



The BULGE BUGLE®

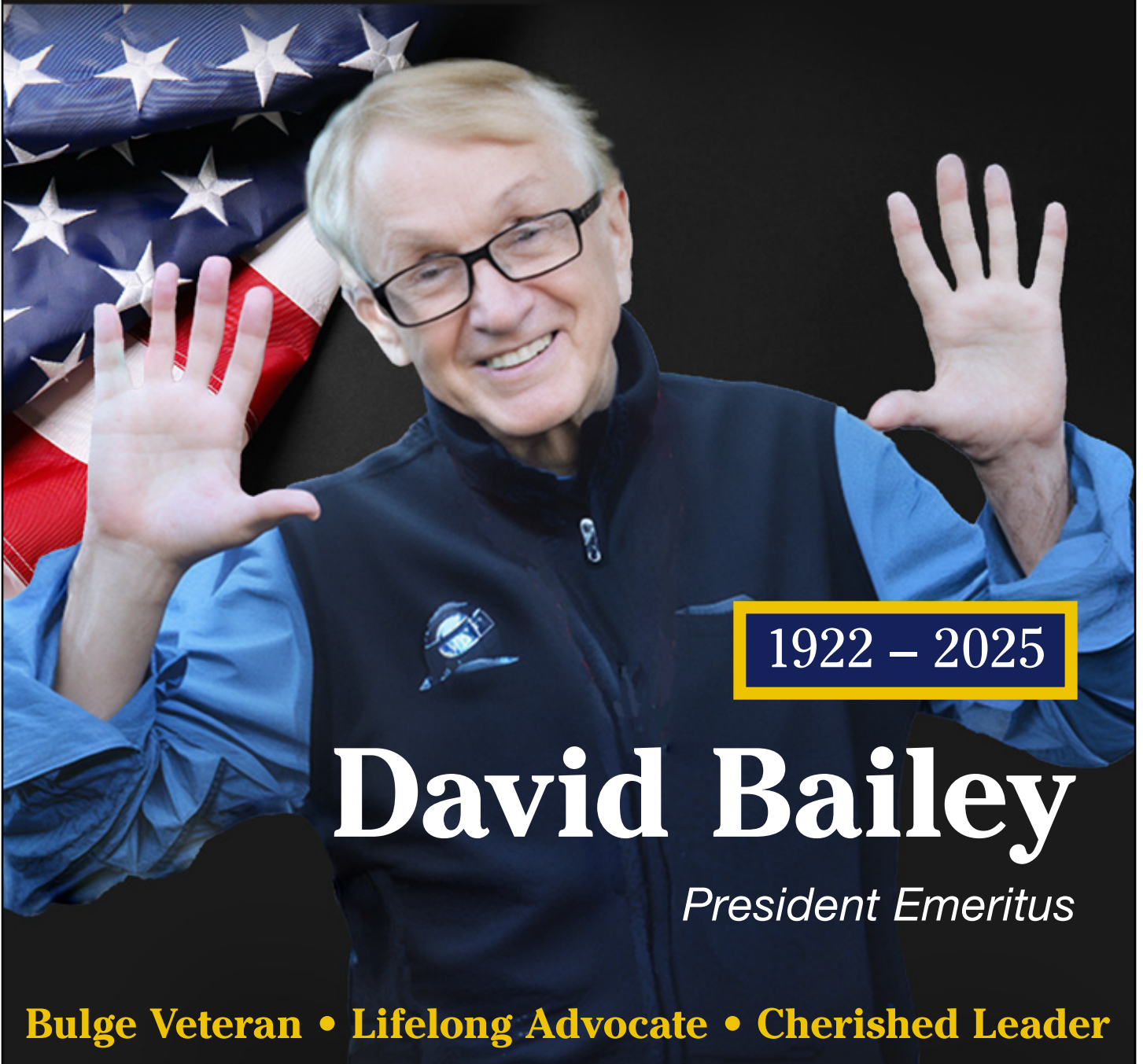
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®, INC.

VOLUME XLIV NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SUMMER 2025

Special Tribute Edition



1922 – 2025

David Bailey

President Emeritus

Bulge Veteran • Lifelong Advocate • Cherished Leader



BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION®, INC.

P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

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.

© *The Bulge Bugle*® the official publication of the Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.

Editor: Christine Guidry Law

EMAIL: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

BOBA MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

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

EMAIL: BobaMembership@gmail.com

Battle of the Bulge Association®, Inc.; P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330

**VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President and CEO: Steve Landry

Executive Vice President:

Kevin Hinkle

Vice President Membership:

Joe Wollet

Interim VP of Chapters &

Regional Coordination:

Leon Reed

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Doris Davis

Treasurer: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Recording Secretary: Gail Larke

PAST PRESIDENT:

John Mohor

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

David Bailey*

BOARD MEMBERS

Madeleine Bryant, Chaplain

Kristin Faller

Ken Larke

Craig Stiegemeier

Jim Triesler, Historian

(Appointed Duty)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance: Mary Ann Coates Smith

Membership: Joe Wollet

Outreach: Leon Reed

Records Management: Gail Larke

Strategic Planning:

Craig Stiegemeier

APPOINTED POSITION

William Sean Lee, Chaplain

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

John Mohor 2020-23

* *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 BobaMembership@gmail.com 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):

Jan Buerhle

Visit website gatewayvbob.org

NEW JERSEY

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 INF

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):

[President in Transition]

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

**Do You Have a New Chapter President?
A President in Transition? Forming a New Chapter?
Let Us Know!**

PLEASE SEND CHAPTER UPDATES TO:

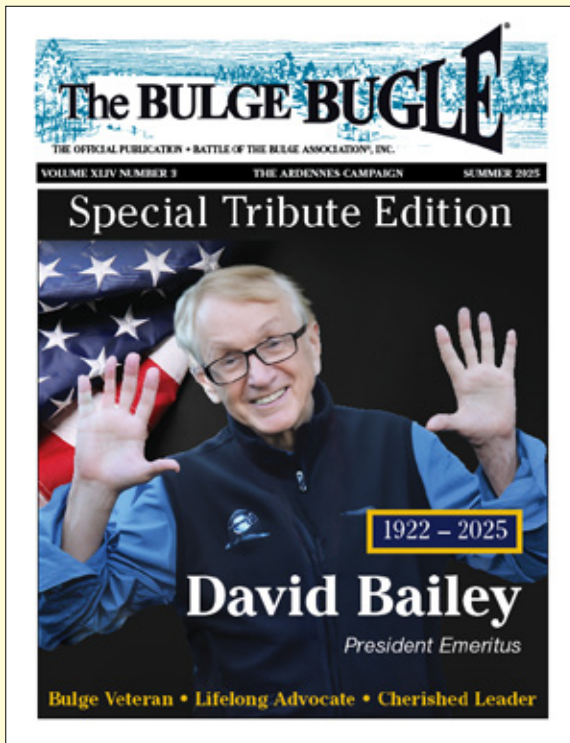
bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

Thanks to our vendors who provide valuable services to support BOBA:

Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment);

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts (Layout/Design)

ON THE COVER



James David Bailey, BOBA President Emeritus, passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at the remarkable age of 103½. We dedicate this issue to his memory (see pages 14–17).

How to submit stories for *The Bulge Bugle*®

PLEASE SEND YOUR IDEA FOR A STORY PRIOR TO SUBMISSION.
GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING STORIES AND PHOTOS:

Stories and letters: Send TYPEWRITTEN text via email, 500 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author.

Photographs: 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), for cellphone photo send us LARGEST digital file possible. **All items WILL NOT be returned, do not mail originals.**

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

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

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2025

**QUESTIONS? Please contact Bugle editor
Christine Guidry Law at bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com**

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE:

2. Contacts
Board
Chapters
3. On the Cover
How to Submit Stories for The Bulge Bugle®
4. President's Message
Treasurer's Report
5. From the New Editor's Desk
Membership Report
Welcome New Members
Outreach Report
6. Little Known Military Museums in the U.S.
Donations
7. BOBA Members Recognized:
Dr. Linda Miller receives DAR Award
Leon Reed, Outstanding Community Contributor
8. 43rd BOBA Annual Reunion, Philadelphia, PA
The Big Red One Holds Reunion in Oak Brook
9. Ghost Help for General Patton
10. Bulge Veterans Honored in Wyomissing
12. Veterans on the Move:
Golden Gate Chapter Members Honored for Service
13. Veterans on the Move:
Trip of Honor, Belgium
14. President Emeritus Remembered:
Steadfast at the Helm: Honoring the Life of David Bailey
15. Remembering James "David" Bailey:
A Life measured in Service, Curiosity, and Joy
16. Bulge Memories: David Bailey
17. Honoring the Life of David Bailey in Photos
18. A Final Salute:
Papa Jake: A Legend of Courage and Kindness
19. A Final Salute:
A Lifetime United: The Remarkable Story of Darrell and Dorothy Bush
20. Unit Spotlight:
5th Infantry Division
21. Voices of the Tank Battalions:
We Prayed for Clear Skies
One Hour in the Bulge
22. Chapter News:
Delaware Valley, Philadelphia Region
Golden Gate, California
22. Chapter News:
South Carolina
Virginia Crater
24. BOBA Public Engagement Highlights
25. Bridging Generations
Challenge Coin Order Form
Save the Date: BOBA Battle Commemoration
26. In Memoriam
27. Taps
28. Support BOBA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Landry, President and CEO

GREETINGS VETERANS AND MEMBERS

BOBA experienced an eventful quarter. Sadly, within the space of two weeks, we lost two of our most prominent Veteran members, President Emeritus J. David Bailey and "Papa Jake" Larson (see pages 14-18). David was a longtime board member for both BOBA and its predecessor, the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. He proudly served as president from 2010-2012 and remained president emeritus until his death. Jake was a longtime member of the Golden Gate Chapter who became a TikTok star while educating people about World War II in general and the Battle of the Bulge in particular. We will remember both gentlemen for their ready smiles and sunny dispositions. They will be sorely missed.



