

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

VOLUME XXXV NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2016



35th ANNUAL REUNION SEATTLE, WA

See pages 12-15 for full registration details.



WWII Model collection at
the Museum of Flight



Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum



Space Needle



Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
703-528-4058

Published quarterly, *The Bulge Bugle* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.
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Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc.;
PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118; 703-528-4058;
e-mail: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

VISIT THE VBOB WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org
or www.vbob.org



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ELECTED OFFICERS

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Executive Vice President: Barbara Mooneyhan, Associate
Vice President Membership: Angela Fazio, Associate
Vice President Chapters: Sherry Kloop, Associate
Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno, Associate
Recording Secretary: Tracey Diehl, Associate
Corresponding Secretary: Doris Davis, Associate

TRUSTEES

Three-Year Trustees:
Tom Ingram, 90th Infantry Div.
Alfred Shehab, 38th Cavalry

Two-Year Trustees:
Ruth Hamilton, Associate
Robert Rhodes, Associate
Jim Triesler, Associate

One-Year Trustees:
Gary Higgins, Associate
Mike Levin, 7th Armored Div.
Bert Rice, Associate

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

President: Alfred H.M. Shehab,
38th Cavalry

VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden* 1981-84
Robert VanHouten* 1984-86
George Chekan* 1986-88;
2004-05
William Greenville* 1988-90
Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92
William Hemphill* 1992-93
William Tayman 1993-94
Grover Twiner* 1994-95
Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;
2006-07
George Linthicum* 1997-99
John Dunleavy* 1999-01
Louis Cunningham 2001-03
Demetri Paris* 2008-10
J. David Bailey 2010-12
Douglas Dillard 2012-14
* Deceased

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No current information as of
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No current information as of
publication deadline.]

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No current information as of
publication deadline.]

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ATTENTION, ASSOCIATES: MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT!

Save \$10 off the yearly fee of \$15
when you renew for 4 years.
See membership application
on the back cover, or go to
our website: www.vbob.org.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alan Cunningham, Associate



I HOPE YOUR YEAR IS GOING smoothly, as the Executive Council works to reorganize the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge into a legacy organization with a new name, Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. This is the approved name, and will be the name we will carry forward as we complete our reorganization. As we mentioned

in the last *Bulge Bugle*, we will be tackling various issues as we rewrite our Bylaws and Incorporation documents such as: Impact on the chapters, all of the members, and quartermaster sales; ability to recruit new members; ability to open new chapters; how do we help chapters who are having trouble staying open; and the path forward to perpetuate the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. All of our efforts will be reported to you during our annual meeting during the reunion in October in Seattle, Washington.

The 2016 reunion in Seattle, Washington, October 5-9, 2016 (Wednesday through Sunday), has been shaping up to be a very good time. Our Corresponding Secretary, Doris Davis, has been working overtime to coordinate the activities and to provide a variety of functions for all of you to

enjoy. As a result, it is a little longer than the last reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia, but will have a lot to offer. This will be our first reunion in the northwest, and local government agencies are looking forward to our visiting the state of Washington for the first time. See all of the details in this issue, along with the reservation form [see pages 12-15]. The planning for the reunion in 2017 has also been moving along, as we narrow down the possible locations to three. We will have a final decision by our annual meeting at the 2016 reunion. I am sure that this reunion will also be a great one to attend.

As we move forward, it is becoming harder to find members who are willing to participate on the Executive Council and assist in the management of the organization. If any of you are willing to assist in the reorganization and management of the new Battle of the Bulge Association, please let me know by email, US Postal Service, or by phone and I will discuss how you can help out. [email: alan@battleofthebulge.org; mail: Alan R. Cunningham, 14337 Woodleigh Dr, Chester, VA 23831; phone: 804-796-7818.] We always need new input and assistance from other members.

I hope to see you all at the reunion in October, as we will have a lot to discuss about the organization and all of the work that we have accomplished over the last year. Be well and I hope to see you soon.

VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOMINEES FOR 2017

The following 2017 slate of nominated candidates will be voted upon during the 2016 reunion in Seattle, Washington:

President: Gary Higgins, Associate

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan, Associate

Vice President Membership:

Angela Fazio, Associate

Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp, Associate

Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno, Associate

Recording Secretary:

Doris Davis, Associate

Corresponding Secretary:

Tracey Diehl, Associate

TRUSTEES

Three-Year Trustees:

Madelene Bryant, Associate

Tom Burgess, 87th Infantry Division

John Mohor, Associate

Two -Year Trustees:

Tom Ingram, 90th Infantry Division

Mike Levin, 7th Armored Division

Alfred Shehab, 38th Calvary

One -Year Trustees:

Ruth Hamilton, Associate

Robert Rhodes, Associate

Jim Triesler, Associate

—Submitted by Doris Davis,
Nominating Chairwoman

LETTERS TO VBOB

CORRECTION, PLEASE!

Just received my May issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. Thank you for printing my article about Task Force Ezell.

The photo accompanying the article showed a Sherman Tank—not an M7. I am attaching a photo of an M7 like we had in my Battery. Will you please run a correction?

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

John H. Harris,

4th ArmdD, 22nd Armd FA Bn, Battery C



QUITE AN HONOR

Enclosed is my check for my annual dues—hopefully, I will be sending them in next year, when I will be 96 years old. Ours is a mighty fine organization and I am proud to be a part of it.

One of the stories I submitted to VBOB, “The 188th Combat Engineers in Belgium,” has now been published by the Belgian Historical Society. That is quite an honor. It was also used in the British book “Snow and Steel,” by Peter Caddick-Adams, two years ago.

My thanks and appreciation to all of you who are hard at work keeping VBOB alive.

Fraternally,

Wilfrid R. Riley, 188 Engr Cmbt Bn

INFO ON LT. WILLIAM GORDON?

I write this letter in the hope of finding anyone who may have served with my Dad, Lt. William Gordon (pictured), in the 81st Engineer Combat Battalion, 106th Division. My Dad was captured while defending a strategic crossroads near St. Vith about December 22, 1944 (Ref: *St. Vith, Lion in the Way*, by Col. R. Ernest Dupuy). He escaped twice while a POW and was finally killed behind enemy lines in Germany, when his POW troop train was mistakenly bombed by allied forces (Ref: *Prisoner of the Germans*, by Chaplain Mark R. Moore). Raised as a war



orphan, I don't know much about my Dad's time in service and any info concerning my Dad would be greatly appreciated.

For the record, although a sole surviving son, I did my time in Vietnam as an Airborne Ranger with the First Air Cavalry Division, and both my Dad and I are recipients of the Purple Heart.

Please send any information to me at hgordon@gordon.us.com or by mail to 4501 Daly Drive, Chantilly VA 20151.

William H. (Hank) Gordon, Associate

BELGIANS SEEKING SOLDIERS' INFO

Just received my *Bulge Bugle* publication and saw the article about the grave adoptions.

My name is Dominique Potier. I'm a Belgium soldier, and I was with Patrick Brion for the 70th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge tour in Belgium and Luxembourg.

My wife Christine and I have adopted several graves in Belgium. It's a great honor for us to keep the memories of these heroes alive, and we would also be honored to get a certificate of gratitude from VBOB.

I take this opportunity to ask the VBOB membership if anyone has information or pictures about some of these soldiers. We are in touch with some families, but some of them are totally unknown—no pictures, no stories...

The names of those about whom we seek information:

- PVT Wilford L Peacher, 36784892, 109th 28th ID, KIA on Sept 30, 1944
- 2 LT Le Roy C Manley, 01299079, 509 PIB, KIA on Feb 4, 1944
- PFC Gustave B Lindermann, 37171217, 357th 90th ID, KIA on Aug 14, 1944
- PFC Ralph C Cremans, 35642410, 394th 99th I, KIA on Dec 18, 1944
- PFC George E Riggle, 35075824, 313th 79th ID, KIA on Dec 16, 1944

Thanks so much for your help. Please contact us at:

Dominique Potier and Christine Xhauffaire
73 rue Verte Houmeresse
4032 Chenée, Belgium

SEARCHING FOR INFO ON VETS

In 2011, I had contact with VBOB to search for the family of Private Arthur H. French. Thank you for the reply and the copy of *The Bulge Bugle*.

