

101st Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION ASSOCIATION



NOTE!! ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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FALL 2018



President Col [R] Tad McClung & wife, Carolyn

Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

2018-2019 Officers

COL [R] Tad McClung

President

Shreveport, LA

COL [R] O Findley Brewster

1st Vice President

Boerne, TX

COL [R] Sandy Westbrook

Second Vice President

Italy, TX

COL [R] Raul Ramirez

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Assistant Historian

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Assistant Historian

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French Historian

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Christian Levaufre

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Chaplain

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Chris Guska

Webmaster

Dublin, OH

Alan D. Twisselman

90th Photographer

Northfield, MI

MG [R] J. Ron Sholar

Immediate Past President

Stillwater, OK

Frank M. Losito - June 3, 1924 - August 11, 2018

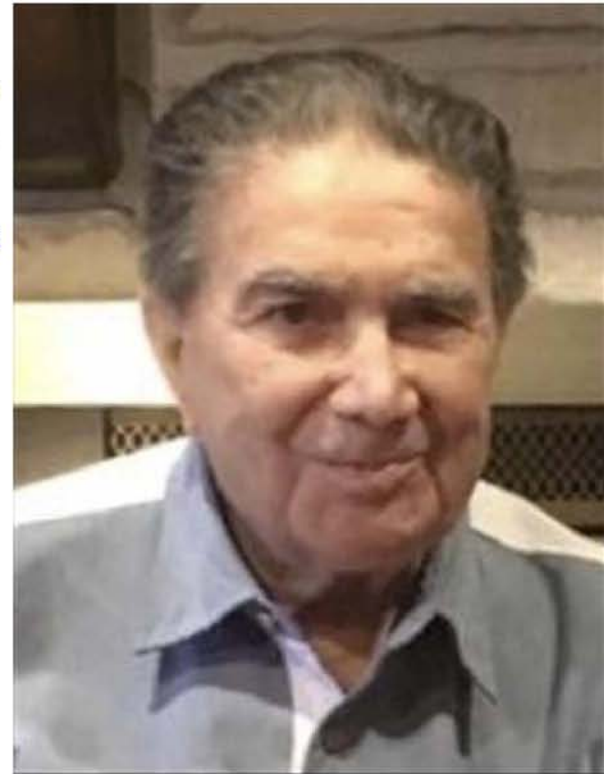
90th 2007 President, Pittsburgh, PA

Frank M. Losito Age 94 WWII Army Vet

Beloved husband of 57 years of Minnie Losito (nee Petrizzo) Devoted Father of Rosemarie (Gary) Chojecki, and Michael (Cathy) Losito. Proud Grand Father of Anthony (Stephanie), Nicole, Giovanni, Vincent, Michael, and Eddie. Loving Great Grandfather of Johnathan and Violet. Kind Brother of the late Rose and the late Nancy. Dear Uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Decorated WW II Vet – US Army, 90th Division and recipient of several medals including Purple Heart and Bronze Star. **Past President of 90th Division Association [2007, Pittsdburgh, PA].**

Life long, die-hard Cubs fan who enjoyed going to Cub's games and the Cub convention. His favorite activities included attending parades, Taste of Chicago, and fireworks shows downtown. Frank loved to garden. His rose bushes were the pride and joy of his garden. Frank was a family man, traditions and customs were important to him. He loved his wife Dolly dearly, and was proud of his children. He idolized being a Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. He loved being able to spend time with his grandchildren. [Ed. note: I attended Frank's Funeral Mass and the lunch following. It was a beautiful tribute to a dear friend, and his family was delightful - he was dearly loved. Lots of stories were shared at the luncheon, which produced both laughter & tears. Rest in Peace, Frank.]



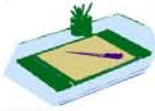
Le Pavillon Hotel in French Quarter site of 2019 Reunion!

Insert in this newsletter has all the needed details to make your reservations!

101st Annual Reunion - July 25-28, 2019 - New Orleans, LA

Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



NOTICE!! If you are reading this newsletter in color, it means you have paid your dues for 2018-2019. If your copy is black & white, that means your dues have NOT been paid, and you are in arrears. If you have not paid dues for 4 years+, your name will be dropped from the roster, and you will no longer receive newsletters. Pay your dues to stay on the roster.

Important Announcement!

Many readers today do not know my history with the 90th Division. I was introduced to WW2 veteran, Jim Reid, in February, 1989 - I have been involved with the 90th since I met Jim. My first Reunion was in 1989, so 2019 will mark 30 years of Reunions. In 1990, while we were still dating, he "recruited" me to take on the creation of the Newsletter for the Field Artillery groups: 343rd, 344th, 345th, & 915th. I started by using an IBM Selectric Typewriter & collected unused clip art from a suburban newspaper office. We xeroxed the newsletters; collated the pages; made address labels to attach; licked each envelope & stamped them; then took them to the Post Office - 4 times a year. We married January 1, 1991, & Jim was President of the Association that year - the Reunion was in San Antonio. I continued creating and publishing the newsletters - and keeping their mail rosters through the 2000 Reunion in Charlotte, NC. After that Reunion, Jim was appointed Executive Secretary/Treasurer - and I was named Assistant Executive Secretary/Treasurer & told by the Executive Committee that from then on, I would be doing the newsletter for the entire Association. At that time, there was no order or procedures/processes for Reunions, so I began to create a system - from "scratch". I also learned how to use the computer and honed my skills in putting a newsletter together, the result of which you have seen for the last 27 years. Everything you see today: Newsletters; Dues cards; 500 Club cards; Thank You cards; Reunion Program Book; meal tickets; + all the work that goes into the Reunions - Jim and I created. I did the design work + all the procedures used at Reunions. Jim kept the books, negotiated hotel contracts [a master negotiator!] - and basically kept the Association alive and active. His goal was to be able to be at the 100th Reunion in 2018, and we promised the Association we would continue in our responsibilities until that time, God willing. Sadly, God took my beloved Jim Home to Heaven May 9, 2016, so he was not able to fulfil that commitment. With the help of MG [R] J. Ron Sholar, I have been able to do Jim's job & mine since then. **But now it is time for me to resign while I am still of sound mind & body. So AFTER the 2019 Reunion in New Orleans, I will no longer be Executive Director.** I don't know yet how I will be able to replace the income I will lose, or what I will be doing - but God does. **30 years** of my life have been devoted to the 90th. There are no words to express what the Association & members have meant to me. My emotions run deep and my heart breaks at all the WW2 vets the 90th has lost. 

YOUR 2018-2019 \$40 DUES WERE DUE JULY! PAY NOW!!

Message from 2018-2019 President, Col [R] Thomas [Tad] McClung



Greetings to all of the members of the 90th Division Association. I am honored to be the president of the Association this year, and I pledge to do my best to keep our organization strong and vibrant. My association with elements of the 90th go back to 1975 when I first entered the Army Reserve in the 4013th Garrison under the 90th ARCOM, and it continued through being the last senior civilian at the 90th Readiness Command when it stood down as a two star command. I was part of the organization through the Cold War and its end, and well into the continuing war against terrorism.

Few organizations have a history that extends more than 100 years, but our association continues into its 101st year, honoring our Soldiers and their supporting Families from World War I, World War II, the Cold War years, and today. From France and Germany; to the Balkans; to Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the globe your 90th Soldiers have served and continue to serve with honor and distinction.

Sadly, but as occurred as our original WW I veterans aged and passed on, we are faced with changing our organization as we see fewer and fewer WW II veterans in our ranks. Time marches on and your Association continues--remembering those who came before us, those who served with us, and the proud members of the 90th Sustainment Brigade who still wear the patch and carry the colors.