Our Outreach program participated in three World War II events where our volunteers raised awareness of the Battle of the Bulge and recruited new members to the Association. In June, member Alice Hinkle led BOBA's participation in the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's annual World War II Weekend (better known as the Reading Air Show). VP of Military Affairs Doris Davis, Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith, members Diane Landry and Patty Bowers, and I also attended. Outreach Director and Interim VP of Chapters Leon Reed made several presentations. A few weeks later, Alice and Executive VP Kevin Hinkle supported the Reading Fightin Phils' Military Appreciation Night. Finally, led by Leon Reed, BOBA supported the World War II American Experience Museum's World War II Weekend in late July.

Financially, the Association remains strong. We experienced a small loss of less than \$600 in the first quarter (April-June) of the new fiscal year, primarily due to a large trademark renewal expense and deposits for the 2025 Reunion.

While we continue to benefit from your very generous donations, member dues remain the backbone of our treasury. If you haven't yet renewed for 2025, please do so as soon as possible.

Preparations for the Annual Reunion in Philadelphia (see page 8) are going strong. Our Bulge Bugle Editor Christine Guidry Law is spearheading the effort, and has prepared an exciting and entertaining agenda of speakers, events, and visits to important historical locations. Online registration is now open on our website. Please join us in Philly!

We've also begun planning for the annual Commemoration in Washington, DC in January, which once again will be held in conjunction with the World War II American Experience Museum's Battle of the Bulge event in Gettysburg, PA. I hope to see you at both.

With respect to the 2025 General Membership meeting and elections for 2026, BOBA will follow the same procedure as last year. We will hold an Open Board Meeting at the Reunion, during which the slate of officers will be presented by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is actively seeking members to run for office, to include an open Board Member-at-Large position. The General Membership meeting will be conducted via Zoom in late October or early November (date TBD), and the Elections will be conducted online via OpaVote balloting the following week. It is vital that we have your email address to include you in the General Membership meeting and the Election.

Once again, thank you for supporting BOBA and helping us preserve the legacy of our Veterans.

— Steve Landry, President and CEO

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, Treasurer



AS OF JUNE 30, 2025, BOBA's total balance stood at \$112,063.19. This amount includes a checking account balance of \$86,000.50 and a certificate of deposit (CD) valued at \$26,062.69. The CD, which originated with an initial deposit of \$25,000.00, has earned \$1,062.69 in interest and was successfully renewed on July 11, 2025.

At the July Board meeting, I recommended opening an additional one-year CD in the amount of \$25,000.00, and this proposal was unanimously approved. By investing in another CD, we will not only strengthen our financial position through secure, interest-bearing savings, but also ensure that we continue to keep adequate liquid

funds to cover operating expenses and the many obligations associated with our September reunion.

In addition, July brought a particularly moving moment in the life of our organization. We received a generous donation of \$5,000.00 in memory of our President Emeritus, James David Bailey. This contribution came from an anonymous benefactor who wished to honor his service and legacy. Please note that this gift is not reflected in the June 30 totals above, but it will have a significant and positive impact going forward.

It remains both a privilege and a responsibility to serve as Treasurer. I am grateful for the continued generosity of our members and supporters, and I remain confident in the stability and growth of our financial resources. Thank a vet!
God bless America.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Christine Guidry Law



IT IS MY HONOR to bring you the Summer 2025 issue of *The Bulge Bugle*. This edition holds special meaning for our Association as we remember and celebrate the remarkable life of our President Emeritus, James “David” Bailey, who passed away on July 5 at the age of 103½. David was a steady hand at the helm of BOBA for many years, and his wisdom, humor, and dedication touched us all. We are proud to

dedicate this issue to his memory with a four-page tribute beginning on page 14.

Alongside this remembrance, we highlight many moments of honor and connection across our community. You’ll read about veterans recognized at parades and ceremonies, meaningful “Bridging Generations” presentations, and even the Ghost Army’s ingenuity in supporting General Patton. Our “Veterans on the Move” feature takes us from the Golden Gate to Belgium, continuing the tradition of honoring service across time and geography (see pages 12 – 13).

This issue also brings important updates: the addition of a second chaplain, our treasurer’s report, and the latest membership and outreach news. You’ll also find details about reunions—including our upcoming annual gathering in Philadelphia, September 18–22. I hope you will join us for this time of remembrance, fellowship, and celebration.

As always, we remain grateful to our members for sharing stories, photos, and memories that help preserve the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge. Please keep them coming—the next submission deadline is October 25, 2025.

Thank you for reading, for remembering, and for being part of this mission. Together, we honor the past while strengthening the bonds of our BOBA family.

Please feel free to reach out with story ideas, updates, or reflections at my new email address: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com.

OUTREACH REPORT

by Leon Reed

PLANS ARE WELL underway for the 3rd Annual BOBA / World War II American Experience Battle of the Bulge Conference, scheduled for January 25, 2026. This year’s event will feature several innovative elements, making it a must-attend for history enthusiasts. More details will be shared in the next issue of the *Bulge Bugle*.

The Outreach Committee is also preparing a set of resources for members who may be invited to give presentations to schools or community groups. This package includes a series of PowerPoint presentations and other materials, now ready for review. Members interested in reviewing these resources are encouraged to contact Leon Reed at leonsreed@gmail.com.

In addition, BOBA plans to participate in the Army Expo at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, taking place September 13–14. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Personal invitations, events lead to membership growth

By Joe Wollet, VP of Membership

BOBA ACQUIRED ALMOST 30 new members in the first half of 2025, largely through personal invitations and participation at events.

Alice and Kevin Hinkle spearheaded BOBA’s attendance at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum’s gathering June 6-8 in Reading, PA. Military aviation enthusiasts were a natural audience for BOBA, so Alice and her fellow volunteers had steady traffic and interest.

Personal invitations by Leon Reed, John Baker, and Christine Guidry Law generated interest in the Gettysburg and Philadelphia areas. Past President Gary Higgins, gifted with a congenial manner and tenacity, recruited multiple members at his doctor’s office, church, and veteran meetings in Michigan.

A telephone campaign by Rosemary Corbett, Doris Davis, Carol Higgins, and Barbara Mooneyhan to lapsed members generated renewals.

As a collective result, 28 individuals joined BOBA in the first half of 2025. The new members helped stem the attrition of 98 people who either passed away or whose membership lapsed in 2024 and did not renew.

On August 31, our Association had a total of 567 members, including 45 Ardennes Campaign veterans and 522 regular members. Looked at another way, 144 are lifetime members and 423 are annual members.

Every member can offer personal invitations and participate in local veteran events. The Outreach Committee has BOBA flyers and business cards that can be given to interested people. Each of us can do our part to maintain the memory of the Battle of the Bulge and the brave men and women who served in the Ardennes Campaign.

WELCOME MEMBERS!

New or Reactivated Members

— May - August 2025 —

David Akeley	Luther Patrick
Robert Brantley	David Poole
Vicki Cool	Glenna Shelby
Linda Dahl	Karen Small
John Evans	Monique Taylor
Nancy House	Lillian Voigt
Michael Ksycki	Col. William Vossler
Dave Ladd	Tom Ward
William Sean Lee	Linda Watts
Norbert Morbé	Kathie Wilkens
Donna Mountain	Benjamin Wollet

LITTLE KNOWN MILITARY MUSEUMS IN THE U.S.

by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs

THIS ARTICLE CONTINUES our exploration of World War II museums across the country. Part 1, which appeared in the Spring 2025 issue, highlighted several institutions preserving the memories and artifacts of the era. In this installment, we turn to more museums dedicated to safeguarding these stories

for future generations. We invite BOBA members to share additional small or lesser-known WWII museums. Email museum names and contact details to bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com for inclusion in a future issue. Submissions will be acknowledged. We encourage you to visit and support these hidden gems:

INTREPID SEA, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM COMPLEX

Pier 86 W. 46th St & 12th Ave., New York, NY 10036
IntrepidMuseum.org • 877-957-7447 or 212-245-0072

NATIONAL GUARD MEMORIAL MUSEUM

1 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC, 20001
NGEF.org • 202-789-0031

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

Opened March 22, 2025
1861 AT&T Way, Arlington, TX 76011
<https://mohmuseum.org/> • 817-274-1861

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle, VA 22172
<http://usmcmuseum.com> • 877-653-1775

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

Wright-Patterson AFB (Near Dayton)
1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433
<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/> • 937-255-3286

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

1775 Liberty Dr., Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
theNMMusa.org • 800-506-2672

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. NAVY

Washington Navy Yard
805 Kidder Breeze SE, Bldg. 76, Washington, DC. 20374
<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn.html> • 202-685-0589

NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM

150 restored aircraft
Pensacola Naval Station
1750 Radford Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32508
<https://navalaviationmuseum.org/> • 850-452-8450

NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

North Hutchinson Island
3300 N. Highway A1A, Fort Pierce, FL 34949-8520
Navysealmuseum.com • 772-595-5845

NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

Opening in Oct. 2025
1001 Kettner Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101
<http://NavySEALmuseum.org> • 619-566-7956

USS MIDWAY MUSEUM

910 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101
Midway.org • 619-544-9600



DONATIONS

Donations from May to July

Donal & Betty Balloer – In Memory of Bulge Veteran
Sgt Maurice “Hap” Reny

Joyce Bewersdorf – In Memory of my father,
Sgt. Maurice “Hap” Reney

Linda Karen Miller – In Memory of Bulge Veteran
“Papa” Jake Larson

LTC. John Mohor – Wreath Fund

Paul & Donna Preve - In Memory of Bulge Veteran
Sgt. Maurice “Hap” Reny

Dary & Michael Shrider – In Memory of Bulge Veteran
Sgt. Maurice “Hap” Reny

Mary Ann Coates Smith – Gift membership to Bulge
Veteran David Poole

* *Correction from Spring Bugle: James Rock and John Cameron Wood donations were gifted memberships by Mary Ann Coates Smith.*

*Please use the form on the back cover to make a donation today!
Or go to our website: battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/*

IN HONOR OF DAVID BAILEY

Carolyn Truesdale and husband **Curtis Waechtler**
In memory of her uncle James David Bailey

Professor William Jannace

Has made as a tribute in memory of Mr. J. David Bailey, former President of the Battle of the Bulge Association, to support the development of the U.S. Army War College's future Alumni Hall and Park. The Alumni Hall structure will feature class-gifted, stained-glass windows and will be used for a full range of ceremonies. The surrounding Alumni Park will include the display of graduation plaques going back to the first U.S. Army War College Class of 1904-05.