I have adopted two other soldiers' graves and I would like to know if there are any family members, or any other information, about these soldiers from the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division:

Private Arthur H. French, 36690011, Illinois

Private First Class Stanley T. Yaszczak, 33136597, Pennsylvania

Private Melvin M. Miller, 37692104, Iowa

Respectfully,

Danny Sijmons

Kloosterhof 11

1840 Steenhuffel, Belgium

email: danny.sijmons-pots@telenet.be



DONATIONS

We appreciate the generous support received between January 9 and June 15, 2016, from the following folks:

Allen, Bobby L	Associate	Jakupco, John	78 INFD	Roberts, John D	Associate
Bailey, J. David	106 INFD	Kesselring, Bruce E	838 QM GAS SUP	Rogister, Henri	Associate
Basler, Herman	4 ARMDD	Kizina, Charles	135 AAA GUN BN	Sample, Willis E	84 INFD
Beck, E.M.	Associate	Kovach, John	4 ARMDD	Schaefer, David	Associate
Blass, Gus	24 Cav Recon Sqd	Kuhnen, Carl	511 Engr Lt Ponton	Shoop, William G	97 Signal Bn
Caulfield, John J	Associate	Liskiewicz, Michael	106 INFD	Siembor, Louis	10 ARMDD
Curley, John	78 INFD	Lockshin, Shirley	Associate	Siler, James M.	5 INFD
Custard, Raymond	87 INFD	Malouf, Edward J	78 INFD	Silverman, Bruce	Associate
Davis, Harry	275 AFA BN	Marinucci, David B	Associate	Sincock, Morgan	Associate
Delaughder, Michael L	Associate	Maskell, Richard	2 INFD	Steinberg, Frank X	84 INFD
Delpha, Tim	Associate	Meinhart, Richard	Associate	Swedick, Matthew	Associate
Dinin, Ralph	82 ABND	Morrison, Sherrie	Associate	Vanhooose, Spurgeon	10 ARMDD
Doherty, Joseph	99 INFD	Myhill, Alfred	53 Fld Hosp/70 FA Bn	Vogel, Norvin	35 INFD
Fischer, Gene	Associate	Nichols, Henry	26 INFD	Wintemberg, Harry	87 INFD
(IMO Eugene Fischer, 6 ARMDD)		Orth, Herbert	528 FA BN	Wood, Donald F.	Associate
Grayson, Elliott S	87 INF	Ortiz, Nicholas	Associate	Wynn, Marian	Donor
Gross, James	Associate	(IMO Nicholas D Ortiz, 772 FA BN)		Zimmerman, Antoinette	Associate
Hainaut, Pascal	Associate	Palmer Jr, Joseph	63 INFD		
Hunt, Ralph	80 INFD	Pflughaupt, Eugene	30 INFD		

THANK YOU TO ALL!

NEW MEMBERS

These new members joined VBOB April 1 - June 15, 2016:

Courtney, Brian D	Associate
Fischer, Gene	Associate
Gordon, Cheryl J	Associate
Phillips, Bill	Associate
Rogers, Benjamin D	Associate

We certainly are pleased to have you with us and look forward to your participation in helping to perpetuate the legacy of all who served in that epic battle. You can help immediately by:

- Talking to people about VBOB and suggesting that they also join
- Spreading the word about our website: www.vbob.org
- Sending us articles to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*
- Plan to attend our Annual Reunion in Seattle, WA, October 2016 (See pages 12-15 for details.)

How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

A big "Thank You" to those who have submitted veterans' stories and photos for inclusion in *The Bulge Bugle*. Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories, because we are in danger of running out of stories to print. Associate members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories, letters and photos to be published in *The Bulge Bugle* are:

Stories and letters: Please send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication so we can obtain reprint permission.

(Over the years there have been many stories, submitted by our members, that were far too lengthy to be included in *The Bulge Bugle*. These stories have been added to the VBOB web site: www.battleofthebulge.org)

Photographs: Please identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Photos will not be returned. (Photos copied on a copy machine are not suitable for publication.) If providing scanned images, scan at high-res (300 dpi.)

Please include your e-mail address or telephone number, in case we have to contact you.

Send material to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by email to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

6TH ARMORED REUNION



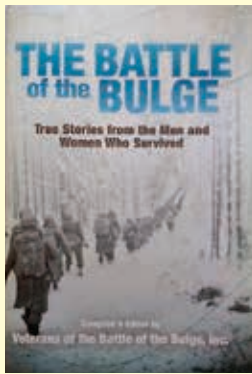
The next 6th Armored Reunion is scheduled for September 28-October 2, 2016 in Oklahoma City. Reservations can be made at the Hampton Inn in Bricktown, 300 E Sheridan Ave, Oklahoma City, OK, (405) 232-3600.

Just ask for the 6th Armored rate. Tours and events are still being coordinated, but more information will be available shortly.

We hope to see you in OKC!

For more information, contact: Jerry and Donna Shiles, 405-408-6692 or 6697.

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*To order, provide the ISBN and the title of the book:

ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge: True Stories From the Men and Women Who Survived*

The book is not sold by VBOB.



MAHLON SEBRING, 82ND ABND

VBOB Member Mahlon Sebring was in the 82nd Airborne Division, 319th Glider Field Artillery, A Battery. This is a photo he took of his Gun Section on a firing mission during the Battle of the Bulge. The 319th GFA used the small 75mm Pack Howitzers. The soldier at the far left is Donald Swanson from Minnesota, and on the far right is James Thousands from Ithaca, NY. (The middle two soldiers are unidentified.)



L to R: PVT Hornyak, SGT Covais, PVT Sebring, PVT Ferrante. Sebring was technically considered a Field Wireman, but saw duty within the Gun Section, as well as assisting a Lieutenant at Forward Observer positions. Mr. Sebring turns 92 this July 9th. This will be the fourth year he and his son Greg have gone to Fort Bragg, NC for "All American Week," home of the 82nd Airborne.

—Submitted by Greg Sebring, Mahlon Sebring's son

TEXAS A & M EXHIBIT

The "Texas Aggies Go To War" exhibit tells the story of 5 former students of Texas A & M University who served in WWII and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. These 5 men not only represent the Aggies (graduates of Texas A & M) but all Americans who fought in WWII. The exhibit tells the story of dedication, sacrifice, reconciliation, healing, and deep ties, both personal and economic, between people an ocean apart. The 5,000 square foot exhibit, open to the public, began Dec. 12, 2014 in Bastogne, Belgium and will soon relocate to Texas A & M, 400 Bizzell St, College Station, TX 77840.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Linda L. Ravey, Program Manager (979) 458-0117; or email: aggiesgotowar@gmail.com; or go to their website: aggiesgotowar.org.

—Submitted by Doris Davis, Associate

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Please notify us when you hear that any member of our organization has recently passed away, so that we may honor them in a future *Bulge Bugle*. Also, kindly notify us of any errors or omissions.

Please send notices by mail: VBOB, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org.

We have been notified, as of June 15, 2016, that these members of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. have also recently passed away:

BIRRI, ANTONIO	30 INFD
BOGGS, ED	8 AF
CARVER, RALPH L	87 INFD
CHIPP, HARRY	3 ARMDD MAINT
FISCHER, EUGENE	6 ARMDD
HOFFMAN, JR, MIKE G	35 INFD
JOHNSON, ARTHUR H	28 INFD
MAY, A. VIRGIL	79 INFD

MINGES, JR., PHILIP	11 ARMDD
MURRAY, HUGH J	166 ENGR CMBT BN
NEILAND, VICTOR	30 INFD
PEARSOL, CALVIN	42 INFD
PELLS, LOUIS H	99 INFD
PHILLIPS, ROBERT F	28 INFD
PILLITTERI, JOSEPH V	5 INFD

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the

“EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 72nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 14, 15 and 16, 2016 Metropolitan Washington, DC

We have been invited by the new Luxembourg Ambassador, Sylvie Lucas, to a reception at the Luxembourg Embassy, on Wednesday, 14 December 2016, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. We will hold our annual Battle of the Bulge Commemoration Banquet, at the DoubleTree Hilton Crystal City, on Thursday evening, 15 December 2016, between 6:00 and 10:00 PM. Our speaker for the Banquet will be announced in the November Bulge Bugle. Our bus trip this year on the 15th of December will be to the National Holocaust Museum on 15th Street SW in Washington followed by lunch on your own and shopping at Union Station and their Mall. The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA 22202 has been selected again for this event, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital. This hotel, just off Route 1, in Crystal City, is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon City Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and has recently completed major renovations to the entire hotel for great accommodations. **We have managed a reduced rate of \$119.00**, single or double occupancy, plus taxes, for the evenings of 14th, and 15th December 2016, which is during the business week. For those who want to stay a few days after 16th Dec rate will also be \$119 and a weekend (17th & 18th) rate of \$99.00 plus taxes. For those who want to come in earlier, to relax or enjoy Washington, they will offer a reduced rate of \$139.00 plus taxes rate for the evenings of the 12th and 13th of December 2016. This rate is higher because of the beginning of the business week yet still substantially reduced from their usual rate over \$200. Check-in time is 4:00 PM however, any guest checking in after 12 noon will be able to do so for no charge, based on the rooms availability. For those driving we have managed a reduced self-parking rate of \$12 per night from their normal \$32.00 per night rate. **We have blocked 30 rooms so it is imperative to make hotel reservations early.** For room reservations, please call the DoubleTree Reservations **800-Hiltons (800-455-8667)** or 703-416-4100 by **December 6, 2016**. Mention the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** for these special rates.