As life long Louisiana residents, Carolyn and I are excited that this year's reunion is in New Orleans--a city with great history, culture and cuisine. The WW II museum will interest most members of our organization, and it has been greatly expanded since the last reunion in New Orleans. We welcome you to our state. Watch your newsletters, emails, and the website for more information.

Just as it was when I was in uniform, it's an honor to serve.

\$14.95 + shipping



100th Reunion 15oz Mug designed & produced by 90th member, COL [R] William [Sandy] Westbrook [ARCOM].
<https://www.gearbubble.com/90thdivisionmug> - the ordering site. It makes a great gift - to yourself and to friends. It describes the 90th! Wonderful Christmas gift!



RECOGNITION: 23 (!!!) GAVE EXTRA \$\$ TO HELP WITH 2018 REUNION EXPENSES! THE 90TH DIVISION THANKS YOU!! -OVER \$5,000 WAS GIVEN!!

CORRECTION FROM Spring NEWSLETTER! Evans, Jack L., 357CO K, 3Bn was INCORRECTLY listed in "Call of Taps" - He is very much alive!

344th FA Bn - Shellabarger, Ray, Radio A Btry. - 7/18/18 ** **357th** - Freda, Aldo, I CO - 3/9/18 ** **McClure**, Herbert D., G CO - 1/29/18 ** **Zuba**, Martin, C CO 1Bn ** **358th** - **Batinich**, Mitchell [Mitch], E CO - 10/3/18 ** **Couts**, William J. [Bill], E CO - 9/21/18 ** **359th** - **Benton**, Warner H., K CO ** **Essler**, Robert L., E CO - 10/27/18 ** **Jeffrey**, Rev. Dr. Francis E., K CO - 11/22/17 **94th Signal BN** - **Weber**, Louis J., Tech, 4th Grade HQ. age 98 - 7/24/18 ** **712th TK Bn** - **Vice**, Sr., Samuel W.

BAKER, Barney - WW2 773/TD BN
BELL, Jr., BG [-R] Raymond E. - son, Raymond E., Sr., WW2 359/HQ
CANCELLIERI, Arline - widow, WW2 Cancellieri, 537/AAA
DECKER, Ann Simma - sister-in-law, Lee Roy McKnight, WW2 359/! KIA
DENNIS, Carlene - widow, Jim Dennis, WW2 343/FA Bn
GRIFFITH, Charles [Chuck], - nephew, Burl Griffith, WW2 357/L
HARDY, David & Catherine - daughter, & son-in-law, Dr. Joseph L. Stobbe, WW2 358/G
HARROD, Mr./Mrs. Christopher - nephew, WW2 359/B 3Bn, 4Plt.
HERTZOG, Mike / Marianne - son, Frank S. Hertzog, WW2 345/FA Bn & brother, Col Frank A. Hertzog, ARCOM
HIGHTOWER, John D., Jr. - Son, John D. Hightower, WW2 359/HQ
LEVAUFRE, Christian - 90th Division French Assistant Historian & President, Normandy 44-90e d'Infanterie
MEIER, Col [R] Arthur C., II - son, Col Arthur C. Meier, WW2 343/FA Bn
MEYERS, Daniel - ARCOM
MUNSON, Col. [R] Merton E., Jr. - son, Col. Merton E. Munson, WW2 344/FA Bn
PELLETTIERES, Jr., John M. - , son, John M., Pellettieres, Sr., WW2 712/TK Bn
RASMUSSEN, Nancy - daughter, Harry Rasmusson, WW2 315/Eng.
REICHLIN, Herbert - WW2 359/MP
ROBERTON, Dr. Dennis - son, William J. Robertson, WW2 359
RUTHERFORD, Gerry - widow, WW2 Rutherford, 357/G
TARVIN, Audrey - , Vernon N. Schmidt, WW2 358/E
SWIHART, Cletus - WW2 357/I
VINOT, Stephen & Kathy - daughter, James Kolos, WW2 357/D
WEBB, COL [R] Joe - ARCOM

**Search Announcement for
Executive Director, 90th Division Association**

After **three** decades of dedicated service to the 90th Division Association's veterans and their families, **Association Executive Director Rhoda Reid** has decided that it's time to step aside. For most of those **30 years**, Rhoda teamed with husband, Jim, and together, they were responsible for managing all of the business affairs of the Association and running the annual reunion. The Association owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Reids for their many years of loyal and passionate service.

The Association is now seeking an individual or team to assume the Executive Director responsibilities and lead the organization in the future. The position will become open on August 1, 2019. The position description can be found on the Association's website (90thdivisionassociation.org) or the Association's Facebook page (90th Division Association).

Anyone interested in serving in this very important position can obtain additional information by contacting either of the following:

- COL (Ret) Jim Beesley, Search Committee Chair, cell: 713-854-8594, jbeesley373@gmail.com
- MG (Ret) Ron Sholar, Search Committee Vice-Chair, cell: 405-780-0113, jrsholar@aol.com

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Bell, Betty, niece, Jerry P. Nemece, 358th
 Brandon, H. Eugenia, RSC
 Dominguez, Anita G., ARCOM
 Hamel, Mark D., grandson, Edward Therrien, Unit ?
 Huckaby, Scott A., grandson, 2nd LT. Fred E. Huckaby, 359th

NOTICE TO THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND 2019 REUNION!
 If you are having difficulty connecting to the Le Pavillon Hotel special web address to register for a room reservation, simply go to our 90th Division website and find a quick link directly to the hotel's special 90th Room Reservation Reunion site. Thanks to our webmaster, Chris Guska, for creating this easy and efficient link. You can also call.

Have you paid your \$40 Dues for 2018-2019??



Memorial gifts received...



Memorial gifts received...

Post Reunion Memorials

A - All WW2 90th - by Maurice Mace & Herbert Reichlin ** **All 315th Engineers** - by Alan D. Twisselman ** **Ansardi**, Wallace, 357/Med Det - by daughter, Wanda Alcon ** **Arivello**, Sgt. Walter J., 357/B, 3Bn, 4 Plt., - by Mr. & Mrs. Christopher B. Harrod **

B - Blank, Arnold T., 537/AAA - by son, Timothy J. Blank ** **Bragg**, Eldridge, 358/L - by son, David Bragg ** **Bremer**, Ludolf, 359/L - by son, Paul C. Bremer ** **Bulger**, Richard H. "Doc", 358/Med Det - by daughter, Jane C. Bulger ** **Burns**, Maj. Robert F., 90th HQ. - by daughter, Marie-Therese Burns **

C - Cheney, Col Scott, ARCOM - by comrade & friend, Jim Valentine & Col [R] O. Findley Brewster ** **Choate**, Harold, 358/D - by friend, Norm Richards ** **Ciriello**, August "Gus", 358/M - by son, Augie [August] Ciriello ** **Conn**, Charles, 344/FA Bn - by son, Joseph N. Conn ** **Couts**, William [Bill], 358/E - by friend, Jill Culver Peak **

D - Deur, Capt. Henry "Duke", 315/Eng. - by son, John Deuer ** **Dyke**, Clifford, 358/M - by widow, Jane "Daisy"; friends, Clarence Begole, Aurie [August] Ciriello & Norm Richards **

E - Eidson, Schaurbour, 358/D - by friend, Norm Richards ** **Engle**, Joseph, 358/Med Det - by friend, Jane C. Bulger **

F - Flowers, Jim, 712/TK Bn - by MG [R] David R. Bockel ** **Freda**, Sr., Aldo, 357/I - by Son, Aldo A., Jr., & friend, Linda Richards **

