THE ARDENNES * THE RHINELAND * CENTRAL EUROPE

# The CUB of the GOLDEN LION

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

Vol. 82 – No. 1 January – March 2026

## The Bulge Commemorations in Belgium

***Wreaths at the Division Monument in St. Vith: "In memory of the men of the 106th Infantry Division U.S. Army, who fought and died for their country in the Ardennes Forest during the winter of 1944–1945."***

**In December 2025, two commemorations were held in Belgium to honor the 106th Infantry Division.**

*Read the report from our overseas liaison, Carl Wouters, on* ***page 21****.*

# The CUB

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

**Total Membership as of January 31, 2026 — 626**

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

**Annual Dues are no longer mandatory: Donations Accepted**

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# *Editor's Message . . .*

My birthday is the day after Valentine's Day so every year I think about age-related things shortly after celebrating a New Year. This year in particular, as I prepare this editor's message, I am reminded that I have many more years behind me than I do in front of me. This causes me to think about what is really important in life, and how I want to live my remaining days. It isn't just about longevity (I think we all probably want to live as long as we can), it's about the quality of the life we live. This is especially timely as I'm working on this edition of *The CUB* and thinking about the Veterans who are gone, those who are still with us, and how what they sacrificed has enabled ALL of us to have a better quality of life in these United States and in the world. In the six years that I've served in this role, I've read many stories about how some men couldn't talk about their experiences and/or how they carried the weight of what they endured like heavy coats they couldn't shed. In some cases, it was crushing, their lives shrouded in the darkness they brought back home with them. In other cases, it served to energize their spirits and provide a renewed purpose in life whether it be through continuing military service, in the work they did professionally or in the community to which they returned, or in raising families. All these Veterans, whether they struggled to regain a foothold when they returned home or were able to progress forward seemingly seamlessly, symbolize the epitome of living a life of significance.

What can we do to come close to emulating that selflessness and sacrifice or at least recognize and acknowledge it? One way is to honor those Veterans who are still with us and continue sharing the accounts of those who have gone before them.

1. Continue the 106th Infantry Division Association and *The CUB* which provide ways to share stories of historical relevance, stay in touch with Veterans, and promote lasting gratitude for their actions.
2. Attend one or more of the annual reunions. Held at a different city each year, the reunion provides a way for you to possibly meet one of our Veterans who not only exemplifies longevity but will share with you his experiences first-hand. And what an opportunity we have to be able to thank these men in person! Attending a reunion also provides a way to learn more about what happened with the 106th during WWII through presentations

and tours. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet Veterans' relatives, friends, and new acquaintances who share a common bond of wanting to uphold the mission of the Association.

So, this year, as every year, I not only count whatever candles can fit on the cake, but I count my blessings that I'm still here and able to celebrate in a world made safer by the sacrifices of these good and honorable men. For my small contribution, I am humbled to be able to help promote a publication that shares the stories that keep our Veterans' voices alive. I hope you find when you read *The CUB* that it provides a better understanding of and appreciation for what our Veterans did for us and what they continue to mean.

This edition of *The CUB* includes our regular submissions from board members and committees, and more information about the upcoming reunion. This year, the reunion will be held in Savannah, Georgia. Read our President's and Adjutant's messages for more about what is planned and why attending the event is such a positive and fun experience. In addition, we've provided more details about some of the activities planned and when you will be able to register.

In Veterans Voices, we have two submissions by our members. Two different perspectives about sons both looking for answers about their fathers' experiences during the war, and how it affected them. Both of these poignant stories illustrate how wartime trauma can have lifelong, lasting effects on not only the Veterans but family members as well.

The Historian's page showcases the story of how one Veteran's diary made a 30-year literary journey (unbeknownst to him) to become a book.

And as promised, we have published a list of past Order of the Golden Lion Award recipients. This list speaks to the commitment of the Association and illustrates the continued efforts being made on its behalf to keep the mission of the Association alive. Nominations are open if you know of someone who has given of themselves to help the Association and its membership. Explanations of the awards and how nominations work can be found in this edition.

As we leave these cold days of winter and head towards warmer months, remember our Veterans. Reach out: a phone call, a card, or a text even can be greatly appreciated.

Veterans, thank you for all you have done… we are here for you!

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*
*CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org*

# *President's View . . .*

**Kathy Spinella (*grandfather: 423/L*)**
106th Infantry Division Association
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I would like to start off my message by thanking all of the Veterans for what they have done over the years to contribute to this, their organization, and to preserving their history — both here at home and in the Ardennes where they gave all they had to preserve the very essence of freedom. They may not have initially realized that their commitment to each other to meet after WWII and keep in touch with one another would lead us to where we are today. Their sharing of stories and recollections has led to the preservation of priceless information for future generations and historians. The Veterans raised funds for the 106th Memorial Marker in St. Vith, Belgium, which many of us have had the opportunity to visit. They have invested their time and funds to ensure that their history is available for anyone to find. And the work continues today, both here at home and in Belgium.

The current Association membership is 626. Our Veterans make up 96 of that membership number with the remaining 530 comprised of family members and at-large members who have a heart for the 106th.

As you can see, the membership of the association is shifting and the Veterans are passing the torch to the next generation. It is up to the 530 of us to carry their legacy forward, continue to preserve their history, and share with future generations. I would like to encourage those of you in this larger category of membership to become more involved and to attend the annual reunions.

Fortunately, we still have Veterans attending reunions! We have never had a reunion without a Veteran or a first-time attendee present. As a board, we try to choose reunion locations conducive to

Veteran attendance. So, if you have ever wanted to spend time in the presence of a Golden Lion, please take this opportunity to join us this year in Savannah, GA, September 16–20. If you aren't able to attend for the whole time, come for what you can. Reunions are a wonderful way to learn more about your own Veteran through the programs and educational opportunities that are available. Those with lots of research experience and even authors of books about the 106th are on hand to share their knowledge.

For the past few years, reunions have coincided with National POW/MIA Recognition Day and there have been special events for our Veterans, many of whom were POWs. This reunion will follow that precedent. We will also be visiting the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force with a tour led by our own historian Sean O'Dwyer.

You have an amazing Board of Directors who works tirelessly behind the scenes to plan the reunions and do the work to keep the 106th Infantry Division Association active and carrying on the original goals of the Veterans. Help us keep their mission moving forward! Hope to see you in Savannah.

Kathy Spinella

## 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, 2026** — mail date: mid-June, 2026 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

**October 1, 2026** — mail date: late November, 2026 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

**January 31, 2027** — mail date: late March, 2027 (issue to include 2027 reunion information and may include reunion paperwork)

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

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# *Chaplain's Message . . .*

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Words matter. They shape reality, reflect core values, and influence choices. Our voice possesses unimaginable power to build up, inspire, unify, and enrich. Proverbs 16:24 (NIV) reminds us that *"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*

But our words can also be sharp as a sword and lethal, causing division, destruction, and death. That's why scripture warns that our tongues can be *"… a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire…"* James 3:6 (NIV)

On September 1, 1939, the world ignited into a raging inferno that began with words.

Lethal words that gave rise to World War II, the deadliest conflict in human history, with total deaths ranging from 60 million to more than 85 million people. Deadly words that included 20–25 million military deaths and 40–55 million civilian deaths, as well as the systematic, state-sponsored murder of six million Jewish men, women, and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, known as the Holocaust.

The words that set our world ablaze were lit on Wednesday, August 20, 1919, the day of my father's birth. That morning in Knoxville began bright and unseasonably warm. A severe drought had left the Tennessee River riding low as it slipped south under the Gay Street Bridge. That night, at twenty-minutes past eight, Dr. J. J. Eller delivered Roderick Waring (Roddie) Edmonds (422/HQ) — the last of four boys — to my grandparents, Thomas and Jennie, at their shotgun-style home on West Fifth Avenue.

That same day, a half a world away, at a base in Lechfeld near Augsburg, Germany, a private first-class began teaching a five-day course for personnel of the Reichswehr, the German Armed Forces. The decorated soldier had received citations for bravery including an Iron Cross 1st Class for single-handedly capturing a group of French soldiers hiding in a shell hole during the final German offensive of World War I.

Though temporarily blinded in a mustard gas attack near Ypres in Belgium, he was selected as one of a squad of 26 instructors to inculcate nationalist and anti-Bolshevik sentiments in the troops. The energetic soldier was ideal because he excelled in the training course and had impressed his instructor.

Working alongside his unit commander, Rudolph Beyschlag, the dynamic soldier, did most of the training with passion and enthusiasm. He helped stir discussion on Beyschlag's lectures on "From the Days of the Munich Raterepublik" and "Who Bears the Guilt for the World War."

He threw himself into the work, creating his own provocative lectures. He was fully engaged. And for the first time, he discovered almost by chance that he had a great gift. He could speak and stir his audience from apathy to action.

The main theme in his popular lectures was antisemitism. He held nothing back in his hatred of Jews — especially in a lecture he called "Capitalism" in which he mentioned for the first time "the Jewish question." So much so that his Camp Commander, Oberleutnant Bendt, asked him to tone down his anti-Jew rhetoric.