▪**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

- 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Registration & Hospitality Room** open – **Harrison/Jackson Room** - Receive Registration Packets with name badges, Banquet/bus tickets. Sign Attendance Books. (If you are only attending the Banquet, [on the 15th Dec] you may pick up your tickets at the Hotel by the Washington Ballroom by 6:00 PM Dec 15th.)
- 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, snacks & beverages open everyday. Kent Menser, New BOB Event Chair/Vice-President and John Bowen, BOB Treasurer will be the hosts.
- 3:30 PM We will be having our traditional **Tree Trimming** “Salute to Bulge Veterans” in the Harrison Hospitality Room. Bulge veterans who are attending should send us a WWII picture of you for the tree.
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Bus leaves at 5:30 PM for Luxembourg Embassy **Reception**, downtown Washington, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

▪**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

- 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Load buses and depart promptly at 9:30 AM for National Holocaust Museum, 15th St SW, Washington DC.
- 10:00 AM We will visit the National Holocaust Museum and view their exhibit, and special exhibits.
- 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM We will travel to Union Station for lunch, on your own, at the variety of eateries and restaurants there and shopping at the Mall in Union Station.
- 2:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel to rest and prepare for our annual Commemorative Banquet.
- 5:00 PM Hospitality Room Closed till after Banquet.
- 6:00 – 10:00** **BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON BALLROOM, (Lobby).**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. Seated for Dinner at 6:45 PM.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: **House Smoked Pulled Pork OR Chicken Piccata**
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Speaker, Person of the Year Award.
- 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open

▪**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016**

- 8:45 AM - 12:30PM Bus loads 8:45 AM leaves Hotel promptly at 9:00 AM for **Wreath layings** at World War II Memorial, large VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns and Changing of the Guard in Arlington Cemetery.
- 12:30 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel for annual **VBOB Luncheon** in the new Capital View Room of Washington.
- 1:00 PM **Lunch 14th Floor North Bldg** of hot soup, Grilled Chicken or Smoked Turkey sandwich, beverage and dessert.
- Swearing-in** of new National VBOB officers for 2017.

Notes: □ Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport.
□ Free Shuttle from DoubleTree every hour on the half hour to METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall.
□ Skydome Lounge for dinner, the area's only revolving rooftop lounge, for a spectacular view of Washington at night.
□ Early departure: If your reservation plans change, please advise hotel at or before check-in of any change in your reserved planned length of stay to avoid an early departure fee (currently \$75.00) for checking out before your agreed upon reserved length. Any special circumstances of Early Departure Waivers will be on a case by case basis and depending on the severity of the situation. 06/15/16

Seq # _____

Chk # _____ Date _____ Amt _____

RESERVATION FORM
“REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION”
OF THE 72nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
December 14, 15, and 16, 2016 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **December 6, 2016** to:

Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 4546
Silver Spring MD 20914-4546

Questions:

*Kent Menser, Chair, 410-446-2768 or John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533
 E-mails: kent.menser@comcast.net johndbowen@earthlink.net

Name: _____ Telephone _____ Cell _____

Name of Spouse/Guests: _____ ; _____ ; _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Battle of Bulge Unit you or family member Served With: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ **Vets do you have a WWII Pictures to send us?**

If you haven't before?

RESERVATIONS:

	Number Attending	Cost/Person	Total
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, Toasts, etc	_____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016			
3:30 PM Tree Trimming Harrison Room	_____ X	FREE	
5:30 PM Bus to Luxembourg Embassy Reception	_____ X	\$25.00	\$ _____
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016:			
Chartered Bus: To National Holocaust Museum & Union Station	_____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____
9:30 AM Bus Leaves for National Holocaust Museum			
Commemorative Banquet: DoubleTree Hotel Washington Ballroom	_____ X	\$59.00	\$ _____
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Please make your Main Course selection(s):			
<input type="checkbox"/> House Smoked Pulled Pork	_____ (Names) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Piccata	_____ (Names) _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic Meal	_____ (Names) _____		

Seating is assigned. Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table. Tables are Rounds of 8. Please indicate friends with whom you would like to sit: _____

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016:

Chartered Bus: Wreath Layings VBOB Memorials, Tomb of _____ X \$25.00 \$ _____
 Depart 9:00 AM Unknowns & WWII Memorial

9:00 – 12:00 AM Wreath Laying Ceremonies: Number Attending: _____

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon at DoubleTree Hotel	Chicken _____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____
	Turkey _____ X	\$30.00	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL (Enclose check made out to BoBHF 2016 Commemoration): \$ _____**NOTE: Checks will not be deposited until 1 Dec 2016 so you can register now.**

Permission granted for Hotel to notify BoB Historical Foundation that room reservation has been made.

Signature: _____

NOTES & REMINDERS: Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie optional (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
 Room reservations must be made for the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by **December 6, 2016** Telephone 800-Hiltons (800-455-8667).
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation but no later than **6 December 2016**.

No cancellation refunds after December 6, 2016.

Hotel Reservations based on Availability. Please do not delay.

Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!

*Kent Menser, COL, US Army, Rtd. has agreed to assume the leadership, this year, of putting on the Annual BOB Commemoration.

****PLEASE BRING A PICTURE ID (Drivers License, Passport, Mil ID) for the Washington area******06/15/16**

TOURS PLANNED FOR 2017

NUREMBERG, PILSEN LIBERATION FESTIVAL & PRAGUE TOUR April 30 - May 9, 2017

The tour begins in Frankfurt. We see Nuremberg with its Nazi Rally ruins and War Crimes Courthouse, and participate as honored guests in the world famous Pilsen Liberation Festival (see many YouTube reports) in the Czech Republic, when Pilsen festively thanks America for its May 6, 1945 liberation by General Patton and the Third Army. The tour ends in the beautiful historic Czech capital Prague.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Doris Davis, Associate Member and President VBOB Golden Gate (San Francisco) Chapter. Email address: doris@battleofthebulge.org; Tel: (650) 654-0101 (PST).



THE REMEMBER MUSEUM 39-45 IN BELGIUM

Joe Landry (776 AAA AW BN) and Barbara Mooneyhan (Executive Vice-President, VBOB) need your help in raising money to bring these two deserving Belgium citizens to Washington, DC for the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge by the Historical Foundation!

Here is a little bit of background information about Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz. In 1940, When Marcel was 7 years old, aided by the hazards of war, his village Clermont-sur-Berwinne was cut into two parts ... Germanic annexed by the German Reich and occupied Belgium. Marcel lived in a locality clearly of Germanic origins and he would spend all of his primary school years in German. The Liberation came on September 11, 1944. Then there was the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest (in which Barbara's Dad was involved) and this lasted all of the fall. The losses were enormous and unbearable. The Allied Command decided to take a break, as winter was coming.

Marcel's family farm (he was 11 years old) was transformed into an immense bivouac with 110 soldiers from Company D of the 26th Regiment of the First Division, (the famous "Big Red One.") This paradise for a kid deprived of everything for 4 years would only last 3 weeks. These 3 weeks marked this child for life: the contrast between the occupation and the overwhelming abundance of the American GIs.

This dream ended on December 16, 1944, when Hitler decided to change the course of events and the Battle of the Bulge began. At the Schmetz farm, everyone packed his kit and departed for the north flank in a rush. The soldiers didn't burden themselves with excess weight and the result was the Schmetzes found themselves with a treasure trove of mixed objects. At the Schmetz farm, it was kept—first out of a reflex of economy, but over time out of respect in memory of the people who had become dear to them.

Then Marcel met Mathilde in 1991. Together, they would become a dream team. Mathilde would take advantage of Marcel's retirement and his many talents to "put a little order in all that stuff." In fact, she would help him to highlight the patient work of an entire life spent collecting. An immense abandoned stable on the farm would serve their purpose, and was dedicated on June 12, 1994 for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day as "The Remember Museum 39-45."

Since that time, The Remember Museum 39-45 had hosted many



Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz of the Remember Museum 39-45

visitors, most of all American veterans and the families of American soldiers who rest forever in the American cemeteries in Europe. These veterans, struck by the respect surrounding these objects, bring more and more personal souvenirs, certain that their memory will be faithfully kept. In addition to this magnificent museum, Marcel and Mathilde have adopted two graves at the nearby Henri-Chappelle Cemetery, one of whom is PFC James G. Ellis of the 99th Division from South Carolina, who was killed on December 17, 1944. They also host wounded veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, who come to the Museum from the hospitals in Germany to stay for a few days.