G - Goodman, Fred L., WW1 360th Inf./18 HQ BR 26 - by son, Edward Goodman ** **Griffith**, SSGT Burl R., 357/L - by nephew, Charles Burl [Chuck] Griffith **

H - Hall, Raymond S., 315/Eng. - by daughter, Sue Ann Loesch ** **Hamilton**, LTC Edward S., 357/HQ - by daughter, Diana Hamilton-Cowell & MG [R] David R. Bockel **

Haley, T/Sgt. William B., 357/B, 3Bn, 4Plt., - by Mr. & Mrs. Christopher B. Harrod ** **Hertzog**, LTC Frank A., ARCOM - by widow, Deborah S. Hertzog **

Hertzog, Col Frank S., 345/FA Bn - by daughter-in-law, Deborah S. Hertzog ** **Hill**, Harold, 358/D - by friend, Norm Richards * **Hoyt**, Keen, 359/K 3Bn - by friend and comrade-in arms, Jack L. Evans **

K - Kelley, William "Bill", 90th Signal - by daughter, Kandice Kelley-Williamson ** **Kennedy**, Clyde, 915/FA Bn - by son, Craig A. Kennedy & friend, John Phillips **

Kusmierz, Edward J., 358/HQ 2Bn - by widow, Irene K. Kusmierz **

L - Larsen, Paul E., 359/C - by daughter, Helen Birchall ** **Lehtinen**, Sgt. Wendell E., 357/B, 3Bn, 4th Plt., KIA, July, 1944 - by Mr. & Mrs. Christopher B. Harrod **

Lockett, Capt. William Lindsey, 90/ORDANCE - by widow, Loris B. Clifford ** **Long**, S/SGT George, 359/HQ 1Bn - by daughter, Mary Long Staszewski **

Lloyd, 1Lt. Howard A., 358/HQ, DOW [died of wounds] 16 June, 1944 & buried in the American Military Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy - by cousin, Col [R] Thomas C. Fosnacht **

M - Martens, Raymond J., 359/L - by daughter, Kristen J. Faller ** **McCarthy**, Bill, 358/D - by friend, Norm Richards * **McCharen**, Edward L., 357/L 3Bn - by niece, Dorothy "Dot" McCharen Weathersby **

McKnight, Lee Roy, 359/I, KIA - by sister-in-law, Ann Simma Decker & niece, Barbara D. Wells ** **Munson, Sr.**, Col Merton E., 344/FA Bn - by son, Merton E. Munson, Jr. **

P - Paepke, Carl A., 359/H - by son & daughter-in-law, Steven & Jeanne Poulsen ** **Pellettiere, Sr.**, SSGT John M., 712/TK Bn - by son, John M. Pellettiere, Jr. **

Poole, Reginald M., 359/M - by widow, Elizabeth G. Poole ** **Proudian**, Harry, 357/C - by nephew, Edward A. Sarkisian **

R - Reid, James R., Sr., 344/HQ - by widow, Rhoda S. Reid & friends, John Phillips & June Robinson ** **Reisner**, Thomas Fred, 315/Med Det - by son, Ralph F. Reisner **

Richards, Clyde, 358/D - by son, Norm Richards ** **Richter**, Capt. James, 915/FA Bn - by son Donald Duane Richter **

Rivera, Henry E., 315/Med Det - by son, Henry Michael Rivera * **Robertson**, William J., 359th - by son, Dennis John Robertson **

Robinson, Billy, ARCOM - by widow, June Robinson ** **Rogan**, LTC Paul, ARCOM - by comrade & friend, Jim Valentine **

Roper, Robert, 358/E 2Bn - by Vernon N. Schmidt ** **Rutherford**, Joe T., 357/A - by widow, Gerry Rutherford **

S - Shellabarger, Raymond [Ray], 344/FA Bn - by widow, Kathi Shellabarger ** **Sherfy**, Kay, 90/HQ - by son, Dennis Sherfy **

Silbert, William C., 358/A - by widow, Elsa D. Silbert ** **Speese**, Andrew J., III, 357/K, 3Bn - by son, Andrew J. Speese **

Stamatis, Pete, 357/F, 2Bn - by son, Mark A. Stamatis & friends, Augie [August] Ciriello & Norm Richards ** **Staruk**, Walter, 344/FA Bn - by widow, Catherine A. Staruk **

Stenger, Sylvester "Wes", 357/HQ - by widow, Viola L. Stenger ** **Studen**, George, 712/TK Bn - by daughter, "Deborah Studen-Paviovich **

Suarez, CW4 Antony, ARCOM - by Col [R] O. Findley Brewster ** **Sweeny**, Joe, 358/D KIA - by Norm Richards **

T - Twisselman, Donald G., 315/Eng. - by son, Alan D. Twisselman **

W - Wigton, Jr., Pvt. 1st Class Irving W., 358/E, 2Bn, KIA February 15, 1945 - by brother, Chester M. Wigton & Vernon N. Schmidt **

Williams, Bolse C., WW1 358 - by daughter, Anne Brewster ** **Williams**, Harry, 357/E - by friend, Linda Richards **

Wilson, Ira J., 356/Med Det - by son, Dennis Ira Wilson **

Y - Yeger, David [Flossenbuerg survivor] & Nancy - by son, Steven Charles Yeger

[REMINDER of ANNOUNCEMENT on Page 2, Left column](#)

The mail roster is being "cleansed" - those who have NOT paid dues for 4 years+ will be deleted from the roster!!

Be sure to check the 2019 Reunion Information Flyer Insert - you can reserve your rooms at any time. Follow the instructions for on-line, or call phone # listed.

Reunion Reflections.-----1

100th

EUNION DEMOGRAPHICS - 2018

TOTAL REGISTERED ATTENDEES: 208 +5 Color Guard = 213

FIRST TIMERS: 38 ---FAMILIES WITH 4 OR MORE: 15



Color Guard with President Sholar

- Abney, Darlene Faulk [357/AT HON] - 4
- Beesley, COL [R]James & CSM [R]Maryeva [RSC] - 4
- Dale, CSM [R] Roger [RRC] - 6 ** Griffith, Chuck [357/L HON] - 6
- Hertzog/Jernigan, [345/HON & ARCOM HON] -6
- LaDuke, Becky [357/C HON] - 6 ** Mobley, BG [-R] Dr. James [RSC] - 4
- Papp, Phyllis [358/f HON] - 4 ** Poulsen, Steven [Paepke] [359/H HON] - 4
- Rasmusson Family [315/Eng. HON] - 6 ** Robinson, June [ARCOM HON] - 11
- Schmidt, Vern [358/E] - 6 ** Schofield, MG [R] Elvin [ARCOM] - 4
- Sholar, MG [R] J. Ron [RRC] - 4 ** Staszewski [Long] Family [357/HQ HON] - [7]

WW 2 VETERANS - 8 [LOWEST NUMBER EVER!]

- Hanlon, John [Jack] - 359/C ** Schmidt, Vernon - 358/E
- Ingram, J. Tom - 359/F ** Rodriguez. Celestino - 359/K
- McGregor, Clem [102] - 344/FA Bn ** Sisk, Herbert "Bill" - 915/FABn
- McGriff, E. Carver - 357/M ** Staley - Milton, 359/L

[Note: 4 of the 8 WW2 veterans are from the 359th!]

