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## SEMPRE ITALIA 2009 UPDATE FOR RETURN TO ITALY

*Steve Coffey (Desc. 87-F)*

Our planning team has recently returned from a short inspection trip to Italy to work out the final details of our 2009 trip, and I sincerely hope that everyone has reserved their spot on the bus by now—we have a terrific trip planned.

We can report that the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Chianciano Terme is a beautiful facility set in the Tuscan hills that will be the perfect setting for our welcoming activities including the group welcome dinner. After spending our first full day in Tuscany acclimating and getting reacquainted, we will travel to the American Memorial Cemetery in Florence. The American Battle Monuments Commission in Rome and local staff have helped us plan a relaxed and private visit giving our travelers an opportunity to pay their respects to the U.S. soldiers interred in this inspiring setting.

From there the activity level will rise as we travel to the Hill Towns where our Italian friends have promised to once again greet us with several days of welcoming activities and festivals in honor of the 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers and families. This is, as it should be, the core of the trip, as we walk in the footsteps our 10th Mountain soldiers put down during combat 64 years ago. Our good friend Gio-



vanni Sulla is working closely with the Castel D'Aiano townspeople to hold a special event to honor PFC John McGrath, the 10th's only W.W. II Medal of Honor recipient. We also have an optional day trip to Florence planned for those who wish to do so.

As tradition dictates we will then move on out of the Apennines and through the Po Valley to Riva del Garda for sightseeing and interpretive tours of the 10th's final battle sites, with an optional trip to Venice. We will conclude the main tour with a farewell banquet at the stunning Hotel du Lac du Pac. For those

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## TENTH MOUNTAIN SOLDIER RECOGNIZED POSTHUMOUSLY FOR HIS ACTIONS IN IRAQ

Veterans' Day at Ft. Drum this year was marked by more-than usual ceremony, with the presentation of the nation's second-highest award to a soldier of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI).

SSgt Travis Atkins, 31, C Co, 4th BN, 31st Inf. Rgt.), was killed June 1, 2007, by a suicide bomber in Yusufiyah southwest of Baghdad. He was part of a squad on a mission seeking information about the disappearance of Sgt. Alex R. Jimenez and Spc Bryon W. Fouty, (D Co, 2nd BN, 14th Inf, 2 BCT) who had been missing since May 12, 2007 (their remains were subsequently found in July).

Atkins was attacked by a suspected insurgent and, when he tackled the man, who was wearing a suicide vest, it went off. Atkins took the blast, thereby saving three other soldiers nearby. His parents Elaine and Jack, and son Trevor, 12, accepted the Distinguished Service Cross on his behalf at a ceremony attended by about 1,300 in 10th Mtn. Div. Memorial Park in front of post headquarters.

At the time of his death, the Bozeman, MT., native was serving his second tour in Iraq. He was part of the invasion of that country in 2003 and, after



*Family Submitted Photo*

attending the University of Montana, had reenlisted and was deployed a second time. He is the first soldier from the Division to receive the DSC since 2001, and the 18th in the Army since the start of the global war on terror.

## REUNION MEMORY BOOK

**Hale and Farewell: 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division 2007 Reunion**  
**Hugh Evans (85 A,C), Chere Mitchell, Sally Oesterling**

Here is the answer to the question "Where is the Reunion Book that I paid for?" The quick answer is, the book will be out in early 2009.

Here is the answer to the next question, "What is taking so long?"

During the editing process, the team of 10th Mtn. Div. reviewers suggested having more photos and less text. Accordingly, there are now 400 photographs. The editors have made every effort to identify as many veterans in the photos as possible, including sending the pictures to a number of people to secure more names. With handsome photographs by two professional and 12 amateur photographers, the book takes you through reunion events beginning with registration and ending with the memorial service at Tennessee Pass and the visit to Camp Hale. In addition, there are historical WWII photos, paintings and poems, the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. WWII Roll of Honor, and a bibliography of written material about the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. in WWII.

We hope you will consider the book worth the wait.

Copies of this hardcover, 128-page book may still be ordered by contacting Chere Mitchell at #303.831.9243 or Cherehbc@aol.com. Please let Chere know of any change of address since you ordered the book.



*Phil Powers, equipped to rappel, yodels to the crowd in the atrium of the Marriott Hotel at the Denver Reunion.*  
--Photo by Barry Gutierrez



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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Michael Plummer (10th LI)  
121 Paddock Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
plummike@aol.com

### Secretary

Gil Pearsall (10th LI)  
837 State Street  
Carthage, NY 13619  
gpearsall@wdt.net

### Quartermaster

Frank Thornton (Desc 85-L)  
112 Maple Ave  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
patfrank4@verizon.net

### Web Master

David J. Little (HON)  
1198 Thornbury Place  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
tentha86@qwest.net

### Membership Chair

Ken Lopez (10th LI)  
128 Mill Creek Lane  
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685  
kenneth.c.lopez@us.army.mil

### Programs

Al Condo (Assoc)  
3424 Ivy Lane  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
a.c.condo@att.net

### Senior V.P.

Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F)  
1630 York Mills Lane  
Reston, VA 20194  
sdcoffey@verizon.net

### Treasurer

Daniel Murphy (Desc 86-I)  
7 Gage Road  
Bedford, NH 03110  
dmurphy@attbi.com

### Fort Drum Historian & Liaison

Doug Cubbison (10th LI)  
P 10,000  
Fort Drum, NY 13602  
douglas.cubbison1@us.army.mil

### Chaplain

Dr. Larry Fields (Desc 85-HQ)  
6300 Deane Hill Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
lfields@cdcbearden.org

### Film Librarian

H. Newcomb Eldredge (85-L)  
P.O. Box 539  
Newport, NH 03773  
newc@nhvt.net

### Art Director

Charles D. Hunt (86-C)  
410 Redspire Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29617

### Executive Director

Craig Boss (10th LI)  
6880 Olmstead Rd.  
Lowville, NY 13362  
cbossc@gmail.com

### Blizzard Editor

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

### Chairman of the Board

John Weaver (10 Med)  
10 Soundview Gardens, # A  
Port Washington, NY 11050

### Resource Center Liaison

Dan Whittemore  
4626 S. Wolff St.  
Denver, CO 80236  
dandenver@earthlink.net

### Presidents Emeriti

Earl E. Clark (87-HQ-1)  
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## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

### Arizona

Don Kitzman  
2131 Leisure World  
Mesa, AZ 85206-5279

### Delaware River Valley

Patricia Thornton (Desc)  
112 Maple Ave.  
Bala Cynwyd., PA 19004

### Metro New York

Jay Charles  
20 Stuyvesant Oval, Apt 4B  
New York, NY 10009

### New England

Matthew Fitzgerald  
8 Mountain School Rd.  
Jericho, VT 05465

### Southern California

Bruce Campbell  
2320 Lorain Rd.  
San Marino, CA 91108

### Upstate New York

William Morrison  
341 Wormer Rd.  
Voorheesville, NY 12186

### Armadillo

Phebe Davol (Desc)  
5675 W. FM 487  
Florence, TX 76527

### Fort Drum

Mike Plummer  
121 Paddock Street  
Watertown, NY 13601-3916

### Midwest

Jacob Pollack  
5260 Gulf Mexico Dr. 406  
Longboat Key, FL 34228

### North Central

Louis F. Anderson  
3504 Valento Circle  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127-7172

### Rocky Mountain

George A. Loudis  
1 Sutherland Ct.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130-3963

### South East

Ed Van Romer  
PO Box 687  
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

### Utah

Sandy Eldredge (Desc)  
3939 Hale Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

### Big Sky

Jerry Reed (Desc)  
160 Reed Ln.  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

### Lower Michigan

Harrison L. Coleman  
43000 12 Oaks Crescent, #5033  
Novi, MI 48377-3434

### Mt. Rainier

Karl Stingl  
10301 242nd Pl. SW  
Edmonds, WA 98020-5779

### Northwest

Ed Flabetich  
6448 SW Loop Dr.  
Portland, OR 97221-3386

### Sierra Nevada

Val Rios  
6816 S. Maple  
Fresno, CA 93725

### Upper Peninsula

Walter Cook  
712 Hennepin Rd  
Marquette, MI 49855

### Washington D.C.

Hassell Vass  
3707 Red Grove Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21220

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)*

It certainly has been a fast year. There have been reports of snow in Alaska already. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. Hopefully it will give you an update on where your Association has been and is going.

Our membership continues to grow. The following are our membership numbers through 30 September, 2008:

Category	2006	2007	2008
WWII 10th Mtn. Div. Veterans	1850	1718	1344
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>2592</b>	<b>2877</b>

I have asked each of the Chapter Presidents to begin 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 partnered with your chapter. Jan., 2010, is the not-later than date.

I'll be reporting out to the EXCOM in November, 2008, on the status of our Strategic Plan. Your Chapter President has a copy if you want to review.

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

Our new web site is up and running and is now credit card capable. If you have any suggestions for improvement please send them to our Web Master, Dee LaParr at: deesdesk@twcny.rr.com.

The Tenth Mtn. Div. Resource Center is still accepting W.W.II memorabilia.

Chapters are encouraged to reward their members who have made significant contributions to the Chapter or the Association with a Distinguished Service Award for veterans or a Meritorious Service Award for other members.

Descendants, Inc. has taken on the responsibility for planning the Sempre Italia 2009 Return to Italy Trip. The plan is to retain the principle features of the 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.

Descendants, Inc. continues to support the On Belay Project through support to WWII veterans and to wounded 10th soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They are also very active in the Adopt-a-10th Mtn. Platoon Program.

I would like to give you a quick update on activities in your Division:

A. The 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and 4th BCT are still in Iraq (about 7,000 Soldiers) and will be returning home in November and February respectively.

B. The 10th Mtn. Div. HQs has replaced the 3rd Infantry Division in South Baghdad for a 15-month tour. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and 10th Sustainment Brigade deployed in October for a 12 month tour, and the 3rd BCT will deploy to Afghanistan in January, 2009, followed by 2nd BCT later in the year. If you or some school, Scout troop, business or civic organization you know of is interested in adopting one of these platoons, please email me at plummike@aol.com and I'll send you some information on the Adopt-a-10th Mtn. Platoon program.

To date in the Global War on Terror, the Division has had 153 KIA and over 1,500 WIA.

**Climb to Glory!**

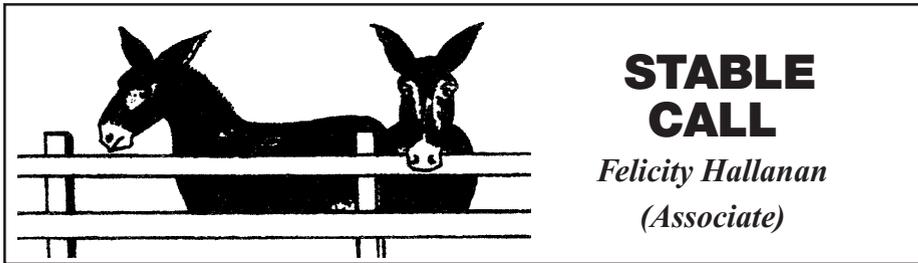
## SEMPRE ITALIA 2009 UPDATE

(Continued from Page 1)

who are planning to continue on with the post trip, we are working with Slovenian BG (Ret.) Janez Kavar to arrange a short visit to Mt. Mangart where he has pinpointed the site of the June, 1945, ski races ("Blizzard," Edition #2, 2008).

Intertrav reports that as of 15 Nov. they had begun receiving completed forms and calls expressing interest. They have agreed to extend the due date for deposits

to 15 Jan., 2009. If you are considering going on the trip, but haven't sent in your reservation, please contact Intertrav as soon as possible to be sure you don't miss out on this wonderful experience. They can be reached at #630.377.5840; ask for Lindsey, or e-mail Lindsey@Intertrav-corp.com. We truly want this fine 10th Mountain Division tradition to continue, and that means we need anyone who may be still on the fence to come on over.



## STABLE CALL

*Felicity Hallanan  
(Associate)*

From the beginning, it was obvious that one of the hardest aspects of the Editor's job would be the column aptly named "Taps." It is hard to say goodbye to friends, and every effort is made to bring sensitivity as well as accuracy to the notices carried in "Blizzard." Even though they are brief because of space limitations, one doesn't forget they are about comrades and friends. And that includes all soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, whether veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam or Iraq and Afghanistan.

So when we received a concerned call about the number of 10<sup>th</sup> "Light" soldiers whose deaths were carried in the last edition, it was hard to know what to say. Because the caller was upset, not only at the numbers, but especially because these are soldiers who did not serve during the Division's early history. Yet today's soldiers, like any others who have served, do so with the same crossed bayonets on a powder keg patch on their arms as the original members. They know their heritage. And now some of them are gone from us, mostly at young ages, without the opportunity to find out what else life could hold for them.

That being said, the list is much shorter this time, though one hesitates to say that, and is thankful that the number of deaths is down due, apparently, to the "surge" and resulting trends toward peace in Iraq. We can only hope it remains so.

In the meantime, we read with interest recent applications considered by members of the Foundation Board as they determined which descendants should receive monies for college. Anna Christie qualified because of the service of her maternal grandfather Karl Stingl (87-HQ-1). She is aware of that heritage we're talking about when she writes, "From its history of valor in the mountains of Italy during WWII to its rescue of Navy Seals pinned down in the mountains of Afghanistan during "Operation Anaconda" in 2002, the 10<sup>th</sup> has remained the most flexible force in the U.S. Army. ...The 10<sup>th</sup>'s continuing efforts to maintain peace and freedom around the world have given my generation the opportunity to pursue our ambitions, and have inspired me to set high goals for myself."

Surely knowing you've been a part of creating that legacy should make it a source of pride that the heritage continues.

*There's good news...This issue of "Blizzard" includes 16 -count 'em, 16-Chapter reports out of a possible 20. That doesn't include the Descendant Chapters. So to those not heard from -you know who you are -hope you'll be in touch next time.*

*...And the bad -The last issue of "Blizzard" apparently didn't reach everyone via 1<sup>st</sup> Class mail. If you're among those who didn't receive Edition #2, please get in touch, and we'll be sure to send your copy -blizzarded@gmail.com.*

## PLUMMER'S EFFORTS RECOGNIZED FOR ADOPT-A-PLATOON PROGRAM

Tenth Mtn. Div. Assn. President Mike Plummer was recognized at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) for his efforts in creating and carrying-out a program in support of deployed soldiers. He was presented at the opening ceremony in Washington, D.C., in October, with the Maj. Gen. Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Medal for the "Adopt-a-Platoon" program, which has spread nationwide since Plummer began it on a local level as a member of the Northern New York-Ft. Drum Chapter of AUSA.

As the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. began the first of many assignments -to Haiti- that have made it the most-deployed division in the Army, he saw the need for a show of unity by the community, as well as a gesture that would help morale. Since then, the Division has served in places including Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sinai, Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2001, the AUSA Chapter received the Newman's Own Award of \$5,000 to



*Mike Plummer, center, Gen. Gordon Sullivan (USA, ret.), left, president, AUSA, Lt. Gen. Roger Thompson (USA, ret.)*

spread the word to other communities.

From individuals to corporations to churches and other civic organizations, civilians have stepped forward to take on units assigned to them. Support can be anything from letters from schoolchildren to videos of soldiers' families, to packages of games and foods. It's not unusual for sponsors to attend welcome-home ceremonies, and to hold gatherings with "their soldiers" and families.

## 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER COLLECTIONS ARE GOING HIGH-TECH

*Dennis Hagen*

What comes to mind when you hear the word "archives?" Many people conjure up visions of dusty old shelves overflowing with stacks of fragile, yellowed papers filled with arcane details known only to an eccentric curator.

Of course, your 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Resource Center has its share of fragile, yellowed papers. After all, the Division's story has been painstakingly preserved through our collections of personal papers, memoirs, letters, diaries, military records, books and a myriad of similar original sources.

But you may be surprised to learn that not all of our original information resides in paper form. We have, in fact, created a collection of original source materials comprising the latest in digital videotapes, DVD's and Internet technology. I am referring, of course, to the Center's growing collection of oral histories, films, videos and audio recordings.

Thanks to the efforts of a small army of Descendant volunteers guided by organizers like Abbie Kealy and Myrna Hampton, the Center now houses an incredible array of oral history interviews, sound recordings, films and videos in which veterans tell their own stories in their very own words.

Initially, we obtained oral histories as audiotape cassettes. While these may not be "high tech" in today's world, the Denver Public Library partnered with the Collaborative Digitization Project to place a number of these early oral histories online. You can listen to them today, right through your home or office computer.

To listen to these tapes, simply go to the Denver Public Library's Website at [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org). Locate the search box near the upper left of the page and type: 10th oral history digitization. This will produce a listing of oral histories available online. Select an oral history by clicking on the "oral history" link next to the veteran's name, then click the audiotape link that appears near the top of the catalog record that is displayed.