Their organization relies strictly on donations and personal finances to maintain this remarkable museum. Please help us recognize their extraordinary efforts by having them as our guests in Washington on December 13 – 17, 2016. Please send questions or donations to Barbara Mooneyhan, Stages of Remembrance, 2440 Wash Lever Road, Chapin, SC or mooneyhanbj@aol.com. She can be reached at 803-318-1184. While these donations are not tax deductible, the IRS allows tax free gifts to any individual up to \$14,000 per calendar year.

—Submitted by Barbara Mooneyhan, Associate

NOTE: See pp. 8-9 for details and registration form for the Dec. Event.



KEEP THE VBOB FLAG FLYING HIGH, STRONG, & PROUD

by Angela M. Fazio, Associate,
Vice President/Membership

*"The greatest glory of a free-born people is to transmit
freedom to their children."* —W. Harvard

And with the above quote, this plea to you begins. We are the children of these veterans. They, heroes of the Battle of the Bulge, modeled for all of us and for all time—bravery, fortitude, self-sacrifice, perseverance, patriotism, and an unfailing faith in our country. When a person reads about this most significant battle, when you watch the Hollywood movies that have been made, you almost cannot believe it actually happened, but it did.

I have been an Associate Member since 2003. I joined to honor my dear father, a Purple Heart recipient, 1st Infantry—"The Big Red One." But I have stayed with VBOB to show my fondness and respect for all the veterans. Don't they deserve our loyalty and our participation in this organization, founded to keep future generations of Americans knowledgeable about WWII and "what it took" to win?

Please consider putting energy and enthusiasm into increasing our much-needed enrollment of Associates. As R.W. Emerson said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," so now it is up to us to not let that precious banner of courage fall. Please join me in putting our efforts into spreading the word in any venue we can and garner new members. Think of it this way: if the Daughters of the American Revolution (the D.A.R.) can still carry their message, so can we! There is an application at the back of this wonderful publication and/or new members can join at www.vbob.org. Our VBOB family is counting on us. Thank you for all you will do for VBOB!

"This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure."
—Winston Churchill



Col. Andrew Ordynovych, the Military Attaché of Ukraine and J. David Bailey, VBOB past-president, at the D-Day event in Washington DC.

REFLECTIONS ON D-DAY

by J. David Bailey, Past VBOB President (2010-12)

Seventy-two years ago, more than 160,000 Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy. On January 6, 2016 at the World War II Memorial in Washington DC, veterans in their 90s, and the families of fallen soldiers, commemorated the epochal D-Day, gathering to honor those who fought during the invasion.

The ceremony was traditional in nature—there was a public wreath-laying event to remember those who died. I was indeed honored, representing the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, to lay a wreath at the Atlantic Arch of the World War II Memorial. This was in memory of 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded during the invasion. I was accompanied by Col. Andrew Ordynovych, the Military Attaché of Ukraine.

David O'Sullivan, The European Union Ambassador to the United States, was the main speaker, and also presented a wreath during the event. Josiah Bunting III, chairman of the Friends of the WWII Memorial, delivered special remarks, and the Military District of Washington provided support for the event.

The sound of trumpets playing "Taps" concluded the ceremony.

SPIRIT OF '45 WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

The countdown to Spirit of '45 Day 2016 officially began with the installation of Seward Johnson's monumental sculptures depicting the "Times Square Kiss" a few miles outside Detroit at the future site of the Michigan WWII Memorial. The 25 foot sculpture is identical to the ones in Sarasota, FL, San Diego, and Normandy, France symbolizing the national day to honor the legacy of the WWII generation, that was passed unanimously by the U.S. Congress in 2010.

This year, Spirit of '45 events and activities will be helping to promote public awareness about the 75th anniversaries of important WWII events that will be taking place, beginning this year. 75th anniversaries include:

- President Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" speech on January 6, 1941
- The formation of the USO on February 4, 1941
- The formation of the Tuskegee Airmen on March 22, 1941
- The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941

Several Spirit of '45 Day 'signature' events have already been announced by coalition partners:

- Walgreens is again showing the Spirit of '45 Day video on its jumbo screens in Times Square on the anniversary of the Kiss
- The National Park Service is repeating its highly successful "Rosie the Riveter Rally" with the goal of setting a new Guinness World Record
- The Medical Musical Group will perform two concerts in Washington, DC honoring the caregivers of WWII honoring the caregivers of WWII
- Community events are planned across the country in virtually every state from Florida to California
- Dignity Memorial and Bugles Across America are organizing Tribute wreath laying ceremonies at all VA national veterans ceremonies.

For more information, go online to: www.spiritof45.org



WELCOME TO SEATTLE, WA

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE 35th ANNUAL REUNION

October 5 - 10, 2016

UPDATED* HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE

All attendees must pay the registration fee (see Registration Form). The fee covers the expenses of name tags, programs, table decorations, Hospitality Room, etc.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Registration and complimentary Wine and Cheese Reception.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Visit the **Joint Base Lewis-McChord Military Base (JBLM)** - home of the Corps and 62nd Airlift Wing. The facility is an amalgamation of the US Army's Fort Lewis and US Air Force McChord Air Force Base. This Base is a training and mobilization center for all services and is the only Army power injection base west of the Rocky Mountains. Its location provides rapid access to deep water ports for deploying equipment. The Joint Base Headquarters (JBHQ) operates the installation in support of war fighting units, their families and the extended military community. From 1942- 1946, it was used as a training base (including training for the Anti-Aircraft Artillery) and a clearing station for planes headed for Alaska and the South Pacific. If you were ever stationed at Ft. Lewis (as it was known in WWII era), we would like to hear your story during the bus trip to the Base. *For more information about JBLM, their web site is: <http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/about.html>*

IMPORTANT: IDENTIFICATION & DEADLINE

If you plan to join us on the tour of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, you will need to:

* NEW (LATER) DEADLINE FOR BASE TRIP!

1) Sign up by September 12. (No exceptions. Late registrants cannot go on the base trip.)



Joint Base Lewis-McChord

2) Bring a government issued photo ID (e.g., driver's license, U.S. passport or passport card, military ID). Children under age 18: bring school photo ID card.

3) If a non-US citizen, bring foreign passport with current arrival-departure record.

4) If a foreign national, please bring permanent resident card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (INS Form I-551).

For questions, please call the VBOB office, 703-528-4058 or email doris@battleofthebulge.org.



Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

After breakfast, please attend the **Membership Meeting**. Important issues will be discussed about the future of VBOB, and we value your input. Following the Membership Meeting, we will have **lunch in the Hospitality Room**. You can choose to have lunch in the restaurant, but if you join us, you will be sure to be on time for the bus departure for the tours. You have **3 choices for the tours** (choose 1): (a) take a bus tour of Seattle (stay-on-bus tour, 3 hours) or (b) explore Pike Place Market (on your own) or (c) go to the Seattle Space Needle [and the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum.] The Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum is located at the base of the Space Needle and was voted as the #1 place to visit in Seattle by TripAdvisor. Please keep in mind that Pike Place Market is a busy place and the pavement is uneven. It is not wheelchair-friendly. In the evening, we'll go for a **BBQ feast at Famous Dave's** (close to the hotel). If you prefer, stay at the hotel or take the hotel shuttle to a different neighboring

restaurant. *For more information, Pike Place Market: pikeplacemarket.org; Seattle Space Needle: www.spaceneedle.com/home; Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum: www.chihulygardenglass.com*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Visit the **Boeing Museum of Flight** (the #2 place to see in Seattle by Trip Advisor). It is the largest private air and space museum in the world (150 aircraft). They have 25 aircraft from WWI and WWII on display. It has the largest collection of model aircraft, including every plane from both wars. They have a cafe where we can have lunch (at your own timing). *For more information about the Boeing Museum of Flight: www.museumofflight.org/.* After free time in the afternoon, we will have our traditional **Reception and Banquet** at the hotel.



Pike Place Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Again, you have a choice of 1 of 3 options from the agenda that was offered on Friday, so you can enjoy your 2nd choice. We will return back to the hotel no later than 1:00 PM. If you have a flight out of Seattle in the afternoon, please allow plenty of time between returning to the hotel and catching the shuttle to the airport. If you want to stay and visit in the Hospitality Room, it will be open.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

After breakfast at the hotel, stay for additional days to see beautiful Seattle, or depart for home.

NOTE: Please bring rain gear (raincoat and umbrella) in case it rains—although we hope that we will be ahead of their rainy season, but it is best to be prepared.

