

# The CUB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR

*The Veterans of the  
106th INFANTRY  
DIVISION*

*of the*

## GOLDEN LION

Vol. 77 – No. 2

April – July 2021

## Join Us for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Reunion



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***Make your plans NOW!***

for the 106th Infantry Division  
Association's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

at the

**Hilton Airport Hotel in  
Kansas City, MO**

**September 8–12, 2021**

For up-to-date and additional information about the reunion, please visit:

***106thInfDivAssn.org***

To register, visit:

***afr-reg.com/106inf2021***

*For the cover story, see page 18.*

# The CUB

A tri-annual publication of the 106th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

**Total Membership as of May 31, 2021 – 933**

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

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Randall M. Wood (Associate member)  
810 Cramertown Loop,  
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[woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net)  
765-346-0690

### Memorial Chair:

Dr. John G. Robb (422/D)  
238 Devore Dr., Meadville, PA 16355  
[jrobb238@hotmail.com](mailto:jrobb238@hotmail.com)  
814-333-6364

### Chaplain:

Pastor Chris Edmonds  
206 Candora Rd., Maryville, TN 37804  
[cwedmonds10@gmail.com](mailto:cwedmonds10@gmail.com)  
865-599-6636

## Business Matters, Deaths, Address changes to:

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Jacquelyn Coy  
121 McGregor Ave.,  
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856  
[membership@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:membership@106thInfDivAssn.org)  
973-663-2410

### 106th ID Assn's Belgium Liaison:

Carl Wouters  
Waterkant 17 Bus 32, B-2840 Terhagen, Belgium  
[carl\\_wouters@hotmail.com](mailto:carl_wouters@hotmail.com)  
cell: +(32) 47 924 7789

## Donations, checks to:

### Treasurer:

Mike Sheaner  
PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214  
[sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net)  
214-823-3004

### 106th Assoc. Website Webmaster:

Wayne G. Dunn  
85 Little Riverview Dr., Reedville, VA 22539  
[Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org)  
410-409-1141

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**CUB Editor:**

Lisa M. Dunn

85 Little Riverview Dr., Reedville, VA 22539

*CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org*

443-604-1599

**CUB Publisher:**

Susan Weiss (father: 423/HQ 3Bn)

9 Cypress Point Ct., Blackwood, NJ 08012

*CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org*

609-820-8794 (new phone number!)

***Board of Directors*** (all positions held through 2021)

**Jacquelyn Coy, *Membership*** (Associate member) 973-663-2410  
 121 McGregor Ave., Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 *jsc164@aol.com*

**Lisa M. Dunn** (Associate member) (father-in-law: 424/HQ 3Bn) 443-604-1599  
 85 Little Riverview Drive, Reedville, VA 22539 *CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org*

**Wayne G. Dunn** (Associate member) (father: 424/HQ 3Bn) [*Past President*] 410-409-1141  
 85 Little Riverview Drive, Reedville, VA 22539 *Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org*

**Henry LeClair** (Associate member) (father: 422/G) 603-401-3723  
 209 Range Road, Windham, NH 03087 *henryleclair13@gmail.com*

**Bob Pope (590/FABN)** 716-580-3118  
 6363 Transit Rd., Apt #133, East Amherst, NY 14051 *bobepope606@gmail.com*

**Herbert "Mike" Sheaner (422/G)** [*Past President*] 214-823-3003  
 PO Box 140535, Dallas, Texas 75214 *herbsheaner@SBCGlobal.net*

**Mike Sheaner, *Treasurer*** (Associate member) (father: 422/G) 214-823-3004  
 PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214 *sheaner1@airmail.net*

**Kathy Spinella**, (Associate member) (grandfather: 423/L) 305-562-4381  
 1991 Carolina Avenue NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703 *pspin142@aol.com*

**David Smith** (Associate member) (father: 423/B) 225-573-8521  
 17922 Monitor Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70817 *dbsmith110@gmail.com*

**Susan Weiss**, (Associate member) (father: 423/HQ 3Bn) 609-820-8794  
 9 Cypress Point Court, Blackwood, NJ 08012-5595 *susanweiss@comcast.net*

**Brian Welke** (Associate member) [*Past President*] 352-408-5671  
 1821 Morris Street, Eustis, FL 32726-6401 *brian423rd@gmail.com*

**Janet Wood** (Associate member) (father: 423/I) 205-910-0542  
 2704 S. Pinehurst Dr., Bloomington, Indiana 47403 *KipKai2000@yahoo.com*

**Randall M. Wood** (Associate member) (father: 423/I) [*Past President*] 765-346-0690  
 810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151 *woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net*

## Editor's Message . . .

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I continue to be amazed at the resiliency of the human spirit. Those of you reading this edition of *The CUB* have lived through a world-wide pandemic. There was much suffering and my heart goes out to every family who lost someone to this awful virus. Now, with more than 50 percent of our population vaccinated, we feel as if we're coming out the other side of a very long, very dark tunnel. For me, it felt great to hug family and friends again! Of course, we still must maintain vigilance and practice safety measures, but we see the light!

I feel especially blessed to be able to contribute in some small way to bring news from other veterans and from our membership to you. One thing that became very apparent to me this past year is how much we all need to stay in communication and to feel connected. With this edition of *The CUB*, our biggest hope, and message, is that you will continue to feel connected. Not only by the stories you read, or the information that you may be able to provide to a family member looking for answers about their loved-ones, but, if you're able, by attending the upcoming reunion scheduled to be held

at the Kansas City Hilton, September 8–12, 2021. If you haven't done so yet, fill out the registration packet, choose from the many fun and interesting activities listed, and join with other 106th veterans, family members, and friends to connect in person. As Randy Wood, our adjutant, said in his message, if you are a veteran who cannot travel, please consider having a family member represent you. There is much camaraderie at the reunions providing an experience that will stay with you and can help buoy you through rough times. It also provides an opportunity for us to remember and pay homage to those we have lost, during the war and after, and to be reflective about why their sacrifices are so meaningful.

As we approach a new Independence Day, I not only think of my dad, who was born on July 4, 1933, and was a proud Marine until the day he died, but of all of those who have helped to maintain our nation's freedoms. Thank you, Chris Edmonds, for your message in this edition, put so eloquently, to remind us of that. I hope you all will be able to spend time with family and friends as you celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*  
[CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)

***Make your plans NOW!!***  
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Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO  
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[afr-reg.com/106inf2021](http://afr-reg.com/106inf2021)**

## Editor's Message . . .

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### Just a reminder . . .

If you have pictures, an article, or some other form of information you would like included in a future issue of *The CUB*, the due dates are as follows:

**October 1, 2021** — mail date November 30, 2021 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

**January 31, 2022** — mail date March 30, 2022 (issue may include reunion paperwork)

**May 1, 2022** — mail date mid-July, 2022 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

### Articles and pictures can be mailed or emailed to:

**CUB Editor:** Lisa Dunn  
85 Little Riverview Drive,  
Reedville, VA 22539  
443-604-1599  
[CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)

**CUB Publisher:** Susan Weiss  
9 Cypress Point Court  
Blackwood, NJ 08012  
609-820-8794 (*please leave a message*)  
[CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org)

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### Visit the 106th Association's Website!

By *Wayne Dunn*

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including websites from our own members, Jim West ([IndianaMilitary.org](http://IndianaMilitary.org)) and Carl Wouters ([106thinfantry.webs.com](http://106thinfantry.webs.com)), the Association has launched its own website at [106thInfDivAssn.org](http://106thInfDivAssn.org).

This is where you will find information on upcoming events, copies of the membership application for your family to join, the complete latest issue of *The CUB in color*, plus additional plus additional photos not seen in hard copy.

Also look for our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn](https://Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn). You will find up-to-the-minute information here and its where you can connect with friends and make plans for the next reunion.

If you have any additional reunion photos or information that you would like to see on the website or Facebook page, please contact the Webmaster, Wayne Dunn at [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org) or 410-409-1141.

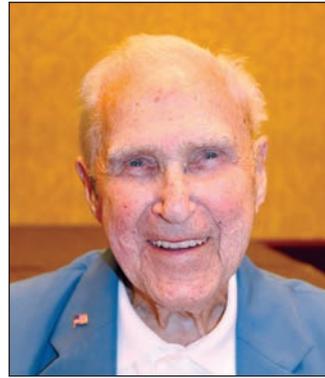
The 106th Infantry Division Association also now has an Instagram page! You can get to it at the URL: [www.instagram.com/106th\\_infantry\\_division\\_assoc/](https://www.instagram.com/106th_infantry_division_assoc/). The Instagram account name is simply *106th\_infantry\_division\_assoc*. Use that to search for it on your phone or other electronic device — iPad, tablet, laptop or computer. The idea is to preserve memories of the 106th veterans virtually forever. Enjoy.

## President's View . . .

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YOU NEVER CAN TELL... You never can tell what the weather will be like tomorrow, the day after or next week. You never can tell, for sure, how you will feel tomorrow, the day after or next week. With the weather you never can tell because of environmental influence like lakes, rivers, oceans or mountains. With health you never can tell for sure because of influences such as age, illnesses, not enough or too much sleep, aches and pains. The weather and our age can both affect how we feel.