A few weeks later, impressed with his right-hand man's ability to communicate and his expertise "on the Jews," his superior, Captain Karl Mayr, asked "the star" of the lectures to respond to an inquiry about the Jewish question.

In a letter dated September 16, 1919, the engaging soldier identified the Jews as the race responsible for the communist movement in Bavaria, describing them as the "tuberculosis of the peoples." He wrote that antisemitism must be based on facts, leading to the "systematic removal of the rights of the Jews" and, in the end, "the removal of the Jews altogether."

Private First-class Adolf Hitler was impressive. He stood out as an effective communicator and made his first virulent antisemitic speeches in Lechfeld. Those hate-filled lectures would ignite a firestorm of brutality that would engulf my father Roddie, our brave Golden Lions, and millions of young soldiers around the world in catastrophic violence.

It all started with words. And gratefully, it ended with words — backed up by the might of America and the grace of Almighty God.

In a speech to the National Rifle Association on February 3, 1939, General George C. Marshall spoke with pride about the value of the infantry. He said, "The foundation on which a successful war is carried to conclusion, aside from the character and resolution of the people, equally rests with the infantry soldier, no matter what the scientific developments and clever gadgets developed for making war."

Take a moment to thank the Lord

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for the character of our Golden Lions and everyone from the Greatest generation.

Delivered after Dunkirk on June 4, 1940, Winston Churchill promised relentless resistance that defined the British resolve to prevent Nazi victory in 1940. "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." Give God praise for blessing us with brave men and women who took the fight to Hitler and never backed down.

President Franklin Roosevelt's speech to Congress on December 8, 1941, rallied a slumbering nation from sleep to might. "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan… As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

Say a word of thanks for the righteous might of the American people then and now. The Bible tells us the truth. *The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.* Proverbs 28:1 (NIV)

Following the defeat of the Germans at the Battle of Alam el Halfa on September 5, 1942, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel briefed Hitler and stressed the superiority of the British Air Force flying American-made planes and shells.

Rommel: "The enemy win their battles from the air! They knock out my panzers with American armor-piercing shells."

General Goring: "That's impossible! The Americans only know how to make razor blades."

Rommel: "We could do with some of those razor blades, Herr Reichsmarshall."

Now that's just funny — so just laugh and be grateful that we had enough razors blades and even barbed wire. General George Patton wrote, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

Spread the word that our greatest weapon was and still is the American Soldier. God bless them all. You see, words matter. They shape our choices. They build up or tear down. They unleash unimaginable good or inflict deadly destruction. In a world still on fire, we must choose our words carefully and prayerfully. Like King David, God's warrior of old, *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.* Psalm 19:14 (NKJV)

# *The Adjutant's Message . . .*

As the Adjutant, I continually look forward to seeing what the future of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be. One way I approach that is to look back to when I first saw the Association at work. It was in 2001, when my dad, Robert Wood, 423rd/I Co., my mom, my wife Patty and I attended our first reunion. It was held in Washington, D.C., across the street from the Pentagon. This was the first reunion for all of us. We were looking forward to meeting Russ Lang and his wife Lil. Russ was Dad's bunkmate while in the German prison camp in Mühlberg, Germany. My dad and Russ had not seen each other since leaving Germany. It was a great reunion with more than 400 attendees. We met a lot of families including Russ and Lillian Lang, Murray and Barbara Stein, and many others. They treated us as if they had known us all of their lives.

At that reunion, we attended a presentation by the author Ervin Szpeck on his book "Shadows of Slaughterhouse Five." Twenty-five or more Veterans were in the room and the most memorable part was that most of them had been held as prisoners in Slaughterhouse Five and were quoted in the book. During the gathering, not only did we get to speak with them, but they also answered questions. To me, that was a true moment of learning about what our Veterans had endured during the battle and what the conditions were like in the German prisons.

**Randall M. Wood (*father 423/I*)**
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There have been many books written since that time that have given us insight into what our Veterans endured during their time throughout the war, and sometimes these are discussed during our reunions. Two current books are "No Surrender" by Chris Edmonds and "Boys, Just Boys" by Brian Welke. Chris filled in for his dad, Roddy Edmonds, in answering questions during a presentation Chris made about his book several years ago. This past reunion, we had one Veteran, Mr. John G. Beville, who was able to participate in the questions and

*continues on page 10*

answers about incidents portrayed in Brian's book, with Brian in attendance to field questions as well.

My wife Patty and I have missed one reunion since 2001 and that was because my sister Beth and her husband Ronnie took Mom and Dad to that next reunion in 2002. Times change. Dad passed away in 2006 as have many of our Veterans. Patty, Mom, and I attended every reunion since then until Mom could no longer travel and shop. Yes, we stopped at most every outlet mall along the way to each reunion.

These days, 20+ years after that first reunion, we are lucky to have two-dozen attendees, and we are lucky to have one or two 106th Veterans attend the reunions. As we get older, it's harder for us to get around. This is especially true for the Veterans. The Veterans who do attend are greatly appreciated, but it gets harder and harder each year for them to join. That's where the kids get involved. Bring your Veteran if they feel up to it. If they do not want to or cannot travel, come in their place. Then, when you get home, bring them up-to-date. Include the kids and grandkids in the updates so that they have an understanding of what their Veteran endured. We have never had a reunion that did not have at least one Veteran and one new attendee. We need your help for attendance — we can't do it without you! So please join us in Savannah at the next reunion. Some information about the reunion can be found on the next two pages.

As we have done in the past, a private hospitality room will be available to us to use as a base for the group. This is where we can gather to visit, where the educational presentations will be held, and where the silent auction items will be displayed. (The silent auction has been a great way for our Association to make some money to help perpetuate the reunions and support *The CUB* magazine. Bring a treasure and bid on the treasures you find there. There are always beautiful hand-made crafts as well as useful, fun, and historic items of value.)

As stated earlier, we have reunions for you and your family to learn about and to honor your Veteran's legacy and the legacy of all the Veterans who served in the 106th Infantry Division. In the process, we also get to meet new friends and families and spend time with them.

P.S.: Yes, that first reunion I attended with my family ended in Washington, D.C., the day before the Twin Towers in New York City were attacked, the Pentagon was attacked, and a plane went down in a field in Pennsylvania. We will never forget it.

***As more detailed information becomes available, it will be put on our website, 106InfDivAssn.org, and will be included in the next CUB magazine.***

## Reunion Hotel Information

**Holiday Inn & Suites Savannah Airport–Pooler**
100 Outlet Parkway
Savannah, GA 31322
(*And great news for those of you who like to shop as Randy's mother did, there is an outlet mall across the street from the hotel.*)

***Rate:***
**$129** (plus tax) — *breakfast on your own.* (There is a restaurant in the hotel and several across the street.)

***Cut-off Date:***
Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **Aug. 18, 2026**.

***Reservation Information:***
To make reservations and receive the group rate, ***call the hotel reservation line directly*** at **912-825-8458.** 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 $129 rate.

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

***Reunion Information continues on page 12***

***Make Your Plans NOW to join us!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 79th Annual Reunion at the**

**Holiday Inn & Suites Savannah Airport–Pooler, Savannah, GA**

**Sept. 16–20, 2026**

**Additional information about the reunion — as it becomes available — will be online at:**

***106InfDivAssn.org***

***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-Tfitg***

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

# Reunion Activities Planned to Date:

***Wednesday, September 16***

Registration open
*Association Board Meeting*
Hospitality Room open, begin to display Silent Auction items

***Thursday, September 17***

***Visiting historic Savannah — we are working to secure a narrated hop-on/hop-off trolley tour.***
*(We will be carpooling to these locations)*
Hospitality Room will be open upon our return; Silent Auction items will be on display
Educational presentation

***Friday, September 18***

***Visit the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force*** with a tour led by our very own Sean O'Dwyer, Education Programs Manager at the 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

***Saturday, September 19***

***Memorial Service at 10:00 am***
*Afternoon Association Board Meeting*
Educational presentation
Evening Banquet with presentations and the conclusion of the Silent Auction

***Sunday, September 20***

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.***

## *Richard "Dick" Sparks 423rd/HQ in His Own Words*

**Sean O'Dwyer**
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*In September of last year, the Board was contacted by William "Bill" Ryan, a 93-year-old Navy veteran of the Korean War era, who had a fascinating 106th story to share. Bill's connection to the Golden Lions came through his late wife Patricia, whose older brother Richard "Dick" Sparks served with Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon, HQ Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment. Dick fought through the entire Battle of the Bulge, and was fortunate to evade capture by the Germans, an uncommon case for soldiers of the 423rd Infantry.*

*After retiring from a fruitful career with the New York Department of Education, Dick became active with the Division Association, and was elected to its Board in 1997. All the while, Dick began work on a memoir about his experiences entitled "A Walk Through the Woods," a process that started in 1945 in Lorient, France, even before the war's end. The memoir survives thanks to Bill Ryan, himself a lifelong storyteller, who preserved the manuscript for more than 30 years before contacting the Association to pass on Dick's legacy. Although completed, the memoir remained professionally unpublished when Dick died in 2008, at age 85. Once I started to read his incredible account, it seemed essential to feature a selection in* The CUB. *Bill's foresight to conserve Dick's memoir, and more recently, get it published, has given us historically-minded folks another invaluable window into the life of an American GI during the Bulge. This particular section recounts Dick's memories of December 18, 1944, the third day of the battle.*

Again, the night was fairly quiet. Occasional artillery fire and the sounds of small arms, probably from patrol skirmishes in the area of the front-line companies, were the only things that disturbed our light sleep. The I&R posted sentries around the schoolhouse and, throughout the night, kept in touch with the small

*continues on page 14*

security force that had been left in Buchet proper after the headquarters moved to Oberlasheid.