VBOB REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: **SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: Complete this form OR register online at www.battleofthebulge.org (Click on "Attend Reunion" and complete the Registration Form.) Registration for the Reunion must be received no later than **September 28, 2016**. However, you must register by **September 12, 2016** if you plan on going to Lewis-McChord Base. There is no penalty for canceling up to the day of arrival. Go to page 15 for the hotel registration information. (**Hotel reservation cut-off is September 21, 2016.**)

VBOB registration desk at the hotel will be open on Wed October 5 from 2 pm - 6 pm, and on Thurs October 6 from 8 am - 5 pm.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Division, Regiments, etc _____

Check box if Associate Member ☐ Signature _____

Guest(s) (please print) _____

IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of People attending <i>free</i> events as well!	No. of People	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Registration Fee (all attendees must pay the Registration Fee)			
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$45	_____
Child (20 and Under)	_____	\$25	_____
Late registration fee after September 28 - add \$20 per person	_____	\$20	_____

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Wine and cheese reception in the Hospitality Room	_____	free	_____
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Thursday, October 6, 2016

Tour of JB Lewis-McChord Military Base (includes bus and lunch)	_____	\$40	_____
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Friday, October 7, 2016

Lunch in the Hospitality Room	_____	\$22	_____
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Bus Trips (choose one option):

Bus tour of Seattle (a stay-on bus tour)	_____	\$40	_____
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Trip to Pike Place Market	_____	\$25	_____
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Trip to Space Needle:	_____		_____
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Space Needle only	_____	\$45	_____
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Space Needle & Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum	_____	\$55	_____
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Dinner at Famous Dave's BBQ	_____	\$25	_____
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Saturday, October 8, 2016

Tour of Boeing Museum of Flight	_____	\$43	_____
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(includes bus and museum admission; lunch is on your own at museum cafe.)

Reception	_____	cash bar	_____
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Banquet (choose entree below)

Lemon Seared Pacific Salmon	_____	\$45	_____
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Herb Roasted Tri-Tip of Beef	_____	\$45	_____
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Sunday, October 9, 2016

Bus Trips (choose one option):

Bus tour of Seattle (a stay-on bus tour)	_____	\$40	_____
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Trip to Pike Place Market	_____	\$25	_____
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Trip to Space Needle:	_____		_____
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Space Needle only	_____	\$45	_____
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Space Needle & Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum	_____	\$55	_____
--	-------	------	-------

TOTAL _____

Mail this form and check (payable to VBOB) to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
Or, to pay with a credit card, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on "Attend Reunion"



2016 VBOB REUNION IN SEATTLE, WA

OCTOBER 5 - 10, 2016

REUNION PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Registration open
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open (Summit I & II)
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Wine and Cheese Reception in Hospitality Room
Dinner on your own (at hotel or nearby restaurants)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration open
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open (Summit I & II)
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
9:00 AM Bus Departs for Joint Base Lewis-McChord Military Base*
Visit the Museum and see WWII Vehicles on the Base
12:00 Noon Lunch on Base (with the soldiers)
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Tour of the Base
4:00 PM - 4:15 PM Arrival back to the hotel
Dinner on your own

***Important note:** To visit the Military Base, you must bring a government-issued photo ID and you **MUST** sign up for this trip no later than **Sept. 12, 2016** (6 weeks prior to Oct 6). This deadline was issued by the base and it is due to heightened security at Military Bases. No exceptions. Late registrants cannot be accommodated. Hospitality Room will be open if you do not go on the Tour. Please see page 12 for more information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open (Summit I & II)
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting (Monterey Room)
11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Lunch in Hospitality Room (Summit I & II)
12:30 PM Buses depart, three options (choose one)
(a) Bus Tour of Seattle (stay-on Bus tour)
(b) Trip to Pike Place Market
(c) Trip to Seattle Space Needle [and Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum]
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Return to hotel (arrival around 4:00 PM)
6:00 PM Depart for Dinner at Famous Dave's BBQ (or dinner on your own)
8:30 PM Return to Hotel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open (Summit I & II)
9:00 AM Bus Departs for Boeing Museum of Flight
Lunch at the Museum Cafe (on your own timing)
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM Return to hotel (arrival around 1:30 PM)
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Reception (cash bar)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Banquet at hotel (Monterey Room)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast at hotel
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room open (Summit I & II)
9:00 AM Buses depart, three options (choose one)
(a) Bus Tour of Seattle (stay-on Bus tour)
(b) Trip to Pike Place Market
(c) Trip to Seattle Space Needle [and Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum]
1:00 PM Return to hotel (1:00 PM approximate time)
Dinner on your own

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016

7:00 AM - 10:30 AM Breakfast at hotel
Depart or stay longer and enjoy beautiful Seattle

See Highlights and Schedule Information on page 12 for more details.



DOUBLETREE SUITES BY HILTON, SEATTLE AIRPORT – SOUTHCENTER

16500 Southcenter Parkway

Seattle, WA 98188

website: www.seattle.doubletree.com

Phone: 206-575-8220

**RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE:
Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

Hotel Information

The DoubleTree Suites By Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport – Southcenter is located 3 miles from the Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SEATAC). Every suite has 2 rooms – the bedroom and a living room (with a pocket door between the rooms). The living room has a sofa sleeper that can accommodate an additional guest. The bedroom has either 1 king bed or 2 double beds. Each room has a refrigerator. Microwave ovens can be provided upon availability.

The hotel is holding three different types of ADA suites: 5 rooms with 1 king bed, and 3 rooms with 2 double beds. If you need an ADA room, please book your room early. ADA rooms are also suites with a sofa sleeper in the living room.

ROOM RATE:	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Regular room	\$109	\$109	\$119	\$129
King Corner	\$139	\$139	\$149	\$159

Our rooms are the Regular room (Row 1.) The same rate applies to ADA rooms. If you want to upgrade, you may reserve a King Corner room (Row 2), but they are outside of our room block and subject to availability. King Corner rooms are larger rooms (about 25% larger).

Our room rate is available for up to 3 nights prior to our Reunion and 3 nights following our reunion, but the rooms are subject to availability. If you want to extend your stay in beautiful Seattle, please book your rooms early.

RESERVATIONS

By phone: call 1-800-222-8733 and say you are with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge group or give them a group code of VBB. Or call the hotel direct at 206-575-8220 and you will be transferred to ‘reservations.’

Online: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SEASPD-VBB-20161005/index.jhtml>

(For online reservations, the group code is also VBB).

All major credit cards accepted. Use the above information to book a Regular Room. If you want to book a King Corner Room, call Laurel (Rooms coordinator) at 206-575-8220 Ext 1124.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, September 21, 2016 to guarantee the group rate. After September 21, reservations will be made on a space-available basis. In the event you need to cancel your reservation, please inform the hotel by calling 1-800-222-8733 at least 24 hours in advance of your arrival. Individual room cancellations made less than 24 hours prior to arrival and ‘no shows’ will incur a

1-night room and tax cancellation fee. Please have your confirmation number available if you have to call (1-800-222-8733) and cancel.

HOTEL AMENITIES

- Full hot breakfast in the Northwest Landing Restaurant (included)
- Complimentary standard room guest internet access
- Complimentary parking for day and overnight use
- Complimentary Hotel Shuttle (24 hours a day) from airport, and to anyplace within 1 mile of hotel (based on availability)
- Complimentary use of large fitness facility and business center
- Baggage handling and storage (recommended gratuity \$3/bag)
- Very close to the largest shopping center in Seattle
- ATM Machine
- Sundry Shop (offering beverages, snacks and sundry items)
- Beautiful, newly remodeled pool, hot tub, showers, and bathrooms

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

Airport Shuttle: Complimentary airport shuttle from SEATAC Airport. After you have retrieved your luggage, go to “Courtesy Pick-up” on the 3rd floor of the parking garage. (Directions: Go up 1 floor from baggage claim, cross the sky bridge, then go down 1 floor. See “Ground Transportation”) Go to Island #1 or #3 and call 206-575-8220 from the courtesy phone and the hotel staff will tell you how soon they will be there for you. Please note which Island you are near (#1 or #3).

Driving Directions: Hotel is 3 miles from Seattle/Tacoma. Follow signs to all freeways. Take Hwy 518 East to the Southcenter Parkway exit. Turn right at the stop sign. Go through 2 lights and turn right onto Southcenter Parkway. Turn left at 2nd light into the hotel parking lot.

If you use a GPS, enter the town name Tukwila into your GPS (not Seattle—the hotel is actually in Tukwila.)

RENTAL CARS

Seattle is a beautiful place. Feel free to add a few days before the Reunion or after the Reunion to explore more of Seattle. Our discounted room rate will be honored for 3 days before the Reunion and 3 days after the Reunion. If you need to rent a car, all major car rental companies are located at the airport (and the hotel shuttle can take you there). Enterprise Car Rental has a location nearby at 1110 SW Grady Way, Renton, WA (425-277-5702). They are 2.6 miles (6 min) from the hotel, and this is outside of the parameter that the hotel shuttle bus serves (but Enterprise might be able to bring the car to you.) Parking at the hotel is free.



