**10TH CONCLUDES A DECADE IN AFGHANISTAN**

Watertown Daily Times  
FORT DRUM — After more than a decade in Afghanistan — a period Army Secretary John M. McHugh called a “generational journey” — it was time for the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division to reflect.

At a ceremony at the Magrath Gymnasium on post, Mr. McHugh, a North Country native, said efforts of soldiers through Operation Enduring Freedom have made America and the world a safer place and opened opportunities for Afghanistan’s future.

“Because of men and women like each and every one of you, men and women of the 10th Mountain Division, the people of Afghanistan have a precious gift,” Mr. McHugh said. “It’s the gift of a chance. A chance for freedom. A chance to stand on their own. A chance for a better tomorrow. There’s no way any soldier can provide a greater gift than that.”

A series of state and national dignitaries celebrated the division during the ceremony as it marked the return of its headquarters company and sustainment brigade after about 10 months in the country, along with the shift from 13 years of Operation Enduring Freedom into mission Resolute Support, which started Jan. 1.

Gains of the last decade have come with a heavy price, and with mixed emotions for MG Stephen J. Townsend, division commander. Between operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 10th has lost about 300 soldiers since Sept. 11, 2001, most recently SGT. MAJ. Wardell B. Turner, who died on Nov. 24 in a car bomb attack in Kabul (see Taps).

“Blood. Too much of that,” he said. “Sweat, tears, too many of those. Extraordinarily hard work. A complete investment by our Army and this division. Still not done yet, frustration because we’re not done yet. There’s a tenacious enemy that wants to thwart what we’ve set out to do. There’s Afghan people that just want

(Continued on Page 4)

**DIVISION RECOGNIZED WITH LONG-OVERDUE STREAMER**

Watertown Daily Times  
FORT DRUM — The efforts of Army and 10th Mtn Div soldiers in Somalia were fully recognized for the first time during a homecoming ceremony in January.

A new streamer was affixed to the flag of the division and will later be distributed to units throughout the Army.

“It recognizes the soldiers did a very, very tough mission, and we know suffered significant losses,” said Army Secretary John M. McHugh.

Mr. McHugh said he first learned the conflict wasn’t recognized on the Army flag when he was approached at a West Point event by a veteran asking about the omission. “I said ‘I didn’t know it wasn’t,’” he said.

Researching the issue, he attributed it to unidentified international political issues at the time.

“It gave me a chance to correct an overlooked issue.”

The Somalia campaign streamer will be the 188th to be affixed to the Army flag.

“No streamers are pretty amazing, because they read like a book,” Mr. McHugh said. “They take us from 1775 until the very present day.”

Soldiers from the division served in the country from 1992 to 1994 during Operations Restore Hope and Continue Hope.

(Continued on Page 4)

**SOLDIERS WHO SKIED THE ROCKIES**

Parker E. Smith (Desc 85-HQ-1, MTG)  
A daring trek skiing across the highest stretch of the Colorado Rockies started off 71 years ago. Thirty-three members of the legendary 10th Mountain Division based at Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado ventured out in February, 1944. The hard rock mining community of Leadville, established in 1877, sits at 10,500 foot elevation. In spectacular view are the highest peaks along the Continental Divide in the Sawatch Range, including Mt. Massive and Mt. Elbert over 14,400 feet.

The soldiers selected for this unprecedented high country crossover were all expert skiers who were in training at Cooper Hill ski area constructed near Camp Hale. They came from the 10th Recon. Group, the Mountain Training Group, and the 10th Medics.

Led by filmmaker Captain John Jay, the party included no fewer than five mountaineers who remain among the greatest climbers and outdoorsmen the

(Continued on Page 5)

**POLISH SOLDIER NAMES SON FOR TENTH SOLDIER WHO SAVED HIS LIFE**

Gordon Block, Watertown Daily Times, Jan. 29, 2015  
A Polish soldier, whose life was saved in Afghanistan by the sacrifice of a Fort Drum soldier, has named his son for his battlefield protector.

LT Karol Cierpica named his newborn son Michael, after SSGT Michael H. Ollis.

“I kinda felt like it was a new grandson we had,” said Linda Ollis, SGT Ollis’s mother, in a phone call from the family’s Staten Island home. “It’s amazing to know he’ll be remembered.”

The two soldiers’ lives became intertwined during a massive attack at

(Continued on Page 5)


**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The National Board of Directors shall be composed of the following: Chairman of the Board, National President, National Senior Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, all Chapter Presidents, the Blizzarded Editor, the Executive Director, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc., and two voting members at large who may be appointed at the option of the President. The number of directors may be increased or decreased in the manner set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation. (Article IV, Section 2, National Bylaws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.)

The National Executive Committee shall consist of the President (Committee Chairman), Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Blizzarded Editor, the Executive Director and two members at large, if needed, to be appointed by the President. The Executive Director shall assist the President in the administration of this committee. (Article VII, Section 1, National Bylaws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.)

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**ORIGINIAL 10TH SOLDIERS DEVELOPED ESSENTIAL WINTER GEAR**

Douglas W. Schmidt (10th Mtn Div [LI] Vet.)

In January I co-hosted a Q&A session following the Snowtown USA Film Festival’s screening of Warren Miller Entertainment’s film Climb to Glory: Legacy of the 10th Mountain Ski Troopies. The film focused on the impact the veterans of the 10th Mountain Division had on the ski industry in the United States following World War II.

Personally, my favorite part of the film showed the professional skiers, who proved their mastery of the slopes by doing any number of flips and twists in their modern equipment, absolutely floundered on the slopes when they donned the very same equipment the 10th used in World War II. Perspective was provided by footage of 10th Mountain soldiers gliding gracefully down the mountain in the equipment. It is with this backdrop that for this edition I thought I would focus on the equipment that the World War II soldiers used.

Detailed information regarding this topic is found in Field Manual (FM) 31-99: Uniform and Equipment Guide Tenth Mountain Division (Light Infantry) - Alpine, February 17, 1945. As you may notice, this manual was published the day before the 10th attacked Riva Ridge and so the lessons learned by the Division during training are taken into account.

The manual itself is not as in-depth as one might be used to, but it is stated that it is meant to provide “basic” information. Additionally, the fact that the War Department saw fit to produce a manual such as this, specifically for the 10th and stating that “…most of the equipment had to be designed for this application. As a result, much of the mountain equipment may look unusual to the members of other Regular Army units” shows just how special the 10th was during World War II.

Examples of this specialty clothing that 10th soldiers wore were:

- The M-1942 Mountain Jacket; a windproof, water repellant field jacket with a folding hood and four front pockets with flaps and a storage pouch in the back.
- The Ski-Mountain Trousers; designed to be worn over wool undergarments, they had cargo and slash pockets.
- The Ski-Mountain Boot, one of the most specialized pieces of clothing; made to be used for both skiing and rock climbing.
- Finally, the snow camouflage parka, trousers, and pack cover; these items were all white to help soldiers blend into their snowy surroundings.
- Some of the specialty equipment consisted of:
  - The 2-man Mountain Tent that was waterproof with a floor and could have either the olive drab or white exterior.
  - The M-1942 Mountain Stove and Cookset; the stove folded up and the cookset nestled together to conserve space.
  - The M-1942 Mountain Pack, with its lightweight frame that was designed to allow for better movement of the arms and shoulders.
- Finally, the skis; these seven to seven and a half foot Hickory planks with steel edges, for better turning, and bindings that locked the foot into the ski for downhill applications or released the heel for cross-country skiing.

Note: Doug looks forward to receiving any questions regarding the history of the 10th Mountain Division and can be reached at doug.w.schmidt@gmail.com.

Winter gear developed by 10th Mountain Division soldiers preparing for overseas deployment in WWII. Unfortunately much of it was accidentally left behind when they departed for Italy. Despite that, they scaled the Apennines successfully. –Photo from collection of Patrick Kiser
RESOURCE CENTER SUPPORT CARRIES ON IN DENVER

Keli Schmid, Archivist, 10th Mtn Div Resource Center

Greetings! I have had the pleasure to meet some of you in person, but I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those I have not yet met. I am Keli Schmid, the new archivist for the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. I have stepped into this position following Dennis Hagen's retirement in December (see article, this Edition). Dennis has left me some pretty big shoes to fill, but I promise to do my best to continue his tradition of extraordinary attention to detail and passionate customer service.

Prior to working in a library, I was a web designer. I created websites for individuals, design shops and non-profit agencies for about 15 years. Somewhere in there I realized my longing to work in a library (this longing goes back to when I was about 10 years old and used to play “library” at home with my books) was not going to subside, and I went back to school to obtain my Master’s degree in Library and Information Science.

While I was in school I developed my love of preserving the past and focused on archival studies. One of my favorite classes was a research methods class for which we could choose any topic to focus on. Having grown up in Colorado and having the Denver Public Library as a nearby resource, I chose to research the 10th Mountain Division.

I looked through pictures, read papers and letters, and listened to recorded oral histories. Every piece of history and every story I encountered pulled me in just a little bit deeper and I was hooked; fascinated by their training experiences, their war efforts, and by what 10th Mountain Division Veterans have done since the war to make Colorado and the ski industry what they are. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

While I was in school I also did volunteer work with the Colorado Railroad Museum Library, the Boulder Public Library archives, Arapahoe County Libraries, and most importantly, the Denver Public Library archives. I got to know the amazing people who work here, and got to see from the sidelines the wonderful work that Dennis was involved in.

As I look out the window to snowy Denver roads today, I am sorry I was not able to make it up to Leadville this weekend (to the annual Ski-In) to make more acquaintances, shake more hands, and exchange more smiles. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason; I would love to hear from you. You may reach me at 720-865-1812 or kschmid@denverlibrary.org.

I am honored to be a part of the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, and have only high hopes and higher expectations for what we can accomplish in the future.

Felicity Hallanan
Blizzard Editor, Associate

Even before I reached for the yellow highlighter, I knew Chris O’Shaughnessy’s book was going to be a feature for the next “Blizzard.” I haven’t marked-up books since college days (and it didn’t really help me to remember things then), but this time it was because what he was saying had struck a chord—indeed, several.

“Arrivals, Departures and the Adventures In-Between” first introduces readers to a few acronyms. Now I generally find annoying this practice of complex titles chosen so they can be reduced to equally-complex buzz words (the military’s a prime offender). But in this case they hit home because they describe me. It seems this Army Brat is a TCK, or Third Culture Kid. That’s as opposed to a CCK, or Cross Cultural Kid. You have to read the book to really “get” the subtle differences. But the point is that after all these years, someone is defining and discussing what it means to be a child growing up moving around the world, as so many have done, and its effect on our lives then and now.

The book is rife with examples, many of them taken from Chris’ own life, of situations in which a younger person, especially, finds themselves wondering just who they are and where they’re from. Whether parents are in the military, or work for widespread companies or otherwise in professions that call for mobility, their families are always part of the consideration when it comes time to move again. And of course, as the author points out, every member of a family is affected differently; a kid in the 3d grade doesn’t have the same perspective on leaving home and starting anew, as do her parents who have so much to think about to make it happen, and their own new beginnings.

When it comes to traveling and living in other countries (or even, in the U.S., other states), there are some allusions in the book to customs, languages and other aspects of different cultures. For example, as a left-hander I have always wondered how I’d fare when visiting a country where using the left hand is considered a sign of extreme disrespect when, for those of us who are born that way, it’s just natural to do so. But one does always try to be aware of, to respect and to observe differences in order not to be considered the stereotypical “ugly American,” but instead a conscientious traveler or resident “ex-pat.”