Rhoda Reid at
Registration -
guests check in



UNIT DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL 90th VETERANS: WW II - 8; ARCOM: 14; RRC: 5; RSC: 4; RRG: 1; SB: 1; TOTAL: 33

TOTAL VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY ATTENDING: 41

[includes friends and family members - includes Color Guard]

- 315/Eng - 7 [0 vets] ; 343rd - 2 [1 vet]; 344th - 13 [1 vet]; 345th - 2 [0 vets]; 357th - 31 [1 vet]; 358th - 27 [1 vet];
- 359th - 22 [4 vets]; 537th - 1 [0 vets]; 915th - 3 [1 vet]; 493/Eng: 2 [0 vets]; 90/ORD - 2 [0 vets]; ARCOM - 43 [14 vets];
- RRC - 17 [5 vets]; RSC - 8 [4 vets]; RRG - 3 [1 vet]; SB - 9 [1 vet + 5 Color Guard];
- General Honorary - 9 [France: 5; South Wales: 2]

[Editor's note: These numbers are probably not totally accurate, but they are at least approximate]

STATE DEMOGRAPHICS: 29 STATES

AL - 2	IN - 2	OH - 1
AR - 6	KS - 3	OK - 7
CA - 14	KY - 4	PA - 3
CO - 6	LA - 2	TX - 90
DE - 2	MA - 1	UT - 2
FL - 1	MI - 5	VA - 3
GA - 2	MN - 4	WA - 2
HI - 1	MO - 10	
IA - 10	MS - 1	FR - 5
ID - 1	NJ - 3	UK - 2
IL - 8	NY - 2	



Left: Hotel Banquet Manager
Center: Baker of the Cake

Cakes for our 100th Annual Reunion

2018 President
MG [R] J. Ron
Sholar

smaller cake
was a
carrot cake

Both large
cakes were
half white &
chocolate



Reunion Reflections.-----2

100th

TOP: WW2 VETERANS - BOTTOM: ALL 90TH VETERANS

Left to Right: Vern Schmidt, 358/E; E. Carver McGriff, 357/M&L; Milton Staley, 359/L; Jack Hanlon, 359/C; Celestino Rodriguez, 359/K; Clem McGregor [102!], 344/FA BN; Herbert [Bill] Sisk, 915/FA Bn; J. Tom Ingram, 359/F [Ed. Note: 4 of the 8 are from 359th!]



Row 1: Vern Schmidt, E. Carver McGriff, Milton Staley, Jack Hanlon, Celestino Rodriguez, Clem McGregor [102], Herbert [Bill] Sisk, J. Tom Ingram
Row 2: CSM H. Eugenia Brandon, 90th SP; MG [R] J. Ron Sholar, RRC; MG [R] David Bockel, RSC; CSM [R] D. Roger Dale, RRC; BG [R] James Spivey, ARCOM; COL [R] Ron Diana, SB; BG COL Daniel Hershkowitz, SB; MG [R] Elvin Schofield, ARCOM
Row 3: COL [R] Tad McClung, RRC; COL [R] Jay Breland, RRG; COL [R] James Monagle, SB; CSM [R] Maryeva Beesley, RSC; Col [R] James Beesley, RRC; BG [R] Henry Ostermann, RRC; COL [R] Chris Serpa, RRC; COL [R] William [Sandy] Westbrook, ARCOM; COL [R] Raul Ramirez; MG [R] Ralph Doughty, ARCOM - MISSING: COL [R] Findley Brewster, ARCOM & Robert [Bob] Bauer, 3/12 FA HQ



Reunion Reflections...3

ALL VETERANS WHO ATTENDED THE 100TH ANNUAL REUNION - SOME ARE MISSING

100th



ATTENDEES AT THE 100TH ANNUAL REUNION - SEVERAL ARE MISSING FROM THE PHOTO



Reunion Reflections.-----4

A FEW iPhone PHOTOS TAKEN BY SOME REUNION ATTENDEES

100th



Fort Sam Houston Peacocks were in full "courting" mode for the females - they ALL had their feathers displayed



Special sign displayd at the entrance to the Fort Sam Houston Museum - for us!

AT FORT SAM HOUSTON



WW2 vets: Milt Staley in Wheelchair; Tom Ingram; Vern Schmidt; Carver McGriff - a personal hello!



AT FORT SAM HOUSTON

COL Hershkowitz; MG [R] Ron Sholar, Tom Ingram, 359/F; Vern Schmidt, 358/E; Milt Staley, 359/L [wheel chair]; Bill Sisk. 915th: Carver McGriff. 367/M.L



Oldest Vet, Clem McGregor, 344th - 102 years[!] & a new friend, Jerry Comfort [344th Hon member]



90th friends and both widows, Debbie Hertzog [Frank] & Rhoda Reid [Jim]



WW2 Veteran, Jack Hanlon, 359/C and his son, Jim Hanlon, also a veteran. This was Jack's 2nd Reunion and Jim's First



Good Friends

Chuck Griffith. Rhoda Reid, Patti Griffith



Rhoda Reid & President, Ron Sholar present special plaque to 90th friend, John Phillips from South Wales, for his devotion to the 90th Division

David Walker; his grandpa, John Phillips, South Wales [Sat. eve]



The Alamo

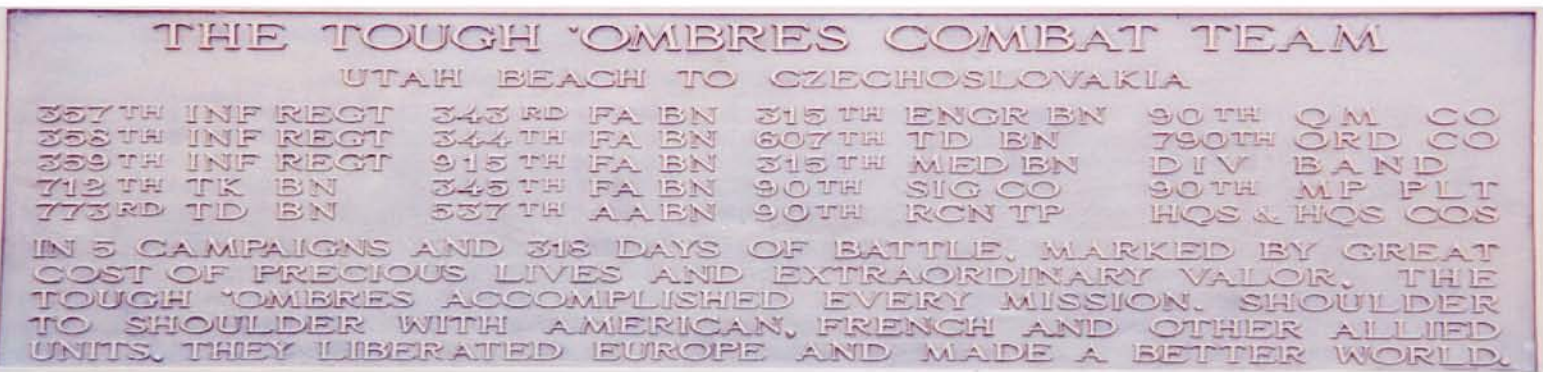


TOUGH 'OMBRES TALES

News from veterans of the 90th Division



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



344th

Shellabarger, Ray - from daughter, Connie Chamberlain - "I am Connie Chamberlain, Ray Shellabarger's daughter. I met you and Jim in November, 2004 on the first trip back to France for the 90th Division. My father and I were part of that tour, then back again in 2010. Dad was Chief of the Radio Section of "A" Battery, 344th Field Artillery Battalion of the 90th Division. I am writing to inform you dad passed away on July 18, at the age of 98 and 7 months, of natural causes. His 98 year old body parts just gave out. He led a full and productive life. He will be greatly missed. I don't know if the Association keeps track of the men they lose each year, but dad thought very highly of you and Jim, and I know he would want you to know. Hope this finds you well. Regards, Connie" [Ed.: I very well remember you and your dad on that 2004 trip to the Moselle Region of France. Jim was not able to travel there for the 2010 trip, so it was a blessing for you that you could return for that second trip. We do our best to keep track of the vets we lose to death, but we are not always informed. Thank you very much for letting us know. His name is in Call of Taps and will be read at the 2019 Reunion Memorial Breakfast. Jim and I both enjoyed visiting with you on that trip - a memorable one!]

