

100th Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION ASSOCIATION



NOTE!! ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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SPRING 2018



President MG [R] J. Ron Sholar and wife, Linda

Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

President, MG [R] J. Ron Sholar's Message

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100th Anniversary Reunion

Thank You 90th Veterans of All Generations

Recently, COL (Ret) Marshall Crawford, an old friend and fellow soldier from 90th RRC days, forwarded an article on the subject of veterans as students. The piece, written by Dr. Walter Wendler, President of West Texas A&M University, is a man who spent a career in academia, & his words really struck a chord with me. These days, this topic is on the minds of many as tens of thousands of our young, fellow citizens return to college after serving this country in war. In his writing, the author outlined not only what veterans as students contribute to universities but also what they need.

Here is a particular passage from his writing, in his words, as he wrote them: **"America's universities are the best in the world. This is so for many reasons, but primary among them is that we live in a free and open society. Two and one-half centuries of freedom and individual independence have allowed and encouraged the development of great universities. Sovereignty, protected by a strong national defense and an effective military, sustains the liberty of individuals. That military is built on the backs of veterans—one day, one selfless act, one battle or war (threatened or real) at a time."**

Sovereignty, strong national defense, effective military...sustains liberty...military built on the backs of veterans. Those words describe more than the building of great universities...they are at the heart and soul of building and sustaining a **great nation**.

What this nation's veterans have done and continue to do for their country cannot be quantified but what they do can be, must be, recognized and appreciated. With each annual Veteran's Day, we set aside time to say a collective thanks to our nation's heroes but we always have reason and opportunity for much more.

100th Annual Reunion

In the 90th Division Association family, we will soon have our own chance to again celebrate the contributions of our Tough Ombre veterans. We will spend time saying thank you for having been part of a military force that helped build America...*one day, one selfless act, one battle or war (threatened or real) at a time.*" The last weekend in July, we will gather in reunion in San Antonio, TX to celebrate the 100 year history of the 90th Division Association. It's **our** time that we've set aside to remember, to honor, and to say thanks.

And what a grand reunion it will be. We're expecting a good attendance, and we have a great program planned. It will begin with an early opportunity to gather on Thursday evening (you can read about that elsewhere in the newsletter) followed by the Friday lunch and dinner programs. We will hear from our friends in Europe and from the commander of the 90th Sustainment Brigade. On Saturday, we will travel the short distance out to historic Ft Sam Houston for a ceremony celebrating a century of service by Tough Ombres. There will be time to briefly explore the Ft Sam Houston Museum which includes history of the 90th's time on the post and in the region. The 90th's historic ties to venerable old Ft Sam Houston run deep and whether this will be your first or just most recent visit to the post, we believe that it will be appreciated by all.

Saturday evening's program will include a special recognition and tribute to our WWII veterans. On Sunday morning, the traditional Memorial Breakfast will bring to a close what we expect will have been a very rewarding time together.

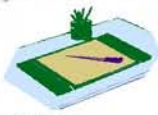
Much awaits us as we gather in San Antonio. Linda and I look forward to seeing you in July.

MG (Ret) Ron Sholar, President

100th Annual Reunion - July 26-29, 2018 - San Antonio, TX

Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



The time is almost

here for our once-in-a-lifetime 100th Annual Reunion. Hard to believe! It is bitter-sweet for me, because my beloved Jim won't be sharing it with me, as he had so longed to do. Sadly, some of our other faithful WW2 veterans have also either answered the "Call of Taps", or failing health will not permit them to attend. As it stands now, there will be less than a dozen WW2 veterans attending. None of us likes the reality of the situation - but we can't change it either.

In every newsletter, I BEG, PLEAD, and try to SHAME you into paying dues, which is the "lifblood" of the Association. It has been to no avail, and dues payers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year were ONLY a pitiful 368. REMINDER [announcement below], dues now are \$40. The Association also desperately needs contributions to the 500 Club as well as Memorial Donations. These \$\$\$ are what enables us to print and mail out newsletters. There may not be many more due to ever dwindling funds. PAY NOW as our new year begins July 1.

On a happier note, KUDOS to our current President, MG [R] Ron Sholar, who [with his wife, Linda], has been able to put together a terrific program for our 100th Reunion. I take NO credit for it, so PLEASE express your sincere gratitude to both Ron and Linda for all the time and effort they have put in to planning this coming memorable Reunion. They have devoted much of their personal time to put together all the "pieces of the puzzle" in order to make sure this momentous occasion will be thoroughly enjoyed and long remembered by all who attend. We won't have any info re: further availability of rooms until after June 21, so can't guess what to expect.

NEWS FLASH!



1. The 90th Executive Committee voted at the 2017 Reunion to **INCREASE** Annual dues to **\$40**, beginning with the fiscal year of **July 1, 2018** - More dues payers are desperately needed. **IT IS NOW TIME TO PAY FOR 2018-2019!**
2. **2018 Reunion Registration fee is INCREASED to \$30.** The Reunions are losing money, but the goal is still to break even.
3. **AGAIN, a reminder - PLEASE!!** If you no longer intend to pay dues or wish to be removed from receiving newsletters, you need to let **Rhoda Reid** know. Also, if a newsletter is coming to a deceased person, PLEASE let Rhoda know, so the name can be removed. Any address changes also need to be sent to Rhoda. The Association address is on the front page of the newsletter at the top. Here's the "broken record" message again: The Association cannot survive with the current level of people paying dues. So if you want to keep the newsletters coming, you need to pay your dues each year!!! As a reminder, we are on a **FISCAL, NOT calendar** year: July 1 - June 30

YOUR 2018-2019 \$40 DUES ARE DUE JULY1! PAY NOW!!

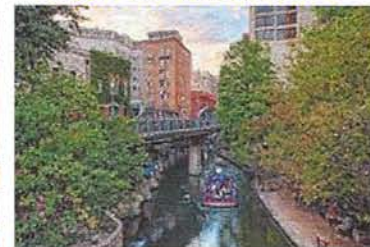
2018 - 100th ANNUAL REUNION!

MENGER HOTEL

JULY 27-29, 2018 - SAN ANTONIO, TX



View of Riverwalk



Reunion Thursday Evening Event!!

On Thursday evening, the SA Chamber of Commerce is hosting a reception for the 90th Division Reunion Attendees & sponsoring a River Boat Ride [2 boats] following the Reception. The boat ride will be limited to 70 people, but the Reception is open attendance. We have been told the Reception will have "heavy" hors d'oeuvres, so you may or may not want to eat a dinner on your own after the reception. That will be your choice. The Association will not have a dinner at the hotel. Location details will be provided at the Reunion.

BENEFACTORS STILL NEEDED!