More often, though, O’Shaughnessy uses vignettes that share some moments of discomfort he and others have experienced, often unintentionally, as they tried to make their way through various stages of growing up in a number of places around the world. At the same time, there are several examples of the benefits of being a TCK, for instance that it can teach self-reliance, and a state of being comfortable in many places and situations.

And now for the best part. Not only does Chris give the reader something to think about, but he’s also making a career of traveling the world to places where young people—and adults—can benefit from hearing more of what he has to offer. For several years he’s been working out of Belgium, reporting back to his job in that country, from far-flung places ranging from Albuquerque to Afghanistan. His sessions and how to learn more about them are described on his website, www.chris-o.com, where you can read about and book a presentation. You can find “Arrivals, Departures and the Adventures In-Between” at www.amazon.com for --depending on where you are-- 11.99 Pounds, 14.99 Euros or 18.99 Dollars. For me, it was a thoughtful Christmas gift, and a reaffirmation to, as the author inscribed my copy, “Enjoy the continuing adventures of being a TCK.”
LIVING HISTORY DISPLAY GROUP BRINGS STORY ALIVE

David Little

Reenactors? Living History? Who are these guys?

You may have seen them at a reunion, or at another public event. It's a group of men and women, dressed up in old uniforms or some kind of 'costume,' playing soldier. Who are they and why are they here? What is this all about?

These questions and others have been asked since this group appeared more than 30 years ago. The group may have seen calling themselves "10th Mountain" actually does have ties to the Association, Foundation and Descendants organizations, and is much more than a bunch of big kids playing army.

The Tenth Mountain Division Living History Display Group has been around for more than 30 years, and is a volunteer group of both amateur and professional historians who have made an intensive study of the individual histories of the soldiers. Started in 1983 by a descendant, these folks have created an ever-changing exhibit of daily life at Camp Hale, Camp Swift or in Italy.

In addition, they serve on Memorial Day to organize and conduct the ceremonies at Tennessee Pass, help with Foundation activities, had maintained the web sites for both the Association and Descendants for several years, and have volunteered at the Resource Center in Denver, CO. They also have been providing museum exhibits on loan across the country, including at National Archives and through various Army posts.

How does it work? Each "soldier" or participant is encouraged to select an area that interests them, and research it to tell one piece of the story. Various members currently have researched and can exhibit almost any military role found in the WWII 10th. Each of these involves study of the original uniforms and equipment (artifacts) as well as reading the manuals and learning how the soldiers actually used these tools.

They have interviewed the veterans and have been shown first-hand by the soldiers who used them how things were done – sometimes information that was never written into the manuals. It's this understanding of "how things work" that makes a group like this valuable.

Reenactors vs Living History?

"Living History" is far more than reenacting a battle. There is no glorification of war or of the pain that came with the battles, but an effort to learn, understand and preserve what actually happened 75 years ago. It involves learning how to do a task or action the way it was done originally, and then actually doing it. Be it skiing on old hickory skis or learning how to shoot and clean a M-1 Garand rifle, the process of using and living with the equipment can be a learning and teaching process that gives insights into what life was like 75 years ago.

Then, when a family member or researcher wants to learn about what the training was like, or what actually fits into a rucksack, it can be shown and seen and touched to make the learning process come to life. These insights can be big or small, but when added together, we all gain a greater appreciation for what these soldiers did.

In addition, members of this group have spent more than 30 years collecting the remnants of grandfather's service. They have helped to build the artifact collection at History Colorado and Denver Public Library (jointly known as the Tenth Mountain Resource Center), as well as building one of the largest traveling exhibits on the 10th available. When the individual collections are shown together, everything from the camp cooks to the radioman can be represented. Each person in uniform has a small story to tell – all part of the bigger story that is "10th Mountain".

Next time you see one of these folks in the old uniforms, you might consider finding out a little more about what they can offer. Or you might consider getting involved yourself – there is no better way to understand what your family member did than to actually walk in their footsteps for a day!

If you'd like to learn more about Living History the 10th Mountain way, visit www.TenthMountain.org or drop an email to TenthA86@q.com. There are chapters in the Rocky Mountain area and in the Midwest, with hopes to have a chapter in New York soon.

HISTORIAN HAGEN HONORED AT RETIREMENT

Thomas E Hames (Desc 85-K)

Longtime 10th Mtn Div Resource Center archivist Dennis Hagen retired after almost a decade of work for the 10th community. A retirement party Nov. 6, 2014, at the Denver Athletic Club honored his longtime service. Dennis officially worked for Denver Public Library, but more than half of his time was dedicated to 10th-related activities. Dennis fearlessly organized collections, masterfully managed volunteers and made 10th Mtn Div history accessible. The collection of 10th related historical photographs, documents, letters, orders and other written materials is better organized due to Dennis' efforts. Dennis' legacy will be to find someone that can field the large number of public inquiries made to the resource center.

Dennis also attended several 10th Mtn Div Assn reunions. He was clearly moved that about half those in attendance at the party – supposed for 4 DPL employees who were retiring – were there for Dennis.

Association members attending included WWII 10th Mtn Div veterans Hugh and Ann Evans (85-C, A) & Dick and Marge Over (87-F); Descendants Tom Hames, Gary Burton (Desc 87-L), Denise Taylor (126-D), Kate Raabe (Desc 86-MED), Dan Whitemore (Desc 86-H), Dave Christy (Desc 86-F, 10 RECON) and Flint Whitlock (Associate).

DIVISION RECOGNIZED ...

(Continued from Page 1)

peaking with about 10,000 soldiers supporting the humanitarian mission. The soldiers’ work stretched from providing food to securing roads and cities. During their time there, Division soldiers created a 160-foot Bailey bridge near Kismayo, described as the largest such bridge built outside America since Vietnam at the time.

The highlight of the Division's service there were the rescue efforts of 2nd Bn, 14th Inf Regt during the Battle of Mogadishu on Oct. 3, 1993. The unit's soldiers were among those who went in to rescue personnel from two downed Black Hawk helicopters.

Overall, 18 soldiers were killed and another 80 were wounded, making it one of the deadliest for American forces between the Vietnam War and 9/11.

Among that tally were two Division soldiers: SGT Cornell Houston and PFC James H. Martin Jr.

The Division's service there has been memorialized on post with annual events like a run recounting the Mogadishu Mile, the on-foot escape soldiers made from the crash area to a rallying point while facing heavy enemy fire.

The battle was given additional prominence in the book “Black Hawk Down,” which later became a Hollywood blockbuster.

A third 10th soldier, SGT Ferdinan C. Richardson, died about a week before the battle.

Like the 10th, and follow it on Facebook
Baby Michael with Teddy Bear made from SGT Michael Ollis' fatigues.

BABY NAMED FOR SOLDIER ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Since that day, SGT Ollis's father, Robert, said his family has built a bond with the Cierpica family and visited them last summer. The two families exchange notes a couple of times a month.

“We wish it was under better circumstances,” Mr. Ollis said. “We’re very happy knowing them, and we’re happy to have met them.”

He added that the Cierpica family may be coming to America later this year, and hoped they would get a chance to meet the newborn Michael.

The Ollis family said they are working on other tributes to their son, including a sculpture they plan to place at his high school.

DECADE IN AFGHANISTAN ...

(Continued from Page 1)

peace and security. There’s a lot of hard work left to be done.”

The division was one of the first to deploy to Afghanistan in 2001 to support Operation Enduring Freedom, and the headquarters’ last deployment to Afghanistan was its fifth. Over the last 13 years, two division soldiers have been awarded the Medal of Honor, SFC Jared C. Monti and CAPT William D. Swenson.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo was on hand to honor the troops and he praised their work and the loyalty shown during 13 years of difficult fighting. “The work you’ve done in Afghanistan makes us all proud,” he said.

Despite the close of Operation Enduring Freedom, the division’s soldiers may still have a part to play in Afghanistan’s future. Gen. Townsend also said he anticipated the division’s soldiers would likely figure into some kind of future plans. The 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) are currently in training cycles that would have them ready for missions in the spring.

Other dignitaries at the ceremony included Rep.-elect Elise M. Stefanik and Gen. Mark A. Milley, former division commander and now head of U.S. Army Forces Comd, Ft Bragg, NC.

As the post marked the end of its part in Operation Enduring Freedom, a similar ceremony was held in Kabul.

Beginning Jan. 1, the coalition is maintaining a force of 13,000 troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of about 140,000 in 2011. As of Dec. 1, there were some 13,500 NATO troops in the country.

SKIED THE ROCKIES ...

(Continued from Page 1)

nation has ever produced, according to author Charles J. Sanders: Paul Petzoldt (who made the first winter ascent of the Grand Teton, and had already established the U.S. elevation record for climbing without oxygen on K-2 in the Himalayas); Ernest “Tap” Tapley (who along with Petzoldt would become one of America’s most prominent survival educators of the twentieth century); Glen Dawson (who made the first ascent of Mount Whitney’s treacherous East Face); Fred Beckey (who would be credited with more than one thousand first ascents in North America and set the world elevation record for skiing in 1955 at twenty-two thousand feet on the Khumbu Glacier in Nepal); and Bill Hackett (who accomplished the first ascent of the West Buttress of Mount McKinley, and would become the first person to climb the highest peaks on five continents).

It also included a young hulk of a guy from upstate New York who was the most energetic and enthusiastic trooper, named Burdell “Bud” Winter. Only nineteen, he enjoyed breaking trail as leader of the pack. Sadly he was one of those who later died in combat in Italy.

This crossover, or traverse, was one of the most demanding ever undertaken in the history of mountaineering in North America: four days and three nights in deep powder carrying up to 90 pound packs over Colorado’s highest passes, some 50 miles from Leadville to Aspen. It put to the test the gear, tactics and clothing to be used later in mountain warfare in Italy.

The grueling trek, eventually dubbed the “Trooper Traverse” by mountaineer historian Lou Dawson, began outside Leadville in over a foot of fresh powder. Although in excellent condition, the weight of their packs, the depth of the snow and steepness of the terrain meant an exhausting first day for all the men. A slight loss of balance could mean a plunge into a bottomless pit of snow under the rucksack’s dead weight. Assistance was needed to get back up.

Because of the snow conditions the lead was rotated every 10-15 minutes so everyone had a duty at breaking trail. When the top of the ridge was finally attained, it provided a view of the first day’s bivouac three miles below. Meals that day included spam and cheese sandwiches for lunch and dehydrated Army rations for dinner.

Some men chose to bunk in an abandoned cabin that first night while others slept in bottomless tents or tanchors in the snow lined with pine boughs. Each had a double down Army issue sleeping bag to resist the temperatures plummeting to zero or below.

The second day they left the Half Moon Trail and crossed over the Champion on-Deer Mountain Pass. A total of three high passes were crossed on the third day including the Williams Mountains and the Continental Divide between Mt Massive and Mt Elbert. Those two peaks are the highest in Colorado. Most of that day was spent above timberline with breathtaking scenery in view for 360 degrees. That afternoon they descended a four mile slope where it was possible to schuss a half mile.

The morning of the fourth day the ski troopers faced a massive snow field that rose steeply from their camp to the top of the last ridge challenging the route to Aspen. This generated a vigorous debate between CAPT Jay and SGT Petzoldt. Jay projected a crisscross traverse across the face of the snow field which Petzoldt believed was about to avalanche. The sergeant was allowed to lead any wishing to follow him on a longer route around the area. Six men quickly joined the end run.

Those staying in Jay’s group held their breath all the way, listening intently for any hint of a snow slide. The last three hundred yards to the summit seemed straight up so everyone had to remove their skis to finish the climb. Everyone made it safely.

