

# The BULGE BUGLE

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

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 2019



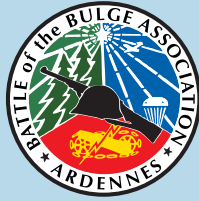
## Remembrance and Commemoration of the 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

*See article and more photos on p. 16.*



Highlights included the Salute to Veterans tree-trimming (top left); wreath laying ceremony at the World War II Memorial (top right); our veterans and attendees visiting the beautiful Library of Congress (bottom) and a private Veterans History Project exhibition.





**Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.**  
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430  
703-528-4058

Published quarterly, *The Bulge Bugle* is the official publication of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.  
**Editor:** Tracey Diehl

### BOBA CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Membership Office:

Tracey Diehl, Kevin Diehl; 703-528-4058,  
e-mail: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

*Send all correspondence relating to BOBA matters, "The Bulge Bugle," or the BOBA website to:*

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.;  
PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; 703-528-4058;  
e-mail: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

**VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE:** [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-the-Bulge-Association-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-the-Bulge-Association-Inc)

### BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

#### President and CEO:

Gary Higgins

#### Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

#### Vice President Membership:

Angela Fazio

#### Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Kloop

#### Vice President Military &

**Veteran Affairs:** Robert Rhodes

**Treasurer:** Duane R. Bruno

#### Recording Secretary:

Gail Larke

#### Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Board:

Alan Cunningham

### BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th InfD

Tom Burgess, 87th InfD

Tana Van Nice Black

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

John Mohor

### BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

**President:** Kent Menser

**Treasurer and Historical**

**Research:** John D. Bowen

### PAST PRESIDENTS (VBOB)

Clyde Boden\* 1981-84

Robert VanHouten\* 1984-86

George Chekan\* 1986-88;

2003-05

William Greenville\* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn\* 1990-92

William Hemphill\* 1992-93

William Tayman 1993-94

Grover Twiner\* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik\* 1995-97;

2005-07

George Linthicum\* 1997-99

John Dunleavy\* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham\* 2001-03

Demetri Paris\* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard\* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

\* Deceased

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

### ALABAMA

**Gen G.S. Patton, Jr. (11)**

Vernon Miller, 8<sup>th</sup> AD  
1409 John Wesley Dr  
Birmingham, AL 35210-2203  
205-951-0265

### ARIZONA

**Southern Arizona (53)**

Laura J. Dwyer, Secretary  
and Acting President  
3645 E Robbs Rd.  
Willcox AZ 85643  
520-481-1568

### CALIFORNIA

**Golden Gate (10)**

Doris Davis  
889 Bauer Dr  
San Carlos, CA 94070-3613  
650-654-0101

**Southern California (16)**

Fred Whitaker, 87<sup>th</sup> ID  
9552 Brynmar Drive  
Villa Park, CA 92861  
714-282-7733

### CONNECTICUT

**Connecticut Yankee (40)**

Richard Egan  
79 Alcove St.  
Meriden, CT 06451  
203-634-0474

### COLORADO

**Rocky Mountain (39)**

A. Wayne Field, 6<sup>th</sup> AD  
5820 Flintridge Dr, #215  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
719-640-4914

### FLORIDA

**Florida Citrus (32)**

Minot N. Richardson, 26<sup>th</sup> ID  
1925 Harden Blvd #67  
Lakeland, FL 33803-1871  
863-688-7249

### INDIANA

**Central Indiana (47)**

Chris Schneider  
1795 Cherry St  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(317) 362-6015

### KANSAS

**Kansas (69)**

Greg Penfield  
VBOB  
PO Box 1914  
Manhattan, KS 66505  
785-210-9577

### MARYLAND

**Maryland/DC (3)**

John R. Schaffner, 106 InfD  
1811 Miller Rd  
Cockeysville Md 21030-1013  
410-584-2754

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Lamar Soutter/Central (22)**

John McAuliffe, 87<sup>th</sup> ID  
425 Pleasant St, #1410  
Worcester, MA 01609  
508-754-7183

### MICHIGAN

**West Michigan (23)**

Tom Mountz, Treasurer  
and Acting President  
10989 Esch Rd.  
Honor, MI 49640  
231-326-4830

### MISSISSIPPI

**Mississippi (33)**

James W. Hunt, 1<sup>st</sup> ID  
804 20th Ave N  
Columbus, MS 39701-2332  
662-328-8959

### MISSOURI

**Gateway (25)**

Dave Schroeder  
323 S. Rock Hill Road  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-961-7470

### NEW JERSEY

**Peter F. Leslie, Jr (54)**

Jerry Manning  
PO Box 104  
Parsippany NJ 07054-0104  
973-983-6985

**Fort Monmouth (56)**

Larry Lynch  
37 Princeton St.  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
732-842-5923

**SEND CHAPTER UPDATES FOR THE BUGLE TO:**  
[tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)

**Fort Dix/McGuire (60)**

Donald "Coach" Brien  
2 Chatham Ct  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-4005  
(609) 754-3744

**NEW YORK****Mohawk Valley (28)**

Julian Scatko  
356 Higby Rd  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
315-733-4752

**Hudson Valley (49)**

Matthew J. Swedick  
26 Echo Lane  
Altamont, NY 12009  
518-765-0300

**Staten Island (52)**

William Abell  
297 Clarke Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10306  
718-351-9426

**Duncan T. Trueman (59)**

Elliot Hermon,  
87<sup>th</sup> Chem Mortar Bn  
3 Putters Way  
Middletown, NY 10990  
845-344-6181

**Long Island (63)**

William Mueller, 106<sup>th</sup> ID  
27 Eve Ln  
Levittown, NY 11756-5511  
516-731-2488

**OHIO****Blanchard Valley (42)**

Leonard Skonecki  
324 N. Countyline St.  
Fostoria, OH 44830  
419-435-3588

**Ohio Buckeye (29)**

John Kalagidis, 552<sup>nd</sup> FA Bn  
2545 58th St NE  
Canton, OH 44721-3451  
330-492-2214

**Alton Litsenberger (68)**

Tom Tomastik  
10811 Keller Pines Court  
Galena, OH 43021  
614-562-6928

**PENNSYLVANIA****Delaware Valley (4)**

Gary Lambert  
123 Garfield Ave  
Collingswood, NJ 08108-1307  
856-304-3106

**Lehigh Valley (55)**

John Kuhn  
2407 Woodbridge Terrace  
Easton, PA 18045  
610-438-0043

**Reading (64)**

George Moore, 1252<sup>nd</sup> ECB  
207 Shockley Dr  
Birdsboro, PA 19508  
610-582-8690

**SOUTH CAROLINA****South Carolina (7)**

Douglas Patterson  
108 Quail Field Road  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
803-730-8909

**VERMONT-  
NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE****Tri-State (17)**

Edward Deverell  
12 Stevens Dr  
Hookset, NH 03106-1683  
603-485-7464

**VIRGINIA****Crater (43)**

Mary Ann Coates Smith  
PO Box 520  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0520  
804-363-3400

**WASHINGTON****Northwest (6)**

Jim Pennock  
18313 Olympic View Dr  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
425-774-8420

**NOTICE: DUES NOW \$20**

At our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in San Antonio, our members voted to increase our annual dues from \$15 per year to **\$20 per year**, effective as of November 1, 2017. We are no longer offering Lifetime Memberships or 4-yr discounted memberships. (Those already purchased will be honored.)

We need your support to keep us going. Sign up your family and friends! Encourage your chapter members to join national BOBA. See membership application on the back cover.

**Memberships make great gifts! One year for \$20!**

**DONATIONS WELCOME!  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

**IN THIS ISSUE****2.** Contacts, Board, Chapters**4.** President's Message

How to Submit "*Bugle*" Stories

**5.** Letters to BOBA**6.** Members in Memoriam**7.** Donate to Bulge Exhibit at the  
New National Army Museum

Wereth 11 Research Needed

**8.** WWII 75th Anniversary Events

New Members

**9.** BOBA 2018 Financial Report  
and Proposed 2019 Budget

Today's Army Meets Hero

**10.** BOBA Member Books

"American St. Nick" Passes

**11.** The Liberation of Luxembourg**12.** Chapter News**15.** "Web's" 100th Birthday**16.** 2018 Annual D.C.  
Bulge Commemoration**17.** Donating Material to the  
Veterans History Project

Bulge Vet Honored

**18.** Donations

Person of the Year

**19.** Waist Deep in Water

75th Anniversary of the  
Battle of the Bulge Tour  
Help Spread the Word

**20.** Michigan POW Camps

Buy the VBOB Book

**21.** The ACES Museum

75th Anniversary of  
the ASTP at UPS

**22.** Preserving Veteran Stories,  
Educating the Next Generation**23.** QM Merchandise



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



IT IS THE NEW YEAR 2019 and once again, an important milestone for our BOBA and all of our veterans. This December marks the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Many months away, but many plans are in the making to help our organization's members celebrate. This year, you can commit to learning more from the veterans—men and women alike, as we know that both served. Maybe offering to help them by taking them to a doctor, to church, for lunch and a little history lesson from them? Such opportunities are getting slimmer and slimmer.

I once asked a veteran of WWII, "When did you get to sleep?" or "Where did you sleep?" He sort of grinned and with a bit of a laugh, responded, "I don't remember much about

Arlington and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Everyone was standing tall and proud to honor those who served.

The tour at the Library of Congress organized by Robert Rhodes was very special, and loved by all. The Madison building and its spectacular interior, along with our tour guides, made it an excellent experience.

We'll never forget the hospitality shown to us by the Ambassadors of Luxembourg and Belgium at the Belgium Ambassador's residence. Each year we are honored by the invitation to their reception, with wonderful food and social time. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie was also present, and his wife and children were very pleased to meet the BOBA veterans and other attendees. *[See more on page 16.]*

Be sure to visit our BOBA website [[battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org)] for articles and other things that might interest you. You can sign up new members online, too. Our declining membership requires us to constantly seek out new members.

Stay safe and warm.

—Gary Higgins, President and CEO,  
Battle of the Bulge Association



At our December Commemoration, Gary Higgins gave souvenir t-shirts from the 2018 Colorado Springs reunion to members and first-time attendees Vito Molfetto (left) and William Jannace (right).

sleeping! I guess we slept whenever possible—just shut our eyes for a few minutes as allowed."