This tribute will appear in the Summer 2025 edition of the *Foundation and Alumni News* magazine, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Battle of the Bulge Association.

Donations made in tribute to David's age – 103 ½ years old:

**Tracey Diehl • Ken and Gail Larke
Steve Landry • Barbara Mooneyhan
Mary Ann Coates Smith • Joe Wollet**

BOBA MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

DR. LINDA MILLER RECEIVES DAR AWARD

ON MAY 10, 2025, the Valley of Fire Chapter of the Nevada State DAR honored Dr. Linda Miller with First Place in the Commemorative Events category. Miller received the award for her well-developed report on the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Chapter Regent Michelle Mueller presented the award during the Chapter's 32nd Anniversary Flag Retirement Ceremony, held at the Veteran's Memorial Ceremony in Boulder City.

The Chapter recognized Dr. Miller not only for her attendance at the Battle of the Bulge Association reunion, but also for her article highlighting a Battle of the Bulge veteran. They

further commended her visit to the POW-MIA Museum at the Jefferson Barracks Museum in St. Louis, where she purchased both a yellow ribbon and a memorial brick honoring Barbara Powers Wyatt, author of two books on returning Vietnam POWs.

The Valley of Fire Chapter continues to celebrate members who uphold the mission of the DAR through research, writing, and community service.

BOBA proudly acknowledges Dr. Miller's accomplishments, compassion, and dedication to veterans. This award is truly well-deserved.



Dr. Linda Miller receives award from DAR Chapter Regent Michelle Mueller



Dr. Miller's nephew Jeff Miller with the memorial brick honoring Barbara Powers Wyatt

LEON REED, OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Leon Reed, BOBA's Interim VP of Chapters & Regional Coordination, was recently honored with the Outstanding Community Contributor Award by the Gettysburg Connection. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional civic responsibility, leadership, and generosity in Adams County, PA.

In addition to his work as a writer and historian, Reed has been a strong advocate for affordable housing through the @Home in Adams County initiative. He has also served on the Board of South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP). Since 2019, his insightful articles and op-eds on housing and local history have been regularly featured in the publication.

Leon's long record of public service also influenced the selection committee's decision. From his time as an aide on the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, to his work as a consultant on national security and defense policy, and later as a high school history teacher, Reed has consistently placed the needs of others above his own.

The editorial team praised him as "a person of quiet tenacity and wide-ranging intellect." The Battle of the Bulge Association is proud to call him one of our own and is thrilled to celebrate this well-deserved recognition.



Leon Reed at the WWII America Experience Museum, Gettysburg

43RD BOBA ANNUAL REUNION PHILADELPHIA, PA

JOIN US IN PHILLY! Our upcoming reunion at the Hilton Garden Inn in Philadelphia, September 19–21, is almost here and it's not too late to register. We still have room for you! This year's lineup just got even more special with the addition of a Cake Cutting & Birthday Celebration honoring three incredible milestones: the Army's 250th, the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, and Ben Berry's 102nd birthday. This event will take place at the hotel on Saturday from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If you have already registered for the reunion, this event is included. If you'd like to join just for the celebration, tickets are only \$25, payable to BOBA (P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330).

For details and registration, visit battleofthebulge.org or contact BOBA reunion coordinator Christine Guidry Law at 215-839-6881.

FRIDAY: Hilton Garden Inn, Philadelphia

- All-day Historical Presentations
- Guest Speakers, Exhibits, Book Sales
- Box Lunch
- Raffle/Silent Auction
- Banquet Dinner

SATURDAY: Philadelphia

- Private Tour Independence Hall/Liberty Bell
- Spirit of Philadelphia Lunch Cruise
- Museum Tours
- Cake Cutting & Birthday Celebration

SUNDAY: Valley Forge

- Memorial Service
- Medal of Honor Grove
- Bulge Monument Ceremony
- Special Lunch - Mission BBQ
- Valley Forge Historical Park

To register & for more info: <https://battleofthebulge.org/>

Medal of Honor Grove



THE BIG RED ONE HOLDS 2025 REUNION IN OAK BROOK



THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, famously known as The Big Red One, gathered for its annual reunion June 18–22, 2025, in Oak Brook, Illinois. More than 300 attendees, including veterans and their families, came together to honor the division's legacy of service and sacrifice. The reunion provided an opportunity for old friends to reconnect, share memories, and reflect on the enduring bonds forged through military service.

Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs, was among those in attendance. Highlights of the event included a visit to the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, a concert hosted by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and a group outing to Wrigley Field for a baseball game. The program also featured panel discussions and remembrance ceremonies, ensuring that both history and camaraderie remained at the heart of the gathering.

From its entry into World War I in 1917 to service in World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan, the 1st Infantry Division has long stood at the forefront of U.S. military operations. Many veterans at the reunion served in the more recent campaigns of Iraq and Afghanistan, a testament to the division's continued role in shaping modern military history.

With six active chapters across the country and headquarters at Fort Riley, Kansas, the 1st Infantry Division Association continues to welcome new members. The organization works tirelessly to preserve the division's proud legacy, support veterans, and educate future generations about its remarkable history. For those interested in joining, more information is available at www.1stid.org.

Valley Forge Monument



GHOST HELP FOR GENERAL PATTON

By Rick Beyer, President, Ghost Army Legacy Project

THREE DAYS AFTER the Germans launched the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower met with Generals Omar Bradley and George Patton in Verdun to plan a response. Eisenhower asked Patton how long it would take him to turn the 3rd Army around to attack the Germans and relieve the encircled town of Bastogne.

Patton's answer was quick: he could attack with three divisions in two days. Eisenhower told him to take an extra day—and the relief of Bastogne was on.

Among those present was Major Ralph Ingersoll, from the Special Plans Branch of Bradley's 12th U.S. Army Group. In an unpublished memoir, Ingersoll called the meeting "intense." He recalled Patton "striding up and down the room, not the cocky man I remembered, but one with lines of grim concern etched on his face."

Bradley worried that Patton's forces would be hard to conceal from German eyes. Turning to Ingersoll, he asked if anything could be done to fool the enemy about where Patton would strike. All eyes in the room fell on Ingersoll.

"Yes, we can do..." he began—before realizing he had no concrete plan. "...something," he finished.

"Then do it," Bradley ordered.

Ingersoll turned to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, a top-secret deception unit, since nicknamed The Ghost Army. Since June 1944, its 1100 soldiers had been fooling German forces with inflatable tanks, sound effects, and a masterful mix of camouflage and misdirection.

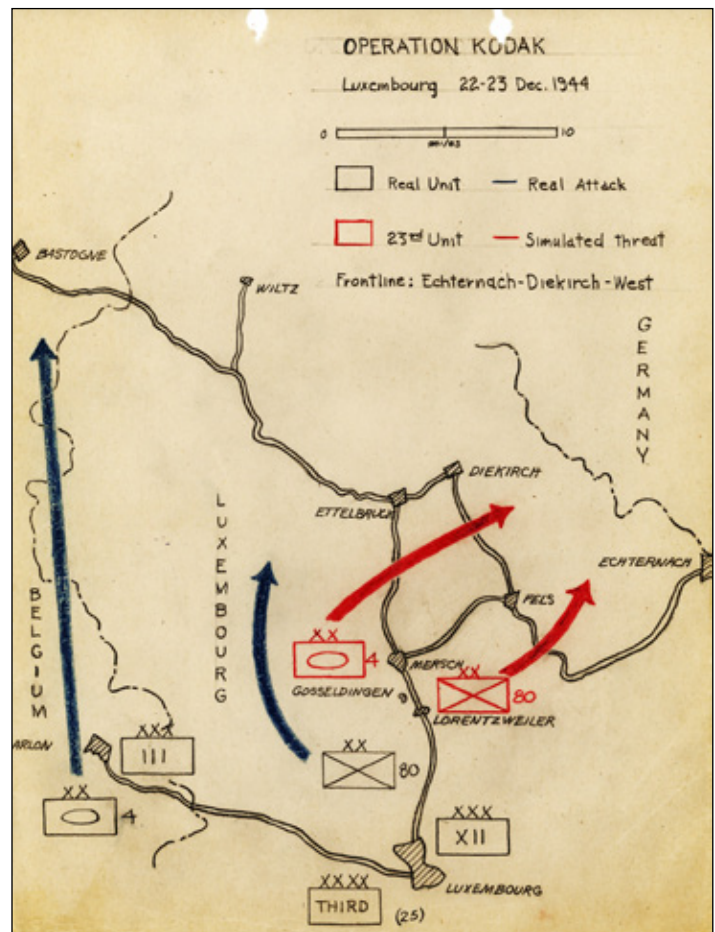
This time, they staged a hasty, radio-only deception that lasted just 24 hours. While the real 4th and 80th Divisions moved toward Bastogne, the Ghost Army imitated the same divisions heading elsewhere. The aim: confuse German intelligence into splitting their forces.

Twenty-nine Ghost Army radio sets crackled to life on December 22. The ruse—nicknamed Operation Kodak—gave the Germans a "double exposure," making it impossible to know which divisions were genuine and which were ghosts.

The mission remained classified for more than 50 years, so it never appeared in Battle of the Bulge histories. But Ingersoll was certain of its impact. "This bit of trickery I do know did work—exactly as conceived," he wrote. "When the first Third Army troops hit the flanks of the Bastogne besiegers, the German Command was completely confused about where the others might be about to attack."

Historians examining captured German maps and top-secret Ultra decrypts have since confirmed his assessment.

The Ghost Army carried out 22 deception missions during WWII and, in 2024, received the Congressional Gold Medal for its extraordinary contributions.



Map of Operation Kodak, from the Official History of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops.

Major Ralph Ingersoll, whose quick thinking helped launch Operation Kodak.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RICK BEYER IS THE President of the Ghost Army Legacy Project and the co-author of *The Ghost Army of World War II*.

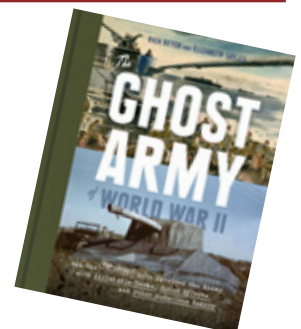
Rick's book—co-authored with Elizabeth Sayles—tells the full, captivating story of the unit's top-secret missions, with rare photos, declassified records, and first-hand accounts from the men who pulled off history's most audacious battlefield deceptions. Available now wherever books are sold.

