New York State’s “North Country” set a dramatic stage for the 2010 Reunion of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.

With a range of conditions from lowering grey clouds to cloudless brilliant blue skies over green meadows and forests, and the sparkling Saint Lawrence River and Lake Ontario as backdrop, delegates and guests gathered some-175 strong to celebrate and remember yesterday’s history and today’s events that will be tomorrow’s history.

With Watertown’s Best Western and Black River Valley Club as headquarters, and a very full day spent at Fort Drum, participants spread out to take in Alexandria Bay and Sackets Harbor, as well as other area features depending on the urge to explore. An opening reception filled a ballroom with veterans from World War II to today’s 10th soldiers and former commanding generals. Adding an international flavor were BG Janez and Cvetka Kavar from Slovenia who, with Brigadier Bojan Pogracj and Brigadier Blaznik Bostjan, represented the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers.

The day on post started early and ended late, so that those with the fortitude took in everything from a command briefing of the past 25 years since the Division was reactivated, to dazzling fireworks accompanied by the 10th Mtn Div Band. In between, a moving memorial ceremony in front of Hay’s Hall headquarters building focused on the Mountaineer statue of past helping present, and a rousing charge by Association president Mike Plummer to descendants and younger members that “there is more to do, and it is your job to build on that legacy” and to carry on the organization.

After a stop at the sports complex named for WWII Medal of Honor recipient John Magrath (a smaller facility had been dedicated the day before to the second, more-recent recipient, Jared Monti) the buses and vans toured the post before time out for lunch at a new, state of the art dining facility. A stop at the Heritage Center/USO/Off the Beatin’ Path gift shop included a lecture on mountain warfare by Dr. John E. Allen.

On to Ft Drum’s annual “Mountainfest,” where visitors wandered among aircraft of the 10th Avn Bde, HumVees and other vehicles, and food and entertainment booths. Then all settled into comfortable chairs under canvas for a rousing Salute to the Nation, featuring an address by Secretary of the Army The Hon. John M. McHugh and cheers as each of the 50 states and territories was recognized by a dip of its flag accompanied by artillery fire.

The next day, while members of the Descendants Board of Directors and Na-

(Continued on Page 6)
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, 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 Decatur Circle
Reston, VA 20194
sdcoffey@verizon.net

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

Treasurer
Kevin Mulberger (10th LI)
893 Hennepin Rd
Linthicum, Md. 21090-1947

Chairman of the Board
John Weaver (10 Med)
10 Soundview Gardens, # A
Port of London, NY 10150

Chairman of the Board Liaison
Dan Whittamore
4626 S. Wolff St.
Denver, CO 80236
danwhitt@earthlink.net

Secretary
Karen Neider (Associate)
6880 Olmstead Rd.
Lowville, NY 13362

Art Director
Robert J. Wiebel
4690 Decatur Circle
Melbourne, FL 32934
gamefish42@aol.com

Programs
Al Condo (Associate)
3424 Ivy Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073
a.condo@att.net

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona
Don Kitzman
2131 Leisure World
Mesa, AZ 85206-5279

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

New Mexico
John J. Duffy (86-E, 90-A)
241 Clinton St., Apt. 6
Watertown, NY 13601

North Central
Kevin Mulberger (10th LI)
P.O. Box 539
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127-7172

South East
Ed Van Romer
9930 SW Inez St.
Vancouver, WA 98662

South West
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Utah
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

Central
Louis F. Anderson
6300 Deane Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919

Rocky Mountain
H. Newcomb Eldredge (85-L)
Hiltons Heights, VA 24872-7172

Fort Drum
Michael Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3916

Midwest
Phoebe Davol (Desc)
3675 W. FM 487
Florence, TX 76527

Other Mtn Units
Steve Coffey (Descendant 87-F)

Other Mtn Units Life
Karen Neider (Associate)

Friends of the 10th
Robert Lafean (Desc)
Northwest
James Bray
9930 SW Inez St.
Tigard, OR 97224-4956

Sierra Nevada
Val Ross (Desc)
6818 S. C. Dr.
Fresno, CA 93725

Upper Peninsula
Cordell D. (Desc)
712 Hennepin Rd
Marquette, MI 49855

Washington D.C.
Robert Lafean (Desc)
712 Hennepin Rd
Marquette, MI 49855

Lower Michigan
10th Mtn Div Veterans
1850 1718 1321 1004 845

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows
323 335 259 187 161

WWI 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
90 88

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
47 46

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
24 26 28 22

10th Inf Div Veterans, Cold War
69 73 56 34 36

10th Inf Div, Cold War, Widows
1 1

10th Inf Div, Cold War, Life
5 5

10th Mtn Div (LI) Veterans
166 269 893 247 258

10th Mtn Div (LI) Veterans Life
37 41

VTANG
12 13

TOTAL
2556 2592 2612 1806 1624

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)

The paid membership numbers through 1 June, 2010:

Category: 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

WWII 10th Mtn Div Veterans
1850 1718 1321 1004 845

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows
323 335 259 187 161

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
90 88

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
47 46

WWII 10th Mtn Div Widows Life
24 26 28 22

10th Inf Div Veterans, Cold War
69 73 56 34 36

10th Inf Div, Cold War, Widows
1 1

10th Inf Div, Cold War, Life
5 5

10th Mtn Div (LI) Veterans
166 269 893 247 258

10th Mtn Div (LI) Veterans Life
37 41

VTANG
12 13

TOTAL
2556 2592 2612 1806 1624

2. The membership totals for the various membership categories remains within IRS guidelines required to maintain the classification of a tax-exempt Veterans organization. However, membership remains our biggest challenge. We are not retaining Active Duty members because they move and we lose their addresses. WWII members are passing, as are their widows. The focus needs now to be on the over-180,000 10th Mtn Div (LI) Alumni. We have begun to work the social networks in order to get our message out, but even with a lot of contacts, that effort has not translated into increased membership. I am also calling the Chapter Presidents to launch campaigns in their geographical areas. While we will use as much public media as possible, we will spend some money to pay for national-level media, and I expect that some Chapters will have to spend some money locally. If they do not have the money at the Chapter, I’ll try to support them from National funds.

3. The National Association of the 10th Mtn Div Nominating Committee assembled the following slate for the 2010 - 2013 Association leadership. It was voted on and approved at the 2 July Board of Directors meeting during the National Reunion in Watertown, NY, effective 1 Nov:

Chairman of the Board
Albert Dowden (86-E, 90-A)
Mike Plummer (HQ 10th Mtn Div)

President
Senior VP
Steve Coffey (Descendant 87-F)
Karen Neider (Associate)

Secretary
Treasurer
Rich Babbitt (2 BCT-10 Mtn Div LI)

4. The National Association’s Reunion was held 30 June – 4 July, 2010, in Watertown, NY.

5. The 2010 National Roster will be published after the 2 July elections.

6. The National Association’s Web Site has been updated. If you want to know more about what is going on in the National Association go to: www.10thmtndivassoc.org, and if you want to know more about the 10th Mtn Div go to: http://www.drum.army.mil

7. The semi-annual EXCOM meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA, 20 March, 2010. The agenda for the 2010 Association Board of Directors meeting was developed and the Association’s Strategic Plan was updated for BOD approval.

8. The OM has arranged for a vendor of grave markers/flag holders. The markers are quality bronze products weighing 2 pounds and available for under $100, including postage. These may be customized by the purchaser. Contact Steve Foley, #603.738.5292 or www.phoenixnftech.com/orders. A percentage of the profits will be donated to the 10th Mtn Div Scholarship Fund.

9. The Association was represented at the 2010 annual International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) Congress in Bled, Slovenia, by MG (10th Mtn Div LI, Ret.) Greg Giles. He reported that the Association’s presentation on Mountain Warfare Lessons Learned in Afghanistan was well received. It was given by LTC Nate Lord, Commander of the Army Mountain Warfare School.

10. LTC (Ret.) John Russell attended the 2010 Tenth Mtn Div Foundation-sponsored Memorial Day Ceremonies at Tennessee Pass and presented the Association’s wreath.

11. There were 41 applications for 10th Mtn Div (LI) scholarships received for academic year 2010-2011. Eight, $5,000 scholarships will be awarded in June.

12. The next Return to Italy trip will be in 2012.

13. Chapters are responsible for implementing their transition plans, transferring Chapter leadership to the Descendant or 10th Mtn Div (LI) members, during the next three years. If you are having problems attracting these members, please let me know.

(Continued on Page 3)
ART AND ARTISTS OF THE TENTH

Dennis Hagen

During World War II, the ranks of the 10th Mountain Division included a number of gifted artists. Some were classically or professionally trained while others were incredibly talented amateurs. Whether they created for their families, for future generations or simply for their own amusement, they shared a common desire to preserve a visual record of their wartime experiences and impressions. Crafted in various media from pencil drawings and pen and ink sketches, to watercolors and oil paintings, their creations spanned formats that ranged from simple cartoons to elegant landscapes.

Over a period of years, the Resource Center has obtained and preserved paintings, sketches and drawings that reflect the work of more than two-dozen of these veterans. Taken as a whole, this diverse collection provides a unique pictorial perspective of the 10th Mtn Div’s history.

George Earle (87-HQ), one of the Division’s most prolific artists, documented the entire range of 10th Mountain experiences from Camp Hale, through Kiska to Lake Garda. Working primarily in oil, Earle occasionally also dashed off quick pen and ink sketches in the field, adding oil colors later. Amazingly, Earle even painted while actually under enemy fire, completing some of his paintings in less than 30 minutes. He carried the smallest tubes of oil paint he could find, created with a single, stubby brush and commonly substituted gasoline for turpentine. Sixty-three of Earle’s original paintings and numerous prints grace the Resource Center collection.

Although many of Arnold Holeywell’s (86-HQ) watercolors portray post-war, Italian villages and landscapes, his contributions also span the bulk of the Division’s history. His Camp Hale images include a hauntingly beautiful watercolor of Cooper Hill on a moonlit night. Holeywell’s paintings also document Camp Swift, Texas and Camp Carson, Colorado. Occasionally, Holeywell created pencil sketches before working his subjects into exquisite watercolors. Notably, a sketchbook that Holeywell carried in battle was perforated by a chunk of German shrapnel during combat operations in Italy.

Donald Forker (86-B), Robert Fels (85-HQ-2) and Fritz Dillmann (MTG) have each provided exquisite watercolor views of Camp Hale and its rock-climbing area. Frank Steinhardt’s (87-SVC) detailed watercolors and Denis Nunan’s (87-C) pencil sketches document many aspects of the 87th Regiment’s operations on and around Kiska Island.

