

The CLUB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR
*The Veterans of the
106th INFANTRY
DIVISION*

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol. 81 – No. 1

December 2024 – March 2025

In Belgium for the 80th Anniversary



**Family and friends of 106th Veterans at the St. Vith
U.S. 106th Infantry Division monument for a wreath laying during
the Flag of Friendship Ceremonies held December 15, 2024, St. Vith, Belgium.**

*For the cover story, please see [page 20](#),
and for more pictures of the 80th Anniversary tours see [pages 22–24](#).*

The CUB

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Editor's Message . . .



Spring is in the air, and by the time you receive this copy of *The CUB*, I am hoping you'll be looking out on blooming daffodils and hyacinths instead of the snow that just hit many parts of the mid-east and eastern states of the country this past week, or charred earth from the wild fires that ravaged the west. As we move into a new year, hopefully we can look beyond natural disasters and cold weather and realize we have much for which to be thankful. This includes our most valued Veterans. This edition of *The CUB* includes many stories and pictures of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, held in St. Vith, Belgium, December 13–16, 2024, where Veterans and their courage were honored by many. I hope you enjoy reading about the trips that were made by several of our board members: David Smith, Sean O'Dwyer, Brian

Welke and Kathy Spinella. Tours led by Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell were not only of historical significance but personally meaningful as attendees saw where loved ones and family members fought and, in some cases, lost their lives. Our board members' thoughtful recounting of their experiences through words and images allows those of us who could not be there in person a chance to travel vicariously through them.

In addition to these shared accounts, you'll also find information about the next reunion, to be held September 17–21, in Columbus, GA. Read our Adjutant's message starting on [page 9](#) for more information.

There is so much to look at and read in this edition that I'll keep my comments short and sweet, and end by saying to remember our Veterans — reach out just to say “Hi.” And Veterans, we are here for you.

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*
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Want to learn about the battlefields of the Battle of the Bulge?

**Watch the lecture-series presentation created by
*Carl Wouters, Association Belgian Liaison***

presented at the 77th Annual Reunion in Dallas, TX

A Tour of the Battlefields of the Golden Lions

View this informative video at

https://youtu.be/C64SsGyf2_A?si=1TKTgp8sGYpUIUFF

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

Editor's Message . . .

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:

April 20, 2025 — mail date: mid-June, 2025 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

October 1, 2025 — mail date: late November, 2025 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

January 31, 2026 — mail date: late March, 2026 (issue may include reunion paperwork)

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Visit the 106th Association's Website!

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including a website from our own member, Jim West (IndianaMilitary.org), the Association has its own website at 106thInfDivAssn.org.

The Association's website provides 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 photos not seen in hard copy.

Also look for our Facebook page at Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn. You will find up-to-the-minute information here and it's 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 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/. 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.

President's View . . .

Dear beloved Veterans, associates, friends, and family members. Four of your board members recently returned from a week-long tour of the 106th battlefields in Germany and Belgium during the 80th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge. More than 20 other descendants of WWII Veterans accompanied us. Someone once used the word “magical” to describe a trip like this. I would have to agree that there is something magical about it. But I must contrast that with the reason that we were there in the first place. We were there because of a horrible war that happened 80 years ago. So yes, it’s a magical experience to walk the battlefields where our fathers and grandfathers fought and died, but it’s tempered by the sobering realization of what these very young men sacrificed. Their lives were changed forever. But there is definitely cause for celebration because these young men helped to rid the world of Hitler and his tyranny.

My father was one of those very young men, S/SGT Jack D. Smith of the 423rd regiment, B company. At home I am surrounded by pictures and objects that remind me of my dad. But being at the battlefield site on which he fought at just 20 years of age, having the same view that he had — the 18th Volksgrenadiers in one direction and the 5th Panzer Army in the opposite direction, and feeling similar cold — makes me feel



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the most connected to him since he passed. This patch of the Ardennes is where he got his baptism by fire. On this hallowed ground I am able to commune with my father. It’s a truly spiritual experience.

But there is one frustrating aspect of that spiritual experience: it’s very hard to convey to anyone who hasn’t experienced it because it can only be experienced on the battlefield. The people who’ve been there probably understand what I mean. Two of those people are Kevin O’Shaughnessy and his sister Kathy Clark. Their father was Jack O’Shaughnessy, also of 423/B. Jack

President's View . . .

and my father fought together even after they were surrounded and out of ammunition. They charged with only fixed bayonets towards German armor! I was blessed to meet Kevin and Kathy at the site of our fathers' mortar position at the start of the German offensive. It was their first time seeing it after all these decades. I could see the emotion in their faces being at their father's "baptistry" of German artillery. I knew exactly what they must have been feeling. In that moment, they were transported 80 years back in time with their father who was a young man yet still so much a boy and they were feeling the fear that he must have felt. Kevin and Kathy's tears told me that they didn't want their beloved father to have to go through something like that but they were proud of him for his bravery. I'm sure they would have rescued their father if they could have. It's one thing to be 5,000 miles away thinking about it, it's another thing to be on the exact spot where you can actually feel your father's presence. I, too, have wished that I could go back in time and tell my father that everything will be all right. It's a surreal experience that can't be obtained from a museum, book, or documentary.

Another surreal and emotional experience was meeting the son of a German World War II veteran. I didn't get the son's name, but he was a reenactor dressed in German World War II garb. When he was told that



David with children of Jack O'Shaughnessy at St. Vith U.S. Army monument.

we were sons of Battle of the Bulge Veterans he broke down and cried. Then we broke down and cried. Then, to make it even more impactful, we found out that his father had been in the 1st SS Panzer Division. The SS were the true believers. This division was originally Hitler's personal bodyguard unit. Later in the war, they were credited with the murder of 5,000 POWs, mostly on the Eastern Front. Can you imagine the psychological baggage the son must carry? I hope that our shared tears can assuage any guilt he might have. Reconciliation is still continuing



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page 6*

**David with
son of 1st SS
Panzer Division
soldier.**

President's View . . .

even 80 years after the war. I could never have imagined that we as the children of the Veterans could ever be a part of that. Again, not something you can get from a book.

I guess I'm trying to say that making human connections is what made the trip so special. As another example, we met a 102-year-old German former tank commander Jochen Schmidt. He was the former enemy! I never thought I would shake the hand of a former enemy of our fathers. But today Herr Schmidt is an avowed pacifist. Seeing him engaged in energetic conversation with a great-granddaughter of a 14th Cavalry soldier was surreal. I saw Herr Schmidt welcomed into our group as a former brother in arms. He even held a salute while the U.S. National

Anthem was played. The spirit of reconciliation is strong.

All the experiences above can only be felt in one place. I hope I've given you a sense of the experience that is beyond just seeing the sites and hearing the stories. To the Veterans reading this, I want you to know that the legacy of what you accomplished in the Battle of the Bulge is remembered and celebrated, especially around the old battlefields. The remembrance and celebration will continue as long as there is breath in our lungs. To anyone else reading this and especially to the descendants of the Veterans, I encourage you to tour the battlefields if you can. It will change your life and give you an emotional connection to our 106th heroes.

Photos submitted by David Smith.

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 inquiries 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

Chaplain's Message . . .

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3 NIV

Three hours before dawn I startled from a peaceful sleep. I was sweating, murmuring the words of my late father, Roddie. I had been dreaming about his war journals, neatly written words, jotted in pencil, in his own cursive hand. “No one can realize the horrors the Infantry soldier goes through,” he wrote. “You get scared, and I mean scared, and don’t let anyone tell you that he wasn’t scared.”

Dad never seemed scared of anything. When he was alive, he was fearless, with the kind of quiet Christian faith that made him seem invincible. He marched to the beat of faith, hope, and love. But never fear. Not once in all the years I knew him.

Lying awake, staring up at the dark ceiling, my mind flooded with confusion, and I thought of dad’s favorite Bible passage.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37–39 NKJV



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What could have happened over there to make dad, armed with such strength, so afraid?

For dad, “over there” meant Europe during the Second World War. It meant Ziegenhain, an obscure town in the Rhineland-Palatinate of Germany, where he spent the final months of Nazi tyranny. He and the men of the 106th hit the beaches of France several months after the initial D-Day landings, slogged through freezing rain and mud in late 1944, and saw horrific combat in the icy Ardennes Forest of Belgium that final brutal winter of the war, fighting along the supposedly impenetrable Nazi Siegfried Line in the Battle of the Bulge.

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Chaplain's Message . . .

“A lot of things I am not going to write,” dad wrote in his journal, “Because they aren’t exactly nice to talk about. I know God was with us, and he answered our prayers. I learned men, even better than before. Some were good, some were bad, some were better, and some were worse.” The forests of Belgium were dark and deadly. So was the world. Bad men who were the worst ruled the day.

I knew little about dad’s days during the war. Like a lot of members of the Greatest Generation, he never discussed the grisly details — I had only read about them in history books: dark skies exploding with relentless mortar fire; officers and infantry men, already frozen in the winter cold, stunned by the ferocity of the barrage, a thunderous assault of 88 mm artillery fire followed by wave after wave of panzers and Nazi troops. Then capture, endless starvation, and untold atrocities. Like dad wrote in his journal, “you had to be there to know.”

