

# The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLII NUMBER 2

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 2023



## OUR VETERANS STAY BUSY

PLUS: BOBA 41st Annual Reunion ★ New Orleans, LA





### Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330  
(703) 528-4058

The Battle of the Bulge Association® (BOBA) is a membership organization instituted to: perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by those who participated during the Battle of the Bulge; preserve historical data and sites relating to the battle; promote friendship among Battle of the Bulge veterans, their relatives and others interested in the battle; foster and maintain international relations and good will with all Allied countries who were a part of the battle; and support Chapters of BOBA. BOBA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to BOBA are tax-deductible.

Published quarterly, *The Bulge Bugle*® is the official publication of the Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

**Editor:** Leon Reed

(EMAIL: [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com))

### BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

Send all correspondence relating to membership and all BOBA matters to:

Leon Reed (EMAIL: [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com))

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.; P.O. Box 330,  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; (703) 528-4058

**VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)**  
**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

### BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

**President and CEO:** John Mohor

**Executive Vice President:**

Barbara Mooneyhan

**Vice President Membership:**

Doug Howard

**Vice President Chapters:**

Dr. Andy Waskie

**Vice President Military &**

**Veteran Affairs:** Kevin Hinkle

**Treasurer:** Ken Larke

**Recording Secretary:** Gail Larke

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:

Alan Cunningham

### PRESIDENT EMERITUS:

David Bailey, 106th INFD

### ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristen Faller

Steven Landry

Craig Stiegmeier

Jim Triesler, Historian

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

*(non-voting)*

**Correspondence Coordinator:**

Mary Ann Coates Smith

**Public Relations:** Gary Higgins,

Immediate Past President

**Social Media Manager:**

Caroline Paviot

**Webmaster:** Carl Carraway

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Clyde Boden\* 1981-84

Robert Van Houten\* 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

Gary Higgins 2017-19

\* Deceased

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Many members of the Battle of the Bulge Association® belong to individual chapters located throughout the United States.

The following is a list of the present chapters, the state in which they are located, and their Chapter President's name.

Please contact BOBA at [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com) or 703-528-4058 for their local meeting times and contact information.

### CALIFORNIA

**Golden Gate (10):** Doris Davis

### CONNECTICUT

**Yankee Chapter (40):**

Richard Egan

### INDIANA

**Central Indiana (47):**

Chris Schneider

### KANSAS

**Kansas (69):** Greg Penfield

### MICHIGAN

**West Michigan (23):**

Gary Higgins

### MISSOURI

**Gateway (25):** Dave Schroeder

Visit website [gatewayvbob.org](http://gatewayvbob.org)

### NEW JERSEY

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

Jerry Manning

**Fort Monmouth (56):** Larry Lynch

**Fort Dix/McGuire (60):**

Donald "Coach" Brien

### NEW YORK

**Mohawk Valley (28):**

Julian Scatko

**Hudson Valley (49):**

Matthew J. Swedick

**Staten Island (52):** William Abell

**Duncan T. Trueman (59):** Elliot Hermon, 87th Chem Mortar Bn

**Long Island (63):** William Mueller, 106th INFD

### OHIO

**Blanchard Valley (42):**

Leonard Skonecki

**Alton Litsenberger (68):**

Tom Tomastik

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Delaware Valley (4):**

Dr. Andy Waskie

**Lehigh Valley (55):** Steve Savage

**Reading (64):** George Moore,

1252nd ECB

### SOUTH CAROLINA

**South Carolina (7):**

Nelson McLeod

### VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE

**Tri-State (17):** Edward Deverell

### VIRGINIA

**Crater (43):**

Mary Ann Coates Smith

### WASHINGTON

**Northwest (6):** Jim Pennock

## NOTICE: DUES NOW \$40

At our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, our members voted to increase our annual dues from \$20 per year to **\$40 per year**, effective as of January 1, 2023. We no longer offer new Lifetime Memberships. (Those already purchased will be honored.)

## ON THE COVER



**Top photo:** Burt Marsh (80 INFD 319 REG) throws out first pitch at July 3, 2022, Guardians-Yankees game. Photo courtesy Cleveland Guardians

**Lower left photo:** VBOB charter member Robert Thompson (2 INFD) speaks for an hour without notes about his experiences in Normandy, the Bulge, and a POW camp. Photo: Leon Reed

**Lower center photo:** Jake Ruser (4 INFD 12 REG), 1944.

**Lower right photo:** Jake Ruser visits Huertgen Forest site where he served as a medic 79 years earlier.

See pages 18-19 for more about these veterans.

## How to submit stories for *The Bulge Bugle*®

*The Bulge Bugle*® is published quarterly in the months that coincide with Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. 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 email or send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible, and limit word count to 500 words or fewer. 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, or printed on a laser printer, are not suitable for publication. Scan original photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi), or take a cellphone photo, and send us largest digital file possible. **Printed photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals—send duplicates.**

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

**Send material:** (Preferred method) by email: [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com), or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact *Bugle* editor Leon Reed at [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)

Thanks to our vendors who provide valuable services to support BOBA: Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment); Eye D Communications (Layout/Design); RBI Services, Inc. (Accounting Services)

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>2.</b> Contacts, Board, Chapters   | <b>12.</b> Division News                               | <b>17.</b> Golden Acorns<br>Epic World War II Tour           |
| <b>3.</b> On the Cover<br>How to Submit Stories<br>for <i>The Bulge Bugle</i> ® | Another Way to Support BOBA:<br>Buy an Ad              | <b>18.</b> Veterans Stay Busy                                |
| <b>4.</b> President's Message   | NEW Battle of the Bulge<br>Association Challenge Coins | <b>20.</b> New Members<br>Upcoming Events                    |
| <b>5.</b> BOBA Announcements  | <b>13.</b> Colonel Lansing McVickar                    | <b>21.</b> Bulge Memories                                    |
| <b>6.</b> BOBA Annual Reunion,<br>New Orleans, Louisiana                        | <b>14.</b> "The Last Night of My Life"                 | <b>22.</b> Chapter News                                      |
| <b>10.</b> Looking Back on the<br>2023 Commemoration                            | <b>15.</b> Donations                                   | <b>23.</b> BOBA Virtual Brick Wall<br>Membership Application |
|   | <b>16.</b> Taps<br>Tribute to Two Heroes               |  |



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Mohor

WELCOME TO SPRING, Battle of the Bulge Association® members! Don't miss our 41st Annual Reunion in New Orleans, LA, this summer. If you haven't already reserved your hotel room and registered for the reunion, don't delay — sign up today! We're looking forward to a great reunion with plenty of activities for everyone. We have other Associations joining us and some great events planned. We even have a hard hat tour behind the scenes at the latest, not-yet-open section to the National WWII Museum, scheduled Sunday. We'd like as many Bulge Veterans and their families to attend this year's reunion as possible! David Bailey was first in line at 101. So, what's your excuse, folks?

Next year will be a very busy year. We're already underway in planning our 80th Anniversary Reunion European Tour, which will take place in December 2024.

It looks like our next Commemoration Event in Washington, DC, will take place in January 2024, due to Wreaths Across America Events across the U.S. on our other possible date, Saturday, December 16, 2023.

This is Leon Reed's second edition as our editor. Since our last edition, he stepped up to fill another challenge for us. After almost two years on staff, Audra Yerian resigned as Membership Administrator to continue other pursuits in support of family, and Leon offered to fill that job as well.

Audra isn't leaving us entirely; she remains a National and Crater Chapter member of BOBA. We thank Audra for her good work and wish her well.

The Crater Chapter President, Mary Ann Coates Smith, agreed to an appointment on the National BOBA Board as the Correspondence Coordinator. Mary Ann will assist Leon with the mail and getting checks to our accounting firm. For now, all mail will continue to go to our Virginia address. Toward the end of the year, we may make a P.O. Box change upon our annual renewal.

A polite reminder: if you have an e-mail address, please make sure the BOBA Office has that address. Even if you don't have one of your own, a friend or relative's e-mail is appreciated. If you have a relative for the latest e-mail updates, ask them to share it with us if you can't sort this. If you desire a hard copy of *The Bulge Bugle*® in 2023 moving forward, please pay an additional \$20 above your former annual membership fee. If you're a Lifetime Member (non-Battle of the Bulge Veteran) wanting a hard copy, it's just \$20 for *The Bulge Bugle*®. Via e-mail copy only, there is no increase to Lifetime members.

Effective in 2023, membership annual dues are now \$40. These dues are now due as of the first of the year, regardless of



your past renewal dates. Thanks to problems with the Fall edition, please renew your membership as soon as you can. Your latest editions of the *Bugle* may still indicate your old renewal date. With transition and changes, everything takes time. We did a buddy check and have ordered a small reprinting of our Fall Edition for our WWII Bulge Veteran Members. We made a concerted effort to notify our Bulge Veterans. To the rest of the members, I hope you understand and can print off your electronic copy.