Paul Williams’ (85-F) insightful cartoons express the frustrations and the incredulity that many veterans must have felt about their wartime experiences, especially during training. In one delightful view, a mule chortles with evident glee as an intrepid 10th Mountain trooper staggers under the burden of a mountain-sized rucksack. In another, an intransigent mule is labeled “future beefsteak.” In many ways, Williams’ characters recall the familiar, long-suffering infantrymen immortalized by Bill Mauldin.

Another 10th Mountain Division cartoonist of note was “Snuffy” O’Neil (86-1), whose images of frantic downhill skiers appear to have been plucked directly from the cartoons that accompanied feature films during the late 1930s. O’Neil’s comic art was also familiar throughout Aspen following the war.

Not all of the 10th’s artwork focused on wartime experiences. Virginia Binzen, wife of SSgt Peter Binzen (86-H), created a beautiful portfolio comprising six ink and watercolor prints during the 1997 “Return to Italy” reunion. Other artists, including Ted Harpainter (85-A) and Sol Gutow (604-B) have also documented reunion activities and 10th monuments through their works. In all, it is occasionally useful to view the history of the Division from a slightly different perspective – through the eyes of the artist.

Felicity Hallanan (Associate)

It’s such a familiar scene, especially on military posts and communities near them around the world. The huge tractor-trailer pulls up in front of a house or apartment building. Out come flattened cardboard boxes, thick quilts, two-wheeled dollyies and assorted other tools of the trade called into use when it’s time for a family to be part of the ritual of pulling up roots and moving on.

Anxious adults wait at the door, or are still inside trying to get just a few more things ready before the crew comes in that will disrupt their lives for the next several hours. If there are children, they’re torn between fear and fascination, watching as familiar belongings are handled by unfamil-

It seems an unseemly over-use of brown wrapping paper, every coffee mug, every lampshade, every teddy bear is swathed in an effort to cushion it from breaking – everything, it seems, except some of the most-precious pieces which seem never to get the same attention, even though their concerned owner is standing nearby watching with wringing hands. And pity the homeowner who’s in one room while wrapping’s going on in another; weeks, maybe months later things emerge from those boxes looking nothing like what went in or, in at least one case, smelling (consider the pitcher that was packed so carefully… still half-full of milk from a hasty breakfast earlier that day …or the wastebasket still full of trash).

An inventory is begun, as item after item is listed, a corresponding number pasted on before it heads out the door to be loaded into the giant trailer. Little by little, rooms begin to empty out, with desks, chairs, tables, beds and other major furniture followed by the many boxes, carried on strong backs or the sturdy carts. Rooms that had been home take on a vacant look, as though they belong to someone else as, indeed, they soon will. Gone are curtains, plants, carpets, books, and pictures. The memories go along, but some stay behind as well.

Beyond that, though, in their places —nothing, except for bare floors and walls, and open windows where it feels as though the world is looking in. Indeed, through the day the neighbors are seen, standing in their doorways or wandering over to view firsthand the dissolution of another family’s way of life. Real friends bring food and drink for strength and consolation as well as conversation.

For this writer, it was a familiar scene, yet none for which I had ever been personally responsible — that was the burden of the adults in the family. Now it was my turn to be the adult, to ensure that those things that were important — and many that were not, but there wasn’t enough time for more sorting—were removed, transported and relocated hundreds of miles away — not far, as it happens, from Fort Drum.

Finally it’s over, and with a wheeze at the heavy load taken on, the big van pulls away from the curb where its diesel has been idling the whole time. There’s a strange silence and then a reluctant turn toward the empty house where everything but cleanup is over.

It’s such a familiar scene, especially now with school out and orders in hand. It’s so familiar, in fact, that few give thought to the many moving vans on the highway. Still, next time you see one, you might want to offer a little thank-you to that military family, the life they have just left and the new one they are beginning.

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Reunion Resource Center kept curator Dennis Hagen busy, here with Larry Wilson (D, 87-HQ-1), Harris Haffner (604-B).
In the May 1-23, 2010, a return to observe the 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe was conducted by the Greater Generations Foundation.

Travelers included 10 WWII Vets on the journey from Kasserine Pass battlefield and cemetery, Tunisia, North Africa, to Nuremberg, Germany, and the site of the war crimes trials. Three 10th Mtn Troopers—Bill Christophensen (87-E), Frank Chuk (85-MED-2) and Bob Yank (85-K) were selected to participate, along with eight other veterans and 20 college students.

On the morning of Sunday, May 16, we took part in a memorial Mass at the site on Monte Cassino Cemetery near where a great many Polish Soldiers gave their “Soul’s God, Their Bodies to Italy and Their Hearts to Poland,” as inscribed on the monument on the site. A wreath was placed, and one of the color guard was a member of the US Army.

From there we moved to the site of the Battle of San Pietro where the 36th Infantry Division played a big role. Here another memorial service and wreath-laying were held. A full color guard from the Texas 36th Div had flown in specially for the occasion, along with BG John F. Nichols, commander, HQ, Texas Air National Guard, and Command Sergeant Major Juan Morales, Texas Military Forces.

As the color guard was returning to their van and putting away the colors, I noted that one of them had a 10th Mountain patch on his right shoulder, hurried over to him and introduced myself. He said, “You’re a Combat Medic—I’m one too,” lifting the lapel on his jacket exposing Combat badge above his many decoration. This of course made the bond even closer. He was Sgt. Eric Pado of the 36th Infantry Div. He’d returned from Afghanistan Dec 24, 2009, where he had served with 10th Mtn Div in combat. Originally from New York, NY, after discharge Eric had settled in Texas and joined the Guard.

We on the tour finished off the day by having a very nice meal in a very nice restaurant at Pegaso in the valley below San Pietro, along with the Texas Guard.

And this is about the way it went up the mountain to Austria and Germany. The experience with the students was beyond belief. What a journey!

VETERANS FIND THEY HAVE TENTH IN COMMON DURING CEREMONIES AT MILITARY CEMETERIES

Frank Chuk (85-MED-2)

Other outstanding veterans were LT COLs Marvin Meeks and John Toth. Marvin is working with ROTC Cadets at Manuels High School in Denver, and John is with the program at U. of Colorado. Nancy Kramer, daughter of William Robertson (MED 87-G) was also a member of our group.

The 10th Huts are a fitting tribute to these inspirational men. Located in the pristine mountains around Camp Hale, Aspen and Leadville, these extraordinary structures are available year-round for skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and biking. If you’re looking for an exceptional backcountry adventure that the entire family will enjoy, I suggest that you start by looking at www.huts.org.

HUT TRIP ADDS TO ANNUAL SKI-IN

David Christie (Desc, 85-F)

Enjoying opening reception at reunion, left, Dale Alewine (86-HQ-1, A), Karen Braker, Norman (D, 85-C) & Mary Burkey, & Hassell Vass (10-AT-A).
35th ANNUAL TENTH SKI-IN
Hugh W. Evans (85-A, C)

The 35th Annual Tenth Ski-In and the 2010 Vance Hut Trek both went rather well, but it’s not getting any easier, and it seems we are becoming more forgetful.

Let’s see, Harvey Wiprechter (86-F) forgot his boots the first day, Kathy Wilson left her poles at Cooper Hill, and your correspondent managed to leave his trail pants and grappa in the Holiday Inn lobby the day of the hut trip. Yes, Grappa! Gianfranco Del Santo brought a bottle all the way from Torbole, Italy. That is as much of the forgetfulness that your writer can remember, but you get the picture. Yes, remembering is getting more difficult every year, too.

- Starting on Feb 17, the first of six days, we had snow, light and fluffy. That gave us powder to ski on which was great, but we did miss the sun. The last two days the sun came out and it was perfect. The resorts could not have been nicer to us with free (Vets) and discounted (Camp Followers) lift tickets, guides, free parking, groomed slopes and free lunches.
- Tuesday, some whacko walked off with your correspondent’s skis. I had left them on the rack to go in for lunch at the A-Basin Lodge. It turned out fine, however, because I found four ‘Lucky Pennies’ in the sofa at the Holiday Inn that night when I put my hand down in the crack between the sofa cushions. The next day at Cooper Hill John Gordon gave me skis and poles for the rest of the trip. Next Earl Clark (87-HQ-1) offered his skis, because he is not skiing anymore. Then Rick Johnson offered his father’s skis (Charles H. Johnson, 85-G, 86-D, K, deceased), and finally son-in-law Steve Clem offered a pair. Not bad, four pair of skis and poles for one lost pair.
- In the end when the skier that had rented his skis at Breeze’s in Dumont tried to turn in my skis instead, Breeze’s called A-Basin and learned that they were mine; I had reported them lost. The renter had to pay for his lost skis and I picked mine up on the way home. The skis had ‘Hugh Evans’ in big letters and 10th decal on each one. Now I potentially have five pairs! All well that ends well.
- Friday the 19th, Cooper Hill Day, was on 10th Mtn Div Day. It had been 65 years to the day that the 1st Battalion 86, plus F Company, took Riva Ridge and the 87th & 85th went up Monte Belvedere and Gorgolesco. At noon the serpentine ski chain ran from the top to bottom of Molly Mayfield with the flags out in front. As usual it snowed for the Memorial Service at the Tennessee Pass 10th Monument. The Silver Dollar Saloon was most happy to warm everyone up for dinner at the Brass Ass (officially know as the Golden Burro). About 30 were expected for dinner; 60 showed up and the overloaded wait staff did a fantastic job of serving everyone with happy smiles on all faces.

The annual 10th Mtn Div Biathlon, held Sunday, March 21, seemed to be successful as there were more participants this year. See the story on Page 2 of the Descendants section.