THE 90TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION STILL NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONORS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP COVER SOME OF THE COST FOR THE 2018 100TH REUNION, AS THERE WILL BE EXTRA EXPENSES FOR THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME MEMORABLE EVENT - 100TH ANNUAL REUNION!!

SPECIFIC NEEDS:

1. UNDERWRITE THE COST OF NEW LANYARDS - \$500-\$1,000
2. NEW NAME BADGES - OUR SUPPLY IS DEPLETED
3. COST OF PRINTING THE MEAL TICKETS - ABOUT \$500
4. COST OF REUNION PROGRAM BOOK - \$1,200+
5. COST OF BUSES TO TRANSPORT ATTENDEES FROM HOTEL TO FORT SAM HOUSTON AND BACK FOR SPECIAL CEREMONIES

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DID SEND EXTRA \$\$ - THEIR NAMES ARE LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE, UPPER RIGHT COLUMN.



RECOGNITION: THOSE WHO GAVE EXTRA \$\$ TO HELP WITH 2018 REUNION EXPENSES! THE 90TH DIVISION THANKS YOU!!!

315th - Bamesberger, Ervin, Eng., COB - 8/02-17 ** **343rd FA Bn - Hamouz**, Edward ** **Stiebritz**, Leslie, 104 - 10/28/17 ** **357th - Evans**, Jack L., CO K, 3Bn ** **Grondin**, Richard K., CO A - 9/24/17 ** **Hoyt**, K. W., CO K ** **Queram**, Elmer D., CO H 2Bn ** **358th - Elsen**, Vernon, CO SV ** **Felan**, Fred F., CO G - 4/10/18 ** **Rodriguez, Sr.**, Felipe, CO HQ - 11/21/17 ** **359th - Hutchinson**, Ralph L., CO A ** **Librera**, Anthony, CO B - 10/29/16 ** **915th FA Bn - Andrews**, Delmer - 2/17/16 ** **Kennedy**, Clyde - 12/14/17



B - Ballew, Bob, 344/FA Bn - by daughter, Judy M. Nedham ** **C - Cancellieri**, Joseph T., 537/AAA - by widow, Arline Cancellieri * **Conn**, Col Charles, 344/FA Bn - by son, Joseph N. Conn ** **D - Duncan**, Michael, 358/F 2Bn - by nephew, Matthew Blaskovich ** **G - Gassman**, Capt. William C., 90th RECON - by son, William C. Gassman * **Goodman**, Fred L., WW1 - by son, Edward Goodman * **Grondin**, Richard K., 357/A - by son, Phil Grondin ** **H - Harvey**, Harry W., 359/D - by widow, Ann H. Harvey ** **K - Kalwasinski**, Frank, 359th - by son, Col [R] Stanley F. Uchman ** **M - Maulin**, Gilbert, 358/I 3Bn - by nephew, David N. Lakin * **McCharen**, Edward L., 359/L - by niece, Dot McCharen Weathersby * **Miller**, Laverne W., 358th - by nephew David W. Miller ** **O - Oldani**, PFC Charles T., 358/G 2Bn - by nephew, David L. Oldani ** **P - Proudian**, Harry A., 357C - by nephew, Edward Sarkisian ** **R - Reid, James R., Sr.**, 344/HQ - by widow, Rhoda S. Reid & John Phillips * **Robertson**, William J., 359 - by son, Dr. Dennis Robertson * **Rovenhagen**, Glen E., 358/M - by widow, Janice L. Rovenhagen ** **S - Singer**, Wilburn A., 359/AT - by widow, Margaret Singer * **Spangler**, James F., 358/HQ - by widow, Margaret Spangler * **Staruk**, Walter, 344/FA Bn - by widow, Catherine Staruk * **Studen**, George, 712/TkBn - by daughter, Deborah Studen-Pavlovich ** **W - Whitley**, John M., Unit ? - by son, Rolf M. Whitley * **Wilson**, Ira T., 3548/Med Det - by son, Dennis Ira Wilson

BAKER, Barney - 773/TD BN WW2
DENNIS, Carlene - widow, Jim Dennis, 343/FA Bn
HARDY, David & Catherine - daughter, & son-in-law, Dr. Joseph L. Stobbe,, 358/G
HIGHTOWER, John D., Jr. - Son, John D. Hightower, 359/HQ
MEIER, Col [R] Arthur C., II - son, Col Arthur C. Meier, 343/FA Bn
MUNSON, Col. [R] Merton E., Jr. - son, Col. Merton E. Munson, 344/FA Bn
REICHLIN, Herbert - 359/MP, WW2
ROBERTON, Dr. Dennis - son, William J. Robertson, 359
VINOT, Stephen & Kathy - daughter, James Kolos, 357/D

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Armstrong, Col [R] Henry, 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
Bradshaw, Janet L., daughter, Joe A. Lucas, Unit ?
Cremean, SFC [R] Kerry W., 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
Eckley, 1st SGT [R] Ed, 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
Foust, Col [R] Daniel, 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
Grove, Charles M., son, Merle Maurice Grove - Unit?
Hershkowitz, Col Daniel, Commander, 90th Sustainment Brigade
Huckaby, Scott A., grandson, 2nd Lt. Fred E. Huckaby, WW 1 359/Supply
Leonard, SFC [R] Gerald A., 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
McCoy, Cindi A., daughter, Leslie Stiebritz, 343rd FA Bn
Palomino, M/SGT [R] Frank, 4159th US Army Reserve [served with 90th member, COL [R] William A. Massad]
Wilson, Dennis Ira, son, Ira T. Wilson, 358/Med. Det.

ATTENTION REUNION ATTENDEES ONLY!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!
YOUR COMPLETED REUNION REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT CHECK ABSOLUTELY MUST BE AT THE ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 20
TO BE PROPERLY REGISTERED IN ADVANCE!
NO MAIL WILL BE DELIVERED AFTER JULY 20 UNTIL AUGUST 3RD.
WHEN YOU PROCRASTINATE, IT MAKES A LOT OF EXTRA WORK FOR RHODA - NOT GOOD!!

REMINDER!!! 2018-2019 DUES ARE DUE JULY 1!!!
NOTE!!! DUES ARE NOW \$40 PER FISCAL YEAR!
DUES PAYMENT FORM ENCLOSED - USE IT!!



TOUGH 'OMBRES TALES

News from veterans of the 90th Division



Ed.: This section contains letters received from veterans only. "Family Album" has letters from family members.