We struggled out of our sacks at dawn — the usual foggy, snowy, cold dawn — to find that Casey had been up early and put together a hot breakfast from the leftovers we had at the schoolhouse. It certainly wasn't ham and eggs, but Casey, using his imagination, made it taste better than breakfast at the Waldorf. Packs, weapons and ammunition were checked, and our barracks bags were stacked in the command post on the first floor. In the meantime, Ike had taken off for headquarters to find out what the situation was.

Our combat packs, usually carried in the jeeps, had the bare minimum for survival for a couple of days. They contained a blanket, a change of socks and underwear, what food we could locate — an occasional K ration or extra chocolate bar — a small first-aid kit and any extra ammunition we could pack in. Our weapons consisted of M-1 rifles or .30 caliber carbines, two jeep-mounted .50 caliber machine guns, and two .45 caliber "grease guns," those crude inaccurate submachine guns with 30-round magazines that threw a lot of lead and were particularly good for covering fire. Overcoats were packed in the barracks bags — they were too cumbersome for fighting. We had not yet been issued overshoes.

By the time Ike returned, we had all the jeeps loaded and ready for whatever we had to do. He called us all out around his jeep and told us that the regiment had been ordered to abandon its positions on the front line and proceed to attack westward across Skyline Drive and then turn northwestward to attack Schoenberg. The 9th Armored was supposedly moving on Schoenberg from St. Vith in relief of the 422nd and the 423rd. Again, the information was faulty, since no American armor was ever seen. The I&R was to fall in as rear guard at the end of the regiment to protect against any German attacks from the rear. He then pulled a bottle of White Horse Scotch from his knapsack. "This could be a mess we're getting into," said Ike. "Above all, stick together and we'll make it some way or another. Here's to the best." He then passed the bottle around and everyone had a swallow with a double ration going to Johnny Califf. It was his birthday. Irish passed out some cigars he had been hoarding, — the birth of a new adventure? We cranked up the jeeps and moved out.

We found the end of the column about three quarters of a mile outside Buchet on the road to Halenfeld. We could hear that the fighting had intensified over near Skyline Drive, and the column had ground to a halt. We were told to hold our position and be alert for any enemy movements in our rear. And hold we did — for five or six hours. During our wait, Hank Iversen

had found an abandoned 2½-ton truck and, taking three of the fellows with him, went back to the schoolhouse and loaded up all our barracks bags rejoining us a short time later. We had hated to leave all our possessions and were bound and determined to get them out if we could. Some of the second squad also went back into Buchet to check out the headquarters buildings for any classified material that might have been overlooked when they moved out. They found quite a lot of papers laying around and, to be safe, had quite a bonfire.

***Scene from the area of the roadblock (photo taken in 1999). Engineers Cut-off went to the left just over the crest of the hill. In the valley, left center, the troops of the 423rd had to surrender on the 19th of December.***

***In 1944, this area was heavily forested. Over time, it has been cleared for farming. (Photo Richard Sparks)***

Late in the afternoon, the convoy got moving again, the troops having fought their way past Skyline Drive, suffering heavy casualties in the fighting. The 1st Battalion had been nearly wiped out with the exception of A Company that was serving as their rear guard. Lt. Col. Nagle came to Ike about this time and told him to have the platoon establish a roadblock at the crossroads south of Radscheid near a corduroy road called "Engineer's Cut-off" that had been built by the engineers to serve as a shortcut between the Bleialf-Schoenberg road and the Bleialf-Auw road ("Skyline Drive"). Half of our little force was to hold the roadblock at all costs, and the other half were to occupy a hill overlooking the Ihren valley. The 1st squad, in charge of the roadblock, had a backbreaking job during most of the night. We succeeded in felling one tree across the road using a rusty hatchet we found in an abandoned truck and one or two entrenching tools from our jeeps. We would work two or three at a time while the others kept watch at our rear.

During the night, the fighting continued, more intense than before. Ike, trying to keep in touch with headquarters, found that Col. [Charles] Cavender had moved the headquarters contingent to 3rd Battalion CP on a hill overlooking Schoenberg. All the vehicles had

*continues on page 16*

*Another view of the area of the roadblock (photo taken in 1999). Engineers Cut-off went to the left near where the white car is seen. (Photo Richard Sparks)*

become bogged down in the mud of the logging trails leading into the Ihren valley and had to be abandoned. The supporting artillery had been ordered to withdraw to St. Vith and thus was not of much help to the regiment. The troops spent one of their most miserable nights ever, not being able to see the enemy and being constantly fired upon and shelled in the muddy and mainly exposed positions. Ammunition was extremely scarce; food and medical supplies had run out and the regiment was only at about 50 percent of full strength.

The I&R was comparatively lucky. The Germans had not tried to come down our way and had not, obviously, spotted our positions so we received no artillery fire. Toward daybreak, spelling each other, we were able to get a few winks of sleep.

In some of our bull sessions stateside, we had often wondered how we would react under combat conditions. We knew we had been trained well. We had proven ourselves in tactical exercises. We knew we could count on each other. We knew we wouldn't panic. Would we be scared? Could fear be controlled? Or even be made to work for us?

Yes, we found, as any combat soldier did, that we were scared at times. If we could see and identify what was happening to us, we could do something about it and fear was minimized. But in the middle of an artillery barrage, we could well experience a terrifying, shaking fear. We couldn't see the shells. We couldn't do much about them. We had to have faith that we could duck down far enough to keep from being hit. We also had to have faith that someone somewhere was looking after us and trust that, unless our name was on that particular round, we would be safe.

During this night, with the noise and fighting just a few hundred yards from us, we began to feel some of this trepidation. Tomorrow we would be in the middle of things we couldn't forecast, and this knowledge transformed our feelings into a cocky, fine-edged attitude that said we would make it — God willing.

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

*Looking for information about a 106th Veteran?*
*Do you have information about one you'd like to share?*

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

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

***Make checks payable to:***
**106th Infantry Division Association and mail to**
**Mike Sheaner, Treasurer, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214**

## Show Your Support for the Association!

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***All proceeds benefit the Association.***

# Battle of the Bulge time for you…

**It was a freezing-cold morning in the dark snow-filled mountains between Germany and Belgium. Here was the German-Siegfreid defense line. The young American boys of the 106th Infantry Division crossed the stormy English Channel only a few days prior. They arrived at Ardennes Woods. Here was "a quiet spot," good for real combat training. A sudden German attack was not expected as it was almost Christmas. Many believed that the war against Germany and Hitler was almost won.**

**Richard (Dick) Sparks, radio operator, was a good writer. He authored a paper called "A Walk Through the Woods." It followed his I&R platoon, part of the 423rd Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division reported as "wiped out," killed, and imprisoned after being at the head point of the German attack. Hitler's plans of using his best remaining resources could not follow schedule when confronted by these boy soldiers.**

**The I&R scout platoon was trained to be the eyes and ears of the regiment, ordered to observe and not to engage their enemy. This made them good at escaping.**

**Sparks' writings are published in this book by historian Bill Ryan, Dick Sparks' brother-in-law, and Susan Weiss, whose father also served in the 106th Infantry Division. Susan is the Publisher of *The CUB* magazine, official publication of the 106th Infantry Division Association, honoring the Golden Lions.**

**"A Walk Through the Woods" has many new stories and forgotten memories of these historic battles and what happened at St. Vith, Belgium, the vital crossroads.**

**Now step into the woods with Dick Sparks.**

Available online at

***amazon.com/Walk-Through-Woods-Battle-Bulge/dp/B0GDFM5J1V***

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

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

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:**
**November 1 – January 31, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Beginning Balance:** | **$30,103.36** |
| Money In: | 856.23 |
| Money Out: | 2,205.41 |
| Difference: | (1,349.18) |
| **Ending Balance:** | **$28,754.18** |

**Association Membership as of January 31, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total Membership** | **626** |
| Veteran Membership | 96 |
| Associate Membership | 530 |

# 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*

**LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert M. Edwards | 424/SV |
| JoEllen Lang | Associate Member |
| William P. Matthews, Jr. | Associate Member |
| Dennis Shane Miller | Associate Member |
| Gene Miller | Associate Member |
| Barbara Powless | Associate Member |
| Roxanne Vendegna | Associate Member |

**NEW MEMBERS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| JoEllen Lang | Associate Member |
| William (Bill) Ryan | Associate Member |

**MEMORIAL and HONORARY DONATIONS:**

None

# 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 Infantry Division Association.

# 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.

# The Bulge Commemorations in Belgium – December 2025

*By Carl Wouters, Association Belgian Liaison*

**Carl Wouters**
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B-2840 Terhagen, Belgium
cell: +(32) 47 924 7789
*carl_wouters@hotmail.com*

## *St. Vith Honors the Golden Lions, 20 December 2025*

On 20 December 2025, the town of St. Vith, Belgium, again paused to honor the soldiers of the 106th Infantry Division. For the Veterans and members of the 106th Division Association, the ceremony in St. Vith stands as an affirmation that the sacrifice of the Golden Lions is remembered, respected, and deeply appreciated — more than eighty years later — by the Belgian people who they fought to defend.