What we now know is that God and the Allied command sent a pack of “lions” armed with rifles and righteousness to stop the worst of humanity dead in their tracks. The opening of the Battle of the Bulge, described by some as a death blow to the 106th, was a death nail to the Nazis.

The world’s nightmare was over.

Goodness reigned. Survivors of the 106th came home alive — more alive than they had ever been.

We also know about the unthinkable atrocities of the Holocaust where more than six million Jewish brothers and sisters were brutally murdered by the Nazis, of which 1.5 million were precious children who never had a chance to grow up. In all, an estimated 50–85 million soldiers and civilians died. We must never forget.

Eighty years later, the goodness of our GIs shine like stars in the heavens as a testament to their wisdom, leadership, and righteousness. Some of their selfless acts we know and celebrate. Others remain with the heroes who died to save us. All of them are immortal.

Our generation and the generations to come are the blessed recipients of their deep sacrifice and indelible bravery. We will never forget. We are forever grateful.

We are also responsible.

The Bible teaches us in Luke 12:48 that to whom much is given, much is required. The greatest among us has given us much. Like them, it’s up to us to light our world with goodness and keep the flame of righteousness shining “like the stars for ever and ever.”

For God. For our children. For the world. For the ages.

The Adjutant's Message . . .

The Board of Directors has decided to have our 78th reunion in the community of Columbus, Georgia, from September 17–21. This city and its surrounding facilities are very military-oriented. We will have the ability to visit the National Infantry Museum where we will be exposed to the history of the U.S. Army Infantry and honor the legacy of the brave soldiers who have served our country. There are thousands of artifacts representing over 240 years of military service. This museum is in Columbus and just outside Fort Moore, formerly known as Fort Benning. There is also a Civil War Naval Museum that overlooks the Chattahoochee River. This museum tells the story of both the North and South Navys of the Civil War.

We will spend a day at Andersonville National Historic Site which includes The Andersonville Prison Camp, the Cemetery, and the Andersonville POW Museum. The POW Museum covers not only the Civil War but most all military actions known to the United States starting with the Revolutionary War up through WWII and beyond. The Andersonville area falls under the National Park Service and is the only national park that serves as a memorial for all Americans who were ever held as prisoners of war. It is described as the deadliest ground of the American Civil War where more than 13,000 men died before the end



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of the Civil War. We will carpool to and from the Andersonville area and also plan to take a quick trip to Plains, Georgia to pay respects to President Jimmy Carter. In addition, we will be able to visit the downtown historic district which includes the pharmacy where Coca Cola was developed.

As with last year, we are planning to have several educational sessions where you will get insight into what our Veterans endured as they fought to defeat the enemy, liberate the battle ground, and to survive. Many of your questions may be answered. If you

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The Adjutant's Message . . .

have specific questions, please let us know in advance so they can be researched.

A little more information about the reunion:

- It is scheduled for arrival on Wednesday, September 17 with departure on Sunday, September 21.
- The hotel is the Columbus Marriot, 800 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901.
- Cost for the hotel is \$99 per night plus tax, which includes a hot breakfast for two, daily.

As in the past, we will have a hospitality room at our disposal. We will provide drinks and snacks during our stay.

As mentioned earlier, we will be carpooling to our various destinations. All of those attending who would be

driving, please consider participating in our carpool effort.

As we've done in the past, we will continue to hold our Silent Auction. The auction items can be anything that you have that you feel someone else would cherish. It could be something you have made, something you painted, something you bought, or something from your attic. All of the money received from the event goes to our treasury to support *The CUB* magazine and other Association expenses. In the past two years we have made a total of \$3,000 from your participation in the auction. It's always a lot of fun and we look forward to getting to do it again.

For those of you who plan to fly, you can book a flight to the Columbus Airport (code CSG) through Delta Airlines.

We have never had a reunion

continues on top of next page

Hotel Information:

Columbus Marriot

800 Front Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31901

Rate: \$99 (plus tax) — Includes a hot breakfast/two per room each day.

Reservation Information:

To make reservations and receive the group rate, **call the hotel reservation line directly at 706-324-1800**. You must identify

yourself as a member of the *106th Infantry Division Association* to receive the group rate. The room may be reserved for up to 3 days before and/or 3 days after the reunion at the \$99 rate.

A digital link for reservations will be on the 106th website by the end of April.

Cut-off Date: Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **August 18, 2025**.

Reunion Information . . .

in which we did not have a person attend that had not attended before. We hope to see you there and to have the opportunity to make new friends. Please plan to bring your Veteran if

they are able to travel — we would be honored to be in their presence.

More detailed information and the registration forms will be coming in the next *CUB*.

Reunion Activities Planned to Date:

Wednesday, September 17

Registration open

Association Board Meeting

Hospitality Room open, begin to display Silent Auction items

Thursday, September 18

Visit the U.S. Army Infantry Museum

(We will be carpooling to that location)

Hospitality room will be open for a group get together with light snacks and social activities; Silent Auction items will be on display

Corn hole tournament

Friday, September 19

Visit Andersonville POW Museum

Visit Plains, GA to pay respect to former President Carter

(We will be carpooling to these locations)

Hospitality Room will be open upon our return; Silent Auction items will be on display

Saturday, September 20

Memorial Service at 9:30 am

Afternoon Association Board Meeting

Education presentations

Evening Banquet with presentations and the conclusion of the Silent Auction

Sunday, September 21

Give your hugs, say your farewells and have a safe trip home!

Registration forms will be available in the June CUB and will be available on our website by the end of March.

Historian's Message . . .

In July 2024, I was fortunate to interview Harold "Hal" Beam about his wartime experiences at his home in Hendersonville, NC. These are just a few of his stories from our three-hour-long conversation. I would like to pay special thanks to Stephanie Eaves and Holly Styles for facilitating our interview, and to Hal's family for providing their input as well as several of the featured images.



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Veteran Feature: Harold "Hal" Beam, 423/G

Born on July 8, 1925, Hal Beam grew up in the hamlet of Woodlawn, New York, a few miles from downtown Buffalo. The son of a homemaker and school superintendent, Hal recalled growing up in a diverse community with immigrant families from all sorts of backgrounds. He remembered that for a bit of fun during the wintertime, he and neighborhood kids would play on ice chunks in nearby Lake Erie. Musically inclined from an early age, Hal joined his high school's marching band as a trumpeter before enrolling at the University of Michigan. There, he joined the Michigan

Marching Band and attended a semester of class before receiving his draft notice in November 1943.



Harold "Hal" Beam holding his first edition of *R. Ernest Dupuy's St. Vith: Lion in the Way, the first definitive history of the 106th's combat service.*

A bright student, Hal was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) to learn a military specialty and earn an officer's commission. At the end of his training at Fort Benning, Georgia, Hal was told that ASTP had been disbanded and he would be reassigned to the infantry. In spring 1944, Hal joined G Company, 2nd Battalion, 423rd Infantry Regiment at Camp

Historian's Message . . .

Atterbury to replenish the 7,000 men who had been reassigned from the 106th as replacements for depleted units in combat. Ignoring the old Army adage of “never volunteer for anything,” Hal was the first to raise his hand when his commanding officer asked if anyone could play the trumpet. He became the company and battalion bugler, and in short order mastered all of the necessary camp calls.

Hal's job in combat, should he ever see any, was as a runner for company commander Capt. Edward Murray.

After a brief stay in England, Hal arrived at the “ghost front” in mid-December 1944, where his 2nd Battalion was in reserve around Born, Belgium. It was here he was billeted when the Bulge began. Soon,



*Hal Beam, aged 19.
Courtesy of Nancy and
Ernest Thompson.*



Hal's wartime artifacts, including his German prisoner dog tags, fork, spoon, and pipe that he kept through his entire captivity. Courtesy of Nancy and Ernest Thompson.

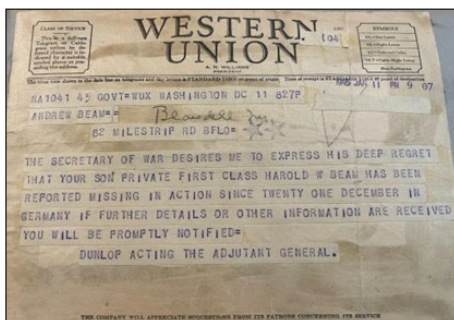
G Company received orders to move out to meet the German attack. To prepare his men, Capt. Murray gave Hal the order to play “Charge.” As G Company shifted from one defensive sector to another, Hal ran orders between company, battalion, and regimental commands. He recounted the dreaded tree burst artillery shells falling all around him and grievously wounding

many other men, but amazingly never hitting him. Hal recalled the situation being very confusing through those first days of the battle, and that his role as runner was put to ample use.