All that remained was the long descent into Aspen, an eleven mile glide down Hunter Creek, across Thimble Rock Ridge and into the center of town. They had successfully overcome all the obstacles the heart of the Rockies could throw at them in the dead of winter. Once in Aspen the men were greeted by the mayor. To celebrate, two thirds of the group chose to climb up to the top of the Rock Run and race the noted “Corkscrew” back down.

By Nov., 1944, soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division received notice they were being sent to war. In December they arrived in Hampton Roads, VA, to be shipped overseas to their secret destination, Italy. All their long months of training, waiting and maneuvers would finally be put to the test.

Because of their love of the mountains and the sport of skiing, many of the 10th Mountain veterans returned from the war to enter the ski industry developing ski resorts, serving as instructors and manufacturing equipment. Many of their descendants now share the thrill of schussing the powdery slopes.

Glen Dawson (the author’s father-in-law) is currently the oldest surviving member of the famed Trooper Traverse. Now over a century old and residing in Pasadena, California, he says the first 100 years of life are the easiest. Several of his own children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren are enjoying the ski runs of Colorado, including some who learned to ski at Cooper Hill. The legacy of the 10th Mountain Troopers lives on.
**NORTH COUNTRY OBSERVES REACTIVATION OF DIVISION 30 YEARS AGO**

_Award Recognizes Vet’s Service_

**Thomas E Hames (Desc 85-K)**

The Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum 2014 Hall of Fame Gala on October 17, 2014, honored more than the annual inductees. Dick Over (87-F), a 10th Mtn Div veteran, received a lifetime achievement award as part of the celebration.

Dick was honored for his lifetime of service to others, including the Tenth Mtn Div Foundation, Inc., the Tenth Mtn Div Foundation has grants available for special projects meeting 10th Mtn Div-related criteria?

**New York Post Editorial Marks Division Return Home**

_Post Editorial Board, Dec. 10, 2014_

After 13 long years of combat, the men and women of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division are back home in New York.

The Mountaineers were the first US Army division deployed to Afghanistan after 9/11. Their return home marks the official end of the US combat mission there.

The roughly 16,000 men and women in the division served with distinction. Sadly, not all lived to make the return trip home.

Just before Thanksgiving, SGT Maj Wardell B. Turner died when an improvised explosive device blew up under his vehicle. He is but the latest of 300 Mountaineers who gave their lives in this war.

Two other Mountaineers were recognized with the nation’s highest award for valor.

In a 2006 firefight near the Pakistani border, SFC Jared Monti fought off an enemy three times the size of his patrol and walked into open fire to try to rescue a wounded comrade. The effort that cost him his life earned him the Medal of Honor.

Three years later, CAPT William Svenson became the first living Army officer since Vietnam to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions after his unit was ambushed. Ignoring enemy radio demands for surrender, he exposed himself to enemy fire several times to rescue both US and Afghan troops.

The famous mountain division dates back to World War II, when it was activated to help liberate Italy.

It succeeded at that but paid a huge price. No doubt Andrew Cuomo had this history in mind at Fort Drum this week when he said of the division’s men and women: “These brave soldiers answered the call and put the needs and safety of others before their own.”

Welcome home, troops.

Did you know that the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation has grants available for special projects meeting 10th Mountain-related criteria?

Find out all about it online at www.10thmdf.org/project.htm. As part of the downloadable grant application you’ll find there, you can review the Proposal Evaluation and Award rubric the Foundation uses to analyze special project grant applications.

But don’t wait: grant applications are due May 1. Questions? Email abbiekealy@me.com.
A SPECTATOR RATHER THAN A PARTICIPANT

Hugh W. Evans (85-A, C)

In the third 2014 “Blizzard” the writer gave you all the details about the upcoming 40th Annual Tenth Ski-in. It started Feb. 18 and finished on the 25th.

Lots of things were planned for this Ski-In. We honored George Loudis (86-H), naming the noon Serpentine Ski-Down after him. George left us for greener pastures the day after Christmas. Then at the age of 95, Earl Clark (87-HQ-1) left us the day after the wonderful Dave and Jane Christie (Desc 85-F) Christmas luncheon. Earl was the last of 13 Rocky Mountain Chapter members who died in 2014. After a stroke about a year ago Earl lost his ability to speak. He was very happy to see everyone at the Christie party; there were over a 100 there. This year after 11 years we finally convinced Dave to let us pay for his very special lunch. Changing life styles have made it harder for Dave and Jane to keep their beautiful Event Center going.

Then we had the 10th Special Forces and members of their Association join us at the Ski-In. The military guys invited the Leadville and Vail Mayors and the County Sheriff to this lunch. Terry Ploot (Desc 99th Norwegian Bn), brought about twice as many Leadville SOS (Students On Skis) as we had last year on Cooper Hill Day.

We worked with Carl Peterson to present a plaque to Franci Peterson for her 30 years as Director of Snow Sports for Ski Cooper and for her lifetime dedication to Cooper Hill. During our training at Camp Hale, 10th soldiers taught her how to ski. She is very deserving of this special recognition. At the Cooper Hill Day lunch we gave recognition to the fact that on 20 Feb, 1944, 70 years ago, the 87th and 85th took Mt Belvedere, while the 86th fought off German counterattacks on Riva Ridge. At the service at the Tennessee Pass Monument, five Descendants read 10 names each of those Tenth men killed in action, while a Descendant of the 99th read names of 10 of that unit KIA. Lastly, names of the 10th vets that died last year were called out.

All then gathered at the Silver Dollar Saloon, finishing with dinner at Quincy’s. You may be wondering about the title of this article. Well, on Jan. 25 the writer crashed on the La Belle Dame run at Eldora. It was icy with flat grey light and he may have been traveling too fast. It was his fourth run for the day and he skied out, but now the Doc has him wearing a boot on his left leg for a fracture of his fibula and a taped hand for his bruised left index finger, so he has done his skiing for this season. His worst problem was one James Nassar (85-C), who may have wanted to kill him for being so dumb and not skiing with him this year.

At the February 5-7 Telluride Film Festival, George and Beth Gage showed “Climb to Glory.” Dick Over (10-SIG), Hugh Evans, Bob Thompson (86-B) and Joe Perry (10-MED-A,D) hoped to make it. We also tried to fit in a visit with Bob Parker (87-E, HQ), who is living in Grand Junction.

Thanks to the Tenth Descendants and the Re-enactment group, the Tenth had an exhibit at the big retail, commercial Denver Snow Show beginning on Jan. 30 and running for about a week.

Dick Over continues to give talks on the Tenth all over the state. His talks are very popular. Dennis Hagan has retired from being archivist at the Denver Public Library for the Tenth Resource Center and on Jan. 20, 2015, Keli Schmid officially took his place. A big retirement party was thrown for Dennis in December. He will be missed!

The first Rocky Mountain Chapter Tenth Trash Bash will be on Saturday, May 2.

At a winter lunch, there were 16 of us including four WWII Vets. We elected Kimberly Babel (10th Mtn Div [LI]), to the job of president. She was not present, therefore not able to decline. Gary Burton contacted her later and thank Heavens she agreed to do it and even said she has some new ideas for what we might do. We will end this long epistle on that happy note.

Off the Beatin’ Path Gifts
10502 So. Riva Ridge Loop Ft. Drum NY 13602
315.774.0253 otbpgiftshop@gmail.com

We are a non-profit gift shop. Proceeds directly benefit the wounded warriors of Fort Drum and yearly scholarships to family members of the Association. We have many unique items, from maple syrup made from our trees here on post to 10th Mtn memorabilia, NY items; we also customize many items for unit-specific gifts. Wide variety of welcome, farewell, and coffee gifts are also available. Shipping is available anywhere in the US for a minimal fee.

Store Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 - 2, closed holidays and Division DONSAs.

U.S., Norwegian & military flags flew at opening of Ski-In.

Roadrunner Chapter representative at this year’s Ski-In in Colorado, president Rebecca Joyce (Desc 604 FAB), left, with Ron Mariner (Friend) at Tennessee Pass Ceremony.


**FORT DRUM AREA RALLIES TO PRESERVE DIVISION’S HOME**

**Daniel Flately**  
*Watertown Daily Times*

WATERTOWN—The public outpouring of support for Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division during a March 20 listening session at Jefferson Community College was so great that even the post’s commander—a man who told himself he would remain impartial—was affected.

“After sitting here listening to all of you for three hours, you’ve made me so proud, I can’t be impartial, I just can’t,” said Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, “So Maj. Gen. Steve Townsend, but also citizen Steve Townsend, believes that Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum is not only good for the north country and New York, as you all have said so well, but it is good for our Army and America.

Gen. Townsend’s comments brought the second standing ovation of the evening. The first came when Mary M. Corriveau, chairwoman of the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, revealed that a petition to protest cuts at the post had received more than 22,000 signatures.

The Army is looking to cut up to 16,000 personnel at Fort Drum, the largest single-site employer in New York, and in a worst-case scenario, such a large cut would result in more than $1 billion in economic losses, thousands more indirect job cuts and the loss of about a third of Jefferson County’s population. The cuts come as a result of sequestration.


First to speak was Lt. Gov. Hochul, who said the state has made a strong commitment to Fort Drum.

“We have stepped up as a community, we have stepped up as a state and met every single challenge that’s been presented to us to make sure that this relationship works out so well,” she said. “Making sure there’s plenty of housing in the community to support the people off base 48 percent of the families and military live in our own communities, 40 percent of the kids in our local school districts are from Fort Drum. We are one community, ladies and gentlemen, and I’m not going to let anything happen to that.”

During her comments at the beginning of the listening session, Ms. Stefanik, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said the post was uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of a dynamic security environment.

“I urge you to listen to the calls of thousands of north country citizens who are asking you to protect Fort Drum,” said Ms. Stefanik, who secured the support of the entire New York state congressional delegation in a letter sent Wednesday to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. “There is no better place in the nation to train our great soldiers to Climb to Glory.”

The support from the politicians was met with cheers, but some of the most affecting testimony came from the people in the audience, who drove home a theme that the north country and the post are one family, one community, with comment after comment.

“We are family, sirs, you don’t mess with us,” said Dianne D. Chase, a local radio personality.

Audience members told stories of the care they received at local hospitals, former service members spoke of the safe and secure feeling they had when they deployed and left their families behind in the community and a woman told a story about how a soldier literally saved her life nearly 14 years ago when she was involved in a car accident outside a fast-food restaurant where he was eating with his friends.

At least three audience members spoke of the diversity that the post brings to the area and Rev. Jeffrey E. Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, said the area should serve as a model to other communities around the country.

“I believe that we can be a model for this nation,” the Rev. Smith said. “We are different cultures, we can live together in peace and harmony, we all can get along, one nation under God, consider that also.”

In addition to the close-knit communities and personal stories shared by members of the audience, the post has a significant economic impact on the area, as several businessmen and women noted.

Direct spending from the post, primarily soldiers’ paychecks, accounts for about $1.3 billion locally, with local advocates saying the post also contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in additional indirect economic activity.

John P. McLaurin III, the Army’s deputy director for force management and top Pentagon official at the hearing, said he was impressed by the show of support for the post.

“It was overwhelming, the show of support.” Mr. McLaurin said. “Our soldiers live by a set of values—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Well, what I heard and saw tonight was a reflection of those values from the community. For me, that was very special. It just emphasized the fact that Fort Drum and the soldiers and families there and all the communities surrounding the installation are really one family.”

Throughout the evening, between the jam-packed rally in the JCC gymnasium and the passionate comments during the listening session in the JCC auditorium, it was clear that many residents of the north country view the fates of their communities and of Fort Drum as being intertwined. The ultimate decisions affecting both, which will be made by politicians and government officials in Washington, D.C., remain unknown.