Each of us can offer something to these veterans. Even just a phone call, or a visit to a lonely veteran, goes a long way in lifting the spirits of us all.

For our new members who attended the December commemoration, we would love to hear from you. Please write to us about the person whom you came to honor. Maybe you hung a photo of them on the Christmas tree, and told a story about them? It was wonderful to hear all the different stories, and emotional faces and teary eyes were evident all around.

Our December 2018 Annual Bulge Commemoration was again a success, thanks to all the help from BOBA members, including Madeleine Bryant, Robert Rhodes, Alan Cunningham and Tracey Diehl. John Bowen and Michael McLaughlin pitched in, and many others offered advice and assistance. A lot of rain dampened our spirits—however, not enough to stop the wreath layings and honors given at the WWII Memorial,

## How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories. All members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories and photos 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 recent newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication, so we can obtain reprint permission. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author. **Stories or clippings will not be returned, so please do not mail originals you want to keep—send legible copies.**

**Photographs:** Please identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Photos copied on a copy machine are not suitable for publication. Scan photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi.) **Photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals—send copies.**

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

**Send material to:** (Preferred method) by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org), or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

**NEXT ISSUE (MAY 2019) DEADLINE: March 22, 2019**

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)



# LETTERS TO BOBA

## THANKFUL FOR 95 YEARS



**Damon F. Young during WWII.**

Now at age 95, I am just about worn out! I am a Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, PFC of Company D, First Battalion, 423rd Infantry of the 106th Infantry Division ("The Golden Lions"), First US Army under General Hodges. Fighting near St. Vith, Belgium, I was taken prisoner by the 18th Volksgrenadier Division on 18 December 1944. I was in Stalag XI-B, Fallingb., northwestern Germany. I worked on POW detail cutting trees in the forest of Zislow ("Zislow Woodcutters") southwest of Berlin. I was liberated on 3 May 1945 by the 82nd Airborne Division in the city of Ludwigslust in Central Germany. My unit HHC, First Battalion, 26th Infantry, First Infantry Division ("The Big Red One") was assigned as military police in Nurem-

berg during the Nazi War Trials. I retired US regular Army, service from 1942 - 1972. I was Coast Artillery, Infantry, Signal Corps, Corps of Engineers (the last 20 years). I thank God that he saved my life during three wars, and the POW episode—and also for the 95 years, during which He has blessed me immensely.

**Damon F. Young, Veteran Member**

## SEARCHING FOR PIPERS INFO



Next year is the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Here in Belgium, we are preparing for this event in different ways to celebrate those who liberated our country from the Nazis 75 years ago.

In my association [Belgian Aviation Preservation Association], we are restoring a North American B-25 Bomber that we hope to exhibit in the Bastogne War Museum. But the reason why I'm contacting you concerns 3 liaison airplanes that we keep airworthy. Those are Piper L-4 serial 44-80464, 44-80653 and 44-80758. All of them were operated in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO) during WWII. We want to put them back in their 1944-45 colors and fly them over the Ardennes to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

We have excellent contacts with the USAAF archives and the Washington Smithsonian Air Museum, who provided us with the Individual Aircraft Record Card (IARC), and we know that end of 1944, those planes were assigned to the 8th and 9th Air Forces, who were in charge of delivering them to Army Ground Force (AGF), but the IARCs don't specify which ground units.

We know, thanks to extended historical research done by Capt. K. Wakefields, that they were 3 units of the 9th AF (50th, 43rd and 23rd MR&R) in charge of 3rd and 4th echelons of maintenance of those planes. Today, only archives of the 50th MR&R, in charge of the liaison airplanes of the 9th US Army, are still available. Unfortunately, our planes are not in those archives.

Those planes were organic to ground force units, mainly used for

field artillery support. So, we think that to obtain more information, we should contact Army Ground Forces associations (not Air Force.)

Could you help us in finding more info on those real "warbirds"?

It would be so great to have those planes flying over the Bastogne Memorial, on next year Christmas Day, in the colors they had in 24 Dec. 1944, to commemorate those who lost their lives 75 years ago for our liberty today!

We are looking for any information, documents, and photos, about pilots, technicians and liaison airplanes, mainly Piper L-4, that were organic to the First, Third and Fifteenth US Armies. Please contact me at: [yves@cartilier.eu](mailto:yves@cartilier.eu) if you have any information.

**Yves Cartilier, Belgian Aviation Preservation Association**

For more information, go to: [www.bapa.aero](http://www.bapa.aero)

## NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM M & M

Where is the time going? It is getting chilly here, and we know winter is knocking at the door. First, let us tell you about the events from the end of 2017. We were invited to a New Year's reception by General Scaparrotti, SACEUR, and Cindy, his wife, at their special home in Mons. Then we attended a special end-of-the year reception hosted by German soldiers at their barracks in Aachen, Germany, where they presented us with a very touching gift for our work for peace.

This year, 2018, has been a busy year also. On January 1st, I was the Master of Ceremony at a program in Spa, organized by our friend, Solange, to remember the victims of that city who died in the Flossenburg Concentration Camp.

In February, we welcomed many members of the TN Air National Guard. The Adjutant General's Distinguished Patriot Medal was presented to us in the presence of a large number of the TN ANGs.

In April, we were somewhat stressed, as the camera crew of the American TV show *Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern* chose to include video of our museum, and our comments and perspective, as part of their commemorative coverage of the Battle of the Bulge. This show was aired on your Travel Channel last July and August. [To watch the show, go to: [watch.travelchannel.com](http://watch.travelchannel.com), sign in to your cable provider, and search "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern," then "Battle of the Bulge." You can also purchase the episode on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [hulu.com](http://hulu.com), among others.]

On May 24th, we were guests at the NATO Airbase of Geilenkirchen in Germany, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ANG's deployment there. We were presented the Commander's Public Service Award.

On May 25th, we placed 2,040 red roses at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, with the help of 27 children ages 6 & 7, Belgian soldiers, ANG's from Geilenkirchen, and three families of young men who rest forever at that cemetery. We have now honored all the soldiers who are buried at Henri-Chapelle. The freedom given to us by the sacrifice of their lives is a gift beyond measure, but we are dedicated to the goal of acquiring and placing thousands of additional red roses over the coming years, to honor and memorialize those who are buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery.

On May 26th, Memorial Day, we had the honor and pleasure to be with three families who aided us on the decoration day, and they all

*(continued on next page)*

# LETTERS TO BOBA

(continued from previous page)

enjoyed a guided tour through the museum the next day.

In July, we always celebrate your Independence Day at the American Embassy and at General Scaparrotti's home. When attending these activities, we sometimes feel like we are Americans!

On August 17th, we organized a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the crash of the B-17 *Picklepuss*, which Marcel saw crashing when he was 10 years old. There was a perfect flyover of a KC-135 performed by TN ANG's. Mr. Gidwitz, the United States Ambassador to Belgium, attended the ceremony, as well as USAF men and women from Ramstein Air Base and from Spangdahlem. They participated in the Last Roll Call, the Honor Guard, and the firing of the military salute. We adopted the grave of Cpt. Knox, who was the pilot of that B-17. We erected a memorial 12 years ago at the exact site where the bomber crashed.

On September 22nd, we attended the ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI at the Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery as Jeff Hays, the Superintendent, and his wife Jackie are very good and long-time friends.

This year, we didn't go to the States, but we enjoyed a five-day trip to Austria to see the cows coming from the mountains for the winter. They looked so happy and healthy!

For those who might be interested, a friend made a DVD about the museum, and it will be available in English in a few months for 10€ + shipping. Just let us know.

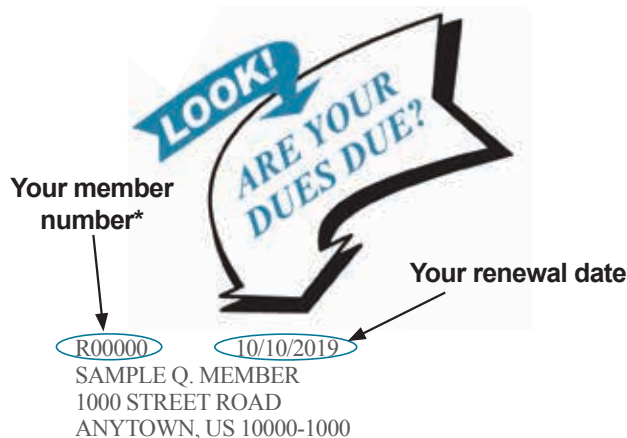
May 2019 be full of happiness and joy! May there be hope and peace!

**Mathilde & Marcel Schmetz,  
Remember Museum 39-45**

Visit their website at: [www.remembermuseum.be/en/home](http://www.remembermuseum.be/en/home)

## WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

Look at the back cover address label:



**\*PLEASE NOTE: If your member number starts with the letter "L", you are a LIFE MEMBER, and do not owe dues.**

**LIFE MEMBERS: since you don't pay dues, please consider donating!**



## 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: BOBA, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org).