- Saturday everyone skied where they wished. Most stayed at Cooper Hill and the Columbine Inn in Leadville. Sunday all returned to Frisco and a good number came to the annual 10th Resource Center meeting at the Holiday Inn. It went well, with lots of inspiring ideas. That night was Denise Taylor’s (Desc 126-D) delightful dinner for all at her small cabin in Frisco.
- Monday, Paul Stubbe was at Breckenridge to greet us again even though he has been retired for two years. We had a great morning ski and then sang after lunch ending with, at Paul’s request, “God Bless America.”
- Generally, there were about 20 to 30 skiing with the 10th bunch each day, eight of whom were Vets. There were about 80 supporting the 10th at Cooper Hill; 19 were Tenth Vets and two from other units. Besides those listed above the following attended part or all: James J Nassar, Jr. (85-C), Andre E. Benoit (85-B, 86-B), John B Woodward (87-HQ-1, 10-Recon), Robert Yank (85-K) Richard S. Dirkes (86-E), James N. Bray (87-K), Albert Dowden (86-E, 90-A) Nelson A. Bennett (87-I, MTG), Richard C. Over (110 Signal), Orville Tomsky (126-B) and six members of his family covering four generations; also Francis Kubisiak (86-D, B)

AVIATORS AND THEIR CHOPPERS ARE NEWEST VERSION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS
PFC. Michael Snyder, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade Journalist

Ed. Note: When the 10th Mountain Division was reactivated 23 years ago, there were some who questioned its designation as a “mountain” unit. Initial deployments were to places like Haiti, Somalia and even southern Florida – none known for mountainous terrain. The current war has changed that, and now, as 10th aviators are learning, mountain training has moved into a new phase.

Afghanistan features high, rugged mountains and elevations of up to 6,000 feet – very important facts to consider for pilots who are preparing for upcoming deployments.

This past May, 2010, soldiers with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade stationed at Ft. Drum, NY, conducted high-altitude training at Whiteface Mountain near Lake Placid in the Adirondack Mountains. Only a short flight from the post, the mountain boasts an elevation of roughly 5,000 feet, ideal preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan this Fall.

“The mountains of Afghanistan are higher than these,” said Col. Jim Baker, 10th Combat Avn Bde deputy commander, “but this training gives pilots an appreciation of how wind affects the aircraft and how mountain terrain appears.”

The training allows pilots to experience for themselves the difference in flying at high altitudes, like those they will encounter in Afghanistan.

“Whiteface Mountain is the closest we can get to Afghanistan terrain with one day of travel,” Baker said.

One challenge with the training exercise is the fact that Whiteface is host to a variety of both public and private areas. Speaking before the training began Baker said, “We will be flying friendly, environmental concerns will be addressed, and we will avoid densely populated areas.”

Roughly 20 flights per week were planned, with more than 100 pilots getting an opportunity to fly to Whiteface, which is about a 50-minute, one-way flight. Once there, crews performed different maneuvers that they would perform while deployed, such as quickly landing long enough to load or off load, then resuming flight.

The biggest draw of Whiteface is its increased elevation, compared to the Fort Brum area.

“We’re really looking forward to this because it’s very similar to Afghanistan,” said Capt. Sean Gaul, a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot with 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th CAB. “We haven’t done a lot of mountain flying. It will be good training.”

One of the big differences to factor in, Gaul said, is the wind.

“The winds are much stronger at the height we’ll be flying at,” he said.

The brigade sent OH-58 Kiowas, Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks and AH-64 Apaches to Whiteface Mountain through May 15.
In March, 2010, Fred and I visited the mountains of Tuscany so that I could see for the first time the area where he fought with the 10th Mountain Division, and he could revisit the battlefields of 1945. Fred had resisted going on this trip for 10 years, but I finally wore him down.

I contacted my cousin (an expat in Italy) for advice and she told me about a friend of hers who owned a B&B in Buti, on the flanks of a mountain between Pisa and Lucca. What a happy coincidence! Michael Sandrin not only gave us a hospitable welcome at Casa Bici Buti, but also drove us all over Tuscany and parts of Emilia Romagna.

He was a terrific host, guide, translator and friend throughout this saga, and we highlyrecommend his lovely home in Buti. He knows lots of cool, out of the way, eateries. He has ridden his road bike all over Tuscany, and he has a great sense of adventure.

After looking at the website for Cutigliano, the mountain village where Fred spent his first month in Italy patrolling with partisans, I realized that it was possible to contact the mayor, Carlo Cecarelli. Our wonderful Italian friend, Maria Gatto, sent him an email about our proposed visit, and he very kindly put together an incredible day, of which I will describe shortly.

We spent a couple of fun, beastly cold days in Bologna with my cousin before setting out via train to Florence, where Michael met us. We had lunch at the Teatro del Sale, drove up to the overlook where you can see all of Florence, and then set our for Buti, chatting with Michael about what to do when.

The “what to do” included visiting the coast for a terrific fish lunch, seeing the mezzaluna city of Lucca, and sight-seeing in Siena. We ate a lot of really good food, generally got back to Buti in time for a little siesta, and then nibbled and talked about that day and our plans for the next day.

The two highlights of the trip were the day we spent finding Riva Ridge, and our day in Cutigliano. We really did not know exactly where Riva Ridge was located, but Michael got out his maps, and we jumped into “Bianca” the VW bus to find it. Fred remembered that Highway 64, running north from Pistoia, was the main artery for the Army, so we took that road.

Michael had looked at the sketch map in Desert Days: My Life as a Field Archaeologist (Fred’s memoir, published in 2008 by SMU Press) and figured out that we needed to end up north and east of Cutigliano (on all the maps), so we branched off on Highway 623, driving up the drainages of the Reno and Lima Rivers through lovely mountain scenery to Poreta Terme.

The day had begun with lots of fog, and Fred got discouraged. But Michael and I insisted that we go on. When we arrived in Poreta Terme, Michael suggested buying a more local map. That was when the magic began. The shopkeeper who sold us the necessary road map gave us the number of a friend of hers who had helped organize a 10th Mountain Division reunion in 1995. Michael called her, and she suggested we drive to Vidiciatico in southern Emilia Romagna, find the Hotel Montegrande, and ask for Bruno.

As we set out for this segment of the drive, we stopped an Italian gentleman on the road for directions to the proper highman lines with Fred on the morning of March 3, 1945, the day Fred was wounded.

When we got to Iola, the church was closed for renovation, but we stuck our heads in and we were invited to come in by workmen who were resurfacing the terrazzo floor. We spent quite a while looking around, speaking to the workmen, who had lost their father in the defense of Naples, and again having a good cry. Seeing the plaque dedicated to Compton on the outside of the church and talking about that day in Fred’s life was a very touching moment. We returned to Buti in the late afternoon, and Fred and I stepped into a large hotel room filled with veterans from WWII, who had reconstructed in their son’s memory. John Compton was the young soldier killed by a sniper running toward the German lines with Fred on the morning of March 3, 1945, the day Fred was wounded.

Bruno also told us how to get to the nearby monument to the 10th and the little church in Iola that John Compton’s parents had reconstructed in their son’s memory. John Compton was the young soldier killed by a sniper running toward the German lines with Fred on the morning of March 3, 1945, the day Fred was wounded.

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The men of the 10th Mountain Division encountered and appreciated the Italian Alpini during their Italian Campaign (1944-45), as well as during their visits to the “old” battle fields in the Alps from possible attacks by France and Austria, Italy’s archenemies since way back.

At that time the Italian army didn’t have trained mountain troops (the same problem the American Army faced 80 years later.)

Captain Giuseppe Domenico Perrucchetti realized the deficiency. As an expert mountaineer and a researcher of military operations previously conducted on alpine territory, he valiantly fought for the formation of alpine troops and for the principle that the defense of alpine passes should be in the hands of mountaineers. I’m tempted to compare Captain Perrucchetti to Minnie Dole!

Captain Perrucchetti’s campaign was successful when King Victor Emanuel signed a decree (1872) whereby 15 alpine companies were formed. And thus the Alpini Corps was born!

In the winter of 1896-97 the use of skis was introduced. Swiss and Norwegian instructors were summoned to assist and teach the basic skiing techniques to the Alpini and so the ski section of the Alpini Corps was born.

The skis were of the so called “Norwegian model”: a hickory board, 9 cm (3.5”) wide at the tip and 7 cm (2.34”) wide at the back, and 1 to 3 cm (1/2” to 1”) thick. They were 2.20 m (7’ 20”) long while the “bindings,” so to speak, consisted of a leather strap around the boot heel with a second strap tied around the tip of the boot. A single bamboo stick with an iron tip was the precursor to today’s poles.

The baptism of fire of the Alpini occurred on March 1, 1896, at Adua (Erritrea, Africa), when 16,000 Alpini were attacked by 120,000 Abyssinians. The most important feats by the Alpini took place during WWI (1914-18).

Even the Americans, who were fighting on the French front, came to learn about the heroic exploits of the Alpini on the alpine glaciers, including Orles, Cavedale and Adamello. Their courage and endurance during four long years of battles at high elevations have become a legend.

Recently, while climbing in those same mountains, I have been amazed in finding and observing WWI posts, trenches, tunnels, still there to be seen. On the glacier Cresta Croce (12,000’) I have admired a cannon pulled from the valley by 1,000 Alpini and then positioned on the mountain top. It was a six-month effort.

In June, 1940, WWII started in Italy. The Alpini fought in France, in Greece, and on the Russian front, and their misery didn’t end until Italy’s surrender to the Allied Forces on Sept. 8, 1943.

Since the war, in a new climate of peace and freedom, the Alpini have always been active in humanitarian and patriotic events.

The men of the 10th came in contact with the Alpini during the Italian Campaign on the Apennines. The Alpini were quite appreciated for their skill in leading long lines of mules loaded with weapons, ammunitions and provisions.

After the war, when men of the 10th visited Italy, the Alpini took care of many events organized in their honor in the villages on the hills,” where they had fought and many had died.

The men of the 10th were always fascinated by the head gear the Alpini wore: a hat with a long black feather, and the emblem of an eagle with spawned wings in front. After the war some of them brought hats home as a precious souvenir.

There is no question that the men of the 10th and the Alpini have many things in common and share a special camaraderie. Sempre Avanti! (Always Forward!) men of the 10th and Alpini.

Gianfranco Dal Santo, an Italian physician, met unexpectedly with veterans of the 10th while skiing in Vail, CO. Since he was a member of the Italian resistance movement during WWII on the other side of the Gothic Line, they found out they shared many memories and experiences from those days. It was, as Gianfranco says: “Love at first sight.”
EARLIER DIVISION COMMANDER SAID TO HAVE FIT “LIKE A WELL-WORN AND WELL-LOVED GLOVE”

Tom Brooks (85-G)

When Major General George Price Hays was assigned to command the 10th Mountain Division, he was told that there was ill feeling and discontent within the Division and too many men in the guard house. On Nov. 23, 1944, he arrived at Camp Swift determined to improve morale. He ordered, for example, that “Mountain” would bridge the Tenth’s crossed-swords shoulder patch, a patch the men would come to wear with pride.

Hays assembled all the officers and non-coms in the field house, as he said, “To give them a chance to look over their new commander.” As he looked at them, he thought what a fine looking body of men they were. He told them “We are going to have good times as well as bad times in combat, as long as we accomplish our missions...”