Special letter from French Historian, Henri G. Levaufre

"Dear Rhoda, When I received the Spring 2018 newsletter, I was sad to read several names so familiar of old and dear friends that I met along the years since 1969: Each name brings back so many memories, so many old times, letters, so many emails and shake hands and big hugs. At home, I am working on scanning several tens of thousands pictures taken during the trips of the 90th in Europe since the first big one in 1971, or hundreds of 1944-45 pictures taken during the war. Janet and I, as we always traveled with them across Normandy, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, we knew personally hundreds of them, and now, sad to say, I have forgotten too many of their names.. When I read Richard Grondin & Clyde Kennedy in the last bulletin, I was very sorry because I knew them for years. A friend I remember well is Jack Evans who came back to Normandy in 1967, a long time before I was even directly involved with 90th veterans. He came back again in 1995, and we spend days in the fields and across hedgerows to

358th

Obituary for Mitchell Batinich - E CO -
 Mitchell, age 93, of Maple Grove, formerly of Eveleth, MN. Loving husband, family first Father, Grandpa, brother, Uncle & Heartfelt patriot passed away peacefully **October 3rd**. Preceded by brothers: George, Pete, Alex, Steve and Tom Batinich and sister: Darlinka. Survived by loving wife: Janis, children: Judy (Dennis) Boeddeker, Gary (Bobbie) and Peter (Sonia) Batinich, and Lori (David) Millard, 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, brother: Nick (Dorothy) Batinich, twin-sister: Saja Dowling and sister-in-law: Mary Batinich, and numerous nieces and nephews. All seven Batinich brothers served in the US Military, five during WWII, four of them overseas. Visitation at KOZLAK-RADULOVICH MAPLE GROVE CHAPEL 13745 Reimer Drive Monday from 5 to 7 PM with Vigil Prayers (Pomen) at 7 PM. Funeral services at ST. VASILJE "BASIL" OF OSTROG SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH 543 – 6TH Street SW, Chisholm MN Tuesday at 12 NOON with visitation one hour prior. Interment Eveleth Cemetery. Lunch following burial at the Resurrection Church 301 Adams Ave, Eveleth. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations be made in Mitch's name to ST. VASILJE "BASIL" OF OSTROG SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH in Chisholm.



find the exact place he got wounded July 10, 1944 at Beaucoudray. When it was cleared, the mayor planted an American flag in the hedgerow, many civilians came, and we had a short ceremony in that field where so many fellows of 357/K CO like him got wounded or were killed. Janet & I visited Jack and his wife, Lois, many times in their home when they lived at Sun City, West, AZ. We had also together in Normandy a very special ceremony in front of a twin grave where two unknown German soldiers were buried. This private gesture had for Jack a very special and deeply human meaning that I am proud he shared with me. After Jack came back to Normandy, he wrote in 1997 a huge and magnificent book called "E-3073 The Last Battle". A close friend of Jack, John Steinmacher [Gunner] is buried at Colleville American Cemetery.. I feel Gunner was also a friend of mine who never had a chance to grow old. Henri"



357/1

Aldo A. Freda

January 10, 1925 - March 9, 2018
Born in Jersey City NJ
Resided in East Rutherford, NJ

Aldo A. Freda, 93, of East Rutherford, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2018. He was born and raised in Jersey City, NJ and graduated Dickinson High School and college at Seton Hall University. In 1943 at the age of

18, he was drafted into the United States Army. He landed in Normandy days after the D-Day Invasion. He was captured, became a prisoner of war in Germany and was liberated at the end of the war in 1945. Aldo was very proud of his time in the Army and attended annual reunions with the men of the 90th Infantry Division. He later returned to Europe and received the Medal of Honor from the US Veterans Friends Luxembourg. Also was married to Ann in 1952 and moved to the Bronx, NY and later relocated to East Rutherford, NJ where he settled to raise his family. Before his retirement, Aldo was a Team Audit Leader with the Internal Revenue Service in Mountainside for 35 years. His hobbies included gardening, traveling, bowling, and he was an avid Giants, Dodger and Devils fan. Aldo was a devoted parishioner and an active member of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Wallington. He was predeceased by his parents, Benedetto and Pasqualina Freda, and his siblings, Nunzio Freda, Angela Sicola, Gabriel Freda, and Ugo Freda. Also is survived by his beloved wife, Ann [nee Marchetti]; his devoted children, Susan Freda of Clifton; Dr. Aldo Freda of Phillipsburg; Gina Freda-O'Hanna and her husband, Rich, or Wayne; four loving grandchildren: Joshua, Jessica, Alexa, & Lyndsay, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was a loving, caring and giving person who cherished family and friends and will be missed by all that knew him. Visitation will be held Thursday from 4-8 PM at Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home in Clifton. Funeral services will be Friday at 10:15 AM from the funeral home, followed an 11:00 AM Mass at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Church in Wallington. Entombment to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

A Note from Aldo's son, Aldo, Jr. - "Dear Rhoda, Enclosed please find my dues and a donation to the 500 Club in memory of my Father, Aldo Freda. The 90th Division was a pleasure to my father. The friends that we made during the reunions and the trips to Europe were the highlights of his in his later years. He considered all the folks of the 90th Division as family. He loved everyone, and he made and renewed friendships that gave him much joy. He passed peacefully in March, with his family by his side, and I want to thank everyone in the 90th Division for all the love shown to us. Sincerely, Aldo Freda, Jr." [Ed.: For readers who never had the honor of meeting Aldo and his son, I will say you missed a great treat. They both were dearly loved by all of us - his 90th family - and our lives are the richer for having known and loved them both. I still miss seeing them at reunions.]

William J. Coutts

358th

E Co 358th Inf Regt

William J. "Bill" Coutts, 93, of Newcomerstown, died Friday, September 21, 2018 at Oakpointe Nursing & Rehab Center, Baltic. He was born Sunday, May 17, 1925 to the late Ernest and Dora [Bourne] Coutts. He was an honorary graduate of Newcomerstown High School Class of 2008. He was a U.S. Army WW2 Veteran, serving from 1943 to 1945 in the European theatre. He was in battle campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and was awarded two Purple Hearts. He retired from Roadway after 35 years as a truck driver. He was a member of the American Legion Thomas C. Montgomery Post 431 of Newcomerstown; the Masonic Lone Star Lodge #175 of Newcomerstown; and the Valley of Cambridge Scottish Rite.



He is survived by his children, Gladys J. (Bryant Boitnott) Johnson of Port Washington, Roger G. Coutts of Newcomerstown, Shirley D. Kenney of Newcomerstown, Janet M. (Bud) Rawling of Newcomerstown, Cathy S. (Chuck) McIntire of Byesville, Jennifer E. (Steve) Ludgate of Pickerington, Bret Brown of Newark; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three daughters, Mildred J. (Harry) Gipe, Beverly K. (Ernie) Kahoun and Pamela L. (Ralph) McMahon; three brothers, Willard B., Walter W. and Glenn D. Coutts; three sisters, Dortha Eggleston, Virginia A. Landis and infant Eva Coutts; three half brothers, Charles, Paul and George Coutts; three half-sisters, Bessie Coutts, Lillie Bourne and Beatrice Kiser. Services will be Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Addy Funeral Home, Newcomerstown with Rev. Roger Bourne officiating. Burial will follow at West Lawn Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday, September 24, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Addy Funeral Home with masonic services at 7 p.m. Military services will be conducted by the Newcomerstown Veterans Honor Guard. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Hospice 716 Commercial Ave. New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Weber, Louis J., 94th Signal Battalion - Louis J. Weber, inducted into the U.S. Army on January 22, 1942, part of the Normandy invasion and recipient of the Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Eastern Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart, died July 24, 2018. Louis was honorably discharged from military service December 9, 1945 at Fort Monmouth, J. Weber, Tech 4th Grade HQ Company was 98 years old..



