NEW BOOK GIVES 10TH ITS PLACE AMONG THE ELITE

Douglas R. Cubbison


The 10th Mountain Division is the most recent publication in a series by Zenith Press on elite units of the U.S. Armed Forces. With this book, the Division takes its rightful place alongside such elite organizations as the Navy SEALs and Marine Force Recon. As with other books in this series, the volume is an attractive, large format paperback. The paper is high quality with a glossy finish; it contains several maps, and a liberal number of photographs. The photographs are spectacularly reproduced in high resolution and vivid colors.

The book begins with a brief introduction to the 10th Mtn. Div. of World War II, recounting the initial organization by the National Ski Patrol; its rigorous training at Camp Hale, Colorado; and its accomplishments in the mountains of North Italy in the Spring of 1945. The book then provides the history of the modern Light Infantry Division; and the current organization of the Division, with four BCTs (Brigade Combat Teams) to include one at Fort Polk, LA. Other sections of the book discuss the weapons and helicopters that the Division employs. Although most soldiers will be intimately familiar with the information provided in these two sections, civilians and family members will find them to be interesting, informative and well written; and they provide an excellent introduction to the equipment that Mountain soldiers work with every day.

The remainder of the book provides a comprehensive discussion of the Mountain Division’s participation in the Global War on Terror, with excellent but succinct discussions of the Division’s service in Afghanistan and Iraq, with numerous first-person accounts, and gloriously illustrated with numerous photographs. Several Mountain troopers will find themselves prominently featured! The Zenith Press books are not intended to be scholarly or academic studies, and do not contain notes or a bibliography. However, the text is well written and easily understood, and the first-person stories in particular are exciting and fascinating. This eye-catching book provides an excellent overview of the 10th Mtn. Div. Veterans of the Division and family members will find the book to be of particular interest. Newly-assigned soldiers who want to explain to their families the proud lineage and current service of the Division will find this book an easily affordable gift that will assume a place of honor in any home. The book is a beautiful product and comes highly recommended.


SEMPRE ITALIA IS IN THE BOOKS AND IN MEMORIES OF TRAVELERS

Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F)

Our visit to the Florence American Cemetery was beautifully handled by the ABMC staff. We were privileged to have several special guests including Consul General Mary Ellen Countryman from the U.S. Consulate in Florence, the President of the Florentine Alpini Dr. Eugenio Romoli, and a USAF active duty color guard who drove all the way from Aviano AB to be with us.

It turns out that what I thought was the new idea of our group placing the flowers on each 10th Mtn. Div. soldier’s grave, was in fact actually a revival of an old practice which only added meaning to the event. In any event, the group visited, placed a flower, and took a picture of each and every 10th soldier’s marker.

Another important event on the schedule was the dedication of the new memorial to PFC John Magrath on Hill 909 and the site of his actions that earned him the Medal of Honor. The memorial was the vision and work of our good friend Giovanni Sulla. We again had an active duty color guard, this time U.S. Army from SETAF (Southern European Task Force), including some former 10th LI soldiers. For more on this ceremony and the monument, please see the related article and photo in this issue by David Ware.

As a key to our future vision, Pat
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Executive Committee consists of the President (Committee Chairman), Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Blizzard Editor, Executive Director, Quartermaster and two members-at-large, if needed, to be appointed by the President (Article VII, Section 1, National Bylaws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.)

The National Board of Directors consists of the Chairman of the Board, National President, National Senior Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, Blizzard Editor, Executive Director, Executive President, of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, all Chapter Presidents, and two voting members-at-large who may be appointed at the option of the President. (Article IV, Section 2, National Bylaws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Michael Plummer (10th LI)
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601
plummike@aol.com

Senior V.P.
Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F)
1630 York Mills Lane
Reston, VA 20194
scoffey@verizon.net

Treasurer
Richard R. Babbitt (10th LI)
241 Clinton St., Apt. 6
Watertown, NY 13601
rbabbitt@wdt.net

Fort Drum Historian & Liaison
Doug Cubbins (10th LI)
P 10,000
Fort Drum, NY 13602
doug.cubbins1@us.army.mil

Chaplain
Dr. Larry Fields (Desc 85-HQ)
6300 Deneen Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919
lfields@cdcbearden.org

Film Librarian
H. Newcomb Eldredge (85-L)
P.O. Box 539
Newport, NH 03773
newc@nhvt.net

Art Director
Robert J. Wiebel
4960 Decatur Circle
Melbourne, FL 32934
gamefish 42@aol.com

Executive Director
Craig Boss (10th LI)
6880 Osmead Rd.
Lowville, NY 13362
eboss@gmail.com

Blizzard Editor
Felicity Hallanan (Assoc)
395 Zailer Tract
Sandy Creek, NY 13145
blizzarded@gmail.com

Chairman of the Board
John Weaver (10 Med)
10 Soundview Gardens, # A
Port Washington, NY 11050

Resource Center Liaison
Dan Whittmone
4626 S. Wolff St.
Denver, CO 80236
dandenver@earthlink.net

Presidents Emeriti
Earl C. Clark (87-HQ-1)
M. N. “Mac” MacKenzie (85-C)
Arthur Muschlfr (64-B) (deceased)
Paul J. Gundeman (65-MED)
Dunn Carmichael (110-SG)
Nate Morrill (10-Med)
John J. Duffy (66-HQ-2)

TOTAL
2556 2592 2612 1729

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona
Don Kitzman
2131 Leisure World
Mesa, AZ 85206-3279

Delaware River Valley
Patricia Thornton (Desc)
112 Maple Ave.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Metro New York
Jack Breslin
324 E 61st St., Apt. SRE
New York, NY 10065

New England
Brewster Bartlett
300 Clove Pond Rd.
Louden, NY 03307

Southern California
Bruce Campbell
2375 72nd Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Upstate New York
William Morrison
341 Wimer Rd.
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Arkamdislo
Phoebe Davol (Desc)
5675 W. FM 487
Florence, TX 76527

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona
Don Kitzman
2131 Leisure World
Mesa, AZ 85206-3279

Delaware River Valley
Patricia Thornton (Desc)
112 Maple Ave.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Metro New York
Jack Breslin
324 E 61st St., Apt. SRE
New York, NY 10065

New England
Brewster Bartlett
300 Clove Pond Rd.
Louden, NY 03307

Southern California
Bruce Campbell
2375 72nd Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Upstate New York
William Morrison
341 Wimer Rd.
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Arkamdislo
Phoebe Davol (Desc)
5675 W. FM 487
Florence, TX 76527

President's Report
Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)

1. The paid membership numbers through 1 June, 2009:
Category 2006 2007 2008 2009
WWII 10th Mtn. Div. Veterans 1850 1718 1321 1006
WWII 10th Mtn. Div. Widows 323 335 259 226
10th Inf. Div. Veterans, Cold War 69 73 56 42
10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Veterans 166 269 893 288
Other Mtn. Units 23 30 23 19
Associates 77 77 77 40
Associates Widow 1
Honorary 24 26 28 24
Friends 24 64 71 68
VTANG 15
Total 2556 2592 2612 1729

In June we launched a national membership campaign to recruit some of 150,000 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Alumni as members. I am asking Chapter Presidents to launch similar campaigns in their geographical areas. The truth is that if we don't capture some of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) alumni and get them involved at the chapter level, the Association will never achieve its full potential.

3. Bruce Campbell (86-M), Chairman of the 2010 National Association Nominating Committee, has put together their plan to present one or more slate(s) by end of Jan., 2010. If you have any recommendations for President, VP, Secretary or Treasurer, please contact Bruce and provide the name(s) to: brumar2530@sbcglobal.net.

4. John Russell, Chairman of the Membership Committee, represented the National Association on 25 May at the Tennessee Pass Memorial Day Ceremony. He presented the Association's wreath in honor of our fallen Warriors.

5. The 2009 Tenth Mt. Div. Foundation Board Meeting will be held on July 16-17 and the Descendant's Board Meeting will be held on July 18 in Denver, CO. I will attend both.

6. 2009 Sempre Italia Return to Italy Trip has returned, and details and pictures are found in the main edition and Descendant's Blizzard, enclosed.

7. Tom Thompson (Descendant and past National Treasurer) has reviewed our National Account investment strategy and finds that we are still on track with our investment goals. No changes will be made at this time.

8. The 2010 National Association's Reunion will be held in Watertown, NY, 8–11 July. It will be hosted by the Ft. Drum Chapter. A world-class air show is included on 10 and 11 July.

9. An update on activities in the Division:
A. Aviation Brigade (2,300 Soldiers) and the Sustainment Brigade (1,000 Soldiers) are in Iraq. The 3rd BCT (3,500 Soldiers) is in Afghanistan.
B. Division HQs and Division Support Battalion (1,000 Soldiers) returned in May. C. 2nd BCT will deploy in the Fall of 2009 to Iraq and the 1st BCT also will deploy to Iraq in the Winter of 2010.

Climb to Glory!

HALE AND FAREWELL: DENVER 2007
REUNION BOOK MAKES PROGRESS

Chere Mitchell, Project Coordinator

DENVER, Colorado, June 15 – Editors Sally Osterling, Elizabeth Candelario and I are reviewing the galley proof of Hale and Farewell: 10th Mountain Division 2007 Reunion. The editing and design team of our publisher, the Donning Company Publishers, will make changes based upon our comments. Before forwarding the material to the printer, Donning will send us a final proof to be reviewed by Hugo Evans (85-A, C), chairman of the 2007 Reunion Committee. We are eager to complete this project and look forward to a summer release date. Hale and Farewell went through a major change in April, 2008, when members of the 10th Mtn. Div. review committee requested a publication with greater emphasis on photographs and less on text. Following a mid-course correction, the book evolved from 128 to 160 pages and from 192 to over-400 photos. The reunion has been thoroughly covered from pre-registration through the visit to Camp Hale. In addition, a brief history incorporates paintings and drawings by 10th Troopers during World War II.

If you have questions or would like to order a book, please feel free to contact me at 303.831.9243 or cherehbc@aol.com.
RESOURCE CENTER REACHES IMPORTANT MILESTONE

Dennis Hagen

In 1984, 10th Mtn. Div. veteran H. Ben Duke (86-L) suggested to the staff of the Denver Public Library’s Western History Department that the Division needed a permanent home for its World War II records. The Library agreed, and after an initial bit of publicity, personal papers, maps, newspapers and photographs began to arrive. In short order, however, veterans also began to offer their skis, parkas, boots, and countless other artifacts not generally considered appropriate for libraries or archives.

At this point, Wellington Webb, Chairman of the Library Friend’s Foundation and later Denver Mayor, contacted the president of the Colorado Historical Society to propose that the two institutions join forces.

The National Association of the 10th Mtn. Div. also embraced the project, and negotiations among the three entities soon resulted in an agreement defining the types of materials that the proposed Resource Center would collect and describing how items would be preserved and used for research. Representatives from the three institutions signed the agreement on Oct. 14, 1987, and the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center became a reality.

Since that time, the Library has collected, preserved and cataloged the documentary history of the Division through personal papers, letters, diaries, photographs, military records, oral history recordings and other materials.

The Center maintains an on-going list of the names of individuals who have donated materials. Recently, this list surpassed 1,000 individual donors, a milestone that reflects the incredible dedication of veterans, spouses, descendants and friends to preserve their legacy.

Some donors contributed large numbers of documents, or made multiple donations over many years. Others provided substantially smaller donations, sometimes only a single page or a single photograph. Nevertheless, each and every one of these 1,000 donors has been critical to the success of the Resource Center, and each and every item donated tells an important story. It is now one of the largest military archives of its kind in the U.S.

We would like to thank everyone who provided his or her generous support over the years. We accomplished a lot since the Center’s creation, but as we all recognize, there are still so many more histories and life stories that need to be preserved.

We are eager to begin working with our next 1,000 donors! For further information about donating materials, please contact me.

Dennis Hagen
Archivist, 10th Mountain Resource Center
The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204-2731
dhagen@denverlibrary.org; (720) 865-1812

SOME REASONS VETS DONATE ARCHIVAL ITEMS TO RESOURCE CENTER

1. Nate Morrell (86-C, MTG, 10th MED-A): I have an obligation to young soldiers to pass on my own experience to new soldiers. Also feel it’s important that WWII era descendants better understand experiences that shaped their family members—gives them perspective on their family and the world. (Donated personal photos, letters, military orders.)
2. Al Nencioni (85-I): The Association spent the time and money to create the Resource Center in Denver, so that’s the place we should send our items. (Contributing photos, pre-Blizzard newspapers, overseas Blizzards, 85th newsletters.)
3. Bob Parker (87-E, 87-HQ): I had too much stuff, and it should be saved for ongoing generations. (Donated books, plaques, documents, photos.)
4. John Woodward (87-HQ-1, 10th Recon): I hoped the photos would bring back memories and friendships built up during those trying times. (Donated training and combat photos.)
5. Hassell Vass (10-AT-A): It’s important the 10th Anti-Tank be remembered—they were a small outfit and had very little recognition, but they did their part. (Donated D-Series photos.)
6. Hugh Evans (85-C, 85-A): Our kids don’t need this stuff, and if they do they know where it is. The Resource Center has done a fantastic job of collecting, cataloging, protecting and making these historical items available to anyone who has an interest in them. It’s the only way to go. (Donated photos, letters, orders, brochures, skis, uniform.)
7. Newe Eldridge (85-L): I want to preserve the history and the legacy. Resource Center/DPL is a secure and well-organized repository—we should all send our items there. (Donated movies.)
8. John Imbrie (85-C): I got a call from Speed Murphy who said “It’s a disgrace we don’t have a complete Division roster.” And that was the beginning of the database. (Database co-founder.)
9. Bob Yank (85-K): It’s better than giving items to kids, who may not have special affinity for the items. (Contributing artwork items gifted to Mussolini.)