CHAPTER NEWS



INDIANA CHAPTER (47) IN VETERANS DAY PARADE

Members of VBOB Central Indiana Chapter 47 participated in the 2015 Veterans Day Parade: From left to right: Chris Schneider, Chapter President, John Kerr, 78 INFD 310 INF 2 BN HQ Co, Piper Allman, Anna Allman (driving the Jeep), and Neal Allman, chapter treasurer.

—Submitted by Chris Schneider,
Chapter President

MASS. CHAPTER (22) ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The annual Chapter 22 Luncheon was held this year on Flag Day at The Mill Restaurant in West Boylston, Massachusetts. The event, as usual, was spearheaded by Commander John McAuliffe. It was great seeing some old friends and new friends alike. One of our guest speakers was Denis Hambucken, who is writing a book on the Bulge. Over

the past year, we lost many great veterans. The accounts of the men and women who served during these trying times is amazing.

My Dad served in the 5th Armored Division, and I am proud to be an Associate Member of Chapter 22.

—Submitted by Elisha Mallory Grant Jr.



ATTENTION ALL VBOB MEMBERS: Looking for VBOB Memorials Information

We'd like to recognize all the VBOB Memorials (monuments, statues, benches, etc.) that our chapters have erected over the years, by compiling a comprehensive list of them. We would post the list of VBOB Memorials on our website, and publish in an upcoming issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. Then our members will know about all of them and can visit them.

We would need the Chapter name, brief description of memorial, location (name of park, if applicable, city and state) and who is in

charge of the property. Include photos (as large as available) if possible, and contact information.

Send typed/printed material to: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; **or by email to:** tracey@battleofthebulge.org

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

SO. AZ CHAPTER (53) ANNUAL RECAP 2015

Our monthly meetings are held in a private room in a restaurant in the Tucson area, where we have interesting speakers and/or video presentations. This past year we had various military leaders speak on Veterans Affairs; speaker from the Memorial Library at the Pima Air and Space Museum; a guest from Great Britain with photos of the American Cemetery in Cambridge; VBOB speakers on their experiences in the Battle of the Bulge; a Navy veteran and also professional baseball pitcher; and a woman speaking on the Survivors of Hiroshima; among many other presentations. Each year, we participate in Honor Flights and the Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance organized by the local chapter of the Military Order of World Wars. We also participate in the City of Tucson Veterans Day Parade on November 11th,

accompanied by four WWII Jeeps. Our Chapter won awards for best WWII display in 2014 and 2015.

On November 6, 2015, we had a very impressive ceremony by Mr. Gerrit M. Steenblik, the Honorary Consul of France in Arizona, who presented the French Legion of Honor Medal to seven VBOB members who had served in France during WWII.

Our chapter has a beautiful monument in the el Presidio Park in downtown Tucson, where we have patriotic celebrations and wreath laying ceremonies. We also continue to participate in the community to include school presentations, media interviews and activities with local veterans groups and fraternal organizations. —*Excerpted from Chapter 53's Annual Report by George W. McGee, Chapter President*

NEWS FROM CHAPTER 33

Recently our Mississippi VBOB Treasurer, Ms. Mary Ellen Stanley, called to say she had received a second substantial check from a supporter of our scholarship project of 2015. The check was sent to honor and remember her late husband who was a combat veteran of the BOB. The Mississippi scholarship project for students related to Miss. veterans will now be continued in 2016, and we are at the moment preparing the necessary papers of announcement and applications, etc. Our Miss. Chapter is blessed to have older members who really care about the education of our young people and are happy to support it, even if it is a sacrifice.

Now we hope it is time for the National group of VBOB to have a scholarship project for young people of college age who are related to our wonderful B.O.B. Vets. We can truthfully say that it has energized our group and made us feel positive about what we can still contribute to society... even in our "last quarter." At the same time, we are educating students and their parents about this critical battle of WWII ... lest we forget ... We think the time is now.

—Submitted by Dr. James W. Hunt,
Chapter 33 President, and Jane Hunt



CHAPTER 33 PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT MSU

On March 21, 2016, Hillel, a student organization at Mississippi State University, hosted Dr. Jim Hunt, VBOB Chapter 33 President, and veteran Joseph Johnson, to speak about their service during World War II. They spoke in the Union Dawg House to a packed house of roughly 95 people. Both Mr. Johnson and Dr. Hunt were given Cowbells with their Division patch painted on them, and posed for requested photos afterwards. Spectators who came to hear these two men were a mixed group of young and older patrons. This event couldn't have been done without the help of Jacob Craig, who was newly elected as the next president of Hillel. Seated (l-r): Joseph Johnson and Dr. Jim Hunt. Standing (l-r): Andrew Shamaskin, Alexx Lux, Jacob Craig, Hillel President Joseph Metz, Scott Sincoff, Will Leonard, and Jake Grogan.



SC CHAPTER (7) CELEBRATES MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS



South Carolina Chapter members Chris Carawan (90, left) and Gerald White (turning 90 in May, right) help Joe Watson (center) celebrate his 93rd birthday at The Nut House, Joe's pecan store in Ridge Spring, South Carolina on 9 April. Joe served as a mortar platoon officer in the 75th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. He was recognized for participation in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns. Joe began his pecan business after returning home from World War II, and now grows and shells pecans, and sells pecans, pastries, and related items from The Nut House, a renovated service station in the heart of Ridge Spring.



South Carolina Chapter Member Gerald White celebrated his 90th birthday on May 7, 2016. Many of his fellow chapter members were able to help Gerald celebrate, and hear, and tell, a few stories. Gerald also had an impressive display of memorabilia from his days as a soldier and his subsequent career working as an ordinance inspector for the Army around the globe. When we gathered Gerald, Pearl, and the five Battle of the Bulge Veteran guests together for a picture, we learned that Gerald is in fact the youngest of the six veterans present. Gerald's sister thinks there may have been a slight discrepancy in documentation Gerald used at his enlistment. It was great to have Walter Hedges, Vern Brantley, Joe Watson, Chris Carawan, and David Hubbard there to help Gerald celebrate.
—Submitted by Nelson McLeod, Chapter 7 President

FLORIDA SE CHAPTER (62) SPRING LUNCHEON

The Spring luncheon meeting of the Battle of the Bulge Chapter #62 had 7 stars in attendance. The guest speaker was Joseph DeSalvo, Lt General and Military Commander of the United States Southern Command (3 stars), Pete Osmond, Lt General (3 stars) and our Commander Al Irzyk (Brig General (1 star). The local press published a picture with a big headline "7 STARS AND ONE STRIPE."

As a PFC, I never had the opportunity to speak with, or take a picture with, a general!

The event was well-publicized, and we had 98 veterans and family enjoy the camaraderie and program. As always, we introduced returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan as our guests. They received a standing ovation. Commander Al Irzyk celebrated his 99th birthday and was presented with a cake. All sang the traditional Happy Birthday song. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

VBOB National has 35+ active chapters and ours is the largest, with the most veteran members, 195 total.

—Submitted by George Fisher, Chapter 62 President

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER'S NEWS!

We'd like to represent more of our chapters in *The Bulge Bugle*.

Normandy Memorial Brick Program

The Airborne Museum Veterans Memorial will be a special place dedicated to honoring and remembering the veterans who served in the European campaign of World War II (including North Africa). It is a place to permanently express our gratitude for the service of those veterans being honored and remembered. Those honored include all branches of the United States Armed Services.

The Veterans Memorial will be located in Sainte Mere Eglise, France at The Airborne Museum, and is dedicated specially as a Memorial to honor and remember the brave and selfless service of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Grateful citizens are encouraged to recognize and remember anyone who has served, regardless of where they are from or lived. Many will also want to commemorate their own service. The primary goal is to recognize as many people as possible... Lest we never forget.

All proceeds from your Memorial Brick purchase will go towards funding scholarships for the crew and families of those deployed on the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* along with ongoing educational programs honoring those who fought in WWII and were part of the European Campaign.

For more information, go to: www.reaganlegacyfoundation.org, and click on "Normandy Memorial Brick Program."

NOTE: Our thanks to Linda del Rossi, wife of VBOB Member Anthony Del Rossi, 629th Engrs, for alerting us to this program.

A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS HER WWII HEROES

by Laura M. Van Arsdale-Jacobson, Associate



My father, Richard Van Arsdale, Sr., LTC, (*shown at left*) joined the Army at age 18. He was in the 75th Infantry Division, 289th Regiment. Dad and the 75th Infantry Division were activated on April 15, 1943, deployed to England in November 1944, and France in December 1944 to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. The 75th Inf. spent 94 consecutive days in contact with the enemy. They went on to fight other battles.

Like many of the men who fought in combat, my father did not speak much about his experiences during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, Ardennes, Colmar Pocket and Ruhr Battles. He was awarded the British Star, Silver Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/ OLC, Purple Heart w/OLC and many other ribbons. We always wondered what lead to Dad receiving decoration of these medals, more than just knowing they were for “bravery in the field.” He never was one to boast, nor keen to hear others “blow their horn” either. Dad was very proud of his military service and all those who served. He would check in on his army buddies, and talk of the army reunions that both he and Mom loved to attend.