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**END OF WAR MISSION NOT END OF DEPLOYMENTS FOR TENTH**

No sooner had soldiers of 10th Mtn Div Headquarters and others returned from Afghanistan, than another major unit received its marching orders.

Elements from the 2nd Bde Combat Team, are spending this spring and summer deploying to southern Afghanistan in support of Resolute Support Mission. According to the Ft Drum Public Affairs Office, roughly 1,660 soldiers are to serve as advisors to the Afghan National Security Forces, protecting US Forces on bases or work on the Train Advise Assist Command — South staff.

“We are going to focus on helping the Afghan National Security Forces refine their plan so their capabilities outlast our presence,” according to brigade commander COL David S. Doyle. “Our team, including both our soldiers and families, is the right organization to take on this mission.”

The brigade’s last deployment ended in Oct., 2013. This will be the brigade’s fourth deployment to Afghanistan, after most recently finishing a month-long training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA.
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITALY TRIP

Steve Coffey, President, 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc.

Dear 10th Mountain Family and Friends,

On behalf of 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc., I would like to personally invite you to attend the 2015, Forever Italy–70th Anniversary trip sponsored and organized by Descendants, together with the National Assn of the 10th Mtn Div.

Many of you have attended one or more return trips, and we encourage you to do so again on this important anniversary. For the many who have not, I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to travel the combat route of the WWII 10th Mtn Div and walk in the footsteps of those soldiers from some 70 years ago. In many locations very little has changed since that time - foxhole indentations are still very visible, homes that sheltered the soldiers remain, and with a good eye you might even be lucky enough to find a WWII era artifact.

Take in the view atop Mt Belvedere looking back towards Riva Ridge and you will instantly understand the significance of Feb. 18-20, the Belvedere Offensive, to the Allied advance. You will visit the hill towns of Lizzano in Belvedere, Vidiciatico, Gaggio Montano, Querciola, Castel d’Aiano, Iola, and others. The tour will follow the path of the 10th out of the Apennines and into the Po Valley, then on to beautiful Riva del Garda on Lake Garda where we conclude the main tour with (Continued on Descendants Page 3)

DESCENDANT SHARES HISTORY WITH NEXT GENERATION

Larry Fields (Desc 85-HQ)

Dr. Larry Fields was a special guest to speak to the combined 5th grade classes at the Christian Academy of Knoxville, TN, recently.

The students had been studying about WWII in their Social Studies curriculum. Joining him was Irene Norman, who served as a Navy WAVE during the war. Fields shared the story of the 10th Mtn Div fighting in Northern Italy in 1945. He explained that he celebrated his first birthday in Texas near Camp Swift before his father, CAPT (Chaplain) Marion H. Fields (85-HQ), was deployed to Italy with the Division. He shared how the division was specifically trained as mountain fighters and how it broke the Gothic Line set up by the Germans by taking Riva Ridge with a surprise, nighttime assault and was able to take other mountains and hills, chasing the enemy all the way to the Po Valley and Lake Garda, when the war in Europe ended.

The students asked several questions concerning the 10th Mtn Div and the role of the chaplain in support of the troops.

Fields passed around a large picture of his father in his Chaplain’s jeep giving a ride to several Italian civilians during the war. His father conducted four Easter Sunday services in 1945 near the front during the heat of the battle through the mountains.

The students were amazed that nearly 1,000 men were killed in action in this one Division by the time that the war in Europe ended. They also heard of how many surviving members returned home with physical injuries and others, including his father, experienced emotional and mental struggles from the horrors of war.

Fields reminded the students that we have been blessed through the years because men and women have served in the military and have been willing to fight to protect the freedoms and blessings we have in the United States. Dr. Fields’ grandson, Jake Fields, was one of the 5th grade students in attendance; he is a fourth generation descendant. Mrs. Debbie Taylor, Social Studies teacher, noted that visits like this one make history come alive for her students.

WATERTOWN — Two Carthage Central High School students attended President Barack Obama’s State of the Union Address in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Elise M. Stefanik invited twin sisters Mary E. and Frances K. (Katie) McCurry to the address as her guests. The sisters are seniors at Carthage and both McCurry to the address as her guests. The sisters are seniors at Carthage and both plan to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

In October, the McCurrys helped organize a candidates’ forum at the high school. They were recognized as National Merit scholars for their high scores on the PSAT that same month.

“I am beyond excited that Mary and Katie attended this year’s State of the Union address with me at the U.S. Capitol,” Ms. Stefanik said. “I had the privilege of meeting these two young ladies in the fall and was immediately impressed by their dedication and love for their country.”

Mary and Frances are identical twins who were born at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown when their parents were stationed at Ft Drum in the mid-1990s. They have lived abroad and in several different states in the U.S., and attended four high schools.

They returned to the North Country this year when their father, COL Michael C. McCurry, was named commander of the 10th Combat Avn Bde.
Page 2

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. Officers, Board of Directors

(* denotes Executive Committee)

President (11)  Steve Coffey  (Desc, 87-F)

Steve Coffey  #1630 York Mills Lane Reston, VA 20194
703.471.4000 (H); 703.902.4005 (W)
s@email.com
Father: Donald B. Coffey (86-L, A)

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. Committees

10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. continues to grow and to fulfill our mission to preserve the legacy of the 10th Mtn Div and to give support to the veterans, wives and widows of the Division. As you read this issue please give some thought to how you might become more involved in your Association, either by attending chapter and national events, or volunteering. Some of the current highlights of Descendants, Inc. include:

**Membership:** Membership retention as well as first-time memberships have continued to come in at a strong pace with over 800 at last count (early March), well-ahead of last year. Increasing membership across all chapters remains our highest priority during the coming years as we try to attract the 2d and 3d generation descendants. I continue to ask for everyone's help to build our numbers by signing up a family member or two so we can reach the 1,000-member goal we’ve set for 2015. Please contact your respective Chapter Directors if you would like to help out (phone calls, mailings). We should also all thank Don Perkins and Wil Niebles for their hard work processing these memberships so quickly and efficiently.

**Scholarship:** As we reported earlier, the Descendant Scholarship was renamed the Finn-Thorton Scholarship to honor Pat Thornton and her father, CAPT Frederick Finn, in recognition of Pat’s life-long role in education, and dedication to the 10th Mountain. To date, we have received generous donations from the Big Sky, Southeast, and Delaware River Valley Chapters, along with several individuals. Taken together with our Association’s annual budgeted amounts for 2014 and 2015, the fund totals over $12,000 at this point. Those interested in making a donation in Pat’s memory can do so by sending their check to Don Perkins, our Treasurer, noting that is for the Finn-Thorton Scholarship. In addition, please encourage students to visit the Descendant web page for information and an application. After all, the goal is to support 10th Mountain Descendants in their academic pursuits.

**Quartermaster:** We continue to look for someone to take over the QM function. Since National decided to retire that function completely, we can no longer rely on their infrastructure to support our QM. If anyone is interested in the Descendant QM position please contact either me or Denise Taylor. If we do not fill the position soon we’ll be forced to either outsource it or simply abandon being able to offer descendant items for sale. A limited number of 10th Mtn items are available through the “Off the Beatin’ Path” gift shop at Ft Drum, and can be viewed via a link on the National Assn website.

**Finance:** Descendants, Inc. continues to remain financially sound. Treasurer Don Perkins reported that the association has a Total Net Assets better than twice our annual operating budget for coming year. In addition, the dedicated Finn-Thorton Scholarship fund totals over $12,000, as noted. The Association will continue to provide financial support when possible to projects that further our goal of preserving and spreading the word about the Division’s history.

**Italy 2015:** Plans for the 2015 Return to Italy trip have been finalized and distributed. As of the first week of March, Interrlux estimates we will have 75-90 travelers. We also anticipate being joined along the way by a strong contingent of 10th (LJ), serving soldiers already stationed in Europe.

**Social Media:** In an effort to expand our use of social media applications, we’ve set up a Descendant Association Instagram page. For all you Instagram users, it can be followed at “10thmtndivisiondescendants”. We hope that this will provide another avenue for sharing pictures among members, and wave the 10th Mountain flag. If you have pictures you’d like to have posted (past trips to Italy, reunions, “throwbacks,” for example), please forward them to adriancoffey@10thmtndivdesc.org.

**How You Can Help:** Attend Chapter and National meetings: At the most basic level, we can all simply attend chapter or national meetings and other gatherings --Skis-Ins, Memorial Day at Camp Hale, National Reunion, Italy trips-- to support those members who give their time and effort to organize these events.

**Volunteer:** Volunteer to organize activities or suggest ideas to your chapter Directors or the Association Board. We also continue to look for expertise in some key areas such as membership, education, and social networking, to name a few. Please visit the Descendants web page (http://10thmountaindivisiondescendants.org) for additional information on the 2015 trip, other activities and initiatives, and don’t hesitate to call on any of us with your ideas and suggestions.

One final thought … we all know that we are losing our WWII generation at an increasing pace since the last “Blizzard.” We receive another notice weekly, it seems. When your Chapter hosts an event, please attend if at all possible. It’s the best way I know of to show our respect for them and all they’ve done.
The Armadillo Chapter planned to hold a meeting at the 10th Mountain Annual Ski-In this February, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the only person attending was Jeannie Geuras (Desc 710-Ord). Since I had planned to go and write about all of the Ski-In activities, I developed another theme for this Blizzard edition.

I am planning on making the trip to Italy –Forever Italy-70th Anniversary-- this June. I reflect on my first 10th Mtn Div trip in 1969. There were 12 or 13 buses of Veterans, Wives, and Descendants.

Many of the Descendants ranged in age from approximately 5 to 20 years old. Needless to say, the teenage “children” banded together. They were allowed to travel in packs on their own, doing fun things like eating together and swimming in the hotel pools under the watchful eye of the older children like Kate Raabe (Desc Max Raabe 86-MED-HQ), Linda Kay Comer (Desc Charles Elam 86-D) and Chris Johns (Desc James Johns 85-A, D).

I remember meeting Italian teenagers whose parents helped the WWII soldiers in the Hill towns of Vidiciatico and Castle d’Aiano. Everyone in the mountain towns was so friendly and still thankful after almost 25 years.

When I returned on the Italy trip in 2012, the welcoming and appreciative spirit of the Italians still exists after 67 years. I imagine this 70th anniversary trip will have the same outcome. These trips resulted in life-long friendships with other Descendants and my participation in 10th Mtn Div Descendants leadership roles, as a way of carrying forth the memory of my father who served, and who passed away in 1965. I am happy that some of you have signed up for the trip and hope that if you cannot make this year’s trip, you can make the next one in 2018.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Kim Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC)**

Several Washington, D.C. Descendant Chapter members made their way to Vermont to participate in the Second Eastern Winter Gathering at Sugarbush Resort.

Sally Oesterling (Desc 87-HQ-3, K) and her son, David Crane, Mark and Jeff Gerner (Desc 10th-CAV-RECON), Patrick Kaiser (Desc 87-F) and Kim and Gene Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC) made the trip. It was cold, but much more manageable than last year.

In the spirit of the weekend, Patrick brought some of his 10th memorabilia and displayed it at the Timbers Restaurant. He also dressed in period Army attire and hit the slopes. We all enjoyed the camaraderie and chance to make new acquaintances. The event was a smashing success. Thanks, Mac, for the lovely weekend.

### ITALY TRIP ...

(Continued from Descendants Page 1)

Did you know?