STABLE CALL
Felicity Hallanan
(Associate)

EMERSONS HAVE LARGEST DESCENDANT TURNOUT

During this year’s trip to Italy, veteran Bob Emerson (604-HQ) probably set a record for having the largest group of descendants accompanying a veteran on a Sempre Italia trip. In-all there were 18 Emersons on the trip; 13 of whom were direct descendants.

The aging Bob was his wife Bobbie, daughter Ann Gray and her two children Mark and Liza, son Chris Emerson and his wife Stacy along with their children Hannah, Grace and Chuck, son Bruce Emerson and his wife Kathy along with their children Melissa and Douglas, daughter Joan White and her husband Tim along with their children Hale and Robby. The ages of the children have been “classified;” the grandchildren ranged in age from 8 to 21 years. Grandson Mark Gray had just finished studies at the Gonzaga University campus in Florence.
George U. Nelson, Jr. (85-C), got me into this mess, but I think I have to dig myself out all by myself. Thanks a lot George! Well, here goes nothing! According to the latest Blizzard, the National Association’s WWII 10th Veteran membership comes to 1,340 persons. Of those, 34 answered the Ski Survey call in the Blizzard, Edition # 1, 2009, plus four others that were friends or descendants.

To say that the answers were random and off the wall is an understatement. The worst part is that there are two culprits that I know ski the most of any of us, and they did not take the time to respond. They are Capt. John B Woodward (87-HQ-1), who is 94 years old and with his wife Lois probably had the boards on 100 days this year, and Richard S. Dirkes (86-E), who practically lives on the Vail slopes. They must not have had the time to read the Blizzard or, if they did, did not have the time to write or maybe they just can’t count that high. Then there are those that have stacked the time to read the Blizzard or, if they did, did not have the time to write or maybe they just can’t count that high. Then there are those that have stacked their kids on skis; we thought she did a kick turn!

The romance and adventure of the Ski Troops lives on.

**TENTH SKI SURVEY RESULTS**

T/Sgt Hugh Evans (85-A, C)

2. Days Skied 2008-09 varied from 0- 71, mostly running in the 20-30 range but a little lower than the previous year.
3. Most skied downhill but quite a few cross country as well, with a few skiing cross country only.
4. The list of where they are skiing and their favorite places to ski is way too long to be all-inclusive. Here are a few of them in random order: Sunapee, Wachusett, Sugarbush, Mammoth, Smugglers Notch, Mt. Cranmore, Killington, Mt. Bachelor, Keystone, Vail, Aspen, Alta, Crested Butte, White Pass, Cooper Hill, Sunday River, Blackhawk, Steamboat Springs, Brundage, Val Badia Italy, the French Alps, Marquette, Oak Mt., Gore Mt., Pico, Sun Valley, Mission Ridge, Stratton, Madonna di Campiglio Italy, Deer Valley, Breckenridge, etc., etc. You choose!
5. Most of the comments were about their children and grandchildren and how they were enthusiastic skiers, racers, teachers, ski patrollers, etc.

The best, simplest and most straight forward response came from Harold McAfee, (86-A & 85-L). What is more, he was the one that woke up one James J. Young, Jr. (85-C) to the fact that there was a survey. The comment the writer enjoyed the most was made by George Rosenfield (85-E), when he just mentioned his times with our dear departed Don MacDonald (85-E, 86-D, I), of Leadville fame. Don was not the best on the slope, but he sure could handle that Silver Dollar Saloon!

Then there was the comment by Vincent Brandt (86-HQ) that he now skis better than he walks. Jim Bray (87-K), reported that he and Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), are the only ones still skiing in the Northwest Chapter. However, H. Newcomb Eldredge (85-L) takes the prize for the shortest but not the sweetest answer. His one partial day of skiing was at the Hannes Scheider Meister Cup Race where he was the fifth man in his group to race. He fell and broke some ribs and injured his hip and left leg and that was for the year. You can’t win them all, but it sure is good we are still trying. Sempre Avanti!

**FAMILY RAISES GENERATIONS OF SKIERS**

Warren Asa (86-G) was wounded on April 17, 1945, while heading for the Po Valley, but that hasn’t stopped him from years of sharing a love of skiing with his family. Here is his account.

The wounds meant a year of hospitalization and precluded any attempts at skiing. However, I married Mary Jeanne Brand, who was an avid skier. Our children Linda Jeanne, Joseph Warren and Bonnie Marie all learned to ski. Both Joe and Bonnie and her husband Don came to some of the 10th Mtn. Ski-Ins at Keystone, CO.

Joe married Tracey Elliott, and Kevin, 6, and Kelly, 5, are both learning to ski.

Twelve years ago Bonnie married Don Owen, a skier. Their daughter Taylor Jeanne is now nine, and learned to ski at 4. She now does black diamonds with her mother and grandmother. Their latest child is Trinity Warren. At 21 months she is too young for ski school, but we think she has skiing in her blood. On a recent trip to Mammoth Mt., CA, we got her on skis; we thought she did a kick turn!

**HONOR FLIGHTS HELP VETERANS MAKE ANOTHER JOURNEY**

Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2)

The local Chapter is now part of what has become a national endeavor to send WWII Veterans on a short trip (usually just overnight) to Washington, D.C. to visit the Monument there, and several other places which might be of interest. I was one of 35 Dallas-area veterans who made the trip June 1 and 2. Honor Flight pays every dime of the expense...air fare, hotel, a banquet, and all other expenses. They even paid for 30 people who were there to cater to our every need. More than half our group were in wheelchairs or on walkers. They wouldn’t let me even buy a postcard...they did it all. I understand the Honor Flight idea is about two years old and groups all over the country have now treated 17,000 veterans to the trip.

The Honor Flight idea is about 2 years old and groups all over the country have now treated 17,000 veterans to the trip.

Among them were six, 10th Mtn. (LI) veterans who were delighted to see that we cared enough about them to spend nearly two hours here. We were the first Honor Flight group to stop there but we were told that visit will now become a permanent part of the trip.

With all hullabaloo going on as we mixed with the Walter Reed bunch, I was able to record the last names of only four, 10th Mountain soldiers. They were soldiers Randolph, Vasquez, Dunn and Wise. I gave them a pitch about joining the Association and to a man they said they would.

(Note: Honor Flights are extremely popular and filling fast. Anyone interested in participating is urged to go to the website www.honorflight.org to learn further details and sign up)
The 24th Congress of the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) from Oct. 6-9, 2009, will include a presentation about the recent history of the 10th Mtn. Div (LI).

LTC Daniel Goldthorpe will represent the Association at the event in Chamonix, France. He is a former battalion commander who has served several tours in Afghanistan and can address from first-hand knowledge, lessons learned by the 10th over the past several years of mountain warfare.

The IFMS includes members from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the U.S. It was formed in 1985 in the interest of promoting peace among mountain soldiers and participating countries. Members of the Association are welcome to attend the October event and any others sponsored by the Federation.

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS WILL FOCUS ON 10TH AT REUNION IN FRANCE THIS FALL**

The following interview with author Dan Oja, (85-F Nephew) was conducted recently by Abbie Kealy (86-L Niece.) Oja’s new book and video, “Ordinary Heroes,” offers an extraordinary look at the 10th Mountain Division during WWII, from the home front to the battlefront.

**Blizzard:** What is your connection to the 10th Mountain Division?

**Dan Oja:** My uncle, John Leslie Koski, served with 85-F in Italy, so much of my research for the book focused on the 10th Mountain Infantry Division.

**Blizzard:** Describe the story of Ordinary Heroes: Six Stars in the Window.

**Dan Oja:** Ordinary Heroes is the true story of six brothers serving in World War II. The story begins on May 4th, 1945, when the family receives a telegram informing them that one of the brothers had been killed in action. The rest of the book is the story of the events leading up to that day. It is the story of a poor immigrant family, struggling to survive the Great Depression; the story of the six Koski brothers, the men they served with, and the millions of Allied soldiers who saved the world during the dark days of World War II. On one level, it is a book about six brothers and one family. On another level, it is the story of an entire generation, a generation that literally saved the world from tyranny. As the title suggests, the Koski brothers were ordinary soldiers, very representative of their generation. They didn’t want to fight, they didn’t want to go to war, but when their country needed them, they were determined to do their part.

**Blizzard:** Ordinary Heroes is told in such an innovative way – it’s a book, a DVD and a multimedia digital book. What does that mean and how does it affect how the story is told?

**Dan Oja:** Ordinary Heroes is available in a variety of formats including a traditional hardcover book with many photos. It’s also available as an interactive digital book with photos that come to life as videos and Web links to additional information and original documents. The digital versions of the book provide a very different reading experience, an experience that combines some of the best features of books, videos, and the Web. It’s one thing to read about war. It’s another thing to click a photo and listen to someone who was there describe the experience.

(Continued on Page 6)
TRUSCOTT STORY FILLS OUT 10TH HISTORY

Tom Brooks (85-G)

“I was deeply impressed. And almost at once, this inactive center — the 30-mile rugged front between Mt. Belvedere and the Serchio valley — became one of the most active on the entire Army front as their patrols probed into the enemy lines.”

When Lt. General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. succeeded General Mark W. Clark and assumed command of the Fifth Army on December 16, 1944, he reviewed plans for a winter offensive. At the same time, Gen. Clark was named Commander of Allied Armies in Italy. II Corps — on the Army’s right — was then on a 72-hour notice. It was to debouch abreast of Highway 65 — the most heavily fortified area along the front, and join the British Eighth Army south east of Bologna for a thrust north across the Po Valley.

Given the appalling weather, the rugged terrain, Truscott suggested “a maneuver in the IV Corps area, west of Highway 65, might be much easier going and perhaps accomplish the same purpose more quickly at less cost.” General Clark disagreed.

As snow and ice blanketed the Apennines in the worst winter of the war, the movement of men, weapons and vehicles became increasingly difficult. Ammunition reserves dwindled until there was barely enough to sustain fifteen days of intensive combat. The Offensive was postponed until spring.

General Truscott stressed the need for flexibility. He suggested that the Fifth Army should exploit enemy weaknesses west of Highway 64 where German defenses were weaker than on the II Corps-Highway 65 front. General Clark remained adamant: “I cannot agree to a main attack generally along the high ground west of Highway 64.”

Truscott, however, concluded that Highway 64, running north in the Valley of the Reno River, offered the best hope for a breakout into the Po Valley. He decided that the Belvedere-Torriccia massive west of the Reno had to be cleared of the enemy. This would enable the use of Highway 64, free up the 1st Armored Division, and reduce the exposure of the South African 6th Armoured Division, and “to provide more favorable avenue of approach to the Po Valley than the heavily defended route along Highway 65.”

When the Tenth arrived in Italy to join IV Corps, Truscott visited each regiment and talked to officers on practical aspects of mountain fighting. “I was deeply impressed. And almost at once, this inactive center — the 30-mile rugged front between Mt. Belvedere and the Serchio valley — became one of the most active on the entire Army front as their patrols probed into the enemy lines.” Truscott told MG George P. Hays that the Division would soon have a mission worthy of his gallant troops.

After taking Belvedere, the 10th in the mountains west of Highway 64 and the First Armored in the Reno River Valley moved north. When they reached the Mt. della Spe-Vergato line, Truscott called a halt. To continue, he feared, would alert the Germans, causing them to increase their defenses bracketing Highway 64.

On April 14, Truscott launched the Spring Offensive. From an OP on Mt. Castellana, Truscott and his staff watched Hays’ 10th Mountain Division scale and capture Mt. Roccia di Roffeno. “Fighting was heavy, opposition was intense.” Down in the Reno Valley, the 1st Armored got underway.

When the preliminary IV Corps operation came abreast of II Corps, II Corps joined the offensive. The 10th advanced at a good clip down the Samogliga Valley. Truscott moved the 1st Armored across the rear of the 10th and headed it towards Milan. The 85th Division replaced the 1st Armored in the Reno Valley and moved north.