Sadly, my amazing Father passed away February 20, 2015. Dad’s home office was his domain and we did not disturb him there, much less ever inquire about what was in his desk. But it was a stroke of good fortune when I found many World War II mementos and letters in the bottom of his desk drawers. Citations received and written accounts of World War II battles struck me the most. Letters written to Mom and from his battlefield buddies told some of his stories of The Big One.

Corporal Van Arsdale was instructed to take a four-man daylight reconnaissance patrol into the town of LeBatty to ascertain the strength and disposition of enemy troops. Cpl. Van Arsdale and his patrol worked their way into the outer edges of the town, where they were ambushed by a large enemy patrol who demanded that they surrender. Defying them, this courageous corporal opened fire on the patrol, killing the two lead men. The enemy patrol then attempted to withdraw, but Cpl. Van Arsdale succeeded in taking one prisoner before he could escape. At this time, he signaled his getaway man to return with the information they had gained to the command post. Simultaneously, his two remaining men were killed by snipers. Then his prisoner attempted to escape, and Cpl. Van Arsdale killed him with one shot. Making his way back toward his company lines, he encountered an enemy machine gun nest. He attacked this strong point, killed the gunner, and then returned to his platoon. The following day he returned to the same area as a guide. “His knowledge of the positions occupied by the enemy were instrumental in the accomplishment of the objective,” read the Citation. The Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor and gallantry in action, was awarded Cpl. Van Arsdale for this mission.

In Germany, Dad was at the head of a series of patrols on dangerous missions. “Sgt. Van Arsdale repeated crossings of the Maas and Rhine Rivers and two patrols in one night across the Dortmund Ems Canal were accomplished with marked success. When an enemy machine gun threatened the safety of one patrol, Sgt. Van Arsdale distracted the enemy attention by throwing hand grenades at great risk to his own life enabling the patrol to complete its mission,” another Citation read. Dad wrote in a letter to Mom, “The Rhine is several hundred yards wide and the current is terrifically swift. We took off about nine o’clock that night, just when

it was getting really dark. We had a little rubber boat that looked like a doughnut that barely fit the three of us. By the time we hit the other side we had drifted five hundred yards downstream. Three men isn’t a very big force to be going into the German lines, but we figured three of us could move faster and more quietly than a larger number of men. A much larger group of men tried to cross the night before in a bigger boat and the Krauts were waiting for them, and it didn’t end well. We had to be very quiet when we hit the shore, as it was covered with gravel. We had to take off our shoes and cross it in our stocking feet. It took about six hours to cover two hundred yards. We heard plenty that night—Heinies all over the place. We made it back to our side in the pitch black night and were almost shot by our own men.” The information they came back with allowed their platoon to successfully complete the mission. For his aggressive leadership and great courage, Sgt. Van Arsdale received the Bronze Star Medal w/ OLC.

Dad and his company were in Belgium advancing, when the Germans ambushed and attacked with sudden tree bursts. His buddy, Charlie Munder, was wounded so badly he couldn’t walk—shot in the left arm, his jugular vein severed, and with 3 fractures of his spinal column. Dad picked up Charlie and carried him back to get medical help. A letter from Charlie described the harrowing ordeal. He wrote, “Thanks for being so gentle with me, it saved my life!” Dad received two Purple Heart Medals for battle wounds received in action.

While he was a Staff Sargent, the company occupied a German area for six weeks and Dad was befriended by an old German couple. In La Fosse, Belgium, Dad and a few soldiers occupied the Julienne Family House. Dad later spoke about how kind they were and continued to correspond with the Juliennes, and visited them with Mom after the war.

Our mother, Vera, worked building spy aircraft in Defense Effort at TailorCraft while Dad was fighting overseas. She was one of the Rosies who learned to fly, then soloed and became a pilot. To see pictures of her with the crew, and her Civil Aeronautics registration, is amazing.

Dad returned from Europe on the *SS Wheaton Victory* in September 1945. He was aboard the Victory for 11 days. After serving in World War II, he served in the Korea Conflict, and in the National Guard where he was Commander of Heavy Mortar Company at Camp Cook, CA. Richard retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. “Dick” and Vera were married 70 years. Vera passed away on November 10, 2014 and Richard died only three months later. They were truly amazing parents—our heroes, who we remember, and miss, every day.

As his daughter, I wanted to share this information and say how proud I am of my Dad and Mom and all of you who have served. You are rightly named the Greatest Generation. I am grateful and give thanks to all men and women who served and continue serve our country. God Bless You.



Laura's mom Vera's Civil Aeronautics Administration identification card certifying her as an airman.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR VETERANS! Buy 1, Get 2nd Copy Free! 2 for \$15

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered for any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes campaign. It attests that the veteran participated, endured and survived the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army. (There is also a version worded for those who were killed in action or died of their wounds. Be sure to check the appropriate box on the form.) If you haven't ordered yours, then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service, and the certificate makes an excellent gift—also for that buddy with whom you served in the Bulge. You do not have to be a member of VBOB to order one, but the veteran must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color World War II insigni-

as of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wish that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it is impossible. However, any unit that served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of the veteran's original patches to the certificate when you receive it. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing box. **Please be sure that you write the name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible, because you want someone reading it to understand what unit the veteran was in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15 postpaid.**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

*I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign.
I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:*

**SPECIAL
OFFER:
2 for \$15!**

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division)

Please check one if applies: ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

Mailing Information: (SPECIAL PRICE SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

VBOB member: ☐ yes ☐ no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks payable to VBOB for \$15.

**Orders should be mailed to: VBOB Certificate, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430 Questions? Call 703-528-4058
OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG [NO PHONE ORDERS]**

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION

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www.planoprofile.com



VBOB Member Hal Power (left),
106 INFD, 422 REG, 1 BN, and
Congressman Sam Johnson (right).

In a special moment for an incredible individual, Harold “Hal” Power, resident of The Legacy Willow Bend in Plano, was recently recognized by Congressman Sam Johnson at the 2015 Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony for the 3rd District of Texas.

Power received the award for his unique achievements while serving in the Army’s 106th Division during World War II. Power was a prisoner of war, and he had several notable accomplishments. For his bravery

in the line of duty, Power received the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and “V” (Valor) device for saving the lives of U.S. troops behind German lines during the Battle of the Bulge, four Purple Hearts, the Prisoner of War Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three service stars and the Good Conduct Medal, among others. Power was nominated by fellow veterans Robbie Robinson, a past Congressional Veteran Commendation recipient and fellow resident at The Legacy Willow Bend, and Colonel Ben Greenfield, who deemed Power to be an extraordinary individual and a true hero of World War II.

“When I met and then got to know Hal and learned about the number of Purple Hearts he has, I thought that he should be nominated for the commendation,” said Robinson. “I thought that anybody with the number of medals and the story that he has is an extraordinary individual. He is the real deal, and I thought that it would be great for Congressman Johnson to recognize him, because what he achieved was extraordinary.”

During World War II, Power participated in the Battle of the Bulge, after which he was captured and held prisoner of war. It was here that Power’s tale begins, a truly remarkable story of courage and survival. Power and other U.S. soldiers were held prisoners of war behind enemy lines. For the next four months after his capture, Power endured brutal beatings and manual labor in German prison camps that brought him to the brink of death. Despite his condition, Power remained determined to return to his fiancée and his family. It was that hope and determination that enabled Power to eventually escape the prison camp and save the lives of four of his fellow soldiers.

“It is my distinct honor to recognize Private First Class Power for his service to our great nation,” said Congressman Johnson. “It is stories like Power’s that played a role in inspiring my fellow ROTC brothers and me to take our military careers further. We wanted to do our part in defending freedom and democracy. So it’s my hope that our future generations will also be inspired by his love of country. From one veteran to another, I thank Power for his service, which was above and beyond the call of duty. He is a true patriot, and I salute him.”

“After all of my experiences, I say the most important award has been the ability to enjoy my life; I am truly honored to receive this recognition,” said Power. “Knowing that I will receive it all because of my

fellow soldiers and friends makes it all the more meaningful.”

After his service, Power would go on to have a successful career with Shell Oil Company and a family of three children with the love of his life. Power has given an account of his service, which has been published by the Texas Historical Commission and has been recorded on a video that is now in the Library of Congress.

“Hal Power is a true American hero, and he deserves this recognition,” said Marilyn Israel, executive director of The Legacy Willow Bend. “Power has been recognized in a way that will ensure that his legacy will be remembered for years to come. He is a true inspiration and a role model to all.”