We have been notified, as of January 11, 2019, that these BOBA veterans have also recently passed away:

Bernovich, John W.	2 INFD 776 FA BN BTRY B
Berry, Maurice	26 INFD 104 INF 1 BN CO C
Bethe, Paul R.	893 TK DESTROYER CO B
Bove, Victor M.	78 INFD 311 INF CO I
Brookins, Richard W.	28 INFD 28 SIG
Burnette, Jesse H.	28 INFD 44 ENGR BN CO B
Cascarano, Arnold	75 INFD 291 INF 3 BN HQ CO
Colella, Thomas G.	5 INFD 21 FA BN SVC CO
Demmer, John E.	557 ORD HM CO
Denius, Franklin W.	30 INFD 120 INF
D'Haese, Marcel	5 FUSILIERS, BELGIUM
Drevinsky, Peter J.	26 INFD 104 INF
Dudas, William L.	2 INFD 38 INF 2 BN CO G
Elliott, Jr., Richard L.	90 INFD 375 INF 1 BN CO C
Evans, Louis R.	78 INFD 903 FA BN HQ CO
Fenocchi, Julio R.	99 INFD 394 INF 2 BN CO I
Greger, Irving	2 ARMDD 67 AIR 2 BN CO E
Kaplan, Arthur	94 INFD 301 INF
Knappenberger, John D.	28 INFD 110 INF 1 BN CO D
Kowalski, Walter	80 INFD 905 FA BN
Kruse, Marvin C.	28 INFD 103 MED BN CO A
Lemaire, Robert	5 FUSILIERS, BELGIUM
Lill, Richard A.	27 AIRTRANS GP 120 SQD
Maresca, Frank W.	75 INFD 289 INF 2 BN CO F
Marinelli, Frank	1262 ENGR CMBT BN CO A
McCracken, Harry E.	99 INFD 395 INF MED
Norris, Albert W.	87 INFD 345 INF 3 BN CO M
O'Rear, Alf R.	792 AAA AW BN CO B
Peters, Charles A.	78 INFD 309 INF CO
Rizzio, Richard	274 FA BN
Rosenthal, Donald C.	2 INFD 9 INF 2 BN CO G
Schmidt, Clifford W.	11 ARMDD 22 TK BN CO A
Schulze, Warren C.	10 ARMDD 20 AIB SVC CO
Scott, Paul C.	56 FDS
Sellen, John A.	106 INFD 424 INF 3 BN CO I
Taber, Willard A.	99 INFD 393 INF 1 BN CO A
Willis, Paul J.	83 INFD 329 INF 2 BN CO G

# NEED BOBA MEMBER DONATIONS TO BULGE EXHIBIT AT THE NEW NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM



The Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. is co-sponsoring the Battle of the Bulge exhibit at the National Army Museum, along with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Luxembourg has already pledged \$125,000 for half of the cost of the exhibit. BOBA is raising the other half, so that our name will be on the exhibit and will create more awareness about BOBA.

The Campaign for the National Museum of the U.S. Army is being run by the Army Historical Foundation. For those who are not aware, the

museum is under construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia near Washington, DC. Completion is expected sometime in 2019. We expect that BOBA will tour the museum once open, as part of our December Commemoration, probably in 2020 (we will be in Belgium for the 75th Anniversary in 2019).

As the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, we have already contributed \$2,500 to the Army Historical Foundation for the Museum. They have set up an account for BOBA for members, chapters, and friends

who want to contribute to the Battle of the Bulge exhibit in our name, so we can meet the goal of \$125,000.

*There are several methods to contribute:*

**1.** Make checks payable to the National Army Museum Fund and use the memo line to write "BOBA – Acct #3601720"

**Mailing address for checks:**

National Army Museum Campaign  
Attn: Beth Seaman  
2425 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22201

**2.** If you prefer making a donation via credit card, you can call Beth Seaman at (703) 879-0006. At the time of the call, you can let her know you'd like your donation to be put towards the Battle of the Bulge Association Fund.

**3.** Another credit card option is using a special web link specifically for BOBA donations. Anyone makes a donation via that link will have their donation automatically credited to the BOBA record in the National Army Museum Campaign database. This option is on our website with the following link: *Go to: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org), search for "The Campaign for the National Army Museum". Then on that page, click on the link: "Donate here to the National Army Museum Campaign."*

## WERETH ELEVEN RESEARCH ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The U.S. Memorial Wereth Association takes care of the monument erected by Hermann Langer in 1994 to immortalize the destiny of eleven African-American soldiers killed in WWII in Wereth/Amel. Our goal is to honor them and increase awareness of their story.

We are trying to get in contact with some family members to research more information, especially on their lives before they entered the Army. (We are already in contact with the families of Robert Green and James Aubrey Stewart.) We are also looking for someone who can help us locate photos of the other soldiers, as we only have 5 to date.

*The soldiers pictured are:*

PVT Curtis Adams, South Carolina, buried in Henri-Chapelle  
PFC George Davis, Alabama, buried in Henri-Chapelle  
TCPL Robert Green, Mississippi, buried in Highland Park, Cleveland  
TSGT William Edward Pritchett, Alabama, buried in McCastar Cemetery, Wilcox

TSGT James Aubrey Stewart, Piedmont, buried in Henri-Chapelle

*The soldiers of whom we need photos are:*

CPL Mager Bradley, Mississippi, buried in Fort Gibson  
SSGT Thomas J Forte, Mississippi, buried in Henri-Chapelle  
PFC Jimmie Lee Leatherwood, Mississippi, buried in College Hill Pontotoc

PVT Nathaniel Moss, Texas, buried in Henri-Chapelle  
PFC George W Moten, Texas, buried in Henri-Chapelle  
PFC Due W Turner, Arkansas, buried in Henri-Chapelle

On this 75th Anniversary, our vigil of remembrance will focus on the personal stories of our eleven heroes who died for our freedom. Our idea is to have eleven students taking their identities and relating the



stories of their lives until the fateful day of December 17th, 1944. We want to give a special honor to these soldiers, thank all the guests for their loyalty, and maybe have coins made—in short: to make it special! We will have the ceremony on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at 11AM.

**If you can be of any assistance in locating the families or additional photos of the Wereth Eleven, please contact Solange DeKeyser at: [dekeyser.solange@gmail.com](mailto:dekeyser.solange@gmail.com), 0032 498/427959.**

*To learn more about the Wereth Memorial, go to: [www.wereth.org](http://www.wereth.org)*

*—Submitted by Solange DeKeyser, BOBA Member*



# THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL CONTINUE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII EVENTS

The National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC



The Friends of the National World War II Memorial is the only organization hosting a four-year 75th anniversary commemoration, marking every battle in which American troops participated during World War II. Since the beginning of the 75th anniversary commemoration on Pearl Harbor Day 2016, Friends has hosted seventeen 75th anniversary ceremonies at the Memorial. The Friends of the National World War II Memorial WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration still has two more years full of ceremonies left, as it will continue through the 75th anniversary of V-J Day on September 2, 2020.

*Below are the 2019 upcoming events:*

**Wednesday, May 8:** V-E Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

**Monday, May 27:** Memorial Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

**Thursday, June 6:** D-Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Saturday, June 15:** Battle of Saipan 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**July 16- July 20:** 4th Annual Friends of the National World War II Memorial Teachers Conference

**Sunday, July 21:** Battle of Guam 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Wednesday, August 7:** Battle for Brest 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Thursday August 15:** Operation Dragoon 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Wednesday, August 21:** Ambassador F. Haydn Williams 100th Birthday Commemoration

**Thursday, August 29:** Liberation of Paris 75th Anniversary Commemoration

**Monday, September 2:** V-J Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

**Thursday, September 5:** Battle of Nancy 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Sunday, September 15:** Battle of Peleliu 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Tuesday, September 17:** Operation Market Garden 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Tuesday, September 17:** Battle of Angaur 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Thursday, September 19:** Battle of Hurtgen Forest 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Wednesday, October 2:** Battle of Aachen 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Wednesday, October 23:** Battle of Leyte Gulf 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

**Monday, November 11:** Veterans Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

**Wednesday, November 13:** 7th Annual Haydn Williams WWII Memorial Legacy Lecture featuring Dr. William Hitchcock

**Saturday, December 7:** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

**Saturday, December 14:** Christmas Caroling at the WWII Memorial

**Monday, December 16:** Battle of the Bulge 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

*For more information or to register to attend a commemoration at the WWII Memorial, please visit the Friends website:*

*<http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/>*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

*We salute these new members who joined BOBA between September 29, 2018 - January 11, 2019:*

Adleman, Avri	Member	Gentry, Chris	Member	Meier, Adeline	Member
Augustyn, Michael	Member	Glandon, Terry L.	Member	Miller, Richard	Member
Bimbrey, Henry	30 InfD,	Harlan, Stephen	Member	Mullins, Tina	Member
	531 AAAW Bn	Hollin, Harris	Member	Nadeau, Rickey R.	Member
Braafladt, Kevin	Member	Johnson, Lindsey	Member	O'Connor, Robert	Member
Cerce Jr, Louis	Member	Kennedy, Sean	Member	Pratte, Mitchell	Member
Deutchman, Frank	11 ArmD,	Kennely, Regina	Member	Smith, Mary	Member
	22 TK Bn, Co A	Kimbrol, Art	Member	Sellen, Doloris A.	Member
Dooley, Marabel	Member	Koenig, Ruth	Member	Stern, Rachael M.	Member
Drevinsky, David	Member	Krakosky, George J.	29 InfD	Stumph, Denny	Member
Edelstein, Steven A.	Member	Lowenfeld, Adrian J.	Member	Sullivan, James	Member
Fenocchi, Debra	Member	McCoy, Andre	Member	Welch, William	Member

**Help spread the word about BOBA—Encourage family and friends to join!**



## Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

### 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT \*

#### ASSETS

As of December 31, 2018

Checking .....	\$6,652.19
Savings.....	\$2,109.65
(4) CDs Totaling.....	\$101,001.63
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$109,763.47</b>

#### INCOME AND EXPENSES

January 1- December 31, 2018

##### Income

December Event.....	\$10,652.00
Donations .....	\$6,096.50
Interest .....	\$1,493.68
Misc.....	\$39.01
Membership Dues .....	\$12,790.00
Quartermaster Sales .....	\$3,386.50
Reunion Income.....	\$12,949.99
Royalties .....	\$102.05
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$47,509.73</b>

##### Expenses

Advertising .....	\$45.00
Bulge Bugle Publication .....	\$19,177.22
December Event.....	\$9,969.19
Insurance .....	\$1,536.00
Operations .....	\$2,543.20
Accounting .....	\$3,400.00
Office Administration .....	\$6,619.27
Telephone and Website .....	\$1,196.00
Reunion Expenses .....	\$10,520.69
Travel.....	\$1,136.60
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$56,143.17</b>
<b>Net Income .....</b>	<b>(\$8,333.44)</b>

### PROPOSED 2019 BOBA BUDGET

#### Income

Yearly Membership Dues.....	\$20,000
Donations .....	\$6,000
Certificate Sales .....	\$900
Quartermaster Memorabilia Sales .....	\$4,000
Reunion .....	\$16,000
Funds From BOBA Savings and CDs .....	\$4,850
Interest Income .....	\$1,500
75th Commemoration.....	\$3,000.00
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$56,250</b>

#### Expenses

Bulge Bugle Publication: .....	\$18,000
Operations:	
Supplies .....	\$500
Printing, Mailing and Postage .....	\$2,000
Telephone and Website .....	\$1,200
Accounting Services .....	\$4,000
Office Administration.....	\$10,000
Insurance .....	\$1,500
Licenses, Permits, PO Boxes .....	\$250
Travel.....	\$1,000
Memorial Expenses (Wreaths) .....	\$800
Miscellaneous.....	\$1,000