We all need to be concerned with BOBA's financial stability. Like all World War II veterans organizations, BOBA faces financial challenges. BOBA's longevity depends on us all being financially responsible. We're doing our best to find ways to reduce costs and increase income. We're taking a hard look at everything. Some changes will occur in order to get our finances back on track. The best way members can help is by donations and recruitment of new members.

The quarterly *Bulge Bugle* and our support staff are our largest costs, even with Leon's holding the combined positions again. One major step is that Leon has volunteered to take a significant reduction in his compensation, which is one of our largest categories of expenditure. We need to look for more cost savings.

One further action we're taking to increase income is to allow a limited amount of outside advertising (maximum 2 pages per issue). Donations and contributions in honor of a veteran are always welcome. These donations were down considerably in 2022 and we hope once again to tap into people's generosity. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we're a great place to send money to honor a veteran. One way to remember a veteran may be to establish a memorial in your estate planning.

One last note, on the Legion of Honor notifications some of you are sending in. You need to be sure you have proof of combat service in France, such as Northern France campaign star. Credit for the Central Europe campaign doesn't prove the veteran had combat service in France. A valor award that details where the award was presented or orders for a CIB or CMB (Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Medical Badge) with a location in France may also suffice.

I'll end this using my first unit of assignment in Germany motto, (Ardennes Campaign participation credit) as a new Second Lieutenant with the 29th Field Artillery which states *Fidelis et Versus* (Faithful and True).

Stay healthy everyone!

Thank you all for remaining members of BOBA.

—John Mohor, President & CEO

# BOBA ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



I'm looking forward to my second BOBA reunion, and the first one I get to travel to. Staying at the Higgins Hotel (at a discounted price), with the National World War II Museum next door. Meeting Bulge veterans and other Bulge enthusiasts. Touring the "Big Easy." And the *Bugle's* intrepid staff will be there to record it all. This promises to be a Reunion to remember. I hope to see many of you there.

Many thanks to our regular contributors, in this issue most particularly Mary Ann Coates Smith for her report (and great photos) of last January's Commemoration; Doris Davis, for bird-dogging reminiscences of two Bulge veterans; and Andy Waskie for his thorough and timely reports on the Delaware Valley chapter. Thanks also to David Carr, Joseph Tholl, and members of the 87th Division Legacy Association for contributions to this issue. Finally, I appreciate the help from Audra as well as Carl Carraway, Betsy Rose, and Mary Ann Coates Smith for making the transition in Membership go smoothly.

I haven't had a chance to attend a chapter meeting yet, but I had a chance to attend a meeting of the Central Pennsylvania WWII Round Table and heard Bulge veteran and VBOB/BOBA charter member Robert Thompson speak.

There's one new feature in this issue: ads. The letter below discusses our financial challenges and some corrective actions. We have to watch every penny we spend and we have to look for new revenue sources. And since the *Bugle* is the biggest source of expenditures, it makes sense we

would try to use ads to defray some of the cost. We're limiting this to two pages per issue so that editorial content will always be most important.

We're all looking forward to the 80th anniversary events next year. While the December 2024 events in Belgium and Luxembourg will get the most attention, there will be commemoration events around the United States and in Europe the entire time.

I tried to contact chapter presidents about news for the *Bugle* and found that many of our chapters have no contact information or outdated contact information on file. I would appreciate it if each chapter president (or the member responsible for communications) would contact me at [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com) and tell me the following:

Chapter name; Chapter president or communications officer and how we can get in touch with you (e-mail – preferred, or phone); Where and when you meet.

If you don't currently have someone whose job it is to communicate with the *Bugle*, I'd appreciate if you got a volunteer to write me. I'd really like to hear regularly from more chapters. It doesn't have to be extensive: did you have a meeting? Where? Was there a speaker? Did you take a photo or two? Did a veteran or chapter member speak to a group of students? Did you make a visit? Lay wreaths? Did a member pass a major milestone? Travel to see old WWII sites? I'm interested in almost anything.

**Leon Reed, *Bugle* Editor**

## ON AUDRA YERIAN

Many thanks to Audra Yerian for her years of service to BOBA. She did steadfast service as Membership Administrator, but has moved on to other pursuits. We thank her for her contributions and wish her well.

## BOBA Addresses Financial Challenges

Like all World War II veterans organizations, BOBA is facing a most difficult transition. We recognized this change 2 ½ years ago when we wrote our strategic vision.

"The Battle of the Bulge Association® will evolve from a Veteran Member-centric organization primarily focused on promoting fellowship among and honoring the Veteran Members to an enduring, financially sound organization focused on honoring the history of the Battle of the Bulge and the memory of those who fought in the Battle, while promoting fellowship among the descendants of the Veteran Members and others interested in the Battle."

This is a challenging transition and, like many similar organizations, we have suffered significant losses in membership as our veterans face their last roll call. Unfortunately, many of our costs are fixed. Our two major expenditures — Membership and the *Bugle* — don't decline much when enrollment shrinks. In fact, we've experienced some significant cost increases as the publishing, printing, and mailing businesses suffer the same supply chain issues as many other businesses. The result is that our spending has been at an unsustainable level for some time and our reserves are dwindling.

Since December 2021 to date, the BOBA cash assets have experienced a \$33,903 loss. That represents a 32% reduction in assets during this period. Our average yearly costs for the same period in maintaining our organization (Operating and *Bugle* expense) have been \$55,000. Our average yearly income (excluding Events) has been \$19,000. This is a serious concern for the future of BOBA.

As you may recall, at our October membership meeting in Gettysburg,

Steve Landry made a motion to increase our membership dues from \$20 to \$40 beginning in January 2023 in an effort to help reduce this deficit. The motion was approved by all present at this meeting. This was a first step in addressing our current financial situation.

Your board has taken a number of steps to bring BOBA back to a sustainable financial condition. Some are visible in this edition of the *Bugle*: we agreed to take ads (no more than 2 pages per issue) to help defray costs. We've also developed some new fundraising activities, including challenge coin sales, a new "in memoriam" section in the magazine where we can remember our fallen heroes, and other actions. We are also looking hard at expenditures. We're taking pains to make sure our two annual events — the Reunion and the Commemoration — break even or generate a small surplus.

One measure we took affected everyone. When we looked at the cost of producing, printing, and mailing the *Bugle*, we discovered that the existing membership cost wasn't even covering the production cost of the *Bugle*. I know it's a shock when the cost of anything doubles overnight, but this was necessary to bring revenues back in balance with cost. We also changed the renewal dates from spread throughout the year to a system where everyone's renewal is due on January 1. We understand there must be a transition period for a change like this, but we would appreciate by the end of this calendar year, everyone would renew effective January 1.

We urge your patience with us as we struggle to modernize BOBA's systems (online payments, for example) and build a solid financial and programmatic foundation for the future.



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®

## 41ST ANNUAL REUNION NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Friday, July 28 – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Join us in New Orleans, LA, nestled in a crescent shape along the Mississippi River. Known as “the Big Easy,” possibly a reference by musicians in the early 20th century to the relative ease of finding work there. Still renowned for jazz and blues music, the historical heart of the city is the French Quarter, known for its French and Spanish Creole architecture and vibrant nightlife along Bourbon Street. It is also known for hosting the largest Carnival celebration, Mardi Gras, which begins on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and culminates on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

Our Reunion begins with Registration on Friday afternoon with an **opening reception** in the Arcadia Terrace at the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center ([www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)). Found in the Warehouse/Arts District, it is next to The National WWII Museum and is the official hotel of the museum.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Saturday starts with a self-guided tour of the **National WWII Museum** ([www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org)), which features immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories, taking visitors inside the story of the war that changed the world. Lunch is at the **Stage Door Canteen**. The Victory Belles, a delightful vocal trio, perform the music of

the 1940s. Continue our tour of the National WWII Museum with a showing at the **Solomon Victory Theatre**, home to *Beyond All Boundaries*, a 4D cinematic experience produced exclusively for The National WWII Museum by Tom Hanks, who narrates the film. Dinner will be on your own to explore the many restaurants and cuisines that make New Orleans famous.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

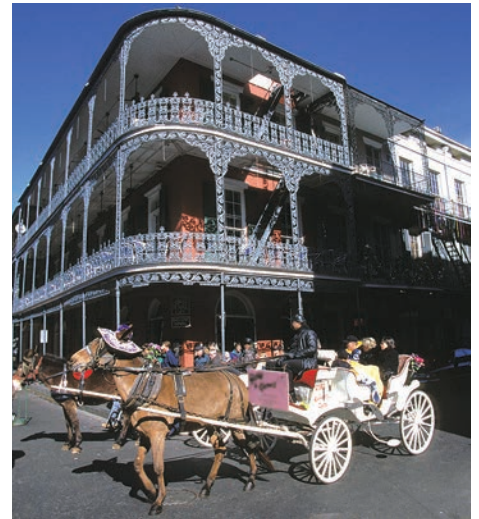
On Sunday, we will have our **annual membership meeting**, to be held conveniently at the Higgins Hotel. It will be preceded by a brief memorial service to remember our departed heroes. After lunch, we will host three, hour-long **informational sessions** that will enlighten you to the Battle of the Bulge. (Details of the topics to be announced closer to the event.)