CONTACT & MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Ghost Army or to get in touch with Rick Beyer:

Email:
rick@ghostarmylegacyproject.org

Website:
www.ghostarmylegacyproject.org



BULGE VETERANS HONORED IN WYOMISSING

Independence Day Parade Keeps History Alive

EIGHT BATTLE OF THE BULGE veterans were honored—along with several fellow World War II comrades—during the Independence Day parade in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. Described by Mayor Fred Levering as “the most Norman Rockwell-like experience you’ll ever see,” the annual celebration drew thousands of spectators, who came for its timeless American charm.

Thanks to the efforts of Tyler Boland of Keeping History Alive, the veterans once again participated in style. Boland not only organized their involvement, but also arranged for authentic World War II-era vehicles, giving the parade the sights, sounds, and spirit of the 1940s.

In total, 22 veterans took part. Among them were Bulge veterans Jake Ruser (BOBA member: Combat Medic, U.S. Army 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th ID), Frank Stellar (PFC, U.S. Army 6th, 36th Division, 302nd Airdrome Division), Raymond Parker (U.S. Army, 17th Airborne Division, 513rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, Light Machine Gunner Platoon, 1st Battalion, Co. C), Bill Balabanow (U.S. Merchant Marine: WWII, Korea, Vietnam), Russell Satazhan (PFC, U.S. Army 1st Division, 18th Regiment, Co. G), Marian Long (U.S. Army Nurse who treated Bulge soldiers), Harry Miller (BOBA member: PFC, U.S. Army, 740th Tank Battalion: WWII, Korea, Vietnam), and Richard Weaver (U.S. Army, 17th Airborne Division, HQ). Their presence was the heart of the day, a living reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation.

Perhaps the most moving moment came in the crowd’s response. Adults paused to pay tribute, while children and teenagers waved excitedly, awestruck by the history before their eyes. The spontaneous outpouring of gratitude emphasized a powerful truth: the service of these veterans continues to inspire respect, wonder, and enduring appreciation across every generation.



Frank Stellar (101 yrs old)



Harry Miller (97 yrs old), BOBA Member



Russell Satazhan (99 yrs old)

continued on page 11



BOBA Member Jake Ruser (100 yrs old) and Tyler Boland



Jake Ruser (100 yrs old) and Marian Long (101 yrs old)



Raymond Parker (100 yrs old)



Frank Stellar (101 yrs old) and young WWII history enthusiast Ronan Kingsella



Bill Balabanow (99 yrs old)



Richard Weaver (101 yrs old)

VETERANS ON THE MOVE

Golden Gate Chapter Members Honored for Service and Legacy

by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs

Both lifelong patriots and proud members of the Golden Gate Chapter, Ken Mar and Jake (Papa Jake) Larson have lived extraordinary lives of service, resilience, and community. This summer, each made remarkable journeys to honor the history they helped shape.



Ken Mar in Normandy, June 2024, marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Ken Mar

2nd Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd BN

KEN MAR WAS INVITED to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans to help mark its 25th anniversary, celebrated on D-Day, June 6, 2025. Accompanied by his son, Vernon, and daughter, Corinne, Ken was one of only eight WWII veterans honored at the event. At 100 years old, having celebrated his milestone birthday just this past May, Ken still lives independently, takes pride in cooking for himself, and remains active in his community.

A Chinese American who enlisted at a time when opportunities for minorities in the U.S. military were limited, Ken served with distinction in the European theater. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Chinese American Congressional Gold Medal in 2020, a national honor acknowledging both his personal sacrifice and the service of thousands of Chinese Americans during WWII.

Reflecting on his trip to New Orleans, Ken said the museum “really rolled out the red carpet” for him, recalling the warm welcome, historical tributes, and personal connections he experienced. His presence at the event not only honored the memory of his fallen comrades but also underscored the importance of preserving living history.

Beyond his military achievements, Ken is known for his humility, kindness, and devotion to his family and fellow veterans. His story is a reminder of the lasting bonds forged in wartime, the resilience of the human spirit, and the responsibility we all share in carrying these memories forward for future generations.

Jake “Papa Jake” Larson

1st Army, G3, V Corps

JAKE LARSON traveled to Normandy this past June for the for the 81st anniversary of the D-Day landings. Known to his 1.2 million TikTok followers as Papa Jake, he had become a beloved storyteller and symbol of living history. His warmth, humor, and authenticity drew millions of people—especially younger generations—closer to the realities of WWII in ways no textbook ever could.

Last year, during the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, Jake was interviewed by journalist Christiane Amanpour. That powerful conversation later earned a News Emmy Award, which Amanpour gifted to Jake by sending him the golden trophy itself—a gesture that deeply moved him and his family.

Jake’s military service began with extraordinary determination: he enlisted at just 15 years old, telling the recruiter he was 18. He went on to assist in planning Operation Neptune, the naval component of Operation Overlord, and on D-Day he landed on Omaha Beach. That harrowing experience shaped the rest of his life, fueling his mission to honor fallen comrades and ensure their sacrifice was never forgotten.

In his later years, Papa Jake became a fixture in his hometown of Martinez, CA, where he was a Saturday morning regular at the Bagel Café. Friends and neighbors gathered around him, offering love, respect, and fellowship to a man who never ceased to inspire.

Sadly, Papa Jake passed away on June 17, 2025 at age 102½. His legacy—both on the battlefield and in the countless lives he touched—remains a beacon of courage, humor, and remembrance. Rest in peace, Papa Jake.

Learn more about Papa Jake:

YouTube: D-Day Remembered: Omaha Beach Survivor Jake Larson Shares His Story and In the Company of Heroes

Facebook: www.facebook.com/reel/1029516919307860/

Book: *The Luckiest Man in the World – Stories From the Life of Papa Jake* (available on Amazon and now in French)



“Papa” Jake Larson holds the Emmy Award, gifted to him by journalist Christiane Amanpour after her win.

VETERANS ON THE MOVE

Trip of Honor, Belgium

by Tyler Boland, Keeping History Alive

IN JUNE 2025, a remarkable group of eight World War II veterans—each approaching a century of life—embarked on an extraordinary journey back to Belgium. On June 22, 80 years after they helped liberate the country during the Battle of the Bulge, these living heroes boarded a flight to Europe to honor both history and memory.

Their destination was Bastogne, the site of one of the most decisive and grueling campaigns of the war. For many, it was their first time returning to Belgian soil since 1945. The trip was more than a commemoration; it was a pilgrimage filled with moments of profound remembrance.

Alan Shapiro visited the grave of his high school friend who never made it home. BOBA veteran Frank Stellar stood before his brother-in-law's resting place for the first time in 81 years. Bob Holbach reconnected with his wartime past when he saw a 155mm Howitzer—an artillery gun he had not laid eyes on since 1944. Bill Balabanow returned to Belgium after eight decades, walking once more on ground he had helped liberate as a young soldier. Also among the group were veterans Alan Kinder, Michael Grieco, Fred Heyer, and BOBA veteran Jake Ruser.

Eighty years ago, these men were barely out of their teens, uncertain of what awaited them on Europe's battlefields. Today, they are honored guests, celebrated not only for their bravery

but for the lives they rebuilt and the legacies they carry. Their footsteps in Bastogne are not just those of soldiers—they are the steps of living history.

The fields of Belgium still carry the echoes of their sacrifice, and the people of Bastogne continue to remember the liberation with gratitude. For the veterans, the journey was both solemn and joyful: a time to honor the fallen, recall victories hard-won, and feel the unbroken bond between liberators and the liberated.

This historic journey was made possible through Forever Young Veterans, a nonprofit devoted to granting wishes and organizing trips for America's aging heroes. Their efforts ensured these men could return to the very places where they once changed the course of history.

As the world marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, these eight veterans remind us that history is not just something written in books—it still walks among us. Their courage, sacrifice, and resilience remain an enduring testament to the price of freedom.

The trip was not simply a return to Belgium; it was a return to memory, brotherhood, and honor. And for those who crossed paths with these extraordinary men along the way, it was the rare privilege of walking beside history itself.



Battle of the Bulge Veterans - Left to Right: Fred Heyer, Michael Grieco, Alan Kinder, Bill Balabanow, Frank Stellar, Bob Holbach, Jake Ruser, Alan Shapiro



Frank & Alan in foxhole



*Below, L to R:
Tyler Boland (center)
with Frank Stellar and
Jake Ruser
BOBA Veteran Jake Ruser
BOBA Veteran Frank
Stellar (new member)*

All photos provided by Tyler Boland, Keeping History Alive

J. DAVID BAILEY

January 3, 1922 – July 5, 2025



“... no man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well-being, to risk his life to a great cause.”

— David Bailey

STEADFAST AT THE HELM: HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID BAILEY

ON BEHALF OF THE Battle of the Bulge Association, we are honored to pay tribute to our beloved President Emeritus J. David Bailey. His vision, wisdom, and steady leadership guided this organization for decades, shaping not only our mission but also the lives of all who worked alongside him.

Throughout his years of service, he exemplified the highest ideals of leadership — compassion, dedication, and an unwavering belief in the power of community. He encouraged innovation while honoring tradition, and his influence

reached far beyond our membership. Whether presiding over national conferences, mentoring colleagues, or simply sharing a kind word in the hallway, he left an indelible mark on everyone he encountered.

We will carry forward his memory with gratitude, pride, and deep respect. His infectious smile and unwavering spirit strengthened our community, inspired our members, and laid a foundation that continues to guide our future. His legacy is woven into the very fabric of our association.

REMEMBERING JAMES DAVID BAILEY

A Life Measured in Service, Curiosity, and Joy

ON A FROSTY MORNING in January 1945, deep in the Ardennes forest, a young American soldier named James David Bailey faced a choice that would define his life. Captured by German forces during the Battle of the Bulge, 22-year-old David—a kid from Bluefield, West Virginia—refused to accept defeat. He escaped captivity, slipping back to freedom, an act of courage that landed his face on the cover of Stars and Stripes.

That moment, harrowing as it was, captured much of who David remained for the next 80 years: resourceful, determined, and quietly resilient. He went on to live 103 remarkable years—from the mountains of West Virginia to Europe's battlefields, the skyscrapers of Pittsburgh and New York, and finally the close-knit community of Alexandria, Virginia. Along the way, he built a career, nurtured family, deepened his faith, and traveled to the farthest reaches of the globe.