#### Annual Reunion:

Annual Reunion Expenses.....	\$16,000
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$56,250</b>

[\*unaudited] For more information, contact BOBA Treasurer Duane Bruno by email: [dubru1950@gmail.com](mailto:dubru1950@gmail.com)

## ARMY OF TODAY MEETS HERO OF YESTERDAY

by Barbara Mooneyhan, BOBA Executive Vice President

Being the first Christmas without my dear husband Everett, I knew things would be difficult, to say the least. When my sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Bill Haslett, asked if I would help them adopt two soldiers from Ft. Jackson who could not go home for the holidays, I jumped at the chance! Through the Adopt-A-Soldier program, we were paired with two recruits from Hawaii, Pvt. James Knox and Pvt. Anthony Santiago. After eating Christmas dinner and spending most of the day at Linda & Bill's "Southboro Farm" in Winnsboro, we told the soldiers that we had a special treat for them. We were invited to visit the home of one of our South Carolina Chapter members, Vernon Brantley, 75th Infantry Division, to celebrate with his family. The guys were ecstatic! They told me that it was the "best Christmas ever!" They had been studying the Battle of the Bulge in basic training, but to meet a *real* survivor was beyond their hopes and expectations. When I told them Vernon had a Purple Heart, they were beside themselves. To quote one of Vernon's son-in-laws, "Our country is blessed to have young men and women who are willing to sacrifice everything for our future." Our WWII Veterans like Vernon and our dad, James R. Mooneyhan, 502nd Engineers, assured us that our liberty would grow old. It was a Christmas celebration that none of us will forget!

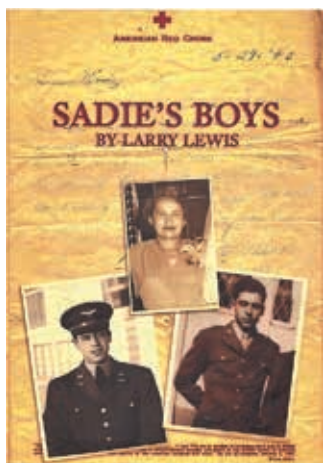


Pvt. Anthony Santiago (left) and Pvt. James Knox (right) enjoyed meeting BOBA Veteran Member Vernon Brantley, 75th INFID, on Christmas day in South Carolina.

75th Infantry Division, to celebrate with his family. The guys were ecstatic! They told me that it was the "best Christmas ever!" They had been studying the Battle of the Bulge in basic training, but to meet a *real* survivor was beyond their hopes and expectations. When I told them Vernon had a Purple Heart, they were beside themselves. To quote one of Vernon's son-in-laws, "Our country is blessed to have young men and women who are willing to sacrifice everything for our future." Our WWII Veterans like Vernon and our dad, James R. Mooneyhan, 502nd Engineers, assured us that our liberty would grow old. It was a Christmas celebration that none of us will forget!

## SADIE'S BOYS

by Larry Lewis, Member

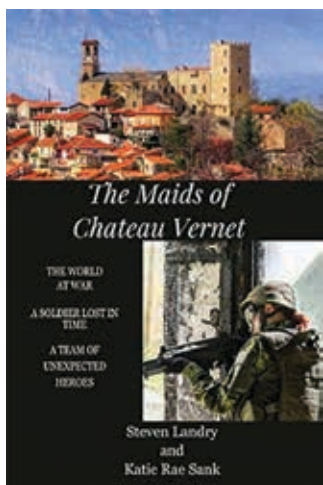


My father, Charles Lewis, was a “Timberwolf,” and I wrote a book that tells his story, called *Sadie's Boys*. On June 1, 1943, the B17E, Texas #6 did not return from its reconnaissance mission over New Guinea. Navigator Charles Lewis was declared missing in action. On December 3, 1944, Rifle Company I, 3rd Battalion, attacked the town of Lucherberg, Germany and 22 of those American GIs were taken prisoner. Charlie's younger brother Ben was one of them. Sadie Lewis had tried everything to keep her boys Charlie and Ben from joining the fight in World War II. Once her sons were missing, she tried everything to get them back. *Sadie's Boys* tells the story, through letters and official documents, of two poor Jewish soldiers from Brooklyn who fought for their country, and of the mother who fought for her sons. *The book is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.*

## THE MAIDS OF CHATEAU VERNET

by Steven Landry, Member and Katie Rae Sank

Review by Ethan Allen, Member



I'm just about halfway through *The Maids of Chateau Vernet*, but couldn't wait to offer the strongest recommendation. Author and BOBA member Steven Landry, and co-author Katie Rae Sank, weave a compelling and intriguing tale, with the threads of WWII historical events and tomorrow's time-traveling technologies. With this current book, Landry surpasses his earlier spellbinding *The Legend of Indian Stream* and hilarious *Old Farts in Space*. More similar in tone to the former, with themes of how technologies from the future might impact

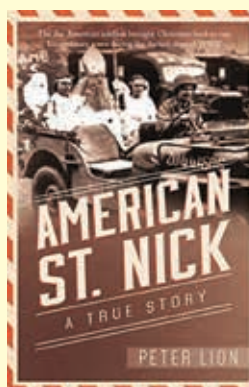
conflicts in the past, his new tome is both subtler and more sophisticated. The characters come alive as nuanced and flawed human beings, driven by their own demons and pasts. The exploration of time travel, and how one change begets others, is beautifully crafted and thought-provoking.

As our vets are passing on, and as we approach the 75th anniversary of the Battle that gave us victory in Europe, it is timely to consider how great wars can be shaped by tiny actions. Landry's current volume makes us all stop and consider the many ways in which things could have evolved so differently. History buffs will love it and science fiction fans will be unable to put it down. Get this book now!



BOBA Veteran Member Richard Brookins, the “American St. Nick,” in Member Norbert Morb e’s WWII Jeep, 2009.

## THE “AMERICAN ST. NICK” PASSES



Richard W. Brookins passed away on October 11, 2018. He served with the 28th Infantry Division, 28th Signal Co. In December 1944, he and his Signal Company soldiers hosted a St. Nicholas Party for the children of Wiltz, Luxembourg. At this party, Richard played the role of St. Nicholas. The townspeople never forgot this act of kindness. In 2016, he was presented the Luxembourg Military Honor Medal, the highest award presented by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. He was

a founding member of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Richard's story is recounted in BOBA Member Peter Lion's Book *American St. Nick*, and in a documentary video of the same name. (*Read more in the Nov. 2016 & Nov. 2018 “Bulge Bugle.”*)



Richard Brookins and Norbert Morb e in 2014.



# THE LIBERATION OF LUXEMBOURG

by James Triesler, Member

In May 1940, after months of inactivity, Germany moved to conquer Western Europe by sending troops into neighboring Luxembourg. Headlines in American newspapers announced, “Luxembourg Brutalized, Enslaved by Germans...” and revealed that “Waves of German bombers and transport planes had launched the newest Nazi blitzkrieg in the dark hours before dawn.” American war correspondent William Bird stated, “Of all the small states that have been overwhelmed by the German war technique, none merits more sympathy than Luxembourg. This principality has been more defenseless than any other, its army consisting of just 250 policemen.”

In preparation for the full-scale invasion, Germany sent soldiers into Luxembourg, disguised as civilians. Once the invasion began in earnest, the purpose of this German “Fifth Column” was to use machine guns and felled trees to block the roads into France and prevent the citizens from escaping the German onslaught. The motorcade carrying Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Regent Felix came under attack by the German “civilians.” Their car was the only vehicle from the motorcade that managed to escape into France. Why was it so important to the Germans to prevent the people of Luxembourg from leaving? Hitler announced that Luxembourg was being invaded to maintain its neutrality and to prevent an impending invasion by Britain and France, but Bird stated, “unquestionably what Germany sought most in Luxembourg was not the strategical advantage..., but the manpower and the inhabitants’ personal possessions.” Germany needed workers for their farms and factories, soldiers for its army, and the wealth that belonged to the people.

Luxembourg suffered greatly under German occupation. In 1942, the governments in exile of eight Axis-occupied nations met in London to discuss post-war punishment of German occupation forces, for what British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden described as “oppression and brutality” imposed on Europe. In Luxembourg, hundreds of thousands of citizens had been sent to Germany for forced labor and nearly two million people had been deprived of their property. Joseph Beck, who represented Luxembourg at the meeting, stated that his country was “suffering terribly under the yoke of an implacable enemy, with the German secret police reigning as master.” According to Beck, “Luxembourg cried out for justice.”

In September 1944, after four years of German occupation, the U.S. Army finally drove the Nazis out of Luxembourg. Grand Duchess Charlotte stated that their love of freedom was “stronger than ever now that the victorious armies of the United States and their Allies have entered the liberated motherland.” The joy of liberation lasted only three months. On December 16, 1944, Hitler surprised the Allied forces in Northern Luxembourg and Southern Belgium with an early morning invasion that would last for six weeks and become known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Justice for Luxembourg and the occupied nations came thanks to the effort of men like John McAuliffe of the 87th Infantry Division. McAuliffe arrived in Luxembourg in January 1945. “I was sent to M Company of the 347th Regiment. A bunch of us came into a barn which was used as the Headquarters and I overheard that there was a German machine gun harassing L Company. That is when reality set in. We were holding a defensive position along the Sauer River and the Germans were on the other side. I had guard duty that first night. There was a foot of snow on the ground and a lot of snow in the trees. I was all alone and I had to be careful. I began to think of my brothers and



**Sylvie Lucas (right), Luxembourg Ambassador to the United States, at the Virginia War Memorial in April 2018 with Guy DeGenaro, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business. Dr. DeGenaro was a glider pilot who participated in the D-Day invasion.**

sisters and the good times I had in high school, like going to football games. I thought, ‘God, what am I doing in this position, alone in the snow at night, with Nazi patrols coming through?’ It was the loneliest day of my life, and my indoctrination into the war.” After four more months of hard fighting by American soldiers like John McAuliffe, the unconditional surrender of Germany was finally received in May 1945.