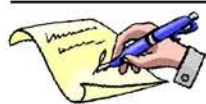
Letters From Family Members of 90th Veterans

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

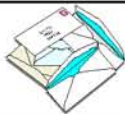
The Widows Write...

Poole, Bette, widow, Reginald, 359/M - "Dear Rhoda, Sorry for the delay - I misplaced the newsletter and just found it! I can't travel anymore, but think of all of you every year at this time and how much we enjoyed the reunions. Roy has been gone 9 years already - I think the last one we attended was in Pittsburgh [2007]. Thank you for all your hard work. I hope you are well, Best wishes, Bette Poole" [Ed.: Thank you for your nice note, Bette. My Jim has now been gone 2.5 years, and I still miss him so much - can't believe it's been that long - which is short, compared to your loss. Things are forever changed, and the void is still there. So many of our precious WW2 veterans are gone now. I will always miss these dear soldiers at reunions.]

Rutherford, Gerry, widow, 357/G - "Dear Rhoda, Wishing you a great summer and a wonderful 90th Reunion. Hope you can decipher this as I am having trouble writing since chemo. Enclosing an extra check, to help with the 100th celebration. Can't send much, but want to help. Sincerely, Gerry Rutherford" [Thank you Gerry. Gerry's name is listed on page 3 of this news letters one of the donors of extra \$\$ to help with the 100th Reunion costs. It was a wonderful Reunion, and the extra \$\$ donated made a huge difference, so thank you for your part in that. Wish more people could have attended.]



Family Album... Other Family Members



Deuer, John & Karen, 315/ Eng. Honorary - "Thanks, Rhoda! For all you do! Love, John & Karen" [Ed.: Thank YOU! Your encouragement means a lot to me, and I do this for people like you. The 90th Family is priceless!]

Gilbert, Lorna Bergdale, daughter, 358/SV Honorary - "Dear Mrs. Reid, I'm enclosing \$\$\$ for my dues and a little extra for wherever needed. I reads the newsletter cover to cover every issue and was so surprised to see my note to you included in the Spring 2018 issue! That brought a smile to my face! I just called Monika Vega at the S.A. Hotel to get my name on the waiting list for the reunion .If I get the Reservation, I will be there. The 100th Reunion is a BID DEAL, and I would love to see Ft. Sam Houston. Wish I had gotten motivated sooner! Again, thank you for all your hard work and dedication! Best, Lorna [Bergdale] Gilbert" [Ed. Thanks for another nice note, Lorna! See, I printed this one too, as I really enjoy the mail and want others to feel a part of the family. I was sad you didn't make it to the Reunion. It was a tough situation - basically, the hotel never told us that after we signed the contract, there was going to be a city-wide convention that same weekend. It was NOT on the agenda when we signed the contract, and we were promised we could add extra rooms as needed - so much for that! It created a lot of anxiety and stress for us as we really had to work hard at getting people taken care of. Thankfully, we won't have that problem for the 2019 Reunion in New Orleans - so sorry it happened for the 100th.]

Goldberg, Linda, 90th Honorary - "to My 90th Division: a Forward from

Other family, cont...

Goldberg, cont' - General Stillwell: The Ceremony was about over as General Patton pinned the DSC on the last soldier. Without a warning, he ordered General Von Fleet forward, saying, 'I should have 10,000 more, but have only one. Those DSC you have rightly earned'. In those words, General Patton paid tribute to the Division Lightning Advance. But it is also for the entire 90th." P.S. You all saved so many lives, including that of my husband, Henry. THANK YOU. I'm so proud of all of you Tough 'Ombres. Enjoy your Reunion - **I MISS YOU ALL!** Linda Goldberg geb-Hess" [Ed.: To readers who never had the privilege of meeting our dear friend, Linda, you have missed out on a marvelous experience. Linda has an emotional story of how she worked in the "underground" during WW2, helping Jewish citizens to escape Nazi tyranny. She was "caught" by the Nazi police, but made a spectacular escape from them. She has blessed so many of our reunions with her presence and her love for the 90th WW2 Veterans. We miss you, Linda, and thank you for all you have done to honor our men.. I pray God will bless and keep you in His care always. I am honored to know you and humbled my your courage and sacrifice for so many.]

Goodman, Ed, son, Fred L., WW1 360th Regt. - "Enclosed are my dues for 2018-2019 - sorry I'm late getting them in. Hope the 100th went well. I wish I could have made it. Maybe there will be another next year. Thank you for all you do to support the 90th Association. Ed Goodman" [Ed.: Yes, there will be a 2019 Reunion in New Orleans - flyer with info is included with this newsletter, so hope you can make it!]

Olivas, Delva, daughter, Gregory Duron., 537/B AAA - "Dear Rhoda Reid, Enclosed are my dues for 2018-2019. I'm sorry I could not send any extra , but maybe later this year. Thank you for all the energy and effort you put in for the Association. My father, Gregory Duron, from Big Spring, TX, was part of the 90th and of 'The Greatest Generation'. Thank you and all the 90th Association Officers. Delva Olivas" [Thank you, Delva, for your lovely note and for your support of the 90th. You don't need to apologize for not sending extra - many are in the same situation, and the Association is very thankful that you are faithful in paying dues. Your father is one of our many heroes.]

Peak, Jill Marie, daughter, Clifford Culver, 358/E - "Dear Rhoda, I don't believe I paid my dues so am including it with my Memorial gift in memory of Bill Coutts, who died 9/21/18, who was in 358/E with my father & Les Schneider - all good friends. I knew Bill for 17 years, & I miss him a lot. He was a caring, friendly man. I hope you are doing well. Love, Jill Peak"

Rasmusson, Nancy, daughter, Harry, 315/Eng. - "Hello Rhoda, I've enclosed my registration form for the Reunion, and also the membership form and dues. [including a donation to the 500 Club]. In addition, I've included a donation to help with reunion expenses. See you in July! Thanks for all you do! Nancy Rasmusson" [Ed.: Nancy's name is on page 3 as one of the Reunion donors - thank you! It was such a delight to see the "Rasmusson ladies" at a Reunion again - I have really missed you all!]

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

Chris Schmidt

Born: February 1, 1957
Death: August 29, 2018

Ed.: Chris is the son of WW2 Vet, Vern Schmidt., 358/E & attended many reunions.



Chris Schmidt was a loving husband, devoted son, faithful brother, fun-loving uncle and trustworthy friend. On February 1, 1957, Chris Wayne Schmidt was born in Reedley, California to parents Vernon and Dona Schmidt and was the youngest of three children. He attended Reedley Schools and graduated from Reedley High School in 1975. Chris worked at Silvas Oil in Fresno, California for the past 28 years, the last six years as the Transportation Manager.

Early on, Chris recognized the passion inside himself for all things motor sports. He grew to love Harley Davidsons, hot rods and custom cars. Chris's real pride and joy was his red and black '55 Chevy Belair convertible.

