10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION MAKES ITS RETURN TO COLORADO

Keli Schmid
ARCHIVIST, DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

For the first time since 1945, as part of a pilot training program, the 10th Mountain Division will have a presence in Colorado. The program pairs Army Reserve and National Guard units with active-duty units for improved training. The 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry of the Colorado National Guard has

aligned with the 10th Mtn Div (LI) which is based at Fort Drum, NY. In a re-patching ceremony held on Oct. 30, 2016, at Camp Hale, CO, the Mountain tab was presented to the six companies of the battalion, which are based in Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Ft. Lupton, Grand Junction and Windsor.

Throughout the proceedings, attendees were awed by soldiers in traditional 10th Mountain Division uniforms standing on cliff tops and giving climbing demonstrations on the cliff faces adjacent to the ceremony.

The ceremony included remarks from veteran Hugh Evans (85-C, A), who served with the 10th in WWII. Evans introduced himself by name, rank and serial number, and then called on each of the other 10 Division veterans present to do the same. Sandy Treat (86-H) introduced himself and gave his rank, but jokingly told Hugh to "forget the serial number." Evans then led everyone in a rendition of "Gentlemen-Rankers."

Following Evans, Charles Minot "Mint" Dole, Jr. — whose father, Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, lobbied for the first United States Army mountain troops in 1940 — led attendees in a few verses of the Division’s "official" song, "90 Pounds of Rucksack."

Minnie Dole died in 1976, but Mint Dole said he knew his father was sitting up on the cliff just beside the ceremony because "this was his life."

The new alignment will not only allow the Colorado National Guard to train with one of the most-deployed divisions in the Army, but will also allow the 10th Mountain Division to once again train in Colorado, benefiting from the knowledge the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry has of the area.

GENERAL GRATIFIED FOR SUPPORT GIVEN TO DRUM

(Note: Shortly after 10th Mtn Div Headquarters returned from deployment to Afghanistan, its Commanding General took the time to thank the wider community for support offered over the past many years of overseas assignments; his letter appeared in the Watertown Daily Times.)

My wife, Tracy, and I want you to know how much we appreciate all you have done over the past 15 years for our soldiers and our families.

During my tenure here as commanding general, with a large portion of the division deployed, with so much in our Army changing, the North Country’s support remained steadfast. From a readiness standpoint, soldiers always perform better when they know they are appreciated and their loved ones are cared for. As a father and husband, my appreciation comes from a much deeper place.

Over the past year, we’ve felt humbled and honored by the community we call home. From the Mountain Monument in Thompson Park to the volunteerism at Riverfest and the opportunity to hear Lee Brice sing about one of our Gold Star families, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our community at Mountainfest, thank you. Your continued participation in the Adopt-a-10th Mountain Platoon Program has provided a huge morale boost to our deployed soldiers, and your Operation Yellow Ribbon events here at home encourage the loved ones we’ve left behind.

Your welcoming of our children into your schools, as well as social and athletic activities, continues to smooth the transition of our young families who move all too often and must live with the stress of many deployments. Making us part of your family makes life easier for all of us.

All of this, and so much more we haven’t mentioned, is a testament to your level of appreciation. It continues to serve as a reminder to all who visit: The North Country community’s support is the benchmark for all Department of Defense communities.

Your 10th Mountain Division remains one of the most deployed divisions in the United States Army. By design and by hard-earned reputation, it will continue to be the division of choice in the years ahead, serving our nation where the need is greatest. We will never fail in our assigned mission, and we all thank you for the part you play in making that happen.

Climb to Glory!

MG Jeffrey L. Bannister
Commander, Fort Drum & 10th Mountain Division

AFGHANISTAN DEPLOYMENT CONCLUDES

Gordon Block
Watertown Daily Times

As the headquarters of the 10th Mountain Division returned from a deployment in Afghanistan, its commander noted that their return nearly brought the entire division back to the North Country.

“We’re very close to a full nest,” said MG Jeffrey L. Bannister. “That’s a very big deal.”

He said the only unit still deployed is the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, which is in Iraq and Kuwait.

About 40 soldiers from the division

See Deployment on Page 4
Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender’s name and address. No photographs will be returned unless specifically requested. All materials should be sent to Felicity Hallanan, Blizzard Editor, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, or by e-mail to blizzarded@gmail.com. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the magnificent soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to accepted journalistic standards. Editor reserves the right to rewrite, renegotiate or refuse materials submitted for publication. Questions? Contact the editor at 315-387-2929 or by e-mail. Subscription rate for non-members: $20. per year.

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Galen Jackman
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Greetings! I hope everyone has enjoyed a beautiful fall so far. I know Hurricane Matthew wreaked havoc on the southeast coast recently and we pray for those affected and for a speedy recovery.

I know there are many Association members, prospective members, and our affiliates who are not knowledgeable or who are confused about all of our affiliated organizations — groups and partners, what they do, and how they all fit into the greater picture and effort in sustaining the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division. Under Trux Dole’s leadership, the Foundation is creating a video that explains that bigger picture. It succinctly describes the Tenth Foundation, National Association, Descendants, 10th Hut Association, 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, History Colorado Center, and Fort Drum Museum. The video has been completed and we will post it on our website.

In my last “Blizzard” message to you, I briefly discussed our effort to solicit, receive, share, and archive personal Soldier stories about their experiences in the modern 10th Mountain (Light Infantry) Division. Felicity Hallanan, our Blizzard editor, is lead in this effort. If you have a story that you would like to contribute, you can contact her through our website (see Roundout Brigade story, this edition).