THE TOUGH 'OMBRES COMBAT TEAM
UTAH BEACH TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

357TH INF REGT	343RD FA BN	315TH ENGR BN	90TH QM CO
358TH INF REGT	344TH FA BN	607TH TD BN	790TH ORD CO
359TH INF REGT	915TH FA BN	315TH MED BN	DIV BAND
712TH TK BN	345TH FA BN	90TH SIG CO	90TH MP FLT
773RD TD BN	537TH AABN	90TH RCN TP	HQS & HQS COS

IN 5 CAMPAIGNS AND 318 DAYS OF BATTLE, MARKED BY GREAT COST OF PRECIOUS LIVES AND EXTRAORDINARY VALOR, THE TOUGH 'OMBRES ACCOMPLISHED EVERY MISSION. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH AMERICAN, FRENCH AND OTHER ALLIED UNITS, THEY LIBERATED EUROPE AND MADE A BETTER WORLD.

343/FA Bn

Leslie Stiebritz

Sept. 11, 1913 - Oct. 28, 2017



Leslie Stiebritz left for his heavenly journey Saturday morning, Oct. 28th in Longview at the age of 104.

Les is survived by two children, Cindi McCoy (Ron) and Jim Stiebritz, both of Longview; eight grandchildren, Jason Britzius (Shelley) of Longview, Tawni Broughton (Rylan) of Allyn, Wash., Kevin McCoy in the Philippines, Scott McCoy of Longview, Wendy Meredith (Steve) in Mexico, Jordan Stiebritz of Seattle, and Caitlyn Haskins (Stefan) and Erin Stiebritz, both of Chehalis, Wash., 21 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.



Les was born Sept. 11, 1913, in Elk, Wash., to Charles and Anna (Johnston) Stiebritz. Les moved to Longview with his family in 1929. He rode a boxcar, tending to the farm animals and loaded with the families personal belongings while the rest of the family came to Longview in a car. They met Les at the Kelso Train Depot a week later. Les attended a year of school in Kelso and then in his senior year transferred to R.A. Long, graduating in 1931. After high school Les moved to Central Oregon and herded sheep during The Great Depression for a couple of years. When he returned to

Longview he met Verone Warner and knew she was his soulmate. He went to work for Weyerhaeuser until enlisting in the Army.

Les joined the Army on Jan. 7, 1942. After basic training, Les was assigned to the 90th Division Fire Direction Center. Using maps to plot locations, his job was to figure the range and directional data for all the guns. He would phone or radio each battery, instructing them on where and how to shoot.

Les boarded the troop ship "Dominion Monarch" for Liverpool, England on March 23, 1943. He was among the soldiers who landed on Utah Beach on D Day. His battalion traveled across France, Germany and Czechoslovakia, sleeping in foxholes and taking only 11 showers in 11 months. His battalion liberated the Flossenberg concentration camp and seized the Merkes Salt Mines (repository for the German Treasury). While Les was in Hof, Germany, the 11th Panzer Division surrendered. His battalion of 500 men had to guard and process 15,000 Germans and their equipment.

Returning home from the war, Les married his sweetheart Verone on Nov. 10, 1945. Les resumed his job at Weyerhaeuser and worked there for 32 years. Les and Verone purchased the Longview-Kelso Bus Company in 1968 and operated the city bus system until they sold it to the City of Longview in 1976.

Les was not ready to retire. He drove a mail truck and picked up the local mail in Portland every evening for a few years. He also helped his son's run their fishing business out of Illwaco, Wash. He did not fully retire until he was in his early 90's.

Les was a member of the Northlake Baptist Church, 90th Division Association, the American Legion and the '23 Club. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling and spending time with his family. Another highlight was attending the yearly 90th Division Army Reunions. In March 2017, Les received the Legion of Honor medal from France, for his service to their country.

Les was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Verone in 1992; a daughter, Connie Stiebritz in 1948; a son, Dan Stiebritz in 1992; three brothers, Roy, Frankie and Floyd Stiebritz; and a sister, Florence Tover.

A service is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday at Steele Chapel at Longview Memorial Park. Pastor James Conrad will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Les' life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Community Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 2067, Longview, WA 98632.



357th

Chumley, Donald C., CO E - "I think of the 90th often - I wish I could attend the Reunions." [Ed.: We wish you could too, Donald - I really miss seeing all the veterans - it just isn't the same without our WW2 Heroes!]

Evans, Jack L., K C) 3Bn - "I received the Distinguished Service Cross; the Bronze Star; and 2 Purple Hearts" [Ed.: You are one of our heroes - thank you for fighting for our freedom!]

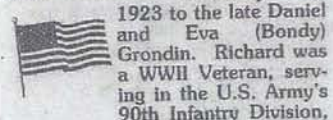
Geuss, Sr., Gerard, G C) - "Dear Rhoda, Thank you for doing all this work. I know because I was Secretary / Treasurer for our Legion Post #150. Take care of yourself. I will be 93 on June 27! I am still in the same house I built in 1952. I worked for IBM for 35 years. Thanks again and God Bless." [Ed.: My congratulations on your coming 93 birthday - that's quite a milestone! My Jim would have been 93 on January 9. - I remember the IBM company very well from my many years in the work force. They had some strict rules at one time, such as white shirts only & navy blue or black suits - how times have changed - not so sure that is a good thing. Thanks for your note! We don't get very many letters from our WW2 veterans anymore, and I miss them.]

GRONDIN

357/A



age 94, passed away at his home surrounded by loved ones on Monday, September 4, 2017. Richard was born in Otsville, MI on February 8, 1923 to the late Daniel and Eva (Bondy) Grondin. Richard was a WWII Veteran, serving in the U.S. Army's 90th Infantry Division,



a recipient of a Purple Heart and 5 Bronze Stars. He loved being with family and friends. Whether he was tending to his property, his pond or his loved ones, he did it with a gentle touch, much respect and love in his heart. Richard died as he lived, in faith, courage and strength. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Elizabeth J. (Kratzmilller) Grondin; children David (Patty) of AZ, Beth (Tom) Haskins of Barberton, Phil (Cindy) of CA, Joe (Laura) of Medina, Eve (Julian) Janota of Kelly's Is. and Mary Bowman of Lodi; 17 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Michael and grandson Jared Grondin; sister Nelly; and brothers Art, Paul, Kenneth, Sterling, Lyle, Oliver and Pete. The family will receive friends from 4-7:00 pm, Thursday, September 14th at Waite & Son Funeral Home, 765 N. Court St., Medina, 44256. Family Reflections and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 am on Friday, September 15th at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 606 E. Washington St., Medina 44256. Burial with Military Honors will follow at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society c/o St. Francis Church. waitefuneralhome.com

"Dear Rhoda, Our wonderful, loving, & heroic father passed away this last September. He was 94 years old, and he fought for life right to the very end. His life was truly a life well lived, and he is greatly missed by all who knew him and loved him. As a replacement troop, he waded ashore at Omaha Beach on July 1, 1944 and was soon assigned to the 357th Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division. He spent a year and a half serving on the front lines and was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery. He also received a Purple Heart for surviving a wound suffered from shrapnel that had torn through his shoulder and nearly taken his life. For well over 50 years he had rarely spoken of those terrible months spent in fox holes and on battlefields throughout the European theater of war. I believe your organization was instrumental in my father finally being able to unburden his soul. I want to truly thank you for all of the dedication and hard work that you do in keeping the 90th Division Association active and relevant. I've enclosed a copy of the book that my father wrote several years ago. I hope that you enjoy it as much as so [con.t.]