On December 19, 1944, Hal was also a witness to perhaps the most significant order handed down in the history of the 106th. Running a message from his company, Hal reached the regimental headquarters area in time to overhear 423rd commander Col. Charles Cavender deliberating with his staff over whether or not to surrender to the Germans. Once the decision was made, Hal passed on the directive to nearby companies to break up their arms. He described how it was personally upsetting for him to disassemble his M1 carbine, despite all other options being exhausted.

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Historian's Message . . .



January 11, 1945 telegram reporting that Hal was “missing in action.” Courtesy of Nancy and Ernest Thompson.

As he made his way off the front lines, Hal had to contend with both close calls from Allied air strikes and the elements of an especially bitter-cold winter. During his second day in captivity, Hal’s feet froze solid, making any movement extremely difficult for the rest of the war and eventually earned him the Purple Heart. Hal arrived initially at Stalag IV-B in Mühlberg, Germany, and from there was dispatched to a work detail in the small town of Gleina, although he was released from work soon after his arrival due to his injured

feet. Housed in an old entertainment hall, Hal one day decided to take a seat at the piano in the ballroom to play some familiar tunes. He raised his thinning fingers to the keys, but no note sounded. Hal was so malnourished that he could not remember a single song.

On April 14, 1945, American troops of the 6th Armored Division reached Gleina. Hearing the rumble of their Sherman tanks, Hal hobbled out alone on makeshift crutches to greet them, having been left for dead by the German guards. By the time he received medical attention, he had dropped to 87 pounds and suffered severe damage to his feet, although they were able to be spared from amputation.

After his discharge, Hal resumed his schooling at University of Michigan on the GI Bill, earning his master’s degree and beginning his career as a math teacher. He later followed in his father’s footsteps and became a school superintendent in Camden, New York. Hal married his wife



Hill 504 — the final command post for 423rd commander Col. Charles Cavender, photographed by the author on December 16, 2024. This is where Hal witnessed Col. Cavender’s decision to surrender the regiment.

Historian's Message . . .

Jan in 1950, and they were together until her passing in December 2024. They raised two children, Greg and Nancy, and eventually retired to Hendersonville, North Carolina in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Quite ironically given his wartime injuries, Hal and Jan picked up an interesting hobby in retirement: hiking.

Hal is an original member of the Division Association, and turned 99 years old this past July.

We salute you for your service!

*Foxhole in the woods near Schönberg,
photographed by the author on
December 16, 2024.*



*Watch (again!) the 74th Annual Reunion's
2020 Virtual Memorial Service*

Remember the men of the 106th at <https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tftg>

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 . . .

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

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



Mike Sheaner, Treasurer
PO Box 140535
Dallas, TX 75214
sheaner1@airmail.net
214-823-3004



Henry LeClair, Membership
209 Range Road
Windham, NH 03087
membership@106thInfDivAssn.org
603-401-3723

Treasurer's Report:
Oct. 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025

Association Membership
as of January 31, 2025

Beginning Balance:	\$25,937.93	Total Membership	638
Money In:	1789.22	Veteran Membership	108
Money Out:	1919.13	Associate Membership	530
Difference:	(129.91)		
Ending Balance:	\$25,808.02		

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

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

LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:

Peter Akey	Associate Member
Louise Awalt	Associate Member
Kathleen Clark	Associate Member
Mary M. Daniel	Associate Member
Kathy DePaolo	Associate Member
Robert M. Edwards	424/SV
Jared LeClair	Associate Member
Joan V. Liskiewicz	Associate Member
Dennis Shane Miller	Associate Member
John H. Mock	422/L
Kathy Spinella	Associate Member

NEW MEMBERS:

Rob Akey	Associate Member
Kathy and Shawn Clark	Associate Members
Kathy and Dana DePaolo	Associate Members
Jared LeClair	Associate Member

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.

Membership Roster Update!

We are updating our roster with the most current information to make sure you are receiving *The CUB* the way you want it. If you have not received a printed copy of *The CUB* in the mail and you've indicated you want to, or you are still getting a copy and you've indicated you no longer want it sent but still enjoy reading it online, or if a family member who was getting it has passed, please let us know.

Please notify: Henry LeClair, membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

106th Challenge Coin, Wooden Ornaments and Lapel Pins —

Have You Gotten Yours Yet?



\$10 each plus \$2 shipping per ornament

(Lower shipping costs will be applied to orders of 10 or more)



Front



Back

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



\$10 each plus \$1 shipping per pin

Please call or email Randy with questions.

Phone — 765-346-0690

Email — woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net

For purchase of items above,
please make check payable to *106th Infantry Division Association*
and mail to:

Randall Wood, 810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151

All proceeds benefit the Association.



Official 106th T-shirts — Get Yours!

Wear the Golden Lion proudly!

Available in multiple sizes.

\$20 each — includes shipping

Order from Board member Janet Wood by

Email: KipKai2000@yahoo.com or Phone: 205-910-0542

Make checks payable to: 106th Infantry Division Association
and mail to

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214

Order of the Golden Lion Award

This medal is given to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time. The award is determined by the recipient's contributions to the Association. People may be nominated or selected as outlined below.



Nominations

The Chairman of the Order of the Golden Lion (OGL) 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. Members of the 106th Infantry Division Association may also nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in a format suitable for composing a formal citation to accompany 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 award ceremony.

LEAD TIME — 3 WEEKS,
MINIMUM.

Send nominations to any one of the Co-chairs listed below:

Carol J. Faulkner, 765-342-1872
3179 Kestrel Court
Martinsville, IN 46151
faulknerskeep05@yahoo.com

Beth Garrison, 618-628-4733
7766 Haury Road, Lebanon, IL 62254
rbg75@att.net

Kathy Spinella, 305-562-4381
1991 Carolina Ave. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
pspin142@aol.com

Watch (again!) the 74th Annual Reunion Virtual Memorial Service

**which replaced the live event for the 74th Annual Reunion
that was to have taken place in Kansas City, MO, September 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.

Flag of Friendship

*By Kathy Spinella and
Doug Mitchell*

Sunday, December 15, 2024, family and friends of the 106th Infantry Division gathered at the U.S. 106th Infantry Division monument in St. Vith, Belgium, to honor the service and sacrifice of our Golden Lions as part of the greater 80th Anniversary commemorations for the Battle of the Bulge. Part of the annual event cycle in the Bulge region, the “Flag of Friendship” ceremony was first organized in 2012 by Doug Mitchell at the request of John Schaffner, with a mission to thank Europeans who have gone above and beyond the call of duty preserving Veterans’ stories and legacies.

The 2024 awardees of the Flag, presented by Belgian Chapter President Carl Wouters, were the entire Meers family, Franky, Christel and their son Robbe. During the research process into their own family history during the war, they began adopting graves of American soldiers at Henri-Chapelle and Margraten cemeteries, the final resting place of many fallen Golden Lions.

Sadly, Robbe was unable to be with us in person on the 15th to accept the award, as he was in Bastogne working with the Best



Carl Wouters and Kathy Spinella presenting the flag and the Certificate of Appreciation to the Meers family.

Defense Foundation, supporting WWII Veterans and families attending events there. The ceremonially folded American Flag and Certificate of Appreciation were accepted by the rest of the family, made special because December 15 is Franky’s birthday!

Discovering their Great Uncle Frans Lemmens was a Belgian partisan, they also learned he was arrested and spent time in several German camps, including Buchenwald, Dachau and finally Bergen-Belsen. He would survive to liberation in 1945, but died just a few days after tasting freedom. No one in the family had known much about Frans, not even his own daughter.

In March 2019, the Meers family became Primary Sentinels for fallen Veterans Murray Zappler and Kurt Jacobsen. German Jews whose families immigrated to the United

News from Around the Globe . . .

States prior to WWII, Murray and Kurt would become “Ritchie Boys” in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service, their fluent German a valuable asset. Both would be attached to the 106th Infantry and were in the Schnee Eifel on December 16, 1944, when the Bulge counteroffensive exploded into American lines.

Research about Murray and Kurt led the Meerses to a Facebook post from Carl who had shared the story in far more detail than they had previously uncovered. Carl generously offered to help them gather information — as Carl so often does — and the Meerses became new members of the 106th family.

Robbe eventually crossed the Atlantic in 2023 to attend and speak at the 106th Infantry Division Association reunion in Buffalo, NY, sharing an expanded version of the Ritchie Boys story. Murray and Kurt were responsible for interrogating German prisoners



Franky Meers speaking at the Flag of Friendship Ceremony.



Wreaths laid at the foot of the U.S. 106th Infantry Division monument in St. Vith.

before eventually being captured by the Germans themselves. Identified by former German prisoners, they were summarily executed because of the “H” on their dog tags which signified their religious affiliation as Hebrew. They rest among the nearly 8,000 American soldiers interred at Henri-Chapelle.

In total, the Meers family members have adopted eight graves between the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten and nearby Henri-Chapelle, just over the border in Belgium, including two listed on the Walls of the Missing. In addition to regular acts of remembrance, the Meerses always learn the stories behind the headstone and share what they learn with each of the Veteran’s families. Robbe has made several trips to the states and met with a number of his “adopted” WWII families.