A West Virginia Beginning

Born January 3, 1922, to Robert Lake and Laura Evans Bailey, David came of age in a world still healing from World War I. He graduated from Bluefield High School and enrolled at West Virginia University. "I wasn't a Boy Scout or anything like that," he later said. "But you will find that the best soldiers are not the big muscular type, but the little runts like me, who have a little bit of strength, and perseverance."

At 20, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. The world was at war, and David—never one to shrink from responsibility—answered the call.

Soldier and Survivor

David fought across Belgium, France, and Germany. He earned two Bronze Stars, the French Legion of Honor, and the Order of St. Maurice. Yet what mattered most to him wasn't the medals but remembering those who never returned.

His escape during the Battle of the Bulge symbolized not just survival, but perseverance—a duty to live fully in honor of comrades who could not.

Building a Career and a Community

When peace returned, David resumed his studies, earning advanced degrees in economics and statistical analysis from West Virginia University and Babson College. These shaped a long career: cost analyst at U.S. Steel, leadership at the Edison Electric Institute, and finally President and CEO of The John B. Goff Land Company.

His work took him from Pittsburgh to New York and, eventually, Alexandria, where he lived for the last 45 years. Career success never pulled him away from community. Faith remained central—from Bluefield's Trinity United Methodist Church to 35 years of worship at Washington Street United Methodist in Alexandria.

Guardian of Memory

Retirement deepened David's devotion to service. As national president of the Battle of the Bulge Association, he traveled widely, marking anniversaries, speaking with veterans' families, and standing alongside dignitaries in remembrance.

For him, remembrance was not just about looking back, but ensuring younger generations understood the sacrifices that secured their freedoms. Even at 100, he appeared at a wreath-laying at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a frail yet proud symbol of his generation's endurance.

A Life of Curiosity and Giving

David's defining trait was curiosity. Long after most had slowed, he kept moving—exploring 27 countries on all seven continents, even standing at both the North and South Poles. His travels were never about checklists, but about experiencing life in its fullness.

Closer to home, he gave generously to causes he believed in, supported friends and family, and carried himself with a kindness that left people lighter for knowing him. His twinkling eye, easy laugh, and stories made him unforgettable.

Honored at Home

In Alexandria, David became a local treasure. In 2022, the city celebrated his 100th birthday, honoring not only his longevity but the remarkable life behind it.

That same year, Stars and Stripes revisited the wartime escape that once made him a cover story. Ever humble, David downplayed heroics. What mattered, he said, was perseverance.

Family and Legacy

Though he never married, David's family ties remained strong. He was preceded in death by his beloved sisters, Adelaide and Constance, but is survived by nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews, who cherished his presence across the generations.

David died peacefully at his home in Alexandria on July 5, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. A graveside service was held in his hometown of Bluefield, West Virginia, where his journey began more than a century ago.

A Life Well Lived

To live to 103 is rare. To do so while carrying the weight of history, the responsibility of memory, and the joy of discovery is rarer still.

James David Bailey was a soldier, a survivor, a leader, a traveler, and a man of faith. Above all, he embodied the truth that perseverance, kindness, and curiosity can shape a life as meaningfully as medals or titles. He will be remembered not only for the war he survived, but for the peace he built—in his community, in his family, and in the countless lives he touched.

continued on page 16



DAVID BAILEY

F Company, 422nd Regiment, 106th Division

A compilation of writings from Bulge Bugle • November 2005, May 2015, Summer 2021

AFTER DEPARTING THE Army Specialized Training Unit at Clemson College, South Carolina, I was transferred to the newly organized 106th Infantry Division and assigned to the 422nd Infantry Regiment, Company F at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

I was sent overseas with the 106th and landed in Le Havre, France on December 3, 1944. Crossing France by truck, I arrived at St. Vith, Belgium on December 10.

The Ardennes region at this time was considered a quiet sector by the Allies and was used to acquaint newcomers, like the 106th, with elements of infantry warfare, such as observing and patrolling.

Needless to say, and against all odds, in the early morning of December 16, the Germans launched a surprise attack, outnumbering our troops by a factor of five in terms of armor and manpower. Our Division had only five days of front-line experience and tragically we had no air coverage due to the dense fog, and indeed we could not connect to our supply lines.

This was the beginning of the largest and bloodiest battle of WWII where there were 81,000 American casualties and 19,000 killed. The Division's 422nd and 423rd regiments were encircled and cut off from the remainder of the Division by a junction of enemy forces in the vicinity of Schonberg. The regiments regrouped for a counterattack but were blocked by the enemy and separated from the 106th on December 18. The two regiments surrendered to the Germans on the following day.

As a member of the 422nd infantry regiment, I wandered into a small Belgian village named Anthistes (Province of Liege).

I was alone and requiring shelter, so it was only natural to seek help in this remote European village in friendly territory. I knocked on the closest entry I could find. On that December morning during the Christmas season, a young, 19-year-old Belgian girl named Adele Orban opened her door and heart to me. Indeed, I truly believe that in this life someone guides and watches over us, and their protective spirit is "always" present.

Yes, it was my guardian angel who had pre-arranged this unusual encounter between Adele and me. We both came from two separate worlds; however, we did share a mutual concern – the ravages of War! Our friendship has lasted over half a century and with such a strong bond we consider ourselves now to be more like brother and sister.

As a young soldier I had the memorable experience of participating in the most decisive battle on the Western front during World War II. Also, I was able to share that reality with my new Belgian friends recently liberated from German hands by our own army. It was a remarkable experience and a reminder that truth sometimes is stranger than fiction.



It is noted, innumerable numbers were killed in action, and many were captured and marched to Prisoner of War camps. Indeed, this was the largest mass-surrender of U.S. troops in Europe during World War II. Those of us who were able to escape eventually reached the rear echelon of the 106th for reassignment.

The Germans' ultimate destination in this last ditch, "all-or-nothing" initiative was the strategic port of Antwerp. So sudden and swift was the attack that it soon punctured a huge hole, or salient, in the Allied lines that gave the battle its name: "The Battle of the Bulge." Those of us at the 422nd and 423rd were able to take part in the reorganization of the 106th Division, which regrouped in northern France. Hard hit in its initial engagement, the 106th 424th infantry came back with a strong offensive in January and participated successfully in the remainder of the Ardennes campaign and all future European campaigns until final victory on May 7, 1945.

The Battle of the Bulge lasted longer than any battle in our nation's history with the largest number of casualties. The official historian of the U.S. Army, Charles McDonald, stated that it was the greatest battle in American history.

America's World War II generation did save the world, not for glory, not for honor, and not for lasting tribute. For those that did not return, they deserve our blessing.



Thomas Roberts with David at WWII Memorial

continued on page 17

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID BAILEY



TOP ROW L TO R:

Grand Duke of Luxembourg H. R. H. Henri with David; Barbara Mooneyhan with David Bailey holding a picture of himself shaking hands with Citadel President Glenn Walters; At the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium, David points to his autograph on a WWII-era truck while hugging his dear friend, museum director Mathilda Schmetz.

MIDDLE ROW L TO R:

David and BOBA Member Betsy Rose; David with BOBA Historian Jim Triesler; David and then BOBA President John Mohor, LTC (Ret.)

LEFT: *David at the American History Museum; ABOVE: David Bailey, center front, is joined by Rep. Don Beyer, right, and fellow veterans from American Legion Post 24 in Market Square, Richmond, VA*



A FINAL SALUTE



Paying Tribute To Lives Of Courage

Papa Jake: A Legend of Courage and Kindness

JAKE “PAPA JAKE” LARSON lived a life that bridged history and generations. Born on December 20, 1922, in Owatonna, Minnesota, he was only 15 when he enlisted in the National Guard, lying about his age to serve his country. By 1944, he was part of history’s turning point—storming Omaha Beach on D-Day under withering machine-gun fire. Against all odds, he made it to the bluffs overlooking Normandy and later fought through the Battle of the Bulge. For his service, he received the Bronze Star and France’s Legion of Honor. Yet, Jake never considered himself a hero. “We are the lucky ones,” he said. “We are their family. We have the responsibility to honor these guys who gave us a chance to be alive.”

What set Jake apart was not only his courage in war but his joy in peace. Known as “Papa Jake,” he became an unlikely TikTok star late in life, with over 1.2 million followers tuning in to hear his stories. Through his series, Story Time with Papa Jake, he combined humor, warmth, and humility with sobering reminders of war’s toll. Always armed with a quick smile, a generous hug, and a twinkle in his eye, he brought history to life for young audiences and ensured that the sacrifices of his generation would not be forgotten. “I’m just a country boy,” he once laughed, “Now I’m a star on TikTok. I’m a legend! I didn’t plan this, it came about.”

Even at 102½, Jake remained tireless in his devotion to remembrance. He made annual pilgrimages to Normandy, where people of all ages lined up for selfies and embraces. He relished these encounters, often remarking on the honor of meeting fellow veterans and passing along messages of peace. In 2023, he clasped hands with British veteran Bill Gladden, telling him with tears in his eyes, “We were meant to meet.” His presence at the 81st anniversary of D-Day in 2025, smiling beside rows of immaculate white crosses, was a reminder of both survival and loss. His message to world leaders was as clear as ever: “Make peace not war.”

Jake’s life was a living testament to resilience, humility, and love. He called himself “the luckiest man in the world,” but to the countless people he touched—in Normandy, across the U.S., and online—he was a gift. As his granddaughter McKaela Larson wrote in announcing his passing, “As Papa would say, love you all the mostest.”

Papa Jake’s stories, his laughter, and his embrace of life will live on long after him. He reminded us that history is not just written in books—it walks, speaks, and hugs us when we are lucky enough to meet it. And through his legacy, it continues to inspire us all.



Papa Jake Larson

“Papa Jake” will be missed by many. He had quite an on-line following as he brought history to life recounting his WWII experiences. Tributes abound in the media, including the excellent Fox one. God’s peace to his family & the many people his life touched.”

— Madeleine Bryant, BOBA Chaplain



**President of Golden Gate Chapter Doris Davis and
Jake Larson**



Paying Tribute To Lives Of Courage

A Lifetime United:

The Remarkable Story of Darrell and Dorothy Bush

DARRELL REED BUSH AND Dorothy May Bush lived a love story for the ages—married for 81 years, bonded by devotion, tested by war, and forever intertwined in life and in their final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery.