This leads me to another, but larger, initiative regarding a comprehensive, yet concise, collection and publication of the 10th Mountain (Light Infantry) history. The history of the 10th Mountain Division formed in WWII is quite well documented. However, this is not the case with the modern 10th Mountain Light Division. Doug Schmidt, who manages our social media, is beginning to organize this effort. As we formulate the plan, we will keep you updated.

As a reminder, we have two major events on the horizon. First, we’re going to northern Italy in June. The Descendants, under Steve Coffey’s leadership, are organizing the trip. This is an opportunity to explore some of the battlefields of our 10th Mountain forefathers and continue the great relationship we have with the Italians in the local area. You don’t have to be a descendant to participate. We’re going to have a great time.

Second, we are hosting the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) next fall in the North Country. Jim Redmore, our vice president, is organizing this effort. If you are interested in helping and/or participating, shoot Jim a note via our website. This is an excellent opportunity to meet our international counterparts and show them a first-class event in the United States.

This October, our Association Board of Directors met in Reston, VA. The Board consists of our current officers and chapter presidents. We focused on the current state of the Association and its way ahead over the next three years. The Descendants Board of Directors met the next day. Steve Coffey, the Descendants president, Trux Dole, the Tenth Foundation president, and I participated in both BOD meetings. One of our goals is greater coordination and cooperation among all of the affiliated organizations; a report of the results will be forthcoming in the next “Blizzard.”

As I reported in my last message, our membership database is now in good shape. Although it takes constant attention to keep it updated, we are confident we have a grip on it. If you do not have your new membership card, please let us know, and we will get one out to you. When it comes time for renewal, we will be responsive, and I solicit your continued participation in the Association.

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Keli Schmid, Archivist
10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER

The Advisory Committee for the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center held its annual meeting on July 16, 2016, at History Colorado. The group included Kate Raabe, Elisa Phelps, Gary Burton, Dan Whitemore, Denise Taylor, Flint Whitlock, Dave Little, Keli Schmid and Jim Kroll, and was joined by Dana Mathios on behalf of the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum in Vail.

Highlights from the Resource Center at Denver Public Library include a discussion about a 10th Mountain Division exhibit on the fifth floor of the library in 2019 or 2020, with 2020 being the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

There was also discussion about the near-record number of reference requests that have been received this year. In 2015, the center answered an average of 18 requests per month, and 2016 has seen an average of 28 per month. Requests range from those quickly answered: “Was my uncle a member of the 10th Mtn Div?” to those that take several days and a team of research volunteers to answer: “Can you tell me what my grandfather did in the 10th?”

Highlights from History Colorado include the announcement that Steve Turner, formerly Vice President of Preservation Programs and current State Historic Preservation Officer, has been appointed as Executive Director of History Colorado. Steve and History Colorado Director of Development Janet Burlile plan to meet with the 10th Mountain Division Foundation to discuss exhibits and partnership moving forward.

Also of note is a Division artifact display which coincided with the patching ceremony at Camp Hale on October 30, 2016, as well as discussions about how to increase communication and collaboration between the library and the museum to create a more connected public face.

Dana Mathios is the Collection Manager for the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum. She is in the process of redesigning their Division exhibit, and would like to make the new one as big as possible. There are currently about 600 objects in the museum’s collection, and they are developing standardized nomenclature for the items in their catalog.

To aid this effort, David Little, President of the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group, provided an official list of every item a new recruit would have received, from socks to rucksacks.

The 10th Mountain Division Foundation has been working on a project to add a flagpole with a 10th flag to the Colorado Freedom Memorial, which would have received, from socks to rucksacks. It is the process of redesigning their Division exhibit, and would like to make the new one as big as possible. There are currently about 600 objects in the museum’s collection, and they are developing standardized nomenclature for the items in their catalog.

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The 10th Mountain Division Foundation has been working on a project to add a flagpole with a 10th flag to the Colorado Freedom Memorial, which honors all soldiers from Colorado who have died in any war. The American Legion has plans to build a Colorado military history museum near the museum.

Hugh Evans has stepped down from organizing the Annual Ski-In at Ski Cooper, so Denise Taylor, Trish and Craig Clark, Rick and Victoria Johnson, Joy Elison and Gary Burton have formed a committee to keep the tradition alive. One of the events they are planning is a snowmobile tour of the Camp Hale area.

The Resource Center Advisory Committee will next meet on Jan. 14, 2017, with plans to meet a second time later in the year.

The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department
10 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204-2731
Email: kschmid@denverlibrary.org. Phone: (720) 865-1812.

Felicity Hallanan
BLIZZARD EDITOR ASSOCIATE

“All who shall hereafter live in freedom will be here reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live eternally.”

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

The inscription is carved in a massive stone at the cemetery operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission in Luxembourg, but it could just as well appear in any of the other 25 cemeteries in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific. They were established to care for the remains of U.S. military who died in World Wars I and II. Of course that includes those 355 members of the 10th Mountain Division who lie in the cemetery near Florence, Italy.

The grounds outside of the capital city of Luxembourg are situated in a forest which surrounds the white marble crosses and Stars of David marking graves of the known and unknown. That includes the cross of General George S. Patton, whose death came, ironically, not as he was leading troops across North Africa and Europe, but after the war in a vehicle accident. He is set aside only because so many ask to visit his grave, and it was in the end simpler to place him somewhat apart from the rest. Beyond that, all are equal, with the markers spreading before a tall tower in which one can find a few moments for quiet prayer. Extensive maps of the Europe battlefields are located on both sides of that tower.

We arrived at the cemetery outside the village of Hamm late on a Sunday morning, and just as Superintendent Scott Des Jardins himself was leading a group of visitors through. He lives in the woods nearby and for six years has been overseer of these hallowed grounds, along with a dedicated staff.