That afternoon, our group will have a unique opportunity to see and understand the process by which the museum goes about telling the liberation story. We will be offered a hard hat tour of the construction zone where the **Liberation Pavilion** is being created. This pavilion, the final planned pavilion, is scheduled to open in November 2023. Our behind the scenes tour is approved for safe areas only and hosted by the education and Access team, who are directly involved with selecting artifacts and content for this new pavilion.

That evening, a special treat for our reunion guests is a **private reception and dining experience** at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion. This will be a slightly different take on our annual banquet! Enjoy the tunes of the Victory Orchestra and soloist as you enjoy an evening of dining and dancing. The three stories of the American Sector will be open to our guests. This will be an event you will not want to miss!

#### MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

No trip to New Orleans would be complete without a **sightseeing trip** around the city! In the comfort of our air-conditioned bus, on Monday, we will see the beauty of this area at a leisurely pace. As you ride around the



The French Quarter Photo courtesy Bigeasy.com

perimeter of the **French Quarter**, your guide will reconstruct the first days of the old French City. We will stop at the **Café du Monde** ([www.cafedumonde.com](http://www.cafedumonde.com)) for the best coffee in New Orleans as well as their famous pastries, beignets (individual pay). Visit **St. Louis III Cemetery**, called “the city of the death”, and beautiful **City Park**. The heart of **Uptown** showcases some of the city’s loveliest neighborhoods, while the **Garden District** is distinguished by its Greek Revival architecture. Travel through Lakeview on **Lake Pontchartrain**, one of the hardest hit areas by Hurricane Katrina. We will stop for lunch at **Felix’s Oyster Bar** ([www.felixs.com](http://www.felixs.com)) along the Lakefront (lunch buffet included). The bus will return us to our hotel in the afternoon. After a light dinner provided at the hotel, walk next door to the newest attraction at **The National WWII Museum Parade Grounds, Expressions of America**. An outside sound and light experience, enjoy an unforgettable evening of music, special effects, and entertainment as projections 90 feet tall transport you back in time.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

As our reunion comes to an end on Tuesday, safe travels home or feel free to continue to enjoy all New Orleans has to offer.



The National WWII Museum

# BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS TODAY!



1000 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Reservations: 833-357-1172



## DEADLINE TO RESERVE AT GROUP RATE: JULY 6, 2023

### ROOM RESERVATIONS

The special reduced rate of \$159 per night is available for King or Queen/Queen rooms. Accessible rooms are also available. Amenities include Complimentary High-Speed Internet throughout the hotel, Comp Fitness Center, and Business Center.

**In-room amenities:** Complimentary Coffee, Tea, Bottled Water, Mini Fridge and Safe.

**Group rate** available three days before and three days after the official reunion dates (based on availability). Hilton Honors members earn points for their stay.

#### Booking link for group rate:

<https://group.curiocollection.com/feey0u>

**Toll-free reservation line:** 833-357-1172 and give them the Group Name “Battle of the Bulge Association” to reserve your room.

**Reservations must be confirmed** with the individual’s valid credit card to guarantee the reservation. Guests have up to 72 hours in advance of arrival date to cancel without penalty of first night room rate plus tax.

**Deadline to register:** July 6, 2023.

Reservations after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.

### DINING

**Cafe Normandie:** While breakfast is not included in the room rate, you may choose to enjoy breakfast or lunch here, serving a French-inspired menu.

**Provisions Market, Grab and Go:** Open daily, you can grab a coffee and pastry or a snack, located on the Lobby Level. Try New Orleans’ own Community Coffee. Also available: soft drinks, beer and wine by the bottle.

**Kilroy’s Lobby Bar:** The go-to spot for small plates and craft cocktails from 4 pm – 10 pm daily.

**Rosie’s on the Roof, the rooftop bar and grill:** Celebrating the women who built the ships, planes, and war machines of WWII. Enjoy casual dining, beer on tap and superlative craft cocktails along with the spectacular view of the Museum’s Canopy of Peace and the skyline. Open daily 4 pm – 11 pm.

### PARKING

While parking in New Orleans is at a premium and expensive, we have discounted overnight self-parking in the adjacent garage at **\$32 per night + tax when charged to the room.**

### HOTEL LOCATION

In the heart of the Warehouse/Arts District, on the campus of the National WWII Museum (which owns the hotel). The staff is knowledgeable about the city and the Museum. The French Quarter is within a mile, and the historic St. Charles Avenue Streetcar is just two blocks away—ride the streetcar through the Garden District and enjoy the gorgeous homes and live oak trees.

### DIRECTIONS

**From the Airport:** There is no complimentary hotel airport shuttle, so rideshare app (such as Uber) or taxi are the best options. It is about a 25-min. drive (14.8 miles) from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport:

- Get on I-10 E from Terminal Dr
- Continue on I-10 E to New Orleans
- Take exit 12B from US-90 BUS W
- Drive to Andrew Higgins Blvd
- At Magazine St., turn right, hotel is on the left (1000 Magazine St). The parking garage is adjacent to the hotel.



# 2023 BOBA REUNION • NEW ORLEANS, LA

## BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: Wednesday, July 12, 2023**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: **Complete this form OR register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)** (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.) Registration for the reunion must be received no later than **July 12, 2023**. There is no penalty for canceling up to two days before your scheduled arrival for the hotel, but we ask if you cancel the events, that you allow us to use your registration fees to be donated to the Reunion Fund. (See page 7 for hotel reservation information.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Division, Regiments, etc \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you need a wheelchair  Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair  Motorized?  Yes  No

<b>IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending free events as well!</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Cost per Person</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Registration Fee</b> (All attendees must pay the Registration Fee)			
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$80	_____
Child (20 and Under)	_____	\$40	_____
<b>Late registration fee after July 12 - add \$20 per person</b>	_____	\$20	_____

### Friday, July 28, 2023

Evening Wine & Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Generous donations to offset expenses by the BOBA SC Chapter, the SC Military History Club, and the WWII Museum)

### Saturday, July 29, 2023

Tour of the National WWII Museum \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Victory Belle Matinee Lunch and Show (buffet included) \_\_\_\_\_ \$45 \_\_\_\_\_  
Viewing of *Beyond All Boundaries* (4D Movie) \_\_\_\_\_ Included with museum ticket

### Sunday, July 30, 2023

Annual Membership Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Free \_\_\_\_\_  
Box lunches (please indicate choices:)  
Ham sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
Turkey sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
Hummus veggie wrap \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
Battle of the Bulge historical programs (3 sessions) \_\_\_\_\_ Free \_\_\_\_\_  
Hard Hat Tour of the Liberation Pavilion \_\_\_\_\_ Free \_\_\_\_\_  
Cocktail Reception – Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (individual pay) \_\_\_\_\_  
Banquet – Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (Nat'l WWII Museum) \_\_\_\_\_ \$95 \_\_\_\_\_  
(With Live Orchestra, vocalist and dancing)

### Monday, July 31, 2023

New Orleans City Tour (stop at Café du Monde, individual pay) \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Lunch at Felix’s Oyster Bar – included) \_\_\_\_\_  
Lite Dinner at Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Expressions of America* – WWII Museum Parade Grounds (outside) \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor a Bulge Veteran’s event participation \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.®, P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330  
Or, to pay with a credit/debit card or PayPal, register online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org), click on “Attend Reunion”

# Friday, July 28 – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

## REUNION PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

3:00 PM – 7:30 PM Registration (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
3:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Wine & Cheese Reception (Arcadia Terrace)  
Dinner on your own

### SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Registration and Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Walk across the street for tour of The National WWII Museum  
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch in the Stage Door Canteen with entertainment of the Victory Belles  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Continue tour of the National WWII Museum  
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM 4-D Movie - *Beyond All Boundaries* (48 minutes long)  
5:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room Open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
Dinner on your own

### SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Late Registration and Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Memorial Service (American Red Cross/Chartwell Meeting Rooms)  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Annual Membership Meeting (American Red Cross/Chartwell Meeting Rooms)  
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Box Lunch (Arcadia Terrace)  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM BOBA historical program – Session 1 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM BOBA historical program – Session 2 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM BOBA historical program – Session 3 (American Red Cross/Chartwell Rooms)  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM Hard Hat Tour of the makings of the Liberation Pavilion  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Reception at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion (drinks paid by consumption)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Banquet at the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, National WWII Museum  
(with entertainment and dancing)  
9:00 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)

### MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
9:15 AM Bus loads for Sightseeing in New Orleans (loads at Andrew Higgins Blvd. side entrance)  
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Tour of New Orleans with stops at Café du Monde (individual pay)  
and cemetery (lunch at Felix's included)  
2:30 PM Bus Returns to hotel  
2:30 PM – 10:30 PM Hospitality Room open (Arcadia Ballroom A)  
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM Light Buffet (Arcadia Terrace)  
7:15 PM – 8:30 PM *Expressions of America* – The National WWII Museum Parade Grounds

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

Breakfast on your own  
Depart or stay longer and enjoy the beautiful city of New Orleans!