Adding military dignity to the ceremony was the honor guard of the U.S. Air Force's 52nd Fighter Wing based out of Spangdahlem, Germany. Their presence symbolized the continued American commitment to remembering those who fought and fell in the Ardennes.

***Mayor Werner Henkes of St. Vith welcomes the service personnel of the 52nd Fighter Wing to St. Vith. (Photo Chris Mott)***

A special moment of the ceremony was the presentation of the "Flag of Friendship" to St. Vith Mayor Werner Henkes, recognizing his steadfast dedication to preserving the memory of the 106th and strengthening the bond between the town and the Division's Veterans and families.

The commemoration was further enriched by the attendance of family members of Major Lawrence Smith, who served as S-3 of the 14th Cavalry

*continues on page 22*

***At a post-ceremony reception offered by the town of St. Vith, everyone was treated to very welcomed warm beverages and sandwiches. A good opportunity to talk, look at maps and share stories. (Photo Chris Mott)***

Group during the Ardennes campaign. Chris Mott brought his son and two daughters to honor the memory of their great-grandfather. Their presence provided a powerful reminder that the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge lives on, not only in monuments and ceremonies, but in the families who continue to honor the service of those who fought there.

On the Sunday following the ceremony, Association liaisons accompanied the members of the Mott family on a detailed battlefield tour of the Losheim Gap and the area where their relative served with the 14th Cavalry. Several key locations were visited, including the former convent in Manderfeld, where Major Smith was stationed at the outset of the Battle of the Bulge, and the site along a local road near Recht where he was ambushed by a German column on 17 December 1944, together with Colonel Devine. During that incident Major Smith and Colonel Devine were forced to take cover in a ditch while under fire and eventually made their way back to their own lines by moving cross country. Standing at these locations brought the events of those critical days alive and provided a meaningful connection between the history, the spot where it happened, and family remembrance.

***The Mott family at the new monument for the14th Cavalry Group in Poteau, Belgium. (Photo Carl Wouters)***

***Left — At the former billets and command post of 14th Cavalry Group headquarters in Manderfeld, Belgium. L–R: Mott group: Chris, Vincent, Liora, Alisha; friend Henry, Carl Wouters and Doug Mitchell. (Photo Carl Wouters)***

## *106th Division Association represented at Manhay Remembrance, 12–14 December 2025*

***The convoy halts on a forest trail above Manhay. Several hundred original WWII vehicles participated in the event. (Photo Carl Wouters)***

On the weekend of 12–14 December 2025, the 106th Infantry Division Association was represented by its Belgian liaison at the annual remembrance events in Manhay, commemorating the fierce fighting that took place in the town and its surrounding area around Christmas 1944. The event is organized by Association member Eddy Monfort and his colleagues and seems to get bigger each year. The attending crowd is multinational and brought together interested people from all over Europe and the U.S.

Besides displays of period American and German field hospitals and encampments, a striking feature of the event was the impressive historic convoy of vintage military vehicles and hardware. Carefully restored jeeps, trucks, and armored vehicles assembled in the center of Manhay-Grandmenil before moving out along narrow forest trails that once were filled with the sounds of battle. Thanks to meticulous planning and close coordination with local authorities, forestry officials, and landowners, the convoy was able to traverse a thirty-mile journey through these historic small trails safely, offering spectators along the route a vivid sense of how Allied units moved through the Ardennes terrain during the campaign. As a participant in the convoy with a wartime Jeep that once was part of the inventory of the 591st Field Artillery Battalion, I found it especially impressive to navigate the muddy trails, which were often churned into a paste by the tracks of tanks and wheels of heavy trucks. Keeping any vehicle rolling and on the trail was a challenge by its own right.

As the convoy proceeded through the woods in column, their presence powerfully evoked the conditions faced by American units, including the 106th Division, 81 years prior.

# Order of the Golden Lion Award

## Recognizing Those Who Help the Association Continue Its Mission

*Do You Have a Nominee?*

The Order of the Golden Lion (OGL) Award (comprised of a citation and a medal) is presented to an individual whose significant contributions to the 106th Infantry Division Association have been impactful in benefitting the Association's mission to support the Veterans, families, and friends of the 106th Infantry Division.

The Order of the Golden Lion is made up of the OGL Committee, the Association President, and the Adjutant. This group reviews nominations presented to them by the Board of Directors and/or any Association member to ascertain whether an individual or individuals meet the criteria for receiving an award, and if so, what classification should be awarded.

The Order of the Golden Lion award is presented in three classifications:

1. **Commander Class**
   (*the most prestigious award issued in gold finish*)
   To meet the criteria for receiving this distinction, a nominee must have made significant positive contributions that benefitted the Association. This is typically reserved for a nominee who has not only fulfilled the duties of the role of President for the Association but has also contributed beyond that role during, before, or after their tenure. In addition, this award may also be earned by any nominee the OGL Committee deems as having gone above-and-beyond in a significant and sustained role of expertise or leadership for the Association and its members.
2. **Officer Class**
   (*issued in silver finish*)
   To meet the criteria for this classification, the nominee will have served the Association over an extended period of time while having made meaningful contributions in the capacity of being an Association board member, a chairperson of a committee, or a committee member.
3. **The Companion Class**
   (*issued in bronze finish*)
   To meet the criteria for this classification, a nominee must have made significant contributions or provided ongoing support to the Association

board, a board member or an Association committee. Significant contributions are ones that have a major positive impact on the Association's mission even if provided in the short-term. Ongoing support is beneficial assistance given over an extended period of time.

### *Submitting Nominations*

Nominations can be submitted by any member of the Association. The nomination should include a narrative of why the award is deserved, including the actions that have been performed which make this candidate worthy of earning the award.

Nominations should be submitted in ample time prior to the next reunion for timely production of the medal. All nominations and final recipients' names will be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee before and during the decision-making process up to the actual ceremony. *LEAD TIME:* FIVE WEEKS, MINIMUM.

Send nominations to an OGL Committee member, current Association President, or the Adjutant.

### *OGL Committee*

Peggy Etterle, 706-726-2244
1320 Brinkley Drive
Thomson, GA 30824
*peggyetterle1958@gmail.com*

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

Janet Wood, 205-910-0542
2704 S. Pinehurst Drive
Bloomington, IN 47403
*KipKai2000@yahoo.com*

***Note:*** *A nomination does not guarantee or secure an award. The OGL committee will decide which, if any, of the candidates will be awarded the Golden Lion based on criteria cited above.*

## Past OGL Award Recipients

"This prestigious award of the Order of the Golden Lion and the legacy that comes with it greatly encourages us to continue to perpetuate the history of the 106th Infantry Division here in Europe. Yet, what we do to remember the sacrifices made during the winter of 1944–1945 are just small ways of expressing our gratitude towards the men and women of the Greatest Generation, to whom we are indebted so much. We owe the veterans of the Division our everlasting gratitude."