For the next hour we stood, listening to his detailed account of the Luxembourg Cemetery and Memorial grounds, from the 22 sets of brothers buried there, to why only certain symbols are used as markers. He gave a lengthy account, as well, of how it is that Patton is buried there and what that has entailed in terms of meeting family wishes as well as acknowledging public interest.

As he talked, small groups, sometimes only couples or individuals alone, wandered among the graves, pausing to talk quietly, or lay flowers, or just look. And in our group of about 20, there was respectful silence until he concluded. At that point one tall man stepped forward to explain that his party came from Finland, and wanted to present a small memento in thanks for the sacrifices of the American soldiers. Immediately we thought of the many members of the original 10th Mountain Division who had come from Scandinavian countries, including Finland. Norwegian Olympic skier Torger Tokle (86-A), for example, is buried with other 10th Mountain comrades in Florence. We could only ponder at this non-coincidence.

Over the next few days we joined other visitors to cemeteries and museums of the two world wars — Bastogne, Ypres, Flanders fields — and, like the communities in the Apennines of Italy, were struck by the many, many lands in which Americans have served their country and others. And we wondered which from the current wars will be the sites to be visited in the future; will it be Kabul, or Mosul, Mogadishu or Port-au-Prince or Baghdad or any of the many other places where the Army’s most deployed Division has found itself since being reactivated over 30 years ago?

The point is, we all need to remember and, when possible, visit those places where brave people gave their lives. And so we commend to you next year’s “Hill Towns Discovery” trip to Italy sponsored by the 10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc.

While not too many of our veterans from that time may be able to make the journey, you will find others who have grown up knowing, or are just learning, about their exploits.

And whether it is in Bastogne or on the Western Front or innumerable other places — in this case in northern Italy — you will never take freedom for granted again.
the rank of private first class, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in the high school, he followed his dream and family. Shortly after graduating from hopes of one day sharing them with his with Head throughout high school, in- stories his father shared of his 21 years as insion). A hero is someone who, with- nition. And to me, that means a hero.” Suich addressed past and present soldiers of I-89 Cavalry, thanking them for coming, reminding them to keep Bowe in their living memories and fol- low his example of selfless service to each other and the nation. “I have three sons, and I just hope to God that they can act with just a little bit of the professionalism and maturity exhibited by a 19-year-old specialist from western Pennsylvania out there in the mean streets of Iraq. We should also hope that America continues to produce guys like Matt. I’ll never forget him.” The Bowe Troop Medical Clinic pro- vides primary care and medical services for the 10th Mtn Div (LI), Fort Drum active duty population, as well as Army Reserve/National Guard service members.

The Fort Drum Medical Dept Activity, the 10th Mtn Div (LI), family, friends and fellow soldiers of SPC Matthew C. Bowe gathered July 22, 2016, in front of the Troop Medical Clinic II for a cer- eemony to rename the medical center as the Bowe Troop Medical Clinic. The clinic’s renaming honors Specialist Bowe, a combat medic assigned to the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regt, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), for his actions in Iraq while providing treatment to an injured comrade. On Sept. 21, 2006, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near a vehicle and gravely wounded a fellow soldier. Bowe rushed to the aid of his injured comrade, provided treatment and then shielded the injured soldier with his own body when a second explosion occurred. Bowe was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with V device for his actions that day.

On Feb. 19, 2007, Specialist Bowe was killed in action when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by another IED. “You hear the word ‘hero’ talked about a lot today — in fact, that word is sort of abused,” said retired COL Mark Suich, who was Bowe’s squadron com- mander. “And quite frankly, there are only a few people who meet that (de- finition). A hero is someone who, without thinking, puts (his or her) life on the line to save another’s. “And that’s who Matt was — not just saving our own troopers, but anybody, like some of our Iraqi partners who were shot,” he continued. “Matt always said that he was the medic and that was his job, and he (helped) without thinking. And to me, that means a hero.” Suich addressed past and present soldiers of I-89 Cavalry, thanking them for coming, reminding them to keep Bowe in their living memories and fol- low his example of selfless service to each other and the nation. “I have three sons, and I just hope to God that they can act with just a little bit of the professionalism and maturity exhibited by a 19-year-old specialist from western Pennsylvania out there in the mean streets of Iraq. We should also hope that America continues to produce guys like Matt. I’ll never forget him.” The Bowe Troop Medical Clinic pro- vides primary care and medical services for the 10th Mtn Div (LI), Fort Drum active duty population, as well as Army Reserve/National Guard service members.

In some families, military service is more than an echo of their history. It’s a tradition threaded through generation after generation. For Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clifford N. Head Jr., human resource technician, 2nd Brigade Combat Team “Com- mandos,” 10th Mtn Div (LI), it all started with a photo album and a story. Growing up in Whigham, GA, Head re- members how his father, Clifford Head Sr., would set him on his lap and tell him about his experiences in the U.S. Navy. “My father would always bring out his Navy books and tell me stories about how he was on the USS Yorktown and the USS Ticonderoga that took him all over the world, from the Philippines, to Europe and Japan,” Head explained. The stories his father shared of his 21 years as an aircraft mechanic for the U.S. Navy caught Head’s interest and would later inspire him to serve his country. Those stories and childhood memo- ries of his father’s adventures stuck with Head throughout high school, in- creasing his desire to collect his own in hopes of one day sharing them with his family. Shortly after graduating from high school, he followed his dream and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in the summer of 1987.

During his first four years of service, he rose to the rank of private first class, deploying to Liberia in support of Opera- tion Sharp Edge in 1990 and Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm in 1990-91. After redeploying to the United States and nearing the end of his military contract, Head decided to exit the service, return home to work as a sales clerk in a local convenience store and spend time with his family.

