement, especially fishing.

Hallas, Robert Edward (87-G), Jan. 1, 2009, Sacramento, CA. He worked for SMUD for 36 years, and was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights.

Hempel, Rolf Fritz (87-G), Nov. 18,

2008, Fair Lawn, NJ. He is survived by his wife Helen (Munderich), 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins in the U.S., Canada and his place of birth, Germany. He became superintendent of parks and recreation in the Borough of Fair Lawn Dept. of Recreation, and was a leader of the All Sports Assn., founder of the Bergen County Soccer League for Boys & Girls, and inducted into the NJ Baseball Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, an expert skier and avid tennis player.

Hines, Glen (85-A), Dec. 14, 2008, Wheat Ridge, CO. He is survived by his wife Phyllis J. (Lewis), 4 sons and a daughter, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. A Certified Public Accountant, he founded the firm of Hines, Condon and Associates. He was an active community leader in Arvada, CO. He was an active "Trash Basher" on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Adopt-a-Highway program, and will be remembered for the annual Glen Hines Tennis Tournament.

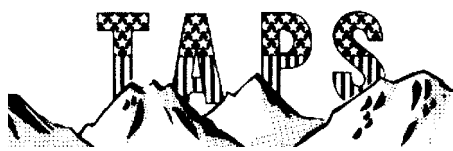
Hock, Nicholas George (87-H, MTG), Nov. 1, 2008, Woodstock, VT. He was publisher of *Ski Magazine* and *Skating Magazine*, among others.

Howland, W. Paul (10-QM, 85-L), Jan. 21, 2009, Oro Valley, AZ. He is survived by his wife Linda, a daughter and 2 sons. He worked in the hotel & restaurant supply business in Denver, CO, and then as Western Regional Sales Manager with Carlisle, Corp., Molded Material Div. He was an avid golfer and fisherman. As an 86th birthday surprise in 2008, he was presented with replacements for his lost military medals by 10th Mtn. Div. veterans SFC Thomas Finch and Joseph Mosher of the Ft. Huachuca NCO Academy.

Hubbard, Donald J. (10-CAV, 86-HQ), June 18, 2008, Westmoreland, NY. He is survived by his wife Helen (Schwarckopf), 2 daughters, 3 sons, 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He worked for General Electric and H.P. Hood, and was active in the Church of the Annunciation, Clark Mills, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, various groups including American Legion Post 26 and the Upper Mohawk Fur Harvesters. He was inducted into the NYS Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame, and had served as president of the New York Chapter, 10th Mtn. Div. Assn.

Johnson, August Orlo (87-HQ-2), July 11, 2008, Salmon, ID. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son, 4 grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and was predeceased by his wife Betty. The couple operated a ranch on the Salmon River until 1959, when he became assistant ranger at

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from Page 14)

North Fork, then Leadore Ranger Station. He was range-wildlife officer in Reno, NV, and worked on the Targhee National Forest in Idaho. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and his community.

Kramer, Eugene L. (Army Engr. unit, Camp Hale) Nov. 12, 2008, Littleton, CO. He is survived by 7 children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; he was predeceased by his wife Thelma H. He was vice president of advertising and communications for 26 years at Rocky Mountain Orthodontics. He was president, Art Directors Club of Denver, a member of the Denver Advertising Federation and Fine Arts Committee in Littleton, and regional representative for the International Design conference with Alfred Hofford. He was active in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and designed banners and icons for all denominations worldwide as well as taking Eucharist to the ill six days a week.

Laurie, John S. (85-K), Oct. 29, 2008, Cornwall, NY. He is survived by a daughter and a son, 2 grandchildren and a sister, and was predeceased by his wife Ethel H. He was a member of the VFW and the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers, the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn., as well as Cornwall United Methodist Church and 70+ Ski Club, pursuing that interest for most of his life.

Lindhjem, Norman C. (87-F, 86-L), Dec. 31, 2008, Bend, OR. He is survived by 2 daughters and predeceased by his wife Barbara (Barnes). His career was as an accountant for Dane & Russell, Inc., in Portland. He was a ski instructor at Mt. Hood for many years, a member of the Cascade Ski Club, Sons of Norway, director of the International World Calendar Assn., and former president of the Northwest Chapter. In retirement the couple enjoyed reading, travel, skiing, hiking, camping, kite flying and fly fishing.

Martin, Donat A. (85-HQ-3), March 10, 2009, Bristol, CT. He is survived by his wife Pearl (Gagnon), two daughters and a son. He retired from Fafnir Bearing after 43 years. He was a lifetime member of St. Jean the Baptist Society, VFW Post 574, Plainville, and an avid physical fitness enthusiast, enjoying morning workouts at the gym with many friends.