*Written by Carl Wouters, after he received the honor of the Golden Lion*

Since it was first introduced in 1947, the OGL Award has been given to 122 deserving individuals. These have included 61 Commander Class, 36 Officer Class, and 25 Companion Class awards. These awards were earned by Association members and others who have given of their time, expertise, and experience in various ways in support of the Association and its Veterans. Here is the list of past recipients by year.

| *Year* | *Award Recipient* | *Classification* |
|---|---|---|
| 1947 | Brown, Joe E. | Companion |
| 1947 | Denny, George | Companion |
| 1947 | Foster, Cedric | Commander |
| 1947 | Frampton, Annette Payne | Commander |
| 1947 | Frampton, Duward B. | Commander |
| 1947 | Gates, Ralph F. | Companion |
| 1947 | Henly, Frank, H. | Companion |
| 1947 | Livesey, Herbert B., Jr. | Officer |
| 1947 | Maxwell, Howard | Companion |
| 1947 | Price, David S. | Commander |
| 1947 | Rathbone, Marjorie W. | Companion |
| 1947 | Sherwood, Elmer W. | Companion |
| 1947 | Simpson, Florence K. | Commander |
| 1947 | Simpson, William Rooe | Commander |
| 1947 | Tyndall, Robert H. | Companion |
| 1947 | Watts, Ben H. | Companion |
| 1962 | Coffey, Douglas S. | Commander |
| 1962 | DeLaval, Dr. Maurice | Officer |
| 1964 | DeHeer, Marge | Companion |
| 1964 | DeHeer, Richard | Commander |
| 1966 | Loveless, John T., Jr. | Commander |
| 1966 | Loveless, Kay | Companion |
| 1972 | McMahon, Leo T. | Commander |
| 1972 | McMahon, Wilda | Companion |
| 1973 | Collins, Sherod | Commander |
| 1974 | Gallagher, John I. | Commander |
| 1974 | Gallagher, Stella | Companion |
| 1975 | Wells, James E. | Commander |
| 1975 | Wells, Maydean | Companion |
| 1978 | Scranton, Robert L. | Officer |
| 1986 | Bandaruk, Walter | Officer |
| 1986 | Pankert, Joseph | Officer |
| 1986 | Pierce, Robert W. | Commander |
| 1987 | Gilder, Jean | Companion |
| 1987 | Gilder, Robert | Commander |
| 1987 | Villwock, Jackie | Companion |
| 1987 | Villwock, Russell | Commander |
| 1990 | Cariano, Samuel P. | Officer |
| 1991 | Kline, John B. | Officer |
| 1993 | Helwig, Gilbert J. | Officer |
| 1993 | Rutledge, Boyd | Officer |
| 1994 | Gilliland, John O. | Commander |
| 1994 | Gilliland, Lee | Companion |
| 1994 | Rutland, Hattie | Companion |
| 1994 | Rutland, Roger | Commander |
| 1995 | Bied, Dan | Companion |
| 1995 | Black, Ewell C., Jr. | Commander |
| 1995 | Black, T. Wayne | Commander |
| 1995 | Bradfield, Kenneth | Commander |
| 1995 | Kline, John B. | Commander |
| 1995 | Merz, O. Paul | Officer |
| 1995 | Peterson, Dr. Richard | Officer |
| 1995 | Robb, John | Commander |
| 1995 | Sulser, Jack A. | Commander |
| 1996 | Frampton, Duward, Jr. | Officer |
| 1996 | House, Peter | Officer |
| 1996 | Janicke, Jack M. | Companion |
| 1996 | Prewett, Edward A. | Commander |
| 1996 | Prewett, Reddie | Companion |
| 1997 | Rigatti, Richard L. | Commander |
| 1997 | Riggs, Thomas J. | Commander |
| 1997 | Thome, Michael | Commander |
| 1998 | House, Joanne | Companion |
| 1998 | House, Peter | Commander |
| 1998 | Massey, Hazel M. | Companion |
| 1998 | Massey, Joseph A. | Commander |
| 1999 | Britton, Avis | Companion |
| 1999 | Britton, Ben | Commander |
| 1999 | Meagher, Herbert | Officer |
| 1999 | Meagher, Luella | Companion |
| 2000 | Matthews, Joseph | Commander |
| 2000 | Walker, June | Companion |
| 2000 | Walker, Robert | Commander |

| Year | Award Recipient | Classification |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | Bridges, Barbara | Companion |
| 2001 | Bridges, Walter | Commander |
| 2001 | Carver, Dale | Officer |
| 2001 | Trueman, Duncan | Commander |
| 2002 | Agostini, Orfeo 'Gus' | Commander |
| 2002 | Gregory, John | Commander |
| 2002 | Gregory, Shirley | Companion |
| 2002 | Ray, Marion | Commander |
| 2002 | Swett, John A. | Commander |
| 2003 | Maloney, Joe | Commander |
| 2003 | Rikken, Adda | Commander |
| 2004 | Rieck, Charles | Commander |
| 2004 | West, James D. | Officer |
| 2005 | Rigatti, Patricia | Companion |
| 2005 | Schaffner, John R. | Commander |
| 2005 | Schaffner, Lillian | Companion |
| 2006 | Trautman, Frank | Commander |
| 2007 | Kline, Margot | Companion |
| 2007 | Roberts, Jack | Commander |
| 2008 | Saucerman, Sally | Companion |
| 2008 | Stein, Barbara | Companion |
| 2008 | Stein, Murray | Commander |
| 2010 | Martin, Harry | Commander |
| 2011 | McWhorter, William | Officer |
| 2011 | Weiss, Susan | Officer |
| 2012 | Weiss, Newton W. | Commander |
| 2013 | Weiner, Milton | Commander |
| 2014 | Lichtenfeld, Sy | Commander |
| 2014 | Sheaner, Mike | Officer |
| 2014 | Wood, Wilma | Companion |
| 2015 | Coy, Jackie | Officer |
| 2015 | Sheaner, Herb | Commander |
| 2015 | Wood, Randy | Commander |
| 2016 | Dunn, Wayne | Commander |
| 2016 | Hoff, Russell D. | Commander |
| 2016 | Hubert, Andre | Officer |
| 2016 | Lehaire, Bernadette Lengler | Officer |
| 2016 | Mayrsohn, Bernard | Commander |
| 2016 | Mitchell, Doug | Officer |
| 2016 | Wouters, Carl | Commander |
| 2018 | Monfort, Eddy | Officer |
| 2018 | Wood, Patricia | Companion |
| 2019 | Lamberty, Eddy | Commander |
| 2019 | Orban, Claude | Officer |
| 2022 | Pope, Bob | Commander |
| 2024 | Edmonds, Chris | Commander |
| 2024 | Wood, Janet | Commander |
| 2025 | Dunn, Lisa | Officer |
| 2025 | LeClair, Henry | Commander |

## *The CUB* Delivery Options

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

1. Preferred delivery method for general correspondence:
   MAIL _____ or Email_____
2. Preferred delivery method for *The CUB*:
   MAIL _____ or Email_____
3. Email address: _____

You can let us know your preference by emailing: *Membership@106thInfDivAssn.org*

# "Veterans' Voices"

*This is a recurring article for* The CUB *in which Veterans, family members or friends can submit brief personal stories. Please send submissions 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 jpeg files. For each picture file you submit, please also include the following information: which 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.*

## The Story of My Father

*by Edward Urban*

My father, Anthony J. Urban, Jr., (423rd/I) served as a Corporal in the 106th Infantry Division. Upon my father's return to our family and the United States in 1945, he was sick all of the time and had to make numerous trips to the Pittsburgh Veteran's Hospital for treatment. His chronic illness was the result of his treatment and suffering while a Prisoner of War. My father died on May 25, 1956, just after my 8th birthday less than two weeks after he turned 40, leaving a grieving widow and four small children. His early demise left me with lots of unanswered questions about his service during WWII. I was extremely close with my father and remember that he very rarely spoke about his time in service. I wanted to find answers to my questions of what happened.

***Anthony Urban, Jr., 1944. (Photo supplied by Ed Urban)***

My dad enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 21, 1944, leaving behind a wife and small children. My father's stateside training took him initially to Fort George Meade for basic training, and then to Camp Atterbury for Infantry training, where he was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division. His last stop in the U.S. was at Camp Miles Standish to

await transport to Europe. His group shipped out on October 17,1944. After six days at sea, they reached Scotland, then another day at sea, arriving in England on October 24. After several weeks of staging in England, he was transported to Le Havre via the English Channel arriving in France on December 4, 1944. The 106th then moved on to Belgium then to Germany, reaching there December 11, 1944.

During the Ardennes Offensive, the 423rd Infantry Regiment, of which my father was a member, was encircled and cut off from the remainder of the Division by a junction of enemy forces, resulting in the capture of my father by the Germans at 4:30 on December 19, 1944. The small diary my father kept indicates that they were bombed on four days later, two days before Christmas, while being transported by train to Stalag IX-B (Bad Orb). It was later discovered that the bombing was at the hands of friendly forces. The train carrying the American POWs arrived at Stalag IX-B (Bad Orb) five days later. At Bad Orb, my father was selected as one of the barrack's leaders.

As I grew up, I always had memories of my father and was troubled by the fact that he died so very young and as the result of his treatment by the Nazis while a POW. I was determined to find out just what happened to my father and his comrades, but resources at that time for that type of research were limited and hard to access. The advancement of the computer and internet access opened up a world of information.

The only reference material I had at the beginning of my search was my father's small diary, an address book with the names and addresses of some of his closest military buddies, personal memories that I could recall, and the information my mother had relayed to me. I spent months that turned into years working to uncover more details about my father.

The most troubling entry in his diary tells of how he, and 349 other American POWs, were labeled for "special treatment." This meant being packed into boxcars and shipped to Berga, a subcamp of Buchenwald. The train trip took five days and they arrived at Berga on February 13, 1945. I would later discover (through my father's diary entries as well as historical personal stories by survivors and other sources) that Berga an der Elster (Berga), was a slave labor camp where my father and the other soldiers were beaten, starved, and forced to work in tunnels for an underground ammunition factory for the German government. This was in contravention of the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention. According to the survivors, the soldiers were singled out for being identified as Jewish or had Jewish sounding names, or

*continues on page 30*

dubbed as undesirables or trouble. Many of the POWS died as a result of malnutrition, sickness, and beatings.