Each year the people of Belgium and Luxembourg pause to remember and thank the American soldiers who fought to liberate their nation. The Honorable Sylvie Lucas, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United States, often recalls the important role that America has played in the history of her country. Ambassador Lucas relates that after the German invasion, the people of Luxembourg no longer had their own identity – they were forced to accept German culture and German language. Streets were renamed with German names. The young men of Luxembourg were forced to serve in the German army. Many chose to join the French Resistance or the British Army. Among those who joined the British Army was Prince Felix, husband of Her Royal Highness Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Jean, their oldest son. Prince Jean fought among the Irish Guards that landed in Normandy in June 1944.

In April 2018, Ambassador Lucas was the guest of honor at the 73rd Anniversary of the Allied Liberation of Europe Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial. During her address, she added a personal story on how grateful she was to the American troops. Her parents were both 9 years old at the time the war began. Her mother had lost her home to the bombing. Her father was injured by a grenade. American soldiers helped her mother’s family get to a safer place and they helped her father get to a hospital, where he could receive treatment for his wound. Her personal story touched the hearts of many in the audience, including 18 veterans from the European Theatre. Ambassador Lucas expressed profound appreciation for what the Americans and the Allied troops did for her family and for her country. As the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge draws near, let us continue to remember the sacrifice of those who worked to liberate Luxembourg and Western Europe.

*James Triesler is Director of Education, Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, VA. Visit their website: [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org)*



## CHAPTER NEWS

### LEHIGH VALLEY (55) CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On December 11th, 2018, seven World War II veterans were honored at the annual BOBA Lehigh Valley Chapter #55 Christmas luncheon. They were treated to special entertainment by a local WWII era dance group, the Magnolia Sadies. And yes, some of the men did cut the rug with the ladies! Special gifts and memories were exchanged, and new memories were made by all. The special guests were (from left to right): Lionel Adda, Raymond DeRaymond, William Watkinson, George Folk, Bert Winzer, Quinton Snyder, and Hank Kudzik.

—Submitted by Stephen Savage, Member; Chapter 55



### NORTHWEST CHAPTER (6) DECEMBER MEETING

The Northwest Chapter (6) of the Battle of the Bulge Association had our December meeting at Round Table Pizza in Gig Harbor, Washington. Among other topics, we watched and discussed a short YouTube video on the duel between an M8 light armored car and a Tiger tank in St. Vith during the Battle of the Bulge (#historyguy).

In attendance were: Front row (left to right): Chuck McGuire (187th Engineer Combat Battalion), Wanda Fennell, Lois Wick (niece of Mel Pawley, 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion) and Jim Wick. Back row (left to right): Max Aikins (son of Leonard Aikins, (P-47 pilot during the Bulge), Jerry LeFrois, Roger Hershey (relative was in 187th Engineer Combat Battalion), Jim Pennock, Chapter President (son of Ray Pennock, 1st Infantry Division), Beth Pennock and Denny Stumph.

—Submitted by Jim Pennock, Chapter 6 President

### STATEN ISLAND REMEMBERS...

On a rainy and stormy day in New York, Staten Island Chapter (52) once again on December 16th paid homage to the memory of (and the great sacrifice it all entailed) the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. As it is every year, the ceremony was beautiful, formal, and had many humanistic touches at the inspiring Memorial Site. The years have gone by, but we remember...we remember... still with some tears, but with much pride.

*"The Battle of the Bulge was the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army."*

—C.B. MacDonald, Historian

*A few words of tribute:* The architect of the Chapter 52's beautiful Memorial Site at Wolfes Pond Park, Anthony (Tony) R. Moody, recently passed away. Rest in Light and Peace, grand gentleman and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. You were a good friend to us.

—Submitted by Angela M. Fazio, Member; V.P. Membership



Chapter 52's VBOB Memorial at Wolfes Pond Park, Staten Island, NY.



## SC CHAPTER MEMBER RECOGNIZED AT CLEMSON-CAROLINA GAME

Joe Watson was surprised when he received a call from his alma mater that he was going to be the veteran recognized during half time at the Clemson-Carolina game on November 24, 2018. (He had been nominated by his brother's great niece, who is a freshman this year, to receive this honor.)

Joe was in the class of 1944 but at the end of his Sophomore year, Uncle Sam had other plans for him. He went to advanced ROTC training and during the remainder of his junior year, there was an opening in the tank destroyers. He and his friends heard that in North Africa the casualty rate in tank destroyers was very high, so they saw this as an opportunity to quick advancement! The Army needed infantry soldiers, so they sent him to Ft. McLellan in Alabama where he took his training, and then on to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, where he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was assigned to the 75th Infantry Division at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky and then went on to ASTP for a year of schooling for leaders. Joe said they received the nickname "Diaper Division" because they were all so young! There he was assigned to Company D, 291st Regiment of the 75th Infantry as a platoon leader for an 81mm Mortar Platoon.

Early in the fall of 1944, he went to Pembroke, Wales and crossed the Channel to head to Belgium in 40 X 8 boxcars. On his first night in the cold, he was told to change his socks every night. He put them outside of his flimsy sleeping bag, and as you might expect, the socks froze solid. Because he was fortunate enough to have a jeep, he thawed them out on the jeep manifold and did not make that mistake again! Just as a side note, Joe said his jeep driver had been a student at Princeton.

Then the Battle of the Bulge began. Joe said his company commander called him to a high hill. He could see a house below where the commander had sent some men, and the Germans inside the house shot the men, as well as the medics sent to provide aid. Joe was to reestablish firepower from the forward observers and the mortar units as the Germans had cut the communications wiring. Joe said his company commander was "spitting mad," but his platoon was able to string more wire and reconnect communications. Of course, the mortar fire caused the Germans to retaliate with artillery fire, so all of Joe's men dove into pre-existing foxholes (it had previously been occupied by the Germans). Joe looked out and saw his runner did not have a foxhole to dive into, so he got out of his to give it to the runner.

As the war progressed, Joe's platoon's job during advancing was to leapfrog the mortar positions to be sure one was able to fire at all times. He saw men come out of the woods with their overcoats draped around them completely frozen.

It was in January 1945 when Joe was hit with artillery fire in his thigh. He was taken to an aid station where they cut out the bullet and



Joe C. Watson, SC Chapter, BOBA 291st Reg., 75th Inf. Division was recognized at the Clemson-Carolina game in November 2018.

he was given the new drug of penicillin as he was transported to Paris to the hospital. In Paris, they sewed up his thigh and sent him to another hospital in France to recover. At that hospital, he was moved around on a stretcher carried by German prisoners in German uniforms. Upon recovery, he returned to his unit in Holland. When the war ended, he went to Camp New York in France and then processed out at Camp Phillip Morris in Le Havre, France.

Joe went home to the States in June 1945, returned to his beloved Clemson College in September 1945, and graduated in February 1947. When asked about the recognition bestowed on him at the largest football rivalry game in South Carolina each year, he said, "I felt a little guilty really. There had been other people that had done more than me, but I gratefully appreciated it." As a person who held season tickets for a long, long time, he was "flabbergasted" that he was recognized at such an important game.

Joe went on to say that he was very fortunate—as a platoon commander, he had a jeep and was not always in a foxhole as so many men were. He appreciated the privilege of doing his job for liberty, and the loyalty and efficiency of the men in his platoon. He wants to be remembered as a Lieutenant who got out of his foxhole to give it to one of his men during enemy fire.

The South Carolina Chapter is very proud of Joe and thankful that he received this recognition in such a prestigious way.

—Submitted by Barbara Mooneyhan, Executive VP of BOBA

### WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org).

NEXT ISSUE (MAY 2019) DEADLINE:

MARCH 22, 2019

**CORRECTION:** In the "Annual Membership Meeting Minutes," p. 20-21 of the November 2018 issue, we erroneously named Veteran Member and reunion attendee Jim Sharp as a current Chapter President. We meant to name Rick Hurst, then SC Chapter President, as one of the Chapter Presidents at the reunion. Rick also regularly attends the BOBA Board telecons. Our apologies to Jim and Rick for the mix-up.



## CHAPTER NEWS

### GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER (10) COMMEMORATES THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, DECEMBER 8, 2018

On December 8, 2018, the Golden Gate Chapter held their meeting to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge. Five Veterans and their family members attended the event. We were pleased to have as our guests, the Honorary Consul General from Belgium from San Francisco, Nathalie Delrue, the Consul General of Belgium from Los Angeles, Henri Vantieghem, (back row, left side) and the Consul General of Luxembourg, Pierre Franck (back row, right side). Many members of the local Belgian Club joined us as well. There were about 50 people in attendance.

The veterans are (from left to right, front row): Ken Mar (2nd Inf Div, 23rd Inf. Rgt, 3rd Bn), William (Bill) Armstrong (26th Inf Div, 263 FA Bn), John Althuisen (7th Armd Div, 23rd Armd Inf Bn), John Kerner (320th Inf Div, Medic) and Lou Ravano (1st Inf Div, 19th Inf. Rgt)

—Submitted by Doris Davis,  
Golden Gate Chapter President



### GATEWAY CHAPTER (25) ANNUAL BULGE MEMORIAL WAS WELL-ATTENDED



The Gateway Chapter (25)'s annual Bulge memorial service was held at Royale Orleans on Sunday, December 16. This year's ceremony was highlighted by the presence of the Webster Groves High School Jazz Band and Choir (shown at top left), who performed the National Anthem, Taps, and a selection of 1940s music. A special thanks to WGHS Alumni Director Pat Voss for coordinating everything needed for the students to participate in our ceremony. This year's keynote speaker was Anne-Marie Berger (shown below left), Senior Producer/Director at KETC Channel 9. She talked about the differences between the media during World War II and today, and mentioned the local coverage of our veterans by KETC's "Living St. Louis," in conjunction with Ken Burns' series "The War," which was released in 2007. The TV station is working on a follow-up piece on the Gateway Chapter members.

Vice President Jim Gormley then read the names of Gateway Chapter members who had passed away in 2018: Lila Erb (Associate Member, wife of Clyde Erb), Jerome Goodman (106th Infantry Division), Jodie Saul (Associate Member), Scottie Ooten (84th Infantry Division), Richard Pisoni (Associate Member, US Army, Korean War), Don Green (106th Infantry Division), Clarence Goldsmith (505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division), Paul Scott (1st Army HQ Company.)