- Harris Dusenbery was a co-winner in 2012 of the Community Foundation’s first-ever Lifetime of Giving Award, honoring years of philanthropic generosity by Dusenbery and his wife, Evelyn, who died in 2008.
- Charles Minot Dole, president of the National Ski Patrol, lobbied Army officials in 1940 to train troops in mountain and winter warfare. His effort led to the creation of what became the 10th Mtn Div.
- When Harris Dusenbery fought for the cause of freedom during WWII, he wanted to remain as free as possible. So he volunteered for the ski troops. “The lowest-ranking person in the 10th Mountain Division had more freedom and less regimentation” than any other soldier, the 100-year-old Vancouver veteran said. “I figured I was going to be drafted within a year, and I heard (the 10th) was going to stop taking volunteers.”

To ensure he got his preferred slot, Dusenbery enlisted. He certainly had other options. Born in 1914, Dusenbery graduated from Reed College in 1936 with a degree in political science. He went to work as a Social Security official in 1940 in Portland, where Harris and wife Evelyn started their family. Their son David was already on the way when the US entered the war.

“They were famously called ‘pre-Pearl Harbor babies,’” Dusenbery said. (Fathers with children born before Sept. 15, 1942, were deferred from the draft pool, until the policy was changed on Oct. 1, 1943.)

“At Fort Lewis, a sergeant who decided assignments said, ‘With your education, I can do great things for you in the Army,’” said Dusenbery, who got his first skis as an 8-year-old in Montana. When Dusenbery told the sergeant he wanted to be a rifleman on skis, “He was a little surprised.”

The 10th Mtn Div entered combat 70 years ago, in Jan., 1945. It took some of the toughest terrain in Italy, fighting its way up the North Apennine Mountains. When Dusenbery told the sergeant he wanted to be a rifleman on skis, “He was a little surprised.”

While its soldiers didn’t do much skiing in Italy, their grueling high-mountain training in the Rockies during the previous winter definitely paid off.

In four months of combat, the 10th suffered the highest casualty rate — 1,216 casualties a month — of any American unit in Italy, according to a Division history. Of its 19,780 men, 25 percent became casualties: 20 percent (3,871) were wounded and 5 percent (975) were killed. The 10th destroyed five elite German divisions.

The symbol on Dusenbery’s belt buckle, two crossed bayonets on a powder keg, is a nod to his outfit. The “X” they form is the Roman numeral for 10, his division’s designation.

During the Feb., 1945, capture of that German-held strongpoint, 700 mountainers made a 1,500-foot night ascent up five climbing routes. Two of the routes required fixed ropes that were set up ahead of the assault. Within three days, engineers had an aerial tramway running to evacuate wounded soldiers from Riva Ridge and bring supplies up to the summit.

There were other high-country elements: The Division had a cavalry reconnaissance troop that started the campaign on horseback, and mules packed supplies up treacherous trails.

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After the Allies broke through the German lines, the 10th Mountain Division continued its drive to the Po Valley near the Austrian border. It captured more than 200,000 German prisoners, destroyed enemy equipment and supplies, and helped free the Italian countryside.

Yet another symbol: A ski pole with a wreath, which represents the family of soldiers who served and died. The wreath is made up of the last names of those who died.

(Continued on Descendants Page 4)
Dear 10th Mountain Division Veterans and Descendants:

My children and I wish to thank you for the thoughtful article and stories about Pat in the recent edition of the “Blizzard.” There are many people who work tirelessly for the same objectives as Pat had and Pat would be the first to say any leadership successes she accomplished were only possible by the efforts of those folks.

We are amazed by the spot-on description of Pat in your stories and the issues in life that impacted her and her approach to dealing with people and love of the 10th veterans and descendants. I met Pat over 50 years ago (married for nearly 47 years) and she was kind toward others and worked tirelessly her whole life. About 1987 I realized what a great and deeply felt loss it was to Pat to not have known or be held by her father, as he was in Italy when Pat was born on February 18, 1945 (Riva Ridge climb) and he was killed on April 20, 1945.

Fortunately about that time (1987) there were a number of other descendants and veterans who wanted to be active in continuing the legacy of the WWII veterans and Pat was able to join with them in helping establish the Descendant organization. This has been a significant benefit to those WWII veterans in many ways and to the descendants also. Most of these descendants are involved all these years later, a testament to the value of the Descendant organization and to the camaraderie it continues to generate. As Denise Taylor says, we are all family.

We believe Pat would say that the Descendant organization is a most noble and valuable organization which can accomplish much good going forward and deserves the strongest consideration by those who seek an outlet for efforts to benefit and remember 10th WWII veterans and in the future for those who would remember and benefit the men and women veterans who serve in the 10th now.

Ben Franklin was asked in the late 1700’s if we had a monarchy or a republic and he responded that we had a republican “…if we could keep it”. Pat would say we have a strong organization and one of the challenges is to keep it. I know the Descendants organization is in strong hands now and that it will succeed in its many roles as long as committed and hard-working people accept the challenge to make a difference in the lives of those who fought for our freedoms, as Pat did.

All the best, Frank Thornton, Christine Thornton Corrigan and husband Michael, Michael Thornton and wife, Susan and children Abby, Maggie and Connor 112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

100-YEAR-OLD VETERAN STILL ON THE MOVE ...

(Continued from Descendants Page 3)
WELCOME

January’s meeting of the Northwest Chapter was well-attended by 30 people, and everyone enjoyed good conversation and got themselves well fed.

Alice Wagstaff has been drafted to send out information by regular mail to anyone that requests it. A toast was raised to our good friend Dick Powers (see Taps). We shared stories and had a moment of silence for him and those that have gone before.

Harris Dusenbery (86-HQ-1) is enjoying another 15 minutes of fame. Read about him in the Columbian News article (included in this Edition).

Sara and Devin Wickenhagen (10th Mtn Div LI) were with us, with Devin telling of his helicopter adventures that had him flying over the original Camp Hale location in Colorado.

Trux Dole shared information about the 10th Mtn Div Foundation and great things that they store with scholarships and support of other programs.

Maria Baker reported our Chapter raised nearly $100 so far for the Ronald McDonald house. We will pass the hat at our next meeting, so this is a reminder to bring a small donation if you are able.

Ben Vett (10-RECON, 85-G) and Gerry Dunlap (85-F) were both with us. Gerry was Chapter President for 5 years. Ben shared memorabilia of how the entire Chapter helped-out behind the scenes at the McCall Idaho reunion some 20-odd years ago.

Meantime here in the Northwest, Chapter members have enjoyed a fairly mild winter. It has also been one that has been a little short on snow in the local ski areas. Many that were first skiing when skis were made from simple wood boards, have not even waxed their skies this year.

Not that many years ago I had the honor of skiing with the likes of members Jim Bray (86-K), Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), Lee Squier (Associate) and my father David Wagstaff. The poetry and gracefulness in motion that I witnessed from these fine skiers is not often seen on the slopes anymore. Tales of banner days climbing and skiing are still heard at our monthly meetings held at Portland’s Eastmoreland Golf Coursetarquet room on the last Sunday of every month. The group that gathers at these meetings is made up of original 10th members, 10th (LI), Associates and Descendants. If you are in the area, please join us!

The memorial Grove of Trees along Oregon’s Hwy 26 is our ongoing project of tree planting and maintenance set forth by and dedicated to our 10th Members and their spouses. The Climb to Glory flag flies high on a flag posted there. The trees are maintained by regular pruning, watering and litter pick-ups. We have also long given our support to charities such as the Ronald McDonald House where families can find a place to stay while their children receive medical treatment.

As I have often said, there are no “normal” people. Every person has something that sets them aside from everyone else in some significant way. Growing up around Oregon in the 10th Mtn Div Assn, I have found this most true. Dick Powers (87-B, C, D) is one person that has set the bar very high. He died this January and those who have been blessed to have known him, have known a very special kind of man.

Dick Powers was with the 10th from the very beginning, taking part in the Aleutian Islands campaign, the Apennine Mountains and Po Valley. He returned to active service during the Korean War where he served as commander of the Military Police in Seoul and as security officer at the armistice negotiations at Panmunjom. Afterwards he was an instructor at the U.S. Army Cold Weather and Mountain School.

He later started his own photo business where he created movies, videos and still photography for such organizations as Mt Hood Meadows Ski Resort, the Portland Rose Festival and Portland State University’s athletic department. At the local Indy Car races I would see him carrying a heavy load of camera gear. Always the gentleman, he would stop to chat and then hustle off to catch a helicopter where he would take pictures of the track from above.

So we raise a toast to Dick Powers and those who have gone before us. We warmly welcome anyone who would gather with us to continue in their place, the tradition of camaraderie and service that the NW Chaper has been known for.

ARIZONA

Carol J. Maywood (Friend)

Members of the Arizona Chapter met on Oct. 21, 2014, in Scottsdale, with president Randy Payant (Desc 87-K) presiding. All visited and enjoyed lunch together in the dining room prior to the meeting, including Al Field (85-I), Carol Maywood, Robert Goyer (86-H & HQ), Amy Goyer (Desc), Gil Krolls (10th INF), Sigurds M. Krolls (guest), Kelly McGinnin (guest), Nancy Payant Middlemas (Desc), and William Payant (87-K).

The meeting was called to order with the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence and reflection in memory of fallen comrades, as well as family members and those currently serving.

It was noted that Mac Ruske (87-G) passed away in Denver, CO (see Taps this edition); Al provided a brief memory of Mac and his beloved hometown of Grand Lake, CO; Erv Peters (87-L) died on Feb 26, 2014 (see Taps); Gil read a note from Erv’s daughter addressed to fellow veterans. Bill Payant shared that Don Erikson (87-K) passed away June 15, 2014 (see Taps).

On the other hand, the Descendants organization is very active and communicates to our Chapter often. They are arranging a 70th anniversary Forever Italy tour for June, 2015. Information has been mailed to members, or can be accessed by contacting InterTrav at 800.624.8338, Registration deadline is March 16.

A Veterans History Project (VHP) update was given. At our last meeting, in May, guest speakers Jerry Jones & Dave Englehardt presented an overview of the Project, initiated by an act of Congress in 2000. The purpose is to collect the stories of US veterans to share with their families and with future generations. Volunteers perform interviews that are recorded to DVD, provided to the veteran and family at no charge, and archived at the Library of Congress as well as posted on the VHP website.

Interviews can be performed at the veteran’s home or at Tempo Office in the History Museum (and also as needed at VA Hospital, Hospice, etc.). It takes about 2 weeks to provide the vet’s copy and 6 months for permanent installation on the website. A typical interview lasts about an hour, but may take as much as ½ day. Members who signed up during the last meeting to be interviewed have not been contacted by the group as yet. The experience should be well worth the effort once you make your appointment. All vets are also invited to join them every 2nd Thursday of each month to meet and share experiences at the Tempe History Museum.

Amy Goyer gave a summary of her recent trip to Italy to retrace Tenth Mtn Div events in which her father Robert was a participant. She used battle maps and video of her father’s story to reconstruct the portion of the campaign starting with the crossing of the Po River. She found that many of the local people were not only familiar with the feats of Tenth Mtn soldiers, but they had also erected memorials to the Division’s accomplishments. There is a current effort to reveal the bunkers that remain in the area. She captured many sites on video and photos which can be viewed on our Chapter’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AZ10thMtnDiv. Also note that the 70th anniversary Forever Italy trip is planned in June (see story, this Edition).

Nancy Middlemas and her father Bill Payant were invited to participate in an Honor Flight journey from Phoenix to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and return. Their party consisted of 27 veterans and 27 guardians. Color-coded T-shirts were distributed to identify veterans and other members of the group. Southwest Airlines provided festivities at airports and on-board flights. A preflight greeting of applause and salutes set the stage for recognition and appreciation shown to participants throughout the trip.