Photos submitted by Kathy Spinella.

Shared Memories from the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge Tours

In December, 2024, four of our board members traveled to Belgium to participate in the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge tours and commemorations organized and conducted by Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell. You've read some of the things that David Smith, Brian Welke, Kathy Spinella and Sean O'Dwyer experienced. Here, they share some of their most memorable images from that trip.

Day 1: *West Wall/Siegfried Line*



Doug Mitchell with Carl Wouters, stewards of 106th legacy and history, doing what they do best and sharing with 106th families about 106th history.

▲ **Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of 106th Veterans at West Wall Dragon's Teeth, Siegfried Line.**

Frontline positions — 422, 423, 424



Matthew (grandson) and Mike (son) Beville at the farmhouse where Glen Beville 424 K Co was captured, Heckhuscheid. ▼



▲ **David Smith, Kevin O'Shaughnessy and Kathy Clark at their fathers' (Jack D. Smith 423 B Co and Jack O'Shaughnessy 423 B Co) foxhole, Schnee Eifel.**

▲ **Sam and Ashton Akey (great grandsons of Homer Akey 590 FAB Battery B), checking out foxholes in 422nd/B sector, Schnee Eifel.**

Photos submitted by David Smith, Brian Welke, Kathy Spinella and Sean O'Dwyer.

Front & Center . . .

Day 2: POW Monument, Schönberg



▲ **Sam, Cooper, and Wyatt Akey** (great-grandsons of Homer Akey 590 FAB Battery B) laying wreath on behalf of 106th, at POW Monument, Schönberg.



▼ **David Smith, son of POW Jack D. Smith 423 B Co.**



▲ **Mike Beville** with his son Matthew, son and grandson of POW Glen Beville 424th K Co.



▲ **David Falvey Jr and David Falvey**, grandson and son of POW Joseph A. Falvey 422 H Co.



▲ **Three Generations of POW Homer Akey 590 FAB Battery B.**
Back Row L-R: Joe Akey, Cooper Akey, Pete Akey, Sam Akey, Wyatt Akey.
Front Row L-R: Peggy Akey Woodson, Rob Akey, Lin Akey.



◀ **Joan Thompson**, daughter of POW John J. Murphy 423 Anti Tank.



▶ **Reenactor Justin Tombeur** with Phil Spinella, Dirk Van Keer, Kathy Spinella, Brian Welke, David Smith, David Falvey, and Matt Beville, at Manhay.



◀ **Carl Wouters** laying wreath on behalf of 106th at the monument to Lt. Eric F. Wood Jr (599 FA A Co), Meyerode Forest, Belgium.

continues on page 24

Front & Center . . .

Day 3: 14th Cavalry Monument Dedication — Poteau



Werner Henkes, Burgermeister (mayor) of the municipality of St. Vith, delivering remarks at the newly dedicated Poteau monument in honor of the sacrifices made by the 14th Cavalry Group.



Doug Mitchell and his wife Anita Reusch with Carl Wouters and his wife Sofie Van Keer at the coffee event hosted at the Wouters' farmhouse.

Chris Mott with his children Vincent and Liora Mott, grandson and great-grandchildren of Major Lawrence Smith, 14th Cavalry.



Teresa Welke with Jochen Schmidt (102 years old) former tank commander in 1st Panzer Regiment (Wehrmacht).



Generations sharing a special conversation: Liora Mott, great-granddaughter of 14th Cavalry Major Lawrence Smith, talking with Herr Jochen Schmidt, former Wehrmacht tank commander in 1st Panzer Regiment who served on Eastern Front.

Day 4: Wreath laying



Joan Thompson, daughter of John Murphy 423 Anti Tank and Brian Welke laying wreath at Henri Chapelle American Cemetery, Hombourg, Belgium.



106th family visiting with Kathy and Phil Spinella at marker for Thomas Wilson Morgan 423 L Co (Kathy's grandfather), Henri Chapelle American Cemetery.

106th contingent visiting grave of Harry Arpajian 424th at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands.



Sean O'Dwyer with picture of George Skinner 424 INF Anti-Tank Co, at 424th Memorial at Ennal.



Presentation of Flag flown at Camp Atterbury to Carl Wouters with Brian Welke and Chapter President David Smith at Comtes de Salm, Vielsalm.

“VETERANS’ VOICES”

This is a recurring article for The CUB in which Veterans or family members can submit brief personal stories. Whenever possible, please send your submission in an email to the Editor, Lisa Dunn, CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org, so it can easily be transferred to The CUB. Images should be submitted as jpg files. For each picture file you submit, please also include what event the picture represents and where/when it was taken. Individuals in the pictures should be identified. Articles can either be submitted in the body of the email or as a Word document. Articles submitted as hard copies in the mail may or may not be used depending on difficulty of transcription. If you have any questions, please contact the Editor.

Jim West, Stand Easy: We’ve Got This!

By Wayne Dunn

It was with great concern that I learned from Jim West that he is facing severe health issues. For those few who don’t know Jim, he has been tirelessly collecting, maintaining, and publishing anything that has a “106” in it. The world’s largest collection of information relating to the 106th Infantry Division can be found on the website that he started way back in the ’90s. Diaries, POW camps, copies of all the *CUBs*, General Orders, but most importantly is the Roster — names of almost 19,000 soldiers who were in the ranks.

As if that wasn’t enough, he also has information on five other Divisions: 28th, 30th, 31st, 83rd, 92nd, and then throw in Camp Atterbury, Freeman Field, Ft. Harrison, Wakeman Hospital, and many more! Oh, and Indiana Gas Works, where he was employed for 39 years, is also in this most distinguished mix.

With uncertainty clouding his future, Jim mentioned that he would be unable to continue sponsoring his websites. The loss of that as a resource, now and for future generations, would be a tragedy!

Since I have hosted the 106th Infantry Division Association’s website for about 12 years, I offered to do whatever was necessary to “keep the lights on” — and I thank Jim profusely for agreeing to do that. To keep the family fingers in the pie, Jim’s daughter, Christine, will continue as she has in the past, with maintaining the non-106th roster files.

I’ve told Jim before, but I must say it loud and clear: “Jim, that will never be my website! It will forever be yours!”

I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that we appreciate all Jim has done and send our support during this challenging time. As far as the website goes: Stand easy, Jim — we’ve got your back!

continues on page 26

Jim's Websites:

- Indiana Military Website: <https://www.indianamilitary.org/>
 - Indiana Gas Works: <https://www.igwnow.com/>
-

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!

Please send any requests to the Editor at: CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org

Note from the Editor: As our membership chair, Henry LeClair stated, we received a number of responses to our online survey ([see page 27](#)) indicating people want a way to find information about a specific Veteran's wartime experiences. This section of *The CUB* is meant expressly for that purpose. Please send your requests to me, and I'll put them in the next edition of *The CUB*. If you want someone to be able to contact you directly with any information they may have, please provide your email address and/or phone number. You never know who will get back to you with the information you seek!

Sometimes we get questions emailed to us that we can answer right away. If you would still like us to publish the question and answer in an effort to help others who may have similar questions, please let us know

Looking for Anyone Who Knew Peter Stec

I am William Lecocq, 37, living in France. I just got this duffle bag (pictured to right) from a seller living near Lyon (France). This bag was found in a flea market a few months ago in Lyon. It belonged previously to a French gendarme who passed away. His name is written on the bag with pen. This bag is also largely named and seems to have a painted TQM



Duffle bag bought at flea market by William Lecocq, stamped with name of Peter Stec, 423/Serv.

Email Bag . . .

code of the 106th Infantry Division. [As stamped on the bag], the first owner was warrant officer Peter Stec, member of the service company of the 423rd infantry regiment. This man is listed on your website as KIA during the Battle of the Bulge.

I don't know how that bag ended up in France but I guess many U.S. WWII equipment was in use in the French army until the late '50s which could explain the find out in Lyon.

Is there is a Veteran still alive

from the Service Company of the 423rd Infantry Regiment in the Association who may have known Peter Stec or would know how I can reach his family?

Thank you for your understanding.
William Lecocq,
williamlecocq@orange.fr

William is also looking for any pictures that anyone may have that include Peter Stec.

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:

- 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.

Want to help the 106th Association?

Please take a few minutes to take our new survey. We are asking just a few questions to find out how we as an organization can better serve you.

Click on this link from the PDF or type this into your browser to be connected to the brief survey on our website:

106thInfDivAssn.org/survey2023.html

In Memoriam . . .

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

Henry LeClair

membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

603-401-3723

Unless otherwise noted, the obituaries listed below were obtained online through board member research.

ANNABLE, ELIOT W. 423/HQ

Date of Death: October 28, 2023

Eliot "Bill"

Annable, 99 of Sykesville, MD passed away peacefully on Saturday, October



28, 2023, surrounded by family and friends. Born October 13, 1924, in Bangor, Maine, he was the son of the late Charles W. Annable and the late Elizabeth Annable (Andrews).