1943 brought a whirlwind of love and duty: Darrell was 18 and fresh from his Army physical when, just a few days later, he and 17-year-old Dorothy were married. Almost immediately, Darrell deployed to Europe as a rifleman with the Army's 75th Infantry Division, while Dorothy supported the war effort stateside, working part-time at Camp Springs Air Base in Maryland.

By December 1944, Darrell had reached France and found himself in the village of Bastogne, caught in the ferocious Battle of the Bulge. For a week, he fought alongside soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division. During the siege, Dorothy received word he was missing in action. Weeks passed in agonizing uncertainty—until his letters began arriving, a lifeline confirming that he lived.

On January 22, 1945, a bullet tore through Darrell's leg while he carried a wounded comrade off the battlefield. Back home, Dorothy received a Purple Heart from the Army for the bullet removed from her husband's leg. Again, letters brought clarity and relief. Darrell recovered and continued his service—crossing the Rhine, helping free inmates at the Dachau concentration camp, and marching in General Patton's funeral procession on December 24, 1945.

After three years apart, Darrell and Dorothy were reunited and began their married life together. Darrell took a position with Pepco, and Dorothy left her job to start their family. In 1947, their daughter Linda Anne was born. The couple remained inseparable. Familiar faces at Arlington National Cemetery, they attended annual Battle of the Bulge commemorations—Darrell proudly wearing his World War II veteran's cap and a jacket adorned with medals. In 2021, he shared his wartime experiences during an interview with CBS Evening News anchor Norah O'Donnell in the cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater.

Darrell's extraordinary wartime courage was recognized with some of the nation's and the world's highest honors: the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and, in 2022, the Order of Merit from Luxembourg—presented to him personally by the Ambassador. Against overwhelming odds, he endured fierce combat and unimaginable loss, ultimately standing as one of only eight or nine survivors from his 132-man company.

Darrell passed away on October 22, 2024, at age 99; Dorothy followed just months later on February 3, 2025, at age 97. Their final wish was to be buried together at Arlington. Accordingly, on June 5, 2025, more than 100 family members and friends—along with representatives from the embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg—gathered to pay tribute as Darrell and Dorothy were laid to rest side by side.

Maj. Gen. Trevor Bredenkamp read a poignant message from the Army Chief of Staff:

"The Bushes faced hardship and endured, never seeking recognition; only the fulfillment of their duty... In reflecting on Darrell's legacy, let us not forget the only girl he did love. Through

her strength, he found the confidence to serve his country, his family and his faith."

Their grandson, Ben Ryerson, captured the essence of their union with heartfelt simplicity: "Nobody ever thought of them apart. It was always Bush and Dorothy... He wanted to be here, and she just wanted to be with him."

Together, Darrell and Dorothy Bush built a lifetime on love, sacrifice, and shared purpose. Their 81-year marriage was more than a milestone—it was a testament to enduring devotion amid the harshest of times.

Darrell's courage in war and Dorothy's unwavering support formed a bond that inspired generations. Their story is a living legacy of what it means to serve—not just country but each other, with love that stood steadfast through history's greatest trials.



Dorothy & Darrell together always. Final wish to be buried together at Arlington Cemetery.



Darrell & Dorothy - taken at the Holocaust Museum.



UNIT SPOTLIGHT

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION



Compiled by Doris Davis, VP of Military and Veterans Affairs in collaboration with Roger Allen, Historian of the Society of the 5th Infantry Division

THE DIVISION ARRIVED on Utah Beach on July 9, 1944, and relieved the 1st Infantry Division near Coumont on July 13. On July 26, it launched a successful attack on Vidouville and went on to capture Angers on August 9–10. With the support of the 7th Armored Division, it seized Chartres on August 18. Advancing rapidly, the Division crossed the Seine River at Fontainebleau on August 23, pushed across the Marne, and captured Reims by August 30. It then established a bridgehead across the Meuse at Verdun, but the advance stalled temporarily due to a shortage of supplies. After being resupplied on September 6, the Division resumed its eastward drive. However, the lull allowed the Germans to strengthen their defenses along the east bank of the Moselle River. Establishing a bridgehead there proved extremely costly, with 1,400 soldiers lost in the operation.

The 5th Division advanced to Metz—the gateway to the Siegfried Line. The city was fortified by 22 forts. The fight to take the city of Metz continued through November and early December. The attack began on November 9th against a determined enemy. Some of the forts surrendered and others bypassed, and the converging regiments of the Division closed in on the city, forcing it to surrender on November 21. Fort Driant, the last of the forts to surrender, fell on December 8, 1944.

With Fort Driant's surrender, the Moselle Operation ended and the 5th Division opened the road to the Saar River, the Siegfried Line and Germany. The plan was to attack the Siegfried Line along the Saar River and to drive eastward through the Saar-Palatinate to the Rhine River. The 5th Division was now in position for the attack in the Saarlautern area. However, they were diverted from their planned attack on the morning of December 16, when the German troops began their famous counteroffensive in the Ardennes Forest of Luxembourg.

The 5th Division received orders to withdraw from their positions at Saarlautern and made the 100-mile move to the northwest on December 20. Making the move in the cold winter, the division arrived in the Luxembourg City area within a 24-hour period and relieved the hard-hit 4th Division. The Division was given the order to strike the southern flank of the new "Bulge" and push the Germans back across the Sauer River in the Echternach area. Their attack protected Luxembourg City and sent two German divisions into confusion. They recaptured a great quantity of American equipment and 830 prisoners, and wiped out the enemy threat to the southern flank of the salient.

Moving north, the Division made a surprise crossing of the Sauer River near Diekirch, Luxembourg, on January 18. By the end of the Bulge campaign, the Division had driven north to the Our River. Acting as the spearhead of the XII Corps, the 5th ID moved across the Sauer River, breached the Siegfried Line, drove north to Bitburg, and attacked eastward to the Rhine River. They crossed the Sauer, Kyll, and Moselle Rivers, and reached the Rhine River near Oppenheim. Late on March 22, it crossed the Rhine River in assault boats and secured the bridgehead that was five miles deep and seven miles wide. This was the first assault crossing of the Rhine since Napoleon.

On March 27, the 5th Division entered Frankfurt over a bridge that was under intensive artillery fire. Advancing between artillery barrages on the bridge, the troops entered the city against

heavy tank and sniper fire and cleared the city of the enemy within four days. The division had a short break in the liberated city of Frankfurt, but the break came to an end on April 7 when it was ordered to move 100 miles northward to join the III Corps of the First Army to assist in reducing "The Ruhr Pocket." The 5th ID attacked the center of the "pocket" until all resistance ceased. They occupied the Ruhr Pocket until April 23 when relieved, and returned to the control of the XII Corps.

The Division moved 300 miles to the town of Regen, near a point where Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia joined borders, and arrived on April 30. It was ordered to attack eastward in southern Czechoslovakia and northern Austria to clear the area of German troops that had retreated to that area. It was near Volary, Czechoslovakia on the morning of May 7 and was ready to continue the attack. Leading as point for the regiment was the reconnaissance platoon of Company C, 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. At 08:20 the platoon was ambushed northeast of Wallern, CZ by elements of the 11th Panzer Division. At 08:30, the platoon received word to cease fire because an armistice was in effect.

The war ended on May 7, 1945, after the German High Command signed an "unconditional surrender."

Activated on October 16, 1939 at Ft McClellan, AL

Training: Tennessee Maneuvers, Arkansas Maneuvers, Louisiana Maneuvers

Overseas: Departed New York April 30, 1942; spent time in Iceland, Tidworth Barracks, England and Northern Ireland for advanced training for the invasion

Major Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

Days in Combat: 300

Casualties: KIA 2,220; WIA 9,937; MIA 337; POW 683; Died of wounds 337

Awards: Medal of Honor 1; Distinguished Service Cross 35; Legion of Merit 9; Silver Star 641; Soldier's Medal 10; Bronze Star 2287; Air Medal 122.

Commanders: MG Cortlandt Parker (Aug 1941); MG Stafford L. Irwin (Jun 1943); MG Albert E. Brown (Apr 1945)

Inactivated: September 20, 1946. Reactivated on July 15, 1947. Activated and inactivated many times in future years. It was a part of NATO forces in Germany in the mid 1950s, took part in the war in Vietnam as the Fifth Division (Mechanized) and was a part of the Panama Invasion in 1989. Deactivated November 24, 1992.

VOICES OF THE TANK BATTALIONS

“WE PRAYED FOR CLEAR SKIES”

By Joe Zanko

5th Infantry Division, 10th Infantry, Company G
The Bulge Bugle, May 1997

ON DECEMBER 20, 1944, at noon, the 10th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division, received orders from General Patton to withdraw from the bridgehead as soon as relieved by the 95th Infantry Division and hurry north of the City of Luxembourg to the aid of the hard-hit 4th Infantry Division. The speed with which the shift was accomplished proved an extraordinary feat in troop movement. Despite the apparent confusion on dark roads, 80% of the 10th Infantry Regiment troops were in the 4th Infantry Division area within 24 hours of issuance of the movement order.



Forty-eight hours after the order to move had been received, and 70 miles further north, the 10th Infantry Regiment combat team, attached to the 4th Infantry Division, had attacked to the north in snow and bitter cold to attack objectives south of Echternach. E Company's mission was to relieve a company of the 4th at Echternach who had been cut off from the remainder of their unit. As we continued the assault, we drew heavy artillery fire through the woods. At the same time a force of approximately 200 Germans were moving in the attack directly towards us. We faced one another across an open field in a counterattack. We suffered many KIA's and wounded. They were throwing mortars, 88's and some stuff that seemed even heavier. They pulled out, but the artillery kept coming until we reached the town of Michalshof where the 4th was trying to hold the line with cooks and MP's. We lost a lot of men.