**1. BOBA commemoration attendees gather around wreath layers Alicia DeFonzo and Jerry Shannon at the World War II Memorial.**



## LOOKING BACK ON THE 2023 COMMEMORATION

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, VA Crater Chapter president, and event planner

The 78th Battle of the Bulge Commemoration was well attended at the Embassy Suites Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA. I arrived on Monday to insure all was in place.

Madeleine Bryant, BOBA Chaplain, and Arthur Forrest arrived early Tuesday to help with table decorations and readying lanyards. Madeleine, Arthur and Betsy Rose handled the registration table. As this listing suggests, the Crater Chapter made a particularly strong showing, with Judy and Alan Cunningham, BOBA Chairman; Jim Triesler, BOBA Historian; Betsy Rose, outgoing *Bugle* editor; author Alicia DeFonzo; and myself.

The hospitality room was reserved for Tuesday, January 24th, as a gathering place for remembrances and wonderful conversations. The proceedings opened with a business meeting, which included swearing in of officers and board members.

All had dinner on their own, after which we had three guest speakers. Leon Reed of Gettysburg, author and the *Bugle's* newly-appointed editor, showed slides and talked about his father in law, Sgt. Frank Lembo, and the activities of the 80th Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

Jim Triesler of Chesterfield, VA, a former teacher who serves both as BOBA Historian and as Director of Education at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA, went next. Jim conducted a fascinating interview of Bulge veteran Joe Landry about his WWII service.

Alicia DeFonzo, also a member of Crater, talked about a book she wrote, *The Time Left Between Us*, about her grandfather, PFC Anthony DelRossi, who served in the 629th Combat Engineers Light Equipment Co. Alicia is a Senior Lecturer and Fulbright

Specialist in the Department of English at Old Dominion University.

Between speakers, we took a break to have a 50/50 drawing, which was won by Alice Hinkle. The winning ticket was drawn by veteran Joe Landry. Alice generously returned one half to BOBA plus made a donation to the wreath fund. Thank you Alice!

The evening was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Audra Yerian and Betsy Rose for their behind-the-scenes dedication that led up to our events.

Wednesday, January 25th, the 78th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge campaign, started with a bus trip to the WWII Memorial. A wreath was laid by Alicia DeFonzo and Jerry Shannon.

With drizzling rain, the party moved on to the Battle of the Bulge Memorial at Arlington Cemetery, where a wreath was laid by

William Stroud of Arkansas and myself. We both lost our fathers in the Battle of the Bulge.

The group then continued to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where World War II veterans Darrell Reed Bush and Joe Landry had the honor of laying a wreath on the Tomb. It was a very emotional and sacred ceremony. We were joined for this segment by General James McConville, Army Chief of Staff.

Back on the bus, we headed to the Luxembourg Embassy where Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, honored us with “warm and hardy food.” BOBA president John Mohor presented a framed BOBA certificate of appreciation to Elisabeth Hermdler, her social secretary, and another to Tanguy Watteeuw, Chief Warrant Officer, Embassy of Belgium.

Tanguy and I had a nice conversation while eating and he said he was retiring after many years of service.

Sophie Karlshausen, Chargee d' Affaires, Kingdom of Belgium spoke also. After two wonderful hours we returned to the hotel with lots of unforgettable memories.

Many people contributed behind the scenes. Thanks to John Mohor for bringing signs, etc. And Alan Cunningham for ordering the 3 wreaths and contacting the Luxembourg Embassy with a rescheduling of arrival. And the many others not mentioned.

It was a cool and misty day but there were many warm hearts.

It was an honor and a pleasure, for Crater Chapter and me personally.



**2.** Belgian official shakes hands with Mrs. Dorothy Bush, wife of Bulge veteran Darrell Bush. **3.** Sophie Karlshausen, Chargee d' Affaires, Kingdom of Belgium (left), and Ambassador Nicole Bintner Bakshian, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (right) congratulate author Alicia DeFonzo. **4.** Some of the memorabilia brought by members to display. **5.** Ambassador Nicole Bintner Bakshian of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with BOBA member Mary Ann Coates Smith. **6.** BOBA board members take oath of office. (Left to right:) Madeleine Bryant, Steve Landry, John Mohor, Alan Cunningham, Jim Triesler, Kevin Hinkle.



# DIVISION NEWS

Several of our partner divisions are having their own reunions, publishing magazines, or creating research resources to help descendants research ancestors who served.

## 35th Infantry Division

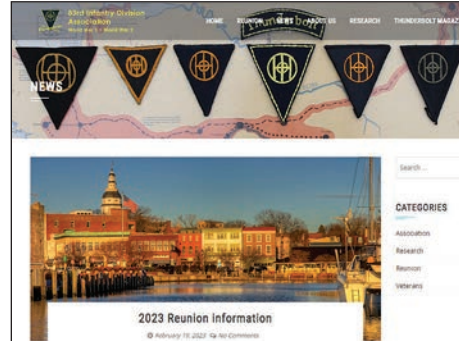
The 35th Division Association is accepting nominations for the division's Hall of Fame. Nominations are due no later than August 1, 2023. The annual conference and Induction will be September 7-10, 2023. Charlotte, NC, Airport Hilton Hotel. [www.cacti35th.org/35th\\_inf\\_ass/member\\_print.php](http://www.cacti35th.org/35th_inf_ass/member_print.php)



## 80th Infantry Division

The latest issue of the 80th Division magazine, "Blue Ridge," is found at [www.80thdivision.com/blueridge/23\\_spring.pdf](http://www.80thdivision.com/blueridge/23_spring.pdf)  
 Andy Adkins, III, son of an 80th Division

veteran, has created one of the most extensive divisional archives, with morning reports, after action reports, unit histories, general orders, special interviews, and other documentation for the 80th Division. [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com)



## 83rd Infantry Division

The 83rd Division's 76th annual reunion will be held at Annapolis Crowne Plaza, July 26-29, 2023. [www.83rdassociation.com/news/](http://www.83rdassociation.com/news/)  
 The web site [83rdinfdivdocs.org](http://83rdinfdivdocs.org) has extensive information for researchers.

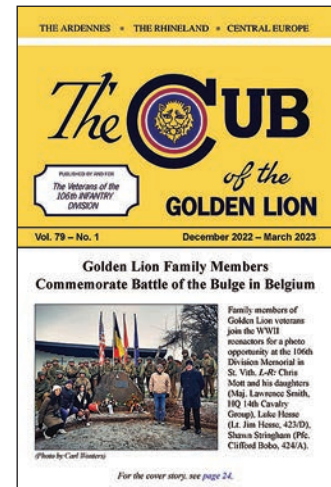
## 87th Infantry Division

The 87th Division Legacy Association has a "Research Room" with information to help descendants research their 87th Division ancestor. [87thinfantrydivision.com/research-room](http://87thinfantrydivision.com/research-room)

The 87th Division Legacy Association is sponsoring a trip retracing the route of the Golden Acorns through Europe. *See article on p. 17.*

## 106th Infantry Division

The 106th Division is planning their 76th annual reunion at the Buffalo Airport Hotel, Buffalo, NY. The reunion takes place from August 23-27, 2023. For more information: [106thInfDivAssn.org](http://106thInfDivAssn.org).  
 The most recent issue of the newsletter, "The CUB of the Golden Lion," is found at [www.106thinfdivassn.org/CUB/CUB\\_Vol79\\_no1\\_Mar2023\\_color\\_web.pdf](http://www.106thinfdivassn.org/CUB/CUB_Vol79_no1_Mar2023_color_web.pdf)



# Another Way to Support BOBA: BUY AN AD

The BOBA board approved a policy to permit a limited number of ads in *The Bulge Bugle*®. Ads will be limited to 2 pages of external ads per issue, to make sure we don't dilute the content you have come to count on.

Do you want to announce your business to fellow BOBA members? Or just extend best wishes to BOBA? Our rates are \$120 for a quarter page, \$200 for a half page, and \$300 for a full page.

**To advertise, contact [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)**



COIN FRONT



COIN BACK

## NEW BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE COINS FOR SALE

\$25 each (includes tax, shipping and handling).

Additional surcharge for international shipments. (Contact BOBA for actual surcharge.)