**COMBAT MEDIC HONORED WITH DEDICATION OF CLINIC**

**COMMANDOS CHIEF EXAMPLE OF MILITARY FAMILY TRADITION**

**SPC Robert Cook**
2nd Brigade Combat Team Journalist

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**Deployment**

Continued from Page 1

headquarters, including MG Bannister, returned Sept. 16, 2016, following a nine-month mission that focused on logistical work connected to planned reductions in soldiers, and creating a “sustainable” American footprint.

President Barack Obama had originally proposed reducing the number of American service members in Afghan-istan from 9,800 to 5,500. However, that number was later adjusted to 8,400 troops.

A small contingent of the headquarters also helped in advising top-level Afghan security forces on how to use their per- sonnel. General Bannister said he saw growth from Afghan Special Forces and aviation operations, but said more work was needed for the Afghan Army.

The division’s headquarters was re- placed in Afghanistan by leadership of the 1st Cavalry Division earlier this week.

The returns included a scheduled group of soldiers from the 2nd Bn, 87th Inf Regt, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT).

Bannister said the post should keep its full nest for a short period, but noted that elements from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade will be deployed later this year to Germany.

The soldiers returning expressed exci- tement about being with loved ones.

“Being back with the family, it’s an awesome feeling,” said SFC Nathan W. Hutchison, standing with his wife Lori and children Luke, James and Faith. Among the things he said he was looking forward to was getting a good meal.

“Anything that doesn’t have rice in it at this point,” he said.
TODAY’S 10TH, TOMORROW’S HISTORY:

87TH REGIMENT HAS HISTORY IN AND OUT OF 10TH DIVISION

Family tradition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

He’d often joke with his father, saying that his four years as a Marine were harder than his dad’s 21 years in the Navy. “I did four years in the Corps and that equals 20 years in the Navy,” Head would say. “My father would just laugh and say, ‘where’s your retirement check?’”

Hearing about the benefits his father receives from the military planted an idea that would later be a factor in Head’s future. While working out at a local gym, he was offered an opportunity to join his local police department.

He missed being part of a team, and he accepted the job offer. After graduating the eight-week training program at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, GA, he was ready to serve once again.

For the next six years, Head served his community as a police officer, but he still missed military life.

“Even though there are many similarities between law enforcement and the military, I was still missing something,” he said. “After comparing the pros and cons, the Army held the best fit for my family.”

Head said what he missed most was the teamwork, motivation and camaraderie he felt in the Army. He also felt that since he already had four years invested, he could serve 16 more years and retire.

On May 10, 2000, Head left his family again and shipped off to basic training — this time at Fort Jackson, SC.

“When I first found out that I would have to go through it (basic training) again, I wasn’t happy,” he said. “Having been through the Marine Corps boot camp with a last name of Head, I spent a lot of time cleaning the head,” he said, using the Marine slang for bathroom.

But he completed Army basic combat training, and then stayed at Fort Jackson to study to become a human resource specialist. Over the next 10 years, Head earned the rank of staff sergeant, but felt he couldn’t perfect his skills because of the constant mission requirements of being a noncommissioned officer.

Seeking an opportunity to become a technical expert, Head attended Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, AL, advancing his job knowledge and leadership skills. After completing WOCS, he was stationed with the 1st Armored Division in Fort Bliss, TX, as a brigade human resources technician.

“Becoming a warrant officer gave me a chance to concentrate on my craft and (hones) my skills,” Head said.

In 1957, the Army did away with the regimental formation, instead opting for what was called a “battle group” (a battle group was bigger than a battalion, but smaller than a regiment). With this, all that remained of the 87th was the 1st Battle Group (BG), 87th Infantry.

In 1958, the 10th ID returned to the U.S., arriving at Fort Benning, GA. While the Division was deactivated, 1st BG, 87th Infantry was reassigned to the 2nd ID, again as a basic training unit. Eventually, the Army did away with the battle group, instead opting for battalions and brigades, and in early 1963 the 1st BG was redesignated the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry and was joined by the 2nd Battalion.

In the fall of 1963, both battalions were assigned to the 8th ID in Germany as mechanized infantry battalions, where they would serve until the 1980s (the 2nd Battalion was deactivated for a period from 1966-1973). In 1987 and 1988, the 1st and 2nd Battalions, respectively, once again joined the 10th Mountain Division.

This, however, is not the Regiment’s entire story. In one of the more confusing parts of CARS, it is the individual companies of the WWII regiments that carry on the lineages of the modern battalions. So, when C and D Companies, 87th Infantry, were activated and sent to Vietnam in 1966, serving late into the U.S. operations there, the lineages of the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Regiment began.

Eventually, the 3rd Bn, 87th Inf, would serve as a Reserve Infantry Battalion stationed in Colorado from the 1980s into the 1990s. The 4th Bn would serve with the 25th ID in Hawaii from 1985-95 and in 1999 the 4th Bn was activated in Panama as part of the 193rd Inf Bde, and would serve during Operation Just Cause.

Today, only the 1st and 2nd Battalions remain active, continuing the long storied lineage of the 87th Infantry Regiment.

Engraved Pavers

North Country Honors the Mountain Monument

The North Country Honors the Mountain monument was completed in July 2016 to honor the sacrifice and service of the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, their family members and the Fort Drum Civilian Workforce.

Purchase an engraved paver today and preserve a place in history for yourself, family or friend and support the North Country Honors the Mountain monument. These pavers are gray to match the monument’s color and will be placed in one of four areas around the base of the monument for all the visitors to see (see bottom of form for location selection). The pavers are 6”x6” and can have up to four lines of text with 12 characters per line. Engraved letters will be weather resistant with proper letter case.