Bill was a WWII veteran of the United States Army, 106th Infantry Division, the Golden Lions. After serving in the Army, Bill went to work as an Engineer for Westinghouse. Bill was also a member of the Baltimore Colts Dixie Band. He was a musician and a pilot, owning his own plane, and he would do anything that he set his mind to.

He is survived by his children Susan Copes, Roger Annable, and Barbara Raymond; 10 grandchildren Denise Remery, Shannon Martin, Kelsey Robison, Amy Ballweg, Joseph Annable, Kristen Annable, Tony Kelso, Justin Emery, and Rachel

Emery; 19 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his youngest brother William Annable and numerous nieces and nephews. Eliot was preceded in death by his son David Annable, granddaughter, siblings Charles Annable, James Annable, Edward Annable, Davis Annable and Ellen Hills.

BUSH, DARRELL REED 106TH

Date of Death: October 22, 2024

Darrell Bush of Camp Springs, MD died on October 22, 2024. Born September 21, 1925 in Hyndman, PA, he is one of 15 children. He moved



to Camp Springs, MD when he was young and met his future wife, Dorothy. They were married in October, 1943, shortly before he reported to basic training in the Army. He deployed to Europe in late 1944, ultimately fighting in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded rescuing his fellow soldiers, receiving a purple heart.

In Memoriam . . .

In 1945, he returned to Maryland. He and Dorothy welcomed their daughter Linda in 1947. He worked at PEPCO for 37 years.

He is survived by his best friend and wife of 81 years, Dorothy Bush (98); his grandson Ben Ryerson and Ben's wife Blythe Ryerson; his great-grandchildren Elena Ryerson (19) and Colin Ryerson (16). His daughter Linda Ryerson (Bush) preceded him in death, May of 1988.

FUSCO, AMERICO "RICK" ALBERT 423 HQ

Date of Death: December 6, 2024

"Rick" Fusco, formally known as Americo Albert Fusco, was born on May 15, 1924. He went to be with our Lord



Jesus Christ, December 6, 2024, at 12:43 pm, surrounded by his family at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Washington, at the age of 100 years, 6 months.

Rick was the last living sibling in his family of seven children. His parents, Vincenzo and Theresa Fusco, legally immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island located in New York Harbor in 1906. Rick's father came first and then returned to Italy to marry Theresa and brought her back with him to the United States where they settled in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Rick would mention that his mom loved Jesus. He would verbally imitate her saying that in her Italian accent when sharing stories about her. Rick didn't have a problem sharing the gospel with others. Rick also mentioned that his mom was a praying woman who every day interceded for her four sons who were drafted into WWII, that God would bring each home safely, and all four sons came home safely. With so many families devastated by WWII, his mom's prayers had a profound effect on the lives of her sons.

Rick was one of the sons drafted into the United States Army at the height of WWII and served from March 4, 1943 to December 6, 1945. His duties took him to the front lines, and he shared that during one battle he knew he would not make it out alive and told the Lord if He brought him through the war, he would serve Him full-time for the rest of his life. Following his military service, Rick went home to Altoona, Pennsylvania, and worked for the railroad for seven months before attending college at Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio, obtaining a Bachelor of Music/Arts degree. Rick eventually married his first wife Marylyn who died young from Stage 4 Hodgkin lymphoma. He remained single for five years before meeting his wife Leah through a mutual Christian friend. They crossed paths again

continues on page 30

In Memoriam . . .

when Leah was trying to set him up with a dear widowed friend of hers. Rick knew his own mind and decided he would rather date Leah even though her friend was a wonderful lady. It took some convincing but he and Leah married, and they remained married for 40 years. Keeping his promise to the Lord, he went into full-time ministry, serving the Lord as Music Director and Assistant Pastor in La Mesa, California, until he retired at the age of 67.

Rick came from a heritage of longevity of life and the awareness of who Jesus is. His father Vincenzo Fusco was 87 (1886–1974) when he was struck by a speeding cab, and did not survive surgery. His mother Theresa lived to be 92 (1890–1983), passing peacefully when she went to sleep in her favorite chair. Other siblings included his brother Joseph “Joe” Fusco who lived to be 79 (1919–1998), John Fusco, 83 (1916–1999), sister Rosemary Schuster, 96 (1914–2010), brother William “Bill” Fusco, 91 (1926–2017), brother Anthony “Tony” Fusco, 104 (1915–2019), and sister Edith Earl, 101 (1922–2023).

Rick was a person who would sing or whistle his favorite hymns, and there were many conversations around the dinner table about who Jesus was, how God had protected his life, and his desire with his wife to bless those who were less fortunate than they were. God greatly blessed their lives in

many ways and for a person who had two quadruple by-pass surgeries by the age of 78, and at only 40 percent of his heart function, Rick was a walking miracle, blessed by God’s favor. At 80 years of age, he was on a ladder helping his daughter, Jamie, install a ceiling fan in her home. He was never one to sit because he could, but liked to use his abilities saying it kept him young. He didn’t care for computers or fancy phones, [technology] was always his wife’s job.

When he was in the hospital many staff members would come by because they had never seen anyone who was 100 years old. We never really thought about his age because the only thing that slowed down was his body — his mind was crisp and clear. In fact, he was playing games with the family a week before he made his last trip to the hospital. He had a few trips to the hospital over the last three years and always came home. No one believed that this wasn’t just going to be one of those times and that he would be coming home once again. He passed into heaven with the same grace that he lived his life, giving 100 percent of who he was in all that he did.

Rick is survived by his wife Leah of 40 years and 10 months (two peas in a pod), daughters, Jamie Pittman and spouse HG Pittman, Janet Smith and spouse Stephen Smith, eight grandchildren, Suzanne Valot, Natasha Hays and spouse Travis

In Memoriam . . .

Hays, Jesse Valot and spouse Amber Valot, Nathaniel Egbert and spouse Diana Egbert, Shannon Couch and spouse David Couch, Preston Smith and spouse Kristina Smith, Courtney Carroll, and Zachary Smith, six great-grandchildren, Grace Valot, Xavier Hayes, Leilani Egbert, Trinity Couch, Cecilia Couch, Hazel Carroll, and many nieces and nephews. The thing about Rick is that just like Jesus, who was adopted by Joseph, Rick, who didn't have any biological daughters or sons, inherited and embraced into his life Leah's two daughters when he married her, and his family just grew from there. He was always a beloved and integral part of his family's life, full of kindness, patience and the grace of Jesus rested on him.

He and Leah visited many people with various needs, taking them meals and blessing others with their kindness and prayers. The family witnessed others returning the same kindness to them in their later years.

Family and friends were blessed at the end of Rick's life to serve his needs just like he served all of theirs during the 40 years he and his wife Leah were married. He never complained and even suffered gracefully. He is dearly loved and will be missed for a time, for we will meet again in glory, a place without pain or tears, in the presence of Jesus, living in the city of God for all eternity. To have known Rick was to love Rick,

and to know Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit, is to be amazed for the love He has for us. If there is one thing Rick would want to be said it is that there is nothing like knowing Jesus as one's Lord and Savior. This life is just passing through to the place that is our eternal true home.

HOWLAND, EVERETT W. 422/L

Date of Death: October 14, 2024

Everett W.

Howland, 99, of Belleview, Florida passed away at home October 14, 2024.

Everett was born August 28, 1925 to Earl and Inez Esther Howland of Avon, MA. In 1943, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving with the 106th Infantry Division, 422nd. He was taken prisoner

of war at the Battle of the Bulge by the Germans on December 19, 1944, enduring until liberated in May 1945, at which time he weighed only 68 lbs.

He married Ruth Hendricks on March 21, 1948. He owned and operated a Western Auto Store, supporting his wife and two daughters. He rarely took time off from work, but occasionally he would put a handwritten sign on the store door: 'Gone Fishing.'



*Portrait
1942, Howland
Infantry 1943-45*



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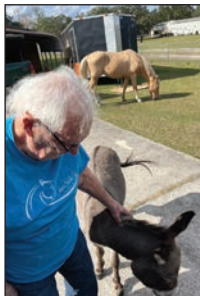
In Memoriam . . .

Everett loved the ocean, enjoying many years with the Power Squadron, and building a catamaran cruiser in his backyard.

In November 1988, Everett was one of more than 50 Massachusetts Ex POWs to be presented with the Prisoner of War Medal at Otis AFB. With the Avon, MA 2008 graduating class, he was presented with his Avon high school diploma through the *Welcome Home Bill*. He semi-retired to Mashpee, MA where he did remodeling and woodworking and then retired to the warmer Florida.

Everett loved life, enjoying the company of people he met, the many dogs and cats he had through the years, and in his nineties, a horse and miniature donkey, and always open to learning something new. In his nineties, he also started to learn to drive a horse-drawn cart. He loved old cars, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, music and playing the organ, birds and all wildlife, woodworking, and researching topics, current events, and YouTube on the internet.