Order by writing to:  
 Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.  
 PO Box 330  
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

# COLONEL LANSING MCVICKAR

by Joseph Tholl, Patton Museum, Ettelbruck

Colonel Lansing McVickar was the commanding officer of the 318th Regiment of the 80th US Infantry Division. When the Third Army was ordered to counterattack in the Ardennes, the 318th Regiment advanced along the Alzette valley, attacked Ettelbruck on December 22nd, and liberated the town after several days of heavy combat.

Colonel McVickar was killed in action on January 14th, 1945, in the vicinity of Ettelbruck. Back from Bastogne, he was inspecting his 3rd battalion when he came upon a German advanced post.

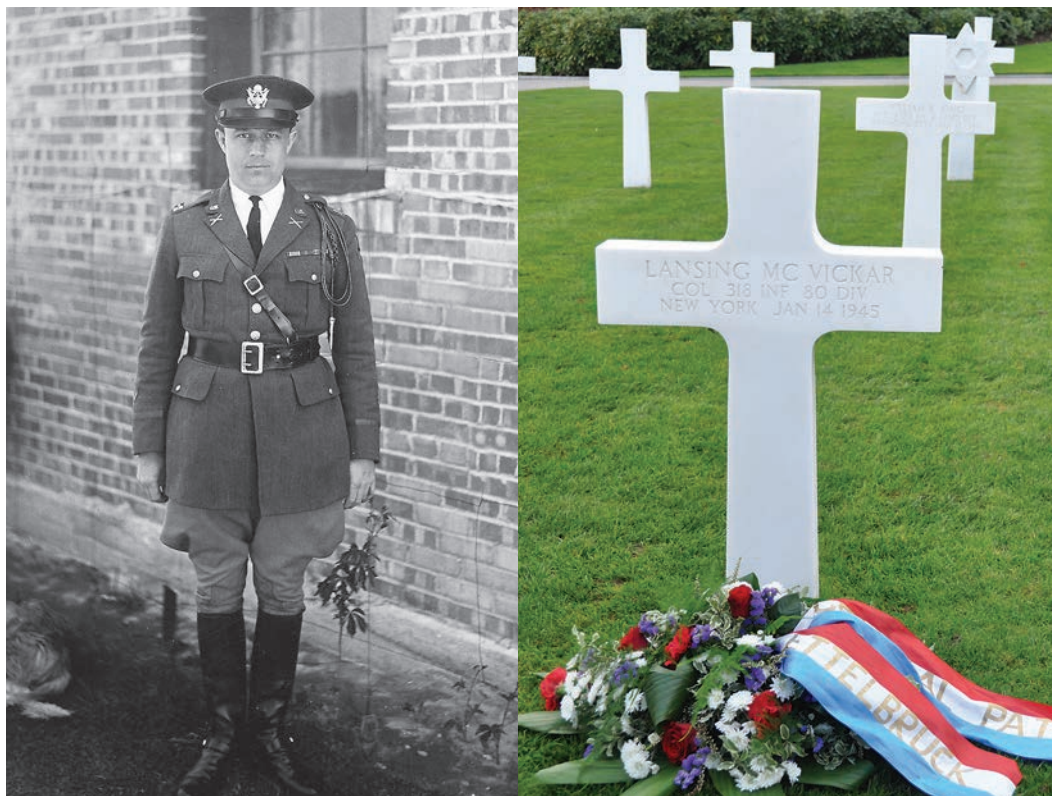
He was laid to rest at the American military cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg. A commemorative plaque at the roundabout next to the Alzette bridge honors the memory of Colonel McVickar.

Each year on January 14, representatives of the General Patton Memorial Museum commemorate the liberator of the town of Ettelbruck. In the presence of the mayor of the city, the representatives laid flowers at the Col. McVickar monument. Many of his personal belongings and documents are exhibited at the General Patton Memorial Museum in Ettelbruck.

McVickar also served in World War I, earning the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Croix de Guerre. Lt. Walter Carr, a junior officer who served under him in World War II, observed, "He seemed strange at first. But it didn't take long for those of us at the bottom of the chain of command to realize our regiment was lucky to have him." Of his death, Carr said, "McVickar's death dealt us a real psychological blow ... Competent commanders are scarce. McVickar had compiled a lifetime of irreplaceable military experience. To it, he added a human touch alien to most commanders. He loved his troops and expressed appreciation unabashedly. ... As long as we knew Col. McVickar was commanding our regiment, our morale was boosted, and we were willing to enthusiastically do whatever he ordered. He was our favorite commander."



Gathering at Colonel McVickar's monument on the anniversary of his death.



LEFT: Col. Lansing McVickar; RIGHT: McVickar's grave

## VETERANS MEMBERS: SUBMIT YOUR BULGE MEMORY!

If you are a veteran who participated in this historic battle, **please share a photo, a memory, and/or thoughts** about the impact it has had. It can be a few sentences or short paragraph with a picture. We will continue to share Bulge Memories in future issues of *The Bulge Bugle*®.

Email (preferred method) responses to [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com) or mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330.



II. AWARD OF SILVER STAR (OAK LEAF CLUSTER): By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, in addition to the Silver Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded the following named personnel:

WALTER P. CARR, JR, 0519672, 1st Lt, Inf, Army of the United States. For gallantry in action in Belgium on 26 December 1944, in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States. On the night of 26 December 1944, Lt Carr, Rifle platoon leader, led a patrol through enemy infested woods into a town held by besieged American forces. Improvising camouflage clothing from white parachutes to blend with the weather conditions, he guided his patrol through active enemy machine gun positions to secure vital information from the headquarters of the besieged troops, returning safely to his battalion with a complete report. The success of the patrol, executed under hazardous conditions, contributed greatly in the assault on the following day which relieved the encircled forces. The braver

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By ED NARA Date 8/16/10

- 1 -

#### General orders with Army's description of Walter Carr's mission.

from different divisions. After I briefly explained our mission, the sentry pointed to a nearby house where I could find his company commander.

"You're in luck," the company commander told me. "We're about to send a column of tanks and APCs into Bastogne. We may meet some resistance. But you're welcome to ride in one of the APCs going in and coming back out."

The four of us climbed into our assigned armored personnel carrier. We were its only passengers. It was cold but the parachute silk we were wearing for camouflage helped keep us warm. We were also fortunate to be enclosed in steel rather than being exposed to the fire of the Germans who were still out there. The convoy stopped several times and we later learned "Those delays occurred when our leading tanks had to shoot their way through Germans."

In the middle of the night when we arrived, the few soldiers in the street had no way of knowing how to react to us. We went immediately to the headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division, located in a large basement. We were escorted to a lieutenant colonel; I think it was the G-3, Col. Kinnard.

I explained my mission to him. Then I got the first indication that someone was glad we were there and trusted us. He handed me an 8 1/2" by 14" mimeographed copy of a sketch map showing the perimeter dispositions of the 101st Airborne. I was surprised he gave me the sketch; he might have been more reluctant if I had been returning on foot through German lines rather than returning by APC in a column protected by tanks.

Folding the map, I told my patrol members to observe carefully that I was putting it in the upper left pocket of my field jacket. "If anything happens to me," I said, "whoever survives is responsible for removing the map from my pocket and getting it back to battalion."

From Assenois we hiked back across the snow-covered fields toward Hompre. As we approached my battalion's defensive positions I got jittery wondering if our own troops

would fire on us. They didn't. We arrived as they were getting ready to renew their advance toward Bastogne. As I walked through the door of the room where Capt. Foreman had briefed me the previous afternoon, I heard a voice say, "Captain Foreman, it's Lt. Carr. He's back." I saw an expression of disbelief on Foreman's face. I unbuttoned the flap on my jacket pocket. I unfolded the map and said to Foreman, "here it is — exactly what you ordered." He couldn't believe what he saw.



## DONATIONS

*We are so grateful for these generous donations:*

Al Cleghorn

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Doris Davis

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Kristen Fallen

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Kevin Hinkle

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Douglas Howard

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

David and Pamela Kolb

*In loving memory of Lt. Robert H.*

*Britton, 106 INFD/424 REG*

Samuel Schwartz Landrum

*In loving memory of Allen Schwartz*

Steve Landry

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Lois Lembo and Leon Reed

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

*In loving memory of Sgt. Frank Lembo,*

*305 ENGR*

Barbara Mooneyhan

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

John Mohor

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

Mechanical Engineering

*Reunion*

Paul Newmark

*In memory of Lt. Col. Richard van Arsdale*

Mary Ann Coates Smith

*Towards reprint costs of Fall 2023 Bugle*

*In memory of James H. Coates,*

*285 FAOB, CO B*

South Carolina Chapter

*Reunion*

South Carolina Military History

*Reunion*

Thomas Tomastik

*Reunion*

# TAPS

Time passes and the members of the Greatest Generation are facing their last muster with the same dignity and grace with which they faced the Great Depression, the Great Crusade against Totalitarianism, and the challenge of building modern America. Please join us in mourning our departed heroes.

