

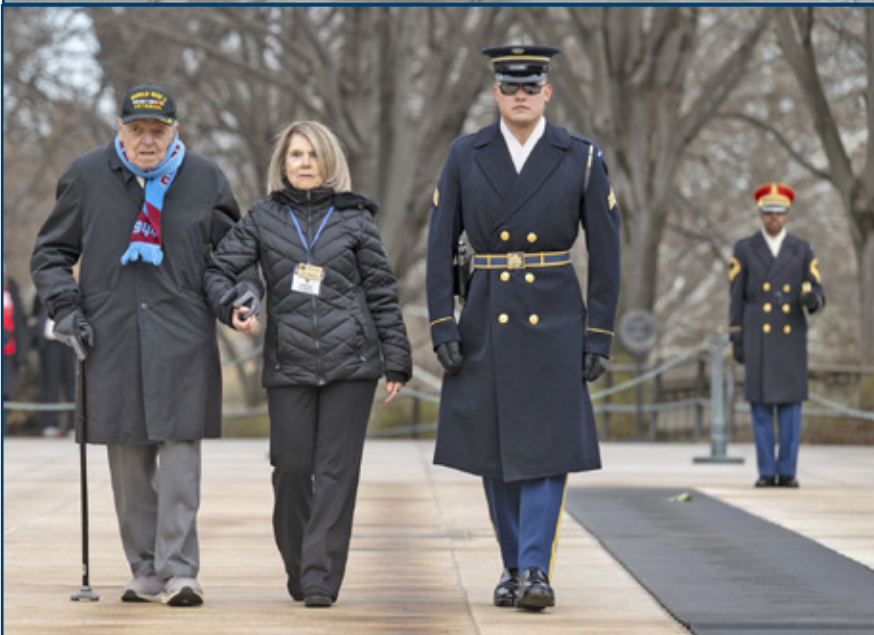
# The BULGE BUGLE®

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

VOLUME XLV NUMBER 1

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

SPRING 2026



Commemorating  
the 81st Anniversary  
of the  
Battle of the Bulge



### 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.

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**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!**

## 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

### 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

**Eisenhower Chapter,  
Gettysburg (70):**  
Leon Reed

**Delaware Valley (DelVal) (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

## BOBA, INC. BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

**President and CEO:** Steve Landry

**Executive Vice President:**

Kevin Hinkle

**Vice President of Membership:**

Joe Wollet

**Vice President of National and  
Regional Coordination (Chapters)**

Leon Reed

**Vice President of Military &**

**Veteran Affairs:** Doris Davis

**Treasurer:** Mary Ann Coates Smith

**Recording Secretary:** Gail Larke

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

John Mohor

### BOARD MEMBERS

Kristin Faller

Carol Higgins

Ken Larke

Craig Stiegemeier

Jim Triesler

### APPOINTED POSITION

William Sean Lee, Chaplain

Jim Triesler, Historian

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Finance:** Mary Ann Coates Smith

**Membership:** Joe Wollet

**Outreach:** John Baker

**Records Management:** Gail Larke

**Strategic Planning:** Kevin Hinkle

### PAST PRESIDENTS

David Bailey\* 2010-12

*President Emeritus*

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

Douglas Dillard\* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

Gary Higgins 2017-19

John Mohor 2020-23

\* Deceased

**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**

## ON THE COVER



Top Image (L-to-R): BOBA members with Ambassadors and representatives of the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg.

Bottom (L-to-R): Battle of the Bulge veteran Joe Landry, BOBA member Carolyn Truesdale (niece of President Emeritus David Bailey), and an Arlington National Cemetery Tomb Guard.

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

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories! All members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories and photos are:

**Stories and letters:** Typewritten in a WORD document and sent as an email attachment. Word count of 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:** Send high res images via email in jpg/jpeg format. Identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Scan original photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi), or take a cellphone photo and send us largest digital file possible. Photos copied on a copy machine, or printed on a laser printer, are not suitable for publication. **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:** By email: [bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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: APRIL 25, 2026**

**QUESTIONS? Please contact Bugle editor Christine Guidry Law at [bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com)**

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

Apple Press, Inc. (Printing/Fulfillment)  
Martha Wasik Graphic Arts (Layout/Design)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Landry, President and CEO

GREETINGS, VETERANS AND MEMBERS.

I hope you are all staying safe and warm as we enter into Spring. The 2025–2026 Commemoration in Washington, DC gave us a meaningful opportunity to reconnect, honor our veterans, and strengthen the bonds that unite our Association. Please see coverage on pages 8 - 9. My sincere thanks go to Mary Ann Coates Smith for organizing such a memorable event, as well as to the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg for their continued friendship and support.

Winter weather in the Mid-Atlantic forced us to postpone the Battle of the Bulge Conference with the WWII American Experience Museum in Gettysburg. The conference was rescheduled for February 28, 2026, and Outreach Director John Baker assembled an outstanding lineup of speakers. See coverage in the June, 2026 issue of the Bulge Bugle. I encourage everyone to attend next year.



My wife Diane and I recently welcomed Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot during his visit to the Battle of the Bulge Monument and Arlington National Cemetery, reinforcing the enduring ties between our nations. See coverage on page 7. BOBA was also proudly represented by Veteran Member Joe Landry at the American Veterans Center's Annual Conference and *Salute to Our Heroes* Gala.

Planning is underway for our 2026 Reunion in Richmond, Virginia, October 14–18. Financially, we remain stable, though membership renewals continue to decline. Please see the Treasurer's Report below and the Membership Report on page 5.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome Carol Higgins to the Board. I'm confident she will be a great addition. Thank you for the privilege of serving.

— Steve Landry, President and CEO

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mary Ann Coates Smith, Treasurer



FINANCIALLY, BOBA REMAINS stable, ending 2025 with a balance of \$141,351.52. However, sustaining this strength depends on growing our membership and continuing to receive donations. One meaningful way to give is by celebrating a birthday—your own or that of a beloved veteran or loved one—by donating

an amount equal to their age. Please note on your check whom you are honoring, or donate easily through PayPal.

Members who qualify also have approximately ten months to consider remembering BOBA through their Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). This year, we were grateful to receive several donations from members' retirement accounts.

Please don't hesitate to include personal notes with your correspondence. This past December, one member proudly noted on her renewal that she was 100 years old. Marilyn Kertley, a birthday card is on its way to you!

We are supported by an all-volunteer Board of Directors and a dedicated Finance Committee that meets monthly for one and a half to two hours. Our new Outreach Committee is also off and running, with great expectations for the future.

All donations, regardless of size, are deeply appreciated. It is an honor to serve in this position. And please—don't forget to thank a veteran. Better yet, give one a hug.

I remain, in honor and memory, a very proud Gold Star daughter.



## DONATIONS

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

**John Baker** – General Donation

**Carolyn Bornstein** – Memory of husband  
Hersch Harry Wolf Bornstein

**Beverly Callison-Smith** – Memory of Richard Donald Callison

**Mary Ann Coates Smith** – Memory of parents  
Mattie & Pvt James H. Coates, KIA/POW

**Veteran Ralph L. Dinin** – General Donation

**Kristen Faller** – Three Veteran Memberships

**Vern Frank** – Memory of Wallace F. Frank

**Cheryl Gordon** – Memory of Fred Gordon (husband)

**David & Christine Hartzell** – General Donation

**Pam & Doug Howard** – Wreath Fund

**Diane Husk** – Memory of Bob Welsh

**Marilyn Jensen** – Memory of PFC Rex Bowers, KIA

**Donald F. McGinnis** – Memory of William H. McGinnis

**Veteran David Pool** – General Donation

**George H. Schork** – Memory of Otho Poole

**Amanda Sterns** – Memory of Chester Mullins

**Michael W. Wecker** – Memory of Robert L. Weyner

**Elaine Winters** – Memory of Mahlon Y. Krum

Make a donation today at: [battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/](http://battleofthebulge.org/store/donate/)

# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Christine Guidry Law



PUTTING TOGETHER THIS issue of *The Bugle* proved to be more challenging than usual. As time moves forward, we find ourselves saying goodbye to more of our cherished heroes—the men whose courage, sacrifice, and quiet strength built the foundation of our organization. With each loss comes a sense of sadness that can sometimes weigh heavily on our community, and at

times it may even feel as though that weight threatens to overshadow the legacy they worked so hard to create. Yet, in these moments, we are reminded that our mission is not only to remember the past, but to ensure its spirit continues to guide our future.

Sustaining and growing our membership has never been more important. The continued vitality of this Association depends on welcoming new members while encouraging current ones to stay engaged, share ideas, and contribute their voices. Equally important is preserving the stories of our fathers and

grandfathers, the memories that bring history to life in ways no textbook ever could. These personal accounts are the heart of *The Bugle*, and we encourage you to send in your veteran stories and invite others, especially new and prospective members, to do the same. Every submission helps ensure that the legacy of those who served remains strong and visible for generations to come.

As we honor those we have lost, let us also remember the families who carry forward their memory. Reach out to them, welcome them, and remind them that this Association is more than an organization. It is a family and a support system. Their continued participation keeps the bonds of fellowship alive and strengthens the sense of purpose that unites us all.

This issue features several meaningful tributes and stories celebrating the lives of remarkable men. Please take time to read the *Final Salute to Jake Ruser* on pages 12–13 and the *Tribute Memorial* honoring Marcel Schmetz and Joe Folino on page 22. These articles reflect the spirit of remembrance that defines who we are and why this publication matters.