On Christmas Day, grim and battle-wise veterans of the 10th Regiment looked out over the snow-covered terrain of this section of little Luxembourg. We read General Patton's yuletide greetings and a unique prayer for favorable weather. Suddenly, haze and fog which had covered the movement of Runsted's daring and dangerous offensive was lifted. Christmas Day dawned bright and swarms of fighters and bombers droned overhead, tracing the sky with an intricate pattern of vapor trails. As a lieutenant in our company remarked, "I don't know what the rest of the world was wanting for Christmas, but we were praying for clear skies." As the planes were passing over our heads, I don't think there was a man that wasn't either laughing or crying: "OK, Kraut, you had your fun, you have been wearing our uniforms, smoking our cigarettes and butchering in cold blood those of us whom you captured. You've had your Malmedy. You asked for it and here it comes."

“ONE HOUR IN THE BULGE”

By Joseph V. Pilliteri

5th Infantry Division, 10th Infantry, Co. E
The Bulge Bugle, August 1992

IT WAS ONE DAY in December 1944, in northern France on our way to Luxembourg. I was a scout walking knee-deep in snow. A TD came up to assist us in our push forward. The tank saw a Jerry run into a farmhouse about 300 yards down in the valley. They fired one round into the house. My buddy and I ran into the house. (My buddy, James Mitchell, was killed a few days later.) We went through the front door. Mitch went down the hall to clear other rooms. I went into the first room—that's the room that the shell entered. In the room were two German soldiers. One had his head half blown off—you could see his brains moving. The other one had both legs blown off and was in shock. As I entered the room, he raised his arms and was saying over and over something that sounded like "Soney, Soney." After 50 years those words still haunt me. I thought he wanted me to shoot him, but he was unarmed so I did not.

I went out the front door and into another at the corner of the building. As soon as I entered the room, six German soldiers put their hands on their heads and surrendered to me. That could have been my last day. It was a radio room. The room had large radios all over the place. My first thought was to put a few bullets into them. Then I thought they might be of some use to us. I lined my prisoners up and started to take them back to my unit.

Just as I got the last one out the door, another Jerry (he must have been behind the building) ran into me as I went backwards. He came down with my machine pistol. It was a German gun that I had picked up at the other end of the building. Thank God, it was not on safety. I shot a burst of bullets through his shoulder and collar bone. He started to cry and wanted to pick up his overcoat. I spun him around to join the group. Now, I had seven prisoners. When I got back to my squad the prisoner I had shot was still crying—he wanted to see his mother. When my sergeant heard him, he wanted to kill him, saying he was thousands of miles from his mother. I got between them, told the sergeant he was my prisoner and I didn't want any more harm to come to him.

VETERAN 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 your responses to:

bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com

CHAPTERS UPDATE

by Leon Reed

BOBA HAS BEGUN an effort to verify which chapters remain active. In addition, the committee is developing a list of recommended activities that chapters—or individual members—can take on. Two such efforts are December 16 Local Commemorations and the January 1 New Year's Toast.

DECEMBER 16 LOCAL COMMEMORATIONS

BOBA holds its national commemoration each year on or around January 25 in Washington, D.C. However, not everyone can attend. Many individuals and local groups have already been holding their own ceremonies on or near December 16—the anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge.

Some of these events are simple wreath-layings; others are more elaborate commemorations. BOBA's Board has approved

a resolution encouraging more members to hold local observances. If there is a VBOB monument nearby, that's an excellent location for such a ceremony.

JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S TOAST

BOBA is reviving a tradition from the 1990s: the New Year's Day Toast. The concept is simple—wherever you are at noon Pacific time on January 1, raise a glass of any beverage and toast the heroes of the Bulge.

This need not be an elaborate affair: pause the bowl game, raise your glass, and say, "Always Remember." You might also choose to honor the memory of James David Bailey or other recently departed heroes. BOBA will post materials related to this tradition on its website.

Delaware Valley, Philadelphia Region

Andy Waskie, Chapter President

THE DELAWARE VALLEY Chapter, based in Philadelphia, continues to hold its monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, located at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Meetings are open to all, and members enjoy pizza together following the session.

This summer, Chapter President Andy Waskie and BOBA chapter veterans stayed busy attending several events, including the Reading WWII Weekend, Army 250th Anniversary Luncheon, Wyomissing July 4th Parade, etc. In addition, BOBA veteran Jake Ruser traveled to Europe with seven fellow Battle of the Bulge veterans, further strengthening international remembrance efforts.



Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, Jake Ruser, and LTG Braga's Adjutant at the Army 250th Anniversary Luncheon

Golden Gate, California

Doris Davis, Chapter President

DORIS DAVIS, PRESIDENT of the Golden Gate Chapter of Battle of the Bulge Association, attended the Luxembourg National Day Reception June 25 and a Belgian Flag Raising Ceremony on July 22, 2025 (both events were held in San Francisco, CA).

The Luxembourg National Day commemorates the Grand Duke's Birthday and is celebrated with parades, concerts, a torchlight procession and fireworks in Luxembourg. The flag raising at City Hall in San Francisco commemorated the beginning of the Kingdom of Belgium that occurred on July 21, 1831 when King Leopold took the oath as the country's first monarch. Since then, July 21 has been celebrated as Belgian National Day.

Both Consul Generals attend the Golden Gate Chapter's annual commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge every January. They share an appreciation of our Allied Soldiers liberating Belgium and Luxembourg.



From left to right: President of the Belgian Club of Northern California Pierre Smit, the Honorary Consul General of Belgium Nathalie Delrue, and Doris Davis

South Carolina

Nelson McLeod, Chapter President

THE SOUTH CAROLINA Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association met on Saturday, June 21, at the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation Hangar in Columbia.

Sean O'Dwyer, Education Programs Manager at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Savannah, delivered an engaging presentation titled "Robert, Erwin, and Richard: A Story of Fame's Favored Few." His talk highlighted his research into the World War II service of three members of the 92nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force—Robert Deignan, Erwin Schmidt, and Richard Wehmeyer.

We were honored to have four World War II veterans in attendance, with an average age of 101: Vernon Brantley, Bruce Cook, Charles Shealy, and Tom Rew.

Chapter member Gary Suber dedicated his 1942 Ford GPW Jeep to 75th Infantry Division veteran Vernon Brantley, restoring and marking it to match the vehicle Vern drove during the Battle of the Bulge.

Our thanks go to Ken Berry and the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation for hosting us at their facility at Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport.



Chapter members gather in front of 1942 Ford GPW jeep



World War II Veterans Bruce Cook, 99, Charles Shealy, 102, Vernon Brantley, 100, and Tom Rew, 103, in front of 1942 Ford GPW dedicated to Vernon Brantley

Virginia Crater Chapter

Mary Ann Coates Smith, Chapter President

THE SUMMER SEASON has been a busy and meaningful one for the Crater Chapter, with members representing BOBA at ceremonies, memorials, and events across several states.

On May 8, 2025—VE Day—Chapter President Mary Ann Coates Smith and Bulge Bugle Editor Christine Guidry Law represented BOBA at a wreath-laying ceremony at the BOBA Memorial in Arlington, conducted by the Belgian Ambassador and other dignitaries.

Memorial Day ceremonies on May 26 in Arlington were well attended by people from across the United States. Mary Ann laid a BOBA wreath alongside Christine Guidry Law, Rita and Max Jensen, and about 60 other groups following the presidential ceremonies.

On June 5 at 3:00 p.m., Battle of the Bulge veteran Darrell Reed Bush and his wife Dorothy were laid to rest at Arlington with full military honors and dignitaries present. Mary Ann represented both the Crater Chapter and BOBA at the service. From Arlington, she traveled to Gettysburg and then on to Reading, Pennsylvania, to assist at BOBA's table during the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum Annual World War II Weekend on June 7.

At the Virginia War Memorial, Mary Ann attended a presentation on a Tuskegee Airman given by his two sons. She later heard Kevin Callahan discuss his book *Brothers in Arms* during the "Bring Your Lunch" teachers' series. Shortly thereafter, she attended the presentation of William Hogan's book on his father in World War II, *Task Force Hogan*. At that event, WWII Battle of the Bulge veteran David Poole was interviewed by Will Hogan. David will be joining the Crater Chapter as a new member—welcome!

In the first half of 2025, Mary Ann has already made four trips to Arlington in service to BOBA and the Crater Chapter—an honor and a privilege.



*Front row L to R: BOBA Historian Jim Triesler, Bulge Veteran David Poole
Back row L to R: Stephen Poole (David's son), BOBA Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith, Cheryl Umbach (David's daughter)*

BOBA PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

by Kevin & Alice Hinkle

This summer brought two meaningful opportunities to share BOBA's mission with the public and connect with new members and friends of the Association.

Military Appreciation Night – Reading Fightin Phils (July 3)

The Reading Stadium, built in 1950 to honor military heroes, provided the perfect setting for a night of remembrance and recognition. Thanks to Tyler Boland and his Keeping History Alive initiative, two WWII veterans were honored during the July 3rd Military Appreciation Night. Both men were prominently featured in the program and threw out ceremonial first pitches to great applause.

Frank Stellar (Age 100)

Drafted in 1943, Frank joined the Army Air Corps and the 302nd Airdrome Squadron, where he helped build an airstrip in France and served as a cook near the front. After the heavy casualties of the Battle of the Bulge, he received infantry training and was reassigned to the 36th Infantry, fighting in Belgium and Germany until war's end. His century of life reflects endurance and courage.

Russell Sattazahn (Age 99)

Russell was drafted in 1944 and landed in France in January 1945. He served with the 1st Infantry Division, 18th Regiment, Company G, and went straight to the front lines in Belgium. On March 24, 1945, while taking cover in a German basement, an explosion caused severe injuries, including the loss of his right hand and shrapnel wounds to his face. His story speaks to the extraordinary costs borne by those who fought for freedom.

BOBA's Presence

Kevin coordinated with Tyler to secure the veterans' participation, while Steve and Diane Landry provided on-site support. Christine Guidry Law and I staffed the BOBA information table, handing out membership materials to more than 50 interested

attendees—even before gates opened. The event gave us a chance to meet families, share BOBA's mission, and highlight our upcoming reunion in Philadelphia.

Amplifying the Impact

The Reading Fightin Phils shared highlights on Facebook, while a Minor League Baseball media crew captured interviews and photos for a forthcoming feature. This unexpected exposure ensures that the stories of Frank and Russell will reach thousands more. Importantly, the table cost was generously donated by Steve Thomas of the RPhils front office, making this a cost-free effort with excellent visibility.