Cost is $50 with all proceeds going to the monument’s maintenance fund

Print or type characters to be engraved (all letters, numbers, punctuation and symbols counts as one of the maximum of 12 characters you are allowed on each line):

Line 1: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Line 2: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Line 3: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Line 4: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Customer Information:

Name: __________________________

Address: __________________________

Phone: __________________________

email: __________________________

Make check out to “Northern New York Community Foundation” and indicate “NCHTM paver” in the memo line. Mail check and form to: NCHTM, P.O. Box 150, Carthage, NY 13619 or purchase an engraved paver on-line at www.HonorTheMountain.com

Please place my paver beneath the following bronze relief (check one):

- WWII (1943-1945) [ ]
- Korean (1950-1953) [ ]
- Vietnam (1954-1975) [ ]
- Iraq/ Afghanistan (2001-TBD) [ ]
- Blank/ Time Capsule [ ]

Version: August 2016

2016 NUMBER 3 BLIZZARD PAGE 5
The International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) held its 31st Congress in Innsbruck, Austria, from Sept. 7-11, 2016.

Delegations from France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Bulgaria and the United States attended. Montenegro was absent and received a verbal admonishment from the Secretary General for not having at least one representative present. He stated “The success of the Federation is dependent on the commitment and 100 percent participation from all countries.” Bulgaria was formally inducted into the Federation on the commitment and 100 percent participation from all countries. It provided a remarkable view of Innsbruck and a variety of training sites the Austrian and Germany Mountaineers utilize. In the afternoon, we traveled to the Innsbruck military command and received a detailed brief on the Organization of the Austrian Army and the capabilities of their Mountain Soldiers.

In his preparation for retirement, Head, Kerrigan and his daughter, Kerrigan B. Head, have reunited each year since 1975 to honor the men who served in the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division during WWII. It is a time for remembering the heroic efforts of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy and beyond, reminiscing with veterans, descendants and friends. And, of course, a whole lot of skiing!

10th Mountain Division Ski In Daze
Feb. 15 – Veterans meet with students at the Leadville School to share 10th Mountain Division history and hear the student’s presentations about the 10th Mountain Division during WWII
Feb. 16 – Ski Copper Mountain, a new addition this year
- Apex Ski at J’s
- 7 pm showing of THE LAST RIDGE film at the Leadville Public Library
Feb. 17 – Ski Cooper - Cooper Hill Daze
- Check-in starts at 8:30 inside lodge
- Ski the Serpentine, Memorial Service, Silver Dollar Saloon gathering
- Catered Pasta Buffet at Leadville’s Periodic Brewing
- Dinner cost is $25 Adults/$12 Kids under 10
- MUST RSVP & pay by Feb 10th
- Make checks payable to Denise Taylor and mail to 4075 Depew St, Wheat Ridge, CO 80212
Feb. 18 – Ski Cooper
- Plus, there’s an afternoon guided snowmobile tour of Camp Hale & Machine Gun Ridge
- There is a fee for tour, RSVP’s are a must!
Feb. 20 – Breckenridge
Feb. 21 – Vail

Veterans, descendants, and friends of the 10th have reunited each year since 1975 to honor the men who served in the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division during WWII.

Please join us at the 42nd annual 10th Mountain Division Ski In Daze
It is a time for remembering the heroic efforts of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy and beyond, reminiscing with veterans, descendants and friends. And, of course, a whole lot of skiing!

Visit our website for details and updates:
www.10thMtnDivSkiInDaze.wordpress.com or contact Denise Taylor at mountaingirl555@msn.com 303.423.2514 Sempre Avanti

Family tradition
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
With his military career coming to an end, Head reflects on his 19 years of service as he prepares for retirement. Throughout his career, Head has always helped soldiers, and he feels that instilling discipline, confidence and teaching them the fundamentals of their job is what makes our military great.

It is something Head said he could not have done during his tenure as a drill sergeant from 2007 to 2009 without the help of his family.

“I could not ask for a more supportive team. Every decision I have (had) to make, we have made together,” he said. “When I went up for sergeant and staff sergeant, my wife was right there helping me study for the promotion boards.”

With the consuming lifestyle of the military, Head stresses the importance of making time for family.

“Being a drill sergeant was very hard on my family and (me),” he said. “I left for work early in the morning (5 a.m.) and didn’t getting home (until) everyone was in bed (10 p.m.). There were times I didn’t see my kids for two weeks.”

Head said he believes that keeping an open line of communication with their families is one of the things that will help soldiers through their years in the military.

“I can’t speak more highly of my wife and children for being resilient and being supportive of me being deployed to Iraq twice, Afghanistan and ‘the trail’ (serving as drill sergeant),” Head said. In his preparation for retirement, Head said he sees the changes the military has made and he feels the Army has gotten better at setting soldiers up for success when transitioning.

The first time I got out, there were classes, if you chose to go,” he said. “Now these classes are mandatory, and (they) set you up for success in the civilian workforce.”

Head said the military has taught him confidence and discipline — skills that civilian employers are looking for when they hire new employees.

“There is nothing like going to a job interview and sliding your DD 214 (military service records) across the table and saying ‘Hey, that’s me,’” he said.

As Head transitions out of the Army and prepares to retire this year, his daughter, Kerrigan B. Head, has chosen to follow in her father’s footsteps by taking his place in the human resource field. She is preparing to attend Army basic training this year.

“I feel that my father had a huge impact on my enlistment into the military,” she said. “I want to feel the same pride and responsibility as my father has shown (as I was) growing up.”

With members of her family serving in the Marine Corps, Army and Navy, deciding which branch would best fit her needs was not easy. Ultimately, she felt more comfortable with the life she has already lived.

“I enlisted in the Army out of all the other branches, because I’ve already lived the Army life since I was 3 years old, and I have seen what can be offered to me through the work of my father,” Kerrigan said.