Chris passed away suddenly on Wednesday, August 29, 2018. His easy-going smile, playful nature and humble spirit will be missed. He was preceded in death by his mother, Dona Schmidt, in 2015.

Chris is survived by his wife and soul mate, Sandy Brechmann; step-daughter, Rebekah Brechmann; father Vernon Schmidt and step-mother Vi; brother Keith; sister Audrey Tarvin; nephews Eric Schmidt, Wesley Tarvin and Kyle Tarvin; and niece Laurie Doyle.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Peoples Church, GL Johnson Chapel, 7172 North Cedar Avenue, Fresno CA 93720, on Friday, September 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Mighty Moms Foundation online at www.mightymomsfoundation.org, or mailed to PO Box 28220, Fresno, CA 93729. [Ed.: Chris was at the 2018 Reunion with his dad and family and was much loved by Reunion attendees over the years. This was a horrible shock to the family and to all of the 90th members who knew him. You can send a sympathy message to the family at 315 E. Nees St., #104 - Fresno, CA 93720-2013]

Sarkisian, Edward A., nephew, Harry Proudian, 357/C - "Dear Rhoda, Thank you for all you continue to do for the 90th What you, Jim, Norm Richards, Henri Levaufre and his son, Christian, & so many others have done - it's nothing less than a miracle... And, I **MEAN, a MIRACLE!** What you and your husband have done will **NOT** be forgotten I hope to see you in San Antonio. In Christ, Edward, Lorraine and Daniel Sarkisian" [Ed.: Ed did not make it to the reunion - maybe in 2019? His letter in the column at right, tells of his search to learn about his Uncle Harry, and how Norm Richards and Henri Levaufre were able to fill in many of the blank spaces. He was even able to visit his Uncle's grave in Normandy. a great story.]

A Family Story of Harry Proudian, 357/C - as told through the research of his nephew, Edward Sarkisian - "When I first saw the 1/72 sekle [?] B-17 model my grandmother had on top of her refrigerator, as a young boy, I always wanted to see it and "wave it around". I found out it was made by my uncle, Harry A. [Antranik] Proudian, my mom's younger brother. I knew he was killed in action in WW2, but knew nothing else. No one did!! Years later [1990s], I saw the TERRIBLE telegram sent to my grandparents: stamped at 2:25PM, July 23, 1944 - a Western Union Telegram - that their son, Harry Antranik Proudian was KIA in France on June 28, 1944. ... That launched me into a **search** for any history, records of what happened to him. Letters, calls, FedEx - all sent to the National Personnel Records Center, and other centers - They all **KNEW NOTHING!!** A few weeks prior to 9/11/01, I attended the 90th Reunion in San Antonio, TX. It was an extremely memorable occasion. But no - no one knew anything about a Harry Proudian. However, I gave my United Pilot Business card to a Norm Richards to see if he could find out anything. A few months later, he called me and asked what I was looking for. I said, 'To find out what happened to my Uncle!' Norm sent my info request to Henri Levaufre, who had my Uncles' complete records!! If I recall correctly, that was in 2001. I met Norm in Paris at CDG Airport in 2004 for the Moselle Reunion. It was BEYOND words to meet the vets - and to visit my Uncle's grave - and - to meet Henri Levaufre. There is SO much, so I will try to summarize. Since 2004, I promised myself to take my family there, and on June 2, 2014, I took my wife, son, a sister, and 2 friends to Normandy. Beyond words. The home we stayed at in Morsaline, greeted us with a double rainbow in the sky as we pulled up to the house. - WOW! On June 28, 2014, as I was packing up to head to United Airlines Simulator Training that I had postponed for months. That day was 70 years to the day that my mother's younger brother was Killed-In-Action in Port-Bail [?], France. Mom also became quite ill that day. I had to continue my United training in Denver. Mom only got worse - the Blessed Lord Jesus was intending to bring her into His presence on July 14, 2014, so she was re-united with her brother. My grandmother, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, came to this country and had to sons: one died as a toddler, & her son, Harry, who was shipped off to France to fight in WW2. She could NEVER COMPREHEND he died. The Lord kept my grandmother alive until almost EXACTLY 40 years to the day he was KIA [less 7 days]. She died June 21, 1984. To me - she was one great mentor in my life. She NEVER uttered a bad word - NEVER...Like the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years, in testing. ... She remained faithful, reading her Bible on the back porch of her home - in Armenian. Like Job - NEVER a word against her Lord God..... The last verse I got to read to my mom in a cell phone call from London on June 24, 2014, was Psalm 119:15 - 'May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord my Redeemer'. The Lord works in powerful ways. Ed." [Ed.: I hope Ed's journey will inspire readers who are struggling with some of the same issues = lack of information about your WW2 Veteran family member. Remember that Norm Richards, Tyler Alberts, and Henri & his son, Christian Levaufre, are THE BEST sources of information and have helped countless numbers of family members find information about their family member who fought for our freedom in WW2 - thousands of whom gave their lives. There are people reading this who can attest to the value of asking for help from these 4 Historians and were able to get some closure about their loved one as a result. It is never too late to "go for it!"]



90th Members Out & About - & In the news!



WW2 Veteran, John [Jack] Hanlon, 359/C 1Bn - John

often gives speeches. Below: 3 Pictures from a Presentation John gave Nov. 8 in honor of Veterans' Day. His son, Jim, sent these. Both Jack and Jim were at the 2018 Reunion - their picture is on page 8 of this newsletter. John had had a surgery Nov. 6 !!!



John is a True Tough 'Ombre. He had a surgery 11/6 & has one 11/9!! WOW!!



Claude Lovitt, always enjoyed going!! I am enclosing a copy of the front and back of my book I wrote recently to raise awareness and money for Soldier's Best Friend, a local, non-profit here in Arizona. We hope to sell 1,000 books by this Veterans' Day. It is a true story and [spoiler alert] Lilly becomes a service dog for a veteran through Soldier's Best Friend. If you can spread the word about the book to veterans, I think we can meet the 1,000 books sold by this Veterans' Day. It costs \$11 & is on Amazon.com. I do not make any money from the book. It is written at a 6th grade vocabulary level to reach a wider audience. So far it is selling well locally, but it is promoted only by word-of-mouth. Thank you for any help with the book. It is a shame that the government still does not provide funding for Service dogs. The government is still studying it. [!!!!] Soldier's Best Friend uses shelter dogs and matches them with veterans. Great Organization! Thank you again for all that you do for all of us. Regards, Michele Kocour" [Ed.: Thank you, Michele, for your lovely note and for this terrific information! I'm sorry this won't reach our readers by Veterans' Day, but hopefully our readers will purchase books to help the cause educate others where they live [all over the U. S.!] It looks like it would make great 13 Christmas gifts - for children AND adults, !! So, let's all support this project that offers much needed help to our treasured veterans. I hope

Kocour, Michele, daughter, 357/HQ Honorary -
"Dear Rhoda, Thank you for all of your hard work on the newsletter. You do an excellent job. I was especially touched, and surprised by your referencing my note to you. I sure hope it puts a "fire under their feet" to pay dues on time and support the 90th. I might be able to make it to the reunion, but my work schedule right now does not "look open". I know my parents, Jack Ward, and

Saving Lilly

Finding a Rescue Dog's Full and Purposeful Life



MICHELE KOCOUR

Saving Lilly

Finding a Rescue Dog's Full and Purposeful Life

This is a simple, but true story about the heart-wrenching loss of a close friend, Marita, and the love she had for her rescue dog, Lilly. Her dying request of the author was for her to find Lilly a full and purposeful life. Like a "dog thing", Kocour tenaciously follows a seemingly impossible road to find Lilly's true calling.