Gen. Hays was a thorough-going professional. He was born on Sept. 27, 1892, in Chefoo, China, to Presbyterian missionary parents. While a Junior at Oklahoma A&M, he was accepted in the first Officers Training Corps at Fort Rucker, AL. After basic training, cadets could choose their branch of service. Hays wanted the infantry but after a 12-mile march with full pack on a hot day in July, he opted for the 10th Field Artillery, where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on Aug. 15, 1917.

Overseas in 1918, Hays served as a liaison officer, Second Battle of the Marne, maintaining contact between artillery and infantry units. Seven horses were shot from under him; a thigh wound put him in the hospital. He received the Medal of Honor. Returned to battle in the Argonne Forest, he earned a Silver Star.

Immediately after the war, he was stationed in London wrapping up A. E. F. (American Expeditionary Force) affairs. There he met and married his wife. Back in the States in 1919, he attended various military courses, and did four years ROTC duty at Cornell University. In 1930, he was attached to the 24th Field Artillery in the Philippines, where for the “first time we could afford household servants.” He attended the Army War College and was promoted to Colonel on Aug. 18, 1940, and Brigadier General on Aug. 1, 1942.

In 1941, he was assigned to the War Plans Division of the General Staff. A report issued in the Fall of 1941 recommended that the country should prepare for a war on two fronts, construct cargo ships, increase the Air force and create 100 divisions, of which 20 percent should be armored.

In Aug., 1942, Hays was assigned to the Field Artillery, 2nd Inf Div. On a special assignment in January, 1944, he accompanied Maj Gen Walter M. Robertson to observe the campaign in Italy. While at Casino, he was asked to take temporary command of the 34th Div Arty. He did so, firing a heavy artillery preparation, but the attack bogged down.

Hays returned to his old outfit in time to participate in the Normandy invasion. On D-Day plus 1, “We waded through the water up to our armpits.” Hays spent his first night ashore in an empty farmhouse where “We started a fire in the fireplace and hung up our wet clothes to dry.”

Hays’ unit advanced inland and ran up against the German 2nd Parachute Div “...which gave us a good deal of trouble, especially among the hedgerows.” After breaking out of the Normandy Peninsula, Hays participated in the drive to capture Brest. “After three weeks of fighting we did so, capturing 35,000 prisoners.” But the port was so badly damaged that the Allies shifted to Antwerp. Hays spent 163 consecutive days in combat before he was ordered to take command of the 10th Mtn Div.

Once the 10th was in Italy, Hays was told by Lt Gen Lucian Truscott, Jr., Commander of Fifth Army, that the 10th was to be the Division like a well-worn and well-loved glove.

Veterans and Descendants leaving memorial ceremony stopped for a photo in front of Hays Hall, 10th Mtn Div headquarters.

(Continued from Page 3)

BUDDY HUNTER

Tents and chairs were provided so reunion-goers could enjoy the Mountain-fest Salute to the Nation in style and comfort.
One hears and reads of the various organizations connected to the 10th Mountain legacy; however, a clear understanding of each organization and their connection to each other often eludes most 10th Mountain descendants. While many descendants may know some of the history of the WWII 10th Mountain Division as it pertains to their own 10th Mountain soldiers, most descendants really do not have a complete picture of the Division from its activation in 1941 through its various deactivations and reactivations up to current time. In addition, descendants are aware of organizations like the “Foundation,” “Association” and “Descendants, Inc.,” but how many understand the conception, functions and connections among these three organizations?

The following article should be the first step in understanding the vision acted upon by our veterans in the years following World War II. Much of the information is edited and “borrowed (with permission)” from John Engle’s (87-L, 86-G) A Brief History of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc, which can be found in the introductory pages of the 2007 Roster. This information is also posted on the Descendant Google page http://groups.google.com/group/10-mtn-descendants and, hopefully, will be the beginning of shared discussion. Sempre Avanti!

World War II 10th Mountain Division – 1941 to 1945

Activated as a single battalion in Nov., 1941, on Washington’s Mt Rainier, the 10th Mtn Div was created in 1943 in Leadville, CO, with three regiments, artillery and support companies. Attracting a large number of volunteer skiers, climbers and other types of outdoor men, they trained at Camp Hale, CO, and Camp Swift, TX. During the closing days of 1944, the Division embarked for Italy where they fought in some of the toughest terrain in that country. From 1941 to its deactivation on November 30, 1945, 31,500 men passed through the ranks of the 10th Mountain Division.

10th Infantry Division 1948-1958

Reactivated in 1985, the Division has seen numerous deployments since its reactivation that February. Elements participated in Hurricane Andrew disaster relief in South Florida, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Joint Force in Bosnia and Task Force Eagle in Kosovo. Additionally, since 2001, the Division and its combat brigades have seen numerous deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Currently there is a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) deployed to Iraq; a BCT deployed to Afghanistan with the Division Headquarters; and the Aviation Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in the Fall of 2009. The sun never sets on the 10th Mountain Division, the most deployed division in the US Army.

Organizations created by veterans of the WWII 10th Mountain Division

The Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, Inc.

In 1958, veterans established the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation as a nonprofit, tax-exempt Colorado corporation qualified under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Currently, the Foundation administers financial support for a variety of programs.

Participants at the farewell banquet dug deep to contribute to a raffle, raising $660 for the Wounded Warrior Fund. Most-excited winner was Alan Hafer (D, 87-G), who had his gleaming new football helmet autographed by George H. Rosenfield (85-E) and others.

Displays at Sackets Harbor battlefield complex engross father & son Roger (left) & Richard Koeck (85-A). “I first came to a reunion in 1989 at French Lick,” Richard said, “and now there’s just one other man from the same unit here. So it’s good I went to others. We had a fine, close group, and it’s wonderful that they thought of the descendants to take the Association over after this.”
The Descendant Blizzard is edited by Bryan Pullen. Descendants: News, stories, announcements, letters, photos etc. are most welcome — this is your Blizzard! Contact Bryan Pullen at 708 S. 6th Street, Davis OK 73030 or email: bryanjpullen@cableone.net.

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS, INC. OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(* denotes Executive Committee)

Midwest Chapter (99) Patricia LaRocca 1151 Parkside Court Carol Stream, IL 60188 630.221.0989 pattylaurocca327@yahoo.com Father: Richard D. Soutter (616-FA-HQ)

Mt. Rainier Chapter (99) David Thompson 7712 39th Avenue, SW Seattle, WA 98126 206.932.4148 dsk61979@comcast.net Father: Hans Thompson (85-K)

New England Chapter (99) Sue Hagerman, Membership PO Box 60 Enfield Center, NH 03743 603.632.5337 (H); 603.252.7196 (C) sue.m.hagerman@comcast.net Father: William A. Hagerman (86-SVC)

North Central Chapter (99) Nikki Fuhr 360 Phillips Parkway, 215 St. Louis Park, MN 55426 952.594.1560 (H), 952.594.1560 (C) nfuf4@juno.com Father: Myron E. Fuhr (604-FA-HQ)

Northwest Chapter (99) Marney Rodrick PO Box 7661 Salem, OR 97303 503.371.3326 (H) marney.roddick@state.or.us Father: Robert S. Roddick (85-K)

Rocky Mountain Chapter (99) Kate Raine 463 Josephine Street Denver, CO 80206 303.534.0273 kraebe@stetmil.com

Sierra Nevada Chapter (97) *Val Risos 6816 S. Maple Fresno, CA 93725 559.834.6230 Vras0613@earth.com Father: Craig F. Ris, Jr. (87-K)

Southeast Chapter (10) The Rev. Larry Fields 6300 Deane Hill Drive Knoxville, TN 37919 865.588.3968 (H) fields@cieborden.org Father: Capt. Marion H. Fields (85-HQ)

Southern California Chapter (10) Mary Roddick Ghan 25692 La Cima Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 949.364.0159 mryan@cox.net Father: Robert S. Roddick, Jr. (85-K)

Upper Peninsula Chapter (10) Sandy Engstrom 527 Vine St. Ishpeming, MI 49949 906.364.0159 rijonz@comcast.net Father: Stuart Abbott (86-L)

COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Val Risos (Desc. 87-K)

THEY WERE YOUNG ONCE

This afternoon I met my mother and father at the Veterans Hospital. Dad has Meniere’s Disease and has been having problems with dizziness. Since dad is extremely hard of hearing making it extremely difficult to communicate, I wanted to be there as a support and to ask the doctor a few questions myself. The exam went well and the lab results were okay. Hopefully next week dad will get some help with his problem with dizziness when he sees the ear doctor.

I’ve been to the VA hospital before but this time I looked around more carefully. It was a busy place and there were lots of patients. Most were men but I did see a few women and it looked like they ranged in age from twenty to ninety-something. Some walked on their own, some were in wheelchairs and some were on stretchers. Some appeared very healthy while others looked feeble and weak. Most had all their limbs but a few were missing a leg or an arm. Some were talking and laughing with those around them while others seemed to have a distant or preoccupied facial expression. Many wore caps that identified their military branch or unit; Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard. White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Filipino; all were represented.

I looked on the walls and there were many pictures of various service men and women. Dad took me to see his friend, Rudy Hernandez, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Korean War. There were photos and stories of other local veterans but I didn’t have time to look at all of them. I also wish I had more time to look at all the model planes and ships from the WWII era that were on display in one of the rooms.

One sign did catch my attention. It read, “The price of freedom is visible here.” So as I walked my father to the car I looked carefully into the eyes of everyone I passed and wondered, “What was their story of service? Did they serve in WWII, in Korea, Vietnam, Kosovo, Iraq, or Afghanistan? Did they see combat and witness firsthand all the horror of war?” While I could not know the answer to these questions, there is one thing that I do know for sure. They were young once and served their country with honor. For this and I am forever thankful!

Only a few skiers related to 10th Mtn Veterans and Descendants were involved this year, but the annual Biathlon drew large numbers and organizes hope for greater attendance — after all, look at what a good time they’re having!

BIATHLON A SUCCESS THIS YEAR

Val Risos (Desc. 87-K)

The annual 10th Mtn Div Biathlon, sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter and Auburn Ski Club, was held Sunday, March 21. This year the venue was changed from Boreal Ridge to Northstar at Tahoe. It took a little more time getting to the starting point but the change in venue seemed to be successful as there were more participants this year.