(Photography by Susan Lynch)

ATTACKING SOUTH OF THE GERMAN BULGE

by E. Peter Hornburg, 5 INFD 10 INF CO F



It was dawn on December, 23, 1944 in Luxembourg and we, Co F, 10th Inf. 5th Div, were about to attack in the Ardennes. The German breakthrough had been stalled and they were dug in. Most German troops wore camouflage uniforms. It was another cold day and our company had just spent a miserable night in a farmer’s barn that had little hay and was ready to collapse. We were one of the divisions that General Patton had pulled out of the line farther south and trucked to the Ardennes. This former farm, I believe called the

Michaelshaft farm, was at the edge of the forest.

I had spent nearly 5 months with the 5th Division, fighting across Northern France, but still hardly knew anyone. I’d had several foxhole partners—all casualties of one kind or another. At least two were taken out with frozen feet. November and December had been extra brutal months in Northern Europe.

I was picked as one of the scouts who went ahead of the main body of infantrymen. Surprisingly, one of our Sergeants volunteered as the other scout. We had no artillery or tank support. Obviously, no tanks could operate in the forest. I did not see a tank in my nearly five months at the front. So we walked into the forest, the other scout and I, about 50 yards ahead of the others. I recall a few inches of snow on the ground. All was quiet for a while, when two shots rang out. Both the other scout and I went down.

I was shot through the side of my knee, just grazing the bone, but had very little pain. But our other scout got hit in the stomach. Any combat vet will tell you this is unbelievable pain and almost always fatal. I slithered back to a depression in the ground and saw the most unbelievable act of bravery and futility I have ever witnessed. First the medic, then at least two other soldiers, rushed over to try to help the wounded sergeant. All were hit! Not only could our troops not advance, but now artillery and mortar rounds started coming in.

Eventually an order to withdraw was issued. I stood up and immediately was hit again this time a bullet through my lower jaw. Again, I had little pain yet, but I was choking on a mouthful of blood, flesh, bone and teeth. I was in shock. Two guys ran over, put my arms around their shoulders, and we headed back. Shells were exploding in the trees overhead, and the shrapnel was hitting several (continued on next page)

SOUTH OF THE GERMAN BULGE *(continued)*

of our guys at a time. Chaos surrounded us. We were nearly to the edge of the woods I could see the farmhouse from where we had started, when a shell hit the tree above us.

I woke up a few seconds later, face down, blood running down over my forehead. I reached up, removed my helmet, and saw two holes about three inches apart. The shrapnel had left a nasty gash in my scalp. Only a fraction of a different angle would have killed me.

Still no pain—just in shock, I guess. The two men assisting me were gone. I'm sure they thought I was dead. I read later that 2/3 of my Company was either killed or wounded that day. Along with lots of others, I was taken back to a tent field hospital, where the Army somehow managed to bring up a rather special Christmas meal the next day (the 24th). I could only watch. The plans were to put me and other seriously wounded on a plane to England, but extremely bad weather stopped those plans.

I was put on a hospital train that took forever to reach the coast, then cross the Channel, and on another train to an Army Hospital in central England. I spent nearly 15 days living on grapefruit and tomato juice through a straw.

A COWBOY IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Jan Ross, Associate Member



Kenneth "Cowboy" Morris at a rodeo in Paris, Texas, 1953.

Tech. 5 Kenneth Morris was a Company A truck driver with the 300th Engineer Combat Battalion in the Battle of the Bulge. He still carries the nickname "Cowboy" because of his time after the war on the international rodeo circuit as a champion bull rider. He lives in his hometown of Watts, Oklahoma, and attends reunions of the 300th with his extended family, in some cases with four generations. What follows are some of Cowboy's recollections from interviews with

him at the 300th reunions and transcribed for the 300th web site:

"They had us in this old chateau in Belgium owned by a cousin of the King of Belgium. They made us move out of the castle. It had a moat all around it with all those fish in it, and a drawbridge which was stationary. So they kicked us back out into the mud. As we went across this drawbridge, we had those hand grenades and percussion grenades. So I took a percussion grenade and got right by the rail and dropped that thing into the moat. When it hit and exploded, those fish just came up to the top, all dead. That old man was really mad. About a week or so later Lt. Taylor [1 Lt. William H. Taylor, Jr.] said, 'Morris, why did you kill the old man's fish?' I said, 'What made you think I did it?' He said, 'I couldn't think about anyone else but you that would do it.'

"We had two bridges to blow, a railroad bridge and a road bridge. The 84th Division was coming out of there and they had a tank destroyer attached to them. They were supposed to tell us if we were to get cut off and we were supposed to blow the bridges and follow them out. About three o'clock in the morning on the 24th [December], the 84th departed



"Cowboy" Morris (center) received the "Medal of Patriotism and the Warrior Award in Appreciation of Military Service" from the Cherokee Nation. At left is his grandson Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK).

and left us unguarded. Then there was a column of German tanks coming down our road. About a half mile before they got to us, they turned to the right and all hell broke loose. Whoever was building a bridge up there really got shot up. A truck of ours later came through and they had run into an ambush and some of them got killed.

"Our platoon commander, Lt. Taylor, was one of our most well-liked officers. I said to him, 'Let's blow these damn bridges and get the hell out of here.' He said, 'Let's wait.' So later I said, 'Let me take your jeep and drive and see if I can find a way out of here.' He replied, 'No, we are staying right here.' I shouldn't have, but I finally said, 'Lt. Taylor, I'm responsible for my truck. I'll load the men up and try to get them out of here. And if you don't let me do that, I'm going to burn it up, because if we stay till morning, we will all be dead. We have to get out of here now.' So he finally agreed: 'Okay, blow the bridges.'

"I was driving the lead truck when we left and told my men, 'If I get hit, you jump up here and keep driving.' It was real dark, black, and we just had the cat eyes. I could see the horizon and just kept driving until we got out of those trees. Somebody must have been helping us. The rest of the platoon followed me and we came to another crossroad. We could see a bunch of cat eyes, so we stopped. It was about a dozen of our tanks. So, I asked the Captain of the tank unit, 'Where are you guys going?' He said, 'There are some engineers cut off in there and we're going to get them.' I replied, 'We're the engineers, and we are getting out. There's no one else up there but Germans.' He said, 'We're coming to fight a war.' And I said, 'It would be suicide—those Sherman tanks are no match for those Tigers! Don't do it.' But they followed those tanks up there and I've always wondered what happened to them.

"We were on this trip south to southern Germany and the war was practically over. We had gone over to the Third Army. It was 1 May and it was snowing. There was this general there and you could tell he had not been there long. He had this red board up there with two big stars shining. So he stopped right beside me and asked, 'Soldier, where are you going?' I thought this must be some kind of joke or something. So I said, 'We are attached to this armored division.' He repeated, 'Where are you going?' I said, 'Hell, I don't know—we are just following those tanks.' He asked, 'Have you got a trip ticket?' So I knew he had just got up there, because you know damn well you don't have any trip tickets in a combat mission. So I said, 'We haven't had a trip ticket since we left England.' He asked, 'Don't you have a map?' I replied, 'What would we be doing with a map? You got a map?' He said, 'No, we are just following you boys. We are lost.' And I said, 'Obviously if you're lost, I guess we are lost also.' A two-star general asking a truck driver where to go!"

For more Bulge stories, go to Ross' website, which honors her father's unit, at: www.300thcombatengineersinwwii.com.

SALE!

VBOB QUARTERMASTER ITEMS • AUGUST 2016

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to our future name change, we are offering all remaining VBOB merchandise at the **discounted prices** shown below. **GET YOUR ITEMS WHILE THEY LAST!** QM items with our new name will not be discounted. Please complete this form and send your payment to the address listed below.

Please ship the selected items to:

Name _____ (First) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (No. & Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____



#1. Logo patch 3" ~~\$5.50~~ **\$4.50**
#2. Logo patch 4" ~~\$6.25~~ **\$5.50**



#3. VBOB logo enamel lapel pin 1 1/2" ~~\$6~~ **\$4.50**



#4. Navy baseball cap with 3" logo patch ~~\$15~~ **\$12**



#5. Navy windbreaker with 4" logo patch ~~\$36~~ **\$28**

Item/price	Quantity	Total
#1. \$4.50 \$4.50	x _____	= \$ _____
#2. \$5.50 \$5.50	x _____	= \$ _____
#3. \$4.50 \$4.50	x _____	= \$ _____
#4. \$12 \$12	x _____	= \$ _____
#5. \$28 \$28	x _____	= \$ _____
windbreaker size: circle one		
S	M	L XL XXL XXXL
#6. \$20 \$20	x _____	= \$ _____
#7. 2/\$1.25 2/\$1.25	x _____	= \$ _____
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#6. Large VBOB neck medalion with a ribbon ~~\$25~~ **\$20**



#7. logo decal 4" **2 for \$1.25**
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#9. License frame (white plastic with black type) ~~\$7~~ **\$5**



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