357th con't.

many of his friends and family have. My Sincere thanks and best wishes, Phil Grondin, son" [Ed.: I called Phil when his note and book came in the mail. We had a great visit. The Grondin family was very special to me. Does anyone remember the year the whole family came, and I had them lead the Pledge of Allegiance at one of the dinners. They all dressed in red, white and blue and looked absolutely stunning!. They were so honored to be able to lead the group, and it was a delight to see them in action. I had many lovely conversations with various family members. It was the only reunion that the entire family came to. The last reunion any of them came to was the one in Clayton, MO in 2014. Richard gave me an autographed copy of his book then, so I now have 2 - and yes, it was very interesting reading!]

358/G

Houston Astros, the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the San Antonio Spurs. His hobbies included photography, woodworking, and watch repair. He developed a love of reading and became self-educated in various life skills.

Visitation is scheduled at Sunset Northwest Funeral Home, 6321 Bandera Road, on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 12:30 P.M. at St. Bridget Catholic Church, 6907 Kitchener Road. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full U.S. Army Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

FRED F. FELAN

July 15, 1918 - April 10, 2018

358th Combat Infantry Regiment, he served as squad leader and achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant. His unit was engaged in the D-Day invasion on the beaches of Normandy, France. Wounded in battle, Fred was awarded the Purple Heart and the World War II Victory Medal. He earned the Good Conduct Medal and Expert Marksman Rifle & Bayonet Medals. In November, 2014, the French Consulate awarded him the distinguished Legion of Honor Medal, a distinction given to veterans who fought in campaigns for the liberation of France.

He enjoyed a 25-year career in Civil Service, employed as an aircraft mechanic and aircraft instrument technician at Kelly Field Air Force Base.

Fred enjoyed playing baseball, camping, various outdoor and indoor games, gambling in Las Vegas, and traveling. He always looked forward to baseball, football, and basketball seasons. He was an avid fan of the



Vincent Morales (Maricela), and Daniel Morales (AnaMaria); 9 great-grandchildren: Alexandria Morales, Stone Garcia, Connor Camryn, and Callin Burrage, and Gabriella, Daniel, Juan Diego, and Lilliana Morales. He is also survived by his sister, Hortensia De La Rosa and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fred was a World War II Army veteran serving in active duty from 1942-1946. A member of the 90th Division, Company G

FRED F. FELAN (PICO), age 99, was called home by the Lord on April 10, 2018. He was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 15, 1918 to Anastacio Felan and Antonia Faz Felan. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Anita Molina Felan; daughters Sylvia Acosta, husband Mario, Janie Morales, husband Eduardo; 5 grandchildren and spouses, Roxanne Burrage (Joe), Donna Arrick (Gene), Edward Morales (Alma),



358/HQ

Rodriguez, Sr., Felipe - sent in by his son, Felipe Rodriguez, Jr. -
 "Enclosed is an article I submitted to the Brea, CA local paper on Veterans' Day, September 11, 2011. As a side note, the Commanding Officer my dad witnessed as going down, was Lt. Col Stoffer. Also, the name of the ship he crossed on D-Day was the "Excelsior" [unable to confirm]. Would your historical archives have this record? Thank you, Felipe Rodriguez, Jr." [Ed.: Had a phone chat with Felipe, Jr. May 10, 2018 & learned that Felipe, Sr. passed away November 2, 2017 at 99 years of age, so he won't see this article, which is sad. His name is listed in "Call of Taps". Felipe said he and his family may come to the SA Reunion - they have family there also.]



Left: PFC Felipe Rodriguez, Sr., 358th HQ & HQ Company - Right: The Presentation of French Legion of Honor Medal, by Consul General of France for L.A., CA., Alex Cruau pins medal on Felipe, Sr. May 8, 2015

PRESENTATION PROGRAM

Robert Johnson, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
 Master of Ceremonies

Junior ROTC Unit
 San Pedro High School

Judith Urlich, Soprano

Suzan Newsome, Soprano

Pastor Douglas Williams
 Chaplain, USS Iowa

David Way, Curator and Historian
 Pacific Battleship Center

Don Knabe, Supervisor District 4
 County of Los Angeles

Lynette America, Director of Protocol
 City of Los Angeles

Lt Col Robert Johnson

Axel Cruau
 Consul General of France, Los Angeles

Lt Col Johnson

The reception was made possible thanks to generous donations by the Air Force Association-Schriever Chapter, the Association of the U.S. Army Greener, Los Angeles Chapter, the Mallory family, and various other honoree families and friends.

PRESENTATION PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

The French National Anthem

The U.S. National Anthem

Invocation

Welcome

Introduction of Special Guests

Presentation of Awards

Closing & Acknowledgements

Photographs followed by reception

PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL TO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

COLONEL FINEST/JACK ROKAUR, U.S. ARMY RESERVE (RET)
 LT COLONEL ROBERT HECKER, U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE (RET)
 CAPTAIN WALTER V. BODLANDER, U.S. ARMY
 SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES H. KELLER, U.S. ARMY (RET)
 STAFF SERGEANT CARMEN A. SCHIAVONI, U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE
 TECHNICAL SERGEANT MASAO TAKAHASHI, U.S. ARMY
 SERGEANT KENNETH MALLORY, U.S. ARMY
 SERGEANT THEODORE J. OPTILO, U.S. ARMY
 CORPORAL RAY L. VAN ZANTEN, U.S. ARMY
 TECHNICIAN 5TH GRADE WILLIAM R. BARN, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS REYNALDO CHAROLLA, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CRUZ DE LEON, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RAYMOND DEVEAU, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY GALLARDO, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MARTIN II. LAGIN, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ARTHUR M. PETERSEN, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FELIPE RODRIGUEZ, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HERMAN SMITH, U.S. ARMY
 PRIVATE LIONARD "JERRY" KING, U.S. ARMY

**BATTLESHIP USS IOWA MUSEUM
 SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA
 MAY 8TH, 2015 -11:00AM**

359/B 1Bn

Minutolo, Peter Paul - Ed.: Widow,
 Virginia sent Peter's info in Spring, 2017, and his name was listed in "Call of Taps" in the Fall newsletter. However, there was not room to print his Obituary, and Virginia was hoping to see that in print. So it is included in this edition, with my sincere apologies to Virginia that it didn't get included last Fall. I hope you are doing well in adjusting to life without your dear husband and WW2 Hero. God Bless, comfort and keep you in his care always. Rhoda Reid