The staff at Northstar noted that the several biathlon training weekends prior to the event were completely filled with participants taking a keen interest in the Biathlon event itself. The hope is that there will be additional training weekends next year resulting in a greater participation in the event. Unfortunately there were no 10th veterans able to attend the event and my brother, Conrad, was the sole 10th descendant participant. Conrad considered his participation a complete success as this year he did not finish last!

At the conclusion of the event I gave a brief history of the 10th Mtn Div; and then repre-
Becky Joyce, our Southeastern Region representative and coordinator, is doing a fabulous job arranging luncheons in the Houston area for our Veterans, Widows, and Descendants.

The next luncheon will be held in Houston on Aug. 6, 2010. Theme is “How I became a 10th Mountain Division soldier.” We honor all the Veterans and current 10th Mtn Div (LI) soldiers and other branches for their past and current service to our great country. We especially enjoy the stories told by our beloved 10th veterans. As an example, please read the other article for the Armadillo Chapter in the main section of the Blizzard.

As mentioned in previous articles, the Chapter is geographically challenged. During our Mount Belvedere/Riva Ridge weekend in 2008, we received volunteers from various sections of the Chapter to coordinate lunches, visits to Veterans who do not travel and visitations to 10th soldiers recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. There have been a few 10th soldiers taken there, and thankfully, Jack Davis (10-RECON, 87-I) has taken quilts to some of them.

Jeanie Geuras and Becky Joyce have organized several luncheons and have also provided much appreciated support to the Chapter in planning the annual weekend event which typically occurs in February to coincide with the siege on Mount Belvedere/Riva Ridge. The President appreciates all the support and assistance she receives from both Descendants and Veterans in this as well as other Chapters, Rocky Mountain in particular.

**MIDWEST**

*Patty LaRocca (Desc 616-HQ)*

The Midwest Chapter descendants are starting to plan this year’s Reunion.

It will be held Sept. 2-6 at the Carol Stream Holiday Inn. We voted at the last reunion to use the same hotel again for this year’s event. We picked Labor Day weekend in hopes of getting more descendants to attend. I will be having a get-together at my house to go over some of the details and to talk about next year’s reunion.

This year the theme is a Country-Western night. We’re hoping to see our Veterans dressed up in some of their favorite western gear, and we’d like to see a few cowboy hats, too. We will be having a chuck wagon dinner and then playing some cards in the Saloon located in the hospitality room (please leave your guns at home for this event).

We are also planning a cookout at the home of our past president Jake Pollack (85-HQ-2). We will grill some burgers and brats and just have an old-fashioned Labor Day picnic. There will be watermelon (possibly even a seed-spitting contest). Yard games and croquet will also be provided.

If you haven’t attended one of our reunions, now’s your chance. We all have a great time and there’s always something planned to do.

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

*Kate Raabe (86-MED-HQ)*

The Memorial Day ceremony at the top of Tennessee Pass was well attended and the weather was beautiful.

I took a picture looking across the speaker’s podium to the evergreens in the close background, with perfectly blue sky above and snow capped mountains in the distance. It was a fitting backdrop for thinking about our 10th Mountain soldiers who died in Italy making the world a safer and better place for us. I hope that we can demonstrate our appreciation and respect for them, and other 10th vets who have died since, by also doing our part, every day, to make this a safer and better place to live.

There were a number of vets, as well as second- and third-generation 10th descendants who participated in the ceremony, making it a multi-generation event that seems to become more meaningful each year, even as the number of older vets able to attend diminishes. Wreath-laying assignments were given to all three generations, in order to cover the 28 wreaths representing various 10th related organizations, chapters and others wanting to recognize the 10th Mtn Div.

As is tradition, the high school band from Leadville played before and during the ceremony. While we often have a speaker and/or color guard from Ft. Drum, because of deployments and other issues they were unable to participate this year. Instead, our speaker was Representative Mike Coffman, from Colorado’s 6th Congressional District. He has a distinguished military career himself, and said he was honored to have the opportunity to participate. Color guard duties were ably handled by the 10th Mountain Living History Group.

The weather can sometimes be dicey, but this year we were lucky. It was a little windy, but sunny the whole time, and a temperature in the 60s. (Last year we had sun, rain, hail and snow, all within the one-hour span of the ceremony.) We were pleased to have Steve Coffey (Desc, 87-F) travel from the East Coast to join us again this year. He is an officer of both the National Association and 10th Mtn Div Descendants. I hope you will consider joining us next year, whether you live in Colorado or elsewhere around the country.

You will be reading this edition of the *Blizzard* in early August, and still have time to join us for a 10th weekend in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Aug. 20-22. The hotel is actually giving us a discounted rate for two days before and two days after as well. If you have questions or want more information, contact Nancy Kramer at 970.879.2739 or nkramer@springsips.com. She is a local Steamboat 10th descendant in charge of planning the event. Hope to see you there!
WHAT A 10TH MTN. DESCENDANT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION LEGACY

(Continued from Descendants Page 1)

of good works and programs related to its mission to honor and perpetuate the legacy of the WWII 10th Mtn Div, the memory of the soldiers who served with it, and the ideals for which they lived and died.

Originating as the War Memorial Foundation in 1957, the purpose was to raise money for a Monument at Tennessee Pass in Colorado for memorializing the 10th Mountain soldiers who gave their lives for our country in WWII. Completing the project with a surplus in funds led to a change in the identity of the War Memorial Foundation to the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, Inc. In 1966, the Foundation established a College Assistance Scholarship Fund, initially designed to provide financial aid to needy children of WWII 10th soldiers; however, in 2010 the Foundation Board extended assistance to direct and legally adopted descendants of 10th Mtn Div WWII soldiers, subject to the availability of funds.

Carrying out their mission each Memorial Day, the Foundation provides funds for placement of flowers at each of the 326 graves of 10th Mountain soldiers who remain interred in the Florence American Military Cemetery in Italy. The Foundation also arranges for wreaths or garlands at 10th Memorials in the Northern Apennine hill towns.

10th Mtn Div Resource Center

Located in the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Historical Society, it is a vast repository of 10th memorabilia with more than 1,000 individual preserved collections of several thousand photographs, records, documents, maps and personal papers as well as three-dimensional artifacts, all of which 10th Mountain veterans and their families have donated. One extremely valuable resource housed in the Resource Room is a unique database, completed by John Imbrie (85-C) and his committee, which lists some 33,000 soldiers who served with the Tenth from Nov, 1941-Nov, 1945. History of a specific soldier’s service can be researched through this database at no charge.

The Tenth Mountain Foundation is a separate organization from the National Association and relies solely on donations to continue its good works. To make a donation or to find more information on the Foundation and its projects, please visit: http://www.10thmtndivassoc.org/foundation.html or Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, Inc., 133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 8022. Telephone: (303) 756-8486; Fax: 303-987-9489; E-mail: admin@10hmdf.org

National Association of the 10th Mountain Division

In the closing days of WWII, the Blizzard editorial staff drafted and published preliminary bylaws for a postwar “alumni association” in the June 24, 1945, issue. Within a year of the war’s end, regional clusters sprang up across the country. In 1946, Eastern veterans packed into a high school auditorium on East 42nd St. in New York City and registered in the State of New York as the 10th Mountain Division Alumni Association. This was the forerunner of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc., established 25 years later in 1971.

Acting independently of the New York group, 2,000 miles to the west, Colorado formed an outpost, later to be known as the Rocky Mountain Chapter. It had its own officers and dues, as well as its own purpose, which was the sharing of camaraderie and taking pleasure in the surrounding mountains in which these veterans had trained and now lived. As foreseen, during this same period in other parts of the country —Washington D.C. (1955), Portland, OR (1960), and New England (1967)— many veterans began to gather informally to share the common background of their wartime episodes. The growth of these regional groups has resulted in the 21 Chapters that presently exist.

The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc., was formed in Colorado in Aug, 1971, to foster friendship, assist needy members, promote winter sports and encourage mountain and winter warfare training within the Armed Forces of the United States. The Association also published the Blizzard newsletter, supported the Tenth Mountain Foundation, coordinated activities among the Chapters that existed at that time, encouraged the development of new Chapters and organized National Reunions and Return-to-Italy trips.

The WWII veterans have turned leadership of the National Association over to the 10th Mtn Div (Light Infantry) veterans so that current 10th soldiers serving their country will carry on the legacy of the Division. Veterans of the Fort Drum-based Division in Northern New York will continue the National Association as a successful operation. Additional information concerning the National Association, Chapters and Projects is on the website: www.10thmtndivassoc.org.

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. – 1998

From the very beginning of the National Association and Tenth Foundation, veterans of the WWII 10th Div included their children in functions, meetings, return trips to Italy and National Reunions, and this formed the basis for descendant interest. In 1987, a movement, Spirit of the Tenth, called for the involvement of descendants within the National Association. Five years later, finding that many descendants wanted to become members of the National Association, they reintroduced a new effort to encourage descendant membership; however, an IRS regulation severely limited inclusion of descendants in the National Association.

To overcome that regulation, in 1997 the National Association organized an exploratory committee of veterans to work with the descendants in the formation of a 501(C) ‘Auxiliary’ to the National Association. Vigorously spearheading the legalities to bring this vision into focus was attorney Martha Hays, granddaughter of Major General George P. Hays and daughter of Lieutenant George J. Hays (87-B). As a result, the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc., was officially acknowledged at the 1998 Fort Drum Reunion in Watertown, NY. They held their first Board of Directors Meeting in Denver in 1999. Presently the Descendant Board of Directors consists of 21 Chapter Directors, plus 5 At-Large Directors.

Because 10th Descendants, Inc., is an Auxiliary of the National Association, descendants can serve as Presidents of National Association Chapters, and thus ensure their continuation. Currently nine descendants serve as Presidents of the local Chapters, coordinating activities within their chapters. In addition, descendants hold positions on the Executive Committee of the National Association, as well as the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Tenth Mountain Foundation. In 2009, 10th Descendants, Inc., organized and ran the 2009 Sempre Italia - Return to Italy Trip.

Besides supporting undertakings of regional Chapters, the National Association, and the Tenth Mountain Foundation, descendants have embarked on meaningful projects of their own. Five main areas are: 1) Support: On Delay Project; (2) Preserving History: Oral History Project; (3) Education: Descendant Essay Contest; (4) Support: 10th Mtn Div Descendant Scholarships; and (5) Support: Gold Star Project.