You will also notice updates to how articles and stories are submitted, which can be found on page 3. These changes are designed to help streamline the process and make it easier for everyone to contribute. Simply put, this magazine cannot exist without YOU—your stories, your photographs, and your voices. Thank you for continuing to help us preserve history, celebrate our veterans, and keep the legacy alive.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Joe Wollet, VP of Membership



THE BOBA BOARD enacted a policy at our Nov. 19, 2025, meeting to “adopt” veteran members. Anyone with Ardennes Campaign credit is being gifted their 2026 dues, with board members making personal donations to cover the costs.

All active Veteran members’ 2026 dues were paid in November. Other Ardennes Campaign Veterans who are not active BOBA members will also have their 2026 dues paid. This includes

those for whom we lack a current address, such as Veterans in senior living facilities. If you know a Bulge Veteran who hasn’t joined BOBA, please help them complete a membership form and send it to me at BOBAMembership@gmail.com.

As of Jan. 20, 2026, we have 390 paid-up members, including 128 lifetime members and 262 annual members. Another 181 people lapsed on Dec. 31, 2025. Encouraging lapsed members to renew has been our team’s focus for the first part of 2026.

Dues years were standardized 3-4 years ago to begin on Jan. 1 and end on Dec. 31, a message we continue reinforcing with members. Should you know anyone who has not paid their 2026 dues, encourage them to renew today.

|                        | Lifetime | Annual                    | Lapsed * | Total |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|-------|
| Veteran                | 23       | 15                        |          | 38    |
| Non-Veteran            | 105      | 246                       | 181      | 532   |
| Other **               |          | 1                         |          | 1     |
| Sub-total              | 128      | 262                       | 181      | 571   |
| Paid-up 2026+ Members: |          | <b>390</b>                |          |       |
| * Expired 12/31/2025   |          | ** Not incl. in paid-up # |          |       |

One reminder is that BOBA’s bylaws require membership in the national association in order to belong to a chapter. Further, current national membership is required to receive *The Bulge Bugle*. Chapters may not distribute *The Bugle*, as it contains copyrighted material.

The fall membership promotions were a success, with 51 members electing to receive one-year print subscriptions to *The Bugle* and 21 members opting to get a BOBA challenge coin. Overall, participation increased from 42 last year to 72 this year.

In other news, John Baker and Kathie Wilkens were appointed to the membership committee at the Jan. 22, 2026, board meeting along with returning members Rosemary Corbett and Carol Higgins. Please welcome these volunteers to the team.

### Email addresses needed

If you are reading this magazine, but haven’t gotten BOBA emails recently, it’s likely we don’t have a valid email address for you. Please send your current email address to BOBAMembership@gmail.com to ensure we stay in touch.

## WELCOME MEMBERS!

*New & Reactivated Members:*

*Nov. 1, 2025 - Jan. 29, 2026*

**William Baker**

**Homer Hodge**

**Virginia Cardiello**

**Greg McQuade**

**Steve Devault**

**Kathleen Murray**

**Denise Ertel**

**Alexa O’Hara**

**Arthur Forrest**

**Bruce Venter**

# LITTLE KNOWN MILITARY MUSEUMS IN THE U.S.

by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military  
and Veterans Affairs

THIS ARTICLE MARKS the fourth column in our ongoing exploration of World War II museums across the United States. It is part of a continuing mission to introduce readers to a wide range of institutions—both well-known and lesser-known—dedicated to preserving the people, events, and artifacts of the era. In Part IV, we continue that journey by spotlighting additional museums that quietly yet powerfully keep these stories alive for future generations.

We hope you've discovered an unexpected treasure to explore in our lists. We invite you to visit and support these remarkable hidden gems, and we'd love to hear about any lesser-known museums you've encountered that we might feature in future installments.

## EASTERN REGION OF THE U.S.

### WRIGHT MUSEUM OF WWII

77 Center Street • Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
603-569-1212 (Open: May 1 - Oct 31)  
Email: info@wrightmuseum.org  
Website: Wrightmuseum.org  
*Approximately 50 miles from Concord and Portsmouth, NH*

### NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM

36 Perimeter Road • Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
860-623-3305  
Email: staff@neam.org  
Website: Neam.org  
*Over 100 rare WWII aircraft, B-29 Superfortress "Jack's Hack"*

### AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

568 Main Street • Hudson, MA 01749  
978-562-9182  
Email: admin@americanheritagemuseum.org  
Website: americanheritagemuseum.org/  
*Monthly Living History weekends with outdoor re-enactments.  
Tank Rides & Tank Driving Programs.*

### BATTLESHIP COVE MARITIME MUSEUM

5 Water Street • Fall River, MA 02721  
508-678-1100  
Email: battleship@battleshipcove.org  
Website: battleshipcove.org  
Seasonal hours: Check Website  
*World's largest collection of WWII naval vessels including a  
Cold-War era Submarine. Home to the USS Massachusetts.*

### BERKS MILITARY MUSEUM

198 E. Wyomissing Avenue • Mohnton, PA 19540  
484-345-8084  
Email: berksmilitary@gmail.com  
Website: berksmilitary.weebly.com

### MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM

1341 Princess Anne Rd • Virginia Beach, VA 23457-1542  
757-721-7767  
Website: militaryaviationmuseum.org  
*Aviation Adventure Camp for kids. Airplane Rides.*

## MIDWEST REGION OF THE U.S.

### WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

7711 East Academy Blvd • Denver, CO 80230  
303-360-5360  
Website: wingsmuseum.org  
*Housed in a historic hangar at former Lowry Air Force Base.  
WWII-era planes & their role in the War.*

### EXPLORATION OF FLIGHT, CENTENNIAL AIRPORT

13005 Wings Way • Englewood, CO 80112  
303-360-5360, Ext 160  
Email: info@wingsmuseum.org  
Website: wingsmuseum.org  
*Experience the thrill of flight in pilot-quality simulators.*

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

328 E. Main Street • Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830-997-8600  
Website: pacificwarmuseum.org/  
*Re-enactments of the Pacific combat on selected weekends.  
Aircraft used in the Pacific War. Learn Admiral Nimitz's story.  
Great for kids. Approx. 2 hrs. west of Austin, TX.*

## HAWAII

### PEARL HARBOR NATIONAL MEMORIAL

1 Arizona Memorial Place • Honolulu, HI 96818  
808-422-3399  
Website: nps.gov  
*Includes the USS Arizona Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine  
Museum & Park, USS Missouri, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.*

## OUTREACH

### PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

By Leon Reed

#### VP of National & Regional Coordination (Chapters)

MANY PEOPLE HAVE the opportunity to share the story of the "Ultimate GI's" battle with a classroom or community group but may feel they lack enough detail to make the presentation engaging. BOBA is addressing this need by developing a series of information packages and PowerPoint presentations that members can use and adapt.

Each package includes facts and figures, maps, GI and leadership quotes, poems, and other supporting materials. It also contains a range of PowerPoint presentations designed for audiences with varying levels of knowledge—from those

with only a basic understanding of World War II to groups interested in more specialized topics. While the presentations are provided as complete slide decks, users are encouraged to select and combine material to create a customized program.

BOBA welcomes comments on these draft presentations. To provide feedback, send an email with the subject line "BOBA Power Points" to leonsreed@gmail.com. We are also seeking volunteers for the BOBA Speakers Bureau. If you are interested, please send an email with the subject line "BOBA Speakers Bureau" to the same address.



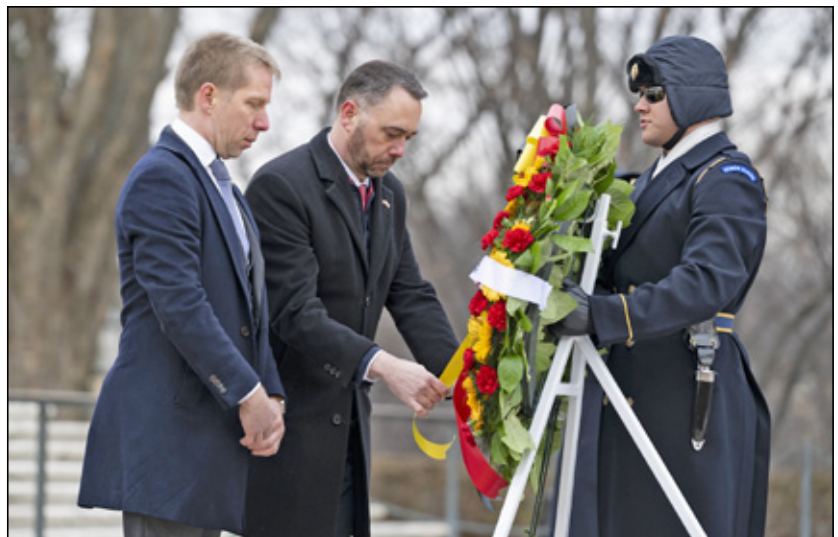
# BELGIUM PRIME MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARLINGTON

HONORED GUESTS FROM the embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg gathered at Arlington National Cemetery on January 5, 2026, to pay tribute to American World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Prévot attended the ceremony alongside Belgian Ambassador to the United States Frédéric Bernard and Embassy of Belgium Defense Attaché Brig. Gen. Marco Madile. BOBA President Steve Landry and his wife, Diane Landry, joined former BOBA President Col. Alan Cuninghame and his wife, Judy Cuninghame, in representing the Battle of the Bulge Association and its veterans.