Masury, Lee H. (85-HQ, G), Jan. 10, 2009, Kennebunk, ME. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, 2 grandchildren, a brother, a stepdaughter and 2 stepsons. He founded Ocean Industries, a marina

on the Kennebunk River. An avid boater, he also created fine furniture and cabinetry.

Mayo, Joseph P. (85-A), September 27, 2008, Marco Island, FL. He is survived by his wife July, 2 daughters and a son, and was preceded in death by one son. He had a 62-year career in coaching football from Quincy, MA, to Florida and ranging from collegiate to high school and Pop Warner level, and was an avid skier and sailor as well.

McKinney, Keith Donald (85-HQ, 85-B), Feb. 12, 2009, San Juan Capistrano, CA. He is survived by his wife Cecilia, one son, a granddaughter and numerous nieces and nephews. Two simultaneous careers were with Lockheed Aircraft in quality assurance, and Crowd Management, which maintained security in area sports facilities. The couple belonged to several travel clubs and traveled extensively, and belonged to many bowling leagues. He was also president of the Lockheed employees recreation club, and did extensive landscaping, creating a Japanese tea garden in his back yard.

Miller, Walter R. (85-F), Jan. 17, 2009, Naples, FL. He is survived by 2 sons and several grand- and great-grandchildren.

Newman, Gene Julius (86-HQ), Dec. 5, 2008, Des Moines, WA. He is survived by his wife Justine (Richards), one son, a brother, many nephews and nieces, and was preceded in death by his wife Jean (Newman) and son. He was an electrical engineer, designing and building cranes and other installations worldwide including a hydro power plant at his alma mater of Deep Springs College, CA.. He enjoyed traveling, hiking, snowshoeing and boating in the Northwest, especially at Lake Chelan and Mount Rainier.

Olson, Sigurd T. (85-E), Dec. 21, 2008, Juneau, AK. He is survived by 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, and predeceased by his wife Esther T. He served for 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was an avid skier and a member of the board of Eagle Crest Ski Area.

Pane, Francis R. "Frank" (85-K), Dec. 16, 2008, Omaha, NE. He is survived by his wife Nancy L., one son and one daughter, a niece and many cousins. He became chief deputy county attorney during 30 years in the Douglas County Attorney's Office, and then opened a private law office, continuing to practice until March, 2008. He was a member of American Legion Post 1.

Plys, Raymond J. (87-I), Feb. 28, 2008, Virginia, MN. He is survived by

his wife Virginia J., two sons, a daughter, and several grandchildren, and was predeceased by his first wife Shirley. He was a parts manager for 34 years with I.H. Company and worked for 10 years at Mesabi Community College. He was active in the North Central Chapter, whose members presented Virginia with a plaque last Spring. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1113, American Legion Post 239, and active in the local Serviceman's Color Guard.

Pruzan, Harry (87-E), Jan. 5, 2009, Mercer Island, WA.

Schwetz, Peter (87-A, E, I), August 3, 2008, Sedro Wooley, WA. He is survived by his wife Jean, one son, a daughter, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. After working as a painter in a shipyard, Peter moved to the Skagit Valley in 1977, where he worked and helped establish Schwetz Construction. He loved the outdoors: hunting and fishing, or just walking through the forest.

Scullen, Stephen A. Jr. (87-C), Dec. 13, 2008, Hingham, MA. He is survived by 2 daughters and 2 sons. He was president of S.A. Scullen Construction Co. and Warren Aggregates Co., founded Northern Materials, Inc. and was president of the NYS Associated General Contractors. He played hockey and boxed professionally briefly, and was an avid skier and sailor.

Seliger, Robert (10-MED-B), Dec. 12, 2008, Silver Spring, MD. He is survived by 2 daughters, 2 grandsons and 3 great-grandchildren, and was predeceased by his wife.

Wheeler, Armand M. "Randy" (10-MED-C), Jan. 11, 2009, Anderson Township, OH. He is survived by his wife Betty S. (Carr), 2 daughters, a son, a sister, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was a longtime resident of Cincinnati, OH.

Yorker, Lloyd O. (87-L), Dec. 16, 2008, Denver, CO. He is survived by his wife Jean, 2 daughters and a son, brother and grandson; a daughter died earlier. He worked in a series of government jobs around the country including at NASA and the Federal Aviation Administration. His passion was fishing as well as skiing—both he and his older brother Neal joined the 10th Mtn. Div. during WWII.