Everett enjoyed going to as many 106th Reunions as he was able to, and always looked forward to the next one. He was always mindful of how blessed he was.



He was predeceased by his wife Ruth. He is survived by his two daughters, Jeanne Murphy of FL, and Patty Darcy of NC.

Reported by daughter Pat Darcy

LIVELY, LEE R. 591/HQ

Date of Death: March 27, 2024

Lee Lively passed away peacefully in Hospice care on March 27, 2024. He was born in Hinton, West Virginia on January 9, 1926 and was the son of Cora and John Lively. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after his graduation from high school and served in Europe in WWII. After his Military Service he attended Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia where he met the love of his life Martha. They were married from 1950 until her passing in 2020.



Lee and Martha moved to Florida where they both taught in high schools. He taught at Palm Beach and Twin Lakes High School until his retirement in 1991.

Lee is survived by his devoted son John and his daughter-in-law Cathy Lively.

MAYRSOHN, BERNARD

“BARNEY”

423/CN

Date of Death: October 7, 2024

Barney accepts a replacement for the jacket he lost 80 years previously from Lt. Gen. Donna Martin, the Army's 67th Inspector General, on his 101st birthday.



Bernard “Barney” Mayrsohn was born June 14, 1923. At 101, Army veteran Bernard “Barney” Mayrsohn considered himself a lucky man.

However, he was never luckier than in December 1944 when German troops overran the 106th Infantry Division at the start of the Battle of the Bulge. He would survive those first few days of terrible fighting and, five months later, walk out of a German POW camp.

While forever grateful for having survived, Mayrsohn was always bothered by losing his brown, wool “Eisenhower” or “Ike” jacket to the enemy. Poorly clothed German soldiers, without sufficient cold-weather gear themselves, stripped American POWs of their clothing, including Mayrsohn’s Ike jacket. With a smile and watery eyes, the centenarian accepted a replacement for the jacket he lost 80 years previously from Lt. Gen. Donna Martin, the Army’s 67th Inspector General, on his 101st birthday. To show her appreciation, Martin flew to Miami for the birthday celebration

and to honor Mayrsohn for his service after his son Mark sent an invitation to Army senior leadership. Martin jumped at the opportunity to share in this momentous occasion. “We are so grateful to you and the soldiers of the 106th for the fierce resolve you showed in that first week of the battle,” Martin said, “and we know you always regretted losing your jacket.”

With that, Martin presented him with the new version of the Ike jacket, which is part of the current Army Green Service Uniform. Mayrsohn was deeply touched as Martin draped the jacket across him. “You’ll see that the new version is cut and tailored like the original,” said Martin. “It’s got the medals you earned back then, your two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman Badge. It’ll look very handsome on you.”

After champagne and cake, Mayrsohn and Martin sang a duet of the Army Song, with the lyrics from his era, and the veteran’s voice boomed every time they sang “... the caissons go rolling along!” A quieter rendition of God Bless America followed. Martin also brought him three congratulatory letters and coins from Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George and Director of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. Laura Potter.

Mayrsohn’s life story was captured in a 2018 biography, “From Brooklyn to the Battle of the Bulge

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and on to Building an International Business: The Incredible Story of Bernard (Barney) Mayrsohn.” The book recounted the heroism of the 106th Infantry Division, known as “The Golden Lions,” at the tip of the Bulge from December 16, 1944, the day the battle started, until two regiments of the division were forced to surrender on December 19.

As Mayrsohn described in a 2014 video interview, shot for the 70th anniversary of the Battle, the 106th Infantry Division was inauspiciously positioned. “My 106th Division was put on the very tip ... of the bulge,” he said, referring to the large pocket the Germans created in the Allied lines.

He belonged to Cannon Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment, made up mostly of soldiers with little or no combat experience. The company took up its position on December 12, seven miles from the Siegfried line in a sector known to be so quiet that GIs called it the “Ghost Front.” The outgoing troops they relieved assured them it was a chance to calmly acclimate to a position close to the enemy. Because of a “bum shoulder,” as Mayrsohn put it, he was originally rejected for service, “but I sneaked in anyway.” Due to his shoulder, his job was to run communication lines to the company’s outposts, rather than take up a rifle position.

“We were told by them [the troops they relieved], ‘Quiet front, no

activity, you’re gonna get comfortable being in the front lines,’ and this was about three or four days before the Germans attacked,” he said. “We hardly got comfortable where we were set up. ... On the very first morning of December 16, we all heard heavy shelling, and they all said, ‘Barney, what the hell’s happening?’ and I said ‘Well, you heard, it’s our own artillery playing games.’”

“Well, when the shelling stopped at daybreak, we saw German troops coming over to our area ... and we started shooting at them,” he continued. “I think I got a couple, we shot a couple, we captured a couple. This is December 16.”

Mayrsohn recalled that German panzers went around either side of his unit’s fortifications, which meant “... in the first 24 hours we were 20 miles behind the German lines.”

Back at the house where Cannon Company headquarters was set up, Capt. James Manning, the company commander, said they were cut off and would have to fight their way out. Manning was shot and killed minutes later when he was the first to step out of the building. On a return trip to that area in 2014, Mayrsohn and Mark laid a wreath on Manning’s grave at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in eastern Belgium.

Terrible fighting continued day and night from December 16–19, including hand-to-hand combat and desperate firefights, with little to no

In Memoriam . . .

cover, to hold off the German troops. Cut off from the Army's rear position, they had to create foxholes by throwing grenades onto frozen soil.

"For four days, our company, together with other surrounded and blocked-off companies, tried to get together with our regiment," Mayrsohn said. During those four days the remaining members of his unit, as well as the other units they joined with, ran out of food and ammunition while constantly surrounded and targeted by German tanks.

"We fought the 16th, 17th, the 18th," he said. "We finally got together with our division on the 19th — what was left of the division. We were all dug in, surrounded by German tanks."

Amid increasingly heavy casualties, surrounded and with no defenses, and under deafening fire from German tanks, the order to surrender came. "Luckily, our smart colonel, [Charles C. Cavender] was his name, surrendered what was left of us. ... His orders were, 'Destroy your weapons and put your arms up.'"

Mayrsohn suffered wounds to his hand and arm, earning him the Purple Heart. After the surrender, the prisoners were marched for three days in the snow and bitter temperatures. His buddy, Hal Taylor, marched barefoot after the German troops took his shoes. Taylor developed pneumonia and Mayrsohn carried him multiple times.

When Mayrsohn and Taylor

reached the German railway lines, they were crowded into cattle cars with 100 other men, although, as Mayrsohn recollected, they were intended to hold only 40, "... which was a heaven, because it was better than the snow, but it turned out not to be heaven."

When the weather cleared, the American pilots' mission was to destroy the German rail system. Mayrsohn recalled that U.S. aircraft strafed the trains, hitting a train ahead of his filled with American officers. The humanity Veterans show with their stories — a symbol of their strength — often comes in the form of humor, and Mayrsohn is no different. When he arrived at the Stalag IV-B prison camp near Mühlberg, he was allowed to pick out a sergeant's coat from a huge pile of clothes.

"So, overnight I became from a private to a sergeant, and spent the rest of [the time at] the prison camp as a sergeant. That's my story," he said during the 2014 interview. In May 1945, Soviet troops freed the Americans.

Toward the end of the birthday celebration, Martin lingered to chat more with Mayrsohn and his son in the sunny, wood-paneled private room at the restaurant. "It was hard to say goodbye," she said.

After the party ended, Martin flew back to D.C., taking with her the memories of a hero of the Greatest Generation.

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According to the National WWII Museum, the Army lost 19,246 soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge and more than 23,000 American troops were taken prisoner. Mayrsohn's narrative reflects the camaraderie and bravery of so many previous generations of soldiers, which continues to draw men and women of character into the Army to this day.

The tragedy of combat was seared into Mayrsohn at 21 years of age. "I was in my foxhole, shells were blowing up boys all around me. Pieces of the boys were flying all around me. We had no defense."

Bernard is survived by his oldest daughter Janet of White Plains, NY, middle daughter Barbara of White Plains, NY and youngest son Mark of Miami, FL who lives with his wife Kathy and daughter Sophia, and daughter Aubreyanne and her husband Josh who live in Vermont.

REECE, RAYMOND F.

"

423/2BN/E

Date of Death:
December 5, 2024

Raymond F. Reece, age 99, passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2024 in Bolingbrook, IL



surrounded by his loving family. Born in Michigan, Raymond graduated from the University of Michigan with

a Mechanical Engineering degree. He worked at Leeds & Northrup for 36 years, retiring in 1988.

Raymond was a proud WWII Army Veteran of the 106th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. Surviving being a POW, Raymond was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. He also held a private pilot's license.