“Exercise and a positive attitude are keys to a vet’s long life” were the words headlining a story in the local paper. “Robert Pope, 97, survived encephalitis four decades ago, prostate cancer during the last decade and Covid-19 over the winter. He also has diabetes, congestive heart failure and COPD. His secret to success is exercise and a positive



**Bob Pope (590/FABN)**

106th Infantry Division Association  
President 2019–2020  
6363 Transit Rd., Apt #133  
East Amherst, NY 14051  
716-580-3118  
[bobepope606@gmail.com](mailto:bobepope606@gmail.com)

attitude.” This story resulted from research on the influence of exercise on the development of the brain and the body conducted by Rutgers University. It kind of explains why I need an aide (which I don’t have at this writing) when I travel. I’ll be at the reunion in spirit if not in body. It’s still 3 months away. You never can tell!



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***106thInfDivAssn.org***

## Chaplain's Message . . .

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*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.*

1 Peter 2:16

There's nothing better than freedom. That's what my father Roddie Edmonds said. I've never forgotten it. He should know. As a 19-year-old kid, he skipped college, joined the Army, advanced to Master Sergeant, trained for war, landed in the Ardennes with the 106th Infantry, took the fight to Hitler, and barely missed several appointments with death. Millions of other brave American boys we call dad or granddad did the same.

My father made his decision to enlist several months before Pearl Harbor. During his years at Knoxville High School he served in the Junior ROTC program. He enjoyed being a soldier and was good at it. He also felt the bitter winds of war that threatened his freedom and love of country.

On September 2, 1940, six months before my father enlisted in the Army, thousands of cheering admirers jammed "flag-draped Gay Street" in dad's home town of Knoxville, Tennessee to see President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) and Mrs. Roosevelt pass through the city on their way to dedicate the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Boy Scouts kept excited pedestrians off the Gay Street Bridge while a few industrious kids hawked the Stars and Stripes: "Everyone needs a flag! Only five cents! Republicans and Democrats!" My father, a recent high school graduate working downtown as a clerk, joined the crowd as the presidential motorcade passed.



**Pastor Chris Edmonds**

206 Candora Road  
Maryville, TN 37804  
865-599-6636

[cwedmonds10@gmail.com](mailto:cwedmonds10@gmail.com)

Only hours before the president arrived, two Royal Navy destroyers had been sunk by Nazi U-boats in the North Sea, and the Luftwaffe had sent more than two hundred bombers and fighters to pummel London and other English cities.

During the dedication ceremony at Newfound Gap, a mile high on the Tennessee–North Carolina state line, President Roosevelt offered this dire warning: "The greatest attack that has ever been launched against individual freedom is nearer the Americas than ever before. If we are to survive, we cannot be soft. Squirrel rifles are no longer adequate to defend the nation. We must prepare in a thousand ways." And prepare they did.

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## *Chaplain's Message . . .*

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Then came the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 that killed more than 2,400 Americans and roused a sleeping giant. Across the nation young men — driven by outrage, anger, and love of country — rushed to enlist in the army, navy, and marines. They signed up to fight in Europe and the Pacific. College students delayed their degrees, recent grads left their jobs, and kids in high school, too young to serve, lied about their age at recruitment centers. Even veterans of the First World War and old men who had never served in the military were ready to go fight. Within days, the ranks of the military swelled by tens of thousands. Total strangers from every city and village, holler and hillside, bonded as one to fight for a singular purpose: preserve freedom.

They fought not from force but because they should. Serving as an American soldier was the right thing to do. It still is. Driven by love of country, family, and freedom, our WWII warriors gladly defended America. It was their duty. Saving the world was their honor. Stopping tyranny was their mission. They risked all because freedom was worth it. They did it gladly and they did it well.

What would make my young father and millions like him join the military and go to war to serve their country?

It was because of their duty, honor, goodness, and their love for freedom in America. The freedom they secured was not free. Far too many of our heroes never came home. They gave their all for all we have. Their devotion is holy — the Lord's favor is eternal — our debt of love is boundless — our freedom priceless and precious.

Freedom is still priceless today. The First Amendment to our U.S. Constitution guarantees five precious freedoms. It protects speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government. These five freedoms make us the freest and most blessed people in the world.

FDR said, "In all of the far-flung operations of our Armed Forces, the toughest job has been performed by the average, easy-going, hard-fighting young American who carries the weight of battle on his own young shoulders. It is to him that we and all future generations must pay grateful tribute."

As we celebrate America in 2021, let us remember and love our average, easy going, hard fighting, and freedom loving heroes from World War II. And may we as a grateful generation, secure the path of freedom forged by the greatest generation with our own measure of duty, honor, goodness, and love of country. There's nothing better than freedom.

## The Adjutant's Message . . .

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IT'S A GO! The majority of the board of directors met a few days ago to discuss the 2021 reunion to be held at the Kansas City Hilton by the airport September 8–12, 2021. Everything seemed to be falling into place well enough to say, the reunion is expected to take place as it had been planned two years ago. The Hilton hotel has assured us that every precaution will be taken to maintain a safe environment. Our meeting rooms and our Hospitality Room will be of sufficient space to allow for proper social distancing. It is not too early to make your hotel reservation and complete the reunion registration.

The reunion begins on Wednesday, September 8, with a Kansas City tour. You may sign up for the tour on your registration form. Later that day, there will be a board meeting from 5 until 6 pm followed by a Meet-and-Greet Mixer in our hospitality room for all 106th and 104th attendees. There will be light snacks and beverages available.

Thursday, September 9, starts with a complimentary breakfast followed by two activities from which you can choose. First, there will be a tour to the Steamboat Arabia Museum from 9:30 am to early afternoon. Then, that evening, there is a Dinner Theater scheduled. You may choose either or both activities, and you register and pay for them with the Reunion Registration form. View the full details later in *The CUB* magazine, ([page 21](#)).

Friday, September 10, starts with breakfast and then a tour to the WW1 Memorial Museum. All 106th attendees are invited and encouraged to attend



**Randall M. Wood** (Associate member)  
810 Cramertown Loop  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
765-346-0690  
[woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net)

this tour. This tour is included with your registration packet, at no extra charge. It is a very good tour starting at 9:30 am and ending approximately 2:30 pm. Lunch is on your own. That evening, the ever popular Beer Bust organized by the 104th Infantry Division is planned. All 106th Infantry Division attendees are invited to participate. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. The most fun is had by participating in the 104th raffle of various items and the silent auction of items which are mostly provided by 106th attendees. If you have an artistic talent or you have a gift that you think would be of value to others, please consider donating it to 106th silent auction. All funds raised from the respective bids will go to the treasury of that association group. Our

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## ***The Adjutant's Message . . .***

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proceeds will go to the 106th treasury to support the perpetuation of our *CUB* Magazine as well as the Association. *The CUB* is our most important form of communication. In many ways it is the glue that holds our association together. There are no fees to receive *The CUB* either online or in print. Please consider a donation to ensure its existence.

Saturday, September 11, is a big day. After the complimentary breakfast, we will have our Memorial service where all veterans of the 106th are honored. Our Chaplain, Chris Edmonds, will present a moving Memorial message. The banquet will follow that evening. We will be having our own banquet and the 104th will have their banquet separately. There will be a cash bar before the meal. Our program will include a message from our current president of two years, Bob Pope (590 FABN). We will also honor the recipient(s) of the Golden Lion. This will be followed by an introduction of our incoming president. We will have introductions of first-time attendees.

The last reunion day will be Sunday, September 12. In the morning, we will share our last complimentary breakfast and the friendship of all the attendees, wishing all a safe trip home.

While the 2020 virtual event provided a great solution to the problem of not meeting in person, we hope we never again have to have a virtual reunion and memorial service. The efforts of the board, and most definitely the efforts of Carl and Sofie Wouters, for putting together the 2020 Virtual Memorial Service are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all the 106th

veterans and their descendants for participating in the service. It was a great effort, and you did wonderfully. The service has been viewed by people from all over the United States as well as the world. The best part is that it is still available to view by anyone who is interested and will be for generations to come. Just go to our website to find the You Tube link.

Now we are so excited to have this reunion to see you and speak with you in person!

### ***This message is to the younger generations of our veterans of the 106th Infantry Division:***

If you have never attended one of our reunions, please consider doing so *NOW*. If your veteran can attend, make every effort to see that he gets there. If you have lost your veteran, or he is unable to attend, then come yourself and bring all of your interested family members. A day at the reunion with the veterans who can attend is like a day with your Dad or your Grandfather. Our chances to do this are getting slimmer as each day passes. Do not miss the opportunity.

Details of the reunion are in this *CUB*, starting on [\*page 18\*](#), as well as the Reunion Registration Form. Information to make the Hotel reservation is in this *CUB*. Make yours today.

Randall M. Wood  
Adjutant 106th Infantry  
Division Association  
Robert Wood 423-I

### Finding Needles in Haystacks

By Carl Wouters, Belgium Liaison

**Editor's Note:** As we continue our search to fill the Historian role, Carl Wouters has submitted this article that takes us from the present to the past during a once in a lifetime trip for a dad and his son. As in previous articles, this one involves some sleuthing on the part of our author to help a WWII veteran "reconnect with old memories."

Over the course of the past 15 years, I have been fortunate to meet with several Golden Lion veterans in Europe. During these trips, these men often recounted stories or anecdotes about specific incidents and expressed a wish to revisit those spots. In some cases, this can be like finding a needle in a haystack — difficult but not entirely impossible.