—Submitted by Don Korte, Chapter 25

### In Memoriam



Richard Rizzio,  
West Michigan Chapter (23)  
President, deceased 12/23/18



Marcel D'Haese,  
5th Fusiliers of Belgium  
Chapter (38) President,  
deceased 12/16/18



# WAR HERO CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

by Dave Felice

*Reprinted with permission from the South Whitbey Record, southwhitbeyrecord.com*



**BOBA Veteran Member  
Wilbur "Web" Halvorsen,  
6 ARMDD, 50 AIB, CO A**

Movie scenes of World War II combat are real experiences and vivid memories for Whidbey Islander Web Halvorsen, who is celebrating his 100th birthday on Sept. 28.

The son of Norwegian immigrant parents, Halvorsen is reticent to talk about his honors. Wounded in battle twice, Halvorsen is the recipient of two Purple Heart medals, four campaign Bronze Stars, the French Medal of Honor and an Infantry Combat Badge. He awaits the French Legion of Honor for service in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

Of all the events of his life, Halvorsen cites his marriage to his wife Marion as the biggest change. Both were born in Chicago and met at Lake Geneva, Wis. Web and Marion were close as young adults, but Web didn't think it was appropriate to consider marriage with war looming.

After the war, both married other partners, but their spouses died. Web later sought out Marion, walking into her quilt shop near Green Bay, asking "Do you remember me?" They were married in 1990.

"I got an instant family with Marion's two children, a boy and a girl, three grandsons, and three great grand-daughters," he says.

The Halvorsens have spent much of their time together traveling to all the continents except Australia and Antarctica, on all forms of transport. One trip Halvorsen remembers most is an excursion boat trip up the Amazon River. They've lived at a house on the water at Mutiny Bay for 24 years.

Halvorsen was a college student in Minnesota in 1941. While preparing to enlist in the Navy, he got a draft notice. He finished Army basic training in Louisiana, advancing to staff sergeant. After more training in California, he went by convoy to England.

Ironically, and unknown to one another, Halvorsen's older brother, Don, was on a separate ship in the same convoy. The brothers met again during artillery practice in Wales, in Normandy and as American forces moved into northern France.

Halvorsen landed at Utah Beach as part of the D-Day invasion, in the Army's 6th Armored Infantry Division under Gen. George Patton's Third Army Command. Halvorsen's battalion was assigned to capture Hill 105, overlooking the town of Brest on the Brittany Peninsula.

During close combat, Halvorsen was wounded by shrapnel from a German grenade. He returned to his unit just as

the commander was preparing to list him as missing. Halvorsen stayed in action through the Brittany campaign. He still has a Russian-made knife that he took from a German soldier during the battle.

In December 1944, Halvorsen's unit went to northern France.

"It was 18 below, with two-to-three feet of snow," he says. "We lost almost as many to frostbite as to battle. I kept an extra pair of heavy socks in my helmet liner."

Germans sent in a paratroop battalion dressed in American uniforms, "and that caused a lot of confusion." Web says he once snared a shabbily dressed soldier. "After he admitted he was German, I sent him back."

Halvorsen's unit became part of the Battle of the Bulge, named for the huge concentration of German forces around Bastogne.

"Moving through the woods, my rifle jammed and I made the mistake of not getting out of the way fast enough," he says.

Hit in the right lung, Halvorsen praises "a really good doctor who used a glider" to fly to the front. He spent the next year in recovery.

"Just like the movie, I had my own band of brothers," says Web.

His war exploits are memorialized in the book, "Five GI's in Battle – World War II," by George Wirth.

Upon discharge, Halvorsen went to California, where he was involved in another 20th Century development.

"I worked for an appliance store that was one of the first to get televisions with a 7-inch screen," he recalls. "To make a sale, I'd promise to do the installation. I'd be up on the roof adjusting the antenna, talking to someone below on a two-way radio."

Halvorsen remembers the advent of broadcasting. "We first had a crystal radio that had to be tuned just right to hear anything. It was completely amazing. Later my family got a cabinet set powered by a car battery."

He attended the inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961, recalling the exhortation to "ask what you can do for your country." Web got a personal 97th birthday greeting from Barack and Michelle Obama.

Concerned about current political turmoil, "we've had it before and we'll get through it," he says.

Halvorsen learned about Whidbey while working as a salesman in Seattle.

The Halvorsens have a large screen TV, but no computer or cell phone.

"Something went wrong with the phone and we just never replaced it," says Marion, 98. "We didn't need the computer."

She also observes that "it's not easy getting your driver's license renewed after age 95." But Web says, "I'd still like to get behind the wheel of my truck."

Halvorsen likes fishing and hunting. In Alaska, he shot the moose hanging in the Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club. At the Mutiny Bay house, "you can fish for salmon right out the front," he says.

Web and Marion say Whidbey is "a good, healthy place to live." Their friend, Herb Bacon, had his 100th birthday in August.



**Web Halvorsen celebrated his 100th birthday on September 28, 2018.**





# Remembrance and Commemoration of the 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

**DECEMBER 15, 16, AND 17, 2018**

This past December, BOBA members and guests gathered for our annual Bulge Commemoration at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington. On Saturday, we enjoyed historical exhibits, refreshments and camaraderie in our hospitality room, after a “Salute to Veterans” tree-trimming. The next (very rainy) day, we braved our wreath layings at the World War II Memorial, VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns. Our commemorative banquet Sunday evening included heartfelt greetings from Mr. Christopher Payot (Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Belgium) and Her Excellency Sylvie Lucas (Ambassador, Embassy of Belgium.) After dinner, we were enthralled by guest speaker MG Michael L. Howard (CG, Joint Force Headquarters - National Capital Region and the US Army Military District of Washington.) And finally, the Bulge Historical Foundation presented their Person of the Year Award (*read more on pg. 18*). On Monday, we had a VIP tour of the beautiful Library of Congress, and enjoyed a private exhibition there of holdings from the Veterans History Project (*see more on next page.*) Finally, the *pièce de résistance* was the elegant reception at the Belgian Ambassador’s residence, with dignitaries from the Belgium and Luxembourg embassies, the US military, and Veterans Affairs in attendance.



- 1 Dignitaries and veterans at the reception at the Belgian Ambassador’s residence.
- 2 The US Army Brass Ensemble playing at our banquet.
- 3 Veteran Member Francis Chesko showing 3rd generation descendant Scott O’Brien his WWII scrapbook in the hospitality room.
- 4 The whole BOBA gang gathered for a photo op under the Christmas tree at the Library of Congress.
- 5 One of many WWII artifact displays in the hospitality room.
- 6 MG Chris R. Gentry (Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command, First Army) and Gary Higgins (BOBA President and CEO) at the Belgian Ambassador’s residence reception.



Photos courtesy: MSG Sean P. McCollum, First Army (1, 6); Betsy Rose (2, 4); Tracey Diehl (5)



## LEARN MORE ABOUT DONATING HISTORICAL MATERIAL TO THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation (Public Law 106-380), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000.



Our Annual Bulge Commemoration attendees enjoyed a private showing of Bulge and WWII-related items from the Veterans History Project collection at the Library of Congress.

A participant may be a veteran, an interviewer, or person donating a veteran's collection. The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from World War I through the Iraq War. There are special resources available for educators and students.

*Stories can be told through:*

**Personal Narratives:** audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs.

**Correspondence:** letters, postcards, v-mail, personal diaries

**Visual Materials:** photographs, drawings, scrapbooks.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project and donating a collection, go to their website: [www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home](http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home)

Photo courtesy Bob Rhodes

## BATTLE OF BULGE VET HONORED IN WEST CHESTER

by Bill Rettew



William Bull (seated), 28 INF, HQ MP, posed with local officials and dignitaries in West Chester, PA.

*Reprinted with permission from the Dec. 14, 2018 Daily Local News*  
WEST CHESTER — U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, the Chester County Commissioners, and Representative-elect Chrissy Houlahan commemorated the 74th anniversary of the Battle of Bulge by honoring the 110th Regimental Combat Team, 28th Division, Friday, at the Commissioner's Board Room.

The 28th Division, which was — and is to this day — a Pennsylvania Army National Guard Unit, played a critical role in the Battle of the Bulge. Outnumbered and outgunned, the 28th Combat Team was part of an American front positioned at the Luxembourg border that held back the advances of nearly four German Divisions.

This effort delayed the Germans by nearly four day and allowed American forces to maintain control of the city of Bastogne, Belgium — a key strategic position for the German's offensive on the Western Front.

William Bull is a Spring City resident and was a member of the 28th

Division during World War II. Bull, now 97 years old, enlisted in the Army at age 21 in 1943 and saw combat action in Europe at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945, earning a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge, and a French War Cross for his service.

Speakers who honored Bull and the 28th Division included:

- U.S. Senator Toomey
- The Chester County Commissioners — Michelle Kichline, Kathi Cozzone, and Terence Farrell
- Representative-elect Chrissy Houlahan
- Pennsylvania Army National Guard Colonel Eric Zimmerman, representing the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and the 28th Division

- General Walter Lord (RET.), Former Deputy Commanding General 28th, Current President, Valley Forge Military Academy
- Sergeant Major Walter Zapotoczny (RET.), 28th Division historian, author of several books on WWII.

Bull was presented with a copy of the Congressional Record honoring the 110th Regional Combat Team, 28th Division, an American Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, and a citation from the Chester County Commissioners.

Toomey said it was a real honor and a privilege to meet a man who served such an important role in such a decisive battle in World War II. "Bull represents the best of a great generation," Toomey said. "It was a really important part of our history."

"The United States liberated Western Europe in an epic war that profoundly changed the course of world history."

Toomey said we should never forget those who fought.

"This is also a reminder of those people who made a huge sacrifice for a cause bigger than themselves."