As Berga was about to be liberated, the Germans forced the remaining U.S. POWs on a 220-mile forced march. More than 100 soldiers perished at the camp in or on this forced death march. My father was wounded as he was being liberated on April 23, 1945, in Cham, Bavaria, for which he received a Purple Heart.

Even though the internet was somewhat helpful, the name "Berga" was what eluded me the most. I searched every available resource, including trying to track down the men listed in my father's address book. I placed hundreds of phone calls over the course of years, with most being dead ends or messages left with no return calls. I searched online daily trying to find a clue about the elusive "Berga" until I found a reference to it in a 2002 article about a project being worked on by award winning producer Charles Guggenheim. It was reported that Mr. Guggenheim was in the process of filming a documentary about the camp entitled "Berga: Soldiers of Another War." I was able to locate Mr. Guggenheim at his office just outside of Washington, D.C. I placed a call in an attempt to speak with him but was told that he was unavailable at the time. I left a message regarding my father's diary and never expected a return call. Within 15 minutes, Mr. Guggenheim returned my call. After providing my father's name and Nazi POW ID number, he verified my father as a prisoner of Berga. Mr. Guggenheim emailed me copies of the original log book record entries that the Nazis took when the prisoners arrived. He said that he was in the process of finishing his film and that it was to be released later on in the year at an event in Silver Springs, MD. As a result of continued conversations with Mr. Guggenheim and his daughter Grace over the next several months, I received an invitation to represent my father at the premier of the documentary. At the viewing, I had the great honor to meet with several of the few survivors of Berga who were in attendance.

After the airing of "Berga: Soldiers of Another War," a subsequent documentary about Berga aired on the Smithsonian Channel. After that broadcast, I left a post on a message board mentioning that my father was one of the 350 U.S. soldiers there. Checking back a few months later, I saw a reply from *R. Young, Collingswood, NJ*, stating that his uncle died in that camp. I knew the last name looked familiar and found the name Mrs. N. Young in my father's address book. For more than a year, I tried to locate Mrs. Young or R. Young, but without success.

August 11, 1945

Dear Mrs. Young,

First let me offer my deepest sympathies for words not being able to relieve sorrow, for some of us, words were inadequate.

After my service days, I did have enough sense to know David's time ahead, but then, he lived in New Jersey, you see, where I never knew Black much at, nor cared.

I was appointed two weeks leaders in camp and what you know I do cause accepted such from the need to sleep right beside, and what other people such unfair long, through bad luck, complaining to me for a few days about the unwanted feeling of good and behind me of the could stay in bed and not go to work. I and about of was OK work, but the rotten Germans still tried to make him go to work. He kept home on for a few days until the Germans started to bother about every man must go to work even of the road and on the fact I don't remember, she could tell that of was one ready March. This action day they came on and therefore to about every one who didn't go to work. The German who was in charge came only all, he made and wanted to know why he didn't go to work. Dave asked me to explain to him that he had pneumonia and that he was running a temperature.

I tried to tell the rotten Nazis that

Dave wasn't able to get out of bed, but alone go through on the stretcher. The Nazis said he was sick only of a fever. Believe could go to work or die. That's the time was pretty bad, as what does the Nazis to that poor, in Belmez full of cold water on board and the shock of ice falling down on his condition caused him to die. Did not expect to make it over to Berga many days they and you can imagine how we all felt. We which to get a piece of bread and a cup of tea and may be only an aspirin or cup of water. Little food of poor nourishment being needed to make recovery in day to prevent bite, but about daily food we weren't even getting or knowing to for a day to live on.

Where we were liberated by our boys. I made out a little report on his attempts in our camp and your David's case as the German example that happened at sets the date in Dave's face, which is attached and signed. It's very much a shame for more than, called Berga on the State Road. It was situated between Bad and Remen. Then you look for it on a map, Lands Saxon and to the left of Berlin.

All who survived, belong to that done fed over take from Buchenwald, died. I show to be a picture of the mother and wife in

the walled and the German have stay. He was always telling of you too and the day to which get back home. He also told me that he meant married very long before being shipped overseas.

If there is any other information you may want to know, let me know and I will do my best to give you all I know.

Sincerely yours
"Tony" Urban Jr.

P.S. Let me again offer you people my deepest sympathies. Please give me this letter, send it to my home address and I am remaining my old military address.

3822 Hamilton St
Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

***Copy of the letter written to Mrs. Young by Anthony Urban, Jr. on 8/11/45 found in the desk drawer by Mrs. Young's grandson, Rich. (Photo supplied by Ed Urban)***

Then I found another post from R. Young asking if my father's name was Anthony Urban, as he had a letter that was written to his grandmother from my father at the end of the war telling her about her son and how he died. No one in my family had any knowledge of the existence of this letter. Finally, Rich Young and I made contact at which time he told me that David Young was his uncle. I asked Rich if he could send me a copy of this letter as it would be like hearing my father's voice once again. Rich told me that he would look for it and send it to me. Three or four years passed but Richard told me that he couldn't find it. Then, I received a call on a Christmas Eve shortly after that from Rich stating that he found the letter. He was working on a project in his garage and needed a piece of paper to make a drawing. He said that there was a desk close by and among the things in the drawer he found my father's letter to his grandmother. The BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT I EVER RECEIVED.

Along with my father's letter were two additional letters from Berga survivors detailing the conditions and David's murder.

Rich and I negotiated the fate of the letters and agreed that the best way to maintain them was to donate them to The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The letters (which can be found at: ***https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn754512***) are now being preserved in the very best of hands. And, I finally got answers to the questions I had all my life about what happened to my dad.

*Editor's Note: Ed Urban served in the USMC from 1966 to 1970 and is a Vietnam Vet. When he sent us this piece, he said "… I know how important it is to honor our Veterans." Thank you for your service, Ed, and for sharing your story.*

# Remembering Dad's Coldest Winter: December 16, 1944

*by Matt Matthews*

This time every year I think of Dad.

Eighty-one years ago, on Saturday, December 16, the Battle of the Bulge erupted before dawn on the German-Belgian border with a 90-minute barrage of what were called Screaming Meemies and other cannon fire. Dad was captured on Tuesday afternoon, the 19th. It was the coldest European winter on record in fifty years. In the coming months, these WWII prisoners-of-war ate snow and picked through garbage to survive. Many died of starvation, dysentery, trench foot, exposure, and exhaustion.

Dad's U.S. Army division, the 106th, was at the center of a front line that resembled an expanding bulge on battle maps. His and another regiment, the 422nd and 423rd, were swallowed whole in Hitler's last, brutal gasp to divide the Allies, capture Antwerp, and sue for a negotiated peace.

News about Dad's capture spread through Hampton, Virginia, and the Matthews' tight Wythe neighborhood. The Daily Press story was only ninety-nine words: "William Matthews. Missing in action. Details meager. Joe and Alice's youngest boy — only 20-years-old — was presumed dead or captured along with 23,554 other Americans."

American troops liberated Dad on Friday, April 13, 1945. My grandmother called Friday the 13th "Billy's Day" for the rest of her life.

Nearly two decades later, he and Mom had me. Growing up, I pestered my poor old man with questions about the war. Do you have nightmares? Why didn't you keep in touch with any of the men with whom you served? What do you remember? What did you lose? He was able to give few answers to my impossible questions. And I was unable to articulate what it was like growing up in the shadow of his war coupled with the rude light of nightly televised reports from Vietnam. When I was a teenager, I feared I'd have to do what he did. When I was a young man, I feared I wouldn't.

A decade after he died, I took a sabbatical following Dad's footsteps from the forested Ardennes of his capture near the Schöenburg Road to Glasgow's Clyde River where he and 10,000 other seasick troops entered the war effort from NYC on the RMS Aquitania. I pulled out the drawers of his life and shook them upside down. I wrote a book. I spoke at VFWs and church night suppers. I told the cautionary tale about which Dad seldom spoke, believing if we don't

remember our past, we run the risk of repeating it.

On the January afternoon of Dad's funeral — 58-years after that December blitzkrieg — an elderly woman offered me her hand in the fellowship hall during the reception after the service. She introduced herself as one of the Peake girls — Mary Virginia — who grew up on Cherokee Road near the Matthewses.

"We really loved Billy Boy," she said. "We worried about all the neighborhood boys going off to war."

The lively room was bright. Hungry mourners clattered around tables laden with Virginia ham biscuits, crab dip, and crackers. Everyone mingled, chewing and talking at the same time, shouting to be heard. People laughed and laughed. Dad would have loved it.

I wanted to ask this gentle woman with the halo of wispy white hair to speak up, but I didn't dare. Some memories must be whispered, or, like birds easily spooked, they scatter away in a feathery blur.