Saving Lilly is about keeping a promise to a friend, letting God lead the way and then knowing how to let go. Be very patient as you read as you will wonder where the story is going... wait for it. This story is what Kocour calls "a God thing". As Marita always knew about Lilly, this rescue dog was destined for great things.



Michele, age 5, with her family dog Dulany.

Michele Kocour earned her Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Kansas and then earned a Master's in Mass Communication from Arizona State University. She has worked for Baxter International, Southwest Airlines and General Electric. She has been a lifelong animal lover and a proponent of adopting shelter animals. She has resided in Arizona for 32 years. She is a proud University of Kansas Jayhawk basketball fan. She may be reached at SavingLilly@cox.net.



readers can read the print..If not, go to Amazon!]

SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...1

Ed.: This segment contains more lengthy stories of individual 90th Veterans.



Ed.: This information was sent to me [Rhoda] by COL [R] Sandy Westbrook ARCOM. To my knowledge, Robert Essler was never a member of the 90th Division Association, but he deserves to be remembered, and thank you to Sandy Westbrook for sending this information. He had quite a life!

Robert Lawrence Essler - August 10, 1925-October 27, 2018

Robert Lawrence Essler, 93, passed away on Saturday, October 27,

2018 at 1:51 p.m. in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Funeral mass will be held at St.Rita Catholic Church in Fort Worth,with Father Eric Groner officiating, on Friday, November 2, 2018 at 10:00a.m. Burial will follow the service at moore Cemetery in Arlington, TX. Robert Essler was born on Monday, August 10, 1925 and Scotland Texas to Joseph Essler and Rosie Hanke Essler. Robert L. Essler married Minnie "Midge" Johnson in 1981. He joined the U.S. Army and received his military training in Camp Fannie, TX; from there he went to Fort Meade, MD to overseas. On D-day, he was sent to Germany from 1941 to 1946, WWII.

Robert received an Honorable Discharge on Tuesday, June 18, 1946 from 90th Division, Company E, 359th Infantry. On Sunday, June 5, 2016, Bob Essler was honored in Normandy, France, for his service and fighting for their freedom. There, Robert Essler received the French Legion of Honor Medal. Bob was very proud of having served his country. After the war he worked in Wichita Falls, TX for different companies. He owned Industrial Electric in Wichita Falls, TX for 2 to 3 years in the early 1960s. In 1967, he went to work for LTV Aerospace & Defense in Grand Prairie, TX for 24 ½ years, building electrical circuit boards in airplanes. He also worked on the night carrier landing training instruments (trainers) in California and Florida. After retirement in 1991, he continued working by volunteering for 15 years for the Vought Heritage Foundation -- making panel boards for planes for restoration in preparation for museums and historical presentations. He loved to work with his hands, and was very talented with detail. He could always figure out a way to fix something that was broken. He was an active Catholic member for Fort Worth Catholic Church. A member of the Knights of Columbus since 1940 with a 3rd degree. He worked for the Arlington Charities. He loved to listen to country and western music and dance to two-step and waltz. He taught his daughter how to dance. He is preceded in death by his wife Midge Johnson Essler, his baby infant son Joseph Essler, his two brothers (Bill and George) and four sisters (Bernice, JoAnn, Eleanor, and Lydia). He is survived by his daughter Barbara Essler Downes and her husband Robert Downes of Haslet, TX. His granddaughter Amanda Lynn Downes Adams and her husband Derek Adams of Roanoke, TX, and grandson Brian Lawrence Downes and his wife Amber Marlette Downes of Watauga, TX and five great-grandchildren Bryony, Kolby, Drake, Jack, and Jacob.

Bob Essler Awarded French Medal of Honor. In 1944, Bob was assigned to the 90th Division of Company E359 Infantry. The 90th Infantry Division was nicknamed "Tough 'Ombres," a United States Army unit that served in World War I and World War II. The "Tough 'Ombres" division was raised from draftees from the states of Texas and Oklahoma during World War I. Bob wore the "Tough 'Ombres" shoulder patch with pride. On D-Day, the 90th invaded France at Utah Beach and had at least one unit in contact with the enemy every day from D-Day to VE Day. The 90th included more than 35,000 men. This Division earned the Invasion Arrowhead award and all five Battle Stars for Normandy, Northern France Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland, Central Europe, and also the French Croix de Guerre. Bob Essler was never wounded. His closest call to being shot was in Germany. He was walking through some farm buildings, when a bullet passed behind his head and went between his gun barrel and the magazine. He complained that it ruined his rifle and he had to replace it. In May 1945, the 90th embarked on its final combat mission...the rescue of Prague, Czechoslovakia. The mission was to clear a route through Regan Pass in the Sudeten Mountains. This allowed the 4th Armored Division to advance into Prague. The mission was successful. The 4th then rolled through the line into Prague. The 90th had done its work well so that whenever there is talk about valiant men, the "Tough 'Ombres" are sure to be mentioned.

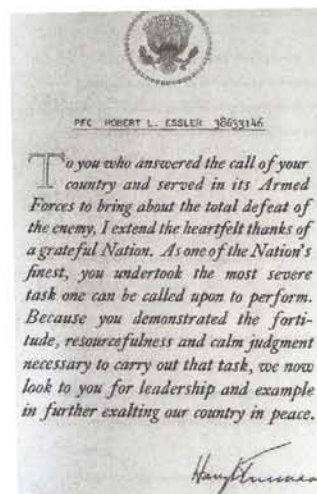


**Robert
Lawrence
Essler
Born:
August 10, 1925
Died
October 27,2018**



Wearing the French Medal

Letter from Harry Truman



**These two
pictures were
taken on his
trip to
Normandy,
France
in 2016**



101st Annual Reunion - July 25 - 28, 2019 Le Pavillon Hotel - New Orleans, LA



Important Information Needed to Make your Reservation

Hotel Address: 833 Poydras Street - zip code: 70112

ROOM TYPES: Deluxe King/Deluxe 2 Doubles **RATES:** 1-4 people: \$109 per night + tax

NOTE: Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes [currently 14% plus \$1 Occupancy Tax per room night, as well as Statutory Act 410 Tourism Support Assessment of 1.75% for each room night in effect at the time of check-out.

EFFECTIVE DATES for ROOM RATES: Applicable 3 days before to 3 days after Official Meeting dates [July 21-29], subject to space availability.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION: You can call now! 1-817-567-7153 -

You **MUST** identify yourself as being with the **WW2 90th Division Group** when you make the reservation, in order to receive the special group rate. Reservations **MUST** be made

NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2019 for our group rate. You can also reserve online at

<https://bit.ly/2PF4F9d> - THANKYOU, Chris Guska, 90th Webmaster, for creating this link!

NOTE! Any cancellations **MUST** be made **72 hours in advance** of your reservation date, or 1 room night [+ taxes] will be billed to your credit card.

CUTOFF DATE: Our Room Rate will be held until **21 days** prior to our meeting date, **July 1, 2019.** Rooms in our block that have not booked, will be released to the public.

PARKING: Standard rates apply - right now: \$39+tax per car/per night [valet]. **NO self park.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO HELP IN YOUR PLANNING!

!!!Thursday, July 25, 5:30-6:30 PM - Cash Bar RECEPTION with a Jazz Combo -
then explore the area and find a great place to have dinner after the reception.

MEALS & MENUS: There will be the usual 5 planned meals:

Friday Lunch & Dinner; Saturday Lunch & Dinner; Sunday Memorial Breakfast

Menus & prices to be negotiated, but we do know prices will be higher than in 2018, so prepare!

The Reunion Registration Form with meals and prices will be in the Spring Newsletter