During the ceremony at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Section 21, Prévot delivered remarks expressing the enduring gratitude of the Belgian people for the sacrifices made by American service members during the Battle of the Bulge.

*Photos courtesy of the Belgian Embassy*



***Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Prévot (center) and Belgian Ambassador to the United States Frédéric Bernard (left) participate in a public wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.***



***Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Prévot delivers remarks during the ceremony.***



***BOBA President Steve Landry addresses attendees at the Battle of the Bulge Monument.***

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2026 BOBA REUNION

### OCTOBER 14 – 18, 2026

### RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

*More details coming in next issue.*



# HONORING LEGACY AND BROTHERHOOD

## *The 81st Anniversary Battle of the Bulge Commemoration Brings Generations Together in Arlington and Washington*

MEMBERS OF THE Battle of the Bulge Association gathered January 22–24, 2026, in Arlington, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., to mark the 81st anniversary of one of World War II's most defining battles. The multi-day commemoration blended remembrance, education, and fellowship while connecting generations in honor of the veterans who endured the harsh winter fighting in the Ardennes.

Led by an all-volunteer leadership team, the program reflected the Association's mission to preserve the stories of those who served while strengthening ties among families, historians, and supporters. Through thoughtful programming and shared experiences, organizers ensured the legacy of the Battle of the Bulge remains active and relevant today.

The formal program began with a series of presentations highlighting personal stories and historical scholarship. Among the featured speakers was Dr. Roberta Lyons Nolan, whose father, a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge, died shortly after liberation. Her presentation brought a deeply personal dimension to the commemoration, reminding attendees that history is not only found in archives but also carried through families and memory.

Lt. Col. Will Hogan (Ret.), a fourth-generation soldier, brought a powerful generational perspective through his work on the book *Task Force Hogan*, which chronicles the dramatic wartime experiences of his father's armored battalion during the campaign. His remarks illustrated how today's service members continue to carry forward the values and sacrifices established by the World War II generation.

Rounding out the program, historian, educator, and Bulge Bugle editor Christine Guidry Law gave a presentation on the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion, drawing attention to the importance of preserving lesser-known stories that shaped the outcome of the battle.

Beyond the lecture hall, the commemoration centered on solemn acts of remembrance. Participants traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay wreaths at the Battle of the Bulge Monument and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—powerful ceremonies that highlighted both personal and national gratitude. World War II Battle of the Bulge Veteran

*(Above) Bulge Veteran Joe Landry and BOBA member Carolyn Truesdale*

*(Right) 2026 Elected & Appointed BOBA Board Members at Swearing-In ceremony*



Joe Landry and Carolyn Truesdale, niece of recently departed BOBA President Emeritus David Bailey, were given the honor of placing the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, creating one of the most poignant moments of the gathering.

The group also attended a reception hosted at the residence of His Excellency, Belgian Ambassador Frédéric Bernard, reinforcing the long-standing transatlantic friendship forged during the war and sustained through decades of shared remembrance.

Reception attendees were also joined by Luxembourg Ambassador Nicole Binter-Bakshian and a representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Opportunities for informal gatherings allowed attendees to connect not only with history but also with one another, strengthening the sense of shared purpose that defines the Association.

Equally important was the spirit of continuity and growth present throughout the event. The installation of new officers, a board meeting, and outreach initiatives reflected an organization looking ahead while remaining grounded in its history. As Treasurer Mary Ann Coates Smith noted in her welcome message, continued membership engagement and support remain essential to carrying forward the stories of the Battle of the Bulge.

Ultimately, the 81st Anniversary Commemoration was more than a historical observance; it became a powerful expression of resilience, remembrance, and community. Through shared meals, heartfelt conversations, and moments of reflection, participants reaffirmed the legacy of the soldiers who faced one of the most brutal campaigns of World War II. As each generation gathers to honor those who served, the spirit of the Ardennes lives on—not only in history books, but in the people committed to preserving their stories.

*continued on page 9*





*Capt. Francis X. Nolan , U.S. Navy (Ret.); Dr. Roberta Nolan (Gold Star Daughter); Bulge Bugle Editor Christine Guidry Law; Dr. Bridget Nolan; and Sean Nolan*



*Past BOBA President Gary Higgins*



*Tomb Guard with BOBA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*



*His Excellency Frédéric Bernard, Belgian Ambassador, and Her Excellency Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Luxembourg Ambassador, place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*



*OW ICC Peggy Kersmaekers, Embassy of Belgium, salutes during Taps at the Battle of the Bulge Monument Ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery*

# REFLECTIONS ON ANOTHER GREAT—BUT ALSO EMOTIONAL—COMMEMORATION

By Kevin Hinkle, Executive Vice President

ONCE AGAIN, OUR annual visit to Arlington National Cemetery proved both meaningful and deeply moving—and, for a brief period of time, the weather cooperated. An approaching snowstorm kept some participants away, and the planned WWII American Experience at Gettysburg for the weekend was unfortunately postponed. The wreath-laying ceremonies were solemn, with thoughtful remarks offered by representatives of Belgium and Luxembourg. The luncheon at the Belgium Ambassador's residence was exceptional. A musical greeting of WWII-era music was provided as we arrived, with the band playing throughout lunch.

There are two takeaways from our brief trip to Arlington—one of concern, and one of commitment. The concern has become more apparent with each passing year: where are we going as an organization, both short-term and for the future? Over the past year, we have lost more of our World War II veterans. Their absence is felt not only in spirit but also in its impact on our membership base, not only in the loss of their presence but also the potential loss of their family's or friends' memberships. Financially, we are very stable and remain on solid ground, thanks to years of careful and thoughtful planning.

The second takeaway was one of commitment. Both the Belgian Ambassador and the Ambassador from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg delivered a clear and powerful message—their nations' support for our work, and for those who gave everything

to liberate their homelands, remains steadfast. I heard their words as a call to action for all of us. We must work together, chart a path forward, and strengthen our partnership as we continue to honor that shared commitment.

In the months ahead, you will hear more about what I call "BOBA 2030." This initiative marks the beginning of a journey to identify meaningful benchmarks and sustainable goals for the years to come. It is not intended to be rigid or set in stone; rather, it serves as a flexible platform, a dynamic framework that helps guide our organization forward while allowing room for growth and new ideas. I welcome all suggestions and perspectives as we shape this path together.

The first step for all of us is to make a concerted effort to strengthen our Outreach initiatives. Through the Bulge Bugle and regular email communications, we aim to maintain a steady flow of information across the organization and keep our community connected. I encourage you to share your thoughts and feedback with me directly as we continue this important work. Feel free to contact me at [kevin\\_hinkle@icloud.com](mailto:kevin_hinkle@icloud.com).

As many others in BOBA, my mission is to honor the service of my father, support the veterans who made it home, and always cherish those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

*May God Bless our organization, our heroes, and our great nation.*

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## A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE

By Carol Higgins, BOBA Member

PROVIDING A TRIBUTE to any and all WWII Veterans is the duty of each United States citizen. It is my duty and honor to pay tribute to two immediate family members. These two WWII Veterans passed away within a week of one another. Both men served their country in different ways, but they did so without hesitation and with a great amount of pride.

I honor my father, Edgar O. Schultheis, U.S. Army, SGT. CO B 388 MP SV BN, December 17, 1945 through January 2, 1947. Edgar served in the Military Police. One assignment was to escort German prisoners of war from the United States back to Germany via a ship across the Atlantic. Once in Germany, he continued duties as an M.P. He had previously been trained at Ft. Riley, Kansas as part of the Mounted Cavalry, the last of its kind for this era. Throughout his long life, Edgar remained a loyal and proud U.S. citizen by donating to and helping his community. He was especially proud of his help with the building of a beautiful Veterans Memorial in his home town, Swartz Creek, Michigan.

My father's brother-in-law (my mother's brother), Lynn R. Ikerd, also left Flint, Michigan to help the American cause during WWII. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. Lynn wanted to follow in his older brother, Chad Ikerd's footsteps. (Chad was a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He had been shot down and became a POW in Germany.) Lynn received his wings in March of 1945, but never was deployed. His Air Corps training did not go to waste. Lynn worked at Cessna and retired as a Flight Test Engineering Pilot in Wichita, Kansas.

The ages of these two men were remarkable: Edgar was 98 and Lynn 99 at the time of their passing. They both married, raised children, worked many years at jobs they enjoyed, and lived as faithful Americans. Respect for all our freedoms was important to each man. They were fine examples of American Veterans.

Edgar (Dad) and Lynn (Uncle) you will be missed. Gentleman, thank you for your service!



*(Left) Lynn Ikerd, U.S. Army Air Corps*

*(Below) Sgt. Edgar O. Schultheis, U.S. Army*





## GRATEFUL FOR AMERICANS

By Thea Marshall

*They wouldn't let us pay them.*

Though Michel and two colleagues spend two days guiding us around Luxembourg to battle sites mentioned in my father's WWII memoirs, they refuse all offers of compensation, only letting us buy them lunch one day. The prior week, on the same mission in Normandy, we had a superb professional guide. It was a splurge to do so, but well worth it; so we expect to pay our Luxembourg guides, who provide equally excellent service.

I'd planned this "following my father's footsteps" tour of Europe a few years after crafting his meticulous monograph into an accessible book, *Healers and Heroes: WWII Combat Medics: Mud and Blood from the Normandy Beaches to the Battle of the Bulge*. Using a 'liberated' German typewriter, my dad had recorded this contemporaneous account while in Czechoslovakia, immediately following the May 8, 1945 victory in Europe. He, along with many thousands of American troops, remained in Europe awaiting decisions whether they would be sent home or on to fight in the continuing war in the Pacific.