Descendants are encouraged to become dues-paying members of 10th Mtn Descendants, Inc., to ensure the preservation of the legacy of the 10th and to provide support for veterans, their wives and widows of the National Association. For more information on Descendants, their mission and projects, visit: http://groups.google.com/ group/10-mtn-descendants, as well as http://10thmtndivdesc.org.
ERNIE PYLE MUSEUM RUNS AFOUL OF ECONOMY


The crumpled body of the little guy in the ditch by the side of the trail would have looked - from a distance - like any of the other soldiers the Army’s 77th Infantry Division had been burying half a world away from home.

To the Japanese sniper who caught him with a clean shot in the left temple, he was just another enemy soldier. But the G.I.s who retrieved his body, and fashioned a casket for him from rough lumber, knew better.

War correspondent Ernie Pyle never made it back from the front lines to the front porch of the farm in Dana, Ind., where he once had looked after chickens in the company of his dog Shep and lay under the canopy of the huge maple trees in his front yard dreaming of whatever Midwestern farm boys dreamed when they weren’t stacking the barn with newmown hay.

Condolences over Pyle’s death were issued from the White House, but all of the conjured sympathy from Washington, D.C., would have meant less to him than the lone whispered prayer of one of the grunts he most often wrote about.

“Ernie wrote about the men in the foxholes,” Pyle’s Indiana neighbor Evelyn Hobson said Friday. “He didn’t write about the generals or the pins on the big campaign map. He wrote about the foot soldiers, and he wrote about them from the foxholes he shared with them. He wanted to tell America where these 18- and 19-year-old kids had come from - where they had pumped gas or been soda jerks before the war.”

Before they put Pyle in the ground on the South Pacific island of Ie Shima, soldiers found in his pocket the notes he had made for a column exposing the soul-killing struggle he had chronicled. “Dead men by mass production, in one country after another, month after month and year after year,” he had written. “Dead men in winter and dead men in summer; dead men in such familiar promiscuity that they become monotonous.”

What Ernie Pyle didn’t know was that he was writing not only about the G.I.s in World War II but also about the soldiers of every war we have fought since.

If you are wondering why, this Memorial Day weekend, I am writing about Ernie, it is because the museum and birthplace honoring his life and work is now padlocked. Indiana says it can’t afford the $6,000 a year it costs (after revenues are deducted) to operate the site in Dana.

A group of farmers and shopkeepers from Ernie’s native soil is fighting to keep the place open. One of them told me, “Ernie painted dozens of pictures of war, but I can’t describe even one of them to a stranger without choking up.”

I’ve got a little money in my pocket this Sunday morning that I could spend on flowers to place at the grave of a veteran, but I’m thinking about those Indiana farm folks who are trying to keep Ernie’s memory alive. If you’ve got a buck you can spare, please send it to The Friends of Ernie Pyle, P.O. Box 338, Dana, Ind. 47847.

Studs Terkel, writing the foreword for a book of Pyle’s wartime correspondence, said it best: “We may be the richest country in material things and possibly the poorest in memory.”

Retired columnist Mike Harden writes Wednesday and Sunday Metro columns. www.cosmosmariner46@yahoo.com
**NORTHWEST**

**Frank Chuk (85-Med-2)**

On Sunday, March 21, a very enjoyable Italian spaghetti feast was hosted by Marney Roddick (Desc 85-K), President of Northwest Chapter 10th Mt Div Descendants, at her home on beautiful Croisan Creek Road in Salem, OR.

In attendance were Jim Bray (87-K) & Lorraine Youngs, Frank Chuk (85-MED-2) & daughter Cindy Martin, grandsons Caleb, Peter Martin & Tyler Lindsey, granddaughters Gabe Martin & Liz Lindsey, Bob Cornell (86-HQ-1), Warren Craig (86-HQ) & Anne, Bob Emerson (604-HQ) & Bobbie, Kam Glaser (10th Mtn Div L) & Brenda, daughter Mikhayla, Mike Myers (HON) & Connie, Dick Updegraff (10-AT-A) & Anna Marie, Harvey Wieprecht (86-F) & Betty Anderson, Eugene Winters (87-C, G), Ben Yett (10th Recon, 85-Q) & Bev, daughter Polly, son-in-law Bob & grandson Chris Younggren, Paul & Ann Zitylberger, son-in-law & daughter of Warren Elmer (10-HQ).

Outstanding food and many new faces made for an excellent get-together, while Marney's son Sol and daughter Lena did living histories.

On March 31, CW02 Devin Wickenhagen (10th Mtn Div L), now serving with the C7/158th Aviation, Aero Medical Evacuation & Patient Transportation, of the Oregon National Guard, spoke. He gave those attending the monthly luncheon a most splendid informative and entertaining presentation of his last tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His cultivation of a grass lawn was certainly unique. We are grateful for your visit, Devin.

Bill Hamilton (86-F) and Hazel Mary Harrison were married April 17 at the First United Methodist Church of Newberg, OR, to a overflow house. Reception followed ceremony, and many Chapter members were in attendance.

On Saturday, May 1, Chapter president Jim Bray (87-K) led a group of 12 at the

(Continued on next page)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**Bruce Campbell (86-I, M)**

A tour of Rubel's Castle, Glendora, was hosted by Warren Asa (86-G) on April 10, 2010. Warren and I were the only vets in attendance, but I brought a couple of members of our Grindelwald Ski Club as well. In addition, Kathleen and John Jones joined us, along with about 25 others —relatives, friends and neighbors of Warren's.

After spending over 20 years working in and around the premises, Warren is an excellent guide throughout the castle. His knowledge of the background and history is well worth a two-hour visit to a unique and exciting Glendora landmark.

At some future date we hope for more participation for another visit for our Chapter with, primarily, Descendants. This was my fourth trip, and I'd still be up for another, since it's impossible to see and appreciate the unusual features in this structure.

**SOUTHEAST**

**Jo Ann Shahan (Desc, 86-L)**

The business meeting of the Chapter was called to order April 17 by President Ed Van Romer (87-I) at Embassy Suites, Greenville, SC.

Eleven veterans attending were Ed Van Romer, Wally Moore (86-H), Clarence “Dick” Hawkins (85-L), Paul Gunderman (605-MED) & Delores, Bill Weber (616-HQ) & Mary, George DeSalvio (85-E) & Gerd, George Baroff (86-HQ-3, K), Stan Young (86-F) & Barbara, Mogens Hallgren (85-C) & Joe Anne, Harry Coleman (86-B), and John Delony & Teddie. Also present were Bernie Detwiler, Jo Ann Shahan and Conness Gillespie.

Secretary Cindy Partridge (86-A, W) was unable to attend and so Jo Ann Shahan filled the position.

Harry Coleman reported that the Chapter supported the Greenville Upstate Chapter of Blue Star Mothers with $1,000, after our Spring meeting. Through the Adopt-a-Platoon program our money supplied a 10th Mountain Platoon with some much-appreciated wants and needs. Jane Davis will speak to our group at the Banquet about their efforts.

Dick Hawkins requested that veterans and family please give him directions about whom memorial plaques should be sent. There has been difficulty in delivering some of these.

Ed Van Romer has been contacted by a member of the Greenville post of the National Ski Patrol. Russ Lindsey contacted him after seeing notice of our meeting. He and a friend, Natalie Amick, a professional photographer and fellow skier, attended as guests.

The Chapter spent $82, for a wreath to be placed at Tennessee Pass.

We are considering ways to remember our wounded in the hospitals. At the same time, we note the loss of Carol Rae Zelina on April 24, 2010. She was a loyal support.

Please note date change by the Embassy, to Oct. 15-17, 2010.
MT. RAINIER
Dale Smith (10th MP)

Thanks to efforts of program chairman Ed Gibson (M&CWTC), our programs continue to be informative and interesting.

For Feb. 9, Lynn Phillips showed skiing films that her father, Dan (86-F) made during training at various sites during WWII. She had the films transferred to a DVD, and while they weren’t up to today’s technical standards, they showed a bit of history that is unforgettable, especially to those who participate in it.

Dan was a member of a detachment that was sent to the Columbia Ice Fields near Banff in Alberta, Canada, in 1943 to test the performance of vehicles in rugged, icy conditions. He showed the problems in controlling trucks, with many of their tests resulting in accidents. This was the group that tested the Snow Weasel manufactured by the Studebaker Company.

The last scenes shown were from a team competition held at Roche Run at Aspen, CO. The team from the 10th was competing against a team assembled by Averill Harriman consisting of five men and five women. There were shots of the downhill competition as well as jumping. Individuals could not be identified, but Karl Stingl (87-HQ-1) remembers that he competed in this contest. The Harriman team won, probably because they were practicing on the site for days beforehand.

At our March meeting, Dan Fowler gave an excellent slide presentation on his 2003 expedition to Nepal and the Mt. Everest base camp. Dan first entered Nepal at Kathmandu and showed some interesting temples and pictures of the people in the surrounding area. The whole trip took four weeks to complete.

Our April 11 meeting was held in the wardroom of the Seattle Yacht Club, a delightful room with an expansive view of Portage Bay and the many yachts that are moored there. The Fireside Room that we usually occupy was being prepared for an event to celebrate and display of the America’s Cup by Larry Ellison later in the day. Some of those attending our meeting stayed to see the cup. Also, Ann Bray, Royce Ward’s (10th INF) daughter, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Our speaker was Morton Wood, whose story on how he came to develop the facility at Camp Denali near Mt. McKinley is interesting and unusual. Woody’s wife taught him to fly, and they flew their plane to Alaska, where Woody got a job with the National Park Service. He was quite impressed by the recreational potential of the area around Mt. McKinley, and observed how difficult it was for people to get there. The best way to get there was by railroad, and Railroad Hotel was 90 miles from Mt. McKinley. He thought why not build a simple place with housekeeping facilities for people who wanted to stay in the park. On a hiking trip they came upon Wonder Lake and decided it was a great location for their camp. At the time, 1952, anyone could homestead up to 80 acres, and get the land for free, so they did just that. A road to Mt. McKinley was finally constructed in the 1970’s.

On May 11 we met at the Inn at Gig Harbor, WA, and it was a delightful event, due in no small part to our visitors from the Northwest Chapter led by President Jim Bray (87-K). Dee Molenaar (M&CWTC) introduced the program, which was a DVD of the 1938 exploratory expedition and the 1953 effort led by Dr Charles Huston, to summit K-2, the second highest mountain on earth after Mt. Everest. Dee was a member of the second expedition, and took his watercolors along to record scenes from the trip, which he displayed at our meeting. Although they failed to summit K-2, this climb is considered a trailblazing effort.