But family history isn’t the only reason why she chose to serve. Kerrigan said she is excited to join the Army and is looking forward to traveling, learning new skills and enjoying experiences similar to those of her father.

“I want to continue my education and create my own adventures with the places I will travel in this career field,” she said.

Head said he feels honored that his daughter is continuing the family tradition.

“I cannot be prouder,” he said. “I am so lucky to be allowed to share in her moment.”
**CENTER HELPS FAMILY IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS PROJECT**

(The Blizzard receives interesting queries! In this case, a caring niece and her family are supporting a service dog which will help a veteran. But at the same time, thanks to diligent research by Kell Schmid, archivist and librarian at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, Denver Public Library, the family now knows a great deal more about the man in whose memory they are donating funds for the dog. Beginning with the letter from Christine Brandt of Omaha, NE, read on!)

Hello, I’m Christy. My uncle, Robert Oliver Wise, served in the 10th Mtn Div in Italy in WWII. He never married, so my brothers and I are his legacy. He was so much more than an uncle, and in his memory I donated a service dog to an organization called This Able Veteran. This dog will be trained for 18 months, then paired with a veteran who suffers from PTSD. The dog will be specifically trained to help this veteran. The dog has been named Oliver for our uncle. Oliver’s registered name is Kashmir’s Tenth Mountain Jack (Jack was my Dad). I am hoping to get more information about my Uncle Bob’s service so I can relay this important information to Oliver’s veteran.

Dear Christine,

As you know, your uncle, Robert O. Wise, Jr. was a Private First Class with the 85th Infantry Regiment, Company I. Robert enlisted around the age of 18 on Feb. 2, 1944 at Camp Dodge Herrold, IA. He was not married at the time, and had completed four years of high school. For comparison, only about 50 percent of WWII soldiers had graduated from high school. Robert joined the 10th at Camp Swift, Texas, after having completed his basic training at Infantry Replacement Training Camp at Camp Blanding, FL. Our first paper for Robert is a morning report from Aug. 2, which documents his transfer. He was meant to arrive on July 20, but he was delayed en route and his reporting date was changed to Aug. 15. On Aug. 14 he was officially assigned to 85-I, and on the 15th he arrived. He was a Private at that time.

In September (the exact date is illegible), Robert’s MOS (military occupational specialty) was changed from 1605 (I have not been able to find a definition for this code) to 745 (rifleman). On Dec. 1, he was promoted to the rank of Private First Class.

The 85th and 87th Infantry Regiments departed Camp Swift by train on the evening of Dec. 21, 1944, and arrived at Camp Patrick Henry, VA, on Christmas Eve morning. There they made final preparations for deployment to Italy, although for security reasons the men did not know...

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**SUMMER WORK DAYS AT TENNESSEE PASS MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL**

The Memorial honoring the 10th Mountain Division soldiers stands majestic on Tennessee Pass, a quarter mile down the road from the Ski Cooper slopes where the troopers honed their skiing.

The Pass, named by 1860s gold prospectors from Tennessee, is a crossroads. Here at the Continental Divide, the infant Eagle River heads north to the Colorado while the Tennessee flows south, part of the Arkansas headwaters. The Pass lies in the “gap” where the Sawatch Range meets the Mosquitos. Here also Lake and Eagle counties touch.

The Forest Service sign marking the altitude of 10,424 feet is a favorite for tourists taking selfies. If you drive from the north, Eagle-Vail, it’s a (paved) “Oh My God!” road past the historic mining camp of Redcliff perched on a cliff edge: through the towns of Minturn and historic Pando, then along the army-engineered south fork of the Eagle River and historic site of Camp Hale. Coming south from Leadville, the road crosses the wide flat valley under the Sawatch Range, including top-of-the-state Mt. Elbert (14,439 feet) and its rival-neighbor, the seven- to nine-peaked Mt. Massive (14,429 feet). A good portion of the year Tennessee Pass is buried under snow — some years, such as 1944, 20-30 feet!

This August 2016, weekends were clear and a sunny 60 degrees when, first the gardeners — Debby and Steve Clem and Mary Jenson — and then maintenance — Steve Wilmot, Karen and Sierra Cummbaker and Dave Lee — went to work under the auspices of the 10th Foundation Memorial site renovation project.

During those days on the site, our volunteer descendant crews were soon reminded of a certain convivial spirit at the Pass that’s hard to put your finger on. Something in and around the rarified air at the Memorial touches and blesses the stream of humanity that pauses there.

Casual conversations with descendants and tourists bring to light the profound influence of our veterans on subsequent generations and how, at the Memorial, everything comes together: Camp Hale days; military service; the crucible of WWII; hut trips and ski-ins; 18 years of Descendant Hut and Pass work; 70 years’ tradition together reading the KIA names from the stones; the example set by the men who survived the war, worked, raised families, and continued to serve their whole lives; the passing away of our dearest, nonagenarian veteran friends; and the awesome beauty of the locale — of the mountains, cliffs, and streams.

Formal services on Belvedere Day and Memorial Day gather 10th families, current soldiers, officers, and local families. What is probably less known is that on other days of the year, there is a constant flow of Pass visitors — veterans, wives, descendants, friends, and tourists from all around the U.S. They stop, climb out of a car, or off a bicycle or motorbike, or simply on foot from hiking the nearby Colorado Trail. The volunteers — in work attire, managing shovels, rakes, dirt and rocks, bulldozers, scoop, scissor lift, paint cans and brushes — attract curiosity and conversation. We soon find ourselves “ambassadors of the pass,” greeting visitors, finding out what brought them, from where, and giving the unintitiated a brief 10th Mountain history.