Michel Zeimet was referred to me by Roland Gaul, Director-Curator at the National Museum of Military History in Luxembourg. Michel brings along his colleagues Georges and Christian. All are associated with the Circle of Studies on the Battle of the Bulge. We meet at our hotel on our first morning in Luxembourg. I immediately gift them with copies of *H & H*, and they quickly scan the pages to see where my dad was in Luxembourg, and plan a route.

On the way and at the sites, they knowledgeably describe the war and the life-changing impacts it had on their parents and grandparents.

During the morning, we tromp through a muddy woodland—Schumann's Eck—a spot where my Dad noted their band of medics did 'land-office business.' A Wikipedia page describes this as "one of the cruelest battlefields" in the Battle of the Bulge, the Nazis' last, desperate stab to break the Allies' hold on the northern ports and regain control. Our guides fill in many gruesome details of the hideous, long-running, back-and-forth battle to hold/take this key intersection for moving men and equipment. Life-size photos of soldiers stand next to foxholes, mostly filled in by age; QR scan codes provide details.

While scanning *H & H*, Georges notes one of the pictures in which he thinks he recognizes a building. The image is of my dad, Lt. Robert T. Marshall, and his commanding officer, Cpt. Andy Dedick; between them is Andy's fiancée, Lt. Kate Goloden, who served in a hospital. The three are standing in front of a doorway in a corner. Only this entry and a few surrounding windows are visible in the grainy photo, but Georges phones his contacts and thinks he can find it.

In Perle, we turn into a parking lot, and there it is! This corner entry is the exact spot where the *H & H* photo of Dad, Andy, and Kate was taken 80 years earlier. I am speechless, overwhelmed, and feel tears running down my cheeks. We stand, literally, in Dad's footsteps. It gives us all 'chicken-skin,' as they say in Hawaii, from where we've come many thousands of miles.

A couple of days later, after Michel and Georges show us the American Cemetery in Luxembourg, we ask them to drop us at the train station. They insist on coming in with us, carrying our luggage, straightening out a glitch with our train tickets, and seeing us off. Such incredible kindness!

We look back some 80 years into the past and are reminded of the massive sacrifices that Americans made. How wonderful to see that the Europeans have not forgotten!



*(Above) Cpt. Andy Dedick, Lt. Kate Goloden, and Lt. Robert T. Marshall in Perle, Belgium, January 1945*

*(Below) Michel Zeimet, Thea Marshall, and Ethan Marshall (Thea's husband) at site of H&H photo*





## PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIVES OF COURAGE JACOB J. RUSER: A MEDIC'S HEART, A GENTLEMAN'S SOUL

By Christine Guidry Law, *Bulge Bugle* Editor

### *Remembering World War II Hero Jacob "Jake" Ruser*

Jacob "Jake" Ruser (1924-2026) was a legend, a decorated World War II combat medic whose stories were known around the world. But to many of us, he was far more than the hero the world recognized. He was inspiration and a source of encouragement, and for some, a reminder of the family bonds time had taken too soon.

In one of our last private conversations, Jake shared words I will carry with me always. With the same quiet kindness that defined him, he told me how proud he was of me and how much he loved me, saying he felt at peace knowing the history he cherished would be left in good hands. Then, in a way only Jake could, he thanked me for what I had given him, a gesture of humility that still humbles me today, because nothing I offered could ever compare to what he gave to me and to so many others.

To me, Jake became a glimpse of the grandfather I lost at age seven—a chance to rediscover a kind of love and guidance I had missed for more than fifty years. Though I did not know him long, he gave more than anyone could have expected in such a short time. He welcomed me instantly into the fold, shared stories that made history come alive, and never failed to remind me how proud he was that the next generation was carrying these stories forward.

Jake was the definition of a gentleman. Even at more than 100 years old, he refused to let me walk behind him or open a door for myself. Our only real disagreement was over gas money. Whenever I drove him somewhere, he insisted on paying—slipping cash into my purse or the console when I wasn't looking. It was a small act, but it reflected the heart of who he was: always giving, always caring.

### *From Conshohocken to the Front Lines*

Born and raised in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, Jake later made his home in the Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia, where he lived a life rooted in faith, family, and service. During World War II, he served as a combat medic with the 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, the famed "Ivy Division."

His wartime path carried him through some of the most grueling battles in Europe: Normandy, Northern France, the Hürtgen Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Rhineland. As a medic, Jake ran toward danger when others sought cover, evacuating wounded soldiers under relentless fire and brutal winter



conditions. For his courage in combat, he received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, honors he wore with humility throughout his life.

Decades later, Jake returned to the Hürtgen Forest for the first time since the war. Standing on the same ground where he had once carried injured comrades, he recalled the weight of those moments—memories that never truly left him.

### *A Presence That Shaped a Community*

Jake remained deeply involved with the Battle of the Bulge Association, the National 4th Infantry (Ivy) Division Association, and fellow veterans' organizations. He understood that remembrance required more than ceremonies; it required people willing to share stories, mentor others, and ensure history remained alive.

He had a remarkable way of connecting with people across generations. Whether speaking at events, visiting historic battlefields, or simply sitting down for long conversations, Jake made history feel personal. Many who met him left feeling not only educated but encouraged, as though they had been entrusted with a responsibility to carry the torch forward.

Jake was well loved because he loved well—a truth reflected in every interaction he had.

### *An Empty Seat at Arlington*

As members of the Battle of the Bulge Association gathered in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the battle, Jake's absence was felt in countless quiet ways. The ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, the shared meals, and the long conversations carried an added weight. For many of us, it simply wasn't the same without him.

We lost a great man, but more than that, we lost a dear friend. The history lessons, the life lessons, and especially the long talks are what will be missed most.

### *Carrying the Story Forward*

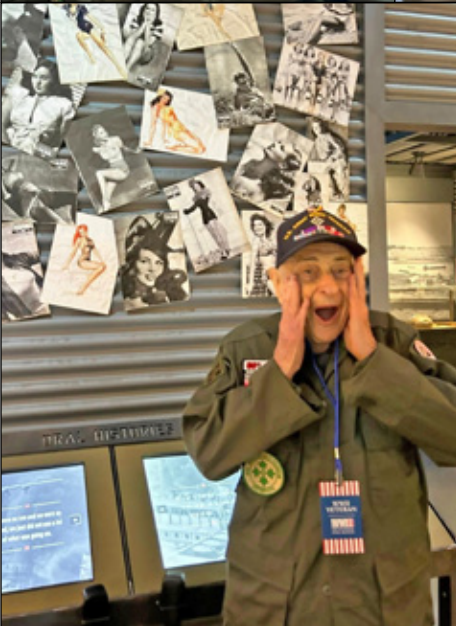
Jake Ruser's legacy extends far beyond medals or battlefield honors. It lives in the people he inspired, the stories he entrusted to others, and the example he set through kindness and humility. He reminded us that history is not just something we study. It is something we protect and pass on.

As we continue to gather, remember, and share the stories of the Battle of the Bulge, Jake's spirit remains with us, not only in memory, but in the work we carry forward together.

*continued on page 13*



*Rest easy, dear friend, until we meet again.*



*Photos courtesy of family, Tyler Boland (Keeping History Alive), Andy Biggio (The Rifle), Christine Guidry Law (Bulge Bugle Editor), Anthony Waskie (DelVal Chapter President), DelVal Chapter members, and other beloved BOBA members and friends.*



# UNIT SPOTLIGHT 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION



Compiled by Aaron Danis, LTC, USA, (Ret.) BOBA Member

## Brief History

The 84th Infantry Division was officially formed on August 5, 1917 during WWI with men from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Kentucky. Originally called the “Lincoln Division,” harking back to President Lincoln’s company from the same region in 1832, the nickname eventually changed to “The Railsplitters.” The division shoulder patch is a white axe embedded in a white log on a circle of Badger Cardinal. The division trained for 13 months before being sent to Europe, where it served in France as a training center for replacements heading to the Western Front. It returned to the U.S. and was demobilized in 1919, then disbanded. In 1921 the 84th was again designated as a reserve unit and headquartered in Indiana.

The 84th ID was reactivated on October 15, 1942. After almost two years’ training, including in the Louisiana Maneuvers, it embarked on September 20, 1944 and arrived in the United Kingdom ten days later for additional training. The division landed on Omaha Beach November 1 – 4, and moved to the vicinity of Gulpen, the Netherlands.

## First Combat

The division entered combat on November 18 for the Roer Valley offensive north of Aachen. Assigned to the British Second Army as part of Operation Clipper, the 84th attacked Geilenkirchen, Germany, a mining and transportation center. The city fell on the 19th. After a short break, the division took Wurm and Mullendorf on December 18, before moving to Belgium to help stem the surprise German Ardennes offensive. Col. Louis Truman, the 84th Chief of Staff (and Harry Truman’s cousin), said, “To sum up the actions of the 84th Division in the Geilenkirchen area of the Siegfried Line, it had reduced or captured eight strongpoints or villages, it had captured or destroyed over 112 bunkers, it had captured 28 officers and over 1,500 enlisted men, it had engaged 15 different kinds of German units...”