JOHN ALTHUIZEN	7 ARMDD
ELDON GRACY	87 INFD
WILLIAM WALTER NICHOLAS, JR.	80 INFD 317 REG

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 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*®. Also, kindly notify us of any errors or omissions.

Please send notices by mail: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com).

## TRIBUTE TO TWO HEROES (AND NICE GUYS)

### Rest In Peace Eldon Gracy, 87 INFD

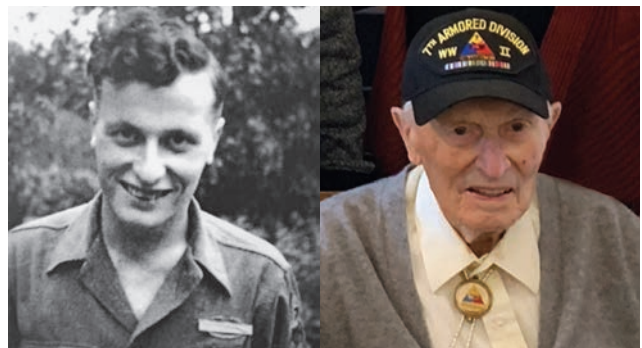
Eldon Gracy, 87 INFD, answered his last muster on April 20, 2023. He grew up on a farm in Garber, OK, the youngest of four children. After graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Army. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and remembered battles in Moiricy, Remagne and Germont (where he was injured by an “88”). After recovering in a hospital, he re-joined his unit and remembers the battle of Plauen.



When he returned from the war, he married his sweetheart and raised 3 children. He was a farmer who worked long hours but still found time to enjoy dancing, bowling, and playing cards with his wife and friends. He was involved in his local church and school board and was also a county commissioner (retiring at the age of 84). Most recently, he was serving on the Board of the 87th INFD Legacy Association (at the age of 97).

### John Althuisen, Golden Gate Chapter, 7 ARMDD

John Althuisen, 7 ARMDD, 23 AIB joined his comrades in heaven on April 26, 2023. John was born in the Netherlands and when the Dutch were being sent to do forced labor for Germany, he hid for 2 years and served with the Dutch underground. He assisted downed Allied pilots out of the hands of the Germans so that the pilots could be taken to the Allied lines in Belgium. At the end of Sept 1944, he met up with the 7 ARMDD, who saw that he spoke German, Dutch, French,



and English. They asked him to join the 7 ARMDD and help when interpretation when needed. John had no military training and received no military pay. He was issued a uniform but no dog tags or papers. He was with the 7 ARMDD in Maastricht area as well as St. Vith and the Ruhr pocket. He was severely injured in battle and sent to a hospital but an officer thought he was German (because of his Dutch accent) and told the staff to “get him out of there.” (He had no way to prove he had fought with the Americans.) He was sent to a French hospital, where he eventually recovered. He was walking around on crutches in Paris and happened to run into some of his 7 ARMDD comrades who were on leave. They were shocked to see him - they thought he had been killed. They took him back to Germany where he re-joined the 23 AIB.

After the war, he was granted a visa to live in the US on Nov 1946. He made several trips back to Europe with his wife, Jeanne and some family members. Thanks to Andrew Biggio (author of *The Rifle*), he traveled to Europe last year (2022) and received his well-deserved medals, including the Bronze Star. John turned 98 years old last Dec (2022). He was married to Jeanne for 61 years and raised 5 children.

—Submitted by Doris Davis, Golden Gate Chapter President



# GOLDEN ACORNS EPIC WORLD WAR II TOUR: A FEW SPOTS LEFT

SEPTEMBER 11-24, 2023



Soldiers of the 347th REGT, 87th INFD line up for chow during the Battle of the Bulge, January 1945. Photo: Army Signal Corps

At the start of the Bulge campaign, the 87th Infantry Division was a new-comer in Europe. But the 87th quickly made its mark. Assigned to Third Army in November 1944, it participated in the siege of Metz, the Bulge campaign, and the campaigns through Germany in the spring of 1945.

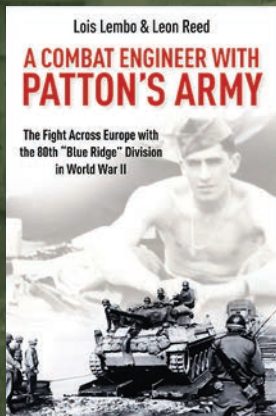
The 87th Division Legacy Association is sponsoring the trip of a lifetime to visit many of the division's World War II haunts. The party will fly into Paris, make a short visit to D-Day sites, including the Omaha Beach Cemetery, Ste. Mere Eglise, Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc, and many other iconic sites. The tour then will follow the "Golden Acorn Trail," through Metz; Bulge sites such as St. Vith, Bastogne, and the Mardasson Memorial; ending at Buchenwald, site of the notorious German camp liberated by Third Army (and the site a few days later of one of Edward R. Murrow's most famous broadcasts). The party will fly home from Frankfurt.

The trip is being developed by Jean-Pierre Paviot, a well known World War II tour developer who prepared a very successful trip for BOBA some years ago.

*Limited spaces are available on this very compelling trip. More information, including the registration form, is available at [www.ww2legacytours.com](http://www.ww2legacytours.com) or [ww2legacytours.com](http://ww2legacytours.com).*

## TWO BULGE VETERAN MEMOIRS

*about two 80th Division veterans of the Bulge campaign*



***A Combat Engineer With Patton's Army***, who was part of the 80th Division detachment that made the first infantry contact with the defenders of Bastogne on December 28, 1944.  
**\$26 (tax and shipping included)\***

*\* A portion of the price is donated to BOBA.*



***With Patton's Third Army***, the story of Bob Burrows, S-2, 317th Infantry Regiment, who started out as a jeep driver for Corps Civil Affairs and insisted on transferring to the infantry.  
**\$17 (tax and shipping included)\***

Order copies at address below, and pay with check or Paypal ([leonsreed@gmail.com](mailto:leonsreed@gmail.com)):  
Little Falls Books, 205 Old Mill Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Contact [leonsreed@gmail.com](mailto:leonsreed@gmail.com) for more information.

## RETURN TO HURTGEN FOREST

Longtime BOBA member **Jacob “Jake” Ruser (4 INFD 12 REG)** enjoyed a recent return visit to the Hurtgen Forest — far more than he enjoyed his first visit 78 years earlier. Of all the battles 4 INFD engaged in from D Day Utah Beach to the end of the war, Ruser, a former combat medic, remembers the three-month Battle of Hurtgen Forest as the toughest.

A medic with 12 REG, Ruser remembered the dense, man-made forest; the deep ravines; and the high ridges where the division fought from September 19 to December 16, 1944. “Hurtgen Forest,” he said, “in my opinion was the worst battle the U.S. Army fought in WWII in the European Theater. It was hell on earth.”

Medics like Ruser saved literally hundreds of lives — and often sacrificed their own. His job was to treat and evacuate the wounded as quickly as possible and then get them to a hospital where the full range of treatment was available.

His return visit was made possible with the help of the Hurtgenwald Historical Society, a volunteer-led organization, and the Hurtgen Forest Memorial Museum located in Vosseneck, Germany and was chronicled by *Army.mil*.<sup>1</sup> Accompanied by a reporter and historians rather than GIs, Ruser got to walk in peace through the same ravine where he had saved so many lives.

As he walked among the remnants of foxholes and medical-aid bunkers, he remembered his experience running up and down the hills carrying wounded soldiers on litters and over his back.

Later, the Hurtgen Forest Memorial Museum presented Ruser with a 4th INFD plaque in honor of his selfless service and sacrifice.

“This is really a special moment,” said Tobias Kreuzmann, the team leader for the Hurtgen Forest Memorial Museum. “I don’t have to tell you that there are not many veterans left and you have a veteran here that actually fought in the Hurtgen Forest. It’s amazing.”

Ruser served in uniform for 26 months but then worked as a Department of Defense civilian for another 32 years. He lives in Philadelphia and is a member of BOBA and the local Delaware Valley chapter. “I believe everyone should get a few years in the military to get some background. It makes you think different and it’s beneficial to the whole Nation.”

<sup>1</sup> Sgt. Clara Harty, “WWII Veteran Remembers a Deadly Battle: The Battle of Hurtgen Forest,” *Army.mil*, March 28, 2023.

—Submitted by Dr. Andy Waskie



PHOTO ABOVE: Ruser poses by a Huertgen Forest memorial.

PHOTO BELOW: Ruser sits in a jeep at a museum.



FAR LEFT PHOTO: Ruser in 1944.

CENTER PHOTO: Ruser at a spot in Huertgen Forest where he aided the wounded 79 years earlier, 2023 photo.



## BURT'S FIRST PITCH

On July 3rd, 2022, World War II veteran **Burt Marsh (80 INFD 319 REG)** was given the opportunity of a lifetime, an opportunity that many kids dream about.