Such a story is that of Juan Mejia, a rifleman in Company "L" of the 424th infantry regiment. In April 2016, his youngest son, Art took his dad on a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip back to Europe, retracing his footsteps as a young GI caught in Hitler's final offensive. Doug Mitchell and I guided him back to the spots he had been in the winter of 1944.

Juan grew up on a hardscrabble farm in Texas as the son of Mexican immigrants. After Pearl Harbor, two of his brothers had gone into the military to serve their country. In 1943, shortly after his eighteenth birthday, Juan also enlisted in the army. Originally a member of the 65th Infantry Division, Juan joined the 106th shortly before it sailed overseas.



On the morning of 16 December 1944, he found himself in the L-Company outpost when the full force of the German attacking force was launched at him and his buddy. Since he hadn't been in the company that long, he didn't know the name of the other man in the outpost. By

corresponding with 106th veteran and association member Harry Martin, we found out that the other GI had been Harry Arpajian. Arpajian was killed that morning when he ran back to alert the company of the German breakthrough, leaving Juan alone in the hole. "He never came back," Juan recalled, "and I never knew what became of him." Juan was astounded to learn the name and sad fate of his foxhole companion for the first time after 71 years. Arpajian is buried at the U.S. Cemetery of Margraten in the Netherlands. By identifying Arpajian we found one needle in the haystack. (*Note:* We later connected with Gino DeSalvatore, nephew of Harry Arpajian. See *The CUB* Vol. 74, No 2, for a story of his visit to his uncle's gravesite in December 2018.)

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## Historian's Message . . .

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Juan described being showered with hot shrapnel from Screaming Meemies that first morning of the Battle of the Bulge. He caught a big chunk, which was still smoldering, on his shoulder. Luckily, the shrapnel had lost most of its deadly force so Juan was able to simply “brush it off.” During the difficult withdrawal movement from the heights overlooking Bracht, Belgium, Juan Mejia became separated from the rest of the company. He wandered through the icy forest alone for several hours before encountering another group of GIs who were lost like he was. When they finally made it back to friendly lines together, Juan found that his feet had frozen solid, with his socks and leather boots sticking to the skin of his feet. A medical officer took one look at his feet and declared that the war was over for Juan.

While we were driving through the Ardennes forest, Juan shared another anecdote about an event that had clearly impacted his young life. It occurred at the army hospital where he had been admitted as a patient after being taken off the front lines with trench foot. He recalled lying in his hospital bed one night when suddenly a huge explosion rocked the building. The concussion of the impact lifted him three feet off the bed, he said, and covered the room with deadly shreds of broken glass from the nearby windows. After realizing what had happened, Juan looked down and found himself lying on a bed of broken glass. By some miracle, he did not have a scratch on him. God had been looking out for him. It was his wish to find that place again. Unfortunately, Juan did not



Source: “*Medicine under Canvas,*”  
(*The Sosland Press, 1949*)

have any recollection of the location or time of the incident. He just knew that it was a big hospital in what he believed to be a large Belgian town.

Late in the evening at the hotel in Winterspelt, after a day of touring, I delved into “morning reports” and unit records which unfortunately yielded no further details. We were to take Juan around other parts of the Ardennes the next day, so the search continued.

At the high point of the Battle of the Bulge, dozens of fields, convalescent and evacuation hospitals operated in the Ardennes and Luxembourg. We found reference to hospitals in Huy, Spa, Liège, Verviers, Dinant, Eupen and Esch-sur-Alzette. Several of these hospital installations had been fired upon during the offensive. The Red Cross was definitely not immune to enemy fire. Eventually, by narrowing down the time frame and by creating a flow chart for the casualties of the 106th Division, we were able to pin it down to two main possibilities, being either at Verviers or Liège. Both towns housed

## Historian's Message . . .

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several rear echelon installations and were in the direct path of the dreaded V1 “Buzz Bombs” and V2 rockets. After taking all the facts into account, we figured that as a trench foot casualty Juan must have been admitted to the 77th Evacuation Hospital, known to have been in Verviers at the time of the Battle of the Bulge. Interestingly enough, in an online unit history for the 77th, there was a small photograph that showed a GI standing in a bomb crater outside the hospital facility.

The next morning at breakfast, we showed Juan the photograph and he nodded that this could very well be the place! We decided to take our chances



**L-R: Carl Wouters, Art Mejia and Juan Mejia (424/L) in the corridor of the Haute École Charlemagne in Verviers, where Juan was a patient of the 77th Evacuation Hospital when a bomb struck the premises on January 1, 1945. (Photo by Carl Wouters)**

and head to Verviers to find the hospital. After some searching, we arrived at the front gate of the impressive Haute École Charlemagne, situated on the hillside overlooking Verviers. It being a Saturday, the school premises were closed. When we noticed light in the room next to the entrance, a small climb and a few taps on the window attracted the attention of the school secretary working inside, who apparently was preparing school festivities. After explaining we had a WWII veteran with us, she graciously granted us full access to the school building, and we were free to wander around. After setting one step inside the building and noticing the unique vintage tiling in the corridors and the specific view on the school yard, Juan immediately recognized the building as the very one in which he had been a patient in December 1944. He would know, as he had spent many days observing the building's architecture from his bedside.

There was however one last mystery. The WWII era photo showed a wall of the building which had a different structure and which we couldn't immediately locate. We concluded it must have been the back of the building. The secretary led me through a side exit to the park area, which was heavily overgrown. Through the trees, that area did offer an excellent view on the back of the building, which perfectly matched the WWII era photograph with the bomb crater.

Apparently on New Year's Day 1945, a German bomber dropped its

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## Historian's Message . . .

ordnance over Verviers, narrowly missing the 77th Evacuation Hospital and landing in the park area of the school. The massive explosion blew out all the windows in the building, showering the patients, nurses and doctors with glass shrapnel. Juan was ecstatic that we had been able to find the spot after 71 years. It was the culmination of his visit.

Juan's son's dream of providing his Dad with a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip really came true and we had truly found the needle in the haystack — perhaps even a few more.

Two years after his trip, Juan tragically died when he was hit by a car while crossing the street with his wheelchair. He was a proud member of the Greatest Generation, having served his country with honor. I feel fortunate to have been able to contribute a little

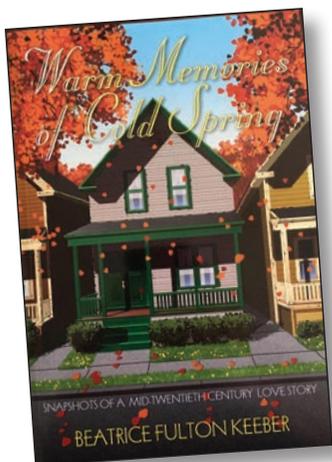


**Rencheux, Belgium, April 2016: L-R: Claude Orban, Eddy Lamberty, Juan Mejia (424/L), Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell. (Photo by C47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter)**

to making his first and only trip back to Belgium extra special, by helping him reconnect with old memories. It was a small thing we could do as a token of appreciation for what he and the other members of the 106th did to help liberate Europe.



**Juan Mejia (center) at the Division memorial in St. Vith, Belgium in April 2016. He was presented with a replica of the "L" Company guidon, which was made by Carl's wife Sofie (left). Juan's son Art (right) holds a certificate of appreciation which was also gifted to Juan for his WWII service in Belgium. (Photo Eddy Lamberty)**



## ***Warm Memories of Cold Spring***

*by Beatrice Fulton Keeber*

A Golden Lion's war experiences forged a boy into a man. But what really defined him as the person he became was his "happily ever after" with his family and his 60-year love story. *Warm Memories of Cold Spring* is *not* a war story! It's a smile-producing tale of "*what came next*" that reminds other vets of their own "afters," their children and grandchildren of Dad's and Mom's or Grandpa's and Grandma's lives.

Pfc. Willard H. Keeber, with Co. G, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, was placed on-line December 11, 1944 near St. Vith, Belgium, two months past his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, five days prior to the German Tank Assault that smashed directly through his position, launching the Battle of the Bulge. This is the story of a *veteran's* legacy that left his world better than he found it.

Online at **amazon.com** (simply type the title in the search bar)

Print copy – \$9.99; Kindle – \$4.99

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## **106th Infantry Division's Online "Message Board"**

*Looking for information about a 106th Veteran?*

*Do you have information about one you'd like to share?*

The 106th Infantry Division has their own online "message board" (set up by Jim West) for people to write an inquiry looking for comrades or for people who might have known a relative who is now gone. Sign up is free and easy!

Association member Connie Pratt Baseman, daughter of Lt. Gerald Pratt (Field Artillery) has been one of three people helping to manage the message board. Sadly, some inquires sit unanswered when the answers may be out there with a reader of *The CUB* who doesn't use a computer. Maybe you can take the time to read the board and reach out to a veteran that you know to try and get the requested information.