Peter Paul Minutolo

Peter passed into the arms of our Lord on the eighth of May 2017. Peter was born on November twenty-fifth, 1923 to Anthony and Grace Scutella Minutolo in Newark, New York as their tenth and youngest child. He attended school in Newark where he excelled in the sports of basketball and football, graduating in 1943. Following graduation he went into the Army serving in the European theatre war effort of World War 2. He spent the last ten months of his service in hospitals due to his lower extremities being frozen in a major battle in France. He received a number of American and French medals for his service, as well as the Bronze Star. Following his military service, he returned to Newark, New York where he worked briefly for the Newark High School Physical Education Department and was an official referee for high school basketball games. On September seventh, 1957 Peter married the love of his life, the former Virginia Renzi, who he enjoyed calling his "child bride". They celebrated fifty years of marriage in 2007 and would have celebrated sixty years this coming September. Peter always had a love of music and for a number of years he played drums in a number of drum corps, including the "Geneva Appleknockers" and competing nationally with the Syracuse Polish Legion Corps. He also started the Newark Band Boosters Club. He worked most of his life for the John B. Pike Construction company as a Labor Foreman. Upon retiring from construction, he worked as a repair/maintenance coordinator for the Robert Weichbrodt McDonald stores. During his life in Newark he was active in the American Legion, VFW, Elks, Sodas Bay Heights Golf Club, and Newark Country Club, where he was golf chairman and Silver Star Tournament Chairman for many years. He and his wife Virginia retired to Florida in 2007. Peter leaves his wife of almost sixty years, Virginia, daughter, Mary Grace Burnell (Timothy), son Michael, Peter Minutolo, grandchildren Michelle, Michael Jr., and Marc Minutolo; Kyle and Kristopher Burrell, Ashley Wise and Kayla (Carly) Johnson; Great Granddaughters Mallorie and Mariella Minutolo, and a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, six sisters and three brothers and his sidekick Niki, the family basset hound. A Catholic Prayer Service will be on Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 PM from the Lohman Funeral Home, 1201 Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange, with a viewing for family and friends from 4:00 PM until the time of the service. Burial with Military Honors will be held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on Friday, May 12th at 1:30 PM. In memory of Peter please consider one's favorite charity of their local humane society. Condolences may be shared with the family through this online guestbook at lohmanfuneralhomes.com.

**Goodman, Edward, son, Fred
 Goodman, WW 1 90th Inf. Div., of
 360th Inf. Brigade, CO E - "My**
 father was first with the 360th at Camp Travis & later assigned to 180th/HQ. He left NY 20 June, 1918 for Europe on the Kinfauns Castle. He was in the Saint-Mihiel & Muse-Argonne Offensives/ He was in the Occupation & returned to the U.S. 7 June, 1919. He became friends with his translator, & they corresponded after the war. In the last letter I have from Paul, he was going to French Indochina because of economic conditions in France. My father was proud of his association with the 90th Division and maintained his connection to it through the years. Thanks for all you do for the Association."

**France 1918
 Fred Goodman,
 driver, 90th
 Division 180th
 Brigade, HQ -
 Paul Le Blanc,
 Translator, is
 in the side car..
 Sent by son,
 Edward**



**2018-2019 \$40 DUES ARE DUE JULY 1
 This Newsletter's mailing label shows PD or NOT PD**



Clyde B. Kennedy

March 13, 1919 - December 14, 2017

Clyde Brockman Kennedy, born on March 13, 1919, in Lamar, Colorado, and longtime resident of southeastern Colorado, passed away on December 14, 2017 at the age of 98 years and 9 months. He

was preceded in death by his parents, Fred W. and Vera Wood Kennedy, and by his brother Glen Kennedy. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Marie, his son Craig (Aunt) of Centennial, Colorado, his daughter Karen of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, granddaughters Shannon (Frank) Straub, Kimberly (Sam) Cox, Melissa (Aaron) Schweid and great grandchildren Oliver, Vivian, Nora, Aubree, Kinley, and George.

Clyde grew up in southeastern Colorado graduating from Granada High School in 1936 and was President of his class. He attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri, where he played the trumpet in the Wentworth marching band. He marched in many parades at the Universities of Missouri and Kansas and in Kansas City. He transferred to the University of Colorado Boulder where he continued in the marching band. He performed in the Cotton Bowl when Byron "Whizzer" White, who became a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, was a key player on the CU football team. Clyde was a member of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity making many long-time acquaintances. In 1941 he graduated with a B.S. in Accounting and Business. Clyde continued to be a loyal alumnus of the University of Colorado and fan of the C. U. Buffaloes.

Clyde accepted a job after graduation with a produce company in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as an accountant. In 1942 he was drafted into the US Army taking basic training at Camp Barkley in Abilene, Texas, followed by training in Louisiana, California, and Arizona.

Clyde was assigned to the 90th Infantry Division of General George Patton's 3rd Army. Clyde's division was known as the Tough Ombres. As part of the advance party he sailed on the Queen Mary to Scotland, landing at the Firth of Clyde, then traveled to Worfield, a small English village outside of Wolverhampton, where they set up camp. General Patton visited the camp and gave a memorable motivational speech to the troops there.

While stationed in Worfield, for recreation, the soldiers traveled into Wolverhampton to see the city and attend serviceman's dances. One evening while attending he looked across the room and saw a pretty English girl and whispered to his buddies, "See that pretty girl in the black dress? I think I will go to ask her for a dance." Thus, Clyde Kennedy of small town Colorado met Marie Arrowsmith of Wolverhampton and they danced the evening away. Many dates followed while Clyde was stationed in Worfield.

A few weeks later, Clyde was transferred to the South of England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. Clyde and Marie committed to writing each other daily and they have kept the 400 letters to this day. D Day began and on D +6 Clyde and his unit with the 90th Division landed on Utah Beach. They took part in the Battle of the Bulge and moved across Northern France, Luxembourg, Germany, crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge and finally met the Russians



in Czechoslovakia. They all celebrated by exchanging cigarettes for Russian vodka. The division earned 5 battle stars, liberated the concentration camp in Flossenberg, and spent more days in combat than any other division. Clyde was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service.

When the European war was won, Clyde traveled back to Wolverhampton where he asked Marie Arrowsmith to marry him while sitting on a park bench outside St. George's Church. They were married on September 26, 1945 in Wolverhampton, England.

Clyde returned to Rocky Ford, Colorado, where he began work as an accountant for the American Crystal Sugar Company. Marie joined him five months later and they made their home in Rocky Ford. Son Craig was born on July 22, 1947.