—Submitted by Chandra Kendall, Member



## DONATIONS

“Thank You!” to the following folks for donations received September 29, 2018 - January 11, 2019:

American Alloy Steel	Donor	Fenocchi, Mary E	Member	Rathjen, Harold	31 ENGR BN
Bailey, J David	106 INFD 422 INF	Godfrey, Barbara	Member	Rheinberger, Richard	Member
Baker III, Bernard	Donor	(IMO Mary Ann Bowen)		Rhodes, Robert	Member
	(IMO Albin F Irzyk)	Grossman, Aaron	Donor	Ricci, Christine	Member
Bowen, John	Member	Gursky, Burt	Member	Schreurs, Douglas	Member
	(IMO Mary Ann Bowen)	Jacobini, Guerino	83 INFD 330 INF	Schuetz, Kenneth	106 INFD
Cerce Jr, Louis	Member	Kirby, Jocelyn	Member	Smith, Stanley G	Member
	(IMO Louis R. Cerce)	Kirtley, Marilyn	Member	Sumner, Gordon	Member
Cricco, John	Member	Linchet, Dominique	Donor	(IMO Col Doug Dillard)	
DeMarcken, Christian	Member	McAuliffe, John	87 INFD 347 INF	Tauben, Sheldon	75 INFD 289 INF
Doe, Royetta S	Member	Park Jr., Roger	Member	Young, Wilbert	99 INFD 372 FABN

## J. DAVID BAILEY, VBOB PAST PRESIDENT, RECEIVES 2018 PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



*At our annual Bulge Commemorative Banquet in Arlington VA, December 16, 2018, VBOB Past President and BOBA Board Member J. David Bailey (shown at left) was presented with the “2018 Person of the Year Honors Award” by the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation. This award nomination is done in secret, and so is a surprise to all. Congratulations to David for the well-deserved recognition! The printed citation reads, in part:*

“The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation presents a 2018 Person of the Year Award to an outstanding contributor to the historical aspects of the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. and the promotion of that organization. This citation is made to J. David Bailey, an outstanding member and past president of the Battle of the Bulge Association.

David has been a strong supporter and advocate for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Bulge Association. He was the first to see that we needed a Futures Plan, as the number of veterans were dwindling, to insure that the legacy and memory of the sacrifices during that cold in the Ardennes Forest in 1944-1945 were not forgotten. He commissioned a special Futures Committee while he was president, to look at our options for continuing the organization into the future, as well as developing a dissolution plan for the day when we might have to disband the Association. As it happens, a dissolution plan is required by the IRS for tax-exempt organizations, and we did not have one before David saw the requirement.

David developed & maintained a strong relationship with the Belgium & Luxembourg embassies, and the personnel who worked there, to ensure our mutual interests in honoring our Battle of the Bulge veterans. He also developed and maintained close ties to the US Department of Veterans Affairs for visibility of the Battle of the Bulge Assn. and inclusion in any events that were veteran-related. Even after his term of office, David has continue serving as a member of the Board of Directors, attending all meetings unless they conflict with his world travels. He shares his wisdom of 97 years with the others in attendance. He has attended many veteran events in the Washington, DC area representing the Battle of the Bulge at these events.

He has worked for the continuance of BOBA to honor the deeds and the sacrifices made by those who fought in this greatest of all battles of the US Army, even to this day. He has used his contacts wherever to keep the memory of the Battle foremost in the history of the Army and the public. He is always promoting BOB. His latest proposal is to establish 16 December as Battle of the Bulge Day by proclamation.

For his initiative and his dedication, for his efforts to preserve the memory of those who served in the Battle of the Bulge and in World War II, for his promotion of the Battle of the Bulge Association and its efforts, and for keeping these memories alive, it is with great pleasure and deep gratitude that the BOB Historical Foundation presents the 2018 Person of the Year Award in recognition, to J. David Bailey, on the 74th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 16, 2018.”

*The citation is signed at the bottom by Col Kent Menser, President, and John D. Bowen, Treasurer, of the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation.*

Bailey photo courtesy Barbara Mooneyhan



## VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Watch our veterans' videos on our website at:  
[www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org), then click on “Video”



# WAIST DEEP IN WATER



Guerino "Bill" Jacobini, 83 INF, 330 REG, CO G, during WWII (above); and his medals proudly displayed (below).

BOBA Veteran Member Guerino "Bill" Jacobini, 83rd Infantry Division, 330th Infantry Regiment, Company G, has received the French Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Make that *two* Purple Hearts, along with eight other medals, including the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge. He also has a certificate of appreciation from the city of Antwerp, Belgium, for his brave combat during 175 days of continuous enemy air attacks.

At just 18 years old, Jacobini became part of the Third Army of General George Patton, in the 83rd Infantry Division. Exiting the landing craft at Normandy Beach, they were being shot at. Jacobini described the scene: "In water up to my waist, in full combat gear. BAR loaded, grenade rocket

and plenty of ammo. Rangers were in front, many gas balloons were in the air for protection from enemy aircraft."

Later wounded in action in France, he was taken to England to recover. When he rejoined the 83rd at the Rhine River in Germany in December 1944, he discovered that most of his unit was gone.

Jacobini fought in Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded again and then put on limited duty. He was discharged on Dec. 20, 1945, and he returned home to West Philadelphia. Jacobini deeply appreciates the honors he has received, but says he is not a hero. "The heroes are the ones that never came home."



## 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR

Exciting plans are underway for a commemoration tour of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg.

We do not have final details confirmed at this time, other than it would include December 16, 2019.

Confirmed details and tour company contact information will be posted in *The Bulge Bugle* and on our website.

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

YOU are all our best membership advocates. When you meet someone at a military organization, or anywhere else, and get to talking about WWII, please hand them one of these promo cards so they can learn more about BOBA via our website, and encourage them to join us! We have made up these cards for you to download, print and sign your name. (They will print 10-up on a standard business card sheet such as those made by Avery.)

If you can print up sheets of cards, email Tracey Diehl, BOBA Member Services, to get a printable pdf of 10 cards.

Or, if you don't have printing capability readily available, email, write or call Tracey (contact information below) and she can mail printed ones to you.

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

PO Box 27430

Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

703-528-4058

email: [tracey@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:tracey@battleofthebulge.org)



You've just met \_\_\_\_\_,  
a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

Learn more about us at: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)

Or call: 703-528-4058

# HISTORY LESSON: MICHIGAN POW CAMPS

by Carol Higgins, Member



Greg Sumner (left) with BOBA President and CEO Gary Higgins

There are many good reasons to be a Battle of the Bulge Association member, but the appreciation and sharing of history seems to be a highlight for many members. Whenever we get an opportunity to tell about our organization, we do so. One such chance was November 14, 2018. A short article in our local, small-town newspaper told about a speaker coming to the library. The program topic was Michigan POW Camps during WWII. We knew there had been such a camp about 8 miles from our home just west of Owosso, Michigan. We wanted to learn more. We were not disappointed with the information we received. The presenter was Greg Sumner, a professor of history at the University of Detroit Mercy.

6,000 German and Italian POWs were housed in Michigan during WWII. George C. Marshall had the idea to send prisoners to the United States on “liberty ships” to work in the United States. Prisoners could volunteer to work in “non-war”-related labor positions. For example, prisoners could not work in ammunition factories, but could work in fields and orchards. The program began in 1943 and ended in 1946. Michigan was not the only state to house POWs. There were a reported 400,000 POWs interned across the United States. Farm labor and personnel to help maintain public spaces were needed during WWII, as many of our young men were off fighting in Europe and the Pacific.

Our little community of Owosso, Michigan used POWs to labor on farms and also to work in a canning factory. Sugar beets, peas and cucumbers for pickles were grown in our area during the 1940’s. These crops were very labor-intensive, so POWs worked in the fields and cannery. They were housed in an area that is now a stock car race track.

Mr. Sumner told of several newsworthy events that took place and involved POWs. One involved a mother of 10 children just home from the hospital. A spark from a passing freight train set the wood-shingled roof of her home on fire. POW workers in a nearby canning factory saw the flames and smoke. They ran to the home, wrapped the women in a mattress, and carried her out. They also went back and retrieved some belongings. The story, of course, made the local news.

The other event was when two local young ladies thought they would help two prisoners escape their work detail. (Young love tends to be risky business.) The four took off in a car. They went to a local lake to drink and relax. It did not take too long before the police arrested the girls and returned the POWs to camp. The girls could have been tried for treason. They did go to trial, in order to set an example to others. And they did serve over a year in jail time. The judge in the trial scolded the girls and said, “If these two men you aided had been able to make their way back to Germany, they would have gotten there just in

time to participate in last December’s Ardennes breakthrough, which cost 100,000 American casualties and in which German soldiers in cold blood shot and killed unarmed Americans who had surrendered.” The girls left the state of Michigan upon their jail release and guarded their “mistake” from their future families. Shame was now their motive. As for the POWs, they were taken to another state and no longer had the privileges of work detail.

Another story related to us was about a tragic train accident in Blissfield, Michigan. An Army truck carrying 24 POWs back from farm work detail was struck by a train. 16 Germans and one American guard were killed. The Germans were buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan on November 3, 1945. Their tombstones can be seen there today.

Michigan had a total of 30 labor camps. Many workers helped in orchards, fields, and some even in the lumber industry of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Each camp had a variety of housing. Some slept in barracks, others in tents and some built their own structures. There were rules and regulations, with guards watching over the POWs.

Prisoners generally were processed at Fort Custer before getting assigned to labor camps. If men were not assigned to farm or lumber jobs, they maintained public spaces in areas like Detroit. The men often developed friendships with their captors. Some returned to the United States to live after the war. Prisoners were treated fairly and lived under the guidelines of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

Anyone interested in more details of POW Camps in Michigan during WWII can read his book on the subject (*Michigan POW Camps in World War II* by Gregory D. Sumner.) We purchased the book and had him sign it. The book has many interesting stories and historical photographs, and contains many facts about the camps and the treatment of prisoners. Glancing at the bibliography leads one to realize that the POWs were housed in many states in the U.S. during WWII. There have been many books written on the topic. If you have a love of history, you might research this topic too.

Naturally, tell the folks you encounter about the Battle of the Bulge Association, as we do. Mr. Sumner was happy to hear about our organization. He also happily teaches his college students about WWII. It is indeed wonderful to promote history.

## BUY THE BOOK OF YOUR STORIES

Now available for \$34.99 (hardcover)

**Barnes & Noble bookstores:** Place an order with ISBN and title\*

**Online:** Amazon: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com);

Barnes & Noble: [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

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

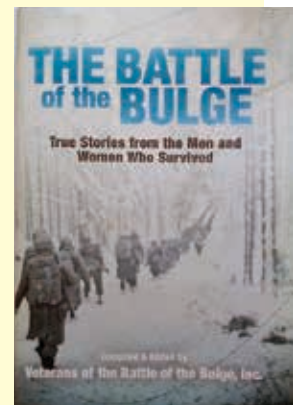
ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

*True Stories From the Men and*

*Women Who Survived*

**The book is not sold by BOBA, but we receive royalties from books purchased.**





## “WE’RE ACES!”

The ACES Museum in the historic Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia pays tribute to minority veterans of World War II, honoring Black, Asian, Hispanic & Latino, and Native American veterans and their families. Exhibits honor their service by educating the public on the contributions of these multicultural soldiers.