## The Ardennes Campaign

Committed in the center of the U.S. line on the northwestern flank of the famous Bulge around the town of Marche, and battling in snow, sleet, and rain, the division stymied attacks from the famous German 116th Panzer Division (Greyhounds). German armored spearheads flowed around the U.S. 101st Airborne holding Bastogne, trying to reach the Meuse River. The 84th recaptured Verdenne on December 24 – 28 after a stiff fight with the 116th Panzer, retook Beffe and Devantave from January 4 – 6, 1945, and seized La Roche on January 11. By January 16, the 84th reached Houffalize, and one of its units joined up with the 11th Armored Division near Ourthe. This linked the 1st and 3rd U.S. Armies, closing the gap which separated the two in the Ardennes salient. After a five-day break, the 84th resumed the offensive, taking Gouvy, Beho, and Ourthe. The 84th destroyed 47 German tanks during the Bulge fighting, a good showing for a predominantly infantry unit.

## To the Rhine and the Elbe

On February 7, the division assumed responsibility for the Roer River zone between Linnich and Himmerich. On February 23, 1945, day two of Operation Grenade, the division crossed the Roer on assault boats and covered 45 miles to reach the west bank of the Rhine River on March 5. The 84th occupied a quiet sector for nearly a month to rest and prepare for the push over the Rhine. After crossing the Rhine on April 1, it attacked east and crossed the Weser River on April 6. Continuing its attack, the 84th reached the Elbe River on April 13, some 250 miles beyond the Rhine, and halted its advance. The Russians were contacted at Bälów, Germany, on May 2. Occupation duty began.

## 84th INFD RECAP

**Activated:** October 15, 1942 (WWI – August 1917)

**Trained:** Camp Howze, TX, Tennessee Maneuvers, Camp Claiborne, LA; Camp Kilmer, NJ

**Overseas:** Departed NYC, September 20, 1944; Arrived England on October 4 Landed in France November 1, 1944 at Omaha Beach

**Major Campaigns:** Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, Central Europe

**Days in Combat:** 152

**Casualties:** 6,561 in Combat / Total 1,284 KIA & 5,098 WIA

**Commanders:** MG John H. Hildring (October 1942), MG Stonewall Jackson (February 1943), MG Robert B. McClure (October 1943), MG Roscoe B. Woodruff (March 1944), MG Alexander R. Bolling (June 1944)

**Deactivated:** January 21, 1946, Camp Kilmer, NJ

**Nickname:** “Railsplitters”

**Motto:** “Strike Hard”

## AWARDS

**Distinguished Unit Citations:** 7

**Distinguished Service Cross:** 18

**Distinguished Service Medal:** 1

**Silver Star:** 598

**Legion of Merit:** 4

**Soldier’s Medal:** 40

**Bronze Star Medal:** 3,416

**Air Medal:** 59

**Prisoners of War Taken:** 70,109

# VOICES OF THE 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Willard H. Fluck, 84th ID, 333rd IR, HQ Co

*Bulge Bugle*, May 2012

ON JANUARY 3, 1945, the 84th was paired with the 2nd Armored while the 83rd was paired with the 3rd Armored for the start of our counter-offensive to choke off the tip of the German penetration. Our pincer move was to start at Manhay and end at Houffalize where we were to meet the Third Army coming from the south, only about half our distance. The following days are confused in my mind, for we seemed always on the move from one short stay here or there to another place with a name. I remember Odeigne. During a lull we walked up a hill to a small one-room schoolhouse and just missed being hit by a mortar shell tree-burst. I took a little time to inspect the classroom. I found many French translations of our fairy tales and cowboy stories. In the cellar of the schoolhouse we found about forty civilians crowded into a space too small for ten. As I came down the path again I stopped to look at a dead G.I. nearly covered with snow. His arm and part of his head could be seen. I wondered whether his mother would ever see the watch still on his wrist. The next day it snowed and kept on snowing. Roads became almost invisible, and vehicles slid into ditches. Tanks made the hard surfaces slick as ice.

In a blinding snowstorm our E and F Companies launched an attack to take and secure the La Roche Road. No tank support. The snow was too deep and the terrain too difficult for them. An F Company patrol secured the vital crossroads where the La Roche Road and the Houffalize Road met. This feat had deprived the enemy of the only two first-rate roads to the east, and has been considered the turning point of the Ardennes operations. The enemy had been taken completely by surprise.

It was near here that a patrol of eight of us were sent to bring in a group of about 35 or 40 German prisoners being held by two GIs. I was the third man, sent along as interpreter. We waded through waist deep snow for some distance and then onto bare ground which had been blown clear. The Lieutenant, in the lead, saw the Germans just inside a grove of pine trees and started into the grassy area. There was an explosion and I felt a puff-of air on my face. The sergeant two steps ahead of me had

stepped on a German Shu mine and lost his foot. I backed out; the lieutenant re-traced his steps and got out. What to do? He ordered two of the biggest men to get the sergeant out. There was another explosion and another foot gone, while the third man had shrapnel up and down his right side. The second man was laughing. He was going back to a nice warm hospital bed. The lieutenant called for a jeep and they were all taken back to the Battalion Aid Station.

We found a path around the mine field and using my Pennsylvania German, I got the prisoners lined up, yelled some bad words at them, and marched them off to the La Roche-Houffalize crossroads, where the MPs took them back. Foxholes were not always safe havens. Just before the minefield incident

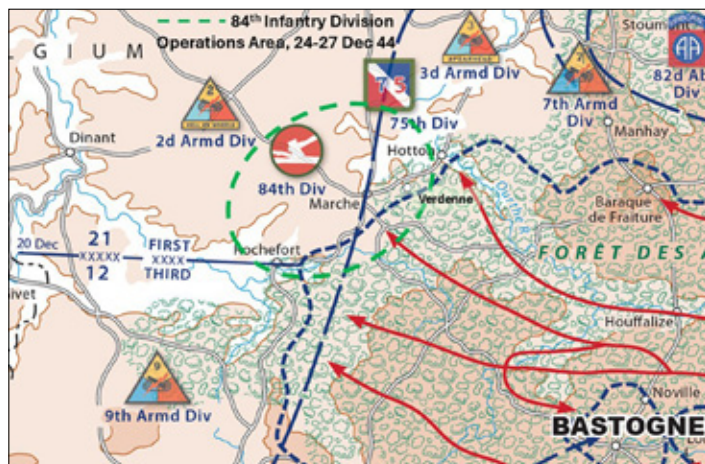
I vividly recall what it did to one' German. He was no deader than many others, but his torso was frozen solid and half hanging on the edge of the hole. His head was gone, his insides had slid to the bottom of the hole, and his chest cavity was blown open. I couldn't help thinking how nice and clean and pink and shiny the cavity was.

In Laroche, our squad found protection in the basement of a building mostly destroyed by artillery and by a fire. It had a concrete first floor and one wall in danger of falling down the stairwell, so we knocked more of it down and descended into the basement. Nice and warm from the heat of the first floor. Then we began to be too warm, so we peeled off some outer clothing. Then our shirts. I don't recall going any farther. Oh, but it was great to be warm for a few hours.

Again, we moved a lot. The war for the ordinary foot soldier is only just where he is and how far he can see around himself.

Battle in The Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) ended officially on January 25, 1945. But the front line was still not back to where it had been before December 16, 1944. So the 84th was put to work again to erase the holdouts east of Houffalize. Beho was our Battalion's last objective to help in that effort. On the way there, through Bovigny, every vehicle in the convoy bogged down in the deep snow. It took hours to get to Bovigny and then start for Beho. There was still enemy resistance, but our slogging riflemen accomplished the task.

I can never say enough for those men who walked into the face of the enemy knowing they could be wounded or die at any time. They were the heroes. I was just one of the lucky ones. I can claim nothing spectacular; but I was there.



*Source: U.S. Army Center for Military History, Battle of the Bulge 75th Anniversary brochure.*

## 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](mailto:bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com)

# DIVISION REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 2026

The following reunions are scheduled for 2026. Please feel free to contact the individuals noted or the website for further information. Some Divisions require membership in their organization to attend their reunion. Feel free to inquire. Many Divisions welcome Associate Members.



## SOCIETY OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

**JUNE 24 – 28, 2026** • Springfield, VA (near D.C.)

DEADLINE: May 22, 2026 (for hotel)

CONTACT: Joshua Sandlin sfidevents@gmail.com or sfid1919@gmail.com / 785-307-1472

WEBSITE: [www.1stid.org/](http://www.1stid.org/)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/groups/1stinfantrydivision](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stinfantrydivision)

The 1st ID has chapters in IN, Eastern NY, Western NY, KS, OH & WI: [www.1stid.org/chapters](http://www.1stid.org/chapters)



## 8TH ARMORED DIVISION

**OCTOBER 14 – 18, 2026** • Richmond, VA

DEADLINE: TBD

CONTACT: [awaski01@gmail.com](mailto:awaski01@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [website to www.8th-armored.org](http://www.8th-armored.org)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647](https://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647)



## 12TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**JULY 15 – 19, 2026** • Abilene, TX

DEADLINE: Registration: June 1, 2026

Hotel Reservation: Contact Peggy Anne Vosseler (There is a wait list.)