Here’s a random sample of visitors who stopped by as our crew worked: About 14 “Badlands” motor bikers, girl friends on back. Numerous bicyclists. A ballet dancer headed to a Vail festival. Two distinguished gentlemen motor bikers from L.A. A young Minnesota friend of Olympic skier Cindy Nelson (George Nelson 85-C). Descendant Mary Cook Dolan from Vermont (Arthur Aaron Cook 85-B). Mona Goodwin, daughter of Howard Sherid, who was the first Red Cross director at Camp Hale. Hikers from Copper Mountain napping by the picnic table while waiting for their wives to pick them up. Ten National Guard trainees and their officers, midway through two weeks of mountain training. They will soon be officially “patched” with the 10th Mountain insignia. Poignantly, on a memorial journey, the extended family of recently deceased Colorado 10th veteran Bill Farrow (85-E) (see Taps, this edition). Bill was a much-respected Colorado veterinarian and “horse whisperer” and Colorado Race Track veterinarian. This stream of visitors and their respect and appreciation of the site reminded us of — at heart — what the Memorial site is all about and why our continued volunteer maintenance is vital.

Several days later, in a drizzling rain, a couple of us headed back to finish cleaning up and to dig the remaining columbariums for deployment to Italy, although for security reasons the men did not know...

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**SEE VETERANS PROJECT ON PAGE 11**
**FORGOTTEN 10TH MOUNTAIN ROUNDOUT BRIGADE**

*John R. “Bob” Dial*

SSG RET. 1-105 IN, 27TH BDE (ROUNDOUT), 10TH MTN Dvy (LI)*

(Ed. Note: SSG Dial’s comprehensive history is the result of an appeal to soldiers who have served in the 10th since it was reactivated. He is so thorough in his report, Blizzard will be carrying the first half of the story of the Roundout Brigade in this edition, and continue it in Edition #1, 2017.

Meanwhile, we want your stories! We need your help in preserving this important history of the Division! The Blizzard hopes to continue to publish these pieces in coming issues, so please, let us hear from you at blizzarded@gmail.com.

One element of the historic 10th Mountain Division seldom recalled today is the 27th Brigade of the New York Army National Guard, which for more than a decade served as the 10th Mountain’s third brigade (then known as a “Roundout” brigade). National Guard Roundout brigades were intended to train with their “parent” active-duty divisions and to deploy, if necessary, after call-up and an additional period of post-activation training. Part-time Guard soldiers were known as “M-Day” soldiers, with “M” standing for “Mobilization.” To be fair, the Roundout brigade concept worked with mixed results.

In 1986, various units of the 27th Brigade, then part of the New York Army National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division, were reassigned to become the roundout brigade for 10th Mountain. According to the 1986 Annual Report of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs:

“On May 1, 1986, the historic colors of the 27th Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard (NYARNG), were reactivated by the 27th Brigade as it became the ‘Round Out’ Brigade for the Army’s 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) stationed at Fort Drum. During the ceremony held at Fort Drum’s Wheeler-Sack Army Air Field, the Brigade retired the colors of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division, New York City, to which it was formerly attached, and unfurled the colors of New York’s famed 27th Infantry Division.

“The ceremony symbolized the role of the modern guard soldier – the reactivating of the colors of an historic guard unit for an element which becomes an essential part of an active Army Division. It is a new mission for a reserve element, in this case the 27th Brigade. It is a most important mission as reserve elements soon will comprise more than half the nation’s defensive force.

“As the ‘Round Out’ Brigade, the 27th retains its Guard status and training schedule and constitutes one-third of the 10th Division’s combat power. This blending of Guard and active Army units is part of the Army’s ‘Total Force’ Policy which makes Guard and active Army soldiers equal partners in this nation’s defense.

“With the new assignment, the soldiers of the 27th Brigade began an intensive training program to develop their ‘Light Fighter’ skills. The ‘Light Fighter’ is a new breed of soldier who constitutes a rapidly deployable deterrent force. These soldiers must be experts in such basic soldiering skills as individual weapons proficiency, map reading, medical and tactical capabilities. In many ways, they are an elite, self-sufficient field force.

“The new 27th Brigade is headquartered in Syracuse. Its subordinate units are located throughout Upstate New York. These units are: the 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, based in Schenectady, Troy, Leeds, and Amsterdam; The 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, with units in Syracuse; the 3rd Battalion, 100th Infantry, located in Utica, Ogdensburg, and Malone; and the 1st Battalion, 156th Field Artillery, with units in Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and Newburgh."

I first arrived at Co C, 1-105 Infantry, at the Leeds Armory, N.Y., in June, 1986, a month after the re-flagging ceremony described above. I had come from a mechanized infantry Army National Guard unit in another part of New York state and from a combat engineer unit before that. The soldiers at Leeds Armory had been working toward the transition from 42nd Infantry to 10th Mountain for some time, and some who didn’t want the added rigor of light infantry training had transferred out to “easier” units. I distinctly remember my first day in the Leeds Armory when our full-time training NCO, SFC Daniel Murphy, told me, “I hope you like to hump a rucksack, because that’s all we do now.” I told him, “I joined the Army because that’s just what I wanted to do!”

And we definitely got our chance! Soldiers from 27th Bde completed the Light Fighter Course at Fort Drum. One of the highlights of Light Fighter was the Combat Water Survival Test at the indoor swimming pool on post at Fort Drum, treading water while ditching equipment, sidestroke swimming the length of the pool in full uniform, and of course, walking blindfolded off the 3-meter diving board with weapon held straight out in front. NCOs also completed the Light Leader Course that was conducted at various sites.

Personally, I attended Light Leader at Fort AP Hill, VA, conducted by trainers from the 29th Inf Div (Virginia Army National Guard). Light Leader was looked forward to as an opportunity to conduct a lot of “high speed” training, such as rappelling from helicopters, helocasting into a river, and MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) training, in addition to numerous day and night patrols.