Beginning in about 1992, oral history interviews became a staple of National Association reunions, both in this country and during the return to Italy tours. These oral histories came to the library in a variety of videotape formats. Recently, a generous grant from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Foundation enabled the Resource Center to obtain professional quality playback and recording equipment, which makes it possible to begin transferring many of these interviews to standard format DVD's. The collection currently features interviews from over 360 individual veterans.

H. Newcomb "Newc" Eldredge served for many years as film historian. Recently, Newc donated the Association's incredible film and video collection to the Center. It has now been processed, and a finding aid is available online. Starting again at the DPL Website, select the link at the lower left for "Western History & Genealogy." This will lead you to a link for our "Archives Finding Aids." Select this link, click "10th Mountain Division Collection" and then select "Eldredge, H. Newcomb."

Dennis Hagen, Archivist, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Resource Center  
The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department  
10 West 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204-2731  
[dhagen@denverlibrary.org](mailto:dhagen@denverlibrary.org); (720) 865-1812

## FORT DRUM HERITAGE CENTER TWO BROTHERS, TWO EAGLES

*Kent A. Bolke*

Among Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle Scout is the epitome of achievement. Only about 5 percent attain that high goal. To have two brothers in the same troop become Eagle Scouts in the same summer is rare indeed.

Jason Pacheco followed older brother Patrick's lead during a ceremony Aug. 16 at the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. and Ft. Drum Historical Collection. Both are members of Boy Scout Troop 26, and each chose the Collection as the focus of his project.

Jason took on the daunting task of re-landscaping the front of the Ft. Drum Heritage Center, which houses the Collection. Many boys and several days were needed to remove dead shrubbery, gravel, multiple layers of ill-placed landscape



plastic, weeds and remnants of the building's original sign.

He organized Scouts and volunteers to lay new landscape fabric, new mulch and grass seed, resulting in a more pleasant look to the front of the building. If it were not for Jason, this project would not have been possible, as the Collection does not have the staff to maintain landscaping.

Jason had also helped his brother Patrick build the "Granddad's Attic" display as part of his Eagle project. Patrick was recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony June 22.

*Kent Bolke, Curator, Ft. Drum Heritage Center, Bldg. 10502, S. Riva Ridge Loop, Ft. Drum, NY 13603.  
[kentbolke@us.army.mil](mailto:kentbolke@us.army.mil); 315.774.0355.*

## THANKSGIVING 1943 - A RESCUE AT SEA-

### Jack Grubb (87-M)

During August, 1943, the 87<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Regiment participated with other Allied troops in the invasion of Kiska Island. Unbeknown to us the Japanese troops had evacuated the island before we landed. We did various reconnaissance patrols and work details until boarding ships for return to the States.

Most of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of the 87<sup>th</sup> boarded the vessel Marine Dragon for the trip to Seattle. As I remember, we left Kiska probably in mid-November, traveled east in the Bering Sea to Dutch Harbor where we crossed into the Gulf of Alaska. While traveling toward Seattle we encountered a h— of a storm. Even though the ship was pitching and rolling, every morning we would be assembled on the deck to do our daily calisthenics.

The storm caused a Liberty ship to break in two; the break was just in front of the superstructure. The bow portion

was said to be floating awash, while the stern portion was floating in an upright position. We understood that the distressed vessel was somewhere in the general vicinity of Kodiak. The Marine Dragon was diverted for rescue effort.

When we got to the general vicinity of the distressed vessel, the navy asked for volunteers from our troopers to assist the Navy lookouts in watching for the bow section. I helped out on the bow. The storm was severe enough that standing on the bow we could look into green water of oncoming swells. While on lookout duty, a Navy steward brought black, hot coffee to us. I was not a black coffee drinker, but that mug tasted just right.

When we were in sight of the distressed vessel we no longer observed blackout procedure even though it was after dark. Felt strange to be able to smoke on deck at night, and with the boat fully lit.

## LIEUTENANT MOTLEY: ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER

*Memoirs of Six Months-Italy 1945. E. P. Motley, 605<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. Reviewed by Ray Zelina (605 -A). Available from the Quartermaster, \$20.00*

As Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C) write in the "Editors Preface" of this book, "This is the only narrative of the 10<sup>th</sup>'s war in Italy written by a forward observer in the artillery." It is however, much more than a narrowly focused artillery story. It is a soldier's story with vivid descriptions of his triumphs, failures, emotions, prejudices and insights into himself and his comrades. He ponders on the role of the 10<sup>th</sup> in the war and the increase in morale the "Mountain" tab gave the Division.

"What was it like up there?" This question has been asked in innumerable forms. Artillery gun crews asked this question of Motley when he returned from Riva Ridge; he answered rather nonchalantly, then hit the dirt when a jeep spun its tires. In this modern age, video interviews of W.W.II veterans 60 years after the events are commonplace, but to expect those accounts, filtered through all those years, to be accurate is naive. Motley's well written tale, penned about 12 years after the War, is much more immediate and descriptive. All the truths, half-truths and untruths that passed along the line are recalled.

The assault on Riva Ridge and his part in it is a well-done tale. He pulls no punches in describing that action or, for that matter, any of his successes or failures. His driver, a tough Italian kid from Massachusetts, shows him how to secure billets for the battery in Lizzano, and a tank crew teaches him a good deal about

life at the front. Directing a successful artillery barrage erases his early blunders and bonds him with the infantry. Motley was not only a skillful artillery observer, but a leader.

Tenth veterans will recall from his descriptions: Life aboard a troop transport in the North Atlantic in winter and aboard landing craft, infantry sailing toward Leghorn (Livorno) and struggling in heavy seas, the tensions, boredom and rough humor in the outposts. Those wearers of the red coats at reunions will recall the staging area at Pisa and the night ride in the dark to the initial gun positions with all the "hurry up and wait."

Descendants of W.W.II veterans attempting to comprehend what their fathers or grandfathers endured will find the book enlightening. Here is no glory as he describes false surrenders, prisoners killed in cold blood and captains only interested in their safety. Yet he glories in the friendships instantly formed in battle, and savors the selfless sharing of what was available at the front with no thought of personal gain.

Today's soldiers traveling in the relative comfort of airplanes will marvel at life aboard a troop transport. Modern artillery fights from fire bases, while this yarn tells of the days when a mountain battery pointed its stubby tubes toward the front. Modern wireless communication is commonplace today, but Motley goes back to the time when communications depended on a thin strand of wire and line-of-sight radios that worked erratically, if at all.

This is a book for every 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain library.

We were the first ship to arrive for rescue effort. It was also strange to see the United States flag flying upside down and a tar barrel burning on the after deck. Another vessel also participated in the rescue.

The "Seattle Post Intelligencer" headline on December 5, 1943, said, "Alaska Ship Breaks in Two, 11 Lost, 70 Saved in Storm." The following is a digest of the survivor statements as reported in the "P.I." and "The Seattle Times" issues of December 5 and 6, 1943.

The Portland, OR-built (Kaiser Ship Yards) Liberty Ship 'John P. Gaines' was launched in July, 1943. It was returning to Seattle in late November '43 with a total ship's compliment of 80-some persons, including some Army personnel, 2 Navy gunners and the rest ship's company. At 2:41 a.m. 11/23/43, while in heavy seas, the Gaines broke in two at the forward edge of the superstructure. There were no persons in the bow portion, which floated away awash. Except for the two ships crew on duty, all others were sleeping.

The Gaines' four lifeboats were immediately launched with minimal crews to stand by in the event the stern portion capsized and the rest of the crew needed rescuing. The balance of the ship's personnel gathered on the other deck to await rescue or developments of their ship. The Gaines' radio was inoperative because the antenna was carried away at the time of the breakup.

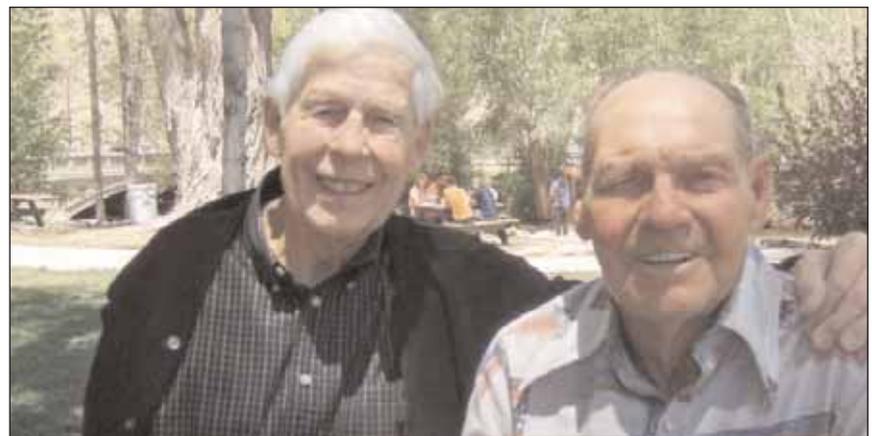
Around noon 11/24 the radioman finally rigged an emergency antenna and made notification of the disaster. This distress call was heard as far south as San Francisco. The four lifeboats were able to stay close to the floating hulk. The first rescue ship, Marine Dragon, arrived on scene at 6:30 p.m. and picked up the survivors from the lifeboats.

At about 11:30 p.m. 11/24 the second Army Transport arrived on scene. Numerous times lines were sent from these ships to the Gaines with the hope that a Breaches Buoy could be rigged to offload those remaining on the Gaines. These lines all parted because of the rough sea conditions. After daybreak, about 9:00 a.m. 11/25, the two Army transports launched lifeboats and with great difficulty brought all those remaining on the Gaines to the two vessels.

I remember that all of the persons I saw in Gaines' lifeboats who were rescued during Thanksgiving eve, were dressed only in skivvies or very light clothing. Remember this is November, in storm and cold weather. I remember in particular that one lifeboat came alongside; two lines were passed to it, one for the bow and the other for the stern. When these lines were attached the crew persons threw their oars overboard and they quickly drifted away. Then the lines parted and the lifeboat and all occupants drifted off with no means of controlling themselves. I have no idea if these persons were ever rescued, but considering that 11 were lost, I feel that this lifeboat was not picked up. Eleven persons seem about the right number of occupants for this lifeboat as I remember. The missing men were described in the papers as 7 soldiers, 2 ships gun crew and 3 ships crew.

Our pickup on the lifeboat survivors took place on Thanksgiving eve. One of our troopers turned out to be a real a— h— by complaining aloud, "Now we won't get as much turkey tomorrow as we should," or words to that effect. At any rate it was a great Thanksgiving, especially for those survivors we picked up.

*(Jack's compelling story is being shared again, after its first appearance in Blizzard in 1994)*



Longtime friends George Nelson, left, and Alton "Jamie" Jameson, spouses Patti and Ruth and families enjoyed their first reunion in a long time at Riverside Park, Salida, CO. Both men were members of 1st Sq., 1st Plt., 85-C, were training tent mates at Camp Hale and served together in Italy.

## LETTERS HOME STILL MOVE READERS 63 YEARS LATER

The "Blizzard" often benefits from unsolicited material like the following letter from Teresa DeRose of Denver, CO. It is a moving account, both on her part and that of her father, and may give pause for thought to those who are considering participating in the 2009 Return to Italy trip which will include a ceremony at the American Cemetery in Florence.

In 1945 my father, Capt. Dominic A. DeRose, was a supervising officer of an Italian Military Police Battalion, stationed in Scandicci, Italy, just outside of Florence. He had previously served in the North African, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno campaigns, particularly with the 638<sup>th</sup> AAA.

When the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. troops arrived in Italy in January, among them were his younger brother Joseph DeRose (85-G), and a brother-in-law of one of his aunts, Fred Zarlengo (87-C). He received a telephone call from Joseph and Fred upon their arrival in Pisa, and met with them several times over the next couple of weeks before the 10<sup>th</sup> moved out in February.

In April, he was notified in a letter from his mother in Denver that Joseph had been killed in action on Feb. 22, 1945, on Monte della Torracchia. He attended the memorial service of April 6 for the lost 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. troops, and wrote the following letter to his mother (the letter, typed on onion-skin paper, references Feb. 24, but records show Feb. 22).

Fred was killed in action April 19, 1945, in the battle near Mongiorgio, and received a Bronze Star. Perhaps you would like to share this letter.

"6 April 1945

"Dearest Mother,

"Today was a day I shall never forget. I

wish that you could have been with me (Actually you were—in spirit). The sorrow that fills your heart would have been greatly eased by the beautiful memorial services held by the Tenth Mountain Division at the U.S. Military Cemetery where Joseph and others of his comrades lie sleeping. It was a beautiful spring afternoon. The sun was high in the heavens; a gentle breeze was softly blowing. The cemetery is located in one of the many beautiful valleys of the Tuscany province...

"The services began at one o'clock. The colors were flown at half-mast. The band played beautifully and ever so softly. The chaplains offered heart-touching prayers, and General Hays made an inspiring address. Many a stalwart man had tears in his eyes ...and of course most touching of all was the firing of the volleys and the sounding of taps...

"I was given advance notice of these memorial services through a long distance 'phone call by Captain Halverson, Joseph's company commander, and later through a written message by Sergeant Heminway, the company's first sergeant. ...They were all so glad to see me and volunteered all sorts of information... Many of these boys were very close to Joseph when the end came. Captain Halverson assured me that it was instantaneous and that he did not suffer.

"The seemingly tragic thing about it is that all these fellows are mere kids—19, 20, 21, 22, 23 years old. Still wet behind the ears. One particularly youthful, very polite, blond-headed kid, named Henry Bennett, was with Joe at the time it happened. He said that all that morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> of February he, Joe, and the rest of the fellows of Headquarters Section spent

digging fox holes. Wise-cracking all the time. When noontime came, they knocked off for "C" rations and then spent some time sunning themselves. Close to two o'clock a German "88" shell lit not too far away from them. At about two o'clock they heard another one coming, and they all dived for their fox holes. But the shell hit a nearby tree and burst in mid-air. In addition to Joseph, three more were killed, a Jack Doyle, a Tony Raggazini, and a Clyde Soeder...

"Lt. Bimberg and I then went down to look at the graves. We knew exactly where Joseph's was, for we had been there just yesterday. Each white cross had a small but beautiful green wreath placed around it. As we approached the plot, small groups of solemn faced young men were going from cross to cross, looking for the names of former "buddies." Many had handkerchiefs out and were crying openly. Never had the horror and rottenness of war been driven home so forcibly to them and to us. Four of them were standing around Joseph's grave. All were friends of Joe and were very glad to see me...

"As we were talking, I looked over into the next slot and saw an officer with a camera. As luck would have it, it was a Major Woodward of the 87<sup>th</sup> Regiment whom I had met when I went with Joe to meet Freddy Zarlengo when they first arrived in Italy and with whom I ate dinner that day. As I left to go over and talk to Major Woodward, I heard one of the boys say, in referring to me and Joe, "Jesus, he looks just like him." Major Woodward was very obliging, and he took two pictures, in color, for me. He said that he had lost a brother-in-law.

"You can rest assured, Mother, that I



Together for the last time, outside of Leghorn (Livorno) Italy, January, 1945, (left), Joseph DeRose (85-G), Capt. Dominic DeRose and Frederick Zarlengo (87-C).

and my friends and many of Joseph's friends shall make frequent visits to the beautiful cemetery. ...I must (also) tell you that I met Captain Gordon, the chaplain who wrote you the beautiful letter. He, Captain Halverson, and Lt. Bimberg extend their deepest sympathy to you. And I'm sure that all of Joe's friends do too.

"Shall write again soon,  
"Love, Dominic"

—Ed. note: Dominic DeRose died of cancer in 1999. Teresa can be reached at 4295 E. Mexico Ave, 503, Denver, CO 80222, e-mail tader\_82@yahoo.com.

## HOW I GOT INTO THE TENTH

Dale E. Alwine (86-HQ-1)

For me, getting into the 10th Mtn. Div. required absolutely NO effort on my part. The U.S. Army took care of that little detail with a transfer that I knew nothing about.

In the summer of 1943, I was at Ft. Riley, KS, in a small unit called 539th Armored Infantry Battalion. A mystery train ride stopped at Pando, CO, and I was in the 10th! I was quite surprised, much later, to learn that the 10th was to be an all-volunteer outfit, requiring three letters of recommendation to be accepted!

I survived the winter of '43-'44 at Camp Hale, including the infamous D Series. Then, on to Camp Swift, TX, with armadillos, coral snakes, spiders, sand, heat, and other assorted goodies.

Finally, on to the main event—Italy.

The winter spent at Camp Hale provided me with a blessing in disguise. I knew nothing about skiing prior to that. This sport has certainly enriched my life ever since. I have always been proud to have been a small part of the 10th.

## 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.

## TEXAS THANKS THE INFANTRY

When the Texas State Legislature reassembles for its next opening session in January, 2009, they'll be considering a resolution of particular interest to members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Assn.

Representative Brian McCall, District 66, has brought forward a tribute from Texans honoring those who have served as Combat Infantrymen. The resolution, shared with us by Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2), Armadillo Chapter, recognizes infantrymen for being "essential to taking and holding territory" and points out the role of the infantry in the nation's history "from Valley Forge to Iwo Jima, from Korea

and Vietnam to Afghanistan and Iraq..."