Upon arrival in Baltimore, jet way greeters included active military members who saluted and greeted each veteran individually. Sponsors provided special group meals; tours of memorials included WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iwo Jima, the Lincoln Memorial, a private tour of the Capitol, a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to witness the Changing of the Guard and a bus tour of Washington, D.C., Ft Meade and Ft McHenry where they were given the privilege of unrolling a full-size replica of the flag that inspired the “Star Spangled Banner.” A re-enactment video told the story of the writing of the Anthem.

Randy raised the possibility of digitizing Al Field’s archives Newsletters for greater circulation and longevity. There are high-speed scanners that can transfer to disc large volumes of material rapidly. Al declined the possibility. He presented highlights from his Newsletter #68. He mentioned that this edition may be his last, as they represent a major production effort for Maryann and himself. Items that recall exploits of the 10th Mtn Div include an account of the initial 11 p.m. attack up Mt Belvedere on Feb 18, 1945.

An excerpt from “The Memoirs of Field-Marshal Kesselring” are cited; “Battles Lost and Won” by Hanson W. Baldwin includes a discussion of the Battle of the Bulge, which included the 99th INF Bn, Norwegian that trained with the 10th Mtn Div at Camp Hale.

10TH COLD WAR VETERANS

The Association seeks to expand its membership to include veterans who served in the 10th Infantry Division during the Cold War (1948-58). This will enable them to meet with their Cold War comrades, with WWII veterans of the 10th Mtn. Div., and with members of the modern, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI). Please send articles, photographs and notices to the Editor for publication.
November luncheon of Washington, D.C. Chapter included, left seated, Sylvia Potash (Widow 10-HQ) & Sally Oesterling (Desc 87-HQ-3); front row Pam Pikla (Desc 10-AT-A), Krysten Pryor (Desc 85-E), Mike Coss (COL, ret., 10th Mtn Div (LI), Jack Barnes (87-C), Alan Lukens (86-HQ), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Kim Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC), Mary Burkey (Desc 85-C & Norm Burkey (Desc 85-C); back row, left, Pete Naylor (Desc 87-HQ-3), Mac Jackson (126-ENG & 229 ENG), Mark Gerner (Desc 10th CAV-RECON) & Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F).

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Kim Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC)*

The Washington, D.C. Chapter has been keeping quite busy. On June 14, 2014, we had our annual Flag Day picnic at the home of Kim & Gene Hudyma. WWII Veterans Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) and Ed Doyle (85-M) attended.

Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Pam Pikla (Desc 10-AT-A) and Mark Gerner (Desc 10th CAV-RECON). A Distinguished Service Award went to COL Michael Coss (Ret. 10th (LI)). We wanted to celebrate their hard work for the 2013, 10th Mountain National Reunion in Arlington, VA.

We presented the same awards to Sally Oesterling (Desc 87-HQ-3), Pete Naylor (Desc 87-HQ-3), Norm Burkey (Desc 85-C) and Kristyn Pryor (Desc 85-E) at our Nov. 8, 2014, Veterans’ Day luncheon at Clyde’s Restaurant in Vienna, VA.

Michael Coss presented “Soldier for Life.” Several attendees commented that Mike should write a book about his extensive Army career. We also got to meet Krysten’s new husband, Russell Ventimiglia.

WWII Veterans attending the luncheon were Jack Barnes (87-C), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) and Alan Lukens (86-HQ). In November, the Lancaster Ski Club invited Dale Alwine (86-HQ-1, A) to speak at their monthly meeting. Dale enthralled the group with stories of learning to ski in Colorado, mules and the D-Series, and received a well-deserved standing ovation. Karen Braker (Desc 86-HQ-1, A), Kim Hudyma and Mark Gerner also attended.

**DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY**

*Barbara Catterall (Desc 85-G)*

The Delaware River Valley Chapter is still reeling from the loss of Pat Thornton, our leader. We did enjoy a Veterans’ Day celebration at the Union League Club in Philadelphia at the invitation of Pat’s brother, Admiral (Ret.) Joseph Hare.

Two of our most faithful WWII 10th Mountain vets, Peter Binzen (86-H) and guest, and Ted Beckhardt (85-A) and guest were in attendance. Also present were several descendants: Frank Thornton, son-law of KIA Frederick Finn (85-L, A); Barbara Winter, sister-in-law of KIA Bud Winter (85-M, 10-RECON); Barbara Catterall, daughter of KIA Joseph Croke (85-G) and Al Condo, brother of KIA Richard Condo (85-G), and wife Ginny Condo.

We enjoyed a lovely luncheon in this beautiful historic building and heard a heart-warming speech honoring mothers of wounded warriors, who made tremendous sacrifices to help their sons, who were seriously wounded, return to functional lives.

Our spring picnic will be held on May 17, 2015, at the Pottstown farm of Barbara Winter. We always enjoy this opportunity to tour the lovely azalea gardens, renew friendships and have a memorial service to honor our deceased members. We will have an election at this time to fill the position of Chapter president, which is now vacant. We are also making an effort to recruit new and inactive members to this picnic.

**UPSTATE NEW YORK**

*Bill Morrison (86-L) and Jill Hamlin (Desc 86-A)*

Seventy years have come and gone since the monumental events of Feb. 18-19, 1945, which introduced the Tenth, our division, to the painful realities of combat.

Friends and comrades were successful in taking Riva Ridge and Mt Belvedere and beyond, but the price paid was high. For some, it was the end of life, their deaths a vivid memory that does not fade away. Living veterans and their descendants remember, or have heard, the events of those days, and each year in February, Chapters across the country gather for solemn moments to honor our fallen fellow soldiers.

The Upstate New York Chapter observed these days on Feb. 19 at the Century House north of Albany, arrangements being made by descendants Jill Hamlin (Desc 86-A) and Charlie Wheeler (Desc 87-I, HQ-3). Present also were Bill Millette (605-A), Beverly Folderman, Al Soria (87-L), Otis and Patty Levanway (85-G), Harold and Lorraine McAfee (85-L, 86-A), Nancy Looby, Bonnie O’Shea, David Morrison (Desc), and Bill Morrison.

The Ft Drum “Mountaineer” will publish an article about that special time in the history of the Tenth Mountain Division. They have also published a story highlighting the 30th anniversary of the reactivation of the 10th Mtn Div (LI) at Ft Drum. Some of you may remember that day, and other days including two national reunions in the Ft Drum-Watertown area. We certainly wish them continued success as they climb to new glories.

Phil Santisiero (87-K) sent us a news story about the proposed N.Y. museum and Hall of Fame, recommended for North Creek. The project, explained to our Chapter by Bob Nessle, has obtained a provisional charter by the Board of Regents; the actual reality is many years and significant money away, but hopes are optimistic.

On the agenda for this, and subsequent meetings of the year, the Chapter will undergo a major reorganization as our descendants and possible soldiers of the 10th (LI) will assume command.

A note of sadness closes this report. Art Thompson (86-F), long a champion “doer” of major projects for the Chapter and our Association, has passed away (see Taps, this Edition). He leaves behind the legacy of the Mountaineer Monument at Ft Drum, a successful national reunion in 1980 at Lake Placid, and some certain involvement in the establishment of the annual Whiteface Mountain Ceremony each summer, marking the creation of the Tenth in 1943 at Camp Hale, CO. Services will be on April 13, 2015, at Lake Placid. He will be missed by many.

The chapter had our Belvedere Luncheon on Feb. 19, 2015. A group of 15 attended, including five WWII Vets: Bill Morrison (President), Bill Millette, Al Soria, Harold McAfee and Otis Levanway. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for the 10th soldiers who have died.

We were very proud to report that our chapter was represented at the Eastern Winter Gathering in Vermont, Feb. 7-8 by the ONLY WWII Veteran in attendance, Al Soria! Al had a wonderful time visiting with the four (10th) soldiers and their families from Ft Drum who also attended.

We are continuing our efforts to expand the base of descendants and friends interested in joining our get-togethers.

**MOUNT RAINIER**

*Rick Butzberger, (Desc 85-L)*

The Mount Rainier Chapter held its annual holiday party at the Seattle Yacht Club on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Among those in attendance were WWII veterans John Woodward and Warren Elmer, Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command alumni Ed Gibson and Dick Strand, the Merry Widows, a quartet of Thompsons, several other family members and guests, long-time friend of the chapter Dan Fowler, and of course Santa.

After the customary social hour and typically delicious meal, Santa distributed gifts as we sang a few carols. We then moved on to the business portion of the agenda and discussed the future of the organization. After several years of service, a pair of our Board members, Dick Strand and Rick Butzberger, will no longer be volunteering in their roles as Treasurer and Vice President/Descendant Director respectively.

As nobody else has stepped forward to run for those positions in our annual election, it was decided that it is time for the Chapter to close its doors.

During the ensuing discussion attendees were advised that they are welcome to join another chapter. Many here on the west side of Washington may choose to go with Oregon’s Northwest Chapter, while those in the eastern part of the state may want to join with the Big Sky group, which currently represents Idaho and Montana. You may indicate your preferred affiliation on the annual renewal form from the National Assn.

There was a question about what would happen to our Chapter’s funds. We have approximately $1,700 in a checking account. Some suggested forwarding the money to the Northwest Chapter, while other ideas included donating to a charity such as Washington Trails Association. Failure to use the funds will result in them being returned to the National Association. How would you like to see the funds used? Forward your ideas to avalanche.editors@gmail.com or contact a Board member.
Congratulations go out to Martha Turek (New England Chapter Desc 87-M), who had the fastest time overall and won gold in the Women’s Division. Race results follow:

**Women’s Division**
- Gold: Martha Turek
- Silver: Sandy Carlson
- Bronze: Holly Sweet

Following the race, New England Chapter President Bob Linscott announced the $380 race registration proceeds would be donated to the SFC Jared C. Monti Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the New England Chapter would donate a matching sum to the Finn-Thornton Scholarship Fund.

Descendant Elisabeth von Trapp opened Saturday evening’s group dinner with a song and poignant comments about the service of her father, Werner von Trapp (85-B), in the 10th Mtn Div in Italy after immigrating from Austria prior to the Nazi invasion in 1939.

Following dinner, guest speaker Charles Sanders gave our group an intimate look into his 2005 book, “The Boys of Winter,” telling how WWII transformed the lives of ski champions and 10th soldiers SGT Rudolph W. “Rudy” Konieczny (87-F), SSGT Jacob R. “Jake” Nunnemacher (87-B) and CAPT Ralph R. Bromaghin (86-HQ-3).

The author concluded his remarks about the strange ways fate and sheer luck mysteriously intertwine during war, by telling the extraordinary story of CAPT Joe Duncan, Jr., Company Commander (87-K), and his radioman, PFC Albert Soria (87-L). They were trying to locate a heavily camouflaged German mortar site near the Italian village of Cas Costa on April 17, 1945. While visibly exposed on a rocky outcropping, Duncan was killed instantly when a mortar shell, presumably from the well-hidden site, landed directly at his feet. Albert, standing just a few feet from Duncan, was merely covered with dirt and walked away completely unscathed.

Albert E. Soria, our WWII distinguished guest for this weekend’s gathering, reinforced the author’s remarks by recalling the shock and sadness he still feels today about how his company commander was killed that fateful day, and the incredible stroke of luck that allowed him to live to tell the story.