In 1950 Clyde returned to Granada taking a new job as assistant cashier at the American State Bank. Daughter Karen was born August 21, 1952. Clyde worked at the bank for 40 years and retired as Executive Vice President in 1989. Over those 40 years he knew everyone in the community and was the local banker to many in southeastern Colorado. He always greeted the customers with a smile, encouraging them to be successful in business and life. Those relationships spanned several generations. If there was ever a slow moment, he would entertain those he knew with many stories of his and their past.

Living in the community for over 90 years he was an integral part of the area, serving on the school board, the National Weather Bureau, the Masonic Lodge, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lamar, and the Lions Club. In 2008 he was named Colorado Mason of the year out of 10,000 Masons in the state. Clyde attended many school events, and football and basketball games. At just about every function that occurred around Granada, Holly, and Lamar he was there supporting the activities and communities. In the last few years he and Marie were honored as Grand Marshalls at Lamar Days, the Lamar September 11 parade, and the Fiesta de Colores in Granada. If there was a Veteran's float in a parade, Clyde was there with many of his veteran friends.

Clyde & Marie were ardent travelers to England, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, Panama Canal, Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Mexico. They also visited over 40 of the 50 US states. At home, he was an avid gardener, a writer of letters, recollections, and poems, and in later years developed a keen interest in the computer and internet. Clyde loved spending time with his family and especially time with the grandchildren and great grandchildren, particularly on holidays.

Clyde will be missed by everyone he knew and most will remember his famous words: "I have probably told you this story before, you can stop me, but if it's ok with you I would like to tell it again."

Funeral services were held on December 29, 2017 at the Peacock Family Chapel in Lamar, Colorado, with The Reverend Ian Blacker officiating. Interment followed at the Hillside Cemetery in Granada with Masonic Rites by the Granada Masonic Lodge #72 A.F. & A.M. and full military honors by the American Legion and V.F.W.

915/FA Bn - Kennedy, Craig, son, Clyde B. Kennedy - "Rhoda, It is with a heavy heart that I am contacting you to let you and the 90th Division know that Clyde Kennedy passed away on December 14, 2017. He had been in a Nursing Home in Holly, Colorado for the past year, but it was only over the last 3 weeks that he took a real turn. Prior to that, he was himself and continued to interact with people and tell his many stories. My Mom, over the year, spent all but 6 days by his side, from 10:00 in the morning to 9:00 at night, before going back to their home. They had been married 72 years, and throughout their whole life, they went everywhere together. Dad had a very blessed life, and we and all his family and friends, will all miss him dearly. His services were Friday December 29 at the Peacock Funeral Home in Lamar, Colorado. Thank you for everything you did over the years for my parents. You and Jim were very special to my Dad and our family. Kind regards, Craig Kennedy, along with Marie and Karen Kennedy" [Ed.: This news was hard to accept, even though I knew he wouldn't be with us much longer. When they couldn't make it to the 2017 Reunion because of Clyde's failing health, it was obvious that his remaining time on this earth was short. For readers who never were blessed to know the Kennedy family, just know they are an extraordinary family - faithful attendees for many, many, many years to 90th Reunions. Clyde loved to tell the story of how he met, wooed and married his beautiful English bride, Marie. Anyone who was around them knew the love between them was deep and constant. They were always kind, gracious, gentle, courteous, and welcoming to everyone. I loved watching the two of them. It is a heartbreak that Clyde won't be with us in San Antonio. At Marie's request, she and Craig - and hopefully Craig's wife & Karen Kennedy will be with us at the San Antonio Reunion. If you haven't met her and will be at the reunion, be sure to seek her out and introduce yourself. Clyde was a "prince of a fellow" and a wonderful example of a true Tough 'Ombre. May he rest in peace, even as we grieve our loss.



A 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY

2nd Lieutenant Fred W. Huckaby, WW 1 359/Supply Regt.
as told by his grandson, New Member, Scott Huckaby



"Growing up, my paternal grandfather was the tallest, quietest man I had ever seen. He sold Metropolitan Life Insurance in Atlanta for 40 years, and was a door to door vacuum salesman before that - right after he came back from the war. WW 1. I remember a lot of what he said from when I was little because he said so little. He never talked about the War; my Dad was the one who told me most of what I remember. I know that he was stationed on the Texas/Mexico border when General Pershing chased Poncho Villa, and I have some old photos of that. I also know that he went to France in WW 1. He got out of the Army in 1919. I learned that he was a sergeant while there and was given a field commission to a 2nd LT when his officer was killed. His service pistol is a family heirloom that I inherited when my father passed away. Other than the few photos, that is all I had on him. No one knew anything else.

Since I am a military history buff and high school teacher, I really wanted to learn more

about his service. Imagine my surprise when I tried to get his service records from the government and learned that the St. Louis fire of 1973 destroyed his records. All they sent me was his final pay stub and when he mustered out. Nothing about the battles he fought in, service decorations, etc. A few weeks ago I was cleaning out a long stored box of family papers from my grandparents time. My Dad shelved them 2 decades ago when they passed away, and I had never opened the box. When I got to the bottom of the box, I found a few more photos of my grandfather, and - imagine this - his military ID [I included a photocopy!] sic: [on following page]. I learned from it that he was with the 90th Division 359 Regiment and came out as a 2nd Lt. General Martin signed it. Once I had that, it didn't take long to find the 90th Association and your website. I have been poking around it for days. Imagine when I went to the Unit Histories page and looked at the 90th school teacher, I really wanted to learn more



90TH SOLDIER'S STORY [continued]



2nd Lieutenant Fred W. Huckaby, WW 1 359/Supply Regt.

as told by his grandson, New Member, Scott Huckaby

"He is listed in Annex 3, Section 20 where there is a list of officers. He is on page 8 with the 2nd Lieutenants, as Fred W. Huckaby, Supply of the 359th Regiment.

I'm not sure where the W came from, as his middle name is England. A few other interesting items. As I was growing up, he retired to Meansville, GA where I live now; in the house he and my grandmother last bought. It is hot in Georgia, but he never wore shorts---ever. On occasion when he would sit down, his pants would ride up and his socks would come down. There were purple splotches all over his legs. I asked my grandmother what they were. They were married in 1919, and she was also a WW 2 nurse. She told me that these were caused by chlorine gas he walked in while in the trenches in France. I also learned from my Dad that while he was a sergeant, he was a bayonet expert and trained the men coming from Texas and Oklahoma while they were getting ready to ship out in 1918.

Anyway, enclosed is my dues to join as an honorary member. If I understand the website correctly, I may join as his grandson. His name is Fred. E. Huckaby, 2nd Lieut.,

359th Infantry Regiment. My name is Scott A. Huckaby, PO Box 283 - Meansville, GA 30256-0283 - My wife is Glenda.

I hope I didn't bore you. I was just excited to find this and learn more about him.