CONTACT: Peggy Anne Vosseler / 610-558-2163

[sixtysixthaibn@yahoo.com](mailto:sixtysixthaibn@yahoo.com)

WEBSITE: [sites.google.com/view/12tharmoreddivisionassociation](https://sites.google.com/view/12tharmoreddivisionassociation)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=12th](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=12th)



## 2ND ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**OCTOBER 15 – 17, 2026** • Ft. Knox, KY

DEADLINE: September 7, 2026

CONTACT: [2ndarmoreddivisionassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2ndarmoreddivisionassoc@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/2ndArmoredDivisionAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/2ndArmoredDivisionAssociation)



## 2ND INDIANHEAD DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**SEPTEMBER 23 – 27, 2026** • Milwaukee, WI

DEADLINE: August 26, 2026

CONTACT: Joe Marcil / [2idassoc@gmail.com](mailto:2idassoc@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.2ida.org](http://www.2ida.org)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/groups/123352941013974](https://www.facebook.com/groups/123352941013974)

The 2nd Infantry Div. has a branch in FL



## 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

**MARCH 20 – 23, 2026** • Valley Forge, PA

DEADLINE: February 28, 2026 (for hotel)

CONTACT: Patricia Miller Bowers / [Scion17th@gmail.com](mailto:Scion17th@gmail.com) or

[EdSiergiej@scionsofthe17thairborne@gmail.com](mailto:EdSiergiej@scionsofthe17thairborne@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.17thscions.org/gatherings](http://www.17thscions.org/gatherings)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/17thScions](https://www.facebook.com/17thScions)



## 3RD ARMORED DIVISION

**OCT. 28 – NOV. 1, 2026** • Ft. Campbell, KY

DEADLINE: September 25, 2026

CONTACT: Don Davis / [kycolonell@aol.com](mailto:kycolonell@aol.com) or

[TonyOlson@tony@olsoncpa.com](mailto:TonyOlson@tony@olsoncpa.com) / 508-335-3703

WEBSITE: [www.3ad.org/](http://www.3ad.org/)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/groups/140103949341816](https://www.facebook.com/groups/140103949341816)



## 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**MAY 13, 2026** • Danvers, MA

DEADLINE: May 4, 2026

CONTACT: Shirley Bogdan / [bogdanshirley@gmail.com](mailto:bogdanshirley@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/groups/21994709100](https://www.facebook.com/groups/21994709100)



## 4TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 3 – 8, 2026** • Bettendorf, IA

DEADLINE: July 6, 2026 (Registration);

July 24, 2026 (hotel)

CONTACT: Armed Forces Reunion 1-800-562-7226

WEBSITE: [www.4thinfantry.org/](http://www.4thinfantry.org/)

or [www.events.afr-reg.com/e/4ID2026](http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/4ID2026)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/The4ID](https://www.facebook.com/The4ID)



## 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

No Reunion planned for 2026

For historical information: [28id.org](http://28id.org)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/28thIDAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/28thIDAssociation)



## 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**SEPTEMBER 17 – 20, 2026** • King of Prussia, PA

DEADLINE: July 31, 2026

CONTACT: Frank Armiger / [natexecdir@29div.com](mailto:natexecdir@29div.com)

WEBSITE: [29thdivisionassociation.com](http://29thdivisionassociation.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/29thID](https://www.facebook.com/29thID)



## 4TH INFANTRY (IVY) DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**APRIL 24 – 25, 2026** • Carolinas Chapter Mini-Reunion  
Spartanburg, SC

DEADLINE: March 25, 2026 (for hotel)

CONTACT: [RJAdams90@charter.net](mailto:RJAdams90@charter.net)

WEBSITE: [www.4thinfantry.org/](http://www.4thinfantry.org/)

or [www.events.afr-reg.com/e/4ID2026](http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/4ID2026)



## 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**SEPTEMBER 11 – 12, 2026** • Kansas City, MO

DEADLINE: August 10, 2026 (Registration and hotel)

CONTACT: Executive Secretary / 785-969-7548

[35divassn@gmail.com](mailto:35divassn@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.35DivAssn.org](http://www.35DivAssn.org)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/35thInfantryDivision](https://www.facebook.com/35thInfantryDivision)



## SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION

**SEPTEMBER 7 – 11, 2026** • Green Bay, WI

DEADLINE: August 17, 2026

CONTACT: Larry Burnett / [larrywburnett2@gmail.com](mailto:larrywburnett2@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [societyofthefifthdivision.com/](http://societyofthefifthdivision.com/)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/5thInfantryDivisionww2](https://www.facebook.com/5thInfantryDivisionww2)



## 65TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**AUGUST 4 – 8, 2026** • New Orleans, LA

CONTACT: Jackie Hanson / [bluegrass@abe.midco.net](mailto:bluegrass@abe.midco.net)

WEBSITE: [65thdiv.com](http://65thdiv.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/65thInfantryDiv](https://www.facebook.com/65thInfantryDiv)

More details will be in the next issue of the Bulge Bugle



### 70TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Reunions are held every 2 years

**SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2027** • Oklahoma City, OK  
CONTACT: Monica Weddle / mjmcpa@aol.com or  
Judy Ferber / secretary@trailblazersww2.org  
WEBSITE: www.trailblazersww2.org  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/48818059422/



### 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

**OCTOBER 29 – 31, 2026** • Wilmington, NC  
WEBSITE: 87thinfantry.org  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566163145731  
Details will be posted in the next Bulge Bugle. Continue to watch for details on website.



### 80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 5 – 9, 2026** • Richmond, VA  
DEADLINE: TBD  
CONTACT: Lindsay Trombetta / billinz1992@gmail.com  
WEBSITE: 80thdivision.com  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/795072720524075



### 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**AUGUST 28 – 29, 2026** • Ft. Worth, TX  
DEADLINE: August 6, 2026 (Registration and Hotel)  
CONTACT: Nancy Rasmusson / 970-227-2744  
nancy@90thdivisionassoc.org  
WEBSITE: 90thdivisionassoc.org  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/110782425628511



### 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 12 – 15, 2026** • San Antonio, TX  
DEADLINE: July 31, 2026 (Registration & Hotel)  
Registration increases after July 31  
CONTACT: Chandra Galbraith / 910-223-1182  
execsec@82ndairborneassociation.org  
WEBSITE: 82ndairborneassociation.org/  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/82ndAirborneDivision



### 94TH INFANTRY DIVISION WWII HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**JUNE 4 – 8, 2026** • Poughkeepsie, NY  
DEADLINE: May 4, 2026 (Registration and Hotel)  
CONTACT: John Clyburn / 609-699-6280  
94thhistdociety@comcast.net  
HOTEL WEBSITE: www.hwpoughkeepsie.  
homewoodsuitesbyhilton.com (code 90L)  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/1522353907984383



### 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION / ALL AMERICAN WEEK

**MAY 18 – 21, 2026** • Fort Bragg, NC  
DEADLINE: April 27 (Registration); May 1 (Hotel). Registration cost increases on 4/27/26  
CONTACT: Chandra Galbraith / 910-223-1182  
execsec@82ndairborneassociation.org  
WEBSITE: www.82ndairborneassociation.org



### 95TH DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

**SEPTEMBER, 2026 (TBA)** • Dayton, OH  
DEADLINE: TBA  
CONTACT: Mike Flora mike.flora.1717@gmail.com  
WEBSITE: 95divassociation.com  
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/groups/95thDivisionLegacyAssociation  
Watch website for details.



### 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION KY AIRBORNE CHAPTER

**FEBRUARY 26 – 28, 2026** • Lexington, KY  
DEADLINE: February 15 (Registration and hotel)  
CONTACT: Bill Waller / 502-396-4770  
kentucky@82ndairborneassociation.org  
WEBSITE: 82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html



### 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**MAY 18 – 23, 2026** • Fort Campbell, KY  
DEADLINE: TBA  
CONTACT: 931-431-0199  
WEBSITE: screamingeagle.org/current-events  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/101st



### 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION TEXAS LONESTAR CHAPTER THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

CONTACT: Larry Stewart / 281-844-1421  
lestewart1949@hotmail.com  
WEBSITE: texaslonestar82.org



### 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**SEPTEMBER 16 – 20, 2026** • Savannah, GA  
DEADLINE: August 16, 2026 (Registration and Hotel)  
CONTACT: Randall Wood / 765-346-0690  
woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net  
WEBSITE: 106thinfdivassn.org  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/106thinfdivAssn  
Highlight of Reunion includes a visit to National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force



### 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 5 – 8, 2026** • Irving, TX  
DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2026  
CONTACT: Tom Thomason / info@83rdassociation.com  
WEBSITE: 83rdassociation.com  
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/382509485859  
We will visit the new Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX



### 740TH TANK BATTALION

**FALL, 2026** • TBA  
Details will be posted in the next Bulge Bugle.

Complied by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs and President of the Golden Gate Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge Association

## DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, GETTYSBURG

By Leon Reed, Chapter President

BOBA'S NEWEST CHAPTER, located in Gettysburg, is continuing organizing efforts. We held a meeting in November to discuss working with other organizations and agreed to partner with the 28th Division Association and the Eisenhower Society.

On December 16, the chapter held a brief ceremony in honor of the sacrifices of the Bulge veterans. The formal organizing meeting was held on February 14. New officers elected are President Leon Reed, Vice President John Baker, Secretary Lois Lembo Reed, and Board Members Christine Guidry Law and Tim Barr. We are still in need of a treasurer and a few more Board Members. Please contact Leon (leonsreed@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of this new chapter.



*(L-to-R): BOBA Members Walter Zapotoczny , Patty Bowers, Leon Reed, John Baker, and Tom Vossler*

## CRATER CHAPTER NEWS

By Mary Ann Coates Smith, Chapter President

AT THE VIRGINIA War Memorial (VWM), Mary Ann Coates Smith, Crater Chapter President, presented Stephen Ross, president of the Drew Ross Memorial Foundation, with a donation from her Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) retirement account, along with matching funds.