10th Mountain Division (LI)
Operation Iraqi Freedom:
November 2008-
February 2009

On Jan. 26, 2009, these members of the 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Moun-

tain Division, were killed when their two, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters collided over Kirkuk, Northern Iraq; the unit was based in Tikrit. An investigation determined that the aircraft were engaged in enemy fire, and were struck.

Kelley, CW2 Matthew G., 30. He is survived by his wife DaLana (Wallace), a son and a daughter, and his brother Christopher, who is also a veteran of the Iraq War. His Army family called Missouri home, but he was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and later lived in several communities before joining the military in 2003; he was a member of the 82nd Airborne Div., serving his first tour in Iraq. He then completed Warrant Officer training in 2005 and joined the Division at Ft. Drum in 2007. He had started his own lawn care business and was a member of the New Life Bible Church in St. Joseph, MO.

Tillery, CW2 Joshua M., 31. He is survived by his wife Stephanie C., whom he met while both were stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA; also 3 sons, a sister, his parents and grandparents and many aunts, uncles and nephews. He grew up in Banks, OR, and joined the Army in 1995, serving in the 82nd Airborne Div. and 2nd Inf. Div. He completed Warrant Officer training in 2003 and joined the Brigade in 2004. This was his second deployment to Iraq. He enjoyed riding dirt bikes, sledding and boating with his sons.

Todd, CW2 Benjamin Harris, 29. He is survived by his wife Shelly (Gordon) and one daughter, his parents, 2 brothers, grandmother and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. A native of Colville, WA, he enlisted in the Army in 1999, and was stationed at Ft. Benning, GA, serving two tours in Afghanistan. He completed WO training in 2005 and was assigned to Ft. Drum in 2007. He enjoyed riding dirt motorcycles and four-wheelers.

Windorski, CW3 Philip E. "Ski," Jr., 35. He is survived by his wife Karin (Clark) whom he met while both were stationed at Ft. Hood, TX; also a son, a daughter and a stepdaughter, 2 brothers, numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He joined the military in 1961 from his home state of Minnesota, and had deployed to Bosnia as well as Iraq. He completed Warrant Officer training at Ft. Rucker, AL, in 1998 and was assigned to Ft. Polk, LA, and Ft. Rucker, where he used his combat pilot experience from Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 to train other pilots. He joined the 10th CAB at Ft. Drum in October, 2008, and was senior aviator for Bravo Troop. He was an avid history buff, was involved with Little League and recreation department football teams in Grand Rapids, and enjoyed golfing, hunting, and especially his family.



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NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PLANS FOR REUNION 2010

It's never too early to start planning for
the 2010 Reunion of the National Associ-
ation of the 10th Mtn. Div., Inc..

Members, friends and relations will
gather in Watertown, NY, near Fort Drum,
home of the 10th Mountain Division and
in the center of a major tourist area. With-
in 30 miles you can visit Canada, tour the
scenic Thousand Islands, and fish on the
St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

Then there's the chance to visit historic
Sackets Harbor with its War of 1812 bat-
tlefield, the picturesque village of Clay-
ton and its antique boat museum; and tour
some of Northern New York's best winer-
ies.

And of course a focal point will be Ft.
Drum itself, where a new post side-by-
side with an old is the scene of ongoing
construction to house the Army's most-
deployed (and distinguished) Division.

Watertown is served by many great

restaurants and hotels and motels, several
recently built. It is accessible by Interstate
Route 81, the Watertown International
Airport, and Amtrak rail and Hancock In-
ternational Airport at Syracuse, 75 miles
to the south.

The event is planned for the last week
in June, to coincide with the 10th Mtn.
Div.'s "Mountain Fest Week" which con-
cludes with a military display, a Salute to
the Nation Ceremony, a band concert and
a 4th of July celebration with fireworks.

Whether you are a WWII Veteran, De-
scendant or 10th Mtn. Div.(LI) current
member or Veteran/alumni, there will be
plenty to do, see and be part of, as you
come together with your battle buddies
and catch up on who, what, when and
where.

See you there in June, 2010!

Michael Plummer
President



In the last "Blizzard" we introduced you to Steve Opet, an active duty Reserve
soldier stationed in Coraopolis, PA, near Pittsburgh. At the time, MSGT Opet
was the Ops/training NCO for the 354 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, serving
with the 10th Mtn. Div. headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. Now he's moved on to a
new assignment on the East Coast. His work touches a chord in veterans of all
ages, though, and so we hope to continue to offer more Opet in the future.