General Joseph T. McNarney, Commander of U.S. Army Forces in the Mediterranean Theater, asked Truscott when he expected to reach Highway 9 in the Po Valley. Truscott said, “by one o’clock of the 20th.” McNarney bet Truscott a bottle of Scotch he would not. Truscott lost by an hour. McNarney returned the prize with a request it be sent to the first soldier who had crossed the Highway. Truscott sent the bottle to General Hays, who presented it to PFC B. L. Lessmeister, from Montrose, MO, and the lead scout of A-86th. Truscott commandeered a 10th Artillery Piper Cub for reconnaissance over the battle lines. “That’s when I determined that our troops were definitely across Highway 9.” Hays organized a Task Force under the 10th’s assistant commander, BG Robinson E. Duff, which seized the crossing over the Panaro, twenty miles northwest of Bologna.

The 10th and the 85th pressed on to the Po River. Truscott set off another reconnaissance aboard BG Thomas C. Darby’s P-51. Prisoners were now flowing into cages by the thousands. German forces were in a state of confusion and disorder. Hundreds of vehicles were streaming toward the river in an effort to escape. After strafing several German columns approaching the Po River, Darcy and Truscott transferred to a Piper Cub, and flew to San Benedetto where the 10th was crossing the river. Darcy cracked up the Cub while landing in a wheat field near General Hays’ Command Post near the river bank. Two regiments were already across the Po.

At the Command Post, Truscott met an old friend from the Rangers, Col. William O. Darby. He had come up to the front to meet General Hays. A few hours before, Duff had been seriously wounded by a mine. Hays asked Truscott if he could arrange to have Darby replace Duff as assistant commander. Truscott did so. “But it was a sad blow to me when this gallant officer was killed on the last day of April near the northern end of Lake Garda.”

When the war ended on May 2nd, the 10th “under Army control” was five miles north of Lake Garda. On May 3rd, representatives of General Heinrich von Vietinghoff were met by Gen. Hays and a party from the 10th and escorted to Truscott’s Command Post in the olive grove south of Verna. “I would not see any of them. I never had any wish to exchange civilities with any of the enemy generals who were passed through my headquarters during the war, and I had no curiosity about them that the usual G-2 PW interrogation could not satisfy.” The Germans were sent on to the 15th Army Group in Florence.

Speaking of the 10th’s assignment to Italy, Truscott noted, “This was fortunate for the Fifth Army, since it was one of the best combat divisions I knew during the war.”

BOOK OFFERS EXTRAORDINARY LOOK AT DIVISION

(Note: The author, and historian John Imbrie, have collaborated on a number of works detailing the history of the 10th Mtn. Div. This piece fills in a period of that history.)

We've had very strong positions in the book so you don't have to wait for the next installment.

As a companion to the book, we also offer a 28 minute documentary video, which tells the story behind the story and introduces the viewer to the Koski family.

Blizzard: What made you want to write Ordinary Heroes? And how does your professional experience assist in telling it? What can readers of the next generation gain from it?

Dan Oja: I had heard the stories of the Koski brothers for my entire life. As I got older, I began to realize that they were part of a very special generation, a generation shaped by the Great Depression and World War II. I had experience writing computer textbook projects, so I decided to document the Koski brothers’ experience as my tribute to them and to their entire generation. That project grew into something much larger than I had ever anticipated, finally resulting in the printed book, the digital book, and the documentary video.

Blizzard: What has the reaction been to it since it was released/published at the end of 2008?

Dan Oja: We’ve had very strong positive responses and very good sales. We have a limited marketing budget, but fortunately, many people who read the book like it very much and tell others about it. From our online orders, I’ve seen many people who buy one copy, then come back to order additional copies, often shipping them to other addresses. I’ve contacted some of those people and they said they felt so strongly about the book they were buying more copies as gifts for friends and relatives. The largest purchase that I know of is one man who bought seven copies, one for himself and six for his brothers and sisters. That’s enough to make any author smile.

Blizzard: How can people buy Ordinary Heroes: Six Stars in the Window?

Dan Oja: It’s available from Amazon.com and our Web site: www.sixstarsinthewindow.com. It can be ordered by phone from 1-800-247-6553 and purchased from selected Upper Michigan bookstores.
REMEMBERING SERGEANT DWIGHT WILLIAMS

Robert Lafean (Desc 86-K)

In the early days of World War II, a retired Sergeant Major of the 7th Cavalry emphasized a point to his nephew, a new Marine: “You best honor all by honoring your own.” This thought comes to mind when I see memorials or remembrances of fallen comrades. So it did last Memorial Day in Frankenmuth, MI, as the men of the Lower Michigan Chapter gathered to remember and honor their fellow troopers.

Harrison Coleman (86-B), Chapter president, made it a point to remember a trooper in his company – Sgt Dwight Williams– the last man of Company B to be lost in the war. As we pass another Memorial Day and the anniversary of V-E Day, Harrison and I thought it appropriate to remember Sgt. Williams in writing.

Dwight C. Williams, known by his family as “Bud” and to his fellow Troopers as “Willie,” was born in Edina, MI on July 27, 1924. In turn he attended Edina School, Blake School and Harvard College, before joining the 10th Mtn. Div. in the summer of 1943. Dwight was assigned to Company B, 86th Regiment and in the same squad as Harrison, who remembers “Willie” as a professional, well liked and willing to help anyone.

“History of the 86th Mountain Infantry in Italy” by Charles Wellborn (1945) described the last days of April as ones of intense fighting in rugged country. April 29 was spent trying to find a way into Nago, Italy. The First Battalion had spent the day working their way up sheer cliffs, through ravines, and over slippery slopes. “The only approach to [Nago] was through a small cut in the rocks.” Well guarded by German heavy weapons and armor, Company B led the way through the ravine. While traversing this area a “…German plane dipped low and dropped eight personnel bombs on the weapons platoon, killing nine men…” They spent the rest of the night on the slopes outside of Nago enduring both rain and German artillery. The Germans used the night to withdraw from the village and the First Battalion entered the morning of the 30th.

On the 30th, Sgt. Williams was in charge of a checkpoint in Nago when four Nazi officers still in the village attempted to escape in an armored car. In the ensuing skirmish, two of the Germans and Williams were killed. Williams was the last of 34 Company B men killed in action. He and 11 other men from Company B are among the 326 10th Mountain soldiers interred in the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial outside Florence, Italy.

Meanwhile the war was ending quickly all over Europe; in Italy it began with the surrender of what was left of Mussolini’s Fascist Army on April 30th, in Caserta, Italy. The next day, May 1st, all German armed forces in Italy were ordered to cease hostilities at 2:00 p.m. May 2. And, finally, the main instrument of surrender for all Europe was signed on May 7th in Rheims, France. Peace did not come soon enough to avoid the bloody fighting around Nago, Torbole and Riva and those deadly tunnels in the last days of April.

After the war, Sgt. Williams’ family visited his grave in Florence, and came home to Edina, Minnesota to establish a local memorial. His father, E. Lloyd “Bill” Williams worked with the local officials to establish a small park where Bud had played as a boy in the ruins of an old stone mill near Minnehaha Creek across from the family home. In 1947, Williams purchased this land, about 1/2 acre, and donated it to the Village of Edina, with a bronze plaque:

Today, Dwight Williams Park is host to the Edina Mills Archeological Site and sits near West 50th Street and Browndale Avenue in Edina. The plaque remains clearly present.

In 1963, the Williams family established the Dwight Carleton Williams Memorial Scholarship at Blake School. It continues to this day, providing financial assistance to “…boys of outstanding ability who otherwise might not be able to secure the advantage of a Blake education. The memorial scholarship perpetuates Dwight’s memory and will, perhaps, provide inspiration to the recipients as they study at Blake in the years to come.”
MY DAD’S TREASURE FROM ITALY
Denise Coleman Johnson (Desc 86-B)

My dad, Harrison Coleman (86-B), received a gift from a very generous man while we visited Italy in May. It is a beautifully hand-carved walking stick from a friend, Giancarlo Ghirardato, also known to many as “Banana.”

Dad first saw this walking stick during the trip in 2006. On that visit Banana showed Dad his handywork, and immediately Dad wanted to make a deal with Banana for this gorgeous piece of art. Banana was making no deals and Dad let it go.

During this trip in Vidiciatico, Dad was presented with this very same walking stick. It is a rare moment when my Dad is speechless but at this moment he was so touched by this gesture I thought I saw a tear come to his eyes.

This four-foot walking stick is carved with the history of Mt. Belvedere. The history begins in 1778 with a castle and the demise of a Princess “Olivia,” followed by WWII, and the soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. all appearing in intricate detail. It has so much information carved into it that every time you look at it you see something you did not notice before.

The minute I saw this beautiful piece of art I knew we would not be checking it in with our luggage. This would be a ‘carry-on’ item for the trip home. But Dad first saw this walking stick during the trip in Vidiciatico, Dad said he would help arrange for it to be sent via UPS. It just happens that a gentleman, formerly from New York, who is a resident of Lizzano-in-Belvedere, is a branch manager for UPS in Bologna. He stopped in to take a look and said; “no way!” We would have to check it in as luggage.

Our Italian friend Bruno Bartolomei said he would help arrange for it to be sent via UPS. It just happens that a gentleman, formerly from New York, who is a resident of Lizzano-in-Belvedere, is a branch manager for UPS in Bologna. He stopped in to take a look and said; “no way!” We would have to check it in as luggage.

Upon our arrival, the suitcases made it fine, but no walking stick. My worst fear was now a reality, the airline lost it! We checked with the agent and discovered the walking stick made a detour to Dallas, TX, and was being routed back to us. It arrived on schedule and I retrieved it and passed it on to Dad.

After seeing it, my Mom said she now understands why Dad was so worried. This is quite possibly the most valued treasure in my Dad’s collection and he will always hold a very special place in his heart for his friend Banana and the walking stick.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Thursday of</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>Milwaukie, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>each month</td>
<td>10th Mountain</td>
<td>Mtn. Remembrance</td>
<td>Main Post Chapel, Ft. Drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division (LI)</td>
<td>Ceremony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Picnic</td>
<td>Troutdale, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Service, Memorial Grove</td>
<td>Hiway 26 east of Banks exit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Lunch, Timberline</td>
<td>Mt. Hood, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lodge, noon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30-Oct. 4</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Reunion</td>
<td>Carol Stream, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9-11</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Reunion</td>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>New England</td>
<td>Fall Luncheon</td>
<td>New London, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Service, Memorial Grove</td>
<td>Hiway 26 east of Banks exit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8, 2010</td>
<td>10th Mountain</td>
<td>2010 NATIONAL</td>
<td>Watertown, NY, and Fort Drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DIVISION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>REUNION: Arrival &amp;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome Social</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Service, lunch</td>
<td>Ft. Drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with soldiers, Salute to the Nation, Fireworks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tours, Air Show, Unit Dinners</td>
<td>Ft. Drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tours, Air Show, Farewell Banquet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Homeward bound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MY DAD’S TREASURE FROM ITALY

A carved walking stick with the history of Mt. Belvedere is now in the hands of Harry Coleman, right, whose longtime friend Giancarlo Ghirardato (“Banana”) presented it on the Return to Italy trip.
PEOPLE MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE RETURN TO ITALY TRIP

Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F)

Flying home from Italy I tried to reflect a bit on the trip, particularly on what we did well and what we could have done differently. One thought that occurred to me was that all of the planning, phone calls and emails over the last year produced the plan alright, but that was just the framework or skeleton of the tour, and success was just a theory.

What we could not predict, and what made it actually work, or come to life, were the people. Whether it was Hugh Evans leading us in song on “Isola Bella,” or Chuck Emerson busting moves in Videntiatico, the travelers provided the energy that the trip ran on over so many days and miles. The last “salute” goes to all of the travelers for their help, energy and friendship over the course. I know that we all renewed old friendships both on the tour and in Italy, and made some terrific new ones.

My colleagues — Pat, Don, Denise, and Val — and I all hope everyone got what they’d hoped for from it and perhaps a bit more. I’d encourage everyone to consider visiting the Google site to view the many pictures that have been posted there (http://groups.google.com/group-/sempre-italia-2009).

Going forward (Sempre Avanti, after all), we Descendants will be planning the future trips, and we clearly want to preserve this important tradition, while keeping to the high standards of prior trips for years to come. As the trips evolve into a purely Descendant and Friends affair, we fully expect they will change in nature and timing. For example, we briefly discussed a future group ski trip to the area with Bruno Bartelomei, as a possibility. I think we can all agree it might be fun to watch Giovanni Sulla in period outfit on skis — a sort of avalanche coming down with embedded rocks, small trees, children, etc.

Please give some thought to these future trips and share your ideas with all of us. After all, this is your Association, so let us know what you’d like to do and we’ll do our best to make it happen. For now, the next stop for this bus will be Fort Drum, July, 2010 — and we hope to see you there.