NORTHWEST
(Continued from previous page)

10th Mtn Memorial Grove in policing trash and planting a Douglas Fir in remembrance of Garrett Gast (86-HQ-1). This brings the number of trees in the Grove to 70. The next gatherings will be July 17 and Oct. 30, on Hwy 26, mile marker 27, just east of the Banks exit, 9:00 a.m. The Grove will be dedicated as an official Heritage location Oct. 10th. This promises to be a World Class event.

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The annual Timberline get-together with the Northwest Chapter will be Aug. 18 at the beautiful Multnomah Falls State Park, historical dining room, on I-84 South of Troutdale, OR, 11:45 a.m.

Monthly luncheon meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at the Elk’s Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Milwaukie. OR, 11:45 a.m., unless announced otherwise, i.e. Nov. 17 and Dec. 14. Please attend when in the region.

Never Stop Exploring, and Enjoy the Journey.

BIG SKY CHAPTER
Suz Rittenhouse (Desc 87-HQ-2)

The Chapter had a great turnout for the Belvedere Day lunch in Missoula, MT, on Feb. 20, 2010.

Four veterans and their families attended, including Barney Ilertsen (616-FA-HQ), Joe (87-B) & Kay Devlin, Orville Bjorge (86-C), and Ray (85-G) & Vickie Johnson and their daughter Donna, JoAnne Manchester (87-K), Shirley Marshall (86-F), Jim Walsh (Desc 10-MED-B) & Sharon Zirschky, Larry Wilson (Desc 87-HQ-1), and Frank Whitmoyer’s (87-HQ-1) daughter Linda Armstrong & granddaughters Christina Hoyt & Carolyn Rigg & husband Donato.

Jerry Reed, past Chapter president, presented Linda Armstrong and family a 10th Mountain Memorial Plaque in honor of her father, Frank Whitmoyer.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and tales that make the 10th such a special group!

Jim Walsh also attended the Belvedere Day lunch in Billings, MT, on Feb. 21, which had a pretty good turnout. Three vets were able to go: Bob (87-B) & Eleanor Coop with daughter Nancy, Tom & Ginny Helmer and Chuck (85-HQ-3d BN) & Ann Hauptman. Also in attendance were Sharon Zirksosky, Cora Graham (85-SERV) & her grandchildren.

Suz Rittenhouse (Desc 87-HQ-2), Chapter President, held the first Belvedere Day luncheon in Boise, ID, with just Suz and her husband in attendance! Two Idaho National Guard members eating lunch at a nearby table were happy recipients of the Belvedere Day cake that Suz brought. So Suz considered it a successful celebration!

MONUMENT DEDICATED TO MOH RECIPIENT
(Continued from Page 13)
times in the face of withering RPG and rapid gun fire to recover a wounded soldier 10 meters to his front, underscores the extraordinary courage, bravery, and love for his fellow subordinate soldiers, in particular PFC Brian J. Bradbury — to not leave a wounded mountain soldier behind.

“Sergeant Jared C. Monti measured his strength to the full height of that Gavashesh mountain and found the presence of GOD.

“Our Nation’s Medal of Honor Recipient, SFC Jared C Monti - as a 10th Mountain soldier - truly Climbed to Glory. His ultimate sacrifice protects our freedoms and serves as an inspirational beacon for our youth, and for the generations of Americans to come.”
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kim Hudyma (Desc, 86-SVC)

The Chapter met on Feb. 27 in Linthicum, MD, at the Sleep Inn for a luncheon. Twenty-four hardy members and three guests made it—the Mid-Atlantic States had just recovered from a record 80 inches of snow—to find our speaker, Mike Plummer, had to abort his trip because of a storm in Upstate New York.

A distinguished service award was presented to George Welch (86-E) in recognition of his many years as our Chapter treasurer.

Articles were collected for our platoon in Afghanistan. 1st PLT, C Co, is at Camp Alamo outside of Kabul at a military training center. They are paired with an Afghan National Army basic training battalion. Abbie Kealy (Desc, 86-L) sends a care package to them every month.

On June 12 the Chapter held our annual Flag Day picnic at Arnold Holywell’s (86-I, R) home in beautiful rural Warrenton, VA. Five veterans attending were Ernest Hunsberger (85-H), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Carl Lindh (88-H), Arnold Holywell (86-I, R), and George Welch (86-E) and Mary Nencioni (85-I, W) came with their families.

We were happy to see Arnold’s daughter, Ann, back in Virginia with her miniature horses. We enjoyed our traditional steak cooked by Gene Hudyma. Other members brought lots of other salads and desserts to share. We presented our host with a fine bottle of wine from the Thousand Islands Winery.

LOWER MICHIGAN

Roy Puckett (87-G)

All the men—13 veterans and six descendants—and their families met in Frankenmuth, MI, at the Michigan’s Own Military and Space Museum, off Main St. This museum, founded and run by Stan Bozich, has many medals and the uniforms on which they were displayed. One of our own soldiers has his story told (as well as displaying his uniform) — the late Bill Seaman, 126th ENG, whose family was also in attendance.

In addition to family members and friends, the son of Chapter president Bob Lafean (Desc, 86-K) of the Michigan National Guard, was also present, having just returned from his second tour of Iraq.

Gord Dibler was guest speaker. His stepson, the late Brain Fouty of the 10th Mtn Div (LI), was captured in Afghanistan in 2007; his remains were recovered in 2008. Harry Coleman (86-B) spoke about the care packages he has sent to deployed 10th Mountain soldiers and urged others to do likewise. Condolences were given to Art Schwartz (86-H), on the recent death of his wife Dolores.

Close to 50 people then attended lunch in the Swiss Room of the Bavarian Inn. Bill Seaman’s niece Donna Cole brought pictures her uncle had taken of past Lower Michigan chapter events and shared them with everyone. Museum head Stan Bozich gave a brief update on the happenings in the museum. Finally, a 10th Mountain carrot cake was enjoyed by everyone and the word went out, “See you at Fort Drum!”
MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE RECOGNIZES MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

The following remarks were delivered at a dedication ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, Barnwell, South Carolina, on April 10, 2010. Guest speaker at the event remembering Medal of Honor recipient SFC Jared C. Monti was COL (USA, Ret.) Wolf D. Kutter, former Commander of Task Force Mountain Warrior: 1st Brigade, 10th Mtn Div (LI).

"SFC Jared C. Monti is more than an inspirational beacon, he is indeed a lighthouse – not only for our youth and citizens, but also for the standout, historic achievements of the 10th Mountain Division “CLIMB TO GLORY” soldiers — and those yet to come.

The 10th Mountain Division, born in the crucible of World War II, trained exclusively in the mountains and became a strategic force in Italy when it unhinged in heavy fighting the German mountain defensive lines in Northern Italy.

"It was the dramatic close combat roles in the Italian mountains by the Non-Commissioned Officers, at the squad and platoon level, which spelled success in those breakthroughs.

“Today, the 10th Mountain combat teams, trained to operate in the harshest mountain conditions and terrible weather, have served around the globe, most notably in Somalia, Haiti, Balkans, Iraq and in Afghanistan.

“10th Mountain soldiers are a special breed whose tenacity, physical fitness, focus on mission accomplishment, and live fire acumen – day and night and under adverse conditions - is legendary within the XVIII Airborne Corps and the Army.

"Much is demanded of the mountain soldier, as some 200,000 serving and former members of the 10th Mountain Division can attest to – but none more so than the demands on its Non-Commissioned Officers. Sergeant Monti met those demands — and inspired those around him.

“SFC Jared C. Monti’s persona, relentless focus on fire-support training, exceptional caring, and superb leadership skills marked him as a premier professional — a well honed fire support Non-Commissioned Officer —and an esteemed figure amongst the mountain soldiers that he led on June 21, 2006, from the HQs Troop of the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

“Courage, exceptional courage, selfless acts of heroism, and uncommon valor marked Sergeant Monti’s final hour on top of a 9,000 foot mountain with a superior 60-man Taliban force pouring plunging fire and attempting to overrun his 16 man patrol’s position.

“His actions of directing the defense, organizing the perimeter, calling for DANGER CLOSE fires, holding off a flanking attack that closed within 50 meters of his position and attempting three

(Continued on Page 11)
Ainsworth, SSGT Jesse W. (1st Sqdn, 71st Cav Rgt, 1st BCT), 24, July 10, 2010, Walakan, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife Sarah, 2 daughters, mother & a sister. He enlisted in 2005, had served two tours in Iraq, was a team leader when insurgents attacked his unit; he was killed by an IED. Ainsworth enjoyed hunting & fishing near his home near Dayton, TX. He had wanted to make the Army a career.

Anderson, SPC Brian “Bucky” Michael (1st BN, 87th INF, 10th Mtn Div LI), 24, June 12, 2010, Za Khel, Afghanistan from wounds sustained in an IED attack. He is survived by his mother, father, brother, sister, a grandmother & 3 sisters and several nieces and nephews. A native of Broadway, VA, he was a 4-year starter on the wrestling team, 3-year starter on the football team, and an All-American wrestler. He joined the Army in 2008 and was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) at Ft Drum.

Archard, Merrill (Mel) Hamilton (86–L), 88, February 19, 2010, Gainesville, FL. He is survived by his wife Bette Lindsey, 3 daughters, a son, 17 grand- and 6 great-grandchildren. He served in a number of positions as professor of education on the faculty of State University of NY (SUNY) New Paltz. In 1950 he started children’s Camp Laurel, and later operated by his daughter and granddaughter and 6 great-grandchildren. He was known as a livestock handler and later operated as a rancher in Wyoming and Montana. The theaters during WWII, then spent his life preparing for deployment of Division headquarters later this year. He was one of 18 allied soldiers killed by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (IED). Like LTC Thomas Belkofer, who was killed in the same incident, Bartz and his wife had met while in ROTC in college.

Belkofer, LTC Thomas P. (HQ, 10th Mtn Div LI), 44, May 18, 2010, Kabul, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife Margaret “Margo” (Maness), 2 daughters, his parents, 2 brothers who have also served in the military. A native of Ohio, he served in the National Guard, then ROTC, finally for 18 years in the Army, stationed in Italy, Ft. Meade, MD, The Pentagon, and one tour in Afghanistan. He was one of five U.S. officers, a Canadian colonel and 12 Afghan civilians killed when an IED blew up near their convoy.

Belus, Cyril “Cy” B. (87-M), 89, April 5, 2010, Sheridan, WY. He is survived by his wife Barbara (Obert). He was a native of Ohio, served in both the European and Pacific Theaters during WWII, then spent his life as a rancher in Wyoming and Montana. He was known as a livestock handler and specialist in the quarter horse, and a member of Holy Name Roman Catholic Church.