Sincerely, Scott Huckaby"

[Ed.: Are you kidding me? Bored? Never ever, when it comes to stories like this! We all thank you for taking the time to write and give us an offspring's perspective on one of the 90th Heroes. The Association has many family members who can tell you stories of how they grew up knowing nothing about their 90th Veteran Father, grandfather, Uncle, Cousin, etc. --- because the veteran NEVER spoke of his war time experiences. In at least one case, a member daughter of a 90th veteran was told by her mother to NEVER EVER bring up the subject with her father or ask him any questions. She grew up in mortal fear of him. Years later, she found the 90th Association and has since made many trips to France, retracing his steps in WW2. Her life was changed because of being able to finally get some answers. So we love stories like yours and love to share them with readers. THANK YOU!]

Ed.: I was recently sent a large photograph of a WW 1 group of soldiers that the sender found in his parents' attic - they had never looked in the attic & had no connection to the 90th. I did not open the pkg. as I am bringing it to the reunion.

2018-2019 \$40 Dues are due July 11 Time to pay up!
The Association cannot survive if the members don't pay dues - AND contribute to the 500 Club. It is these two factors that pay for the newsletter.

REMEMBER! The 500 Club

The 90th Division Association also needs your contributions - any amount above the \$40 Annual Dues - these donations go to The 500 Club and are tax deductible. These funds also help to maintain the Association and make it possible to print the Newsletter. Any amount of \$250 or more receives a letter from the Association stating the amount that can



Scott, We welcome you to the Association! We wish you would come to our 100th Annual Reunion in San Antonio July 26-29, so you could meet some of the descendants of our WW 2 veterans and also the few WW2 Veterans that will be with us. We are like a family group - very friendly and always have a grand time. It's a great way to learn more about the 90th soldiers too!

be used when you file tax returns. The 90th Division Adssociation is a 501-C3 not-for-profit Organization. So when you send in your dues payment, add extra to be put in the 500 Club. The members of the 500 Club receive a separate card from the dues card & have their names listed in the Reunion Program Book each year.



Letters From Family Members of 90th Veterans

This section offers news from 90th widows, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends

The Widows Write...

Bamesberger, Evelyn, widow of Ervin, 315/Eng. B CO - "Dear Mrs. Reid, I have talked to you on the phone once or twice, but thought a letter might be better this time. My husband, Ervin, passed away August 2, 2017 in Aurora, NE. He was a member of the 90th Division for a number of years, and he enjoyed traveling to the reunions - very proud to be a WW2 Veteran. He was on one of the first trips to D.C. on the Honor Flight. After he came back [I never thought he would do this], he went to every organization and some churches, and told them about the Honor Flight & his Army life. So many enjoyed his presentation and could tell he was delighted to do this. Now the Aurora High School History teacher has been raising money from individuals & clubs to go to D.C. on Vietnam Veterans, and it is a very good thing to happen. Ervin, belonging to the American Legion for almost 70 years, & all the Vets Clubs, the American Legion has in honor of Ervin and other vets, a pancake feed where people could donate for these Honor Flights. When Ervin passed away, if people gave Memorials to them, we asked them to make the Memorial to our church or American Legion. I received many and was able to make good donations to the Legion and our church.. The day of the funeral, we had Military rights, and Ervin was always in the firing squad as long as he was able - so they left a vacant place where he always stood. Very touching! I miss him a lot, but each day gets better, as you know, because you recently went through this yourself. I would like to have his name in the 90th Division paper about his death on August 2, 2017. We knew a few [not many] - maybe some will remember him. Sorry I can't pay membership anymore, but I wish I could. You can remove Ervin's name from the mailing list. In Sympathy for your loss, Evelyn Bamesberger P.S. Thanks for reading my letter." [Ed. note: What a beautiful letter, Evelyn! Ervin's name is in "Call of Taps" - the first on the list!]

Staruk, Catherine, widow, Walter, 344/FA Bn - "Dear Rhoda, Thank you for the update. Am enclosing dues, 500 Club + Memoprial for Walter. I can't imagine how you keep up with all the work that has to be done to keep all of this going. Wish I could help. The life here in my apartment is good, easy, & in my honme town about 1/2 mile from the house we spent so many years in. I am fortunate to also be near family. Love, Catherine" [Ed.: Thank you, Catherine. I still miss you at reunions!]

Family Album... Other Family Members

Gilbert, Lorna, daughter, Lt. Col. Harold G. Bergdale, 358/SV - "Dear Mrs. Reid, I dropped the ball on dues this year, sorry! Am enclosing check. I had hip replacement surgery a few months ago and got a little behind on various things - age is starting to catch up with me! I'm recovered now, and my quality of life is vastly improved! The 100th Reunion in San Antonio sounds wonderful, and I'm sure it will be a great success. I'm not sure I can make it, but if the opportunity arises, I hope to be there. Your efforts on behalf of the 90th are always greatly appreciated. You have done a [con.t.]

Other family, cont...

masterful job in keeping the flame alive for these wonderful vets. I can remember my parents setting off for these reunions when I was just a little girl; they hardly missed a one for many decades. Best wishes to you - I'm sure it is still difficult without your husband, but you continue to honor him greatly with your tireless efforts. Loma Bergdale Gilbert" [Ed.: Thank you, Loma, for your lovely note. I really miss seeing you when you can't make it to reunions - you are always such a bright, cheerful presence and a delight to talk with. It would be terrific if you could make it to the 100th!]

Grove, Charles M., son, Chaplain Col. Merle M. Grove, Unit ? - "Dear Mrs. Reid, Enclosed is my application for membership in the 90th Division Association. My late father was Chaplain Col Merle Maurice Grove, 0-435010. He began his training at Camp Barkley, TX, and after training in Louisiana, California, and the Harvard Chaplain School, was deployed from Fort Dix. While in ETO, was promoted to division Chaplain. I have in my possession the program for the 28th Annual Reunion, held at the Hotel Texas, 1946, and the annual banquet held November 9, 1946. The guest list is very impressive. I also have other memorabilia that I would love to contribute to the Association's Archives. I have only recently been made aware of your Association and am interested in hopefully attending the next gathering and being able to share my holdings. I am a retired music educator, having taught instrumental music for thirty years, and now have some time to pursue other interests. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Charles M. Grove" [Ed.: WOW!! 1946 - Impressive!! I'm sure our Historian, Tyler Alberts would LOVE to see the memorabilia and add it to the Museum's collection of archives. Hope you can make it to the Reunion.]

Kocour, Michelle, daughter, Max Kocour, 357/HQ 2Bn - "Dear Rhoda, Once again, I am so sorry that people are not paying their dues. I really don't understand, other than they may be sick or deceased. As the daughter of Max Kocour, and as a person who has never had the honor of wearing the U.S. uniform, I am honored to be a member of the 90th Division Association through my father's service. Keep the faith. I will continue to hope and pray more people pay and/or join. Sincerely, Michelle." [Ed.: Michelle, you are a "breath of fresh air"! You ALWAYS pay your dues in advance, and your notes from time to time really bless my soul - it would be lovely to be able to meet in person. Your dedication and loyalty to the 90th is appreciated!]