SCHOOL VISIT WIDENS PERSPECTIVE OF DESCENDANT CHILDREN

Pat Thornton (Desc 85-A, L)

Twelve children, ages two to fourteen years, traveled to Italy and enriched the experience for all attendees on Sempre Italia 2009 trip. The children were the descendants of Eugene Giannobile (85-K), Joseph Vogel (85-M) and Robert Emerson (604-HQ). They proved to be real troopers as they followed the trip schedule. Youngsters included Samuel, Zeke and Nicholas Maitin (Giannobile), Eric and Peter Clifton (Vogel), Melissa, Douglas, Hanna, Grace and Chuck Emerson (Emerson), Robert and Halie White (Emerson).

One unique experience for the children was an educational exchange with students from the Comprehensive School in Lizzano in Belvedere. Descendant Patricia Pat Thornton (Desc Dau, 85-A, L) remembers the experience of their visit to the American Cemetery and Memorial.

Descendants ensure each 10th Mountain KIA grave is decorated with flowers. From left Susan Manchester, Ken Manchester, Kathleen Finn Jones and Dale Manchester.

CEREMONY AT FLORENCE CEMETERY REMEMBERS THE FALLEN

Patricia Finn Thornton (Desc Dau, 85-A, L)

It was a bright, sunny morning on May 29, 2009, four days after the traditional American Memorial Day, as the three Sempre Avanti 2009 busses pulled into the American Cemetery and Memorial. Located in Tavarnuzze, about 8 miles south of Florence in a beautiful Tuscan setting of rolling hills, the members of the group were awed by the beauty and serenity. The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains the cemetery, which was established for the men in the WWII Armed Forces killed in the northern Italian campaign. Among those buried there are 326 soldiers who served in the 10th Mtn. Div. The 10th soldiers killed in action were first interred at Castelfiorentino, about 25 miles southwest of Florence. In July, 1945, the first memorial services were held at that cemetery by individual units of the Division before many of the soldiers were returned to the U.S. for re-burial. In 1959, construction of this cemetery in Tavarnuzze was completed and the remaining soldiers were given a permanent resting place.

The cemetery provides a final resting place for 4,402 American soldiers who lost their lives in battles after the liberation of Rome and until the end of the war in May, 1945. Our visit began with a service. Joining our group were the US Consul General, Ms Mary Ellen Countryman; the President of the Florentine Alpini, Dr. Giancarlo Romoli; the American Battle Monuments Commission Representatives, Fratelli Sulla Montagna and Gotica Toscana; plus American Embassy representatives.

Following the ceremony, the group was given ample time to explore the facility and to ensure that each 10th Mountain grave was visited. Bus Captains assigned each bus with a list of names and locations to visit, place a flower and photograph the individual grave. The groups fanned out into the cemetery, visiting all the assigned soldiers. The photographs will be organized and then archived in the (Continued on Descendants Page 4)
**President’s Message**

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

So Long, Sarge…

Felix Dunbar Jr. (87-K) passed away Wednesday evening, April 29, with family at his bedside. I received an email a few days later from his wife Lavera informing me of his passing. Tears came to my eyes as I knew I would have to tell my Dad about Felix, and worried how he would take the news. In the past 12 months Dad had lost several of his closest friends. Now it was his sergeant who was gone.

Dad first met Felix in 1943. He had completed basic training at Camp Roberts in central California and was assigned to join the 87th Regiment at Ft. Ord in Monterey. There Dad was assigned to the weapons platoon, Company K, under Sgt. Dunbar. He remained in Sgt. Dunbar’s command for the duration of the war. But it would be March 3, 1945, that would permanently bond my father with Felix. It was the beginning of the Second Offensive and 87-K was to lead the attack. Just prior to crossing the line of departure, Sergeant Dunbar told my father’s 60-mm mortar squad, “I’m going to separate you (Dad) and Fred (Palmer was my Dad’s foxhole buddy and mortar partner). In case something happens to one of you, I still want to have a remaining crew member.” This would be the first time since Kiska that the two of them would separate. They crossed the line of departure, and immediately heavy artillery fire rained upon them. Fred went to the left and my Dad to the right. Dad looked over his shoulder and saw a round hit real close to Fred and his partner. Both were severely wounded and folded up over their mortar. They were eventually evacuated but Fred would die from his wounds several days later. My father finished the war without even a scratch. What amounted to a tactical decision by Sgt. Dunbar proved to be a decisive life-or-death outcome for my father. Dad credits Felix with saving his life.

I’ve had the privilege of accompanying my dad to visit Felix on several occasions. What an honor to witness two, fellow 87-K comrades in conversation, recalling events of some 60-plus years as if they were yesterday. Dad would get quite emotional as he expressed thanks to Felix for making that decision which spared my father’s life.

Now I would have to tell him that his Sergeant has died… I would go tomorrow after work. Dad was sitting in his chair, watching the evening news, and I asked him how he was feeling. He has been having problems with dizzy spells and he said he had a rough morning but was feeling a little better. I told him that I had some bad news, and told him that Felix had died. I handed him the email that Felix’s wife had sent me. He began to cry even before finishing reading it. He cried for several minutes and then finally said…

With tears in his eyes he had a look, a look as if he were talking with someone else in the room, as if we were not present. He said, “I’ll be joining you soon...Yes, it won’t be long and I’ll be joining you and the other boys...So long Sergeant…”

**COMMITTEES**

**AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS**

President
Val Rios (’09)
Sierra Nevada Chapter
6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
559-484-6230

Executive VP, Projects
Merit Scholarship, Descendant Essay
Sue Colley
1630 York Mills Lane
Reston, VA 20194
703-471-4170

Vice President Chapter Coordinator
Larry Wilson (’07)
PO Box 3
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-892-5951

Treasurer
Don Perkins (Desc. 87-K)
3511 85th St. Apt. 9H
Jackson Heights, NY 11372-5305

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Descendant Blizzard
Bryan Pullen
708 South 6th
Davis, OK 73030
380-369-5372
bryanpullen@cableone.net

Grandfather: Harold Sutton, 85-M

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**
Myrna Hampton
Sierra Nevada Chapter
4803 Monterey St.
Carmel, CA 93923

NECROLOGY PROJECT
Norman Burkey
308 Colfax Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-335-2225

**GOLD STAR 10TH MTN. DIV.**
Norman Burkey
308 Colfax Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-335-2225

**ON BEAYL CHAIRPERSON**
Pamela Pikla
308 Colfax Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21220
410-335-2225

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Pamela Pikla
308 Colfax Dr.
Forest Hill, MD 21220
410-335-2225

**SECRETARY**
Sharon E. Ahrens (’07)
Sierra Nevada Chapter
15-11 85th St. Apt. 9H
Jackson Heights, NY 11372-5305

**QUARTERMASTER**
Don Perkins (Desc. 87-K)
3511 85th St. Apt. 9H
Jackson Heights, NY 11372-5305

**PUBLISHED BY AND FOR DESCENDANTS OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION.**

**THE DESCENDANT BIZZARD**

© 2009 Number 2

**PAGES DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY SHERI HOFFMAN**

**ADDRESS**

1850 South Market Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Robert F. Richards, Jr., and Cruz F. Rios, Jr.

**FRIENDS & FAMILY**

Friends Felix Dunbar, left, and Cruz Rios.

**DURING THE SEMPRE ITALIA GROUP’S VISIT TO THE HILL TOWN OF GAGGIO MONTANO, AN IMPROMPTU REUNION TOOK PLACE.**

ITALIAN ARTEMO MOSCONI, LEFT, WHO AT THE AGE OF 16 SERVED AS A PARTISAN SCOUT DURING WWII, RECOGNIZED A FAMILAR FACE IN THE CROWD. HE REMEMBERED 10TH MOUNTAIN VETERAN ART SCHIMKE (87-K). THE TWO WERE ABLE TO VISIT DURING THE WONDERFUL LUNCHEON THE TOWNSPEOPLE PROVIDED.**
**ARMADILLO**

**Phee Davol (Desc 87-L, 86-HQ)**

This month we are including another story by a recently enlisted Descendant member, Rebecca Lynn Joyce, whose father is George S. Sisneros (604-HQ, 85-HQ). She prepared this touching accounting of one of his stories. She writes:

“Our father, George S. Sisneros, 604th Field Artillery Battalion Headquarters, was in Italy, with the 10th Mtn. Div. He has told me a few of the places he went. Luckily, my brother Ray inquired if I had asked Dad to name some places they had visited. He remembered Naples, Bologna, Florence, Tarcento, Venice, and Mt. Belvedere.

He was at Mt. Belvedere, and I’m so glad the Salado, TX, reunion held February 13-15, 2009, told me more about that. He said they crossed the Po River on pontoon boats. There was “lots of resistance” but they kept going to the Brenner Pass. The Germans gave up and many POWs were taken. They took German equipment. This caused some friendly fire from American aircraft. Dad said luckily the fighter planes only made one pass, and it was across, not the length of the unit, but two men were killed and six wounded. Very sad, but Dad said they saw the German equipment. They called it in, and the strike was ended.”

She continues: “That’s the longest story we’ve heard from Dad. My son is now in the Army and I hope he lives through this war in Iraq and Afghanistan like my father, and comes through with a strong mind, and gets on with life here at home. Dad didn’t talk about the war, ever, until we started asking recently. He wasn’t sad about it, but, just didn’t discuss it. Now, he does talk, but only when we ask. I think that’s probably good.

“Children don’t need to grow up with war stories. My brother Ray and I did watch every war movie there ever was, probably. But, I think war movies made us strong citizens. War movies taught us heroism, fighting for what one believed in, and that freedom was the most sacred of all things to possess. “

If other Descendants in our Chapter would like to submit their memories or interesting stories they have heard from their Veteran, feel free to submit them to Phee Davol at Davol_Phebe@bah.com.

---

**SIERRA NEVADA**

**Val Rios Desc 87-K**

On Sunday, April 19, 2009, the Sierra Nevada Chapter, in conjunction with the Auburn Ski Club, sponsored the annual Biathlon. The event was held at Boreal Ridge near Truckee, CA, with approximately 50 participants ranging in age from 7-70!

The weather was absolutely beautiful and Biathlon Director Chelton Leonard (86-E) was very pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm of the participants. He and Descendant President, Val Rios, awarded the winners with 10th medals. A special thank-you goes to Sally Jones, the Nordic Program Director of the Auburn Ski Club, who works with Chelton and Val in arranging the event.

On Saturday, May 9, Bob (85-K) and Grace Yank hosted the annual Sierra Nevada Chapter Picnic on the grounds of Sebastani Winery located in Sonoma, CA. Everyone brought some goodies to share while Bob and Grace provided excellent local white and red vino. Many of the veterans in attendance remarked how good the wine was and compared it to the vino they had in 1945 Italy!

Chapter President Val Rios gave an update on the then-upcoming Italy trip, as well as updates regarding Foundation, Association, and Descendant information. The next event for the Chapter will be the annual meeting in October in Sacramento.

---

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

**Dan Whittemore (Desc. 86-H), Chapter President/Director**

The Rocky Mountain Descendants continuously engage the veterans, descendants, and friends to keep the memories and appreciation of the 10th veterans alive. Several current 2009 events have kept the descendants involved. On Feb. 22, Denise Taylor (Desc 126-D NG) hosted a Frisco, CO, social for those veterans, descendants, and friends who participated in the Tenth Ski-in weekend. About 40 responded, including members of the Resource Center Advisory Committee.

On May 15, 13 descendants gathered at Dan Whittemore’s home (Desc 86-H) for Friday Night at the Movies. The movie, “Secret of Santa Vittoria,” starring Anthony Quinn, reflected the Italian hill communities during WWII. On May 25, descendants supported the Tennessee Pass 10th Mtn. Div. Memorial Service. On June 18, descendants and veterans gathered to share photos and stories from the 2009 Italy trip. On July 18, Denver area descendants will assist Val Rios and the National Descendants Board in providing housing and support for the annual meeting. Also on July 18, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of TMDD hosts a picnic dinner for all 10th veterans, descendants and friends at the home of Denise Taylor (126-D ENG), following a full business meeting of the National Descendants’ Board.

On August 1, the chapter will host the annual summer picnic for all descendants, veterans and friends at Sterne Park, Littleton, CO, from 9-11 a.m. On August 10-12, volunteer work on the Harry Gates 10th Mountain Hut will be coordinated by Debby Clem (Desc 85-A, C). Descendants continue to support the veterans’ activities including luncheons the last Monday of each month and the “trash bashing” highway cleanup under the structured guidance of veteran Hugh Evans (85-A, C.)
MEMORIAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT JOHN MAGRATH MONUMENT DEDICATED

David Ware (Desc 85-A)

On May 30, 2009, the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn.’s Sempre Italia touring group paid tribute to fallen soldiers in the town of Castel d’Aiano, Italy. This day would be a special day as a specific soldier — PFC John Magrath (85-G) — would once again be honored for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life” that posthumously earned him the Medal of Honor.