The resolution further points out the teamwork and trust "essential to the survival of individual infantrymen and also of their unit as a whole" and the "courage, professionalism and devotion to duty" shown by members of the infantry. Finally, it is "Resolved, that tribute be paid to the combat infantrymen of the United States military and that they be extended profound appreciation for their extraordinary valor and for the immeasurable service and sacrifice they have rendered in this nation's behalf."

# KISKA VOLCANO GOOD TRAINING FOR SKI TROOPERS

**David L. Sills (87-HQ-3)**

*Excerpted from "Appalachia," Summer/Fall 2007, published by the Appalachian Mountain Club (www.outdoors.org/appalachia).*

This is the story of how a dozen or so U.S. ski troopers – I was then a soldier, a lowly 23-year-old Army private—climbed a remote volcano in the Aleutian Islands in the middle of World War II. I doubt if the story has ever been told in print before. Certainly I have never told it, and now seems as good a time as any.

The Aleutian island of Kiska is located in the far western end of the Aleutian Islands, a string of islands stretching southwest of Alaska for nearly 1,000 miles. The Aleutians are treeless and tundra-covered, and most are uninhabited.

When the Russians first arrived in the Aleutians, approximately 25,000 Aleuts—an Eskimo people—lived in the Aleutians. Today, at most 8,000 do. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States evacuated them to mainland Alaska for their protection.

In May, 1942, Japan—confident after its victory at Pearl Harbor—laid plans for attacking the United States. The first target was the naval base on the Midway Islands in the North Pacific. To protect their attack on Midway from the north, the Japanese army and navy forces invaded the nearly unoccupied islands of Attu and Kiska. The Japanese captured the sole inhabitants of Kiska, a small American Naval Weather Detachment consisting of 10 men and a dog.

The United States responded on May 11, 1943, with an invasion of Attu—an invasion that was extremely costly in lives but ultimately successful. A much larger force with more appropriate equipment and clothing landed on Kiska on August 15; there were more than 30,000 American and Canadian troops.

Included in the invasion force was the newly-formed 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment. I participated as an enlisted man in the Headquarters Platoon of the 3rd Battalion. We sailed to the Aleutians on a U.S. Navy ship, from which in the early morning hours of August 15 our entire battalion climbed down large nets into landing boats. The boats discharged us into water several feet deep, and we waded ashore. There was no enemy fire; we climbed a few hundred feet up a steep, rocky cliff and, in a few hours, we dug foxholes to await the Japanese counterattack we had been warned to expect. In the morning, we were told that the Japanese had evacuated the island some days or weeks before. Tragically, during those first 24 confused hours, there were a number of casualties from friendly fire.

(A delegation of 87th veterans placed a memorial plaque there in 1983.)

During the next few weeks, we unloaded pyramidal tents, food, cooking stoves and other supplies. We settled down to await orders to move on. I don't think that the officers in our battalion knew any more than we did. No one assumed that the 87th would remain as a defensive, occupying force. The Japanese had clearly lost the Battle of the Aleutians.

What did we do until we returned to Camp Hale in December? We dug huge pits in which we put the pyramidal tents equipped with stoves to protect against the strong winds called williwaws. Some of us climbed onto a Japanese cargo ship that had been half-sunk in Kiska Harbor, removing all the boards and anything else we could find. We converted portholes into windows for tent doors.

We unloaded cargo ships as they arrived with food and equipment. We looted the holes the Japanese defenders had dug for sleeping next to gun emplacements. (My wife and I have for years used a magnificent white Japanese Navy blanket, with a blue anchor in the corner, that I obtained on Kiska.)

After a while, we set up a theater in two connected pyramidal tents and watched movies at night. We played volleyball on a court that we carved out of the tundra. And we talked. Fortunately the 87th had many European refugees and American college graduates (it recruited many of its members from colleges like Dartmouth, where many students skied), so we often had interesting talks and arguments.

Eventually our battalion executive officer, a major and West Point graduate, set himself a new challenge. He would lead the first military unit in the history of the world's armies to climb a volcano en masse! I overheard this jocular boast in battalion headquarters, where enlisted men and officers both assembled for duty.

None of us had yet even seen the Kiska Volcano, which is located at the northern tip of the island some five miles from our encampment. It is about 4,004 feet high—about as high as Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, Italy. Kiska is an active volcano which erupted most recently in 1962.

We were told to wear parkas and take pup tents, sleeping bags and k-rations. So a line of some-20 soldiers started the climb soon after breakfast.

After a few hours of walking on almost-level tundra, the climb began. Kiska, like many volcanoes, has a gentle slope near the bottom, but the incline becomes quite steep near the top. Climbing was at first largely a steep uphill hike. We stopped for the night before the steepest climb began.

In the morning as we resumed our ascent, the tundra on the slope changed to uneven ground covered by large and small rocks. Only a few inches of snow covered the ground. The expedition clearly was a relief from our routine maintenance tasks back at the encampment. We stopped only occasionally to rest. The last half mile, however, was quite steep. We stopped for lunch at the crater's edge. Visibility was poor, both in the crater and south toward the rest of the island. Look-

ing into the crater, we thought we saw steam, but we had no training in vulcanology. We hugged and shook hands and, when the major gave the order, we went down the slope and returned in time for a late dinner.

On Kiska, we had no way of learning what soldiers in other military units were doing to pass the time. It is certainly possible that other units and individuals also climbed the Kiska Volcano. But for our platoon, it was a unique day.



## IDAHO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEDICATED TO MORLAN NELSON

On Oct. 30, 2008, a 550-student elementary school in Boise, ID, was dedicated in memory of Morlan Nelson (87-C). Morlan, who died in 2005, started the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, and later established the World Center for Birds of Prey east of Boise. He was primarily committed to the protection and rehabilitation of injured birds, but he also dedicated time to educate young people on the subject.

Stephen Strebner, an Idaho native, published Morlan's biography in 2002 entitled *Cool North Wind*. Morlan was world famous as a falconer and appeared on a number of national television programs demonstrating his skills and his birds. One of them was filmed during an invited visit to Iran by the Shah.

Early in his life he had an interest in birds, and displayed that while serving at Camp Hale. Morley was company commander under the regimental command

of Lt. Col. Ross Wilson and was a veteran of the Kiska Campaign. He was wounded at the Battle of Hill 860 on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945, near the town of Torre Iussi during the Spring offensive to the Po Valley.

Morlan attended many National Reunions carrying a hooded hawk or falcon on his arm and gave demonstrations of falconry during the meetings. He maintained a close friendship with many of his friends from the 10<sup>th</sup>, including Earl Clark, Karl Stingl, Duane Lind, John Woodward, Nelson Bennett and the late Felix Church and Tom Bacher. His friends often visited him in Boise and were usually treated to a demonstration of falconry.

Because of his many contributions to the study of birds of prey and his ready willingness to share his knowledge, the dedication of an elementary school to Morlan Nelson is a fitting honor.

*(Betty Church, widow of Felix (87-C), contributed to this article.)*

## MULES STILL POPULAR SUBJECT ...AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



In the mule article published in the last "Blizzard," I failed to make an important distinction in how the mules were handled. Infantry and Signal Corps troopers whom we had taught to pack, walked and led their mules. We in the QM pack company were mounted. We rode our mules and often herded 30 or 40 others. For the most part our mule skinnners had worked with both horses and mules. We had a lot of respect for a mule's judgment. They were always cautious about their footing and would not put themselves in jeopardy.

Often when we were herding our mules out of camp near the railroad tracks and a train passed by, the engineer was certain to sound his whistle to see our mules stampede in all directions and then laugh at our frantic efforts to round them up.

Our company commander, a former cavalry officer from the Presidio in Monterey, CA, thought he could best prepare us for combat and condition our animals by staying out in the mountain, spring, summer and fall, and I'm sure he felt we would get into less mischief out in the field.

Even without maneuvers or exercises, we spent most of our time in the summer on bivouac in the mountains. We were seldom at Camp Hale except to load up supplies—food for the men, hay and grain for the mules. Being in the field did have its advantages. For one thing, we didn't have to clean stables, and it gave us unlimited opportunities for hunting, fishing, riding and exploring—a very pleasant

experience.

At times there were drawbacks to being in the field, as when the CO decided the mules needed roaching (that's a hair cut, to you ground pounders) and rather than do it easily and quickly with electric clippers in camp, he had us use noisy, difficult hand-cranked clippers that took forever and agitated the mules, resulting in flying hooves as the annoyed animals lashed out at us.

While in the field, it was sometimes necessary to night herd the mules while they grazed. One time when we were camped out in the hills above Red Cliff, I took my tour of duty from 8 p.m.-midnight. A bright moon had gone down just about half an hour before I was relieved and headed back toward camp riding my trusty mule. It was so dark I couldn't even see its ears.

As we made our way up a slope, the mule stopped and refused to take another step. I cursed him, beat on him with a halter shank and kicked him in the ribs, but he wouldn't budge—until finally he backed up and pulled off to the right, and we made our way back to camp.

The next morning I went by that place and saw my mule's tracks going right up to the edge of a deep mine pit and then skirting it. Thank goodness he had better judgment and a sense of what the darkness held than I did, or we would have ended up in a 100-foot drop to the bottom of the mine shaft.

(Continued on Page 9)

### ONCE AGAIN, WE'RE THE ONE AND ONLY "BLIZZARD"

"The Fort Drum Blizzard" has been renamed "The Fort Drum Mountaineer," leaving *this* publication to carry on tradition. The new name is said to have been extremely popular in a contest, and most votes from readers confirmed the change. At the same time, the new name does recognize the role mountain skills have played in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. over the years.

Contracted printer "The Watertown Daily Times"—which also prints this,

the original "Blizzard"—began running the first renamed issue off the presses in October. Its circulation is 10,000.

In deference to the name given by soldiers of the Division during World War II, the newspaper had been named "Blizzard" since 1998; before that it was known as "The Fort Drum Sentinel."

—with information from the Ft. Drum Public Affairs Office

Having enjoyed the "Blizzard" and heeding the request for Mule Skinner stories, the following is the itinerary of one G.I. who enlisted at 17, Jan., 1944, Infantry Basic (I.B.) Texas to July '44; to officer candidate school (OCS), Ft. Benning, GA, for 12 weeks. Opps Medics in reviewing files find candidate blind without glasses, cannot be officer in Infantry—try Quartermaster but meanwhile you are out and spend time doing (I.B.) at Ft. Benning, Camp Gordon, GA, Ft. McClellan, AL, until Feb. of '45 while Army tries to figure out how to best use you.

Hence a request to brother William Judd, recruiting for the 10th—"Please let me be of some use, get me into the 10<sup>th</sup>." So to Ft. Meade, MD, in Feb., 1945, as a company was being developed to send as replacement for the 10th. On to USS America and Italy, arriving Apr. 2, 1945, in time to travel to Po Valley by train with a view of Rome at midnight from the box-car door.

"Soldier, this is a mule, you will feed it, sleep with it, groom it, load it, travel with it—up and down the ledges of these mountains" and so we did until our Army convinced Germany the war was over. My mule experience! Loading, unloading, slipping off the side of narrow ledges, saved by hanging on to any available part of that plodding mule who was never bothered by cliffs or narrow trails. Sleep-

ing on the ground, living in pup tents and thankful for the relative safety of my location. The Armistice provided the Army with one more chance at me—they needed infantry for the invasion of Japan—fly this well-trained (now no question of use of eyeglasses) soldier to the states and onto the invasion.

Our President Truman interrupted this odyssey: "Any service person who served in combat area overseas that subsequently came within 500 miles of continental United States was to be given an automatic 90 day delay en route." I found myself at familiar Ft. Logan, CO, being processed for my delay, when I was hijacked to become Chief Clerk Finance for the new discharge center being set up, and there I was until discharge.

It was 1978 during a conversation with Sgt. Steve Knowlton, a partner in our Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant here in Denver, that he clued me in to the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. and provided me with the pleasure of following the exploits in the "Blizzard," past and present, of the wonderful group of men.

E. James Judd (87-I)

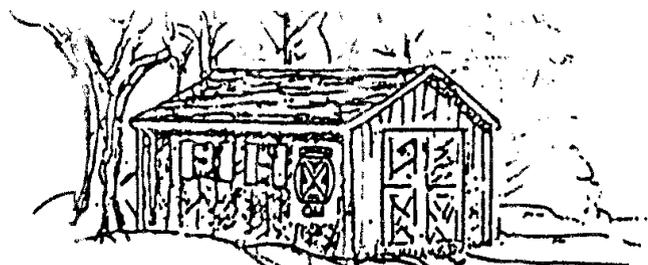
Registered Professional Engineer,  
Retired

2222 S. Albion St., Ste 100, Denver,  
CO 80222

Tel. 303-830-7211; Fax 303-830-7580

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	LOCATION
Last Thursday of each month	Northwest	Luncheon	Milwaukie, OR
Last Thursday of each month	10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI)	Mtn. Remembrance Ceremony	Main Post Chapel, Ft. Drum
December 9	Mt. Rainier	Luncheon	Seattle Yacht Club
February 13-16	Armadillo	Reunion	Stagecoach Inn, Salado, TX
February 17-26	Rocky Mountain	33 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> Ski-In	Holiday Inn, Frisco
February 21	Washington, D.C.	Luncheon, speaker Dr. Tim Brown, psychiatrist, Walter Reed Army Med Ctr	Rose Restaurant, Baltimore
February 21	Midwest	Mt. Belvedere Day luncheon	Carrolton, KY
Feb. 27-March 1	Rocky Mountain	10 <sup>th</sup> Hut Trip	
February 28	Midwest	Luncheon	Bloomington, IL
June 24, 2010	10 <sup>th</sup> 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		



## Quartermaster's Corner

Visit the Quartermaster on line at: [10thmtdivassoc.org](http://10thmtdivassoc.org) for Christmas or Holiday gifts by December 20. Many Association and Descendant items are available and shown on the website. Show your support for 10th soldiers past and present by wearing goods with the 10th logo on them. If you have or had a relative in the 10th then there is a wide variety of Descendant goods for sale including vests (\$45), backpacks (\$30), sport water bottle (\$12), baseball caps (\$16), short sleeve slate color T-shirts (\$15) navy or khaki long sleeve T-shirts (\$20) and button-down denim shirts (\$45), all with 10th Descendant logos on them.

**HALF PRICE SALE! TAKE 50% OFF THE PRICE SHOWN BELOW FOR THESE WWII PUBLICATIONS, TAPES, AND POSTERS WHILE THEY LAST.** The Quartermaster will not re-order the following items once they are gone. Postage + Handling charges are additional and are \$7 for merchandise orders up to \$20, \$10 for orders of \$20.01 to \$50, \$15 for orders of \$50.01 to \$100, \$20 for orders over \$100 and \$25 for orders over \$200.

ITEM#	ITEM	PRICE
G6	NATIONAL ROSTER 2004	2.00
G6A	NATIONAL ROSTER 2007 (latest roster)	10.00
G6B	1955-2007 ASSOCIATION ROSTER	10.00
G101	WHAT DID U DO IN THE WAR DAD - B. Parker (87-E)	20.00
G102	IFMS Creation- Mac MacKenzie	25.00
G103	BOUND COPIES 1992-1998 BLIZZARD	150.00
G104	SKI TROOPS IN THE MUD - KISKA - H. B. BENEDICT	5.00
G105	HISTORY OF L CO. - R. Carlson (86-L)	5.00
G106	ATTACK ON BELVEDERE - JIM BARR (85-3-HQ)	5.00
G107	2007 REUNION COMMEMORATIVE BOOK - J. Litchfield	30.00
G108	RIFLES RUCKSACKS SKIS (BOOK) Carlson 2007	5.00
G109	RIFLES RUCKSACKS SKIS (DVD) Carlson 2007	5.00
G110	2006 ITALY TRIP EDITION BLIZZARD	3.00
G111	AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL 1946	6.00
G112	ASCENT Sierra Club 1984 - Mountaineering (general)	12.00
G113	MEN OF MOUNTAINS POEMS - AUTHOR UNKNOWN	1.00
G114	COMBAT HISTORY OF 10 <sup>TH</sup> - C. HAUPTMAN (no graphics)	5.00
G115	MOUNTAIN TROOPS PICTURES (Camp Hale)	5.00
G116	REMOUNT BLUE HISTORY OF 3RD, 86 <sup>TH</sup>	8.00
G117	10TH SOLDIERS INTERRED/MEMORIALIZED IN FLORENCE CEMETERY	5.00
M9	RETURN TO ITALY 2003 - VHS VIDEO	15.00
M9A	RETURN TO ITALY 2003 - DVD	15.00
M10	HISTORY OF 85 <sup>TH</sup> , 86 <sup>TH</sup> AND 87 <sup>TH</sup> (DVD)	10.00
M20	TRIUMPHS OF THE 10TH (VHS)	10.00
M21	WAR AND REFLECTION (DVD)	10.00
J7	GORDON ALLEN ETCHING - signed	175.00
J14	KNEELING TROOPER -signed by Mead Schaeffer	100.00

The Quartermaster also has 3 very slightly water-stained, signed, original Mead Schaeffer Kneeling Trooper posters for sale at \$25 each (\$75 off normal price).