On Sunday morning, Elisabeth von Trapp graced us again with her songs. The Reverend William Wick, “The Skiing Rev,” from nearby Norwich University, presided over the memorial service that included a wonderful eulogy honoring Pat Thornton and her father CAPT Fred Finn, and SFC Jared C. Monti (10th Mtn Div [LI]).

On behalf of the entire New England Chapter, we’d like to extend a very special “Thank You” to Patrick Kiser who drove round trip from Washington, D.C. in miserable winter weather conditions to build and display his impressive collection of authentic WWII 10th Mtn Div clothes and equipment in the entrance alcove of the Timbers Restaurant.

Everyone mark your calendar for our 3rd Annual Eastern Winter Gathering at Sugarbush Resort, planned for Feb. 6-7, 2016. We all hope to see you there!
The Fort Drum Chapter accomplishes a lot at its monthly meetings at the Off the Beatin’ Path Gift Shop on post.

In a year-end review of Chapter activities it was noted that members have been responsible for helping pay for the Mountaineers Statue and the 9-11 Memorial, purchase and donation of 14 granite pedestals for the Division, purchase and installment of plaques on the Ft Drum Heroes Walk honoring soldiers KIA or who have died in a combat theater. A memorial brick program enables individuals to purchase an engraved brick in the same location. The Chapter is also responsible for presentation of a bronze flag holder and flag presented to families of each 10th KIA at monthly memorial services on post.

Chapter members also ensure that wounded soldiers at DoD and VA hospital receive a support pack with a backpack holding a football jersey, hat, t-shirt, bathrobe and tearaway sweats, all bearing the 10th logo, and often delivered by members of 10th Assn chapters in the area.

The Chapter has established a Scholarship Fund for (LI) veterans and immediate family members which to date has awarded 46, $5,000 scholarships. It sponsors the gift shop, with 60 percent of profits above operating costs going to the scholarship fund and the remaining 40 percent to other projects in the Ft Drum community.

The Strongest Warrior Competition in Watertown, NY, will be held this summer for the third time and has seen nearly 80 participants and contributed nearly $20,000 to the scholarship and Wounded Warrior programs. Donations of $10,000-20,000 annually help the WTU (Warrior Transition Unit) on post for items it needs. Support of soldiers and their families includes transportation to retreats, to build homes and to attend winter and mountain sports clinics.

The Chapter supports the 10th Mtn Div Soldier and NCO of the Year, helps finance ceremonies to support family events like the Mountain of Toys at Christmas, the Assn of the US Army (AUSA) Adopt-a-Platoon program, and conducts the annual US/Canada St. Lawrence Cup golf tournament.

**BIG SKY**

Suz Rittenhouse (Desc 87-HQ-2)

Arlene Priest (86-B) reported the Billings area Big Sky members had a Belvedere Day brunch on Feb. 15, 2015. It was small group but they had a great time.

In addition to Arlene, those in attendance were Tom (87-C) and Ginny Helmer, Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Cora Graham (85-Serv) and her granddaughter, Laurie Noonkester (Desc 85-Serv) and Eleanor Coop (87-B).

The highlight was Chuck’s bringing a bottle of the 10th Mountain Distillery’s Rye Whiskey. Each person who wanted a try was given a small shot of it. On the bottle’s label are the words ‘Drink to Glory.’ The distillery is located in Vail, CO, and was started about two years ago (see “Blizzard” Edition #3, 2014).

The western part of Montana held its Belvedere Day celebration on Feb. 21 in Missoula at a luncheon. Those attending were Larry Wilson (Desc 87-HQ), Ray (85-G) and Vicki Johnson, John (87-HQ-2) and Shirley Cramer, Bill Cramer (Desc 87-HQ-2), Carol (Desc 87-HQ-2) and David Knight and Lexi Rausch (Desc 87-HQ-2). A beautifully decorated cake with the 10th Mountain insignia was served for dessert.

**SIERRA NEVADA**

Val Rios (Desc 87-K)

On Jan.18, the 2015 10th Mtn Div Biathlon was held on the grounds of the Auburn Ski Club located at Boreal Ridge.

The Biathlon, which is sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter, is an annual event entirely manned by members of the Auburn Ski Club. This year there were close-to 65 who participated on a beautiful sunny January day.

Assisting with presentation of awards were Val Rios, Sierra Nevada Chapter President and Jim Ronka and Bruce Hrabak, members of the WWII Military Commemorative Association. Jim and Bruce wore WWII 10th era winter gear and had a display of numerous WWII 10th items. A number of biathlon participants and those present were very pleased that Jim and Bruce attended, and spent time asking questions of Jim and Bruce regarding the 10th Mtn Div.

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**LOWER MICHIGAN**

Camilla Williams (Desc 87-E)

The Lower Michigan Chapter is having a Memorial Service on May 25, 2015, at Michigan’s Military and Space Museum at noon. The museum is located at 1250 Weiss St, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

Following will be a luncheon at the Bavarian Inn, also in Frankenmuth, to enjoy wonderful food and fellowship. Led by Chapter president Bob Lafean, the ceremony is always meaningful. Every year more families of the 10th Mtn Div attend to extend our friendships. All are welcome to attend.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

Connie Nelson (Desc 85-D)

On December 27, 2014, over 90, 10th Mtn Div veterans, descendants and friends attended the Rocky Mountain Chapter’s Christmas party hosted by descendants David (Desc 85-F, 10 RECON) and Jane Christie at their event center, Christie’s of Genesee. Veteran attendees included seven WWII veterans and two 10th Mtn Div (LI) veterans. Everyone enjoyed socializing with other members and eating a delicious lunch. That was followed by an informative program.

One speaker was descendant Christian Avignon. Christian is now selling his 10th Mtn whiskey, bourbon, cordial, vodka, and moonshine. The spirits are named in honor of the Division. Christian brought multiple samples to the party and they were snatched up quickly. More information can be found at www.Christian@10thwhiskey.com.

This year’s program was emceed by veteran Zachary Mott (10th Mtn Div [LI]). He did a fabulous job and spiced up the program with his dynamic personality. Thanks to Zac, who emceed at the last minute and thanks to Dave and Jane for hosting this event.

Sadly, also in December, the 10th community said goodbye to beloved WWII veterans Earl Clark (87-HQ-1) and George Loudis (86-H) (see Taps, this Edition). George passed away a day before the Christmas party and Earl the day after. Many members attended Earl’s interment at Ft. Logan cemetery and memorial service held elsewhere. George’s memorial has yet to be announced.

As in past years, the Division was represented at Denver’s annual Snow Show. Every year, the 10th has a booth at the show that educates attendees about the contributions made to the sport of skiing.

February Ski-In attendees of the Rocky Mountain Chapter included:

Neal Yorker (87-L), Dick Over (110-SIG), Dick Kaufman (86-B), Hugh Evans (85-A, C); also Debbie Fergione, Beth Whitemore, Edith Kaufman, Gail Fennessey, Helen Kehres, Marge Over & Ann Evans, & Descendants Joe Fennessey (10th Inf.), Allen Burton, Dan Whitemore, Debbie Fergione, Gary Burton, & Honorary Friend, Don Palmer.

**ARMADILLO**

Phebe Davol (Desc 86-L, HQ)

On Dec. 12, 2014, Hulin Robert (86-K) and his son Commander Remy Pierre Rob- ert (Desc 86-K) attended the Grand Opening of the Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries at The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA.

Over 800 people attended and there were 101 WWII Veterans from most, if not all, branches of service. The Veterans were treated as VIPs and they were the first group to tour the Road to Berlin exhibit. They also had the opportunity to visit with high school students from all around the country who came in for the opening. During lunch, they were entertained by the Victory Belles singing group.

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum was designated by Congress in 2003 as America’s National WWII Museum, it celebrates the American spirit, teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who served on the battlefront and the Home Front.

The Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries take up 8,700 square feet of the museum’s new Campaigns of Courage exhibit pavilion. The Road to Tokyo: European Theater Galleries, located on the 2nd floor, is 10,000 square feet and will be opening December, 2015. The two-level 32,000-square-foot building takes visitors onto the battlefield, behind the hedgerows, and inside the story of how the war was won. The settings are filled with artifacts, sound effects, and cutting-edge technology, some of it developed exclusively for this venue. The result: a richly layered, multimedia experience that invites exploration, forges connection, and leaves an indelible impression of the war’s epic story (Source: The National WWII Museum-Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters Fact Sheet). For those of you who have not been to this fabulous museum, it is definitely worth the trip.
During this 50th-year of observances of the film, “The Sound of Music,” members of the 10th Mtn Div are remembering that brothers Werner and Rupert von Trapp joined the Division after their arrival in the U.S. Here is a timely remembrance from one family:

Thank you so much for your email regarding my Dad, Ellsworth Miller. We’ve been celebrating my Dad’s 98 years 10 months of life since losing him on December 11, 2014 (Taps, next page). I’m including a photo of Dad in Italy 1945 (CAPT 86-MED-I, Battalion surgeon). His right-hand man was Rupert von Trapp. The second photo is a thank you note from Baroness Maria von Trapp and has always been a very treasured memento. He is very dearly missed, but his legacy will live on and on …as so many others of the Greatest Generation.

Susan Miller Alexander
Fresno, CA
Bray, James Newton (87-K), 89, October 12, 2014, Tigard, OR. Survived by 2 daughters, 6 grand- & 2 great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Mary. Lifelong career with Hoyt Arboretum, Portland. Combined loyalty to 10th Mtn Div & love of trees in a unique project. As president of Northwest Chapter, he, other veterans & their families started program to plant a tree along Hwy 26 as living memorial to every deceased veteran; 70 trees and over 22 species are represented; named 10th Mtn Div Memorial Grove by Oregon Heritage Tree Committee.

Brower, Jay H. (87-B), 92, July 13, 2014, Puyallup, WA.

Clark, Earl Ervin (86-HQ-1), 95, December 29, 2014, Littleton, CO. Survived by a son, grandchildren; predeceased by wife Betty M. (Grunwald). Retired as LTC, US Army Reserve in 1963; inducted into U.S. Army Infantry School Hall of Fame, Ft Benning, GA. Charter member & president, Rocky Mountain Chapter. In 1971, among founding members & first president, 10th Mountain Division National Association, which grew to more than 5,000 members; National Chairman, board of directors. Helped form International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS), that includes German, Austrian, Italian & French mountain ski soldiers; helped organize numerous veterans’ reunions in US and Europe, & served on countless committees. Senior vice president, 10th Mtn Div Foundation, involved in placing memorial monument atop Colorado’s Tennessee Pass. Inducted into Colorado & Vermont Ski Halls of Fame. Member, National Ski Patrol. Joined Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co, becoming general agent in Colorado & Wyoming; in 1963 won President’s Award given to “most outstanding Penn Mutual agency in the US.” Active in community, serving as area Commissioner, Boy Scouts of America; vice president, Denver Chamber of Commerce & chairman, Military Affairs committee. President, Sales & Marketing Executives of Denver, General Agents & Managers Assn; Reserve Officers Assn & Pinehurst Country Club, Littleton, CO.

Colville, Robert B. (87-A), 91, December 8, 2014, Rochelle, IL. Survived by wife Yvonne (Smith), 2 daughters, a daughter-in-law, a foster daughter & 2 grandchildren; predeceased by a son. Employed by Del Monte Corp. in agriculture research in Toppenish, WA, Crystal City, TX; later transferred to Rochelle. Volunteer in community activities; couple given Community Leader Award for 1994. Member, Rochelle United Methodist Church, American Legion, & charter member, Kiwanis Golden K.