Bunzey, Robert “Bob” Sinclair Sr. (86-D), 79, May 26, 2010, Denver, CO. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth (Osborne) and a daughter. He was economics professor at Lafayette College, and retired as vice president of Collins & Aikman Corp. He enjoyed winter and summer sports, gardening, Big Band music, his church and his family.

Burr, Robert O. (86-A), 84, May 3, 2010, Lancaster, WI. He is survived by his wife Goldie Ann (Brandemuehl), 3 sons, a grand- and 3 step-grandsons and others. He worked for several years in the Orange Crush pop factory owned by his parents and later for John Deere Dubuque Works. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Masons, VFW and American Legion Post 109. He and his wife enjoyed singing, gardening, camping and traveling.

Cabacey, SSGT Christopher F. (1st Sqdn, 71st Cav Rgt, 1st BCT), 30, July 5, 2010, Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife Tami, son Aidan and a brother. A native of Virginia Beach, VA, he joined the Army in 2000, and had served one tour in Iraq. He and PFC Edwin C. Wood were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near their vehicle.

Curry, Orr J. Sr. (126-HQ), 85, April 8, 2010, Mountain, CO. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 5 grand- and 3 great-grandchildren, and predeceased by his wife Patricia (Medlar). He operated Curry Chevrolet and owned Torrington Honda. He was a golfer, enjoyed mowing and plowing, and attended many Association reunions.

Damiani, Arthur E. (87-E), 84, July 11, 2010, Farmington Hills, MI. He is survived by 3 sons, a daughter, 6 grandchildren, a brother, sister and many nieces & nephews, and predeceased by his wife Virginia Ann (Cullen) and 3 siblings. He retired from a 35-year career with the IRS, but continued to work until this past spring. He enjoyed traveling, cooking, golf and gardening.

Davis, Leslie B. (86-HQ), 90, May 5, 2010, Ft. Myers, FL. He is survived by a son, nephew, niece, great-nephews and - niece. He was a lifelong printer, developing numerous calendars for businesses and producing materials for leading music firms in the Chicago area. He was involved in Association activities, could build anything and helped others with many projects.

Dikeis, SPC Alan N. (630 Engr Co, 7th Engr Bn, 20th Engr Bde, 10th Mtn Div LI), 21, March 5, 2010, Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is survived by his 3-year-old daughter, his father, and 5 brothers, one of whom was injured in Afghanistan last year. He was serving as wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 630 Clearance Co when an improvised explosive device (IED) struck his vehicle while he was retrieving a vehicle already hit. A native of Niagara Falls, NY, he joined the Army in 2007. He deployed for the first time in July, 2009.

Edgerton, SGT Donald R. (1st Sqdn, 71st Cav Rgt, 1st BCT), 33, July 10, 2010, Charadar, Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife, daughter and parents Patsy & Don of Murphy, NC. He joined the Army in 2007, had served in Iraq, and was a senior sniper when he was stepped on a land mine during an attack. He is remembered by his family as a funny, loving man who never met a stranger.

Egan, Robert Knox (85-D, C), 84, August 18, 2008, Wichita Falls, TX. He is survived by 2 daughters and a son, a sister & 8 grandchildren, and predeceased by his wife Evelyn (Wilson) and one son. An attorney, he worked with U.S. Rubber and Wilson Manufacturing, and later raised black angus cattle on his ranch. He was a member of the National Oil/Equipment Society, Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and on the board of First Wichita National Bank.

Elkind, Stuart (86-K), 84, June 30, 2010, Sarasota, FL. He is survived by his wife Barbara, a son and 2 grandchildren.

Embree, Harry Val (87-Vet), 87, June 10, 2010, Madison Co, MO. He is survived by his wife Ellen (Young), 4 sons, 7 daughters, 13 grand-, 21 great- and 2 great-great grandchildren. He retired as supervisor from Ford Motor Company. He was a member of Christian Church in Missouri, and was a life member of the VFW and UPHA.

Feltmeyer, Russell V. (10-AT-B), 85, June 18, 2010, Gaines Township, MI. He is survived by his wife Sybil, 2 daughters, 4 sons & several grandchildren. He was a member of the 10th Mtn Div Assn, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Grider, Randall M. (85-MED), 90, January 18, 2010, Tompkinsville, KY. He is survived by his wife, Jennie Mae, one son, one daughter, 5 grand- & 6 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild. He spent six years teaching vocational agriculture, 29 years as assistant transportation director of the Monroe County School District. He later farmed and raised Shorthorn cattle, and served as deacon and elder at Tompkinsville Church of Christ.

Hoelscher, Lewis A. (86-B), 86, July 3, 2009, Bell County, TX. He is survived by his wife LaVerne (Girndt), 5 sons, brothers & sisters, 12 grand- and a great-grandchild. He retired from banking as a vice president after 38 years. He was a member of St. Luke Roman Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and played piano in several bands over many years.

Jameson, Alton T. (85-C), 84, April 3, 2010, Durango, TX. He is survived by his wife Ruth Jameson, 2 sons, a daughter, 6 grand- and 11 great-grandchildren and a sister. For 33 years he installed PBX systems, internal business phone systems with outside lines, for Mountain Bell Telephone Co. When he was 76, he received his high school diploma in a special ceremony at the school, 59 years after he left Bayfield HS to enlist. He enjoyed skiing, snowmobiling

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and snowshoeing, as well as farming, riding horses and four-wheeling. He was a member of the Colorado Mounted Rangers for more than 30 years, and of the Durango Seventh-day Adventist Church.

King, Burl (87-HQ), 92, October 5, 2007, Harrison, AR. He is survived by a daughter, 9 grand-, 15 great- & 6 great-grandchildren, and was predeceased by his wife Versal (Yocham), a son & daughter. He was Marion Co. judge, and worked for the US Postal Service. He was a Mason, Shriner, and member of the American Legion and Church of Christ.

Klockman, Raymond Charles (87-G), 93, January 19, 2010, Ada, MN.

Muehleip, Delbert W. (604-C), 88, April 16, 2010, Galena, IL. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son, 5 grandchildren and siblings, and was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Ann (Fowler). He owned and operated Muehleip’s Home Furnishing, served as Galena State bank director, and was active in City Council, Chamber of Commerce, VFW, Elks, Ducks Unlimited and a member of Friends in Christ. He enjoyed trap shooting, hunting, fishing and trapping.

Quijada, Manuel M. (604-FA), 85, January 21, 2010, Yuma, AZ. He is survived by his wife Catalina (Ybarra), 2 daughters, 4 sons, his sister, 20 grand-, 26- & one great- great-grandchild. He contributed to Yuma’s agricultural economy as a self-employed hay loader, and enjoyed sharing his interest in working with old cars and machinery with his children and grandchildren.

Renner, Robert (126-A), 89, April 30, 2010, Vancouver, WA. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 grand- and 4 great-grandchildren, a niece, nephew and several grand-nieces & nephews; he was predeceased by his wife Ruth (Matheson) and a son. He was a career log scaler and log and timber buyer, retiring from RSG Forest Products. He traveled extensively, was an expert woodsman, a member of the VFW, and participated frequently in Association events.

Rieckhoff, SPC Robert M. (2nd Bn, 15th Fld Arty Regt, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn Div LI), 26, March 18, 2010, Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his two children, mother, stepfather, father, 2 sisters, grandparents and many other relatives. A native of Kenosha, WI, he joined the Army in 2007. He served as a cannon crewmember and was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenade fire. He was a member of VFW Posts 1865 & 7448, and had served 2 tours in Iraq, one in Kuwait, and just reenlisted for 5 years.

Sullivan, J. Robert (86-I), 86, June 10, 2010, Cincinnati, OH. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis (McKenna), 17 nieces and nephews, 11 great nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, Oh Nell. He had a career in the auto sales business, and the couple enjoyed attending 10th Mtn Div Assn events around the country.

Watson, R. Duke III, 94, April 22, 2010, Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife Marilyn (Black), 3 sons & 2 grandsons. Combat in Italy ended when he was severely wounded, but only after leading his battalion to the summit of Mt. Della Torraca. After nearly six years of service he retired as a major and re-entered the timber industry. He was known as a pioneer climber and skier, helping found the Crystal Mountain ski area, and was a conservationist, widely-traveled adventurer, and family man.

Wiedorn, Albert A. (85-F), Holmes Beach, FL. He is survived by his wife Clarice.

Wood, PFC Edwin “Eddie” C. (1st Sqdn, 71st Cav Rgt, 1st BCT), 18, July 5, 2010, Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is survived by his parents Janis Boehmer & Tom Wood, of Omaha, NE, a brother and a sister. He enlisted in 2009, arrived at Ft. Drum April, 2010, to join the 10th Mtn Div, and had just returned from home leave when an IED was detonated near the truck he was driving, one day later. One other soldier was killed and 3 injured. He was involved in Junior ROTC, Boy Scouts, drama club, and soldier reenactments with his father, and worked at a YMCA camp in summers.

Wright, Herbert M. (85-C), 96, October 15, 2009, Grand Junction, CO. He is survived by 2 sons and a daughter, and predeceased by his wife Maxine. The two met when Wright went to Pocatello, ID, to offer sympathies to the widow of Sgt Arthur Scott, who saved his life in Italy in 1945; they married in 1947. He was owner of a number of enterprises and served on Grand Junction City Council and as mayor. He often sang in his church, and enjoyed the out-of-doors.

Fellow soldiers move the caisson of SPC Brian “Bucky” Anderson, 1st BCT, killed in Afghanistan June 12, 2010.

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Helicopters of the 10th Mtn Div Aviation Brigade prepared for the terrain they will find in Afghanistan in the Fall. Whiteface Mountain at Lake Placid, NY, is a short flight from Ft. Drum and provides a scene familiar to WWII vets and now familiar to today's Mountain soldiers as well. Photographer PFC Michael Syner caught this breathtaking sight of a UH-60 Blackhawk approaching the peak. The Aviation Brigade has since been preparing further in Colorado Springs, CO –more country known to WWII vets. Story on Page 5.

National Reunion coverage in this edition is a sampler – more to come in the Fall!

The Mountaineer statue at Fort Drum was the focus of a moving Memorial Ceremony at the recent National Reunion.

Few words are needed to explain a homecoming, except to say that physician's assistant Capt. Karen Fish, 3d Brigade Special Troops Bn, is surrounded by her family in a familiar scene at Magrath Gymnasium, Ft. Drum, Dec.10, 2009, as the unit began returning from Afghanistan.

--Photo by PFC Melissa Stewart.