Stephen's son, Drew Ross, was killed in the Afghanistan War and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery. As a way to cope with the pain of losing his son, Stephen began creating

handcrafted wooden flags. Each flag is unique—the first red stripe beneath the stars is made from fallen wood from Arlington Cemetery, which he was given permission to remove.

The Foundation supports soldiers receiving treatment for PTSD. Stephen is also a veteran.

In addition, Mary Ann made a \$1,500 RMD donation (with matching funds) to BOBA. She believes strongly in supporting causes you believe in.

The Crater Chapter will be hosting BOBA's 2026 Reunion in October in the Richmond/Glen Allen, Virginia area. Please continue checking our website for updates!



*Patty Bowers, Chris Hauth, Crater Chapter President Mary Ann Coates Smith, Gloria Layne, Randy Gaulke, Her Excellency Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of Luzembourg Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Alexa O'Hara, and Will Hogan at the Battle of the Bulge Commemoration Luncheon hosted by His Excellency Frédéric Bernard, Ambassador of Belgium.*



*Crater Chapter President Mary Ann Coates Smith presents a donation to Stephen Ross, president of the Drew Ross Memorial Foundation.*

## DELAWARE VALLEY, PHILADELPHIA REGION

By Andy Waskie, Chapter President

THE DELAWARE VALLEY Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was forced to cancel its meeting on Wednesday, January 28, due to inclement weather; the meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 18.

A number of tributes have been received honoring our fabled WWII hero of D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, and Legion Post 405 member, Jake Ruser. The chapter participated in a Veteran's Last Patrol for Jake in December and was also blessed to celebrate his 101st birthday with him prior to his passing in January. As president of the Delaware Valley Chapter, I would also like to thank the General Meade Society for their generous donation in Jake's memory. We are working to have a letter from the Society forwarded to his family.

The annual Benjamin Franklin Birthday Parade and Ceremony, featuring Benjamin Franklin Post 405 of the American Legion, was held at the Union League on Friday, January 16. Post 405 was highlighted on Philadelphia television media, and the ceremony was filmed.

Preparations are already underway for Memorial Day services, which will be held on Sunday, May 24, at Laurel Hill Cemetery, and on Monday, May 25, at Christ Church Burial Ground at the grave of Benjamin Franklin.



*DelVal Chapter members honor WWII Bulge Veteran Jake Ruser with Last Patrol ceremony. (L-to-R) Seated: WWII Veteran Ben Berry, WWII Veteran Jake Ruser, Albert El, Lisette Taragano. (L-to-R) Second Row: Ian Lichterman, DelVal Chapter President Andy Waskie, Bulge Bugle Editor Christine Guidry Law, and Scott Sugman.*



*Chapter President Doris Davis, Luxembourg Consul General (San Francisco); Joseph Senninger; His Excellency Luc Frieden, Prime Minister of Belgium; WWII Veteran Ken Mar; Her Excellency Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of Luxembourg*

*The Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg medal*

## VETERAN KEN MAR AWARDED SPECIAL LUXEMBOURG MEDAL

by Doris Davis  
Golden Gate Chapter President

ON NOVEMBER 11, 2025, Ken Mar, 2nd Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Regiment, was awarded The Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg by the Prime Minister of Luxembourg at a reception at The Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

The Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg honors exceptional contributions to society and culture, individual dedication and service, and reflections of Luxembourg's values of community and excellence. Established in 1961 by Grand Duchess Charlotte, the medal is awarded to citizens of Luxembourg on their 100th birthday or for acts of rescue, and remains a highly prestigious acknowledgement of achievement and meritorious service. Mr. Ken Mar, who will turn 101 in March, 2026, is deserving for his life of service and commitment.

**WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!**

Please send to:

[bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com)

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2026**



## BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERAN JOHN A. HAUTH CONTINUING HIS LEGACY

Submitted by Christopher P. Hauth (USAF retired) BOBA Member

ON JULY 8, 1941 my grandfather, John A. Hauth, left teaching high school math and coaching soccer and basketball to enlist. After Basic Training he was sent to Officer Candidate School (OCS). During this early training, he married his sweetheart Grace E. Leach and their son, John C. Hauth, was born in 1942. After OCS he was assigned to a newly formed unit—the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion (TDB). Following extensive training at bases in three states, the unit deployed in October 1943 to Ireland then England in June 1944, and finally arrived in France on July 14, 1944 with 1st Lieutenant Hauth commanding Company C of the 818th TDB under Lt Gen Patton’s 3rd Army.

Grandpa seldom spoke of his war-time experiences, but from the little he did and the photo albums he filled with pictures of his travels and his fellow soldiers, we knew he was proud of his time in the 818th. Since his passing in 1997, our family has continued to honor him and the legacy of his unit and all the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. We do this through attendance at 818th TDB Reunions, which are still happening and run by the families, and through writing articles like this one.

Many of the memories he did share he told when my brother and I were playing with toy Tank Destroyers (TD) he gave us. The real TDs were rushed into design to counter the heavily armored German Panzers. After various options were tested, the Army finally decided on the M10 TD. As we rolled the toy TDs around the floor, we learned that to expedite fielding the TDs they had open-topped turrets, meaning the soldiers in it were directly exposed to enemy fire or even children throwing Molotov cocktails from rooftops. This may be one reason the bonds of TD units were so strong. As exhibited by the existence, for decades, of two national TD organizations, the TD Society and the TD Association. We also learned of the problems the men had with maintenance, poor road conditions, and especially changing from the M10 to the M36 in the middle of a campaign.

During the Bulge, John was first a Company Commander and then Battalion Executive Officer, so took pictures and detailed notes for his daily S-3 reports. In this position, he was able to send home dozens of properly reviewed pictures to my grandmother Grace. He also retained his daily logbook with notes from July 1944 thru July 1945. The 818th TDB Legacy Family Reunions are now using his logbook and photographs, as well as information from the over 60 years of 818th TDB reunions, in our Legacy efforts. The 2025 reunion was the first with no veterans nor spouses in attendance, but the families vowed to continue meeting in remembrance and honor.

After the war, John got his Law Degree using the GI Bill. He then worked for NASA acquiring the rocket sections used to get men to the moon. He and Grace had a long and fulfilled life golfing, travelling and throwing parties. Towards the end of his life he organized a group of retirees he called ORBS (Old Retired Bastards Society) who met for camaraderie and cards. His humor passed to his son John, then his two sons Chris and Stephen. It currently resides with their nine children.

He took great pleasure in sharing one particular memory. After being asked if he’d like a glass of wine, his thoughts turned back to a small French town the unit had forced the Germans out of. As the Germans retreated, they fouled all the potable water. However, the locals were thrilled to have the Americans in residence and shared a secret—the Germans had missed a warehouse of wine, which the French were happy to share. His Company ended up staying an extended time. So, his response to a glass of wine was that after such an extended time drinking, cooking and washing his socks with wine, he’d prefer a beer. So, the next time you can raise a glass in toast, please remember the brave open-topped turret soldiers of the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion.



*Lt. Col. John A. Hauth on leave in Miami, FL*

*Lt. Col. John A. Hauth on duty in Europe*

*Company C, 818 T.D. Battalion, Fort Dix, 1943. Lt. Col. Hauth is in the front row, second from the left.*



## A PAL WE CALLED "AL"

By Peter G. Dounis, G Company, 291st Regiment, 75th Infantry Division

From *The Bulge Bugle*, January 1982

ALBERT T. POMPA was not an ordinary character, but an extraordinary soldier, who was killed in Grand Halleux, Belgium. He was an unforgettable man of confidence and courage I still think about today!

Al was killed instantly, shortly after noon at the rear of the small church while thawing and having hot coffee, January 16, 1945.

I remember when that German 88 whistled in and hit just outside the church's rear room window where the fireplace was burning a warm, wood fire. At the same time, S/Sgt. Wayne Boyer was hit and wounded through the shoulder. He was able to walk to the jeep that had been called and was to carry him and Al to the battalion aid station, set up at the hair-pin turn, down the hilly road at the large church in the town of Grand Halleux.

When Al was brought by me, in that semi-dark and gloomy hallway of the small church on the stretcher, his head was wrapped with a GI blanket with blood oozing through the olive drab, woolen fibers. He was as still as stone and his face bluish-gray. That image I vividly remember, thirty-seven years later. It's definitely a part of my life! I knew I had lost a friend and we had lost a professional soldier.

Later I discovered and learned that Al had personally killed 12 or 15 Germans on January 15th during the attack and had helped many wounded throughout the long day and frigid night. Al, a salute finally comes your way! Yes, an infantryman with completeness.

Who was this man from Lima, Ohio, whose middle initial should have stood for tough. A man we respected and looked up to for advice and inner strength who was several years older than us... while we were still in our teens.

He was a volunteer with the Fifth (Red Diamond) Division in 1941, serving in Alaska and Iceland prior to joining the 75th Infantry Division during the spring of 1944 at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

I was cognizant of our immediate objective and the casualties incurred on that snowy and bitter cold day (-10 degrees) of January 15, 1945, but I did not realize until many years later that we were spearheading a divisional attack with the First Army towards St. Vith.

I had returned to the church approximately 0400 hours on January 16, after carrying ammunition to our machine gun positions on the right flank. Then, after some sleep and food, I patrolled around the church and later stood guard at its plain entrance.

It was shortly before noon when I saw a soldier walking down the frosty path from those Ardennes mountains and forests and recognized him to be Al, looking like a robust jovial Santa Claus in GI fatigues with battle gear attached. He had survived the



attack, the day long and night long battle with its staccato-like murderous enemy fire as well as the adverse conditions and elements.