Burt played baseball while overseas during the peacetime occupation after the war to try and make his time there a bit more bearable. He played from August of 1945 to June of 1946 and played 1st base and right field. Regensburg, Germany was his home field and Bavaria was where they played away. From the stories I have heard, he got pretty good but never pursued a professional career after the Army when he came home. Instead, he continued to be a loyal fan of his New York Yankees, NY being his home state. To this day, he is a diehard fan, and it was an immediate yes when given the opportunity to walk on the turf.

The Cleveland Guardians gave him the moment of a lifetime during the July 3rd, 2022 game versus his very own New York Yankees at Progressive Field. He was granted the opportunity to throw out the first pitch. His walk out on to the field was just awe-inspiring to all of us, while he was just as excited as a kid in a candy store to see himself on the jumbotron. The announcers spoke about his



**Burt Marsh gets a handshake and a standing ovation after throwing out first pitch at July 3, 2022, Guardians-Yankees game.** Photo courtesy Cleveland Guardians

career with the army, his rank, and his machine gun specialties while he was escorted by the Ball Girl. He stepped up to a point a few feet in front of the mound and wound up for his first pitch in probably 40 years. And, for being 96 years old, we and the other Guardians players think he did a pretty great job. He spent a few weeks practicing in the front yard with his son-in-law, saying he didn't want to

embarrass himself. None of this would have been possible without the help of our very own Man with a Plan, Bill Black, who helped to facilitate the entire day, along with Tracy from the Guardians.

This, again, shows the resilience of the greatest generation and the men and women who fought for our country.

—Submitted by Lindsay Trombetta

## ROBERT THOMPSON ADDRESSES WWII ROUNDTABLE

Bulge veteran and charter VBOB/BOBA member **Robert Thompson (2 INFD)** spoke about his experiences during World War II on May 4 at the Central Pennsylvania World War II Roundtable, in Hummelstown, PA. He held an audience of more than 100 in rapt attention for more than an hour as he discussed his experiences in Normandy hedgerow country ("hundreds of years old, excellent cover, had to be flushed out with artillery"), Brittany, the Bulge, and as a German POW for nearly six months.

Bob was assigned to the 2 INFD, which, after the Normandy and Brittany campaigns, was assigned to a very quiet sector in the Ardennes region, until December 12, a few days before the German attack, when the 2nd was relieved by the 106th, a division that had just arrived in Europe a few days earlier. A few days later, the 106th took the brunt of the German offensive. Thompson observed that, "The early days of the Battle of the Bulge were confusion with a capital C." Ultimately, he said, the 2nd division was "instrumental in forming the northern edge of the Bulge." Thompson was captured when he led a patrol that was sheltering in the basement of a house when German troops occupied the main floor. He was



**TOP PHOTO: Thompson with Roundtable official Jeffery Patton and Roundtable founder Bill Jackson; BOTTOM PHOTO: Thompson**



then a POW until liberated the following April.

Throughout the presentation, Thompson showed a strong sense of optimism and an ability to make the best of whatever life throws at you. While conceding that his time as a POW was extremely harrowing he also commented that it was "a period of 5 ½ months when nobody shot at me — that was appreciated." While food was in short supply and disease was a constant concern, there were some highlights. Easter Sunday was "the best meal we'd gotten from the Krauts; we even got a stick of chewing gum." As the end of the war approached and the Allied armies got closer, "all of a sudden the Krauts started finding Red Cross packages; as the allies got closer, we got more and more packages. They didn't want to be caught with a lot of unused packages."

It was an impressive performance. Thompson spoke unhesitatingly and without notes. Impressively, after 79 years, he was still able to say the name of every member of his squad, say what town he came from, and give a short description. After his talk, he did a brisk traffic autographing his memoir, *World War II Scrapbook (European Theater of Operations)*.



## Welcome, New Members!

We salute these new members who joined BOBA between February 1- May 15, 2023:

### Bulge veterans

Burt Marsh, 80 INFD 319 REG

### Others

Steve Appleby, Eldred World War II Museum  
 Don Patton, The Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table

*Members, please consider purchasing gift memberships and recruiting new members to help BOBA continue its vital efforts to perpetuate the memory of those who sacrificed their youth at the Battle of the Bulge!*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Plan ahead, and mark your calendar so you don't miss out!*

- July 28-Aug. 1, 2023** BOBA Reunion in New Orleans
- September 2023** 87th Division Tour of Europe (spaces available)
- January 25, 2024** BOBA Bulge Commemoration, Washington, DC
- January 27, 2024** Bulge Conference at the World War II American Experience Museum, Gettysburg
- Mid-December 2024** BOBA Trip to Bulge Scenes [details TBD]
- December 16, 2024-January 25, 2025** 80th Battle of the Bulge Anniversary Events in the US and Europe

## World War II American Experience

July 28-29:  
Annual military weekend

Nov 11:  
Veteran's Day

January 27, 2024: Battle of the Bulge conference



<https://visitww2.org/?v=757e5b5109ed>

Educational programs: research your ancestor, homefront, GI stories

World War II nights with dancing and USO shows

Veteran medical fairs

Author talks

One of the largest vehicle collections in the world

845 Crooked Creek Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325



## Alfred Endres 35 INFD 320 REG

*During the Ardennes Campaign, the 35th INFD tried to gain control of roads south of Bastogne that led into the city. Allied troops fought to open corridors through the German lines, while the Germans continually attempted to close them. My father was not able to speak about the horrific battles, but he could comment on the extreme cold. The descriptions that follow come from my research, my father's words, and those of others who fought with him. They are recorded in my book, "Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman."*

—Louise Endres Moore, BOBA Member

### World War II Cold of the Battle of the Bulge

During the night of December 27, snow blew horizontally, and the temperature dropped on each successive day and night as Scandinavian arctic air brought a blizzard. The soldiers became exhausted just moving through the snowdrifts. Temperatures could plummet at night to minus 10 or 20° F. Patton described it as "hideously cold." Others called it arctic hell. White hell. Frozen jungle.

Some of the infantry froze to death in their ice-walled foxholes because they were not supplied with proper clothing for sub-zero temperatures. "Finish the war in '44" was a popular slogan, but the war did not end as hoped. Priority had been given to shipments of ammunition and gasoline rather than winter supplies. The winter boots and gear did not arrive on the front lines until after the Battle of the Bulge. At times, American combat soldiers took clothing for their own use off dead Germans.

Some soldiers tried to sleep while standing in groups of three. They placed their arms on the shoulders of the other two men, forming a tripod by leaning inward to avoid lying in the snow. Other soldiers used branches from evergreen trees for ground cover. Troops from both sides could freeze to death if they were not evacuated within a half hour after they became casualties.

Newspapers and draperies were scavenged from bombed-out houses and stuffed into regular boots to try to keep feet from freezing and occasionally even turning black. Building a fire to stay warm was problematic because it attracted the attention of the enemy, as did lighting cigarettes. Whenever Dad saw photos from the Ardennes, he looked for soldiers huddling behind tanks. He remembered how everyone tried to stay warm with tank exhaust or by using the tanks as windbreaks. He permanently lost feeling in the tips of his fingers because they had frozen so often during this time. After being home, it took two years for Robert Phillips (35 INFD) to put on socks without pain.

In addition to the extreme cold, many infantrymen did not have access to basic clean drinking water. Water was delivered to Ray Huckaby (134/35th) on December 27, but it froze and burst its container, according to his written memories in *A Soldier Remembers*, published in *The Bulge Bugle*® (February 2008). For him, that was the last water he



Members of the 35 INFD, 320 REG, Jan. 1945: William Notley's daughter believes her father is on the left, then Alfred Endres, Benjamin Lane.

received for almost two weeks, until the morning of January 10. He could eat snow, but every time a shell hit and exploded, it left a black ring about fifty feet across. After repeated barrages, clean snow could only be found in one-to-two inch layers between thinner layers of dirt, burnt shell powder, pine needles, and bark splinters. A cup of snow produced about a sixth of a cup of water. Ray and his foxhole buddy alternated hour-long guard duties while their muscles quivered constantly from hypothermia. They were afraid to sleep because the quickest way to freeze to death was to be still.

\*\*\*

Almost 60 years after the war, my brother casually asked Dad whether he wanted something to eat as they drove through a tiny village on a wintry day.

Dad answered, "It's hard to believe in the war, we went four or five days without eating anything except hard candy bars [D-Rations] that made you thirsty."

He also recalled how they fought four or five days with no sleep.

On another bitterly cold January evening, my sister pushed Dad in his wheelchair back into the nursing home where one of the staff members greeted him. Dad told the woman:

"People think this is so cold. In the service, it was this cold and I didn't know where to sleep. With a pick and an ax, I could not always dig a hole because of the frozen ground. The woods were better for blocking the wind, but we could not build fires because of being seen. A big coat might work, but it did not cover everything."

Then he added, "I don't know why I thought of that."