You can find messages and other search requests on the 106th Message Board at:

***[106thdivision.proboards.com](http://106thdivision.proboards.com)***

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### ***The CUB Delivery Options***

Approximately 90% of Association expenses are directly related to printing and shipping *The CUB* each year. Your choice to receive *The CUB* by email will help defer expenses and enable us to continue to deliver *The CUB* until "The Last Man Standing." Please indicate mailing preference by responding to the following:

1. Preferred delivery method for general correspondence:

MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_

2. Preferred delivery method for *The CUB*:

MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_

3. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

You can let us know your preference by emailing:

*[membership@106thinfdivassn.org](mailto:membership@106thinfdivassn.org)*

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## **Planned Giving**

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit the 106th Infantry Division Association beyond your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that works for you. Popular means of life planning gifts include Wills and Living Trusts and Beneficiary Designations. Consult your professional advisor on how to extend support for the 106th Infantry Division Association to make a lasting impact.

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## **Returned Issues of the Latest *CUB of the Golden Lion***

We have gotten many returned *CUB* issues in the past due to incorrect addresses or members who have passed away and therefore no longer reside at the address we have on file. If you happen to know of anyone who is not getting *The CUB* who should be, it may be because we have an incorrect address. Or if you know of a member who has passed away and whose family no longer wishes to receive *The CUB*, we want to know.

Please notify Membership Chair ***Jacquelyn Coy directly at the address listed on the inside cover of this issue*** if you know of anyone who falls into these categories so that our records may be updated with accurate information.

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## **Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .**

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Make checks payable to “*106th Infantry Division Association*” and mail them to the Treasurer:



**Mike Sheaner, Treasurer**  
PO Box 140535  
Dallas TX 75214  
[sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net)  
214-823-3004

Please report all changes of address and deaths to the Association Membership Chair:



**Jacquelyn S. Coy, Membership**  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856  
[membership@106thinfdivassn.org](mailto:membership@106thinfdivassn.org)  
973-663-2410

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### **Treasurer's Report: February 1 – May 31, 2021**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$24,480.27</b>
Money In:	\$2,125.22
Money Out:	\$2,447.93
Difference:	\$(322.71)
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$24,157.56</b>

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### **Association Membership As of May 31, 2021**

<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>933</b>
Membership Veterans	393
Associate Membership	540

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**Show support for our mission by giving generously.**

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer  
106th Infantry Division, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214

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## Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

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### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Jack L. Berry	Mark and Kathy Mayrsohn
Col Allen E. Cleghorn	Vivian M. Mccullough
Col. Gregory Fontenot	Eric F. Wood III
Cathy McDaniel Marcano	

### LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:

Louise Awalt	Associate Member	Anne Keeber	Associate Member
Jack L. Berry	Associate Member	Vivian M. Mccullough	Associate Member
Frances Cowart and Family	Associate Members	John F. McDevitt	81 ENG (C)/A
Beatrice Keeber	Associate Member	Hugh Roberts	Associate Member
David Keeber	Associate Member	Daniel A. Simone	422/B
John Keeber	Associate Member	Wilma E. Wood	Associate
Bethanie Keeber	Associate Member		

### MEMORIAL and HONORARY DONATIONS:

*In memory of Laura Barker, daughter of 99-year-old Russ Lang, 423/I (Bob's bunkmate in prison camp, 591/FA HQ)*

Given by Wilma Wood

*In memory of my father, Carl W. Giesler (1922–2011), 591/FABN; 106th ID*

Given by Jeffrey Giesler

*In memory of Harry F. Martin, Jr. 424/L*  
Given by Wilma Wood

*In memory of my father Brigadier General Leo T. McMahan. Division artillery commander 1943–VE Day. Fort Jackson, SC; Camp Atterberry, IN and ETO.*

Given by Col. Leo T. McMahan, Jr.

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## Memorial, Honorary and Life+ Contributions are Essential for Keeping this Organization Going

A suggested annual donation of \$25 to help underwrite the cost to publish and mail *The CUB* through the “Last Man Standing” and beyond is appreciated. The Association exists on donations from its members and interested individuals. Your gifts are essential to maintaining *The CUB* magazine in its current format with high-quality content and tri-annual delivery. The cost of printing and mailing each edition of *The CUB* exceeds our current level of giving. Therefore, we encourage all readers to make an annual contribution, as you are able, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing.

Those Members who contribute will have their names (only, no amounts will be shown) published in the next *CUB*. You can donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th ID Association.

## Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .

### 106th Challenge Coin and Wooden Ornaments — *Have You Gotten Yours Yet?*

\$10 each,  
plus \$1 postage  
per coin



Front



Back



\$10 each  
plus \$2.00 shipping  
per ornament  
(For an order of 10 or more,  
will be quoted a better shipping cost)

Make all checks payable to *106th Infantry Division Association*  
All proceeds benefit the association.

Order from:

Adjutant Randall Wood: [woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net), 765-346-0690 or write to:  
810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151.

*Please call or email with questions.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy is working to update the Association's roster with veterans and their units. If you use email, please email her directly at [membership@106thinfdivassn.org](mailto:membership@106thinfdivassn.org). In your message, please let Jacquelyn know your name and 106th Infantry Division unit. Thank you.

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located above, in this box.

*CUB* Staff occasionally receive **requests to stop the mailing** of their issue of *The CUB*. If you no longer want an issue to be mailed to you, **please contact Jackie Coy, Membership Chair.**

**We are proud to announce our plans for the  
106th Infantry Division Association  
and National Timberwolf Pups 104th Association**

**Joint 2021 Annual Reunion**

**September 8–12, 2021**

**Kansas City Hilton Airport | Kansas City, MO**

The members of the association board, along with Armed Forces Reunions, are moving forward with plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Reunion. We do this with caution and consideration of the pandemic that is sweeping the country. We will be in constant contact with the state of Missouri representatives and hotel management to make sure that we will be able to congregate and meet as a group as the date approaches. Keep in mind, there is always a chance that the event may need to be postponed again.

We have not supplied the registration paperwork in this issue of *The CUB* as we usually do; however, the information for the reunion is included below. If you would like printed copies of the registration material mailed to you, please contact Mike Sheaner, Treasurer at [sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net). If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org). For the most updated information about the reunion please visit [www.106thInfDivAssn.org](http://www.106thInfDivAssn.org) or to register online visit [afr-reg.com/106inf2021](http://afr-reg.com/106inf2021).

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## **Schedule of Events**

Pre- and post-reunion self-guided tours are being planned by the Reunion Committee. More details to come.

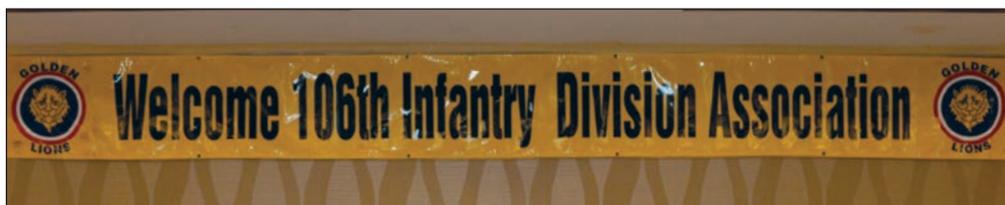
### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

8:30	- 10:30 am	Reunion Registration Open
11 am	- 4 pm	KANSAS CITY TOUR (LIBERTY MEMORIAL)
4	- 7 pm	Reunion Registration Open
4	- 6 pm	NTPA Committee Meeting
5	- 6 pm	106th Infantry Division Association Outgoing Board Meeting
6	- 7:30 pm	Meet & Greet Mixer in Hospitality Room
7:30	- 9:30 pm	Foxhole (Hospitality Room) Open

Note: Souvenir Sales hours will be posted in the Foxhole.

## Feature Stories . . .

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### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet (included in Room Rate)
- |         |            |                                 |
|---------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 8       | - 9:30 pm  | Foxhole (Hospitality Room) Open |
| 8:30    | - 9:30 am  | Reunion Registration Open       |
| 9:45 am | - 2:30 pm  | STEAMBOAT ARABIA MUSEUM         |
| 5:30    | - 10:30 pm | NEW THEATRE RESTAURANT          |

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet (included in Room Rate)
- |         |           |  |
|---------|-----------|--|
| 9:30 am | - 2:30 pm | NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM<br>AND MEMORIAL  |
| 4:30    | - 6 pm    | Timberwolf Pups Business and General Meeting |
| 4       | - 9:30 pm | Foxhole (Hospitality Room) Open              |
| 7       | - 12 am   | Beer Bust                                    |

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet (included in Room Rate)
- |      |         |  |
|------|---------|--|
| 9    | - 10 am | 106th Infantry Division Association<br>Memorial Service  |
| 9:30 | - 11 am | NTPA Memorial Service                                    |
| 3:30 | - 5 pm  | 106th Infantry Division Association<br>New Board Meeting |
| 6    | - 7 pm  | Cash Bar Reception (Combined)                            |
| 7    | - 11 pm | Banquet Dinner and Dance (Separate Banquet)              |

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet (included in Room Rate)  
Farewells and Departures

## Feature Stories . . .

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### Hotel Information

#### Hilton Kansas City Airport

8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City,  
MO 64153

Located five minutes from the  
Kansas City International Airport and  
15 minutes from downtown Kansas City

**(816) 891-8900 or (800) 445-8667**

#### Reservation Information

Call the number above, follow the  
hotel link on [afr-reg.com/106inf2021](http://afr-reg.com/106inf2021)  
or use this direct link: [hilton.com/  
en/hi/groups/personalized/M/  
MCIAPHF-TIMBER-20210905/index.  
jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/M/MCIAPHF-TIMBER-20210905/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG). Reference  
the **Timberwolves 106th Infantry  
Division**.