Frank J. Thornton, Association Quartermaster  
Denise L. Taylor, Descendant Quartermaster  
112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
email: [patfrank4@verizon.net](mailto:patfrank4@verizon.net); phone 610.667.2911

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN WATERTOWN, NY



The Ft. Drum Chapter is working to raise the number of scholarships awarded every year. Receiving \$5,000 scholarships each at a special luncheon were, left, Lisa Lopez, Kellie O'Keefe, Joseph Danza, Elena Blakesley and Karleen Campbell.

## NORTH COUNTRY SCHOOLS PARTNER WITH FT. DRUM

Anyone who grew up in the military has varying memories about their school experiences. In today's Army, typified by life with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. at Ft. Drum, NY, there are many efforts to link with those who support the soldier's family, including area schools.

This October, Garrison Commander Col. Kenneth Riddle renewed a memorandum of agreement with Superintendents of North Country schools. A partnership between the post and schools is

seen as part of the support structure to help families while soldiers are at war, as well as when they're home. The agreement makes the garrison responsible for communicating youngsters' needs to the schools, while the schools recognize the hardships that deployments may mean to children.

A ceremony was held to note more than 20 years of this program that's designed to be mutually beneficial to the military and civilian communities.

## WOUNDED WARRIOR FUND

### 10<sup>TH</sup> MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LI) SCHOLARSHIP FUND

10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. LNO Team, WRAMC, Washington, D.C.

BAE Systems Controls Employees, Johnson City, NY

Commando Cookbook Committee, Ft. Drum, NY

Crerent, William & Dolores

Endicott Interconnect, Endicott, NY

Folderman, Beverly, In memory of Donald J. Hubbard

FTG Circuits, Inc., Chatsworth, CA

Gary, Robert

Haines, Mr. & Mrs. Robert

Hayes, James

Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., Philadelphia, NY

John B. Lyman Post 904, Alexandria Bay, NY

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# Descendant **BLIZZARD**

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR DESCENDANTS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

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## Sempre Italia 2009 : You Have to Be There

*Bryan Pullen (Desc. 85/M)*

There has been quite a bit of information posted on the Google group and printed here in the "Blizzard" about the **Return to Italy** trips. I remember clearly at the 2007 Denver Reunion as the Descendants decided to take on the task of planning the trip. It was exciting to know that there were to be more opportunities for a group trip to see these historic sites and to visit old and new Italian friends alike.

For any of you that are undecided, or as we say in Oklahoma "on the fence," about whether you should go or not, I would just like to share some of my experiences from the 2006 trip. For me this was something I had planned and wanted to do since 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I was 33 at the time so it was on my "to-do" list for quite awhile.

My preparations began immediately after I sent my deposit. Over the seven months leading up to the trip, I started learning some basic Italian phrases and

numbers, so I could ask questions and purchase souvenirs. I also got my 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain books out and gave them another read through. I began a "basic training" regimen to get myself in shape for many hikes I had planned during "free time" listed in the itinerary. Most memorable of these was the hike from Vidiciatico to the summit of Mt. Belvedere and back alone, with just the thoughts of how my Grandfather made the same advance up the southern slope of the mountain. Just as my Grandfather will carry memories of Mt. Belvedere to his last day, so shall I.

It was a privilege to spend time with veterans who had such a great recall of locations and who could point to what seemed an insignificant feature of terrain and commence to give a play-by-play of the events that took place there. I also felt honored, as a veteran would sometimes

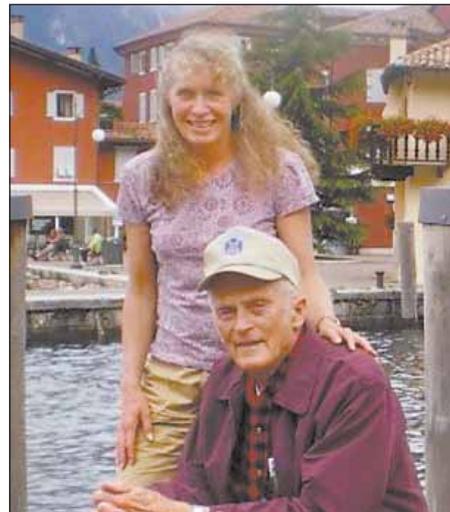
(Continued on Page 4)

## FATHER AND DAUGHTER GUESTS OF HONOR AT OPENING OF TORBOLE EXHIBIT

*Laurie Buffington (Desc. 86-HQ-3)*

My father, Wilbur Vaughan, fell in love with Torbole, Italy, in the last few days of W.W.II as he helped liberate the small town on the northern tip of Lago di Garda from the Germans in May of 1945. He had briefly revisited this picturesque Italian town three other times after the war, usually as part of a 10th Mtn. Div. reunion trip. In April of this year he received an unexpected letter of invitation from the Cultural Association of Torbole to come and visit their town and participate in the opening of a new photographic exhibit highlighting the Division's critical involvement in the area during the war.

Wilbur had produced a detailed map after returning from Italy in 1945 as part of his position (S-3 Plans & Operations), which had been published in several historical accounts of the war, and his name was clearly marked on it. This helped keep his name tied to the historical accounts of the war in the area around Torbole. After initial hesitation and appre-



hension about going on such a long journey at the age of 84, he was drawn back to one of his very favorite places. He was reluctant to travel alone, so I very willingly agreed to go along on the trip (not much arm twisting required there!).

The trip was far more rewarding than  
(Continued on Page 2)



## DESCENDANT BOARD ENJOYS WEST COAST

*Val Rios, President (87-K)*

The annual Descendant Board meeting was held June 20, 2008, in beautiful Monterey, CA. This was the first time that our Board meeting came to the West Coast and it was by no accident that Monterey was selected for our gathering. Monterey, and in particular, Ft. Ord, has a special place in history for the 10th Mtn. Div. In June, 1943, after training at Ft. Lewis, WA, the 87th Regiment was sent to Ft. Ord for amphibious training as part of the 30,000-man Amphibious Training Force 9. Little did they know that training was in preparation for the invasion and landing Aug. 15, 1943, at Kiska, that had been occupied by the Japanese Imperial Forces.

Chapter Directors from across the country came to review the status of Descendants Inc., and in afternoon break-out ses-

sions, discussed the various challenges facing our future. Mike Plummer, President of the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn., Gary Burton, President of the 10th Mtn. Div. Foundation, also attended. This proved very productive as the leaders of the 10th Mtn. Div. organizations were able to discuss their present and future interdependence.

On Saturday, June 20th, the Board was treated to a luncheon hosted by the Sierra Nevada Chapter. It was held at the Bayonet Black Horse, located on the grounds of Ft. Ord. Everyone enjoyed conversations with the 10th veterans and particularly enjoyed hearing Ft. Ord stories from the 87th veterans.

The 2009 Descendant Board meeting will be held in Salt Lake City and will be hosted by the Utah Chapter.



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.

## 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS, INC. OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(\* denotes Executive Committee)

**Arizona Chapter (\*08)**  
Mary Broughton  
P.O. Box 25964  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312  
928-775-2259  
ruffrider@commspeed.net  
Father: Martin Bockelmann, 126-ENG-A

**Armadillo Chapter (\*08)**  
Phebe Davol  
5675 West FM 487  
Florence, TX 76527  
254-793-3419  
davol\_phebe@bah.com  
Father: Donald B. Davol, 86-L, 86-A

**Big Sky (\*08)**  
James Walsh  
P.O. Box 305  
Stanford, MT 59479  
406-566-2638  
wintereagle2001@yahoo.com  
Father: Stan Walsh, 10 Med -B

**Delaware River Valley Chapter (\*08)**  
Berkley D. Ellis  
930 N. Evans Street  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
610-327-8107  
bd204@aol.com  
Father: Dr. Berkley Ellis, 86-L

**Ft. Drum Chapter (\*08)**  
Mike Plummer  
121 Paddock Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
315-782-4178  
PLUMMIKE@AOL.COM  
President, 10th Mtn. Association

**Lower Michigan Chapter (\*08)**  
Kathy Lumm Nichol  
3280 Kissner Street  
Flint, MI 48504-4416  
Father: Harold Lumm, 85-L

**Metropolitan New York Chapter (\*08)**  
Donald Ruso Perkins, Treasurer  
35-11 85th Street, Apt. 9H  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372-5505

718-651-2995 (H)  
nbcushman@yahoo.com  
Father: Ruso H. Perkins, 87-I

**Midwest Chapter (\*09)**  
Patricia LaRocca  
1151 Parkside Court  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
630-221-0989

pattylarocca327@yahoo.com  
Father: Richard D. Soutar, 616-FA-HQ

**Mt. Rainier Chapter (\*09)**

David Thompson  
7712 39th Avenue, SW  
Seattle, WA 98136  
206-932-4148

david819@comcast.net  
Father: Hans Thompson, 85-K

**New England Chapter (\*09)**

Sue Hagerman, Membership  
P.O. Box 60  
Enfield Center, NH 03749  
603-632-5337 (H)

sue.m.hagerman@valley.net  
Father: William A. Hagerman, 86-Svc

**North Central Chapter (\*09)**

Nikki Fahey  
3601 Phillips Parkway 215  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
Grandfather: Myron E. Fahey, 604-FA-HQ

**Northwest Chapter (\*09)**

Marney Roddick  
P.O. Box 7661  
Salem, OR 97303  
503-371-3326 (H)  
marney@open.org  
Father: Robert S. Roddick, 85-K

**Rocky Mountain Chapter (\*09)**

Dan Whittemore  
4626 S. Wolff Street  
Denver, CO 80236  
303-738-9571  
danwhittemore@comcast.net  
Father: Leslie Whittemore, 86-H

**Sierra Nevada Chapter (\*07)**

\*Val Rios  
6816 S. Maple  
Fresno, CA 93725  
559-834-6230  
Vrios913@aol.com  
Father: Cruz F. Rios, Jr., 87-K

**Southeast Chapter (\*07)**

Larry Fields  
6300 Deane Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
865-588-3968 (H)  
lfields@cbcbeardean.org  
Father: Capt. Marion H. Fields, 85-HQ

**Southern California Chapter (\*07)**

Mary Roddick Ghan  
25642 La Cima  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
Father: Robert S. Roddick, Jr., 85-K

**Upper Peninsula Chapter (\*07)**

Marilyn Kahl  
1738 Wilkinson  
Marquette, MI 49855  
949-364-0159  
upsnowdancer@sbcglobal.net  
Father: Walter R. Cook, 86-I -Div-HQ

**Upstate New York Chapter (\*07)**

Vacant  
**Utah Chapter (\*07)**  
Ron Sawdey  
2016 Emerson Ave.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
801-582-2820 (H)  
rjsawdey@comcast.net  
Father: James J. Sawdey, 87-B

**Washington DC Chapter (\*07)**

Pamela Pikla, Chairperson:  
Membership  
3707 Red Grove Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21220  
Father: Hassell G. Vass, 10-AT-A

## COMMITTEES

### AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

**President\***  
Val Rios (\*09)  
Sierra Nevada Chapter  
6816 S. Maple  
Fresno, CA 93725  
559-834-6230  
Vrios913@aol.com  
Father: Cruz F. Rios, Jr., 87-K

**Secretary\***  
Sharon E. Ahrens (\*07)  
34 Johnny Cake Lane  
New Hartford, CT 06057  
Father: Rodman C. Ahrens, 85-C

**Past President\***  
Patricia Finn Thornton (\*08)  
112 Maple Avenue  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
610-667-2911 (H)  
patfrank3@verizon.net  
Father: Capt. Frederick Finn,  
85-A & L

**Quartermaster**  
Denise Taylor (\*08)  
4075 Depew Street  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80212

303-423-2514  
mountaingirl555@msn.com  
Father: Marvin E. Taylor, 126-D  
ENG

**Executive VP, Projects\***  
Merit Scholarship, Descendant Essay  
Steve Coffey  
1630 York Mills Lane  
Reston, VA 20194  
703-471-4370  
sdcoffey@verizon.net  
Father: Albert Coffey, 87-F

**Vice President Chapter Coordinator\***  
Larry Wilson (\*07)  
PO Box 3  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
406-892-5951  
lwilson@aboutmontana.net  
Father: Ross Wilson, 87-HQ-1

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Descendant Blizzard**  
Bryan Pullen  
708 South 6th  
Davis, OK 73030  
580-369-5515  
bryanpullen@cableone.net  
Grandfather: Harold Sutton, 85-M

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Myrna Hampton  
Sierra Nevada Chapter  
4803 Monterey St.  
Carmel, CA 93923  
831-624-6707  
mchofcarmel@sbcglobal.net  
Father: Lt. Col. Henry J. Hampton,  
86-HQ

### GOLD STAR 10TH MTN. DIV DESC CHAIRPERSON

Norman Burkey  
308 Colgate Dr.  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
(410) 638-8970  
normanburkey@comcast.net  
Father: Norman L. Burkey, 85-C

### ON BELAY CHAIRPERSON

Pamela Pikla  
Washington, D.C. Chapter  
3707 Red Grove Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21220  
410-335-2525  
pmpikla@comcast.net  
Father: Hassell G. Vass, 10-AT-A

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

Dear 10th Mountain Family,

On behalf of 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc., I would like to personally invite you to attend the **Sempre Italia 2009 Return to Italy** trip. The torch has been passed and the trip will be the first sponsored and organized by 10th Mtn. Div. Descendants, Inc. and we promise to deliver a memorable experience.

Many of you have attended one or more Return to Italy trips, and we encourage you to do so again. For those who have not, I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful trip. Imagine walking in the footsteps and on the battle trails the 10th Mtn. Div. soldiers walked some 63 years ago. In many locations very little has changed since that time --foxhole indentations are still very visible, homes that sheltered the soldiers remain, and with a good eye you might even be lucky enough to find a spent shell casing or other WWII era artifact.

Take in the view atop Mt. Belvedere looking back toward Riva Ridge and you will instantly understand the significance of Feb. 18-20, the Belvedere Offensive, to the Allied advance. You will visit the hill towns of Lizzano in Belvedere, Vidiciatico, Gaggio Montano, Querciola, Pietra Colora, and Castel'd Aiano. The trip will follow the path of the 10th out of the Apennines and into the Po Valley ending at Riva del Garda on the shores of Lake Garda where we conclude the main tour with our famous farewell banquet.

You will also have the opportunity to take advantage of the optional pre-trip to see Rome and the post-trip to Vienna and Budapest. I encourage you to read the brochure which has been mailed to all members, for details of the full itinerary. Believe me when I say, this will be a trip you will not want to miss!

But there are several additional reasons why I strongly encourage you to attend the **2009 Return to Italy** trip. First, this may be one of the last times many of our 10th veterans will be able to join us on such a trip and you will want to hear personal accounts of their experiences. It is also important that we Descendants show our respect to our veterans by keeping this tradition alive going forward. Second, the gratitude, warmth, and generosity of the Italian people, especially in the hill towns, toward the 10th family is very heartwarming and one that must be experienced. Third, you will visit the American Cemetery near Florence, and walk on hallowed ground where the saying "Freedom is not free," is realized.

Please consider attending the **Sempre Italia 2009 Return to Italy** trip. You will not be disappointed!

## TORBOLE WELCOMES FATHER, DAUGHTER

(Continued from Page 1)

We had ever imagined it might be. Our hosts in Torbole provided us with wonderful accommodations for two weeks in a nice hotel with a room looking out over Lago di Garda. We were warmly welcomed into the community as honored guests. Besides being the guest of honor at the opening of the new 10th Mtn. Div. photographic exhibit and reception (complete with old W.W.II Jeep and amphibious Duk), Wilbur was also invited to meet the mayor at the city hall where he was given an official welcome to the town. Numerous interviews by the press (most had to be translated through an interpreter), resulted in several newspaper articles and short video segments. One extensive interview was going to be translated later for use in a documentary to be used in the schools. I felt so fortunate to be there and capture it on my video camera!

We were escorted on private tours to some of the areas Wilbur remembered from the war, such as Verona, Paso Resia and the Dolomites, as well as Riva and some of the small towns in the area. We saw some beautiful areas of northern

Italy. The gracious hospitality of the people of Torbole helped make it an amazing trip. We had some fantastic meals highlighting the famous Italian cuisine and wonderful local wines, both in restaurants and in the homes of new friends from the Cultural Association of Torbole.

The two-week trip passed by way too quickly, but I took enough pictures to help maintain the wonderful memories that we came home with. It was a trip filled with reliving old memories of the War as well as making new ones in this beautiful place. The Italians expressed so much gratitude for all that the 10th Mtn. Div. had done to help liberate their country from the German occupation. Their appreciation of history and desire to learn everything possible from those who lived through that history was remarkable.

The trip gave me an opportunity to see places where my father had fought in the war and to visit locations that I had grown up hearing about all of my life. It was a truly remarkable experience for me to see him treated as a true hero whose efforts are still remembered and appreciated, 63 years after the War ended.