\*\*\*

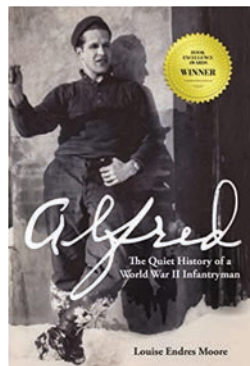
Leonard Huskey (2 INFD) was in the Battle of the Bulge with one woolen army blanket. He told me in a phone conversation that he also had a long woolen coat, but he left it behind when they advanced because it got wet and then froze. He could not deal with the coat along with the mortars he was responsible for.

\*\*\*

The Allies expected the Germans to counterattack if the weather would again limit our ability to fly. That is exactly what happened when weather conditions deteriorated to clouds and overcast on December 28. Allies could not fly; therefore German tanks moved more freely around Bastogne. Various types of weather continued to restrict our flights through January 3. At times, snow drifted to more than five feet.

Patton wrote, "How human beings could endure this continuous fighting at sub-zero temperatures is still beyond my comprehension." In addition to the cold and the snow, there was lengthy darkness, which extended everyone's dangerous guard duty at night. In Bastogne on December 16, sunset was around 4:30 p.m. and sunrise was after 8 a.m.

The book is available at [www.AlfredtheBook.com](http://www.AlfredtheBook.com).



# PA DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (4) NEWS

## MARCH MEETING RECAP

The PA Delaware Valley chapter met on March 29. In attendance were Sean Owens, Jim McElroy, Andy Waskie, Ed Mc Laughlin, Pat Bradley, Pat Rowe, Lissette Tarragano, Bob Palmer, and Andre McCoy.

Chapter president Andy Waskie gave out information on the Meade Society's upcoming June 10 Spring trip to Gettysburg. The focus of the trip will be a special visit to Little

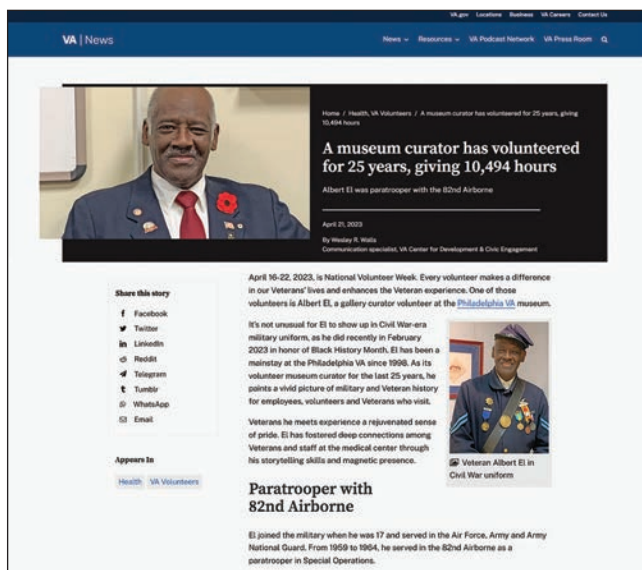
Round Top (which is closed to regular visitors for a longterm maintenance project). A pamphlet was given to all that were interested.

Information was also given out about an Honor Flight which will take place in September.

Andy reports that the *Army.mil* website, which recently published an article about member Jake Ruser (see page 18), has found other Bulge Soldiers from Jake's Division,

and more info is to come on this by the next meeting.

The Memorial Day service was held at Laurel Hill Cemetery on May 29, starting at 12 noon. This service, originally sponsored by the Grand Army of the Republic and now the Meade Society, has been held continuously since May 1868. Wreath laying was done there on May 21. There was also a service at Christ's Church on May 28th.



## CHAPTER MEMBER HONORED BY VA

Longtime Delaware Chapter member Albert El was singled out for praise for his volunteer work in a recent VA newsletter. To see the article, go to: <https://news.va.gov/118125/museum-curator-volunteer-25-years-10494-hours/>

El has worked as a gallery curator volunteer at the Philadelphia VA museum since 1998. He has been credited with more than 10,000 hours volunteer work at this museum. The article describes his work, "he paints a vivid picture of military and Veteran history for employees, volunteers, and Veterans who visit. Veterans he meets experience a rejuvenated sense of pride. El has fostered deep connections among Veterans and staff at the medical center through his storytelling skills and magnetic presence."

El enlisted in the military when he was 17 and served in the 82nd Airborne from 1959-1964. He also served with the Civil Air Patrol for 45 years and is active in Civil War re-enacting. He often presents history talks and lectures, often appearing in a Civil War uniform. He is an active member of BOBA's Delaware Valley Chapter.

—Submitted by Andy Waskie, Chapter President

# SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER (7) MEMBER HONORED



**South Carolina Chapter Executive Board Member Ed Lundeen.** Photo by Jim Triesler

BOBA South Carolina Chapter Executive Board Member Ed Lundeen was honored as the 2023 South Carolina Veterans Service Officer of the Year by the South Carolina Association of County Veteran's Affairs Officers. This award recognizes a County Veteran's Affairs Officer who has shown unusual initiative and imagination in the performance of their duty and has made outstanding contributions to the Veterans in the State of South Carolina. Lundeen has served in this position since July 1, 2011.

Mr. Lundeen served on active duty in the United States Army from 1984-2005, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant after service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Lundeen has received the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation, among many other awards.



**WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER'S NEWS!**

Please send to:  
**boba.editor@gmail.com**

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**

1st Lt Walter Carr 318 INF REG, 2 BN 80 INFD Night Patrol Specialist Bastogne Mission	SFC Anthony E. Jannace 2 ENGR CBT BN, 2 INFD Presidential Unit Citation Battle of the Bulge
Charles Astor Cleghorn WW2 US Navy USS New Jersey Born and died in AL Love always, Charles Allen, Zen, Al	Sgt. Frank T. Lembo 305 ENGR CMBT BN 80 INFD Bastogne Liberator Silver Star
James H. Coates 285 FAOB In loving memory	Your tribute to a veteran goes here

## BOBA VIRTUAL BRICK WALL

**Coming next issue:** A new way to remember your hero, by buying a brick for BOBA's virtual brick wall of remembrance.

Not long ago, it was relatively easy to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. We could nod at them and say, "Thanks for your service."

Now that the Greatest Generation is passing slowly from the scene, BOBA is offering a new way to express your admiration and thanks: buy a virtual brick. Each month, we will publish the greetings and respects for the men who saved democracy and then returned home and created the world we grew up in.

This project gives two options. Three lines, like traditional commemorative bricks, let you provide name and essential information. For a slightly larger fee, you can personalize your greeting with two more lines.

**Prices: 3 lines: \$25; 5 lines \$60**

For more information, contact [boba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:boba.editor@gmail.com)

## We Need Your Help!

Please pay the new annual dues rate of **\$40** as soon as possible, as we would like to move everyone to a first quarter schedule to help us save on admin costs. See page 4 for more details about our rate increase.

If you're a Lifetime member, you will receive the *Bugle* via email going forward. If you want a printed copy in 2023, please send **\$20** annually for a print subscription. Lifetime Bulge veterans continue to receive a printed copy free of charge.

The generosity of our donors helps us perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved during the Battle of the Bulge.

Donations can be made online to [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org) > **donate**  
OR mail a check to BOBA, PO BOX 330,  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

**Use the donation form on the back cover to indicate an "In Honor" or "In Memory" donation, so that we can publish your tribute.**

**All gifts are greatly appreciated!**



## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, Inc.  
P.O. Box 330  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

*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.

- Yearly Membership (Hard copy of *Bugle*: \$20): **\$40**  
 Subscription for *Bugle* for Lifetime members [non-Battle of the Bulge veteran]: **\$20**

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 a 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check or money order payable to BOBA, Inc. Mail with form to above address. Questions? 703-528-4058**



**Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 330  
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330



1st Class Presort  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 West Chester PA  
 Permit #66

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**SPRING 2023**

**BOBA Reunion ★ July 28-Aug. 1, 2023**  
**NEW ORLEANS, LA**  
**DON'T MISS OUT—REGISTER TODAY!**

See pgs. 6-9 or go to our website: [battleofthebulge.org](http://battleofthebulge.org)



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

As with all non-profit organizations, BOBA depends on the generosity of our donors to help support our mission. Please consider a donation to help sustain our mission of perpetuating the memory of the sacrifices made by those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. You can also use the membership form on the inside cover if you have an address update or want to include a gift subscription to our magazine. All donations are tax deductible and are listed in *The Bulge Bugle*<sup>®</sup>. Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be made online at [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org) > donate OR complete the form below and include a check made payable to: Battle of the Bulge Association<sup>®</sup>, PO Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA, 23111.

Donation Amount:  \$25  \$50  \$100  OTHER Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If desired, please choose:  Gift In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Service Units (if applicable)

Gift In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Service Units (if applicable)

**ALL GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**