**Group Name: Timberwolves 106th  
Infantry Division, Military Reunion**  
(*Note, they will not know just the 106th  
I.D. Assoc. name by itself.*)

**Reunion Dates:** September 8–12, 2021

**Rate:** \$112 (plus 16.35% tax)

**Cut-off Date:** 8/13/21 Late reservations  
will be processed based on space  
availability at a higher rate.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation must  
be received 48 hours prior to arrival date  
or there will be a charge of one night's  
room plus tax.

#### Parking and Shuttle Information

The Hilton Kansas City Airport  
offers free parking and free shuttle  
service to and from Kansas City  
International Airport.

Airport shuttle service is offered  
upon request, please contact the hotel  
upon arrival at the airport and proceed  
to the baggage claim area for pickup.

#### Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual  
and power wheelchairs by the day and  
week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or  
visit [scootaround.com](http://scootaround.com) for details and  
to make reservations.

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## Tour Descriptions

### KANSAS CITY TOUR (LIBERTY MEMORIAL) *Wednesday, September 8*

Kansas City is known as the City of Fountains. See why as we make our way through the area. Some points of interest include Lewis and Clark Point, Union Station, and the Liberty Memorial — the only memorial dedicated to those who served in World War I. A new addition to the downtown area is the Kauffman Performing Arts Center, much like the Opera House in Australia. Also enjoy Kauffman Gardens. You'll have free time for lunch on your own at Country Club Plaza, Kansas City's premier retail, restaurant, and entertainment district. The plaza offers more than 150 shops and restaurants nestled within old-world architecture, captivating fountains, and expressive works of art.

*11 am board bus, 4 pm back at hotel*

*\$39/person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.*

## Feature Stories . . .

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### **STEAMBOAT ARABIA MUSEUM** *Thursday, September 9*

Discover the treasures of the Steamboat Arabia. Journey back to 1856, America's Golden Age of steamboating, when the Great White Arabia sank in the Missouri River. Her excavation in 1988 uncovered a "time capsule" of remarkably preserved 1856 frontier supplies including jewelry, china, cookware, clothing, and food. This international cargo is the largest collection of pre-Civil War artifacts in existence, and the display keeps growing! Enjoy lunch on your own at the museum's cafe, or at the adjacent City Market. This historic area features a farmer's market, as well as gift shops, restaurants, and galleries.

*9:45 am board bus, 2:30 pm back at hotel*

*\$53/person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.*

### **NEW THEATRE RESTAURANT** *Thursday, September 9*

Spend the evening at the New Theatre Restaurant. Enjoy a buffet-style dinner and then a show that changes every few months. The New Theatre Restaurant always provides top-quality entertainment with great food. Once dates are known, the show description will be added to this trip description. *The tour price includes dinner, show, tax and gratuity, but specialty drinks and desserts are not included.*

*5:30 pm board bus, 10:30 pm back at hotel*

*\$92/person includes bus, escort, dinner, and show.*

### **NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM & MEMORIAL** *Friday, September 10*

Ranked the number one attraction in Kansas City and the fifth best museum in the United States, the National World War I Museum and Memorial has been called a "national treasure." Steeped in history, the National World War I Museum and Memorial is America's only museum dedicated to sharing the stories of the Great War through the eyes of those who lived it. We will arrive at the museum and begin with a brief memorial service outside of Liberty Memorial Tower, which rises 217 feet above the main courtyard. After the Memorial Service, enjoy free time to tour the museum at your own pace. In the museum you'll enjoy interactive displays, thought-provoking films and eyewitness testimonies, while receiving a narrated tour of the largest collection of WWI artifacts in the world. Following the tour, grab lunch on your own at the Crown Center Food Court.

*9:30 am board bus, 2:30 pm back at hotel.*

*Included in Registration fee for 106th ID Assoc. Attendees.*

*Tour includes bus, guide and admission. Lunch on your own.*

*Tour prices do not include gratuity for bus driver and tour guide/escort.*

*In order to accommodate an on-time departure, please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to posted time.*

*[All reunion information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change]*

## Order of the Golden Lion Committee

This award is provided in three classifications depending on the qualifications of the recipient. The most prestigious is “**Commander Class**” issued in gold finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and is usually a Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division.

The second is “**Officer Class**” issued in silver finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and has assisted in the operation of the Association.

The third is “**Companion Class**” issued in bronze finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully in the capacity of assistance in the operation of the Association. The specifications for making the award are intended to fit many instances where an individual is deemed worthy. *The award should be determined by the recipient’s contributions to the Association.*

The Co-chairs of the Order of the Golden Lion committee will poll the members of the Board of Directors for recommendations for the OGL awards. The President or Chairman may select additional members to the committee. Nominations will be submitted in a format suitable for composing a formal citation to accompany the award of the medal. This must be done in ample time prior to the next Reunion in order



for the manufacturer to produce the medal(s) on time.

All citations should be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee Chairman prior to the actual awarding ceremony.  
LEAD TIME — 3 WEEKS, MINIMUM

Send nominations to any one of the committee members listed below:

Carol J. Faulkner, 765-342-1872  
3179 Kestrel Court, Martinsville, IN 46151  
[faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com](mailto:faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com)

Beth Garrison, 618-628-4733  
7766 Haury Road, Lebanon, IL 62254  
[rgbg75@att.net](mailto:rgbg75@att.net)

Kathy Spinella, 305-562-4381  
1991 Carolina Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
[pspin142@aol.com](mailto:pspin142@aol.com)

**Editor’s Note:** The criteria used to distinguish between who qualifies for the **Commander Class** vs the **Officer Class** is being discussed by the Board. *The CUB* will publish specifics when more information is available.

## “VETERANS’ VOICES”

*This is a recurring article for The CUB in which veterans can submit brief personal stories. Whenever possible, please submit your story attached to an email so it can easily be transferred to The CUB.*

### **A Day in the Life of Paul Thompson**

*Submitted by Paul Thompson*

My name is Paul Thompson. Together with my fellow Recon Troopers, I participated in defending Grosslangenfeld during the first days of the “Bulge.” I fired a 30cal light machine gun from bunker “lennie7able” located to the south and west of town.

I am writing to you this morning from my backyard patio where just a bit ago, I finished playing a Memorial Day “concert” for my neighbors on my bassoon — all military in nature: marches, anthems and hymns. It went over well, I had a lot fun and apparently my neighbors liked it as well — no catcalls, no tomatoes. I’m going to do it again on the 4th and, perhaps, on VJ Day and Labor Day as well.

As to my personal situation: I’m doing well. I live alone in the home that we purchased 59 years ago. I am disabled and don’t drive anymore [to the vast relief of my children]. Habitat for Humanity has graciously installed grab bars and railings in strategic locations, so I have no problems taking care of the daily chores and whatever else has to be done to keep me up and about. I have absolutely no interest in a retirement home and fully intend to remain here until they carry me out feet first, under a sheet. My children live nearby and visit me regularly, bringing groceries and other necessities. All in all — Life is

Good! My prayer is that all of you other veterans reading this are doing as well.

A few days ago, May 16th to be exact, was my birthday — 96 years. My grandson from Spokane was in town, and together with all the rest of my family, we demolished a dinner of roast chicken with “fixin’s” topped off with one of my favorites — rhubarb crumble. My daughter made the treat, and to avoid alerting the Fire Dept., we topped it with a single candle. We all had a great time together, and perhaps the best of all, there were plenty of leftovers, so I didn’t have to cook for a while.

Spring has been especially beautiful here in Richfield, Minnesota this year. This city abounds in flowering trees: crabapples, plums, flowering cherries. When they are in full bloom, a drive along Nicollet Avenue is unforgettable. The street is lined with various shades of pink and white. Lovely. The display was especially fine this year, the cool weather prolonged the display for the better part of week. Best Regards to all.

### **Bill Keeber**

*Submitted by Beatrice Keeber*

I know [the Association] was once considered to be “for the last man standing” but I think it has outgrown that name. It is really now for the descendants of all the men in the 106th.

continues on page 24

Veterans have contacted others, or the children of others of their generations to share information. I recently had an email greeting from the son of one of the vets Bill and I met at a local. mini-Reunion! People have connected through the National and Local reunions. My husband, Bill Keeber, enjoyed several local reunions and it was through the stories others told he was able to unlock the door behind which he kept memories he had not wanted to face for many years. He learned of [the Assn.] through a business contact who mentioned being in the 106th, which caught Bill's interest, and through their conversation, he worked up the nerve to attend a local reunion. It was a hard thing for him to do since he had buried harsh memories so deeply. It was truly cathartic for him to meet other vets who had experienced the same and/or worse than he did. I think he didn't then feel as isolated with those bad memories.