## ARMADILLO

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

Our September gathering was cancelled with the prospect of Hurricane Ike making landfall near Corpus Christi where our Sept. 12-14, 2008, weekend reunion was planned to take place after hard work and commitment from so many of you. We are planning another gathering Feb. 13-16, 2009, in honor of Mt. Belvedere Day. The reunion will be held at the historic Stagecoach Inn in Salado, TX. Refer to the Armadillo Chapter article in the main section of this Blizzard edition.

I would like to reach out to Armadillo Chapter Descendants and their parents (Veterans and wives) to encourage your participation in the chapter. Our chapter is one of the most geographically dispersed and we acknowledge that it is not easy to get together when the mileage span may be 500 miles away (one way).

There are activities we can plan together for future gatherings and if we have the participation, we can even organize the northern chapter (Oklahoma, Arkansas, North Texas) and the southern chapter (Louisiana, South Texas) with special invites for those in the former Roadrunner Chapter (New Mexico) who may be interested. Please contact Phebe Davol at Davol\_Phebe@bah.com if you are interested in assisting in planning other activities.

As a feature of our Descendants section of the "Blizzard" we would like to encourage others to share stories of how they became involved in the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. This is the first of future stories regarding how descendants are involved with carrying on the memories of the Division. Below is the first story submitted by Descendant Jeannie Geuras, daughter of 10th Mountain veteran Harry Lane (Ord).

"My dad, Harry Lane, was a member of the 10th Mountain Division during WWII and a member of the Armadillo chapter until his death in 1997. The only group that I didn't inform of his passing was the Armadillo Chapter because I loved receiving mail from them.

"It was a tie to my Dad that I didn't want to give up. Shortly after I started feeling a little guilty for not telling, information was sent out about the 10th Mountain National Reunion in 2004. It was going to be held in Austin, my home town. I contacted Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2) to volunteer for the reunion. I worked in the hospitality room with Dillon (86-L) and lovely wife Rebecca Snell. I love all of the friends that I have made, and I know that my Dad is smiling down at me from heaven as I write this."

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The Descendants Chapter sponsored the annual Veterans, Descendants and Friends Breakfast Picnic on Aug. 2, 2008. About 15 veterans joined their families and friends for food, fellowship, and many door prizes. The group of about 50 enjoyed four hours together sharing experiences and getting acquainted with new Descendants and friends. Each Rocky Mountain director/president has given top priority to this event and the local Descendant planning committee upheld this event as the "premier" of the year.

Many local schools, retirement communities, and other social organizations request historical information about the 10th Mtn. Div. When a W.W.II veteran is available to conduct these informative sessions, they do so. The Descendants group tries to fill in the commitment when a veteran is not available. Such an event was coordinated by Descendant director/president Dan Whittemore (Desc. 86-H) on Sept. 30, 2008, for 22 senior citizens from the Malley Center of Englewood, CO. This was a full-day tour of Camp Hale, Leadville, and the Colorado Ski Museum in Vail. Dan and Beth Whittemore and Bonnie Douglas provided mini-lectures during the various stops on the bus tour. The Center's appreciation for the event culminated with a check to the Tenth Mountain Foundation.

The Denver Chapter is committed to keeping the 10th Mtn. Div. memories alive. The local group is active in supporting the veterans and providing social events for Descendants and friends.

**VISIT THE DESCENDANTS WEBSITE**

[www.10thmtndivdesc.org](http://www.10thmtndivdesc.org)

## MIDWEST

*Mary Broughton (Desc. 126-A Eng.)*

The Chapter Reunion was held Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> in Carol Stream, IL. It started on Wednesday and ended on Sunday in hopes of attracting Descendants who work or are in school. Eight people arrived on Friday evening, so our plan was a success. Jenny Grapenthin (616-HQ) and her daughters Jessica and Karly attended for the first time. We also had another first timer and the youngest attendee, Winnie Evans, granddaughter of Richard Soutar (616-HQ). Descendant Alan Hafer (87-G) also attended the Midwest reunion for the first time.

We kicked off with an early-bird dinner at Spavone's Restaurant in Bloomingdale, IL. The Italian food was outstanding but the highlight of the night was when owner Tony Spavone serenaded the Chapter with his beautiful voice. Thursday morning started with a Continental breakfast in our hospitality room. Diane Jurina, (616-B) and Mary Ellen Soutar, wife of Richard Soutar (616-HQ) brought delicious baked goods for the breakfast. That afternoon we played bingo and then had "a day at the races." We all had play money (with past Chapter presidents on them) and everyone had a great time and some won a lot of money. That night we met for cocktails and our welcome banquet.

Friday began with a Continental breakfast again and then we broke off in groups. Some went golfing and the others went to Klien Creek Farm, a 1890's living farm. That afternoon we had a session of feldenkrist. Our Vice President Jerry Jurinia was the guinea pig for the demonstration.

The fun really began that night, starting with a surprise visit from Brian O'Sullivan (10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div.). We invited him to join us for our pizza party and hope he will come back and attend our luncheons. Afterward we had a game night in which we had 7 different games going at once. Everyone rotated and played all the games. They used their play money to win more money. With coloring books at one table all you had to do was color a picture and you could win \$5. (play money). I couldn't believe how many Veterans actually colored pictures. Harry Gianneschi (85-HQ-2) must have sat coloring for a good 30 minutes

Saturday was a tour to Cantigny Park. The grounds were covered with tanks and other military equipment. We spent an hour walking through the museum and saw some great replicas from different wars. After the tour we held a beautiful memorial service outside. We had American Legion Post as the color guard and Rev. Jerald Lundby (85-L, 86-M) provided prayers and song.

At our farewell banquet, the hotel provided a sheet cake that read "until we meet again." After dinner was over, a magician entertained us with humor and magic. Janice Fuglsang (126-A) had a sword go through her neck and Diane Jurina's hand was cut off (or so we thought). After dinner at a silent auction, the play money came into hand to bid on many nice prizes.

Sunday started with a worship service followed by brunch. Then came the difficult part: saying goodbye. Everyone really liked the location, so plans are in motion for next year's chapter's reunion. I really enjoyed putting this reunion together. Just seeing how much fun everyone had, made it worth it all.



*Active at a meeting are daughters and granddaughters of Richard Soutar (616-HQ), are left, Jenny & Karly Grapenthin, Winnie Evans, Patty LaRocca and Jessica Grapenthin.*



**SIERRA NEVADA CHAPTER  
DESCENDANTS GATHERED  
RECENTLY FOR A  
GROUP PHOTO**

### **GIVE A 10TH GIFT THEY'LL LOVE: MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION OR DESCENDANTS**

A meaningful gift for any occasion is at your fingertips—gift memberships to the 10th Mtn. Div. Association or 10th Mtn. Div. Descendants organization.

Anyone can be a gift recipient— active or veteran 10th soldiers, their friends, spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, long lost aunts & uncles—everyone is welcome and the price is right.

All gift memberships include a one-year subscription to the "Blizzard" newsletter, which keeps everyone connected to all things 10<sup>th</sup>, three times a year.

For applications, visit [www.10thmtndivassoc.org/enlist.html](http://www.10thmtndivassoc.org/enlist.html) for soldier applications, and [www.10thmtndivdesc.org](http://www.10thmtndivdesc.org) for Descendant applications.

And to round out the gift, consider adding a 10th book or DVD sold through the Quartermaster.



## Sempre Italia 2009: You Have to Be There

(Continued from Page 1)

pause with misty eyes and quivering voice as they recalled a friend who had fallen near where you stood.

The emotions evoked on these trips from hearing first hand stories of the veterans cannot be captured on film or in writing. You have to be there. You have to be there to appreciate the random Italian villa you are standing next to as a veteran walks up and tells you, "That building was the aid station during the Hill 913 attack." You have to be there to experience a ride in a 1944 Willy's jeep down Mt. Belvedere. You have to be there to witness the sincere love

and appreciation the Italian people of the hill towns have for the veterans even after 61 years have passed. You have to be there at the Florence cemetery as veterans and descendants like Bernie Tillson (Desc. 86-E) are reunited with a fallen 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier for the first time.

There are many lifelong friendships formed and memories made while on these trips. This trip, like those before, will allow us as Descendants to honor, preserve and continue the legacy of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. soldier for generations to come. I hope to see you on the next trip in 2009. You have to be there.

### 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION QUARTERMASTER RETURN TO ITALY 2009 TRIP SUGGESTIONS

For the trip, the Quartermaster recommends the following items, which can be purchased from the Quartermaster.

#### PRE-TRIP AND TRIP READING:

**Catalog item G2:** "A Chronology of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 early 10<sup>th</sup> from 1940 activation to de-activation in November 1945. \$7.

**Catalog item G3:** "10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** "10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then and Now," compiled and edited by John and Barbara Imbrie. Photographs of 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Other Suggested Items:

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

**Catalog item T1:** Khaki canvas tote bag 13" deep with Division logo and skier. \$8.

**Catalog item D22 or D22A:** Descendant khaki or blue denim baseball cap with Descendant logo. \$18.

**Catalog item D24:** Sports 32 oz. water bottle with Descendant logo. \$15.

**Catalog item D33:** Black High Sierra backpack with Descendant logo. \$30.

**\* Items should be ordered only through the Quartermaster, not the Association or Travel Agent. Orders should be received by the Quartermaster by February 15 to ensure delivery to you before the start of the trip. Orders should be sent to:**

Quartermaster, 112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

e-mail: patfrank4@verizon.net, phone: 610.667.2911

Orders should include: 1) item number, quantity of items desired (include size if applicable), 2) where to ship the items, 3) your phone number and 4) 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.

## "ABOUT, FACE!"

Growing up in New Hampshire, Brian Knight enjoyed many outdoor activities, especially skiing. Learning to ski came easily to Brian. By eighth grade he could schuss down slopes with ease. Cross-country and downhill skiing were favorites during his high school years.

During this time, Brian had a special ski skill that few of his classmates even knew about. He learned this skill from his dad, Sgt. Edward B. Knight, who had been a member of the 126<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Eng. Bn. in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. during World War II.

Brian was behind the barn doing some short-slope skiing. To his surprise, his dad came through the snow on skis. "Hey, Brian, watch this," shouted Mr. Knight as he came near. He stopped, stood ramrod erect, and lifted his right leg until his right ski was vertical. That ski then swung around until it was again in the snow, but facing backwards. He then moved his left ski around until it was parallel to the right ski.

"That's a clever way to turn around," said Brian.

His dad told Brian to give the maneuver a try. Brian did as directed, of course, and after a few tries was able to turn around just as his dad had done.

"That's called an 'About Face'" Mr. Knight said. "It's part of being a soldier on skis."

Brian practiced that clever turn-around and became one of the very few who knew how to do it, and also knew what it was. Even during high school years, Brian would turn around with this maneuver to the amazement of his skiing friends. To those willing to listen he explained that it was a military "About Face" movement.

As Brian grew older he studied military history and especially his dad's involvement in World War II with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. This led to learning about being in formation on skis at Camp Hale, Colorado. His dad's influence of doing an "About Face" on skis became very important.

Sgt. Edward B. Knight now drifts in the ether of eternity, but his influence remains evident whenever his son Brian does an "About Face" on skis. Son Brian, in turn, taught others how to do the maneuver. The influence of his dad has extended not only to him but to many other young people as well.

Brian is a senior citizen now, but he can still do the "About Face" on skis.



Sgt. Edward B. Knight, Co-B, 126 Eng Bn.

### U.S. 10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION ITALY 1945

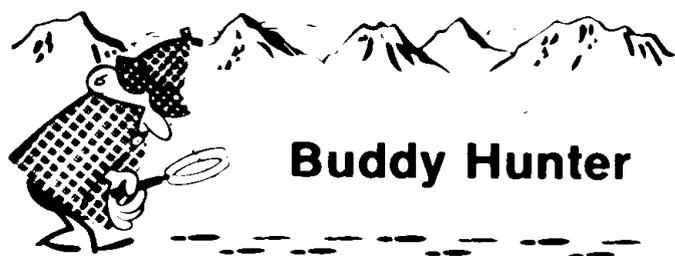


Famous W.W.II artist Ronald Volstad recently completed a painting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. for the scale model company Dragon Models Inc.

The model kit is now available in hobby shops everywhere. Ronald worked alongside descendant Bryan Pullen (Desc. 85-M) and veteran Lyle Munson

(86-A) who supplied reference material for the project.

Volstad wanted to depict a scene with soldiers just after the battle for Riva Ridge. He has done a great job of capturing the equipment and portraying the brotherhood the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldiers have for one another.



## Buddy Hunter

I am trying to locate anyone who knew my Father. His name was Allan Edgar Peck (nickname Bud). He joined the 10th at Camp Swift, TX, and was in the 85-L. He was wounded at Mt. Belvedere on Feb. 20th and then seriously wounded on Hill 913 on Apr. 14, 1945.

Please contact Stefanie Pesce-Fitzpatrick at 301.855.2956, or [luvtotofish@verizon.net](mailto:luvtotofish@verizon.net).

PFC Donald W. Rice 85K was wounded on Mt. Belvedere on Feb. 20, 1945. He leaned over to get a rock for the fox hole and a shell killed his friend "Whitey," and hit Donald in the hip. He was found alive the next morning by a lieutenant.

Thank you for any information.

Donna Rice Holloway (Desc. 85-K),  
# 417.845.6283; [wcrage7@hotmail.com](mailto:wcrage7@hotmail.com)

My Dad has been gone for many years, but I remember him talking about being with the 10th Mtn. Div. in WWII. I actually had his skis for awhile –no idea what happened to them. I remember he said that since he was older at the beginning of the war, he was recruited to train soldiers to ski. He grew up in the Buffalo, NY, area and learned to ski as a kid. I don't remember him talking about Camp Hale, but I do remember that he mentioned Alta, the ski area in Utah. At some point he was transferred to Dugway.

His name was William D. White. I would be grateful if I could put a note in your newsletter (especially if it means hearing from someone who knew him). Many thanks.  
Merry White, Salt Lake City, UT, # 801.486.8001

Subject: Re: How do I put a buddy finder notice in this magazine?

This is what I know: My father is John W. James, Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion 85th Infantry. He had temporary command of HQ Battalion, S2. He fought on Mt. Belvedere and was awarded the Silver Star. He later made a winter ascent of Mt. Rainier.

Chris James 5726 Glen Allen, Houston, TX 77069 Cell #832.72.8314

I would like to add a brief request in Buddy Hunter on behalf of my dad. Cruz Rios (87-K) would like to contact one of his buddies, Joseph Naylor (87-K), or a family member. Joseph's home town was Richmond, ME. Thank you.

Val Rios, #559.834.6230 or [vrrios913@aol.com](mailto:vrrios913@aol.com).

## MULES STILL POPULAR SUBJECT

(Continued from Page 7)

Leaving the hot, dry, dusty infantry training Camp Walters, TX, and coming up on the Rio-Grande Western Railway to the scenic mountains of Colorado was a great lift to my morale. I reported in to my assigned company and was told by the first sergeant that the company was out in the field and I could ride out in the truck taking supplies to the trail head.

This I did, and as we were unloading the truck, two men riding mules came down the trail, tied up and unsaddled their mules. I asked if I could ride up to join the company. They said sure, take either mule, and they drove off with the truck.

I picked up a saddle and approached the first mule and threw the saddle on him. That mule humped his back, bucked and sent the saddle sailing high in the air. I hoped maybe the other had a more gentle disposition, and I was successful in saddling him and swung up into the saddle. As I reined him around toward the trail, he took off at a gallop and shot past

it. So I pulled him around and he dashed past the trail in the other direction. After four or five attempts I was able to get him to head up the trail.

After a ride of about an hour, down came a cadre of men and mules from the bivouac to pick up the supplies. So I reported to the platoon leader and followed along back to the trailhead, where we parked about 30 mules and I was given a string of 6 to lead through the aspen grove to the trail. In maneuvering to get through the grove, the rope I was leading my mules with got under my mule's tail and he bogged his head and did his best, and I went sailing over his ears.

The captain came by and dressed me down with some rather strong language and told me to mount up and get going. "Yes, Sir!" It was my initiation to B Company QM Pack Company.

Clayton E. Anderson (10-QM-B)  
Box 5067, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921  
#831.624.3208



## DELAWARE VALLEY

*Barbara Catterall (Assoc 85-G/ Dau)*

On October 19, 2008, the Board of the Delaware River Valley (DRV) Chapter met at President Patricia Thornton's home for a luncheon meeting to plan the chapter's agenda for the coming year. In attendance were Al (Assoc 85-G/ Bro) and Ginny Condo; Paul (86-I) and Dorothy Kitchen; Pat (Assoc 85-A, L/ Dau) and Frank Thornton; Art Marton (605-HQ) and Barbara and Helen Catterall.