He married his beloved wife, Marjorie, in 1951 and they were happily married for 63 years. He is survived by his devoted children Martha (Martin) Lindeman, Matthew (Susanne Stranges) Reece, Sara (Robert) Koenig and Phil (Sharon Quirke) Reece; cherished grandchildren Jared (Julia Franiak) Lindeman, Kurt (Erin O'Heath) Lindeman, James (Emily Theis) Reece, Laura Reece, Sarah (Jack) Merrithy, Raymond (Katy Reese) Koenig, Alex Reece, Carolyn (Troy) Vandebroek and Jakob Reece; treasured great-grandchildren Arthur, Benjamin, Madelyn and Wyatt Lindeman and Josephine Reece. He is preceded in passing by his dearly beloved wife, Marjorie (nee Schendt) in 2014; dear parents Raymond Sr. and Theresa (nee Clark); and sister Suzanne Reece.

In Memoriam . . .

STARR, RUPERT D. “TWINK” 422

Date of Death: November 4, 2024

“Every day from now on is a free day. And I am going to do something worthwhile, accomplish something ...



every day. Every single day,” Rupert “Twink” Starr promised his mother when he returned home safely from World War II. Starr, who died peacefully November 4, 2024, lived that vow the rest of his life.

Born July 16, 1922, and raised in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, Rupert’s father was the village dentist and his mother, a high school teacher. He graduated from Mt. Sterling High School in 1940 and was admitted to Ohio University to study business administration. He joined the ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) there. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and remained supportive of the fraternity’s efforts throughout his life. His two older brothers and he were nicknamed “Twink” by their fraternity brothers because of their last name Starr. In January 1943, six months before graduation, Rupert enlisted into active duty with the Army as a second lieutenant. He was assigned to the 422nd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division and served as his

Regiment’s liaison officer to the Division. He was part of the offensive of the Battle of the Bulge, one of the deadliest battles of the war. In mid-December 1944 the 106th Infantry Division was surrounded by German troops. Rupert volunteered to cross enemy lines to get a message to Division Headquarters; however, he was captured before he reached Headquarters. He spent four months in German prison camps and was then moved to Poznan, Poland. The Germans then forced the prisoners to march to eastern Germany. The men gained their freedom when the Germans abandoned them to flee advancing Russian troops.

Rupert was honorably discharged from the Army in April, 1945. He received the Bronze Star for Heroism and the Combat Infantry Badge. The day he returned home he flew the American flag and continued to fly the flag every day of his life.

Rupert returned to Ohio University and graduated with a degree in business administration in 1946. He worked for Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati before moving to Columbus in 1950 and joining real estate developer John Galbreath. He later opened his own firm in West Columbus and was a lifelong resident of Upper Arlington. He served as president of the Columbus Realtors Association in 1973. In 2021, he received the Association’s

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In Memoriam . . .

Citizen of the Year Award to honor his service to the country, advocacy work in the LGBTQ community and commitment to the real estate industry. The honor was renamed the Rupert “Twink” Starr Citizen of the Year Award that same year. Throughout his career Rupert advised and supported numerous Columbus businesses and civic organizations including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Columbus Jaycees, First Congregational Church UCC, and Log Cabin Republicans. He was Grand Marshal of the 2009 Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade. The Columbus City Council passed a Resolution honoring his contributions in July 2017.

Rupert was an LGBTQ activist. He appeared in the documentary film *Courage Under Fire* by filmmaker Patrick Sammon. The film advocated for the repeal of the military “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. Rupert traveled to 148 countries and all 50 states. In June 2009, he returned to the area surrounding the former prison camp where he was held in Poznan, Poland.

Rupert is survived by his niece Cinda (Starr) Razor of Columbus, and numerous great and great-great-nieces, -nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Dano Starr and Helen Starr (Johnson); his partner of 53 years Allan Wingfield; brother Clayton [wife Ruth]; nephews Craig Starr and

Dano Starr; brother Dr. Hugh Starr [wife Helen]; and nephew Dr. Steven Starr. Rupert Starr often commented “My family: parents, grandparents, brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles, niece, great nieces and nephews are my greatest gifts.”

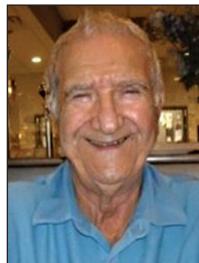
TAMBORINO, FRANK, JR.

81 ENG

Date of Death: June 4, 2024

Frank

Tamborino, Jr. was 100 and 8 months old when he passed away peacefully at home on June 4, 2024. Born in Ambler, PA on



October 1, 1923, to Frank and Philomena Tamborino, Frank moved to Stamford at the age of 5. He attended Stamford schools and served in the U. S. Army during World War II (1943–46). He fought in the Battle of the Bulge with the 81st Combat Engineer Battalion of the 106th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Battalion received a Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, gallantry and determination.

Frank started to work at a very young age, doing anything he could to help his family during the Depression. He saved enough money for his father to buy an oil truck and start an oil delivery business. After the war, Frank returned to his job at Norma

In Memoriam . . .

Hoffman Bearing Corp. In 1947, he married the love of his life, Antoinette “Dolly” Sollitto. They were married for 63 years until her death in 2010.

In 1963, Frank went to work for the Stamford Board of Education where he held several positions which concluded with Head Custodian at Westhill High School. Following his retirement in 1986, Frank and Dolly became “snow birds” and wintered in Davie, FL where he would play cards, go to the horse track and socialize. There was never a person he wouldn’t say hello to or a child he wouldn’t play with. Pleasant to the very end, he thanked his hospice nurse for coming to see him hours before his passing.

Frank loved being with his family and there was nowhere he would rather be. Affectionately known as Pop Pop to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was always walking the kids to the park, usually with one of his grandchildren on his shoulders, to play with them on the playground. A trip to the park wasn’t complete without stopping at construction equipment passed along the way for them to explore. He watched his kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren play countless baseball games and other sports and whenever Dad/Pop Pop was there, he was cheering loudly and providing his opinion of all the players, good or bad, regardless of whether they were his family or not. Dad/Pop Pop instilled in us a love for card games,

a passion for the NY Yankees and an enthusiasm for horse racing. One of his favorite things to do after Dolly passed was to play pinochle with his grandchildren on a Sunday afternoon. He was a regular at the Grade A on Shippan Avenue where they would announce his milestone birthdays over the loudspeaker.

In his early days, Frank played softball and was an avid bowler. He was a member of St. Mary RC Church since the 1940s serving as an usher at Sunday Mass and volunteering at the fairs for many years.

Frank is survived by his four children: his son, Frank Tamborino, III and his wife Elyse of Stamford, CT, daughters Phyllis Taylor and her husband Brian of Palm Coast, FL, Anna Tamborino and her husband Paul Furgalack of Milford, CT and Donna Condon and her husband Stephen also of Stamford, CT, as well as a brother Paul (Barbara), a brother-in-law Albert Zoppi and several nieces and nephews. Also surviving are his grandchildren Robert Taylor, Gregory Taylor (Erika), Jennifer Tamborino Riveles (Michael), Lauren Tamborino Bell (Justin), Mark Condon (Stephanie), Nicholas Condon (Shannon) and Christopher Condon (Laura); and great-grandchildren Hailey and Dylan Riveles, Natalie Taylor, Joanna and Daniel Bell, and Cole, Lindsay, Andie and Cameron Condon. Besides his parents and

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wife, Frank was predeceased by his brothers Anthony, John, Italo and sister Mary Ann Zoppi.

TAYLOR, JOHN W. 422/C

Date of Death: July 4, 2022

J.W. Taylor, age 98, died peacefully after a brief illness on July 4, 2022, in Fort Smith, AR. J.W. was predeceased by his first wife, Callie Lou Taylor and by his daughter, Loucretia Lou Taylor. Left to cherish his memory are his wife Jane Smith Taylor, daughters Angela Rayborn and Abigail Taylor Cox as well as his granddaughters Amanda, Kimberly, Shanno, and Delissa.



Born on December 9, 1923, in Taylorsville, Mississippi, J.W. was the eldest of five children. He became head of household after his father perished in an oil field accident when J.W. was nine. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps where he taught men to read and write, and worked odd jobs to support his family, allowing his sisters to attend college.

J.W. was a decorated WWII Veteran and German POW camp survivor. His multiple military honors include two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. Having served his country in war, J.W. also served our nation's intelligence and security services in various ways during peacetime. Shortly after WWII, he went to language school and

became fluent in both German and Russian. His linguistic skills were an invaluable resource to our country's intelligence agencies during the Cold War. Over the course of his career, he taught a class in "Secret Writing" at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. J.W. also served our nation as a U.S. Marshall. In 2015, J.W. received the Knowlton Award for five decades of service to our nation's intelligence agencies. It is the highest honor given for civilian service in the U.S. Intelligence community. J.W. was the epitome of what it means to be an American patriot. He was a walking, talking history lesson. His recall of vivid detail and his unique perspective captivated everyone with whom he came in contact.