Bill was MIA for several days in a contested area. He once told me early in our acquaintance that he and the possibly 8 or 9 men with him had to dodge enemy and friendly mortar fire, fallen trees, freezing weather, and he ended up with Trench Foot. He said they had to [endure] icy conditions and wet boots that they replaced by taking boots off wounded men who had frozen to death before aid could reach them. He said snipers were an ever-present danger to them. Bill was the only one with a long-range weapon, and fortunately had been well trained in its use before he became a mortar gunner. Bill naturally accepted responsibility for things all his life, and I know he felt responsible

for the others who did not have rifles. I think that was a heavy burden for a man only a couple of months past his nineteenth birthday! He also said they had only arrived on-line five days before the surprise German "putch." And their promised delivery of heavier clothing, waterproof boots and more rations never reached them before the start of action. They had to strip clothing and boots off dead men, but they could not bring themselves to take the dead soldiers' socks to replace their own wet ones. They could not leave those bodies with bare feet in that cold winter! He ruefully laughed about it a couple of years after his discharge, commenting that he knew that was a "dumb decision because those socks could not bring back to life those fallen warriors, but might have saved the toes of some live ones." As it turned out, Bill was the only one of that group who was returned to active duty after hospitalization for Trench Foot. Others suffered amputations and mobility disabilities. He also said they had to steel themselves to eat salvaged rations or starve! He had brought his weight back up to 120 pounds when I met him after the war in February, 1946...he still only weighed that little! He had no idea how much weight he lost on his 5'10" body, but he must have been skin and bones!

Bill seemed so relieved after a couple of local reunions and once even attended a National one alone. I believe he met one of the men in his original mortar unit, but I'm not sure if they recognized each other or not. He never said, but he did enjoy meeting with other vets as well as that man. Together, we attended one other National Reunion,

but Bill's health began to fail and although he desperately wanted to return to Belgium to attend one of the reunions there, his health never permitted it. He also had determined he would definitely watch that movie on the History channel that was about the Battle of the Bulge, but he did not live long enough to fulfill that promise to himself when he passed away in December, 2007. I believe that show

aired in January 2008. His family watched it for him.

For a lot of that history, I credit the 106th Assn., and encouragement of our sons and daughters, especially Anne, whose work as a Paralegal has given her research skills. And [thanks to] the 106th Assn. which began to convince Bill to face ghosts that had haunted him too long, giving him much more peace in his later years.

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### Jim West and the *IndianaMilitary.org* Website

Additional 106th Infantry Division information can be found on Jim West's (OGL 2000) website at *IndianaMilitary.org*. It includes the following:

- Reconstructed Roster of the 106th at <http://tinyurl.com/106th-Roster> with 18,902 entries to date, including more than 300 individual photos which include:
  - 6,760 POWs
  - 962 as KIA
- Every issue of *The CUB* from 1946 to present (searchable)
- Every issue of the *Camp Atterbury Camp Crier* with articles on the 106th
- Local Columbus, Indiana, newspaper articles featuring the 106th
- With Wayne Dunn's help, over 451 diaries of 106th men and a few from other units
- Articles include: Battle of the Bulge, Important dates, Unit publications, Photo Albums, After-Action Reports, General and Special Orders and much more
- Information on the 106th guarded PWTE (Prisoner of War Temporary Enclosures)
- The official history site for Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

***Make your plans NOW!!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the**

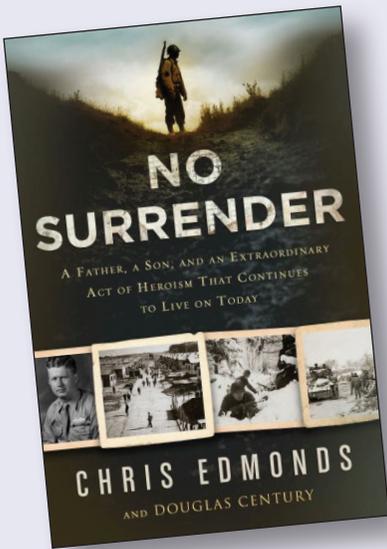
**Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO**

**September 8–12, 2021**

**For additional information about the reunion and to register online, visit:**

***afr-reg.com/106inf2021***

**Now Available!**



**From Chris Edmonds, Chaplain,  
106th Infantry Division Association**

Spanning seven decades and linking a sprawling cast of unknown heroes from every corner of the country, *NO SURRENDER* is an unforgettable story of a father's extraordinary acts of valor that saved thousands of American soldiers in the treacherous final days of World War II and a son's journey to discover them.

Roddie Edmonds, a humble soldier from East Tennessee, rarely spoke about his experiences with the 106th Infantry during World War II. Not even his son Chris knew the full details of Roddie's capture at the Battle of the Bulge or his captivity in two Nazi POW camps.

Sparked by his daughter's family history project, Chris embarked on a years-long journey in a race against time to interview surviving POWs under Roddie's command and retracing his father's footsteps, from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where a boyish Roddie transformed into a seasoned leader of men, to the patch of grass near Ziegenhain, Germany, where he looked evil in the eye and dared a Nazi to shoot.

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— Mitchell Zuckoff, New York Times  
bestselling author of  
*Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11*

***NO SURRENDER*: A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism  
that continues to live on today.**

## **Veterans and Family of the 106th Infantry Division's TATTOO\* Requests**

*The original meaning of military tattoo was a military drum performance, but subsequently it came to mean army displays, or a form of gathering more generally. For our Association, letting members know that someone would like to speak with them is why we do this!*

The following are requests for information. Feel free to contact the person listed if you believe you can be of assistance. *The CUB* staff has received permission to print the inquiries and the contact information listed herein.

### **In search of information on PFC James S. Hamilton:**

I am currently researching and writing a short biography of a soldier that served in the 423rd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Division and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. The soldier was PFC James S. Hamilton and he was grandfather's best friend growing up. PFC Hamilton died of malnutrition somewhere near Weimar, Germany on April 4, 1945. James had no children or siblings so my grandfather made an effort to keep his legacy alive and I'm trying to do the same. I was wondering if you'd consider adding his name to the KIA list as a non-battle casualty on the 106th division history page? Information can be sent to [ewhoeffler@gmail.com](mailto:ewhoeffler@gmail.com). Evan Hoeffler

### **In search of information on "Rhine Meadow Camps":**

My name is Merrit Drucker and I live in Washington, D.C. I have been researching the subject of the "Rhine Meadow Camps" operated by the 106th Infantry Division from April to June of 1945 as part of a larger research project. I have some information about the camps — one member of the Association had provided me with copies of the relevant pages of "St. Vith: Lion in the Way." This seems to be an accurate summary of the situation, although brief. I am trying to answer some specific questions including why the 106th was selected for this mission. (*Editor's Note:* Merrit has several other specific questions relating to existing documents, Provisional Guard Battalions that were attached to the Division, and any other "accurate and reliable history of the period and the 106th Division role"). Information can be sent to [druckersloss@aol.com](mailto:druckersloss@aol.com) or 7507 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC, 20012.

***Make your plans NOW!!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the**

**Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO**

**September 8–12, 2021**

**For additional information about the reunion and to register online, visit:**

***[afr-reg.com/106inf2021](http://afr-reg.com/106inf2021)***

**A Poem by Dale R. Carver from his book:  
*Before the Veterans Die***

**A SONG FOR THE INFANTRY**

“Into the wild blue yonder”  
the Air Force proudly sings.  
“From the Halls of Montezuma”  
the Marine Hymn stoutly rings.

At the break of day, the Navy  
sings of setting sail.  
The lumbering Field Artillery  
“Hits the dusty trail.”

Scores of divisions of Infantry,  
an immense heroic throng,  
hundreds of thousands of them died,  
and they died without a song.

We will make for them a verse;  
we will sing for them a song;  
feeble though our tongues may be,  
our hearts cannot be wrong.

-----

We’re the Minute Men of Concord;  
we set our country free.  
We are founders of a nation,  
the mighty Infantry.

We served with Grant at Vicksburg;  
for Lee we wept and died.  
In blue and grey formations  
we fought and marched with pride.

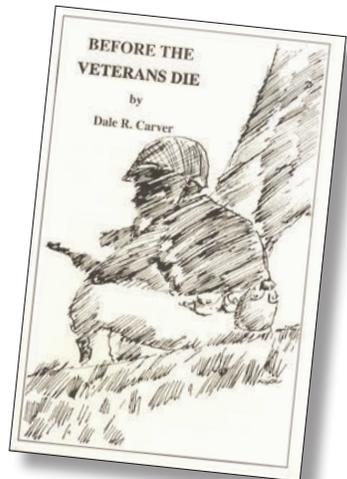
And when the world tottered  
we crossed the troubled deep —  
no sunset on the crosses  
that mark our brothers’ sleep.

Stalwart comrades have we  
in the Field Artillery,  
cannons behind the rifles  
of the fighting Infantry.

Marines are fearless fighters,  
but their ranks are few and small —  
in time of all-out warfare,  
for the Infantry, the call.

Afar the Air Force ranges  
in shining ships, well manned,  
but the foe was never vanquished  
till we occupied the land.

We’re the Minute Men of Concord,  
We’ll keep our country free.  
We are proud of our tradition —  
the U.S. Infantry.



Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

*Used with written permission by Ruth S. Carver*

Dale R. Carver was a native of Kansas. He served as a platoon leader in the 424th Infantry of the 106th Division in Europe during World War II. The 106th Division was badly mauled during the initial stages of the Battle of the Bulge. Two of its regiments, the 422nd and 423rd, were encircled and captured. The 424th fought on until the Allies had the situation under control. During the final stages of the war in Europe Carver's battalion was assigned the task of running a POW camp at Bretzenheim, Germany.