The chapter will be hosting a luncheon in honor of veterans at the Overbook Country Club on November 23, 2008. All WWII veterans, their wives and widows will be paid guests of the chapter at this event. We are hoping to also have a large number of Descendants in attendance. During the luncheon, Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to five members for extraordinary service to the DRV chapter. Thomas O'Neill (86-I), Ted Beckhardt (85-A), Peter Binzen (86-H), Harry Wareham (87-HQ-3) (posthumously) and William Kohn (86-5) (posthumously) are the recipients of this honor.

During this winter, Paul Kitchen will schedule the annual 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Ski Day at Camelback Mountain in Pennsylvania.

The Memorial Day Picnic will again be hosted by Fred (Assoc 85-M/Bro) and Barbara Winters in May at their farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The event includes a memorial service held in the lovely 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. garden on the farm that is dedicated to Dr. Winter's brother, who was killed in action in Italy.

The chapter is in the process of updating its membership lists. Anyone interested in joining or in finding out more information about upcoming events should call Pat Thornton at 610-667-2911 or Barbara Catterall 908-757-1976.



July 4th, 2008, brought out the citizens of Bessemer, Michigan, for a parade that included veterans of the 10th Mtn. Div. First place was awarded to a float featuring (l-r front) Fran Kubisiak, (86-B) and Vern Cartner (87-L), and (l-r rear) Don Olson (85-C) and Gilbert Erickson (87-C, H). Matt Wilkin drove the old John Deere & hay wagon, while props included flags, skis & other cold-weather gear.

## SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

*Ray Zelina (605-A)*

The Chapter usually holds its annual meeting in the Spring, but scheduling conflicts forced a change to the Fall. This means that we have two meetings in 2008. Plans for 2009 were to be settled at the fall meeting in Greenville, SC, in October.

The Chapter lost three former presidents this year — Al Partridge (86-A) in March, "Speed" Murphy (85-G) in May, Dan Kennerly (85-D) in July and Charlie Hunt (86-C) in Sept. Al was a conscientious president in spite of his illness, "Speed" kept them laughing in the hospitality room and Dan held them spellbound from the rostrum at banquets. Charlie was the Association's Art Director for many years.



## NORTH CENTRAL

*Lou Anderson (A-87) &  
Alice Olson (Don -85-C)*

On Oct. 1, a beautiful Fall day, the Chapter started their three-day Fall reunion at the Grand Hinckley Inn (affiliated with the Grand Casino) in Hinckley, MN.

Sixteen people including wives and significant others attended. There was much rejoicing to see one another and inquiring about those who were missing. The latter were remembered with cards of good wishes signed by all present, to let them know they were missed. We noted the loss since we last met in the Spring of Bob Carlbert (85-I) and Fritz Bender (110-SIG).

Hostesses Grace Bergh (James -604-A) and Clara Sletten (Arlo -10-HQ) put out a lovely buffet in the hospitality room, supplemented by more treats members brought to share (all good cooks and bakers—who could resist?). A shuttle bus took participants to the Casino, restaurants, antique shops, etc.

Stoney Stondall (85-F) reported that three of his grandsons attended the Memorial Day laying of wreaths at the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Monument at Tennessee Pass. Our business meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, and after much discussion, it was agreed that we plan another reunion in the spring of 2009. Arrangements have been made to hold it at the Grand Hinckley Inn again on May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. During the meeting, Myron Fahy (604-HQ) called to say he was sorry to miss the gathering, and the session was put on hold while the phone was passed around.

A farewell dinner was held at Cassidy's Golden Pine Restaurant, after which the group spent the evening watching the Presidential debate over dessert.



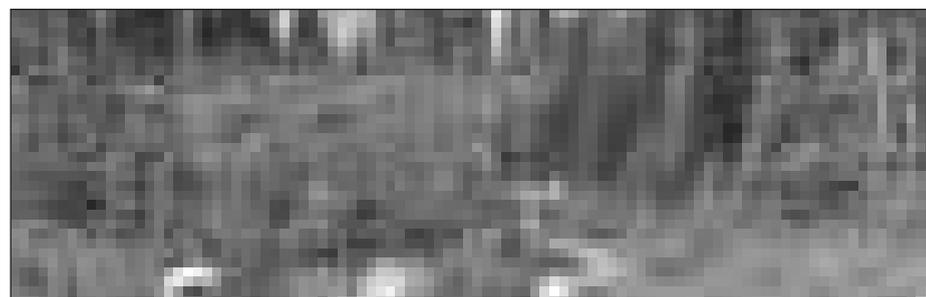
## UPPER PENINSULA

*Walter Cook (10-HQ)*

The 4th of July Parade in Marquette, MI, featured World War II veterans. Veterans rode on trucks, jeeps, and HumVees with their names and military units displayed. 10th Mtn. Div. veterans of Marquette County were enthusiastically applauded. Riding in the Humvee was Don Stille (86-K), Ken Oja (86-I), Joe

Perrault (126-D), and Walt Cook. Walking alongside of the vehicle was Paul Stevenson, son of Thurman Stevenson (8-A, 86-D). Paul had on full mountain gear including parka, skis, poles and ski boots.

A new book, "Ordinary Heroes," was written by Dan Oja, a Descendant member and a nephew of John Koski (86-F). John was the youngest of six Koski brothers serving their country in World War II. Johnny was killed with the Division in the final weeks before the end of the war. Dan Oja provides lunch for the Chapter every Feb. 19—Mt. Belvedere Day—at the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame at Ishpeming, MI.



## MT. RAINIER

*Dale Smith (10-MP)*

The Aug. 15 meeting was held at Tahoma National Cemetery to dedicate a memorial to the men of the 10th who fought in WWII. The dedication marked the fulfillment of a longtime goal for which our president, Karl Stingl (87-HQ-1), has worked long and hard, because many of our deceased members are interred there. The reverent ceremony was blessed with great weather, fine attendance and the appearance of Mt. Rainier to highlight the scene.

The site is particularly fitting because the area was the birthplace of mountain training for the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment. Earl Clark (87-HQ-1), 10th Mtn. Div. Foundation Chairman of the Board, gave an inspiring address, recounting the early history of the Division from its formation at Ft. Lewis and Mount Rainier in 1941 to the return to the U.S. after the end of W.W.II. He said that the monument is a fitting way to recognize the men who had such a fine record, and would be a lasting memorial to help to preserve their legacy. The Foundation provided financial support for placement of the monument.

Webster Barnett (86-HQ-1) was the presiding officer, giving appropriate prayers and opening comments. President Karl Stingl gave an emotional account of his experiences in Kiska and Italy. Bernie Moskowitz, chief bugler at the Cemetery, played bugle calls, and the Honor Guard was provided by VFW Post 5252, Maple Valley and Black Diamond, Richard Ludwick, Commander. Megan Forry, granddaughter of Gordy and Irene Dick (87-G), and Andrea Lindsay of the Survival Training Group at Garfield High School, laid the floral wreath. James Trimble, director of the cemetery, attended the entire dedication.

Following the ceremony, luncheon was served at the Golden Steer Steak & Rib House in Kent, WA. Singing of the 10th Mtn. Div. traditional songs was led by Earl Clark, who unlike most of us did it without using a song sheet. Amazing!

After a two-year hiatus, we returned to Paradise Inn on Mt. Rainier, our accustomed site, for our Sept. 9 meeting. The Inn has been closed for two years for reconstruction, but the appearance hasn't changed much, since the reconstruction was largely to keep the structure intact. Mt. Rainier was out in all of its glory, as the weather was sunny and clear.

Lou and Ingrid Whittaker (Hon) presented everyone with a 10th Mtn. Div. T-shirt. After the customary group picture, those who could, made the trek up the slope to the Division monument, while couch potatoes sat on the deck taking in the sunshine.

In the past few months we have lost Ed Kennedy (86-I), Peter Schwetz (87-A, E, I), Alan Carlson (110-SIG), Bob Harris (85-MED-3) and Tom Bacher (87-C). Most have been active members until recently; also Shirley Dalle, widow of Reno (87-K). We shall miss all of them very much.



*Tenth Mountaineers from Vermont held their annual picnic in the heart of the Green Mountains. They meet at Smuggler's Notch in Stowe to check on a time capsule noting the dedication of Rte 108 as the 10th Mtn. Div. Memorial Highway. Enjoying good fellowship are, back row from left, Don Linscott, Bill Osgood, Bob Traynor, Gordon Lowe, Al Tozloski, Bob Dakin. Front, left, Thelma Osgood, Rose Dakin, Anne Curtis, Clem Curtis. On the picnic table is Zoey Margaret Irwin, Meredith Scott's baby, born April 6, 2008 and especially important because she's tasked with opening the time capsule in 2083!*

*--Photo by Meredith Scott, Director, Vermont Ski Museum*



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

*Hugh Evans (85-A, C)*

Despite the storms of war, the hurricane season and the market collapse the Rocky Chapter continues in its usual calm and cool manner under the watchful eye of president George A. Loudis (86-H). However, he claims he has served his time so is in the process of careful consideration of his replacement. It looks like Phil Berg, son of Russell "Spike" Berg (87-L), might just fit the bill.

Monthly luncheons are staying on schedule. They come on the last Monday of each month, at the Country Buffet just off C-470 and Quebec in south Denver. We have from 20-30 attending. If you are in town, come join in the fun.

July 5 the Descendants put on their great, annual brunch in Sterne Park, Littleton. It was a beautiful day and the brunch was well attended.

The Tenth Rocky Mountain Trash Bashers continue their by-monthly pick-ups on Highway #40 from the Buffalo Overlook down three miles toward Denver. On the September 2 Pick-up, \$1.01 was found and contributed to the Foundation. Since 1993, when the pick-ups first began, \$98.75 has been found and given to the Foundation.

Next year's Tenth Ski-in, the 33rd since Mac MacKenzie (85-C), and Newc Eldredge (85-L), began them, will take place Feb. 17-26, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in Frisco. On Feb. 18 we will ski at Keystone; next day at A-Basin. Friday-Sunday will be at Cooper Hill; Feb. 23 is at Breckenridge; next day at Vail; on Wednesday we will be back at Keystone; Thursday it's over.

Our visits to the ski areas are hosted and the Tenth Vets ski free. We have some fun lunches and dinners along the way. If you are interested in participating in any or all of the events, email hevans621@aol.com. A more detailed schedule was to go out in mid-October to those who are regularly signed up for this event. If you wish to go on the Tenth Hut Trip, February 27 to March 1, email Evans. There is little- to no room at the moment, but things change.

The Chapter survived the Denver Democratic convention, and the Medal of Honor one-month program and Reunion with 65 out of the 100 living attending.

## MIDWEST

*Ken Hanson (85-MED-2)*

Forty two assembled at the Holiday Inn in Carol Stream, IL for the annual Midwest reunion Sept. 3-7, 2008. Thirteen were veterans of WWII, and Brian O'Sullivan is a member of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI).

The memorial service was on Saturday at Cantigny Park, in Wheaton, IL, which is a memorial to the 1st Div. that fought in WWI and II. Midwest president Jacob Pollack (85-2-HQ) and Chaplain Gerald Lundby (86-L) conducted the program, with an address by Vietnam vet Alan Belcher. Colors were presented by American Legion Post 76 and taps were played by Lisa Ashley. The names of those who have died in the last year were read.

Ten golfers on a wet Sept. 5 divided into teams captained by Descendant spouses Jerry Jurina (Desc 616-B) and John La Rocca (Desc 616-HQ). After dinner, magician Greg Hubbard entertained with audience participation. This was followed by a family game night using play money with past Midwest presidents' faces on the ones, fives, tens and twenties. An occasional counterfeit bill with a Descendant's face on it was also circulated. They could be redeemed for a "genuine" twenty. After dinner Saturday, a silent auction was held, using up the play money from the day before.

One smaller company in the 85th was well represented, HQ, 2nd Bn. including Jacob Pollack (IL and FL), Harry Gianneschi (FL and KY), Frank Chuk (OR) and Ken Hanson (KY). Chaplain Gerald Lundby (86-L,M) conducted a brief worship service on Sunday morning followed by a buffet breakfast. Descendants made most of the arrangements for this meeting; in particular, John and Patty La Rocca led the effort, assisted by Carl (Desc 87-MED-D) and Lynn Nawrot, Jerry and Diane Jurina and Janice Fuglsang (Desc 126-A).

The 2009 reunion will be in the same place Sept. 30-Oct 4.

## NORTHWEST

*Frank Chuk (85-Med-2)*

The summer picnic was held at Harvey Wiepricht's (86-F) beautiful place on the Sandy River outside of Troutdale, OR, Sunday, July 13th. This is our biggest gathering of the year, with 88 in attendance. Karl Stingl (87-HQ-1) and Sunny came down from Washington and a gala affair was had by all.



*Northwest Chapter gathering at Timberline Lodge included, left, Harris Dusenberry, Darrell Tarter, Ralph Lafferty and Henry Lewis.*

*--Photo by Michael Myers*

A joint Northwest, Mt. Rainier Chapter luncheon was held Aug. 20 at Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood. A great, 20-buck gourmet meal and excellent entertainment by Gary Gast (86-HQ-1) on the violin and yodeling with John Skillern (86-A, SVC), Karl Stingl and Ralph Lafferty (86-HQ-2). A great time had by all 66 in attendance. Alice Wagstaff (86-C-W) had highest number of family with four.

Also there were Roy & Norma Swanson (616-A), recently relocating to Vancouver, WA, from Illinois where they have been members of the Midwest Chapter.

Mike Myers (Hon.) took many pictures, including a special one of 90-year-old regulars Hank Lewis (86-B), Harris Dusenberry (86-HQ-1, C), Ralph Lafferty and Darrell Tarter (85-A, 10 Recon, MTG). They rarely miss a monthly meeting or special event—how many other Chapters can claim that?

The Pick and Plant project continues, with plans for three trees to be located on Hwy. 26 in early Nov. Dedication of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Memorial Grove with its 62 trees will probably occur in 2009.

The Chapter contributed \$100 to help continue the fine work at Millwackie, OR, High School on Living History Day, to honor those who have served our country in the Armed Forces.

This writer attended a memorial service for Marine Sgt. Michah Richmond, whom I have known for many years. He had been deployed to Iraq and Djibouti and was a mountain warfare instructor at Camp Bridgeport, CA. Members of unit attending were well-acquainted with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div.

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

Never Stop Exploring, and Enjoy the Journey!



*Sierra Nevada Chapter at a Fall meeting, from left standing, Vincent Cangelo (87-HQ-3), Wilbur Vaughan (86-HQ-3), Hunt Paterson (87-HQ), Bob Bilek (87-G), Ken Stayton (87-L), Art Schimke (87-K), Clyde Carbonneau (87-K), Ted Harpainter (85-A), Ted Little (85-E), Bill Cullen (87-B), Lee Miller (87-MED-1). Front row, left, Gerry Cullinane (87-F), Bob Yank (85-K), Howdy Howard (87-I), Russ Chraska (86-A), Del Thurman (86-A) and Cruz Rios (87-K).*

## SIERRA NEVADA

*Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)*

The Sierra Nevada Chapter held its annual Fall luncheon on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club in Sacramento. Updates were given by Chapter President Val Rios (Desc. 87-K) regarding the 2009 *Sempre Italia* Return to Italy trip, along with other upcoming Chapter events.

Wilbur Vaughan (86-HQ-3) shared experiences of his recent trip to Torbole, Italy. (See Descendants section, page 1.)

The meeting included a heartfelt singing of "90 Pounds of Rucksack." The next meeting is scheduled for February in Monterey.



Lower Michigan Chapter picnic included, left, James Baese (10-MED-C), Fred Miner Jr. (10-HQ), Floyd Erickson (87-H), Stanley Melanowski (86-A), Howard Wohlschied (85-L), Harold Lumm (85-L), Harrison Coleman (86-B), Bill Seaman (126-HQ), Harold Humble (604-HQ) and Howard Garland (87-E).

## LOWER MICHIGAN

### Howard Garland (87-E)

Our annual picnic was held in Portland, MI, at the home of Howard Wohlschied (85-L) on the banks of the Grand River, who, with his daughter and son and grandchildren was the host.

Those who attended were James V. Baese (10-MED-C), Fred Miner Jr. (10-HQ), Floyd Erickson (87-H), Stanley Milanowski (86-A), Howard Wohlschied, Harold Lumm (85-L), Harrison Coleman (86-B), Bill Seaman (126-HQ), Harold Humble (604-HQ), and Howard Garland. With spouses and children, 31 attended.

We have received a letter from Albert Meinke's (86-MED-3) son. Al is now in a nursing home and was 89 on Sept. 26. He would appreciate any cards or letters from 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. vets. His address is Grand Traverse Pavilions, Aspen - Room 115, 1000 Pavilion Circle, Traverse City, MI 49684.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### Hassell Vass (10-AT-A)

To kick off the summer, our annual Flag Day picnic sizzled with steak, sociability and splashing in the swimming pool at Arnold Holeywell's (86-HQ) beautiful farm in the rolling horse country outside the Capital. Three generations of 10th Mtn. families from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. flipped for grillmaster extraordinaire Al Nencioni (85-I) and everything he flipped on the grill, as well as culinary specialties mustered by the finest East Coast 10th Mtn. kitchens.