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's WWII Weekend (July 6–8)

Set-up began Thursday, and we were ready by Friday morning. Thanks to Steve and Diane Landry, and Mary Ann Coates Smith for helping staff the table throughout the weekend. While attendance was slightly lower than previous years, engagement remained strong.

- Estimated Contacts: 185
- Membership Information Distributed: 224

With an anticipated 10% return, about 22 new members may result. More importantly, BOBA's presence expanded awareness and promoted the Philadelphia reunion, especially among attendees from nearby New Jersey. Breakdown on Sunday went smoothly, with everything packed away just before the rain.

Summary

Both events emphasized the value of in-person outreach: honoring veterans, making connections, and sparking interest in BOBA. With promising membership prospects and increased visibility for our upcoming reunion, these activities strengthened our community presence in meaningful ways.



Left: Frank Stellar and Russell Sattazahn shown on Reading Fightin Phils Big Screen as Screwball (Phils Mascot) celebrates with them.



Right: Frank and Russell in front of Reading Fightin Phils Stadium sign dedicated to all community veterans.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs

RECENTLY, 12-YEAR-OLD Alexander Friesen reached out to the Battle of the Bulge Association to see if he could speak with a few World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was preparing a class presentation for Helios School in Sunnyvale, California, and wanted to learn directly from those who had been there.

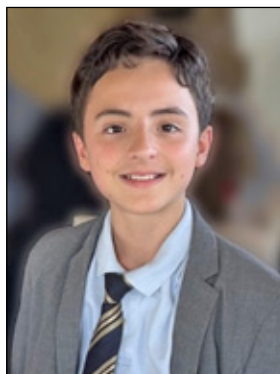
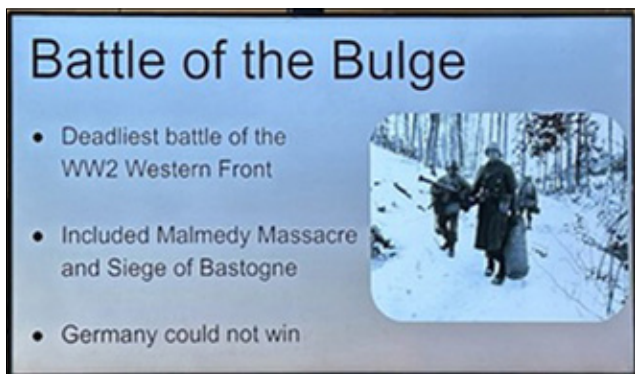
I connected Alexander with two veterans—Joe Landry, 775th AAA AW Battalion, and Irving Locker, 116th AAA Gun Battalion, 4th Division, VII Corps. Both were thrilled by his interest in the history of the battle. Alexander was inspired by their stories of tenacity and courage.

Joe Landry described his role in the Red Ball Express, working tirelessly to keep Patton’s Third Army supplied. He recalled a moment when he narrowly escaped death as a bullet whizzed

past his head. Irving Locker spoke about leading an anti-aircraft artillery unit and asked Alexander to pass along a message to his classmates: “Freedom isn’t free.”

Alexander’s interest in World War II history began long before this project. He has visited Bayeux, France, and Juno Beach, where his great-great-uncle Peter served. His great-grandfather Sergey was recruited into the Soviet Red Army but managed to escape. Alexander hopes one day to visit the sites of the Battle of the Bulge, as well as the National WWII Museum in New Orleans and the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

A curious and engaged young man, Alexander loves history and math, sings in a choir, and participates on his school’s debate team. I am very proud of him and wish him a bright and promising future.



Alexander Friesen, 12-year-old history enthusiast, shares what he learned from two Battle of the Bulge veterans during his school presentation at Helios School in Sunnyvale, California

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY: BOBA CHALLENGE COIN AVAILABLE NOW!




Battle of the Bulge Association Challenge Coin
\$20.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

COIN - \$20 each x _____ qty	sub total:	\$ _____
U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING (1 - 5 coins)	+ \$5.00	\$ _____
U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING (6 + coins)	+ \$10.00	\$ _____
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING	+ \$12.00	\$ _____
	TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

Cash, check, or money order accepted for mail orders.
 Make checks payable to: BOBA, Inc. • **NO PHONE ORDERS** •
 Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
 Mail to: BOBA Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330
Questions? bobamembership@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

BOBA BATTLE OF THE BULGE COMMEMORATION

JANUARY 21-24, 2026
ARLINGTON / DC AREA

MORE INFO / REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE NEXT BUGLE!
WATCH FOR EMAIL BLAST!



• IN MEMORIAM •

TRIBUTES TO HEROES

JULIAN A. SIEBERT

26 INFD 328 INF 2 BN F

JULIAN A. SIEBERT was born on November 28, 1923, in Flush, Kansas, the son of Frederick and Aurelia Rose (Umscheid) Siebert. He married Barbara Prockish on July 11, 1956, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Flush.

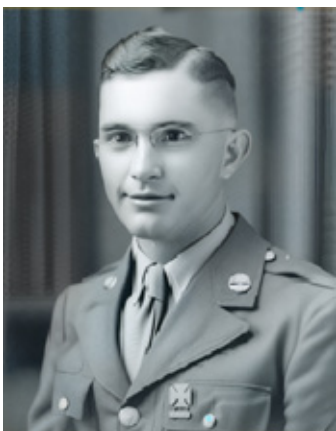
Mr. Siebert proudly served his country as a Corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European, African, and Middle Eastern theaters. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured on Christmas Day, 1944, in the vicinity of Schuman's Crossroads, near the village of Nothum (Luxembourg) and taken to Stalag XIIA (Stalag XIIA was one of Germany's largest prisoner of war camps located in Limburg, Germany).

On May 2, 1945, his German captors marched the prisoners west to avoid being captured by the Russians. When they hit American lines, the Germans turned their weapons over to the prisoners and told them that they were now their prisoners. For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, and the EAME Campaign Medal with three bronze stars.

He dedicated 26 years to serving on the Rock Creek Watershed Board and was an active member of many organizations, including the Knights of Columbus (for 81 years), the Battle of the Bulge group in Manhattan, Kansas, the Westmoreland American Legion Post 186, the National Farmers Organization, and the Rural Letter Carriers Association.

Julian farmed throughout his life on the same land his grandfather farmed and was still raising cattle at the age of 96. He also worked as a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service for 22 years.

Julian passed away at his home on December 5, 2023. He was 100 years old.



Julian Siebert as a young soldier



Julian Siebert as a POW

ROBERT SCHATZ

95 MED GAS TREATMENT BN

COLONEL ROBERT (BOB) SCHATZ passed away on March 7, 2025. Born in Brooklyn on March 7th, 1925, Colonel Schatz possessed an unwavering dedication to his country, community and family. Leaving high school to enlist, he served as a medic in the 95th Medical Battalion during World War II. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and received several distinguished honors, including the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.



Robert Schatz

His contributions to France's liberation were recognized with the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France's highest award. Colonel Schatz belonged to several veteran organizations, including the American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, and the East Rockaway VFW. He was also a proud Mason. After his distinguished military career, he became the Deputy Commissioner of Hempstead in the Department of Public Safety, then a Federal Marshal. He continued his service in the New York Guard, where he retired as a Colonel. Bob was honored for his service to his country by the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, the New York Yankees, and the New York Islanders.

CHARLES MENIGE

84 INFD 335 INF I

CHARLES MENIGE of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2025. Born on June 26, 1922, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he was a kind and generous soul. His life was defined by service to his country and community, engaging with his friends and associates, quiet humility, and devotion to his family. A proud member of the Midway Lions Club, he remained active and sharp throughout his life. He grew up during the Depression, which shaped his strength of character and unwavering values. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army as a rifleman and fought bravely in the Battle of the Bulge.

His courage, strength of character, and quiet heroism remain a source of pride and inspiration for all who knew him. He went on to own a successful plumbing and heating business, where he was known for his honesty, craftsmanship, and excellent quality. When asked to what he attributed his longevity, he would reply, "My wife took such great care of me for our 75 years and one month of marriage!"

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 email: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com.

• IN MEMORIAM •

TAPS

Howard E. Bjerke

10/4/2017
San Jose, CA
99 INFD 395 INF B

Daniel H. Hastings

1/28/2016
Wayne, PA
127 AAA AW BN A BTRY

Herbert C. Moore

4/26/2024
Sherman Oaks, CA
280 ENGR CMBT BN B

Julian A. Siebert

12/5/2023
Flush, KS
26 INFD 328 INF 2 BN F

Joseph S. Digregorio

1/14/2015
Cape Coral, FL
106 INFD 81 ENGR CMBT BN

Nicholas Imbriaco

5/17/2013
Camden, SC
35 INFD 322 INF 2 BN F

Henry R. Perkoski

9/15/2023
Lothian, MD

Sigmund Simmonette

11/26/2018
Shrub Oak, NY
333 FA BN HQ

William John Grzanic

11/11/2011
Glendive, MT
4 INFD 771 INF

Robert H. Kline

8/10/2024
Canal Winchester, OH
397 INF REG 2BN HQ CO

Zenas A. Prust

1/6/2017
Tucson, AZ
10 ARMDD 54 AIB SVC

Elbridge Gerry Tracy

8/30/2013
Tamarac, FL
69 INFD 272 INF 3 BN I

William H. Hartford

9/2/2016
Jackson, MS
44 INFD 324 INF 3 BN M

Charles Menige

5/28/2025
Rehoboth Beach, DE
84 INFD 335 INF I

Robert B. Schatz

3/7/2025
Oceanside, NY
95 MED GAS TREATMENT BN

Charles F. Vorbach

6/25/2018
Burbank, CA
106 INF 591 FA BN

Edward E. Shields

5/6/2021
Vero Beach, FL
5 ARMDD 127 ARMD BN C

William B. Miller

4/7/1999
Emmaus, PA
702 TK BN ATT 80 INFD



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FORM



Battle of the Bulge Association®, 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.*

Yearly Membership: \$40 (electronic Bugle)

Yearly Veteran (Bulge Vet) Membership: \$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.



Wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

Left to Right: John Mohor (Past BOBA President), David Bailey, and fellow Bulge Veteran Darrell Bush

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



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*® Battle of the Bulge Association® Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be made online at <https://battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/> OR complete the form below and include a check made payable to: Battle of the Bulge Association®, 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!