A newly-built memorial has been constructed on the spot where Magrath gave his life. Prior to its unveiling, the memorial was shrouded by the U.S. and Italian flags, which were removed after a speech by the mayor of Castel d’Aiano, Giorgio Chiara. What was uncovered is a proud rock monolith centered near the back of an 8-foot square of small white marble rocks, bordered with larger smooth, flat rocks of the same gray color as the monolith. Centered on the face of the monolith is a shiny brass plate, with an image of Magrath, the coat of arms of the town, the 10th Mtn. Div. insignia and an image of the Medal of Honor. The citation appears in English and Italian.

Two wreaths were laid at the monument, the first by the mayor and veteran John Duffy (86-HQ-2) and the second by veterans Hugh Evans (85-C, A) and Robert Ware (85-A). A priest then blessed the memorial, and the mayor presented John Duffy with a copy of the memorial, mounted on wood, to be passed on to the Magrath family.

A small plate at the lower right corner of the monolith, written in Italian, loosely translates “In recognition of the collaboration of Giovanni Sulla and the firm of Carlo Delucca.” Giovanni is one of the 10th Mtn. Div.’s biggest supporters. His financial contribution and other support made this memorial possible, along with the family that currently owns the land and who graciously allowed the memorial to be built at its current location in honor of a fallen hero from a foreign land, a hero who gave his life to protect and enforce the freedom of strangers.

SCHOOL VISIT WIDENS PERSPECTIVE

Finn Thornton, and Lizzano teacher Mara Biagi, set up a letter exchange among the students. Months before the trip, letters were sent via email among the 10th Mountain children and Italian students. On Saturday, May 30, everyone spent the morning together. The Lizzano students gave a presentation on their town and history, and all had free time to get to know each other.

Hanna Emerson noted that the students seemed different than American kids because they weren’t separated into small groups. They all seemed to be friends. Grace Emerson reflected that the students were nice. They were supportive and not knowing Italian. With their limited English and Italian, the young people still managed to share common interests.

As the morning came to a close, the 10th Mountain children bade farewell with a promise to return. It is appropriate that 64 years ago their grandfathers made the same promise. Sempre Italia!

Mahatma Gandhi once said that “If we wish to create a lasting peace we must begin with the children.”

They were asked, What did you think of the Italian Students?

“They were rougher with each other than kids at my school. They put each other in armlocks and shook each other. I don’t think there are as many rules at their school about touching each other. They were cool.” – Chuck

What do you think about Granddad being in the war since your trip to Italy?

“I never thought of the 10th Mountain as a big deal. The trip to Italy totally changed my mind about that. I think my Granddad was a hero.” – Grace

“The 10th Mountain was a larger part of the war than I thought. My Granddad was really young. He was only 5 years older than I am. He was braver than me.” – Hanna

“I bet the kids living in Italy during the war were terrified. They must have been so happy when the 10th came.” – Grace

“It must have been really hard climbing Mt. Belvedere and Riva Ridge only being a teenager.” – Chuck

Robert Ware (85-A) places flower on a grave at Florence Cemetery

–Photo by David Ware

LEVI NATHANIEL GRAYS

(Desc 85-C), died unexpectedly at his Santa Cruz home on May 3, 2009. Born in Santa Cruz, CA, he graduated from Loma Prieta High School, and for the past 20 years worked in the tile trade. Levi was an accomplished cook, enjoyed preparing meals for his family, had an outgoing personality and loved music. He will be remembered as a loving father whose loyalty and generosity will be missed.


Descendants

John H. Ballman III passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2009. John was a second generation descendant whose male role model growing up was his grandfather, Hassell Vass (10-AT-A). Some of you may recall a gangly 12-year-old keeping his grandparents on their toes at the 1983 reunion at Vale, CO. His dream was always to follow his grandpa into the Army. He joined the Army Reserves and transferred to the 11th Special Forces and the 10th Mtn. Div. His family, had an outgoing personality and loved music. He will be remembered as a loving father whose loyalty and generosity will be missed.


Descendants

Levi Nathaniel Grays (Desc 85-C), died unexpectedly at his Santa Cruz home on May 3, 2009. Born in Santa Cruz, CA, he graduated from Loma Prieta High School, and for the past 20 years worked in the tile trade. Levi was an accomplished cook, enjoyed preparing meals for his family, had an outgoing personality and loved music. He will be remembered as a loving father whose loyalty and generosity will be missed.

Val Rios, President, 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. Descendants

Marilyn Ann Kahl, 60, of Marquette, MI, died on June 30, 2009. She had recently relinquished President of the Upper Peninsula Chapter when her long battle with cancer was coming to an end. Family, friends, church — First United Methodist, education — teaching a variety of subjects in a number of schools, dance 2003 Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year, and skiing were her passions, and her full life is a testament to all of that and much more.

She began to ski at the age of 4, but said it was her father Walter Cook (10-HQ-86-I, D) who was the most graceful skier. She is survived by her husband Bob, 2 daughters, 3 grandsons, her parents Walter and Ann, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

—Pamela M. Pikla

SAMMY MAITIN (Desc 85-K) was the youngest descendant to make the Sempre Italia trip. Sammy will be two in August, and is the son of Izak and Joan and great- nephew of Gene Giannobile (85-K). He joins Art Schimke (87-K) who at 90 took the honors as oldest traveler.

—Pamela M. Pikla
CHAPTER NEWS
UPPER PENINSULA

Walter R. Cook (86-I, Div HQ)

The annual meeting was held at the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, Isspening, MI. After a party meal, drawings were held for 10th Mtn. travel bags and note pads donated by Marilyn Kahl (Desc, Walter Cook).

Marilyn has reluctantly resigned from her position as Descendant director due to illness.* She has been the driving force in getting new descendants and holding the Chapter together. The position has been graciously accepted by Sandi Engstrom (Desc.).

Eugene Keskimaki (87-H, M) has not been feeling 100 percent, and he sends his regards to all of his buddies.

It is planned to hold our Fall meeting at Dan Oja’s (Desc, Kenneth, 86-I) fantastic log home near Marquette. Dan is a brother to Sandi Engstrom and a nephew of John Koski (86-F) who was killed in the final weeks of action with the 10th Mtn. Div. (see a review of Dan’s book elsewhere in this Blizzard).

*Blizzard regrets to note that Marilyn has since died; see Descendant Blizzard Taps

METRO NEW YORK

Jay Charles (85-C)

As your past president, may I extend Metro membership our “Hail and Farewell” and welcome elected president John “Jack” Breslin and treasurer/secretary John Sirhal. They are Iraq veterans of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI). Metro’s legacy is assured by posterity.

The future veteran troopers will remember us GIs.

I heartfully thank Metro officers and directors for their loyal decades of service, including Marvin Entin (10-AT-B), treasurer and editor—who is recovering from quadruple heart surgery—Charles Murphy (86-I), secretary, Bill Best (86-B, 90-HQ-1), chair/ liaison, Descendants, Sam Morrison (87-HQ-3), public relations, Bob O’Malley (86-I), chair liaison with Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

To the officers and men of our Adopted Platoon, the “Fightin’ First, 2nd Bn., 87th Inf., hang in and stay vertical!

MIDWEST

Janice Bockelmann Foglsang (Desc 126-A-ENG)

The Midwest 10th family met for lunch and visiting on May 3, 2009, at the Diplomat in Elmhurst, IL, on a beautiful spring day.

There were 43 in attendance that included William Lee (10th LI, Ret.) and his wife, Denise, and eight vets, spouses, widows and descendants. Theodore Tarala (85-D) with son-in-law Mark, attended a MW lunch for the first time and Howard Martin (605-HQ) and his wife Patty, for the second time.

Descendant Patty LaRocca, daughter of Richard Soutar (616-HQ) gave us an update on the Chapter reunion scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2009, in Carol Stream, IL. It will be another enjoyable get-together.

We miss our Frank Roccaforte (85-B-MED) who is still working through health issues, and send him get-well thoughts. In April we learned that Matt Dennis (85-B-MED) died on Jan. 20, 2009, and send condolences to his family.

A special Midwest lady, Pat Gulo, widow of Sol (605-B), passed away June 5, 2009. Pat was a regular who attended our yearly lunches and reunions as well as many Return to Italy trips. She enjoyed traveling and we all shared fun moments. For many years she made hundreds of holiday cookies during Christmastime, beautifully wrapping each box. Nursing home residents were recipients, as well as 10th vets who attended holiday DAV meetings in the Chicago area. We will miss her laughter and friendship.

MT. RAINIER

Dale Smith (10 – MP)

From February through June, the Mt. Rainier Chapter experienced a welcome relief from the steady stream of the passing of our veteran members. We miss seeing those old friends who have left us in the past year, as it takes some of the vitality away from our meetings. We have lost many valuable members recently, but we still have an adequate attendance to continue having our meetings once a month. During the period of this report, several outstanding programs have been presented, and Program Chairman Ed Gibson deserves much credit for his efforts.

For January, Dan Fowler (Friend of the 10th) gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on his climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Dec., 2008. Kilimanjaro is the tallest equatorial peak in the world at 19,330 feet, and is unusual in that it is accessible to climbers with no climbing equipment or real experience scaling such heights.

In February, Jim Erickson gave a slide presentation of his 2006 big game African safari to the Londolozi Private Game Reserve on the Sand River in the heart of the Sabi Sands Game Reserve in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. Jim was 90 years old at the time, and had to endure two 11-hour flights with a stop in Amsterdam to get to his destination. His daughter Elizabeth made the trip possible by accompanying him on the trip. Jim had the opportunity to get some spectacular photographs of exotic animals in their natural habitat.

We were recently honored to welcome CSM Frank Grippe into our membership. Frank served with the 87th in Afghanistan and Iraq, and was CSM for the 1st Brigade, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) at Ft. Drum. Before his April transfer for a second tour in Iraq, he was CSM of 1 Corps at Ft. Lewis, WA. On June 11, he appeared on the Stephen Colbert USO Show on Comedy Central, when he was introduced as the top ranking enlisted man in Iraq.

In his March 10 presentation, “Afghanistan: The People and the Conflict,” Frank characterized Afghanistan as the place where God, when He finished making the world, had a lot of rock and matter left over, so He put it in one place and called it Afghanistan. Frank’s descriptions of the tribal nature of the population, with many conflicts between the tribes, and of the terrain, improved our understanding about the difficulties our troops are facing in this conflict. He showed a number of great pictures of our soldiers interacting with the Afghans.

Cynthia Lefever was speaker for April. She is the mother of Rory Dunn, who was gravely injured by an IED located in a tree, which was exploded by remote control as he passed in his Humvee. Rory suffered a serious brain injury, the loss of his left eye and some loss of his hearing.

Cynthia described how this incident permanently altered her life as well as that of her son. After learning of the injury, she immediately left her home near Seattle, and followed Rory at the hospital in Landstuhl, Germany and to Water Reed Army Medical Center, to ensure that he received the best care possible. She found the direct caregivers to be very competent, but felt some of the officers in charge tried to have Rory discharged early in his recovery and before the extent of possible recovery was known.

All told, she spent a year with him in Washington, DC, and took an active role in his rehabilitation. Initially, she was told that Rory’s prognosis was hopeless, but today he is living in his own condo, managing his own affairs, has recently been fishing in Alaska and is able to go hunting. Cynthia now is involved full time as an advocate for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and TBI (traumatic brain injury) soldiers. This is a remarkable story of the difference a caring mother and family can make in the recovery of an injured soldier. It also sends a message that we all need to be vigilant to see that injured soldiers get the care that they deserve. Otherwise, the system can let them down.

The May 12 meeting was the customary joint meeting with the Northwest Chapter at the Inn at Gig Harbor in Gig Harbor, WA. Fifty-five attended, and were happy to renew old acquaintances.

New Northwest Chapter president Jim Bray gave a lively presentation that left everyone laughing. Dee Molemar (Assoc) introduced the program, which was a film of a 1968 climb of the north face of Mt. Rainier by the Liberty Ridge route, which had not been previously climbed during winter. Lee Nelson and Dave Mahre were members of the climbing party. The meeting closed with Gary Gast entertaining us with his violin and yodeling.

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue No.</th>
<th>Period covered</th>
<th>Articles Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January - April</td>
<td>February 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>May - August</td>
<td>June 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September - December</td>
<td>October 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEND MATERIALS TO:
Felicity Hallanan, Editor, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145
email: blizzarded@gmail.com
As mentioned in the last Blizzard, it was decided to have more frequent one-day events to bring together members living in our geographically challenged Chapters. A get-together on May 30 at the Makris Restaurant, Concord, NH, was planned by president Brewster Bartlett and Chester Morley (85-C). Thirty-three people attended and it was great to see everyone again.

Dudley Merrill (126-A, 87-SVC) was recognized as being the oldest at 96, and Warren Jackson Bartlett (Desc Warren Bartlett, 87-I), 11, was the youngest in attendance. Gordon “Tiny” McGuade (87-HQ-3) drove the furthest distance, from Groton, MA. Others in attendance were vice president Dick Calvert (86-HQ-2), Newt Eldredge (85-L), Richard Mansfield (85-E), Dave Cleasby (10-RECON), William Dean (85-K), James Nassar (85-C), Herb Lauterwasser (85-E), William Hoople (87-I), Hal “Chip” Richards (87-HQ), Phil Twombly (86-HQ) and many wives and friends.