To close out the summer, the chapter gathered dockside on the Chesapeake Bay with recuperating soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). The hot, steaming crab cakes matched the hot, steaming weather in the quaint colonial town of St. Michaels, which is also capital of Eastern Shore sailing, and home to Elaine Magrath and Bill Magrath, brother of Medal of Honor winner John Magrath (85-G).

Post-luncheon, the Walter Reed crew joined Chapter members for an afternoon sail around the bay, before returning to the hospital. The 10th Mtn. invasion of St. Michaels was front page news for the regional newspaper, "The Easton Star," meriting a lengthy two-page article honoring the men and all things 10th past and present.

During a September visit to Walter Reed, Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) and descendant Pam Pikla (10-AT-A) gave a recovering 10th Mtn. soldier one of the handmade quilts from California Descendant Kathleen Finn Jones (85-L), her 2nd quilt in recent months in memory of her father, Frederick Finn. Thanks, Kathleen, and if any other quilters, knitters or crocheters can help make afghans or quilts for the wounded 10th soldiers, please contact Hassell Vass at (410) 335-2525. With winter coming up, they'll be especially appreciated.

## 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, Editor, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145  
email: [blizzarded@gmail.com](mailto:blizzarded@gmail.com)

## BIG SKY

### Suz Rittenhouse (Desc. 82-HQ-2)

The Chapter held its 2008 meeting in Great Falls, MT, Sept. 12-14th. As members entered the Townhouse Inn they were greeted with the 10th Mtn. Div. Climb to Glory flag brought by Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3). Arlene Priest (Friend) did her usual efficient job of registering attendees during the Friday afternoon social. After registering, people caught up with each other's busy lives including happy and sad events of the past year.

President Jerry Reed started the chapter meeting by welcoming members.

He announced that next year's meeting would be at the Coeur d'Alene Casino in Worley, ID. during the second week of September.

Larry Wilson, secretary/treasurer, distributed meeting notes from last year's meeting which were approved by the members and gave his report. After serving for 20 years, Arlene Priest resigned earlier in the year and Jerry appointed Larry to complete her term. He is stepping into very large shoes. The chapter voted that Arlene's registration fee be paid for as long as she continues to attend the annual meeting.

Suz Rittenhouse reported on the status of the Chapter's support for 10th Mtn. Div. troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. With turnover of units, a new platoon has been assigned. They are going to Iraq around the first of the year. It is hoped the new one will be more responsive than last year's. Suz has also been asked to work with Ft. Harrison to purchase a memorial bench at the fort to honor the 10th Mtn. Div.

Lloyd Black (87-I) from the Mount Rainier Chapter said their Chapter Descendants outnumber the veterans. They have several programs for members such as hikes. He asked how the Big Sky Chapter is doing. Suz asked for suggestions on how to increase the participation of Descendants in the Big Sky Chapter, because they are missing a wonderful opportunity to learn from our members. Larry suggested visiting the Denver library website for the Division.

People are reminded to send obituaries to Suz to be published in the Chapter newsletter and forwarded to the "Blizzard." In turn, she will put the Association website and catalogue address in the "Mini-Blizzard."

Larry spoke highly of the quartermaster, Frank Thornton, who responded quickly to Larry's order for the meeting. Larry said that he threatened sending Arlene to get the stuff, so maybe that helped!

Joanne Manchester (87-K [W]) would like to have local luncheons for members. John Cramer (87-HQ-2) suggested starting up the quarterly luncheon schedule again in the Mini-Blizzard. In February, Jerry and Joanne will set up the Mt. Belvedere Day celebration luncheon in Missoula for 2009.

Louise Durkin (85-HQ-3 [W]) brought albums that her late husband Jim Durkin put together of Division photos and memorabilia and a scrapbook she made of her late husband, Bud St. John's 10th Mountain experience for his children. She encouraged members to make their own. John Cramer will present the Chapter's plaque to the family of Orlo Johnson (87-HQ-2), who died this spring.

Later, the Saturday evening banquet was well attended. The caterer served a delicious buffet. Bob Coop (87-B) graciously said a prayer of thanks and remembrance. Earlier in the day, Jerry Reed had to return home to be with his family as his mother became gravely ill (she died Monday morning).

Larry Wilson presented 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Distinguished Service awards to Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3) and Bob Bagley (85-G). The Award honors those who actively served with the Division between 1941 and 1945 and have continued to make significant contributions to the National Association by distinguished leadership performances for the betterment and the expansion of our organization.

This years grand winners of the Division stadium blanket door prizes were Lexi Rausch (Desc 87-HQ-2/Dau), Anne Hauptman and James Ayres (604-HQ). Troopers finished the night by serenading attendees with a rousing rendition of "90 Pounds of Rucksack."



Distinguished Service Awards to (left) Charles M. Hauptman (85-HQ-3) & William R. Bagley (85-G) for years of support of 10th

## ARMADILLO

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

Unfortunately, our September reunion was cancelled with the prospect of Hurricane Ike making landfall near Corpus Christi where our weekend event was planned to occur after hard work and commitment from several Chapter members. We are planning another gathering Feb. 13-16, 2009, in honor of Mt. Belvedere Day. It will be held at the historic Stagecoach Inn in Salado, TX., which boasts a thriving artists' community with numerous shops of paintings, sculpture, and other artisan crafts. The village was founded at the Old Military Road crossing of Salado Creek on October 8, 1859, coincident with the founding of Salado College. Salado developed both as an industrial and agricultural center with a gristmill within the town limits and 7 other mills within 9 miles on Salado Creek. The Chisholm Trail came right up Main Street, and the stage lines that served Central Texas included Salado among their stops. The revitalization of Salado began in the 1940s as the fame of the dining room of Stagecoach Inn spread.

Activities for the weekend will include a tour of Ft. Hood in Killeen which is the largest U.S. Army post in the world. This 340-square mile installation (217,337 acres) is the only post in the U.S. capable of stationing and training two armored divisions. The rolling, semiarid terrain is ideal for multifaceted training and testing of military units and individuals. In addition to the 1st Cav. Div. and 4th Inf. Div., Ft. Hood is also residence for HQ Comd. III Corps, 3rd Armd. Cav. Regt., 13th Sustainment Comd. (Expeditionary), 21st CAV Brigade (Air Combat), 89th M.P. Bde., Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Army Operational Test Command (USAOTC), and various other units and tenant organizations.

Save the date of February 13-16, 2009, and look for an e-mail or letter with registration information in the near future. Other chapters are of course invited, so if you do not receive the registration information, please contact Phebe Davol at 512-917-0423 or by e-mail at Davol\_Phebe@bah.com.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Bruce K. Campbell (86-I, M)*

Oops! What happened to 2008? It's almost time again for our annual Christmas party on Dec. 13. Hopefully we'll have as many Vets and some additional Descendants this year as last.

Val Rios and his father Cruz (87-K) will be there and Val, as President of the Descendants, will bring us up to date on all their activities along with more details on the forthcoming trip to Italy in May, 2009.

All Chapters have a deadline of January, 2010, to have our Descendants and newer 10th Mtn. Div. vets take over the reins as officers. We are fortunate in Southern California to have the position of secretary fulfilled by Joyce Ibbitson, Kathy Loewy's daughter, and our new treasurer is Kathleen Jones (Desc 85-L, A). We are still attempting to find means of contacting some of the 150,000 retired members of the Division. Any success in this regard should be shared with the National Association and all Chapters.

Although they may not hold office or vote, Friends of the 10th add another dimension to our Chapter with their attendance and support at various functions. The Southern Cal Chapter currently has nine Friends with two more expected shortly. Of these, I'm proud to state that five are members of the Grindelwald Ski Club. Two are from Park City, UT, whom I met working on a promotional film. The father, Mark Stiege-meier, was some years ago well known in the skiing world, in Warren Miller films and, in 1974 was a freestyle world champion. His son Sean, producer and director of Fiction Pictures, was more recently on the Park City ski team, and two of his fellow team members were Olympic Gold Medalists.

Sempre Avanti!



## FORT DRUM

*Kent Bolke, Sue Jones*

"Off the Beatin' Path" is the creative name of an expanding gift shop on Ft. Drum which raises money to benefit soldiers and families. The shop was founded just over two years ago by two dedicated spouses, and chartered through the Chapter. Proceeds are donated to the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn., which in turn uses the money for Wounded Warrior projects and scholarships for children of soldiers killed in action.

Primarily a volunteer organization, the shop includes two managers (*Sue is one*) and six dedicated volunteers. It is located in the Heritage Center along with the Ft. Drum USO and Museum, Bldg. 10502 S. Riva Ridge Loop, and is open M-F from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. during the holiday shopping season.

Off the Beatin' Path Gifts carries a variety of 10th Mtn. Div. souvenirs, hand-crafted items and customizable gifts. Visitors to the post are welcome, and items may be ordered by phoning #315.774.0253, while plans are under way for a website in the future.



The Ft. Drum Chapter is making sure Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Brooke AMC and other facilities around the country know they're remembered by the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Volunteer/Intern Jennifer Rubik at the Ft. Drum Historical Collection puts finishing touches on display of items ranging from tear-away sweat suits to bathrobes, all packed in backpacks for carrying or hanging on walkers & wheelchairs. And everything's available at the "Off the Beatin' Path" gift shop right next door to the museum. The exhibit is the first step in a larger one focusing on wounded soldiers.



*Off the Beatin' Path Gifts*

## UPSTATE NEW YORK

*Bill Morrison (86-L)*

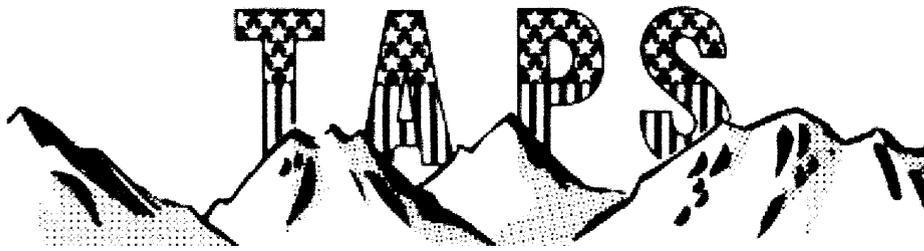
Because of the deployment of large segments of the 10th (LI) to foreign battle zones, the ceremonial activities at Ft. Drum and the Division have been greatly reduced. One exception this year has been the annual Whiteface Mountain observance which commemorates the formation of the Division in 1943, while paying tribute to soldiers past and present who have worn its shoulder patch.

Especially honored are those who have lost their lives in the never-ending quest for peace and security. In comments offered by Col. Valerie Jacocks, Association President Mike Plummer and Chapter President Bill Morrison, the audience was reminded of the successful missions of the 10th, but with the sobering realities of the costs in the lives of soldiers.

A moving highlight of the day is the roll call of soldier names, some able to respond with a crisp, "Here, Sergeant!" while other names go unanswered, soon to be followed by the date and place of death. In closing remarks, names of Chapter members who have died since our last ceremony were read. These include Russ Ricketson (85-E), Al Stoddard (86-HQ), Fred Vetter (86-MED 3), Joe Flory (85-B), Don Geurtze (616-A), Don Stuart (87-L), Don Hubbard (10-Recon) and most recently Ruso Perkins (87-I). Replacing Ruso as treasurer is Jill Hamlin, daughter of Norton Stanton (86-A, deceased). She will also serve as representative in the Descendants' council.

Once again the family of Bill Gallagher (86-E) took top honors with a turnout of 17! Others present were Bill (86-B, 90-HQ-1) & Ann Best, Bob (87-D) & Rose Dakin, Harold (85-L, 86-A) & Lorraine McAfee, Nate Morrell (10-MED-A, MTG), Bob Krause (87-G), Howard Sebald (605-A), Bill (605-A) & Beverly Millette, Phil (87-K) & Emmy Santasiero, Horton & Shirley Durfee (86-L), Norma Harter (86-E, 90-E/Wid), John (87-G) & Patricia Benson, Shirley (86-A, 126-B/Wid) & Gene Ernst-Hoose, Schuyler Alverson (85-A, 86-I), Bruno Baldaci (87-F), Otis (85-G) & Rosemary Lev-anway, Stan Heidenreich (86-G) & friend Deloris, Louis Vincent (86-F), Weir Stewart (86-F), Bernie (86-E) & Teresa Bola, and Dave Hanning (Assoc).

We note with great pride that our National Association President Mike Plummer was recently awarded the Maj. Gen. Anthony Drexel Biddle Award for his outstanding support of soldiers and their families (see story, Page 3).



**Bacher, Thomas J.** (87-C) September 18, 2008, Bellevue, WA. He is survived by his wife Michiko, a daughter, a son, and 4 grandchildren. Tom was born in Vienna, Austria, and spent his boyhood in Budapest, Hungary. He was Hungarian National Backstroke Champion and was training for the 1944 Olympics. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1940, and in 1944 was inducted, receiving his citizenship while in the service. During 35 years at Boeing, he held management positions including vice president. He served several terms as president of the Mt. Rainier Chapter, as well as in the National Association. He was an avid hunter, skier, angler, scuba diver, pilot, boater and world traveler.

**Beghtel, George H.** (616-C, HQ), March 1, 2008, Roanoke, IN. He is survived by his wife Frances, 3 stepdaughters, a stepson, 11 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren. He retired from W&W Gravel after 41 years of service. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church and American Legion Post 160 in Roanoke, and VFW Post 2689 in Huntington, IN.

**Bibb, Arthur Jr.** (Dental Corps, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div), October 27, 2008, Troy, NY. He is survived by 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. He practiced dentistry for 55 years, was on the staff of Samaritan Hospital, president of Troy Lions Club, a member of the Troy Salvation Army advisory board, Country Club, American Dental Assn. & Third Dist. Dental Society. He was also grand marshal of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Dental Fraternity, board member of Beechwood Retirement Community, and longtime member of Memorial and Hope United Methodist Churches.

**Bills, Robert C.** (86-B), March 31, 2008, Wills Point, TX. He is survived by his wife Joy, a son and a granddaughter. He skied his whole life, and participated in one of the Return to Italy journeys.

**Brown, William "Sarge"** (86-A, L, 10-QM), September 14, 2008, Grand Junction, CO. He is survived by his wife Rouene. He served in World War II and the Korean War, leaving the Army in 1966. He is credited with introducing cutting-edge snowmaking, grooming and trail-cutting technologies as mountain manager at Vail Resorts from 1970-89. He was director of the Dartmouth College ROTC winter training program, given the Colorado Ski Country USA lifetime achievement award, Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, and inducted into the U.S. National

Ski Hall of Fame in 1990.

**Carl, George E.** (126-B), April 26, 2008, Camp Hill, PA. He is survived by his wife Helen, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 4 brothers, a sister and 2 in-laws. He worked for Agway, and was a member of Zion Stone Valley Church, American Legion Post #504, and founding and life member of Hickory Corners Fire Company.

**Carlberg, Charles "Bob" Sr.** (85-I), June 3, 2008, Duluth, MN. He is survived by his wife Rose, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, a brother, sister and many nieces and nephews. He was a sales representative for many companies during his career. He was instrumental in starting the first National Ski Patrol in Duluth and received his National Number and Distinguished Service award in 2003. He was an avid ski jumper, alpine skier and golfer, winning many local and national awards.

**Carlson, Alan V.** (110-SIG), May 8, 2008, Spokane, WA. He is survived by his wife Velda S., 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. With a degree as Professional Electrical Engineer, he worked for Avista Corp. as Spokane Division Manager. He spent 30 years on environmental issues pertaining to water quality of rivers, streams and lakes, and promoting good forest practices. He loved skiing, fly fishing and hunting, and was active in Boy Scouting.

**Conniff, James H.** (86-E), January 20, 2008, White River Junction, VT. He is survived by his son, a brother and a sister. He was predeceased by his wife Audrey Roberts.

**Conway, Francis "Frank" Harold** (86-E), October 24, 2008, Littleton, NH. He is survived by his wife Jannice Brown, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. After retiring from the Social Security Administration as District Manager, he participated in barbershop singers, and the couple traveled yearly to North Carolina and Maine, and enjoyed their growing family.

**Dupee, David** (86-K), September 28, 2008, Strafford, NH. He is survived by his wife Leslie H, 3 sons, a daughter and 4 grandchildren. He worked with the conservation office of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was president of the New England Chapter, was a

member of the performing, Pando Commandos at winter ski-ins, and worked for approval of a memorial plaque for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. on Mount Washington.

**Frauson, Robert "Bob" N.** (86-A), June 20, 2008, Kalispell, MT. He is survived by his wife Ann and 2 daughters. He had a career as a national park ranger in several parks in the West, retiring as District Ranger from Glacier National Park, Montana. He was skilled in mountain climbing, search and rescue, skiing, EMS and wildlife management, and in retirement enjoyed skiing, hiking, gardening and volunteering for the disabled ski program, touching the lives of many.