Stamatis, Mark, son, Pete Stamatis, 357/F - "Rhoda, Enclosed is payment for my and my mother's dues + 500 Club. I'm sorry you are having a hard time getting everyone to pay their dues. I always look forward to receiving the newsletter. Mom isn't doing very well. If she makes the summer, we will be surprised. She's 94 now. Thank you for all that you do. Sincerely, Mark A. Stamatis" [Ed.: So good to hear from you, Mark! I remember very well that in 2014, your whole family came to Clayton, MO for the Reunion; that your mom took a tumble, but was in such good spirits, she blessed us all with her indomitable spirit! You said then it was your dad's last reunion - it was.]

Family Album **Other** family, cont...2

Wilson, Dennis Ira, son, Ira Wilson, 358/Med Det. - "Dear Rhoda, I sincerely enjoyed our phone conversation recently re: my father, Ira J. Wilson #37179266 and his service with the 90th Infantry Division in Europe during WW2, and his lifelong affiliation and commitment to the 90th Sustainment Brigade. He and my mother, Margaret, always looked forward to the reunions and a chance to visit with former Tough 'Ombres he served with in the Medical Detachment of the 358th Infantry. Contained in the box this letter to you came in is the yearbook and the logbook of those he served with during the war. Both mom & dad are deceased, buried in the Catholic Cemetery in St. James, MO. A couple of quick stories regarding dad's service with the 90th are contained herein. High school sweethearts, my folks married out of high school, and he worked briefly in St. James prior to being drafted into the Army at the beginning of the hostilities of the war. When being processed for his induction, he filled out the mandatory forms listing the work he'd done while in high school. He was a soda jerk at the local drugstore, and so during processing, it was deducted that he had the background to be a medic in the military. To that end, he was full of stories, good as well as sad, regarding his service during the war. He and mom, Margaret, were married in a small chapel in TX while he was undergoing training prior to deployment. He left her, and his hometown of St. James, Missouri, headed for the 90th Division entry into the war at Utah Beach. Mom remained at home in St. James, pregnant with my older sister, Francis Kay. As with all servicemen of that era, communication with loved ones was via the postal service, letters sometimes taking weeks to catch up with units on the move. Dad said he always arranged, before opening, his mail by the postmark on the envelope. He received mail and was excited to learn that he was the father of a baby girl, named Francis Kay, who had been born in a St. Louis hospital with the complications of spina bifida. Mom had been placed on a train back to St. James, to await the outcome of medical treatment, which at that time was minimal at best, for the disease. A couple of letters into the pile, he was informed that she had not survived. Of course, dad did survive the war, and returned to his sweetheart and marriage, to which three sons and a daughter were born. He and mom lived their entire lives in St. James. We all grew up in the same community as our parents - St. James, Missouri - and brother, Bob, sister Judy, and myself, still reside here. Another brother, Michael Richard, joined the Army after high school, and lost his life in Vietnam in 1968 flying Huey Gunships. The two books I sent were always present at the 90th Reunions our folks attended and shared with many of those Dad served with during the war. On behalf of our families, we hope these documents are of some value to the historical archives of the 90th Infantry Division. Likewise, I am enclosing a renewal check for my membership in the Tough 'Ombres. Sincerely, Dennis I. Wilson, Retired, U.S. Army" [Ed.: The books were fascinating - now in the hands of Tyler Alberts and the Military Museum he has in Fort Worth. Thanks for this great insight into one of our 90th heroes.]

Information Wanted!



Hoffman, Russ, friend of Craig Kennedy, son of Clyde, 915/FA Bn - "Dear Rhoda, I was given your name and contact information by Craig Kennedy, who is the son of a former 90th Division member, Clyde Kennedy. I am looking to try to obtain any information concerning my father, Aubrey G. Hoffman, who served in the U.S. Army, WW2 from March, 1942 until discharge December, 1944. He was in the Service Battery, 915th Field Artillery Battalion and part of the Tough 'Ombres. My father passed away back in July, 1956, when I was just 7 years old. I did not know my father and have very few memories. My mother never really talked about him or the war. After my mother passed away, I was going through various papers that she had saved. I came across a letter/memo that recommended my father for the Bronze Star as a result of his heroism while on sentry duty. This took place on August 8, 1944 near Chassille, France. It was type written by a Captain Irl W. Smith of the 915th Field Artillery. I was able to locate the daughter of Captain Smith in Charlottesville, VA. Captain Smith passed away in 2006. The daughter was going to check through her father's paperwork, but I have not heard if she was successful in finding anything. I have contacted through my congressman, the Department of the Army, but they are unable to verify the recommendation. It is unsure if they ever had the recommendation letter or it was destroyed in the fire they had that destroyed several files. I and my siblings would like to be able to correct my father's military records and get the Bronze Star to which we believe he is entitled to have. Thanks in advance for all you are doing. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything else. Russ Hoffman - 8148 S. Pennsylvania Court - Littleton, CO 80122 - Phone: 720-315-4531 or 303-795-6570. [Ed.: This information was forwarded to both Norm and Tyler - anybody with information reading this, please contact Russ. I had a nice long phone conversation with him re: this. He is hopeful he'll be able to come to the Reunion.]

Aubrey Hoffman in uniform



CHARLIE, FRANCE - ABOUT 8:00 P.M., 1944.
HOFFMAN, AUBREY G.,
SERVING IN THE 915th FA BATTALION.

On the night of August the 8th, 1944, near Chassille France 2/sq/ft Hoffman watched great heroism while on sentry duty. In Service Battery 915 FA, Co. at about 1:30 2/sq/ft Hoffman was on sentry post around with a heavy gun through the dark rain filled night when the general warden of sentry holders suddenly alerted them to attack the guard and the battery. 2/sq/ft Hoffman worked his way through the brush across a narrow stream and around behind the group of gunners. When the other sentry on the post called out when there he was covered with a burst of machine gun fire from a German heavy gun 2/sq/ft Hoffman without regard for his own safety stood upright and began firing his heavy gun into the rear of the group. The gunners being caught between what they thought was the across fire of several soldiers surrendered as a result of 2/sq/ft Hoffman's fearless and heroic action five gunners were killed and ten were taken prisoner. Undoubtedly the heroic action of 2/sq/ft Hoffman in capturing the battery of a large enemy patrol saved many comrades among his attacking comrades. For which action I personally recommend him for the bronze star.

IRL W. SMITH
CAPT 915 FA BATTALION

Irl W. Smith

FOR THE ATTENDING COMMANDER

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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