**NEW ENGLAND**

Brewster Bartlett (Desc 87-I)

**DELWARE RIVER VALLEY**

Barbara Catterall (Desc 85-G)

The Delaware River Valley (DRV) Chapter and the 10th Mtn. Div. Descendants gathered at the company farm of Fred Winter for its annual spring Memorial Ceremonies picnic.

Ten 10th Mountain veterans accompanied by about 40 family members traveled to the Pottstown, PA, farm of Fred and Barbara Winter (Bro, Bud Winter, KIA, 85-M) for the barbecue and memorial service.

Due to the inclement weather, the luncheon was held in the huge restored barn that was once home to 400 mules that worked on the Delaware River canal hauling coal from upstate Pennsylvania. The beautiful farm dates from the 1700’s and was part of a William Penn land grant. Fred led us on a tour of his property to see ear-award-winning rhododendrons, ancient chestnut trees and a reconstructed Thai spirit house.

Pat Thornton, Chapter president (Dau, KIA, Fred Finn, 85-A, L) asked each veteran to share some significant event that they remembered from their time with the 10th Mtn. Div. Most remembered the camaraderie and friendships forged so long ago. Some recounted events both poignant and humorous. Fred Winter and Al Condo (As soc, Bro, 85-G) each provided recollections of their last visits with their brothers (both KIAs) prior to deployment overseas.

The Delaware Valley Chapter members: sitting, left, Stan Meyers (10-ART-HQ), Tom O’Neil (86-I), Harold London (85-L), Peter Binzen (86-H), Paul Kitchen (86-I) and Berk Ellis (86-L). Standing, Al Condo (Assoc, Bro 85-G), Fred Winter (Assoc, Bro 85-M), Ted Beckhardt (85-A), Alphonsus Schertel (85-E) and Ray Carini (87-D).

**LOWER MICHIGAN**

Howard F. Garland (87-E)

The Lower Michigan Chapter held the annual Memorial Day Service in Frankenmuth, MI, at Michigan’s own Military and Space Museum. After the service a business meeting was held for election of new officers: President, Robert Lafean (Desc, John Lafean, 86-K), Vice President, Bill Seaman (126-HQ), Treasurer, Howard Garland (87-E), Secretary, Roy Puckett (87-G), Chaplain, Floyd Erickson (87-HQ).

By the time you read this, the Central Texas region (Temple south to Brownsville) will have gathered on June 27, 2009, in San Antonio, TX, for a luncheon at the Army 10th Mtn. Div. Memorial Day get a PhD in archaeology.”

“I think I’d like to return to the University of Arizona to finish my degree and some time coming in the next Blizzard.

Chapter President Phoebe Davol recently read a book by Armadillo Chapter member Denver “Fred” Wendorf (86-G) entitled “Desert Days—My Life as a Field Archaeologist.” The memoirs include a brilliant account of his time with the 10th Mtn. Div., as well as a fascinating accounting of his archeological exploits in Africa and the American Southwest.

Fred Wendorf was a 20-year- old, newly-appointed Second Lieutenant of Company G, 86th Mtn. Inf. when, on March 3, 1945, in Italy he was wounded by a large caliber German shell fragment which severed the nerves in his right arm. He thought his dream of becoming an archeologist had ended. In a field hospital he met the Assistant Surgeon General for the 5th Army, Lt. Col. Henry K. Beecher, who was the anesthesiologist who assisted in Fred’s surgery to remove the shell fragment.

Beecher asked Fred, “What are you going to do, since you can’t pass a physical for West Point?”, which was Fred’s ambition as he had recently been given an appointment by Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn to the Academy. Fred responded, “All my life, I’ve thought about being an archeologist. When I was eight I started going out into the cotton fields around my hometown (Terrell, TX) with my buddies to look for stuff. We found an old Indian camp and collected several arrowheads and a lot of other things. …I think I’d like to return to the University of Arizona to finish my degree and some day get a PhD in archaeology.”

Lt. Col. Beecher said, “I teach at Harvard, and they have a pretty good archaeology program,” and gave him his card. Fred kept that card and eventually met up again with Lt. Col. Beecher when he was accepted at Harvard, where he completed his Ph.D.

Dr. Fred Wendorf continues his powerful book with wonderful descriptions of his archaeological adventures in harsh desert environments in Africa and the American desert southwest. The book is a terrific read for the student who is interested in archaeology as a career, as it provides a good description of the physical requirements of the subject. The book is a fascinating one for young and old alike, and if I were younger, I would want to be an archaeologist as well. It was published by Southern Methodist University Press, 2008, and may be purchased from www.amazon.com.
WASHINGTON D.C.

Hassell Vass (10-AT-A)

A fascinated crowd of attentive veterans and family members assembled for guest speaker psychiatrist Dr. Tim Brown at our February meeting. Now stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Dr. Brown traced his trajectory through the military from infantryman to medical doctor, including years served at the Army’s Northern Warfare Training Center at Fort Greely, AK, which specializes in training soldiers for cold weather and mountainous operations.

During his presentation, Dr. Brown also emphasized the strength, effectiveness and incredible versatility of the mountain soldier. With his love of mountains and a special interest in maneuvers in extreme conditions, Dr. Brown is a natural for the 10th Mtn. Div.; he transfers to Ft. Drum in August, where he will be assigned as the Division Psychiatrist. He is looking forward to working and training with the troops before, during and after deployments. 10th Mountain veterans attending our February meeting included: Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Jack Barnes (87-C), Ock Covington (86-MED-HQ), Andy Colletti (87-M, L, I), Al Nencioni (85-I), and Sylvia Potash (10-HQ [W]).

During the Chapter’s visit to Walter Reed before Easter, vets visited wounded 10th Mountain warriors and signed complimentary “Last Ridge” DVDs for them. If the line for veteran autographs made them look like they were rock stars, they are—if you count their 10th mountaineering experience.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Hugh Evans (85-A, C)

The biggest news was on Mother’s Day, May 10. The Rocky Mountain PBS showed “Bomber’s Moon: Girls Beneath the Bombs” with Edi Kaufman, wife of Richard D. Kaufman (86-B), one of eight women telling their story. Three interviewed were from England, three from Germany, one from Japan and one from Austria. Richard met Edi while in Austria with the 10th, and they were married and live happily in Lakewood, CO.

The second bit of big news was that the 10th Mtn. Div. Resource Center had its 1,000th donor! This is a real milestone (see Center Director Dennis Hagen’s report, Page 3 this edition).

Then on March 26, 2009, Boulder, CO, had a snowfall of 16.4 inches, fourth-highest in March since 1952 when 17.1 inches fell. The highest snowfall recorded here was in March, 1970 (18.5 inches). I believe we beat the “H” out of Boulder on Easter, 1944, when close to six feet fell while we were on “D” Series at Camp Hale.

A great 2010 Ski-in was held in the beautiful mountains of Colorado from Feb. 17-26. About 20 Vets were here for Cooper Hill Day, joined by some 80 others for this wonderful tradition. To cap off the season, the last three days of March, Steve Raabe (Desc 86-MED, put on the Descendants’ annual hut trip.

Monthly luncheons on the last Monday of each month continue at the Country Buffet in south Denver. Attendance is good but the jokes and stories told are getting more suspect, especially Cajun jokes of George A. Louis (86-H). Phil Berg (Desc 87-L), has taken over as president and is doing everything he can to keep the troops under control and the meetings going well. Each month all over the state Earl E. Clark (87-HQ-1) and Richard C. Over (110-SIG) continue to give talks on the 10th. The two deserve thanks for their efforts to preserve history.

Finally, Chapter 2009 Trash Bashing effort began on April 28 with six stalwarts doing their job on Highway #40; 51st Memorial Day Services were held at Tennessee Pass; Evans and his roommate, Bob Ware (85-A) were part of the Sempre Italia return to Italy trip; and George Gage has invited a group of Veterans to Telluride for the 4th of July weekend for a re-showing of “Fire on the Mountain” and a talk.

RE-PUBLICATION OF DIVISION HISTORY NEEDS SHOW OF INTEREST

In 1998 and 2003, the Turner Publishing Company of Paducah, KY, published two fine books about the WWII 10th, entitled “10th Mountain Division.” They both contain bibliographic data on many veterans, as well as good articles of 10th history.

They are now out of print. The publisher is willing to reprint them, but seeks to know that there will be a minimum order of 150. If you are interested, please contact blizzard@gmail.com. Price will depend upon the number of orders with, again, at least 150 orders needed.

SOUTHEAST

Ray Zelina (605-A)

February’s major holidays are President’s and Valentine’s day. The WWII veterans of the 10th, however, also recall and celebrate Belvedere Day. For the past several years members of the chapter have gathered at Carolyn and George (85-E) Rosenfield’s home in Melbourne, FL, to honor that event.

This year 22 persons met on Feb.15 for a barbecue lunch. Jeanne and Bob (110-SIG) Strong returned, along with Helen and Bud (85-C) Wiley from Oskosh, WI, who winter in Florida, and Jim Andress (86-Med-L) from Fishers Landing, NY, not far from Ft. Drum. Don Montgomery (85-F) missed last year’s celebration, but happily returned this year with a friend. Abby and Ken (86-C) MacPherson journeyed from Riviera Beach, FL, to celebrate, but were surprised to learn of the passing of 86-C comrade Charlie Hunt. Jeanne and Harry (85-HQ-2) Gianneschi came from Viera, FL... Pat and John (87-G) Benson faithfully attended the celebrations, and Pat keeps the tradition alive, along with Eudora Shuler, widow of Fred Shuler (86-Med-C). Treasurer Cindy Partridge (Assoc) brought a picture of Al (86-A, dec.) that was used in the National Leukemia and Lymphoma Triathlon.

Walter Wasserman (10th Inf) represented those 10th veterans who served in Germany during the Cold War. Dr John Caulfield, a dental surgeon, served with the 10th in Afghanistan. He was recalled at age 70 and promised a billet in Hawaii, but instead found himself in Afghanistan with the 10th. Wife Pat says she was promised a trip to Hawaii and means to get it. We were treated to a video interview of George Rosenfield about his WWII experiences, a joint venture of the Brevard Community College and Florida Today for the library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Spring Break was again in Greenville, SC, 3-4 April. President Ed Van Romer (87-I), with the help of Conness Gillispie and her brother Gene, organized a splendiferous reunion. There is a tradition that if Ed O’Quinn (605-B) shows up it will rain. But no rain fell, perhaps because Frankie O’Quinn accompanied his father. There were nine WWII vets and that stirred memories of earlier gatherings when the hospitality room was filled with vets spilling tales of bygone times. Seeing Dolores and former National President Paul Gunderman (605-Med) and Lorraine and former National Executive Director Harry Coleman (86-B) recalled those National Executive Board meeting in Florida in the nineties. Barbara and Stan Young (86-F) came over from nearby Greer and Arlene and Jim Carden (86-L) from Rome, GA. Others were Dick Hawkins (85-L), Gerd and George DeSalvio (85-E) who brought Gerd’s sister Maud Sinfords and husband Bengt from Gothenburg, Sweden. Loyal chapter’s widows include Bernice Detwiler, JoAnn Shanan accompanies her all the way from Ohio; also Jewell Hunt and friend Doris Evans, Eileen Joy and Cindy Partridge.

Highlight of the reunion was the tour of Ed Van Romer’s factory, Basic Concepts, which manufactures berms, pads and other items for environmental spill containment for the military among other customers.

Special plaudits to Brent and Clay Conway (Desc 85-A) for loyalty to the chapter; the late Jack Conway was chapter treasurer for many years. Patti and Jerry Coleman (Desc 86-B) brought Jane Davis, president of the local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers, to the final banquet. The chapter participates in the Adopt-a-Platoon program begun by National President Mike Plummer, and several of us donated funds to help.

Bernice Detwiler, JoAnn Shanan, Eileen Joy and Carol Zelina were presented Meritorious Service Awards.

Next we will do the Embassy Suites in Greenville, Oct. 9-11. Y’all come!
Suz Rittenhouse (Desc 87-HQ-2)

The Big Sky Chapter celebrated the 10th Mountain Belvedere Day with a luncheon in Billings on Feb, 22 and in Missoula on Feb. 19. Those attending at Billings were Fred Ernest (87-B), Bob (87-B) and Eleanor Coop, Jim Walsh (Desc 10-Med-B), Sharon Zirschky, Tom and Ginny Helmen, Chuck (85-HQ-3) and Anne Hauptman, Cora Graham (87-Serv), Laurie (Desc 87-Serv), Mikkal (Desc 87-Serv), Travis (Desc 87-Serv) and Tiffany (Desc 87-Serv) Noonkester and Arlene Priest (Assoc 86-B).