**Giorgio, Phil** (85-D, B), Jan. 25, 2008, Brewster, NY. He is survived by his wife Margaret, 6 children, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

**Harris, Robert J.** (85-MED-3) August 31, 2008, Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife Madeline, 2 daughters, a son, 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His love affair with skiing began as a teenager. He served as a medic in Italy, receiving many letters of commendation for valor in rescuing the wounded under fire. He was a ski instructor and avid member of the Mountaineer's Club, and taught his children and grandchildren to ski, as well as nephews and kids in the neighborhood. He was a longtime board member of the Mt. Rainier Chapter.

**Hartry, Theodore (Ted) G.** (87-K), June 12, 2008, Cambridge, MA. He is survived by his wife Bertha "Bert" B., 4 daughters, 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. An officer in the U.S. Foreign Service for 22 years; he was also director of the Boston and Munich offices of the International Rescue Committee for two decades. He served on the Board of Zoning Appeal for Cambridge and was a member of the non-profit, Harvard Square Defense Fund.

**Hatchman, Raymond** (87-K), December 23, 2007, Edison, NJ. He is survived by 2 sons and a daughter. He is remembered for throwing rocks at the Germans when he ran out of hand grenades.

**Hunt, Charles Darby** (86-C, SVC), October 10, 2008, Greenville, SC. He is survived by his wife Jewell Barton and one brother. He worked as a textile designer in the mills of South Carolina until retirement. The couple were members of Berea Friendship United Methodist Church. He made many trips to Ft. Benning, GA, at the time that the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. (LI) was reactivated, sharing earlier stories with young soldiers. He served as Association art director, most recently designing the pin of the Denver 2007 Reunion, and had received the Distinguished Service Award.

**Huntley, Dennis R.** (87-F, MTG),

Sept. 20, 2008, Anacortes, WA. He is survived by his wife Sandy J., one son, 2 granddaughters, a sister and brother, and was preceded in death by sons Aaron and Rory. He trained under chief guide Clark Schurman in 1942, and taught winter survival in upper Michigan and returned to Camp Hale for the D series. When he was wounded, he went AWOL from the hospital to rejoin his company, saying if he had to fight it was going to be with the guys he knew; he later lost his leg in a mine field in Italy. He spent most of his life in the Seattle area, working many years for Todd Shipyard and Foss Tugs. Along with his wife Jean and two other couples he started Northwest Center for disabled children and adults. He and his wife Sandy moved from Mill Creek to Anacortes in 2004

**Kennedy, Edward L.** (86-I), August 18, 2008, Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife Mildred.

**Kennerly, Dan L.** (85-D), July 30, 2008, Sautee-Nacoochee, GA. He is survived by his wife Ruth. After playing in the 1943 Rose Bowl for the Georgia Bulldogs, he became an educator and football coach, and was coordinator of athletics for the Atlanta High School System. He served as President and Vice President of the Southeast Chapter, National treasurer, and is remembered as a skillful storyteller, with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division a favorite topic.

**Kohler, Conrad L.** (87-E), December 16, 2007, Shrewsbury, MA. He is survived by his wife Elena and several cousins.

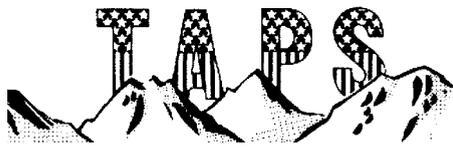
**Krumm, Robert R.** (86-B, C, -HQ), October 6, 2008, Lake Wales, FL. He was predeceased by his wife Janet Lang, and is survived by his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter. His battalion made a successful attack against Riva Ridge in Feb., 1945. He spent 35 years with the investment banking firm of W.H. Morton & Co., retiring as President. He was director, Summit Bank Corp. and Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway Co., trustee of Overlook Hospital, Summit, NJ, and on the board of Overseers of Dartmouth Medical School, and was an active golfer.

**La Liberty, Joseph** (87-F), May 23, 2008, Leominster, MA. He is survived by his wife Lydia E.

**Liss, Russel** (87-C, G), May, 2008, Smithtown, NY. He is survived by his wife Louise and a son. He served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. at Ft. Lewis, Camps Hale & Swift, and Kiska.

**Lydiard, Harry** (86-K) December 1, 2007, Port Angeles, WA. He is survived by 2 sons, a daughter, sister, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was a veterinarian, civic leader and former Clallam County Commissioner.

(Continued on next page.)



(From Page 14)

**Merritt, James C.** (87-I) May 1, 2008, Anacortes, WA. He is survived by his wife Marjorie, a son, and 2 daughters. He was a graduate of Oregon State College (now University) with a B.S. degree in forestry. An Army Reservist, he was recalled as an Infantry officer in the Korean Conflict. He later worked as a U. S. Forest Service Ranger until retirement. He volunteered at the Mt. Baker Ski Area Ski Patrol and was an enthusiastic skier in his senior years, participating in the Mt. Rainier and Northwest Chapter Ski-Ins at Snoqualmie Pass, Mt. Bachelor and Mission Ridge in the 1990's.

**Mjaatvedt, Frank** (86-A), March 16, 2008, Ogden, UT. He is survived by a son, a daughter, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He was owner of Little Norway Picture Studio for over 30 years, where he specialized in wedding and sports photography. His collection included over 1,000 pictures of WWII that he had taken.

**Naumoff, Norman A.** (85-SVC), August 24, 2008, Redford, MI. He was predeceased by his wife Anita, but is survived by 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He owned and operated a family restaurant with his wife for 19 years, and retired from a catering company. He enjoyed gardening, cooking and especially bowling.

**Salemi, Salvatore "Sally" J.** (10-HQ), Sept. 17, 2008, Woodside, NY. He is survived by his wife Liberty, two sons, six in-laws, 11 nieces and nephews and 9 grand-nieces and nephews. He served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div. in North Africa, Sicily, Southern France and Germany as well as IPW (interrogator of prisoners of war) with 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. in Italy. He began working at 12 and continued after the war, for 65 years as owner and operator of fruit and produce stores in the Woodside and Astoria area. He was past commander of American Legion Post #1786.

**Singer, Bruno** (85-H), September 13, 2008, Glen Cove, NY. He is survived by 3 sons and a stepson, 6 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Born in Milano, Italy, he first served in the French Foreign Legion, later escaped France for the U.S. where he joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, eventually helping liberate his mother, brother and sister. He joined the family firm of Frederick Singer & Sons, manu-

facturing religious articles. He was a skier, tennis and squash player, runner and golfer, and was generous to many charities and other organizations.

**Stinsa, Ernest E.** (10<sup>th</sup> Inf., 85-C), December 19, 2007, Wayne, IL. He is survived by his wife Shirley J.

**Utgaard, Delbert D.** (85-C), June 25, 2008, Aurora, CO. He was predeceased by his wife Marion, but is survived by many cousins. His career with Standard Oil Co. took the couple to many cities in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; in 1961 he was transferred to Sydney, Australia, starting an oil company for Amoco and serving as branch manager in New South Wales. Following retirement the couple lived in Florida, Colorado and Arizona and enjoyed traveling. He was an active member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Foundation Board of Directors from 1992 until shortly before his death.

As noted in Edition 2, 2008, Albert Fernandes Partridge (86-A) died March 16, 2008, in Port Charlotte, FL. "Blizzard" regrets the misspelling of his name earlier, but knows he will continue to be remembered by friends and comrades for his many years of service to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Assn.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) Operation Iraqi Freedom: July-October 2008

**May, PFC Patrick Wiggs**, 22, (Special Troops Bn.), September 2, 2008, Baghdad. He is survived by his parents George II and Olga May, Holland-Patent, NY, and Rieca & Gary Littrell, Sulphur Springs, TX, 3 sisters and a brother-in-law, 3 grandparents, nieces and a nephew. A native of Savannah, GA, he joined the Army in 2006, completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, and advanced individual training at Ft. Haachuca, AZ. He deployed to Iraq in July, 2008, and served as intelligence analyst.

**Taylor, SSGT Matthew J.**, 25 (A Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 30<sup>th</sup> Inf Rgt), September 21, 2008, Baghdad. He is survived by his wife Randi, 2 daughters, his parents, sister, grandparents, and aunt, uncles and cousins. Born in Charleston, SC, he joined the Army the day after the 9/11 attacks, completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA, and became a member of what would become part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bde Combat Team (BCT) at Ft. Polk, LA. He had already served two tours in Afghanistan and was serving in Iraq when he was killed by small arms fire while on patrol.



#### To the Editor:

Page 5 of the Blizzard, Edition #2, 2008, brought back a lot of memories.

I was an undistinguished contestant in both the Mangart and Gros Glockner races—absolutely no threat to the likes of Walt Prager, Steve Knowlton, Dev Jennings, Sig Engl and many others. The Mangart course started at the top of a big bowl, no control gates, leading to the narrow entrance of a steep steilhung. Walt was asked what his line would be. He said, "Just follow the trail of little brown biscuits." (Later, as Dartmouth ski coach, he taught me a lot about racing—including the joy of it—but I never could challenge the best.)

The article on mules evoked memories, too. I was with 85<sup>th</sup> HQ. Shortly after arriv-

ing at (Camp) Swift, a call went out for volunteers to help unload a trainload of large mules that had been in pasture for a year. I had worked with horses, the duty sounded better than KP, so I stepped up.

In preparation, we set a bunch of rope "corrals" and were taught how to use a nose twitch. The mules arrived, came storming exuberantly from the train of box cars, joyously made mincemeat of the rope "corrals" and scattered widely. We rounded up most, but a lot got away and I suspect many Texas farmers did their plowing behind Army mules that fall. One indelible memory is of an experienced mule skinner, a very large man named, I think, Hendrix, who brought a mule to its knees with a solid blow to the bridge of the mule's nose.

Please keep up the fine work you are doing with the Blizzard; I look forward to every issue.

Jay Larmon (85-HQ)

## FOUNDATION NEWS

(Continued from Page 16)

director for many years under contract with the National Ski Patrol is now a TMDF employee in the same position.

The Board reluctantly accepted the resignations of: Tom Hames, Kate Raabe, Richard Spotts, Jim Bratsky, and Janice Fuglsang. Gratitude for their years of dedicated service to the TMDF was unanimous. Executive Committee appointees are: Earl Clark (Chairman), Gary Burton (President), Steve Wilmot (Vice President), Tommy Thompson (Treasurer), and Jen Neville (Secretary).

Assets are about \$2.26 million as of June 30, 2008, down approximately \$200,000. The National Association gifted the TMDF \$180,000 to create annual income to support the \$15,000 annual pledge to the Resource Center.

Income to support our operations for the 2009 budget year was estimated at approximately \$88,000. An amount of \$11,000 was available to fund special projects.

Ongoing scholarship support will be continued for 17 students at \$1,000 each for the upcoming academic year. Daniel Schindel was selected for the four-year \$1,500 annual Boddington scholarship. Four new \$1,000 annual scholarships were awarded to: Benjamin Boudreau, Anna Christie, Steven Gibbs, and Katherine Jones.

Scholarship materials and applications are available from the TMDF Office or the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Assn. Website under "Foundation." A merit scholarship is also offered by the descendant organization. Information is on the descendant website.

A proposed revision to the scholarship program to include great grandchildren was tabled due to financial unfeasibility, untimely change, and inconsistency with the "Your Foundation is Forever" document. Three of thirteen proposed projects were approved for funding in 2009. They are: 1) Database retrieval of 10<sup>th</sup> Bronze

Star records from the National Archives (\$3,500); 2) The Disabled Veterans Winter and Mountain Sports Clinics in Memory of Richard M. Wilson to assist wounded warriors attending clinics nationwide (\$10,000); and 3) funding a representative of the Resource Center to gather historic information during the 2009 Return to Italy trip (\$4,500). A \$5,000 grant will fund the Scholarship Program for the families of 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. (LI) soldiers Killed in Action.

If you have a worthy project that fits within the mission of the TMDF that you would like the Board to consider, the grant application instructions and materials are provided on the TMDF website.

A New Board Member Information Packet will be evaluated for adoption by the Executive Committee. A draft assessment of the future composition of the Board was referred to the Governance Committee for consideration of Board actions for next year. Flint Whitlock is chairing a Communications Committee to provide TMDF information and feedback to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Community.

Funding was approved for a new snow blower for maintenance of the Memorial site at Tennessee Pass. A commitment was made to work with the Forest Service to update visitor brochure information and to repair interpretive signs at Camp Hale.

The budget for 2009 was approved and will be available for distribution. Minutes will be made available from the Foundation office by mail, e-mail or telephone. The Foundation Mission Statement is at the website.

As always, please remember the Foundation and the Resource Center for your monetary and memorabilia donations; unrestricted donations are the most useful.

Your Foundation is here to perpetuate the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div. Legacy and wisely use the investment our veterans worked so hard and sacrificed so much to create.

**VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE**

[www.10thmtndivassoc.org](http://www.10thmtndivassoc.org)

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION, INC.

Mailing Address:  
133 South Van Gordon Street  
Suite 200  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Tel: (303) 756-8486  
e-mail: tenthmtfnfdn@nsp.org

Earl E. Clark, *Chairman of the Board*  
Gary Burton, *President*  
Steve Wilmot, *Executive Vice President*  
Jennifer Neville, *Secretary*  
Thomas Thompson, *Treasurer*

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David Little	Val Rios, Descendants
Toni Newbill	President

### HONORARY BOARD:

Stuart Dodge  
Ralph Nanninga  
Frank Romano

### IN MEMORY OF

Memorial donations received with thanks from June 14 through Oct. 15, 2008.

**Thomas J. Bacher:** 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

**Edmund D. Bennett:** Nelson Bennett, Madi Kraus

**John M. Benson:** Donald H. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Royal Denson, Jr., Rosemary T. Sando, Eudora & William Schuler

**Kenneth W. Bergren:** Irene & John Tripp

**Henry Birk:** Irene & John Tripp

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**William "Sarge" Brown:** 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Rocky Mtn. Chapter, Irene & John Tripp

**Lynn Burton:** Irene & John Tripp

**George P. Cahill:** Irene & John Tripp

**George F. Carl:** Orville Tomky

**Betty Clark:** Irene & John Tripp

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**Ralph "Lefty" Cormier:** Irene & John Tripp

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**Bob Harris:** 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

**Donald J. Hubbard:** Robert L. Krause

**Betty R. Johnson:** Vickie & Ray Johnson  
**Orlo Johnson:** John Cramer, Vickie & Ray Johnson, Joanne Manchester

**Edward L. Kennedy:** 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter

**Dan L. Kennerly:** H. Newcomb Eldredge  
**Clarence E. "Bud" Kentz:** Irene & John Tripp

**Steve Knowlton:** Irene & John Tripp

**Leo J. Kohlman:** Donald K. Kobelin, Joanne Manchester

**Olley Kohlman:** Orville Tomky, Irene & John Tripp

**William Kohn III:** Robert Gormley

**Clyde Limage:** Irene & John Tripp

**Robert W. Manchester:** Irene & John Tripp

**Maurice Murphy:** H. Newcomb Eldredge, Vickie & Ray Johnson, Joanne Manchester, Gordon McWade, Kate Raabe, Roderic B. Vitty

**Fred A. Nagel:** Kate Raabe, Orville Tomky, Irene & John Tripp

**Raymond A. Paquin:** Irene & John Tripp

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**Delbert Utgaard:** Joseph Berry

**Clairl C. Wayman:** Irene & John Tripp

**Richard M. Wilson:** Irene & John Tripp

**John Yanakakis:** Irene & John Tripp

## FOUNDATION NEWS – A YEAR OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

### Gary Burton (Desc. 87-L)

Your Tenth Mountain Division Foundation (TMDF) Board of Directors works throughout the year to achieve the goals of "Your Foundation Is Forever."

The Board met during July in Littleton, CO. A tri-organizational meeting of the TMDF Board, the National Board, and the Descendant Board will be considered at a later date. The three Presidents have met three times this year to discuss our relationships and joint future.

Ms. Frankie Barr, our administrative

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MSG STEVE OPET - BASED ON A CARTOON BY THE LATE BILL MAULDIN. (WWII)

## FIND THE HUMOR

In every war, there is someone who seeks to help others by finding the humor in what is going on around them. In WWII it was Sgt. Bill Mauldin. Now it is MSgt. Stephen J. Opet who is one of those talented people who combines artistic skills with a sense of the ridiculous. His work appears almost-daily in "The Mountain View" published online in Baghdad, where Opet is Ops/Training NCO for the 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Det. assigned to the command party under MG Michael Oates of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. Div.



When he's not in Iraq, Opet is an active duty Reserve soldier stationed in Coraopolis, PA, outside of Pittsburgh. He is retired from Weirton Steel, where he worked as turn foreman and planner in the Primary Dept. for 24 years.

He tells "Blizzard" he has been drawing since a child, is a free-lance artist and appears in shows; his story and works can also be found online at [www.steveopet.com](http://www.steveopet.com).

We think this introduction to Steve's work is a natural for 10th Mtn. Div. vets of all ages - what do you think?

National Association of the  
10th Mountain Division, Inc.  
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