She told me she had dreamed of my father the night before she learned he was missing in action. "Over there," is what Mary Virginia Peake called the war. St. Vith, Winterspelt, Namur, Malmedy, the Our, the Muese. Over there.

"Yes, ma'am," I said, my own voice catching, eyes filling with water. "It was a long way away. A long time ago."

"Many of the boys," she whispered, "didn't come home from the war." She looked past me into their gone-but-not-forgotten young faces. "Many more," she whispered, "came home not knowing what hit them."

Dad was one of those boys.

Every December, I picture him on the morning the battle began. He's pulling his helmet down over his ears attempting to banish the cold and the noise of the nebelwerfer rockets. Snow showers blanket the shuddering ground and shattering trees like a funeral pall. I barely recognize Dad through the fog. For a flashing second, our blue eyes catch. There's nothing I can do to help, nothing I can say.

Every year I'm left empty-handed, incredulous that we insist on putting our sons and daughters in harm's way over there — Marathon, Waterloo, Khe Sanh, Gettysburg, Korengal Valley, Bastogne.

But every December, sky lowering like a metal lid, I keep vigil. Eight-one years ago, my old man is so young, so afraid, so far away.

I cannot reach him, but every year I try. Every year I wave.

Every year Bill Matthews waves back.

*Editor's Note: Matt's article was published on 12/19/25 in "The Paper," Morganton, NC, where he serves as a columnist. We appreciate being able to include it here.*

## 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*

## The *IndianaMilitary.org* Website

Additional 106th Infantry Division information can be found at ***IndianaMilitary.org***. It includes the following:

- Reconstructed Roster of the 106th at ***https://106thinfdivassn.org/roster106/rostera.html***.
- 18,902 entries to date, including more than 300 individual photos.
- Issues of *The CUB* from 1946 to present.
- Issues of the *Camp Atterbury Camp Crier* with articles on the 106th.
- Local Columbus, Indiana newspaper articles featuring the 106th.
- 106th member diaries and accounts.
- Articles including those from the 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 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=1TKTgp8sGYpU1UFF***

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

## *Make Your Plans NOW!*

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 79th Annual Reunion at the**

**Holiday Inn & Suites Savannah Airport – Pooler, Savannah, GA**

**September 16 –20, 2026**

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

***106InfDivAssn.org***

## Show support for our mission by giving generously.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.
Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Inf. Div. Association* to:

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

# Help Support the Association!

## Wooden Ornaments

**$10 each plus $2 shipping per ornament**

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

## 106th Challenge Coin

*Front* *Back*

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

***All proceeds benefit the Association.***

## Lapel Pins

**$10 each plus $1 shipping per pin**

**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**

***Please call or email Randy with questions.***

**Phone — 765-346-0690 Email — *woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net***

# Visit the 106th Association's Website!

Did you know that we have our own website? You can find information about special events, videos, links to obituaries, old editions of *The CUB*, membership applications and more by visiting ***106thInfDivAssn.org***.

In addition, you can find other 106th-related information on the websites created by Jim West, ***IndianaMilitary.org***, and by Carl Wouters (*the website is being worked on and a new address will be published on our website and future* CUB*s as soon as we have that information.*)

Also, look for our Facebook page at ***Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn***. This is where you can find current information, 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.

***Mark Your Calendars NOW!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 79th Annual Reunion in**

**Savannah, GA — September 16–20, 2026**

**Reunion schedule of events and hotel information will be available in the next *CUB* and — as soon as the plans are finalized — on the Association website at:**

***106InfDivAssn.org***

***Note from the Editor***: As our membership chair, Henry LeClair stated, we received a number or responses to our online survey *(see link below)* 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!

***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***

## 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.*

**AYERS, PAUL C.** **424/A**
*Date of death: January 6, 2020*

Paul Ayers, 94, of Rochester, IL, passed away on Monday, January 6, 2020, at Heritage Health in Springfield. Paul was born on October 9, 1925, in Rochester, the son of Andrew and Ada (Cary) Ayers. He married Wilma Jean Schumacher and she survives.

Paul was a lifetime member of South Fork Church of Christ where he served as an Elder, Sunday school teacher, sponsor, and chairman of the building committee. He was also a member of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, many agriculture club activities, and was a 4-H leader for 15 years. He enjoyed camping and traveling. He traveled in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Africa, Israel, Greece, and the Central American countries. Paul also hosted students from India, Netherlands, and Japan. He and Jean wintered in Hidalgo, Texas for 30 years.

Paul served in the U.S. Army from 1943–1945 and was in the 106th Infantry Division. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and was held as POW in three camps in Germany until released by U.S. tank troops at Salsburg.

He began farming with his family in Rochester Township and lived all of his life in the old Cascade and New City Community. He was a graduate of New City Grade School and Ball Township High School and was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Illini basketball.

Paul was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Springfield Chapter of Prisoners of War, and enjoyed his Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Russell; stepmother Gladys; stepbrothers, Howard and Jerald Strawn; and one great-grandchild Cassius Howells.

Paul is survived by his wife, Wilma Jean; two sons, Ron (Shirley) Ayers and Dennis (Debbie) Ayers

*continues on page 38*

both of Rochester; one daughter, Carolyn (Ron) Ruggless of Stanford, KY; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one sister, Mary Alice Long; one nephew, Larry Ayers; and several cousins.

**BABROWSKY, JOSEPH M. 424/A**

*Date of death: March 13, 2025*

Joseph M. Babrowsky, of Union, NJ, passed away on March 13, 2025. Born in New York City May 4, 1926, Joseph was an entertainer from 6–16 years of age. He performed at resorts in New Brunswick, and the Catskills (The Borscht Belt).

Staff Sergeant Joseph Babrowsky served as an infantry squad leader in World War II, Operations 106th Infantry Division in the European Theater in the Battle of the Bulge.

He worked for ITT Federal in Clifton as a supervisor of Electrical Technicians for nine years, for Litton Industries for 11 years, and attained the position of Director of Quality Assurance. He also worked for Lockheed Electronics Co. in Plainfield as staff engineer quality assurance for 18 years and retired in 1990.

Joseph was past chairman of Cub Scout Pack 161 of Union, past president of Temple Israel of Union, first president of Council of Congregation Israel of Union, past president of Lockheed Electronics Management Association, and past president of Lockheed Stardusters Association.

For 25 years, he wrote, directed, choreographed, and performed in shows for the PTA to raise funds for student scholarships.

Joseph was predeceased by Geri, his wife of 73 years. He is survived by his children, Lynn Stein (Jeffrey), Dale Wasserman-Blair (Steve), Cary Babrowsky (Christine); grandchildren, Brandon Stein (Tamar), Danielle ben Yakar (Nadav), Kimberly Moscariello (Nick), Richard Wasserman (Jessica), Tyler Babrowsky (Tara), and Zachary Babrowsky; great-grandchildren, Josh and Hannah Stein, Landon and Lorelai Moscariello, Sophia and Ethan ben Yakar, Caleb and Brielle Wasserman, and Kai Babrowsky.

**BAILEY, J. DAVID 422/F**

*Date of death: July 5, 2025*

James "David" Bailey, age 103, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on July 5, 2025, at his home in Alexandria, VA. David was born in Bluefield, West Virginia on January 3, 1922, the beloved son of the late

Robert Lake and Laura Evans Bailey. He graduated from Bluefield High School, West Virginia University, and earned advanced degrees in economics and statistical analysis from WVA University and Babson College. David held major positions at U.S. Steel and Edison Electric Institute, a leading trade association where he was responsible for their Annual Report. He enjoyed working and living in Pittsburgh, New York City, and Alexandria, VA, at Parc East, where he has resided for the last 45 years. Additionally, David was President and CEO of The John B. Goff Land Company for many years.

David was a decorated Army combat Veteran, who served with dignity and honor in the infantry in Belgium, France, and Germany in World War II. He was honored with two Bronze Stars, the French Legion of Honor, and The Order of Saint Maurice. He was proudest of the tribute to his service in the Congressional Record placed by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (WVA). In retirement, he was national President of his Veterans organization, The Battle of the Bulge Association. He traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe, recognizing and preserving the memory of those who gave their lives and suffered the wounds of war. David had many interests and was an avid world traveler, visiting 27 countries in all seven continents, including the North and South Poles. David lived an admirable and remarkably long life, where he did much good in the world. He gave generously to worthy causes and leaves behind many dear friends and family, who cherish him for his joyous spirit, kindness, dedication, and generosity.

Since growing up in Bluefield's Trinity United Methodist Church, David always attended church, and was a proud member of Washington Street United Methodist Church in Alexandria, VA, for the past 35 years.

David is preceded in death by his dear sisters, Adelaide Bailey (Dr. James N. Truesdale) and Constance Bailey (Gen. J. Kemp McLaughlin). He is survived by his niece Carolyn Truesdale and her husband Curtis, nephew Robert Truesdale and his wife Marcia, nieces Laura McLaughlin and Mary McLaughlin, nephew Kemp McLaughlin; great nephews Blaine McLaughlin (Hollis) and Thomas Truesdale, great-niece Elizabeth Smith, great-great-nieces Bailey Smith and Constance McLaughlin and great-great-nephew Preston Smith.