Those attending in Missoula were John (87-HQ-2), Shirley and Bill Cramer (Desc, 87-HQ-2), Ray (85-G) and Vicki Johnson, Joe (87-B) and Kay Devlin, Joanne Manchester (87-K), Shirley Marshall (86-F), Orville Bjorge (86-C), Frank Whitmoyer (87-HQ-1), Pat O’Malley, Larry Wilson (87-HQ-1) and Jerry Reed (Desc 87-HQ-1).

UPSTATE NEW YORK

Bill Morrison (86-L)

Activities for the Upstate NY Chapter often revolve around Ft. Drum. Since Headquarters of the 10th (LI) and many units of the Division have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan this past year, events to which we are often invited have been very limited. This may change as MG Mike Oates and several units are welcomed back to Drum as part of the Mountainfest Celebration observing July 4th. The annual Salute to the Nation ceremony, military displays, refreshments, music and spectacular fireworks, as well as a major air show, are traditionally part of Mountainfest and, indeed, will be features of next year’s National Reunion of the Association.

Later, on July 21, some of us plan to attend the dedication of new quarters for single soldiers. These, too, like many structures still being built on the post, will be included in tours during the 2010 Reunion.

On Feb. 27, we were honored to represent the 10th Mountain Foundation at the opening ceremony of the Wounded Warrior Snowsports event, of which the Foundation is a major financial sponsor. Tommy Thompson (Desc 86-F) is the usual representative of the Foundation. Some of the soldiers participating were from the 10th, including featured speaker Capt William Reynolds III, who was severely wounded in Iraq. As a token of gratitude, a large, framed picture of a ski trooper in full camouflage uniform against a mountain backdrop, was presented to us.

Each Spring several members of the Chapter attend the annual scholarship dinner at Siena College, which brings together donors of endowed scholarships and students receiving them. It’s always a great pleasure to meet them. We were there representing the 85-I KIA members of the 10th, for whom the scholarship is awarded.

Over the years Jim Looby (Dec. 85-I) and Tony Sites (85-I) of the New England Chapter have been instrumental in raising the funds. This year we met junior Caitlin Romanowski, and freshman Pat Bulman, who dined with us and shared complimentary comments about Siena for a most enjoyable evening. Attending for Tony Sites were Bill Millette (605-A), Tommy Thompson and Bill Morrison.

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE

www.10thmtndivassoc.org

NORTHWEST

Frank Chuk (85-Med-2)

A meeting and luncheon with Descendants was held Feb. 15 at the home of Marney Roddick, President of the Northwest Descendants Chapter, and daughter of Robert Roddick (85-K). Attending were Chris Bolz (Desc Reamer Bloz, 10-HQ-G2), Geoff Burling and Doug Wells (Desc Dick Burling 86-C), Frank Chuk, Lena and Saul Roddick Schneider, daughter and son of Marney, Dick Updegraff and Ann Marie (10-AT-A) and daughter Jan, Ben Yett and Bev (10 Recon-85-G). An enjoyable time was had by all, getting acquainted, sharing stories, tales and great food. Marney’s home is on beautiful Croisan Creek Road, canyon, Salem, OR.

At Pick and Plant on May 2, Warren & Anne Craig (86-HQ), Jim Bray, Chapter President (87-K) and Loraine Youngs, Bob and Bobbie Emerson (604-HQ), Ruth Robinson (Friend), Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), met at the 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove. They poisoned the trash and planted a White Mulberry in remembrance of Susan Velacoon and a Bald Cypress in remembrance of Joshua Tillery (6th AVN BDE-10th Mtn. LI). This brings the number of trees in the Grove to 66. The next exciting gatherings in the Grove will be July 18 and Oct. 31, on Hwy 26, mile marker 27, just east of the Banks exit, 9 a.m. Dedication of the Grove will probably happen sometime Fall 2009.

A Bar Mitzvah celebration of Saul Roddick Schneider was held May 8. Jim Bray and Loraine Youngs, Frank Chuk, Harvey Wieprecht and Betty Anderson, Dick Updegraff and Ann Marie (10-AT-A), gathered at the beautiful country home overlooking the Williamette River Valley, of Jan Updegraff, Steve Rosen and Kate (Dick & Ann Marie’s daughter, son-in-law & granddaughter) for a Sabbath eve banquet.

Later at Temple Beth Sholom in Salem OR., Friday night services are conducted by the congregation’s youth; Saul led the service. Those attending from the 10th in addition to those who were at the earlier banquet were Warren & Anne Craig (86-HQ) and Ben & Bev Yett (10-Recon-86-G). Saul explained the many steps leading to being called to the Torah. His next project is an effort to record wartime experiences of WWII 10th Mtn. vets for their descendants. Dick Updegraff gave a short account of the Division.

At Gig Harbor on May 2 there was great food, program, and fellowship. Luncheon meetings are held the last Wednesday of month at the Elk’s Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Milwakie, OR. 11:45 a.m., unless announced otherwise; July 12 is the annual picnic at Harvey Wieprecht’s, Troutdale, OR, arrive noon, eat 2 p.m.; NW and Mt. Rainier Chapter luncheon, Aug 18, noon at Timberline Lodge, OR, Mt. Hood.


Never Stop Exploring, and Enjoy the Journey!

FORT DRUM

Felicity Hallanan (Assoc)

The Chapter has been focusing on raising monies for the Wounded Warrior and the 10th Mtn. Div. Scholarship Funds. The “Off the Beatin’ Track” gift shop next to the Visitor Center and Ray Johnson (85-G).


Never Stop Exploring, and Enjoy the Journey!
10TH MTN. DIV. ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Barkeen, Wallace I.
Barnett, Webster G.
Barnhardt, Mark
Beckhardt, Theodore
Borsting, Herbert & Doris
Chesk, Benjamin M.
Church, Betty M.
Covington, Octavius M.
Crompton, Robert E.
Davies, Elma
Davison, Joyce
Denn, Daniel A.
Elliott, Robert G.
Estes, Albert & Mary
Evans, Melvin J.
Fancher, Edwin C.
Felling, C. Donald & Carolyn
Graham, Sue
Guglielmi, Robert T.
Hansen, Harold V.
Harter, Norma
Henry, Jr., William R.
Howard, Elmer
Howell, M.S. “T”
Jensen, Sherwin C.
Lang, Michael
Larch, James A.
Lashendock, Alex W.
Lawson, Kevin F.
Linscott, Jr., Donald A.
Maglietti, Nadine
Maninno, Anthony
Marton, Arthur A.
McAfee, Peter
Mohl, Thomas A.
Mowery, Glenn
Officer’s Spouses Club, Ft. Drum
Ohrlich, W.E. & Jeanne
Oldfield, Lucy
Page, Cecil A.
Page, Cecila A.
Plummer, Mike & Miriam
Puckett, Roy D.
Reid, Wallace
Saint Andrew’s Society of Tidewater
Smith, Starla
Stevens, Margueritte
Whitley, Bonnie
Wille, William & Barbara
Yorker, Neil
Young, Stan

DONORS

Adams, Cynthia Kint
Aleman, Mauro
Anderson, George L.
Bishop, Chris
Bonan, Evelyn
Campbell, Bruce
Celver, Benjamin M.
Cerjan, Paul
Chuk, Frank M.
Cole, Thomas H.
Condo, Albert C.
Covington, Octavius M.
Crain, William
Crain, Katherine
Dole, Robert, The Honorable
Dunne, Jean
Enlisted Spouses’ Club, Ft. Drum Chapter
Guckert, Robert J.
Guglielmi, Robert T.
Hansen, Harold V.
Harter, Norma
Henry, Jr., William R.
Hillenbrand, Robert F.
Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc.
Keating, Tony –In honor of MG & Mrs. Mike Oates
Kitchen, Jr., Paul C.
Lang, Michael
Larch, James A.
Lessey, Jr., Samuel K.
Linscott, Jr., Donald A.
Litchfield, John P.
Marton, Arthur A.
Mills, Brian & Patricia
Northern NY Community Foundation
Page, Cecil A.
Petrosky, Dennis, Dr.
Plummer, Mike & Miriam –In honor of MG & Mrs. Mike Oates
Rettzlaff, Thanos & Cheryl
Robertson, R.G.
Soldier Angels
Veteran Brotherhood Assn.
Walsh, Glen, LTC
Western, Jim
Wharton, Jr., Kenneth E.
Young, Stan

WOUNDED WARRIOR

FUND 2009

Barkeen, Wallace I.
Barnett, Webster G.
Barnhardt, Mark
Beckhardt, Theodore
Borsting, Herbert & Doris
Chesk, Benjamin M.
Church, Betty M.
Covington, Octavius M.
Crompton, Robert E.
Davies, Elma
Davison, Joyce
Denn, Daniel A.
Elliott, Robert G.
Estes, Albert & Mary
Evans, Melvin J.
Fancher, Edwin C.
Felling, C. Donald & Carolyn
Graham, Sue
Guglielmi, Robert T.
Hansen, Harold V.
Harter, Norma
Henry, Jr., William R.
Howell, M.S. “T”
Jensen, Sherwin C.
Lang, Michael
Larch, James A.
Lashendock, Alex W.
Lawson, Kevin F.
Linscott, Jr., Donald A.
Maglietti, Nadine
Maninno, Anthony
Marton, Arthur A.
McAfee, Peter
Mohl, Thomas A.
Mowery, Glenn
Officer’s Spouses Club, Ft. Drum
Ohrlich, W.E. & Jeanne
Oldfield, Lucy
Page, Cecil A.
Plummer, Mike & Miriam
Puckett, Roy D.
Reid, Wallace
Saint Andrew’s Society of Tidewater
Smith, Starla
Stevens, Margueritte
Whitley, Bonnie
Wille, William & Barbara
Yorker, Neil
Young, Stan

To the Editor:

Follow-up re. Blizzard #1, 2009, Marine Fox- Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2): read with great interest and entertainment Marty’s condition on his and the 85th’s return to the States from Italy on the ship Marine Fox. Quote: “The best part of being on the (unit) paper was the special perks. Instead of sleeping on six-high bunks, we slept on cots on hatch covers just under the main deck. We ate with the crew, 3 meals a day —while the poor slobs below ate some kind of slop augmented by K- rations for lunch.”

Let me tell of the special perks the (85-MED-2) received. At the dock in Naples we were herded up the gang plank to the stern, or rear deck, on the left side of the Fox. We were all crowded together with our barracks bags between our legs. We stood there packed in like sardines for 15 or 20 minutes, when an officer came and informed us, “Men, this will be your living quarters for the next 10 days.” Imagine living on an open deck of a small ship for 10 days? Imagine!

Well, it had to be ranked as a unique experience —as was D-Series at Hale, which several of us had been part of. And the mess the “slobs” went to was, yes, below deck with a room temperature of 100-110, water knee- to belly- button deep and of course eating up our rations. We wore only our under-shorts and life jacket to meals, very informal. The guys that pulled KP, because of the heat, would lose 5 or 10 pounds. One thing we didn’t have to put up with is the six-high bunks.

Well Marty, you have heard the ultimate slob story, from one of the slobs above deck, with an unobstructed view of the ocean, sun up to sun down in all kinds of weather. Oh yes, two or three times while we slept, the smoke stacks were blown out and we would awaken in the morning looking like chimney sweeps. Now, Marty, how much less sloberist do you feel? Imagine the feeling that first night at Camp Shanks, climbing into a clean bunk after a hot, non-salt water shower, and a sit-down meal in the good old U.S. of A. Heaven, Deliverance, We Made It, Praise the Lord! He had led us through the valley of the shadow of death.

Frank Chuk (85-MED-2)

To the Editor:

The passing of Harry Pruzan on January 5, 2009 deserves more than a bare entry in the TAPS section of the Vol. 38, #1 edition of the Blizzard. For many years, Harry was a strong presence in the Mt.

Rainier Chapter, serving as president, member of the board, and Editor of the Avalanche, the Chapter newsletter. He was instrumental in the initial formation of the Chapter. He was born in 1912 to Isaac and Clara Pruzan, the youngest of three brothers. Harry graduated from Garfield High School in 1930 and the University of Washington in 1935. At the UW he majored in journalism and advertising, was a feature writer on the “University Daily” staff, and was a three-year track and field letterman, starring in the 200-meter low hurdles and the long jump.

Harry’s main love in life was downhill skiing, and he skied for 62 years, including 40 years as a volunteer with the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS). He was an officer in E Company of the 87th,

Harry Pruzan

For many years, Harry was a member of the board of the 86th Mtn. Infantry and other groups, if they have any old photos and recollections (preferably written) of her uncle, the late 1st Lt. John A. McCown II. He was killed at Riva Ridge on Feb. 20, 1945. She donated papers pertaining to Lt. McCown to the Denver Public Library in 2007. Please either e-mail her at sgmcowcn@comcast.net, or write her at 736 Stoke Road, Villanova, PA, 19085. She will gladly pay for copies.
Clay, Robert J. (85-H), April 26, 2009, Fairlawn, OH. He is survived by his wife Doris, 2 daughters and a son, 8 grandchildren and a sister. A lifelong resident of Bath, he was a mathematics and science teacher at Norton High School.