Incorporated in 2000, the ACES Museum is a 501c 3 non-profit. In 2009 ACES was certified as a VSO, Veterans Service Organization, by the City of Philadelphia because of their work with Veterans.

Programs include: PTSD education with workshops, the EEP (Educational Enhancement Program), THEM and STEM, a literary, historical and scientific college-prep readiness program, and Reading Rangers, for job development and promotion. EEP had a 85% success in the Philadelphia juvenile jail, and is a participant in PAL Police Athletic League.

The ACES Museum is open to all, with special events including Valentines Day of Love for Veterans, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Day of Honor Memorial Day weekend, Patriots Day 911, Veterans Day and a Toy Giveaway Holiday Program.

To learn more, go to: [www.acesmuseum.online](http://www.acesmuseum.online)



Artifacts highlighting minority veterans of WWII on display at the ACES Museum.



## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASTP AT UPS

On December 6, 2018, the University of Puget Sound (UPS) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at the school since WWII. 238 soldiers from the 80th Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Roberts, CA arrived on campus that day in 1943 as ASTP Unit 3966, and were headquartered in Kittredge Hall (now the university’s Art History Department and Fine Arts Gallery). These “student soldiers” underwent vigorous academic study (a four-year engineering degree completed in three semesters) and intense military training at the school until March 4, 1944, when the ASTP was disbanded nationwide to supply ground forces for the impending invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

The ASTP men at UPS were assigned to the 11th Armored Division at Camp Cooke, CA (now Vandenberg Air Force Base), and fought in the Battle of the Bulge as combat infantrymen of the 21st, 55th and 63rd Armored Infantry Battalions of “Patton’s Thunderbolts”. 25 of their number were killed in action, and they were named “Roll of Honor

Alumni” by the University after the war. All 238 ASTP men were made honorary alumni of UPS, and memorialized with a bronze plaque outside Kittredge Hall in 1996.

**John Finney and Professor Linda Williams with a floral tribute to the ASTP men at their plaque outside Kittredge Hall (below), and a close-up of the plaque (right).**



The plaque reads: “In grateful memory of the 238 men of the U.S. Army Specialized Training Program at the College of Puget Sound, 1943-44, who fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge as soldiers in the Armored Infantry Battalions of the Third Army’s 11th Armored Division.”

The event was organized by Patrick Kearney (11 ARMDD), Professor Linda Williams (UPS Art History Department) and John Finney (UPS Archivist.)

— Submitted by Patrick Kearney, Member

February 2019



# PRESERVING VETERAN STORIES WHILE EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

by Benjamin Mack-Jackson, Member

2018 was an incredible year for the WWII Veterans History Project. My non-profit organization was able to make an enormous impact on our fading population of WWII veterans, as well as our growing population of children. The help and support that we received from around the world allowed for incredible successes last year. Dozens of WWII veterans were able to tell their service stories, some for the first time ever. Thousands of students and adults were able to learn from their stories through documentary films and educational programs.

The year 2018 started off with the introduction of the Museum in a Box program, made possible by grants from Disney, Youth Service America, and Walmart. Students are now able to experience the educational and interesting aspects of a museum in the convenience of their own classrooms.

Throughout the year, dozens of WWII veterans had their stories captured on camera to ensure they are preserved forever... over 60 WWII veterans and counting. I had the privilege to attend two reunions and conduct interviews with Battle of the Bulge veterans in both Ohio and Florida.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to attend such fantastic events and get to know so many WWII heroes and their families from all over our wonderful nation.

Later in the year, I filmed with PBS Television in Alabama for an upcoming film I will be hosting about the Tuskegee Airmen. This documentary short will come out early 2019 and will be used to educate students about the impact that the Tuskegee Airmen had on the outcome of WWII.

Moving forward, we plan to produce even more of these programs to give the WWII veterans a new platform to share their stories, and ensure that children are educated about the importance of honoring our Greatest Generation.

The Traveling Museum of WWII also grew significantly last year. Many new artifacts were donated by veterans and their families to ensure they would be preserved for generations to come. The impact that these museum pieces have had on the kids I speak to is truly incredible, and I hope that I will have the honor to add even more stories to my museum in 2019. From uniforms, helmets, photo albums, patches, and even medals of valor, the Traveling Museum of WWII allows people of all ages to experience history up close and learn the stories of the veterans who fought so gallantly for our freedom more than 70 years ago.

This past November I was honored to speak aboard the USS Intrepid to New York City school teachers as part of NYC Chancellor's



**Mack-Jackson's Traveling Museum of WWII allows people of all ages to experience history up close, and learn the veterans' stories through donated artifacts.**

Day. I unveiled a new program aimed toward school teachers with the goal of empowering them with tools to help integrate history into the classroom and get students excited about WWII. Standing on the *Intrepid*, a WWII hero herself, was an incredible experience. I wish all students across the country could have the opportunity to visit even one WWII historic landmark, to bring the war closer to their hearts and excite them about history. While in NYC, I also spoke at "The Imaging Alliance Salutes Photographers Who Give Back" ceremony. My work with WWII veterans was recognized by the event hosts and Nikon, who provided new film equipment for my interviews and documentary films.

On November 11, I spoke at a wonderful Veterans Day program and also recognized the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI with two new displays that were unveiled for special occasions in the Traveling Museum of WWII.

In December, we said our goodbyes to President George H.W. Bush, a WWII hero himself, and also remembered those who lost their lives in the Pearl Harbor attack. As always, I delivered gifts and cookies to local WWII veterans for the holidays, and saw some of my favorite men and women again.

While 2018 was a year of success and accomplishment, it was also a year filled with sadness. I lost several of my closet WWII veteran friends, and their passing affected me greatly. I was not only saddened by their loss, but motivated to continue the important work of preserving their stories before it is too late. It also opened my eyes to the fact that the veterans I have become close with will not live forever, and that every moment I spend with them needs to be treasured, as it could be the last.

2019 is sure to be an exciting year as we plan our first trip overseas, kick off a nationwide school speaking engagement tour, and interview even more WWII heroes. As we embrace the new year, I hope that everyone has the chance to sit and talk with a WWII veteran. Whether you visit your local VFW or AMVETS post, a VA hospital, or simply talk to a neighbor, take the time to have a conversation with a WWII veteran. Their service story is only one small part of what they can add to your life. Just one conversation and you will come away a richer person, and have brightened the day of someone in their 90s who has so many incredible experiences to share. Make the connection before the Greatest Generation is gone forever...

*For more information on the WWII Veterans History Project, please visit our website: [WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com](http://WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com) or follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ww2veteranshistoryproject.com](https://facebook.com/ww2veteranshistoryproject.com).*



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-the-Bulge-Association-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-the-Bulge-Association-Inc)  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)





# QM MERCHANDISE • FEBRUARY 2019

**IF YOU DON'T SEE IT HERE, IT IS NOW **SOLD OUT**!**  
**We cannot process old QM order forms from previous issues.**

Please ship the selected items to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (First) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 (No. & Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



#1. VBOB logo cloth patch 4"  
~~\$6.25~~ **\$5.50**



#2. BOBA Battle of the Bulge Association Challenge Coin  
**\$12.00**

Item/price	Quantity	Total
#1. \$5.50	x _____	= \$ _____
#2. \$12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
TOTAL COST OF QM ITEMS = \$ _____		
ADD SHIPPING & HANDLING + \$ _____		
*See box left for shipping & handling prices		
TOTAL DUE = \$ _____		

**\*SHIPPING & HANDLING:**

Total cost of items \$5.50 to \$11.00, add **\$4.00**

Total cost of items \$11.01 and over, add **\$8.00**

**INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING:**

Please add **\$4.00** to the stated shipping charges, for delivery outside the USA.

Cash, check or money order accepted for mail orders. Make checks payable to: BOBA, Inc. **NO PHONE ORDERS**  
 To use a credit card, order via our website: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org). Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

**Mail to: BOBA Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430 • Questions? Call: 703-528-4058**

## MORE BOBA ITEMS from CafePress

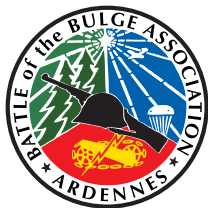
Order online at:  
[cafepress.com/battleofthebulge](http://cafepress.com/battleofthebulge)  
 or by phone: **877-809-1659**

These items must be **purchased online**  
**or by phone with a credit card,**  
 to help save BOBA manufacturing and  
 shipping costs. BOBA will receive royalty  
 payments for items sold by CafePress.

**Thanks for your support!**

### Battle of the Bulge Association





**Battle of the Bulge  
Association, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 27430  
Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Permit #129  
19464

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**FEBRUARY 2019**

**Lifetime Members:  
WE NEED YOUR  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**  
**Consider making a donation today**

----- Membership Application: Detach and mail ----- ✂



Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.  
PO Box 27430  
Philadelphia PA, 19118-0430

**YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE:**  
**WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG**  
Click on "Join BOBA/Renew"

**Veteran membership** is for those who have received the Ardennes campaign credit. **Membership** is for relatives, historians or others with an interest in preserving the memory of the Battle of the Bulge. Both have the same rights and privileges. **NOTE: Memberships now \$20 per year.**

☐ Yearly Membership: **\$20** x \_\_\_\_\_ years = \$\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Donation:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ **Sign up a friend! Memberships are a great gift!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**If applying as a Veteran member (you are a Battle of the Bulge vet), please provide the following information about yourself:**

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during the period 16 Dec 1944 to 25 Jan 1945: Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If applying as an Member, please provide the following information about yourself:**

Relationship to the Bulge Veteran (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Historian ☐ Other  
(wife, son, daughter, niece, etc. or N/A)

The Bulge Vet's Name and Units \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NO PHONE RENEWALS.** Please make check or money order payable to BOBA, Inc. Mail to above address. Questions? 703-528-4058