Carver was awarded the Silver Star medal, the Bronze Star medal, and a battlefield promotion to 1st Lieutenant. He was a retired professor of engineering mechanics, having taught at Louisiana State University for 28 years. He resided in Baton Rouge, Louisiana before his death on October 14, 2001, at the age of 78.

### ***Watch (again!) the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Virtual Memorial Service***

**which replaced the live event for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
that was to have taken place in Kansas City, MO, Sept. 2020.**

### **Remember the Men of the 106th**

**“Attend” this virtual Memorial service at <https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tftg>**

**Share this link with family and friends, schools and organizations.**

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## **The Importance of a Mini Reunion**

Our veterans will always remember December 16, 1944, when they were thrust into the chaos of war. The years may have thinned the ranks, but those who remain still have the pride of knowing they played an instrumental part in slowing — and ultimately defeating — the German war machine.

As it becomes more difficult to travel, especially with Covid-19 restrictions, it is even more important we attempt to connect with our vets. Any way you can, while practicing social distancing guidelines, and even doing so virtually, would be a great way to honor, cherish, and remember all of our veterans.

***Plan one in your area today!***

**Contact Mini-Reunion Chair Wayne Dunn at [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org)  
and he can assist you with members in your area.**

## *In Memoriam . . .*

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### **PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND DEATHS TO: ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

**Jacquelyn Coy**

121 McGregor Ave., Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856

Phone: 973-663-2410

Email: [JSC164@aol.com](mailto:JSC164@aol.com)

**BELL, HARRY H. JR. 422-I**

*Date of death: February 6, 2021*

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on May 20, 1925, to parents Harry and Edith Bell, Harry attended Hattiesburg High School and joined the U.S. Army upon graduation in 1945. He was sent to Auburn University under the Army Special Training Program for advanced students. Due to increased need to fill newly formed infantry divisions, all specialized programs were cancelled, and he and others were sent to the 106th division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. After field maneuvers, his division was sent overseas to France, then through Belgium to the front lines in the Ardennes Forest in Germany. Soon thereafter, Germany began their offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge. After three days of fighting, his unit was surrounded and captured. He and others were sent to Stalag 9b in Bad Orb, Germany. He, along with many other POWs were liberated in the spring of 1945 and returned to the United States. He was stationed at Fort Benning, GA until discharge at Camp Shelby, MS in December of 1945. Upon discharge, he returned to Auburn where he received his degree in electrical engineering. While he was there, he joined Sigma Chi Fraternity

and was selected for member by the honors society, Tau Beta Phi. After graduation from Auburn, Mr. Bell joined Mississippi Power Company in Gulfport as a distribution engineer. He served in several positions through the company until he was appointed Vice President, Engineering and Operations. During his tenure, he was responsible for the erection of two large generating units at Plant Watson and the construction of Plant Daniel in Jackson County. After 38 years of service, he retired as a Registered Professional Engineer and Vice President, Power Generation and Transmission. His retirement from the power company led him to join his wife Louise and son Louis in their business, Bell Travel Services. During this time, he and his wife traveled throughout Europe, British Isles, Africa, China and Malaysia. Sailing was his recreation, especially when crewing with Buddy Hopkins on his sloop, L'Estimate'e. There were many regattas and long-distance races. He taught his four boys to sail on the little Red Boat, Petit Rouge. Mr. Bell loved boating, had many power boats and captained many excursions to the islands on his yacht, Playtime. He was also very active in civic and social affairs. He served as President of the South Mississippi Boy

## In Memoriam . . .

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Scout Council, director of Magnolia Savings Bank of Hattiesburg, President of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, and founding President of the Great Southern Club. He was Commodore during the rebuilding of the Gulfport Yacht Club after Hurricane Camille. He was also a member of the Gulfport Business Club, the Century Club, and was a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport for more than 60 years where he served as Chairman of the Administrative Board. He was preceded in death by his wife, Louise, a loving wife and helpmate, and his son Louis. He is survived by his three sons, and his three grandchildren, all of whom he loved deeply.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

### **GRIFFIN, JOHN D. 422/F**

*Date of death: July 27, 2014*

John Griffin “Jack,” 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa died Sunday, July 27, 2014 at his home. Surviving to honor his memory are his daughter, Lynda, and grandchildren Stacy, David, Charlie and Jolyn. He is also survived by 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine, his parents and his siblings. Jack was born Dec. 8, 1922 in Cedar Rapids. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School and went to work for the Rock Island Railroad as a diesel engineer in 1942. As a member of the Greatest Generation, Jack was a decorated Veteran who served his country as a sergeant first Class in World War II, from 1942–1945. He fought in the Battle

of the Bulge where he was captured after parachuting behind enemy lines. He spent five months in a German POW camp. Jack returned to Cedar Rapids and married Lorraine Reding on Feb. 23, 1946. He worked for the Rock Island Railroad for 35 years and the Iowa Northern Railroad for another two year before retiring. Jack was a member of St. Matthew Catholic Parish, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and the IBEW. In his retirement, Jack enjoyed playing tennis, summers at the Marion swimming pool, attending his grandchildren’s many activities and paying meticulous attention to his lawn and landscaping.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

### **HAUG, CHARLES ALDEN 424/C**

*Date of death: May 4, 2017*



*Charles Alden Haug  
taken in 1944*

We are sad to announce the passing of beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend: Charles Alden Haug. Charles was born Dec. 2, 1922 in Madelia, Minnesota to Martin and

Alice Haug. He attended rural school in Watonwan County and graduated from Madelia High School in 1941. He graduated from Minnesota School of Business in 1942 and began work at the First Security Bank of Sleepy Eye in June of 1942. He was drafted into

*continues on page 32*

## *In Memoriam . . .*

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the Army in February 1943 and spent three years in the service. He spent one year in combat with the 28th Infantry Division in Europe. He fought in The Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. While in the service, he completed two years of college at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He returned to his job at the First Security Bank after his discharge from the Army. He married June Enebo on August 4, 1947, and the couple made their home in Sleepy Eye where they raised five children. Charles served as President of the First Security Bank from 1968 until his retirement from banking in 1990. After his retirement, he prepared Income Tax Returns for his 200 customers until 2006. In addition to his career, Charlie also played saxophone and clarinet in big dance bands for 26 years, including with his favorite conductor Guy DeLeo. Charles was a 70-year member of the following: Minnesota Bankers Association, American Legion, VFW, Masonic Lodge, Zuhrah Shriners and Order of the Eastern Star. Charlie and his family enjoyed their cabin on Lake Koronis during the 42 summers they spent there, and he enjoyed hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, June, five children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. We are abundantly blessed to have enjoyed so many precious years of his generosity, sense of humor, talented storytelling, and, of course classic accordion renditions of “Lonesome Cowboy.” Please join us to celebrate a life “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:23)

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

**HERNDON, DONALD F. 424/L**

*Date of death: March 7, 2021*



Donald F.

Herndon died peacefully at his home on Sunday, March 7, 2021. He was born January 14, 1926 to Lillian and Floyd Herndon

in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife, Joan; daughters Elizabeth and Jennie and son James; also by five grandchildren and a great-grandson. Donald was a proud veteran of the United States Army, having started his career at age 17 by being accepted for the Army Specialized Training Program at Virginia Military Institute. After that, he was sent to Ft. Bragg, NC for basic training, graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant, and immediately departed to Europe with the 106th Infantry Division, L Company, 424th Division, as reinforcement for the Battle of the Bulge. The 106th was then tasked with establishing a prisoner of war camp to care for prisoners and displaced persons. Don separated from the army in May, 1946 as a 1st Lieutenant. Donald again enlisted during the Korean War and served as Company Commander with the 27th Engineer Combat Battalion at Ft. Campbell, KY. Donald received both a civil- and a mechanical-engineering degree, and later a Juris Prudence degree from the University of Maryland. He worked as an aeronautical engineer for Glenn L. Martin Co., and the Civil Aeronautics Board, which later became the Federal

## In Memoriam . . .

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Aeronautics Administration. He finished his career as Chief, Engineering and Manufacturing Branch, FAA Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. He enjoyed many hobbies after retirement and was active in the 106th Army reunions and was honored in 2016 to receive the Golden Lion Award from the 106th Infantry Division Association for Outstanding Service. A memorial service was held for Donald at Arlington National Cemetery, where his ashes were also interred.