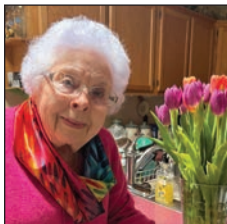
J.W. was a Christian. He was baptized in a small, shallow creek in a tiny Mississippi town. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, AR. One of his most cherished memories included organizing, acquiring supplies, and recruiting people to record professions of faith on decision cards at the Billy Graham Crusades in both Honolulu, Hawaii and Houston, Texas. The critical information on those neatly typed cards were then forwarded to local churches by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to connect new believers in Christ to a local church home. Conversations with Dr. Graham were recounted with great joy.

In Memoriam . . .

WOOD, WILMA – WIFE OF ROBERT WOOD, 423/I

Date of Death: February 13, 2025

Our beloved mother, Wilma Burcham Wood, went to be with our Lord on February 13, 2025. She was



an inspiration to all who met her. Her unwavering strength, compassion, and dedication to her family and community leave behind a wonderful legacy.

Wilma was born on November 27, 1926, in Bloomfield, Indiana, to Claude and Inez Burcham. She had an older brother, Harry, and grew up during difficult times. After graduating from Bloomfield High School at the age of 17, she left home and moved to the big city of Bloomington, IN, in search of new opportunities.

During World War II, Wilma worked at RCA in what was known as the “Secret Room,” where the women had no idea what they were assembling. The job came with a benefit: the room was air-conditioned, a rare comfort during that era. It was in Bloomington that Wilma met the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Wood, who arrived at her rooming house on his Indian motorcycle. It was love at first sight, and they were married three months later. Their meeting led to an almost 60-year marriage.

Bob, a member of the 106th Infantry Division, survived being a POW having been captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Together, Wilma and Bob attended reunions for the 106th Infantry Division Association. After Bob’s passing in June of 2006, Wilma proudly became an Associate Member, attending yearly reunions, until 2019. Wilma was honored with the highest award given to a civilian, the Golden Lion, for her support and contributions.

Wilma and Bob were active in many community groups, supporting United Methodist Church, the 106th Infantry Division Association, schools in Liberia, and initiatives for education and healthcare in numerous communities. They were known for quietly supporting causes close to their hearts, always giving without seeking recognition. Wilma and Bob’s example of generosity is one we should all strive to follow.

For her children, Wilma was a guiding light. She taught us how to navigate life with grace and strength. In 1963, determined to join the workforce, Wilma took typing classes alongside her sister-in-law, Dorcas Wood Barrow. Many years later, the two of them took computer classes together. Wilma worked as a Medical Secretary in the X-ray department at Bloomington Hospital for 23 years.

Travel and adventure were passions Wilma and Bob shared. They traveled extensively across the United

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In Memoriam . . .

States, visiting every state (except Hawaii) and driving hours out of their way just to cross the border of a new one. Their daughter Beth's husband, Ron, was a career Air Force Officer. Bob and Wilma visited them nearly every place they were stationed, including Greece and Germany. While in Germany, they were able to retrace Bob's footsteps during the Battle of the Bulge, which held great significance for them all.

Mom always felt she should live to be as old as her mom, who died at the age of 98. Mom met her goal on Nov. 27, 2024. She was with us through that Thanksgiving celebration and our Christmas get-together. As always, she was one determined woman.

Wilma is survived by her children: Randall Wood (Patty), Carol Wood Faulkner (Dean), Janet Wood, and Beth Wood Garrison (Ron); nine grandchildren: Sherry Wood Quire (Jeremy), Jennifer Wood Priest (Jim), Jason Sovern, Krista Sovern, Aaron Garrison, Meggan Garrison Sudja, Micah Faulkner (Chaleen), April Faulkner Knight (Steve), Robin Faulkner; 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter; and many other beloved family members and friends who will carry on her legacy. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her and loved her deeply.

The Wood family would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Brookdale Senior Living

facility. They have shown true love and compassion for Mom and all our family. The staff cared for her as if she were their own. We would also like to thank Heart to Heart Hospice for their quick response, care and support when we needed it most. You have all been a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church food pantry and/or the 106th Infantry Division Association.

May we all strive to live with the same kindness, determination, and quiet generosity that Wilma and Bob embodied throughout their lives.

Reported by daughter, Janet Wood

ZAH RATKA , ARNOLD J.

“BUCK”

424/L

Date of Death: January 9, 2025

Arnold J. “Buck” Zahratka, age 99, of Montgomery, MN, passed away on Thursday January 9, 2025 at Traditions of Montgomery. Born August 31, 1925



in Montgomery to parents Tom and Bessie (Lestina) Zahratka, he attended St. Raphael Catholic School and Montgomery High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1943 and sent to Camp Blanding, Florida, for basic training followed by specialized training in Camp Butner,

In Memoriam . . .

North Carolina. He was then assigned to the 106th Infantry Division in Camp Atterbury, Indiana and shortly after sent to Le Havre, France. Once ashore, the 106th set off to confront the Nazis in the winter of 1944–45. Facing some of the worst winter weather in decades, the 106th went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. With many of the 106th ending up captured or killed, Buck fought on with a small contingent of the 424th Regiment, Company L. Buck ended up being separated from his unit and was left alone in the Ardennes with no ammunition and very few provisions but eventually found his way back to his unit.

Buck was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Bronze Star, European Campaign Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, World War II Medal, Fidelity and Honor Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the French Legion of Honor Medal.

After returning home, Buck maintained his service and love

of country by becoming a charter member of the combined VFW and American Legion Honor Guard. After working as a mechanic, he opened “Buck’s Cities Service,” then “Buck’s Tavern” in the early sixties followed by 30 years as a heavy equipment operator for Alexander Construction. Hobbies included fishing, snowmobiling, travel and driving his motorcycle and Model T.

Family was very important to him. Buck was married to his wife Gladys (Kennedy) for 73 years and blessed with three children, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Buck is survived by children Keith “Zeke” (Cindy) of Montgomery, Linda (Dale) Stadstad of Prior Lake and Arnold (Tom) Zahratka of Howard Lake. Buck is preceded in death by his wife Gladys, brothers Leonard and Martin, sister Loraine, parents Tom and Bessie.

Reported by son-in-law Dale Stadstad

PLEASE NOTE:

To the widows/family members of Golden Lions, if you wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your Veteran, please let Membership Chair, Henry LeClair know. His contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

We Are Currently Updating Our Roster

If any of the following apply, please contact our Membership Chair:

- You no longer wish to receive *The CUB*.
- You want to switch from mailing to email.
- Your address has changed.

Also, please contact the Membership Chair, Henry LeClair, to provide us with your email address so that we can contact you if your mailing is returned to us.

Boys, *Just Boys*

*Biography of a WWII
Infantry Regiment*

by **Brian J. Welke**

Through the voices of the men who experienced it, *Boys, Just Boys* relates the story of the 423rd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division before, during, and after the Battle of the Bulge. In mid-December 1944, the men of the 423rd, along with the rest of the division, arrived in the snows and forested ravines of the Ardennes/Schnee Eifel, the mountains straddling the border between Germany and eastern Belgium. As they dug into their positions, they were assured that the Germans no longer posed much threat.

The 423rd was deployed across the border into Germany, and despite the reassurances that the Germans were not a threat, its soldiers took their job seriously. A few days later, in the early dawn of December 16th, the Germans attacked an 80-mile front; positioned at the flashpoint near the center, the 423rd was hit head on. Vastly outnumbered by the enemy, the 423rd and the rest of the 106th held out for four days in Germany. Many died in the assault, but most of the survivors were taken prisoner. The 423rd was essentially destroyed. The rest of the 106th suffered as well, but more than 2,700 members of the 423rd, to include future author Kurt Vonnegut, were shipped as POWs to the east where they endured unimaginable hardships before the war in Europe ended the following spring.

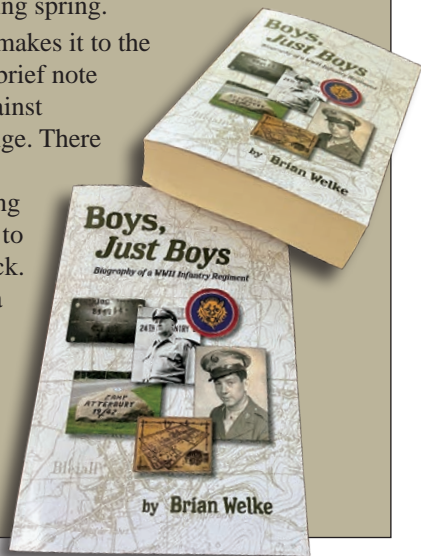
The 423rd Infantry Regiment seldom makes it to the pages of World War II history, except as a brief note about the inadequacy of an untried unit against superior forces during the Battle of the Bulge. There is little mention of the regiment's staunch defense of its position against overwhelming odds, or the failure of the Allied command to recognize and prepare for the German attack. *Boys, Just Boys* sets the record straight in a deeply moving and gripping way.

Available online at

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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(simply type the title in the search bar)



We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the
106th Infantry Division 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

106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

* THE ARDENNES

* CENTRAL EUROPE

* THE RHINELAND



GOLDEN LIONS

Henry LeClair — Membership Chair
209 Range Road
Windham, NH 03087

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