General Mickle would have been proud of Al and his deeds. The general was at the church and up in its steeple to observe the action on January 15th.

The irony concerning Al's tragic death was that he was killed the day after the big battle at Grand Halleux while resting at the church, where we had jumped off the day before with Company "G", the lead attack unit.

He had returned for just a brief moment, but is there forever! Truly, an unsung hero!

When I went back to Belgium in 1979 with members of the 2nd Battalion, 291st Infantry Regiment, we visited the beautiful Henri-Chapelle Cemetery at Aubel,

Belgium, where many of our 75th men lay among other glorious Americans.

### PFC ALBERT T. POMPA 6991481

Plot D, Row 7, Grave 3.

*"May his Soul Rest and his Spirit be with us."*

To go back and see where our men are laid to eternal rest was a very real and emotional experience.

This year, thirty-seven years after the historic Battle of the Bulge of WWII, which includes the action at Grand Halleux, we intend to pay tribute and homage to our comrades who gave the supreme sacrifice, "their lives", so we could return home in Peace and be Free! Some of us wholly functional and some partially functional; yet we should thank God we came home.

A four color bronze memorial plaque with our division insignia was presented to the Mayor of Grand Halleux on June 21, 1981. Several miniature bronze plaques were also presented for placement at the church (now a school) where Al was killed, and at the Mayor's office in Vielsalm, Belgium. These plaques, with their etched words and symbols will tell how we, the living feel about our dead for centuries.

#### PFC ALBERT T. POMPA

- Born in Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio, on May 13, 1916.
- Killed in Action at the Battle of Grand Halleux, January 16, 1945.
- Known by the boys of the 75th Infantry Division, 291st Regiment, G Company as "Big Papa"

*Photo courtesy of Susan Guy, Find a Grave.*

# • IN MEMORIAM •

## TRIBUTES TO HEROES

### JOSEPH A. FOLINO

JOSEPH A. FOLINO, 103, of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Mt. View Senior Living. He was born April 1, 1922, in Wall, PA, a son of the late Antonio and Elizabeth (Nanci) Folino.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved and devoted wife of 75 years, Maryland (DiLorenzo) Folino; three sisters; and two brothers.

Prior to his retirement, he was employed by Conrail. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was inducted into the prestigious French Legion of Honor. Joe was also a member of Ascension Church, Jeannette; Knights of Columbus #1480; VFW Post 33; and Western PA Chapter 14, Fellow of the Center of Appalachian Studies at St. Vincent College.

He is survived by his children, Rita Gochenaur (Dwight) of York Springs and John Folino (Karin) of Gibsonia; grandchildren Lauren, Kyle, Meghan (Cory Hylton), Amanda, and Blair (Alex); great-grandchildren Maryn, John, and Ellis; and numerous nieces and nephews.



*S. Sgt. Joe Folino, 691 TDB*

### MARCEL SCHMETZ

SIR MARCEL SCHMETZ, 92, of Thimister-Clermont, Belgium—founder of the Remember Museum 39-45 and a devoted guardian of World War II history—passed away peacefully on January 20, 2026. A man of humility and unwavering dedication, Marcel leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations on both sides of the Atlantic.



*Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz, Thimister-Clermont, Belgium (photo courtesy of MIA Project).*

Born June 18, 1933, in Clermont-sur-Berwinne, Marcel was a young child during the occupation of his region in World War II. The liberation of Belgium by American forces in 1944 left a lasting impression on him. He never forgot the soldiers who brought freedom, many of whom had stayed at his family farm and left personal belongings behind when they hurried to the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge.

Together with his beloved wife Mathilde (affectionately known as “M&M”) Marcel transformed those memories into a lifelong mission. In 1994 they founded the Remember Museum 39-45, dedicated to preserving artifacts and sharing the personal stories of those who served. Handmade displays, carefully

preserved relics, and countless photographs created an experience that deeply moved visitors from around the world. Veterans, families, historians, and service members were welcomed with warmth and genuine hospitality.

Marcel and Mathilde also served as sentinels for American service members laid to rest at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, honoring their memory with quiet devotion. For many guests, visiting the museum felt less like entering an exhibit and more like being welcomed into a home.

Members of patriotic organizations, including longtime friends within the Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA), remember Marcel as someone who worked tirelessly to keep alive the memory of those who sacrificed so much during the war. As members gathered in Washington, D.C., on January 21-24 to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Bulge, many mourned his passing while sharing cherished memories of time spent at the museum he built with such care.

Friends and visitors around the world describe Marcel as a man of positivity, creativity, and quiet determination, a bridge between Belgium, the United States, and all who believe in honoring history. Veterans of numerous divisions, including the 1st and 99th Infantry Divisions, held him in the highest regard, and many recall the warmth of conversations shared at the Schmetz family table.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mathilde, his family, and the extended global community of veterans, friends, and supporters who became part of his life’s work. The Remember Museum 39 – 45 stands as a lasting testament to his vision, preserving history not only through objects, but through humanity and remembrance.

Rest in peace, Marcel. Your dedication and kindness will not be forgotten.

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*®. Notify us of any errors or omissions. Send notices by mail: BOBA, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0330; or by email: bulge.bugle.editor@gmail.com.



## JACOB J. RUSER, JR.

### 4 INFD, 12 INF REG, 2 BN, MEDICAL DETACHMENT

*Jake shared the story of his time as a litter bearer in the Battle of the Bulge seventy-five years later (2020), recalling that most of his memories of the battle were “close calls.” Excerpt from originally published article May 25, 2012.*

MISSION: The 12th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, from November 6, 1944 to December 7, 1944, participated in the Bloody Battle of the Hurtgen Forest in Germany. During the Battle of the Bulge, the 12th Infantry led the transfer to the country of Luxembourg for defense of the Luxembourg area along the Sauer River. All units were to receive replacements and upgrade the equipment. My job was a litter bearer, which was to remove seriously wounded soldiers from the battlefield. My most vivid memories of the Bulge were close calls! On the morning of December 21, 1944, there was a call for two litter teams to Company F in Berdorf. We had two jeeps with a litter team on each. The road from the woods outside Consdorf to Berdorf was about four miles without any shelter. Our jeep drivers stopped, at the edge of the woods, to decide what they would do. As the driver of the first jeep pulled out, at a high speed, we were right behind.

All of a sudden out of nowhere, two soldiers appeared, shouting to stop. They were the outpost. We were able to get the first jeep to stop and turn around. The outpost guards told us the company pulled back during the night, and if we kept going – we were in “No Man’s Land” heading into the German lines. We were taken to the two wounded soldiers, and we transported them to the 2nd Battalion Aid Station. We almost became prisoners or being killed.

The next morning, with a new line of defense holding, my commanding officer called me aside, and told me the Battalion Mail Sergeant was going to Luxembourg City to pick up mail at Regimental Headquarters. As part of “other duties” as assigned, my commander made arrangements for me to go to Regimental HQ with the Sergeant and his driver to deliver an envelope. On our travels via Highway 11, about a mile past Radio Luxembourg, we were stopped at a Division Checkpoint. We then continued to Regimental HQ. I was dropped off, they continued to service company. I took care of the commander’s business and waited for the sergeant and driver. A few minutes later, they pulled up with a trailer full of mail bags. We did not receive mail for more than a month; because of the heavy fighting in the Hurtgen Forest.

We traveled back over Highway 11 and were stopped at a new 1st Army Checkpoint that was setup. This checkpoint was to help capture the German paratroopers, who were dropped behind our lines. The MPs at Checkpoint were checking serial numbers, and our jeep’s serial numbers were ones they were looking for. We tried to explain that we just picked up the mail, but were sent back to Luxembourg City with a police escort. It turned out that the MPs located the orders that said they should be checking “Dog Tag” numbers instead, so we were let go. When we arrived back at Battalion, we were met with “Where were you? What happened? We called Regiment and they said you left over two hours ago.” We explained that we were stopped at a 1st Army Checkpoint. The serial number on our jeep matched one of the numbers the MPs were looking for. We were taken to the 1st Army Provost Marshal Office, as possible “German paratroopers and spies.” The Battalion staff said they were glad we got back safe!

The Battle of the Bulge turned out to be a bigger and more important attack than any commander realized on the first day. The attack was on a 75-mile front at the same time. This battle turned out to be the largest land battle the US Army ever fought, since it was fought on June 14, 1775 to the present.

Awards: Combat Medical Badge, Bronze Star Medal with “V” device (valor), 2 Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle East Medal with 5 Campaign Stars (Battle Stars), WWII Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, The Chevalier-French Legion of Honor Medal, Normandy Jubilee of Liberty Medal, Belgian Fourragère.

*Picture of Jacob at the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the End of the Battle of the Bulge 1/25/20, Washington, DC. Photo courtesy: Hylton Phillips-Page*



## • TAPS •

**Paul Cook** • 10/8/2025

Watertown, NY • 299 ENGR CMBT BN HQ/HQ

**Joseph A. Folino** • 1/14/2026

Jeannette, PA • 691 TDB

**Jacob Ruser, Jr.** • 1/14/2026

Philadelphia, PA • 4 INFD

**Marcel Schmetz** • 1/20/2026

Thimister-Clermont, Belgium • Remember Museum 39-45

**Horace Sharp** • 12/23/2025

Manhattan, KS • 1 INFD 18 INF BN B

# 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: \$0 for 2026\***

*\* BOBA is gifting the 2026 membership fee to Bulge veterans.*

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.**



## 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!**