*Reported by his wife, Joan*

**HIRST, ROBERT G. 424 HQ**

*Date of death: February 22, 2015*

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

**LOPARDO, PASQUALE**

**“PATSY” J. 424/AT**

*Date of death: August 26, 2014*

“Patsy” Lopardo, 94, of Torrington, CT, passed away Tuesday, August 26, 2014, at Valerie Manor. He was the beloved husband of Edith Lopardo for 72



years. Patsy was born October 28, 1919, in Harwinton, CT, son of the late Joseph and Annamarie Lopardo. He served his country with the United States Army during World War II. Among the awards and decorations which he received upon his honorable discharge in August of 1945 were the European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon with one service star and the Purple Heart. He was employed by Swan & Company

for 50 years as a Sales Representative until his retirement. He was a member of the St. Peter Holy Name Society, a Third-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the Eagles Club. An avid bowler, he was associated with Arcade Lanes and held many records for Duck Pin Bowling. In addition to his beloved wife, Edith, he is survived by one son, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Patsy’s family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the staff at Valerie Manor for the compassionate care provided to him as well as to his family.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

**SMALLWOOD, THOMAS**

**FREDRICK 423/HQ**

*Date of death: April 2, 2020*

Thomas Fredrick Smallwood was born January 23, 1925 in Attapulugus, GA, the son of Henry and Eula Smallwood. He graduated from Attapulugus High School and attended GA Tech before entering the army during WWII. He survived the Battle of the Bulge and was lost behind the German Lines for three days, presumed dead. He also participated in the liberation of Paris, France. He met the love of his life, Janie Little, while visiting family in Alabama. They were married for 72 years. He was a loving and devoted father to his children and eight nieces and nephews. He loved his hometown of Attapulugus. He was a lifelong member of the Attapulugus United Methodist Church, serving in many positions

*continues on page 34*

## In Memoriam . . .

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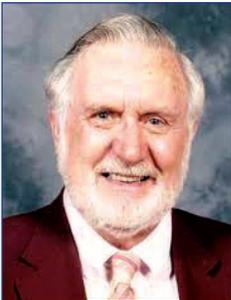
over the years. He was one of the original members of the Attapulugus Kiwanis Club and instrumental in building the Attapulugus swimming pool. He never learned to swim but wanted his children and the children of Attapulugus to have the opportunity to learn to swim. He went on to serve in the Bainbridge Kiwanis Club for many years. He was very interested in genealogy and an active member of the Historical Society. After retiring from tobacco farming, he continued to work at Fowlstown Mill, ITT and Pillsbury. He later returned to college and completed his AA in Business from Bainbridge College. After Janie retired, they began traveling all over the United States, Europe and Australia. Survivors include his two children, Susan and Betty, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Janie.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

### **SUITER, LEO F.**

**423/L**

*Date of death: December 25, 2017*



U.S. Army  
(Retired) Major  
Leo F. Suiter,  
92, of Daleville,  
Missouri, passed  
peacefully on  
Monday, Dec.  
25, 2017, at his  
home. Born and

raised in Missouri, he joined the Army shortly after high school graduation in June 1944 and turned nineteen on a troop ship headed for Europe. Captured during “The Battle of the Bulge” on

December 16, 1944, he remained a POW held by the Nazis and Soviet forces until July 14, 1945. Remaining in service, Mr. Suiter’s next stop was the Korean War where he served with distinction in the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon with his partner, German Shepard, CPL “King.” Upon returning to the U.S., Mr. Suiter was posted to various posts around the country and can be seen in some of the archival footage used in the movie “Forrest Gump.” Attaining the rank of Major, Mr. Suiter was posted to Fort Rucker in early 1961 to help organize the new helicopter training program as a Huey instructor. He retired on a Friday in 1964 after serving twenty years active duty and on Monday he started his new job as a Huey flight instructor with the Civil Service continuing that job until late 1975. During the 70s and 80s, he was a small success in the country music industry, recording several singles and albums. He played many venues from the Grand Ole Opry to Gilly’s in Texas. Mr. Suiter was one of the founding fathers of the city of Daleville and was an active member of the community for many years, his political aspirations led him to several bids for local offices as well as Vice-Presidential running mate in 1980 and a run for Governor in 1982. In 1984 Mr. Suiter started Computer Tax Service in Daleville and was a fixture there up to four days before his death. Mr. Suiter was preceded in death by his son, Noah Michael Suiter; his first wife of 23 years, Polly, and his second wife of 40 years, Alice. He is survived by his sons, Eddie (Debbie) Suiter and Robert

## Mini-Reunions . . .

Suiter; his stepsons, Alan (Alissa) Phillips and Samuel (Ann) Phillips; his grandsons, Steven (Kimberly) Suiter and Noah (Breawna) Suiter; his step-granddaughter, Sarah Phillips; his step-grandson, Kristopher Phillips; his great-granddaughters, Samantha and Emma; and his great-great-granddaughter, Ava.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

### **WOLFINBARGER, LLOYD 424/L**

*Date of death: October 27, 2020*

Lloyd Wolfinbarger of Miami, OK (previously from Neosho and Seneca, MO area) passed away on October 27, 2020 at age 100. Mr. Wolfinbarger was born January 24, 1920 and was married to Rosetta Cunningham Wolfinbarger in 1938 until her passing in 2003. Mr. Wolfinbarger was a



member of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 178 of Springfield, MO. Mr. Wolfinbarger proudly served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was a decorated combat veteran having been a member of the 106th Infantry Division in the European Theatre. Survivors include: daughter — Sally Wolfinbarger Rollins, son — Dr. Lloyd Wolfinbarger, Jr. and spouse Donna Wolfinbarger of Norfolk, VA, granddaughter — Laura Ransbottom and spouse Jim Ransbottom of Tulsa, OK, grandsons — Chuck Rollins and spouse Virginia Rollins of Miami, OK and Rob Rollins and spouse Melanie Rollins of Miami, OK. Mr. Wolfinbarger is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Cory Rollins, Bella Vista, AR, Lauren Hughes and spouse Cody Hughes, Cave Springs, AR, Erica Ransbottom of Tulsa and two great-great-grandchildren, Grayson Blankenship-Fry, Bella Vista, AR and Owen Hughes, Cave Springs, AR.

*Reported by his grandson*

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

To the widows of Golden Lions, if you would wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your husband, please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

***Make your plans NOW!!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the  
Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, MO  
September 8–12, 2021**

**For additional information about the reunion, when it becomes available, visit:  
[106thInfDivAssn.org](http://106thInfDivAssn.org)**

### Read Any Good Books Lately?

As you may have noticed, there are a lot less advertisements for books in this edition of *The CUB*. Moving forward, we will only be including paid advertisements to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the magazine. But, all of the advertisements from veterans whose books were advertised in previous *CUBs* can be viewed on the association website at: [106thinfdivassn.org/books](http://106thinfdivassn.org/books)

The books by and about the 106th Division association members advertised on our website are:

- *Captured at the Battle of the Bulge* by Russ Lang
- *Captured, Frozen, Starved — and Lucky: How One Jewish American GI Survived a Nazi Stalag* by Milton Feldman
- *Forced March* by John H. Mohn
- *From Brooklyn to the Battle of the Bulge and on to Building an International Business — The Incredible Story of Bernard (Barney) Mayrsohn* by Seth H. Bramson
- *I Was a Prisoner* by Carmel Whetzel
- *I Was No Hero in the Battle of the Bulge* by Harry F. Martin, Jr.
- *My Grandfather's War* by Jesse Cozean
- *My Nine Lives* by Bob Pope
- *My War* by Fredrick Smallwood
- *No Surrender* by Chris Edmonds
- *Once Upon a Time in War* by Robert E. Humphrey
- *Prisoner's Odyssey* by Herb Sheaner
- *Shadows of Slaughterhouse Five* by Ervin Szpek Jr.
- *The Sitting Duck Division: Attack from the Rear* by John W. Morse, 422/C
- *The Letter Box* by Robert "Bob" Glover
- *Warm Memories of Cold Spring* by Beatrice Keeber
- *Warriors of the 106th — The Last Infantry Division* by Ken Johnson, Martin King, & Michael Collins

If you are interested in advertising in printed versions of future *CUBs*, please contact Susan Weiss at [CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBPublisher@106thInfDivAssn.org) or treasurer Mike Sheaner at [sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net) for more information.

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the 106th I.D. Association. The *Annual Dues* of \$10 are no longer billed or collected. We are now accepting only donations for membership, memorials and LIFE PLUS.

The previously-allowed payment of \$75 for Life Membership creates a financial shortfall, as our expenses exceed our income.

*Our solution?*

*We are asking you to join the*  
**LIFE PLUS+ Club**

Those Members who contribute to the **LIFE PLUS+ Club** will have their names (*only, no amounts will be shown*) published in the next *CUB*.

You can donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th Infantry Division Association.

To those Members who we haven't heard from for a long time — please take the time to join this exclusive club. *Thank you!*

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

**Mike Sheaner**

Treasurer, 106th Infantry Division

PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214

To see a *full-color* version of this issue of *The CUB*, please visit our website at:  
***106thInfDivAssn.org***

The online PDF version is now interactive and all website URLs and email addresses that appear in blue italics when clicked will take you to the site or an open email window.

# Pass It On

Perpetuate the legacy of the 106th Infantry Division by giving every family member of all generations access to the rich history, news and stories of veterans found in each issue of *The CUB*. You can now “*pass it on*” to as many friends, heirs and family members as you wish at **no cost!**

Those you designate will be recognized as members of the association on the “**CUB Level**” with the following benefits:

1. Receive an electronic copy of *The CUB* delivered by email complete with color photos, graphics and interactive links
2. Access to the association website and Facebook pages
3. Receive timely notices and information regarding reunions and special announcements

Enroll all family members — sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, grandchildren and others — by submitting their **Name, Email, Address and relationship to a 106th veteran** to [sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net)

**106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

\* THE ARDENNES

\* CENTRAL EUROPE

\* THE RHINELAND



**GOLDEN LIONS**

Jacquelyn Coy — Membership Chair  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**