Copeland, Frederick K. (85-G), March 8, 2009, Belgrade, MT. He is survived by his wife Emily (Gray), 2 daughters, 3 sons, 9 grandchildren, 3 sisters and many nephews and nieces. The couple lived in Ventura, CA, where he was sales- man for Southern California Edison Co. and Graybar Electric Co. After moving to Bozeman, MT, he worked for Curtis Industries. He was an avid skier, fisherman, hiker and backpacker and shared his love of the mountains with his family.

Cresse, Donald R. (86-K), June 22, 2009, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Peggy, 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Dennis, Matthew J., Sr. (85-MED-B), January 20, 2008, Manville, IL. He is survived by 5 sons and 2 daughters.

DuBar, Felix H., Jr. (87-K), April 29, 2009, Boulder, CO. He is survived by his wife LaVer (McBee), a daughter, 3 sons, 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was supervisor of the photo lab at the national Bureau of Standards, and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He loved nature, fishing, hiking and skiing, and was a free-lance photographer for many publications.

Eisendrath, William B. (87-I), June 25, 2009, Elizabeth, CO. He is survived by his wife Evelyn.

Ely, Warren (87-SVC), May 11, 2009, Laramie, WY.

Fischman, Kurt (86-HQ-1, HQ-C), June 28, 2009, Williamsburg, VA. He is survived by his wife Glenna, a son and a daughter.

Hotchkiss, Richard E. (86-G, 86-HQ-2), April 13, 2009, Rutland, VT. He is survived by one daughter.

Johannes, Eugene (10-QM-A), February 22, 2009, Mendon, VT. He is survived by his wife Eleanor, 2 sons, a daughter, 6 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was employed by General Electric, was a private pilot, and taught skiing and rock climbing at Cape Hale. He was inducted into the Ski Hall of Fame in 2003.

Kirbach, Arnold R. (86-K), February 22, 2009, Portland, OR. He is survived by his wife Helen, 2 sons, a daughter, 6 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was employed by General Electric, was a private pilot, and taught skiing and rock climbing at Cape Hale. He was inducted into the Ski Hall of Fame in 2003.

Lukowski, Albin (87-G), November 1, 2007, Bay City, MI. He is survived by a son and daughter and many grand- and great-grandchildren; he was predeceased by his wife Helen. His career was with Dow Chemical Co., Aerospace America, and after serving in the 10th he continued to enjoy the outdoors, hunting, fishing and bowling, and was an avid rose grower with a garden that featured more than 200 species.

Meinke, Albert H.J. Jr. (86-MED-3), March 18, 2009, Kewadin, MI. He is survived by his wife Edmer, two sons and one daughter, a daughter-in-law, eight grandchildren, and a great-grandson. During his 38 years of practicing medicine he helped form one of the first group medical practices in Michigan, and building of the Eaton Rapids Community Hos- pital. He wrote two books including “Mountain Troops and Medics” about experiences with the 10th in WWII. He loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, gar- dening, stock marketing and genealogy.

Milanowski, Stanley P. (86-A), January 21, 2009, Grand Rapids, MI. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, 4 children and several grand- and great-grandchildren. He was a retiree of Steelcase and a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1058.

Rains, Ernest Ezra “Ernie” (110-SIG), June 24, 2009, Charlotte, NC. He is survived by 2 daughters, 4 sons, 18 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and a brother, and was preceded in death by his wife Josephine (Montoya) and a son. He was an employee of Phillips Pipeline Co. in Wichita, KS, Memphis, TN, Milwaukee, WI, and Charlotte. He was past president of the Southeast Chap- ter, and both he and his wife Jo received many commendations of appreciation for service to the 10th Mtn. Div. Assn.

Whitmoyer, Frank Clinton (87-HQ-1), June 1, 2009, Missoula, MT. He is survived by his wife Esther (Beierle), 2 daughters, 2 granddaughters, 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He began his career as a baker at the age of 18 and continued in that pro- fession after WWII, opening his own bak- ery and eventually baking with Super Save and UFM Food Service. He was a member of Disabled American Veterans, Moose Lodge and First United Methodist Church, fed his family in early days by hunting and fishing, and enjoyed his many dogs.

10th Mountain Division (LI) Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan: March-June 2009

Antisdel, Spec Justin T., 25 (2/4 BN, 22 Inf Rgt, 1st BCT), March 23, 2009, Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A native of Easley, SC, he had been at the hospital since Feb. after being injured in 2007. He joined the Army in 2005, completed basic training at Ft. Benning, GA, and a tour at Camp Casey, Korea, before assignment to the 10th. He is survived by his wife Heather and 4-year-old son Curtis, parents and grandparents. The family attended Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Delapena-Hernandez, Ssgt Esau Ivan, 25 (2/87, 3d BCT), May 15, 2009, Chak, Wardak province, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife. A native of La Puente, CA, he served with the U.S. Marine Corps before joining the Army in 2006. He was a graduate of the Warrior Leader, Anti-Armor Leader and Combat Life Savers courses, among others. He and Sgt Carlie Lee were killed by enemy action while on a patrol. They enjoyed military-themed video games and soccer.

Hall, Ssgt Jeffrey Alan, 28 (2/87, 3d BCT), June 1, 2009, Nerkh, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife Allison (Ramorini) and 1-year-old daughter Audrey Faith, his parents and a sister, of his native Huntsville, AL. He was on his third deployment to Afghanistan when roadside bomb attacks killed Hall and three other members of the unit. He joined the Army in 2000, served at Ft. Benning, GA, and Camp Merrill, GA., before joining the 10th. He was a graduate of the Ranger, Airborne, Jumpmaster and Warrior Leader courses, among others.

Lee, Sgt Carlie M. II, 23 (2/87, 3d BCT), May 15, 2009, Chak, Wardak province, Afghanistan. He was a team leader and was killed while on patrol. A native of Sandusky, AL, he is survived by his parents, Carlie and Norma, a brother, 2 sisters, and nephew, niece, and several other family members. He completed basic training at Ft. Benning, GA, had grad-

(Continued from Page 14)

uated from the Combat Life Savers Course, and was on his second deployment to Afghanistan.

Lynch, Sgt Terry J., 22 (3d Bn, 71st Cav Rgt, 3d BCT), June 29, 2009, Wardak Province, Afghanistan; he was killed in a roadside bomb attack. He is survived by his father Charlie and a sister, and predeceased by his mother Robyn and a brother. A graduate of Shepherd High School, Shepherd, MT, he was on the football and track teams, qualifying for state championships on the relay team, and enjoyed paintball, weight lifting and riding dirt bikes. He joined the Army in 2005 and had served two tours of duty in Afghanistan.

Moncada, Sgt Raul, 29 (563d MP Co, 91st MP Bn, 10th Sustainment Bde), April 13, 2009, Baghdad, Iraq. He had been in country since early February on his second tour, when an explosive device detonated near his HumVee at the head of a convoy. He is survived by his wife and one daughter in Madera, CA. He enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps at 17, serving for 6 years, before joining the Army military police program. In high school he wrestled and was pitcher on the baseball team, and had wanted to be a state corrections officer.

Munguiarivas, Spec Rodrigo A., 27 (B Co, 710 BSB, 3d BCT), June 21, 2009, Bagram, Afghanistan. He is survived by his mother and stepfather in Gaithersburg, MD. Remembered as bright, good-natured, friendly and simpatico, he lived in Germantown, MD, until enlisting in April, 2008. He completed basic training at Ft. Sill, OK, White Sands Missile Range, NM, and Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He had deployed as vehicle driver in Jan., 2009, and was killed by indirect fire from enemy forces.

Obakairuiru, Sgt Jasper K., 26 (2-87, 3d BCT), June 1, 2009, Nerkh, Afghanistan. A native of Ngardmau, Palau, Guam, he is survived by his parents, sister and other family members. He left home after high school to study at the University of Hawai‘i-Hilo and joined the Army in 2004. He was on his second deployment to Afghanistan after completing the Combat Life Savers and Warrior Leader courses, among others.

Ogden, Pfc Matthew D., 33 (2-87, 3d BCT), June 1, 2009, Nerkh, Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents Charlotte and Michael, and 2 younger brothers. A native of Corpus Christi, TX, he was a third generation Boy Scout who loved nature. He joined the Army in 2007, completed training at Ft. Benning, GA, and came to Ft. Drum in 2008. He was one of four members of the unit killed in the same roadside bombing attacks about 25 miles southwest of the capital city of Kabul.

Wilson, Pfc Matthew W., 19 (2-87, 3d BCT), June 1, 2009, Nerkh, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife Ashlynn and son Matthew Gunnar, who was born last December. Wilson grew up in foster care, living in several communities before graduating from high school in Miller, MO. He was an ammunition handler, arriving at Ft. Drum in June, 2008, after basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. His wife’s brother was in the same unit and a few vehicles behind when a roadside bomb struck, killing Wilson and three others.

(Continued from Page 1)

Thornton led our school-aged children on a visit to the school in Lizzano prior to our activities in Castel d’Aiano. Planning for this visit goes back to last November when Pat began working with the school principal in Lizzano to establish contact between the two groups. By the time of the meeting letters had been exchanged and new friendships were beginning to form. The goal of this activity is to draw the next generation of descendants, both Italian and 10th Mountain, together so that our traditions of friendship continue well into the future. Pat’s article describing this more fully is also in this issue.

All of us wish to thank every one of our traveling companions for their energy and friendship over the two or more weeks. Our group attended ceremonies and placed wreaths in the pouring rain, slogged through the mud to climb Mt. Belvedere, celebrated every evening, and never once failed to meet our commitments. We all sincerely hope this trip continued the traditions and the high standards of those prior, and we all look forward to doing so again in 2012.
TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION, INC.
Mailing Address:
133 South Van Gordon Street
Suite 200
Lakewood, CO 80228
Tel: (303) 756-8486
e-mail: admin@10thmdf.org

Earl E. Clark, Chairman of the Board
Gary Burton, President
Steve Wilmot, Executive Vice President
Jennifer Neville, Secretary
Thomas Thompson, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Officers of the Foundation plus:

ADVISORY BOARD:
All Chapter Presidents
Trux Dole
Hugh Evans
Patricia Finn Thornton
Robbi L. Farrow
John Litchfield
David Little

HONORARY BOARD:
Stuart Dodge
Ralph Nanninga
Frank Romano

IN MEMORY OF Memorial donations received with thanks from 02/14/09 through 06/15/09.

Jean Barr: Carole A. Anderson & Assoc, P.C.
Oscar F. Baxter IV: Bruce K. Campbell, Dorothy and Paul Kitchen

Nancy Delaney: Gordon McWade, David S. Dupece, Manfred G. Wuerlslين
Forrest L. Foley: Norman J. Ehrngott
William H. Fricke: Peter W. Naylor
Glen E. Hines: Thomas P. Allen, Anne and Harry Owens
G. Melvin Johnson: Sheman C. Jensen
Edward A. Junginger: Josephine T. Junginger
Norman C. Lindhjem: Joanne Manchester, Robert W. Manchester, Joanne Manchester
Sigurd T. Olson: Richard J. Lass
Abbott Phillips: Muriel M. Brown, Chip McLaughlin and Keith Maynard, Elizabeth P. Millikin, Eric T. Philipp
Gwen Rasswyck: H. Newcomb Eldredge, Gordon McWade
Delbert Utgaard: Delbert D. Utgaard Trust
Daniel T. Walsh: David T. Newton
Frank C. Whitmoyer: Joanne Manchester
Lloyd O. Yorker: Loretta and John Engle, Gordon McWade

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, INC.
P.O. Box 150
Carthage, NY 13619
Return Service Requested

Patriotism Marks Travis Atkins Memorial Poker Run

When motorcycles roared down a highway between Watertown, NY, and the village of Evans Mills on May 23, it wasn't just another outing for the "hogs." Elaine and Jack Atkins and their grandson, 12-year-old Trevor, of Boise, ID, had organized the Travis Atkins Memorial Poker Run in honor of their son and father.

The last time the family visited Ft. Drum was to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for SSgt Atkins, 31 (C Co, 4th BN, 31st Inf Rgt) Atkins had been among those searching for the remains of two missing soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) when he was killed by a suicide bomber. He is the first soldier in the 10th to receive the award since 2001.

The Poker Run was held over the Memorial Day weekend, and National Association President Mike Plummer met the group at the end. "The run had raised $1,000," Mike said, "and I was just overwhelmed when Mrs. Atkins came over and said 'Here, this is for the Scholarship Fund.'"

"I asked her why they wanted to do that, and she said 'Don't be sad, Colonel. We are proud that our son was able to serve in the Army and go into combat. He died doing what he had always dreamed of doing, being a soldier, fighting for his country, for his family and for our future.'"

"How," an emotional Plummer said later, "can you describe patriotism like that?"

Plummer said he wasn't expecting such a gift and had little to give in return, but was able to retrieve a 10th Mtn. Div. Assn. blanket from his car and present it to the family as a small token of thanks.