**GRASBERGER, FRANK JOHN**
**424/G**

*Date of death: February 5, 2026*

Frank John Grasberger, 99, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, February 5, 2026, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Frank spent the majority of his career serving as a Cuyahoga County engineer until his retirement.

He was a World War II Veteran, fought in the 106th Infantry Division of the Battle of the Bulge (The Golden Lions) and was deployed to St. Vith in 1944. He was one of the lucky ones and came home aboard the Queen Mary.

For the past five years, Frank and his wife, Dolores, made their home at Vitalia Senior Living in Strongsville, Ohio, where they enjoyed the company of family and friends, formed new friendships, and embraced the community and comforts of senior living.

Frank was thrilled when he was featured on Steve Hartman's "On the Road" in 2021 and then again in 2023 when Steve's son interviewed him. Also featured was DeShauna Priest, the little girl who wrote him a letter when he was on the Honor Flight in D.C. It was 12 years after that letter that they met in person with DeShauna all grown up and in the military. We are so proud of her.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Gertrude Grasberger (Weber), his granddaughter Bonnie, and his son-in-law Harry James DeFeo of Kansas City, Missouri.

He is survived by his loving wife Dolores of 79 years, his children Bonnie Huber (Max Huber), Linda DeFeo, his grandchildren, Cheryl Lechman (Dan), Marianna DeFeo (Sammy Albadri) Frank (Rocky) DeFeo (Casey Mast), great-grandchildren Nick Huber, Nate Lechman, Farah Albadri, Amir Albadri and great-great-grandchild Hunter Huber. He is also survived by loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Grasberger family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Vitalia Senior Living—Strongsville, OH, and the Cypress Hospice staff for the kindness, care, and support Frank received throughout his journey. They would also like to offer a special thank you to Ric Esarey and his brothers at the Cleveland Masons Lodge No. 781 for their continued support and dedication.

**MALLOY, JOSEPH J. "JOE"**
**424/3BN/HQ**

*Date of death: November 5, 2025*

Joseph J. "Joe" Malloy of Beverly Farms, MA, beloved husband of the late Joan B. (O'Hara) Malloy and son of the late Patrick and Sara (Gibbons) Malloy, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on November 5, at the age of 101 years.

Joe was a lifelong resident of Beverly Farms and a member of the inaugural class at St. Margaret's School. He graduated from Beverly High School in 1942 and, at age 18, was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II.

Following his training, Joe was stationed in England as troops prepared to board ships for D-Day. His outfit landed on Utah Beach on July 3, 1944, and advanced through Cherbourg, Normandy, before joining Patton's 106th Infantry, 3rd Army, on their campaign through Germany. On May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered and, on May 18, all POWs were released. Joe celebrated his 21st birthday the next day, on May 19.

After returning home, Joe worked at United Shoe before beginning a long and dedicated career with the City of Beverly as a code enforcer.

A proud veteran and devoted community member, Joe was an 80-year member of Post 113 American Legion in Manchester-by-the-Sea and the Union Club of Beverly, where he could often be found playing cards and enjoying a cigar, a beer, and his favorite Crown Royal.

Joe is survived by his loving children: Peter Malloy and his partner Linda; Kevin Malloy and Vicky; Joseph F. Malloy and Carol; Margaret Malloy; and Mark Malloy and Sherri; as well as his son-in-law, Ted Sanford, husband of his late daughter, Sally A. Malloy-Sanford. He is also survived by his brother, Thomas Malloy.

Joe was the devoted "Pa" to his 19 grandchildren and a cherished great-grandfather to nine great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, along with his dear friend, Ron "Barky" Barkowski.

Joe will be remembered for his sharp wit, unwavering loyalty, love of family, and deep pride in his service and community.

**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*.

**MANELOVEG, HERBET "HERB"**
**424/E**

*Date of death: February 2, 2026*

Herbert D. Maneloveg died peacefully, on February 2, 2026, one week after celebrating his 101st birthday. He was a renowned media and marketing advertising executive, beloved husband, father and grandfather and a friend to all. Born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, he served in World War II as an Army private during the Battle of the Bulge, suffering a shrapnel injury. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Herb completed college upon his return from the war and then moved to New York to begin his career in advertising. There he met and married the love of his life, Gloria, who unfortunately preceded him in death by 20 years. They moved to White Plains, New York, to raise their family and then to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, to enjoy their retirement. Most recently, Herb lived at Oakmonte Village (now Grand Living Park of Lake Mary) where he enjoyed playing bridge, going to the theater, writing, and running a current-events class.

Herb celebrated his 101st birthday by participating in the special flag retreat ceremony held at Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. He and his family had prime front-row seats to the parade, and he was recognized as the park's U.S. Armed Forces Representative of the Day. "It's a wish that's better than any wish I've ever had," he said.

He is survived by his children: Susan (Rubin), Thomas Maneloveg and Harriet (Langer) and his seven grandchildren: Bradley, Adam, Rachel, Daniel, Abby, Hannah and Margaret. He led a remarkable life and will be greatly missed.

**TOOKE, WILLIAM A. "BILL"**
**424/HQ/3RD BN, AT**

*Date of death: December 30, 2024*

William "Bill" Tooke, born September 2, 1925, passed away on December 30, 2024 in Jamestown, North Dakota.

*Editor's Note: There was no obituary that we could find for Bill, but I did find a post he wrote in* The CUB *in 1995. I thought I'd share that here:*

"I transferred to the 106th during the summer of '44, but can't remember the exact month or day. I spent a short time with 424/K. Since I had trained in [an] anti-tank platoon with the 65th Division at Camp Shelby, I was transferred to the AT Platoon, HQ, 3rd Bn, 424th Regiment, and went overseas with that unit. I developed trench-foot and came back through the hospitals.

Our Platoon Leader was Lt. [William E.] Abriel. Platoon Sergeant was Sgt. [William "Bill" C.] Davis from Nebraska, and one prince of a man. The Squad Sergeant was Sergeant [Ralph C.] DeVault (or something like that) He was the first man wounded just a couple of days after the first German attack."

**MOCK, JOHN HENRY 422/L**
*Date of death: February 6, 2026*

John Henry Mock, 100, of Eureka, Kansas, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of February 6, 2026, at the Veterans Home in Winfield, Kansas. He lived an extraordinary life marked by courage, adventure, and service.

John was born September 18, 1925, in Hamilton, Kansas, to William Edward Mock and Clara Leota (Jacobs) Mock. The eldest of four children, he grew up on the family farm in Greenwood County alongside his siblings David, Maedellee, and Wilma, learning the value of hard work and family from an early age.

When his country called, John answered. Drafted into the United States Army, he served as a rifleman during World War II and was deployed to Germany, where he fought with remarkable bravery and reached the rank of corporal. He was taken as a prisoner of war, an experience that tested his courage and resilience. He was held prisoner for 99 days before being liberated from his captors. During this harrowing time in battle and captivity, he sustained injuries that he carried with him for the rest of his life. John loved to share his story and pride in service with others. For his valor and service, John was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, the European Theater of Operations Medal with three battle stars, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

After the war, John's adventurous spirit took him around the world. He worked as a mechanic for oil companies on offshore, land, and helicopter drilling rigs, traveling to places most people only dream of visiting. The stories he told of his travels seemed impossible, but were absolutely true, and when he shared them, you couldn't miss the knowing sparkle in his eyes. Among his many adventures, John even raced in NASCAR.

On April 3, 1993, John married Mary Ellen (Brown) Sissman, a fellow World War II veteran. Together they shared a passion for military history and service, and devoted themselves to veterans' organizations

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in Eureka. John also enjoyed show cars and volunteering throughout his community.

A quiet and proud man, John loved his family deeply. His gentle smile was easily seen in his wise eyes, and those who knew him will remember his sweet tooth — especially his love for chocolate. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, people listened to the wisdom born of a century of living.

He is survived by his sister, Maedellee Scott of Turon; nieces, Susie and husband James Humphrey of Hutchinson, Terri Eskew of Kingman, and Linda Thompson of Wichita; nephews, Gary and wife Debbie Scott of Lyons, and Don Mock of Emporia; and several grand and great-grand nieces and nephews: Jennifer Bain, Rob Eskew, Tracey Weaver, Shawna Scott, Shannon Harrison, Jessica Richardson, Kieryn Bain, Allie Eskew, Carter Eskew, Les Weaver, and Dustin Dubberstein; as well as many extended family members and friends. John was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Ellen; and siblings, David Mock and Wilma (Mock) Giese.

**The 106th Infantry Division Association expresses heartfelt congratulations to our Chaplain Chris Edmonds and his family on the well-deserved recognition of his father Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds in receiving the Medal of Honor.**

Look for full coverage of the event in the next issue of *The CUB*.

*roddieedmonds.com*
*#BeTheHero*

**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***

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