Douglas, George Vincent (86-C; 10-QM-HQ), 97, January 6, 2015, Thornton, CO. Survived by 2 sons, predeceased by wife Vivian T. (Peterson). Taught sociology at several colleges & universities. Named Montana Athlete of the Year at 41 (1958) - weightlifting. Couple wrote a book: Hikes in Colorado’s High and Low Country for the Average Hiker, including hundreds of hikes for the handicapped. Also wrote 42 environmental impact statements. Skied well into his 70s.

Dwyer, Donald Michael (87-F) 93, December 22, 2014, South Dartmouth, MA. Survived by wife Gertrude (Byrnes), 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, nieces & nephews. Associated with utility industry for 40 years, served in many managerial roles. Active, Greater New Bedford YMCA, American Red Cross, Kiwanis, Boy Scout Executive Council, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Old Colony United Way & Plymouth Development Council. Member, Dartmouth Personnel Board, Town Meeting, Compass Bank. Inducted in U. of Rhode Island Athletic Hall of Fame. Enjoyed skiing, tennis, biking, bowling & golfing; officiated Division I college football games. Couple enjoyed winters in Burnt Store Marina, FL.

Ehrhoff, Norman J. Sr. (85-K), 91, November 15, 2014, Conifer, CO. Survived by 3 sons, 3 daughters, grand- & great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews; predeceased by a daughter. Worked as an accountant for Johns-Manville Corp & Citi Bank. Loved to garden; member, American Volkssport Assn, participating in numerous volksmarching activities around the country.

Erikson, Donald W. (87-K), 90, June 15, 2014, Sun City West, AZ. Survived by wife Patricia, 2 daughters, sons, 7 grandchildren, & 5 great-grandchildren. Retired after 30 years, as vice-president of nationwide trucking company.

Gomes, Walter J. (87-E), 92, December 30, 2014, Manchester, NH. Survived by a son, a grand- & 2 great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews; predeceased by wife Helen (Harnois). Lab technician, Veterans Administration Medical Center; worked for New England Brace Co. Member, American Legion Post 37, Knights of Columbus; communicant, Holy Rosary Church, Hooksett.

Julian, William Henry Jr. (86-A), 88, November 28, 2014, Leesburg, TX. Survived by wife Mary Helen (Gist), 2 sons, 8 grand- & 1 great-grandchild; predeceased by a son. Employed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; refugee manager on National Wildlife Refuges in six southeast states. Member, First Baptist Church, Pittsburg.

Kubisiak, Francis R. “Kuby” (86-B, D), 90, December 19, 2014, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Survived by 2 sons, 4 daughters, 6 grand- & 3 great-grandchildren, predeceased by wife Mae (Sonnenberg). Drummer & vocalist for “Castillians” for over 40 years, playing jazz & standards. Worked for Speltz Music, later Jerry’s Music in sales/rentals, repairing instruments & handling instrument rentals & assisting in development of music programs in area schools. Mentor to young musicians & artists. Alderman & on planning/zoning/urban renewal committees. Avid kayaker, camper & fly fisherman. Skied until 86 after having both knees replaced at 70 so he could continue.

Longstreth, Calvin Lewis (87-G), 90, October 26, 2014, Lynden, WA. Survived by wife, Joan C., 3 sons, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren. Wounded on march to Po River, April 22, 1945. Retired from his drugstore, McLain Drug; pharmacist for 43 years. Member, Mt. Rainier Chapter, American Legion Post 7. Couple were part of an 87th reunion in Hill Towns near Florence, Italy, in 1979.

Loudis, George Anthony. (86-II), 89, December 26, 2014, Highlands Ranch, CO. Survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren; predeceased by wife Kathryn. A long career as a Civil Engineer in Colorado Springs, CO. Pursued his love of skiing by attending U of Colorado, ski patrolling in Sun Valley, ID. Most-recently president, Rocky Mountain Chapter, National Assn of the 10th Mtn Div.

Mather, Sylvester T. (87-G), 92, April 29, 2014, Clearwater, FL. Survived by 4 sons, a daughter, several grandchildren, & a one great-grandchild; predeceased by wife Evelyn L. Employed by Jersey Central Railroad; owner, Bridgeton Transit, NJ, with brother Bill. Trains his passion in life, both real as well as models. After retiring from Mather Motor Parts in 1980’s, couple moved to Clearwater, FL: for many years made annual trip back to Bridgeston to visit with family & friends.

Meyerhof, Robert P. (86 MED-D), 95, November 17, 2014, Laguna Beach, CA. Survived by wife Sonia Riva, 3 daughters, a son, 5 grandchildren. Came to U.S. from Munich, Germany, before WWII. Trained fellow 10th Mtn Div recruits at Camp Hale how to downhill ski at Cooper Hill. Worked for architect Richard Neutra, then partners with Smith & Williams, South Pasadena. Developed skills as an artist, delving into sculpture, jewelry, print-making & ceramics. Spent many summers in Laguna Beach, then Three Arch Bay, surrounded by family and beloved Bassett hounds. Active member, Southern California Chapter.

Mikelsen, Arthur M. (86-K), 90, August 30, 2014, Port Orchard, WA. Survived by wife Alice G. (Teo), a daughter, a son, 7 grand- & 14 great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews. Nuclear planning and estimating supervisor at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Active in farming, youth and service organizations including Little League Assn, serving as Washington State’s District 2 administrator. Member, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Kiwanis International, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and National Assn, 10th Mtn Div, & an avid skier.

(Continued on Next Page)
Survived by a daughter, a son, 2 grand- & a great-grandchild; predeceased by wife Mary Anne (Haesly). Worked at Nekoosa Edwards Paper Company (NEP- CO) for over 35 years; retired as project engineer, but continued as consultant. A ski jumper & hunter; member, American Legion; honorary member, Canmoor Ski Club; especially remembered for over 30 years with Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).


Ruske, Mac Maine (87-G), 93, July 27, 2014, Tucson, AZ. Survived by a daughter, a son, 2 granddaughters; predeceased by wife Elsie (Fletcher) & a granddaughter. After training with 10th Mtn Div, served in South Pacific in the New Hebrides & Solomon Islands doing heavy maintenance on Army boats. Taught survival to newly-formed Air Force Strategic Air Commd, Colorado Springs, CO. Built, renovated houses throughout Grand County, Member, Rotary Club. Couple began Sunrise Slalom Ski Race; set other race courses & officiated at skiing events for US Ski Assn. Member, Sheriff’s Patrol, Search & Rescue Div; volunteer fireman; president, Fire Board; member, Grand Lake Yacht Club. Began Mac Ruske Ski-Doo Sales and Service; couple first recipients, International Snowmobile Dealer of the Year.

Schakelman, Francis R. (604 FA-A), 90, October 5, 2014, Jefferson, WI. Survived by wife Marion (Neipert), 2 sons, a daughter, 3 grand-, & 2 great-grandchildren. Retired as supervisor from Union Pacific. Enjoyed camping & the outdoors & spending time with family. Active for many years in Midwest Chapter events.

Tapley, Ernest “Tapp” (10-RECON) 91, March 2, 2015, Santa Fe, NM. Survived by wife Norma, 2 daughters, 3 grand-, & 2 great-grandchildren. Retired as supervisor from Union Pacific. Enjoyed camping & the outdoors & spending time with family. Active for many years in Midwest Chapter events.

Thompson, Arthur Frederick (86-F), 89, December 13, 2014, New Port Richie, FL. Survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grand-, 2 great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews; predeceased by wife Norma (Wargo). Couple taught in Watertown & Carthage, NY. Moved to Lake Placid; teacher & Superintendent, Lake Placid Central School District. Coordinated evaluation study of district that spurred major improvements in entire system. Participated in mission to study education systems in Eastern Europe & former Soviet Union. During 1980 Winter Olympic Games, chaired Education Committee; directing conversion of Lake Placid HS into Olympic Press Center. Member, numerous organizations. chair, Essex Co Mental Hygiene Education Comm; Sunmount Developmental Center Board of Visitors. Senior vice president, National Assn for over 40 years; president, Upstate NY Chapter. When 10th Mtn Div reactivated at Ft Drum, NY, in 1985, chaired committee to raise over $135,000 for monument to Mountainiers at post; named 10th Mtn Div NCO of the Year. Enjoyed skiing; NY Giants fan; enjoyed reading biographies & military history, camping & working in his flower garden.


Ware, Robert M. (85-A), 90, November 1, 2014, Denver, CO. Survived by a son, a daughter & 4 grandchildren. Sold life insurance, acquired a pilot’s license; taught skiing at Keystone Ski Resort in CO; member, Professional Ski Instructors Assn for over 45 years. Member, Rocky Mt Chapter, 10th Mtn Div Assn.

Willits, Harold E. (86-F), December 14, 2014, Lynnwood, WA. Active member, Mt Rainier Chapter.
IN MEMORY OF
Memorial donations received with thanks from 10/14/14-2/17/15
James H. Ayres: Joanne Manchester
James J. Belcher: Joanne Manchester
Pierre DelFauss: James P. Johns
Jim Bray: Abbie Kealy
Russell A. Buehlhorn: Vicki & Ray Johnson
Frank M. Chuk: Shirley & Ken Hansen
Earl E. Clark: Frankie J. Barr, Anne C. Burk
Donald H. Palmer: Andy D. Coletti, Abbie Kealy
Earl E. Clark: Frankie J. Barr, Anne C. Burk, Gary Burton, Margaret & Lawrence Byrne, Richard S. Dirkes, Abbie Kealy, Lula Belle Kershner, Sandra & Bob Olson, Donald H. Palmer, Millie Ann Post, Susan Grant
Earl E. Clark: Frankie J. Barr, Joan Borzilleri, Abbie Kealy

WAR ORPHANS SEEK HELP IN RALLY TO RESTORE CEMETERY FLOWERS
Norm Burkey (Desc 85-C)
This article is written on behalf of AWON, the American WWII Orphans Network, because of actions taken that will stop a meaningful means of remembering our fathers who are buried overseas.

All AWON members lost close relatives during WWII and several of our 10th Mountain Descendants members are or were members of AWON, including our recently departed sister, Pat Thornton. Among other responsibilities, the ABMC --American Battle Monuments Commission-- is in charge of overseas cemeteries that contain the remains of those killed during WWI and WWII.

Up to now the ABMC has had a Floral Fund Program. For a fee and at the behest of relatives of the departed, they would order and place flowers on graves and send a picture to those who ordered the flowers. Many AWON members use this service on a regular basis.

The ABMC has decided to discontinue this service. Those wishing to place flowers must now contact a local florist and will no longer receive the photo. As you might guess, many of our members have contacted the ABMC and their Congressional representatives to protest this decision. To date, they are totally unsatisfied with responses from the ABMC and feel they are only receiving lip service.

As newly-elected president of AWON, I ask that if you feel strongly about this issue, we urge you to please contact your Congressional representatives on behalf of WWII orphans and their families and seek the restoration of this program.

SOLDIER, BE MY VALENTINE
Anna Marie Mattson (Desc 87-L)

Members of the American Church of Paris gathered the week before Valentine’s Day in response to an annual call to make customized cards for wounded soldiers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The donations were then hand-delivered to caregivers and wounded military service people at the largest American military hospital outside the USA. All wounded military from downrange--Afghanistan and other theaters-- make a stop there to be stabilized before their road to recovery Stateside.

“If you make it to Landstuhl, you’re good to go. It was an article of faith among the Marine infantrymen in Iraq that if the corpsman plugged up the hole to keep you from bleeding out...and the Air Force got you all the way to the Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then you’d live... and you’d eventually get home.”

---Michael M. Phillips --The Gift of Valor

Tenth Mtn Div soldiers have now all left Landstuhl, but we also sent a package to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where some are still being treated.