The year I attended Light Leader (1989), the nice new Army MOUT training facility at Fort Pickett, VA, was unavailable, so instead we convoyed to Quantico, VA, to train on a MOUT site used by Marines. One of the highlights of our MOUT training was rappelling from the top of a cinder block building directly into an open window, firing blanks from our M-16A1 rifles as we entered on a rope to clear the room.

27th Bde soldiers were given ample other opportunities for training. For example, some attended jungle school in Panama. Other leaders could participate in the Key Personnel Upgrade Program (acronym KPUP, pronounced “Keep Up”) where an Army Guard soldier would spend 15 days taking the position of an active duty Team or Squad Leader who was away on leave.

(Next time, Roundout soldiers learn what it’s really like to train during a Northern New York winter -- shades of Camp Hale and the early 10th Mountain Division!)
We are planning a return to Italy for June 9-18, 2017. The decision was made in 2013 to move to a five-year cycle following the 2015 trip to stay in sync with the Division's time in combat, as well as the 1945 war's end anniversaries. Many, most notably our friends in Italy, thought this was too long between visits, and so the 2017 "lite" trip version was born.

The trip will focus entirely on the Hill Towns, the exception being our traditional visit to the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, and will keep optional side trips to a minimum. It is our hope to visit battle sites related to the February-April 1945 operations in more detail than in the past, as well as get off the big buses to see some of the more out-of-the-way but nevertheless important sites in the area. Of course we will still enjoy the traditional hospitality of our hosts and friends in the villages along the way and will offer non-combat activities such as the highly popular cooking class to the extent possible. Those who wish to add some traditional sightseeing to their itinerary can certainly do so on either the front or back end of the group trip.

We are completing the itinerary details now with our travel partner, Intertrav, and with our hosts in Italy. The current trip outline is as follows:

**Friday 06/09:** Depart U.S. for Florence Italy

**Saturday 06/10:** Arrive in Florence, travel to Sienna for afternoon sightseeing, opening dinner, and overnight.

**Sunday 06/11:** Morning: Florence American Cemetery Program, followed by lunch.

**Afternoon:** Travel to Lizzano/Vidiciatico

**Monday 06/12:** Combat route orientation bus tour: Lizzano to Tole, visit Gaggio Montano and surrounding points.

**Tues 06/13-Fri 06/16:** Hill Towns program of visits to important battle sites (to include Riva Ridge, Mt. Belvedere, Mt. Terminale, Mt. Della Spe, Torre Iussi, Monte Croce, and others), surrounding points of interest, visits with our friends in the surrounding villages, traditional evening festivals in Lizzano and Vidiciatico.

**Saturday 06/17:** Morning departures for either an optional Florence tour, or visit to Tole and Monte Croce otherwise. Farewell dinner in Florence

**Sunday 06/18:** Depart Florence for flights to the U.S.

Intertrav Corp. has sent registration materials to current members of TMDD, and to members of the National Association. If you did not receive the brochure please contact Intertrav Corp. directly at 1-800-624-8338 and ask for either Mary or David. In addition we will continue to post updates on the appropriate websites and Facebook pages, so please keep an eye out for those.

Lastly, we sponsored a design contest for the trip logo, offering a gift certificate to the QM to the selected designer. The logo seen above, sent in by descendant Joie Morrison, will be used on all related correspondence and materials. Sempre Avanti!
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Coffey (Descendant 87-F)

10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc. (TMDD) continues to work to fulfill our mission of preserving the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division and to give support to the veterans, wives and widows of the Division. Some of the current TMDD highlights include:

Membership: Membership renewals as well as first-time memberships ended 2016 totaling almost 900 at last count in October, on par with last year. Increasing membership across all chapters remains our highest priority as we work to attract 2nd and 3rd generation descendants, as well as those of the 10th Light veterans. Memberships are our only real source of revenue, revenue that is needed to continue the programs and outreach that we do to meet the mission. We continue to ask for everyone’s help building our numbers by signing up a family member or two so we can reach or better yet surpass the 1,000 member goal we’ve set again for next year. Renewal notices for 2017 went out in early November so please look for those and send them in as soon as possible so that we can start the year strong. We should also all thank Don Perkins and Wilie Nickie for their hard work processing the renewal mailing and memberships so quickly and professionally again this year.

Annual Board of Directors Meeting: The 2016 TMDD BoD Meeting was held on 23 October, once again in Reston, Virginia. The triennial National Association BoD meeting was held on the 22nd in the same location. Both meetings were well attended by Officers and Chapter Presidents/Directors. TMDD Class C Directors were re-elected to a three year term commencing January 1, 2017. Class C Chapter Directors are: Sierra Nevada (Val Rios), Southeast (Larry Fields), So. California (Kathleen Jones), Upstate NY (Jill Hamlin), Utah (Ron Sawdy), Washington, D.C. (Pam Plaka), and Upper Peninsula (Vacant). In addition, the Board approved the appointment of Karen Case (Desc) to complete the term of the Armadillo Roadrunner Chapter Director (Class A) Jeanne Geuras. Look for more information soon stemming from the wide variety of topics that were discussed at the meeting.

Scholarship: As reported earlier, this year’s Finn-Thornton Scholarship of $2,500 was awarded to Charles Thomas, grandson of Sam and Ann Thomas (87-I). To date, we have received generous donations from several chapters and individuals. Taken together with our Association’s annual budgeted amounts, the fund totaled over $9,000 prior to making this year’s award.

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

President (‘11) Steve Coffey #1630 York Mills Lane Reston, VA 20194 703.471.4370 (H); 703.902.4005 (W) sdcoffey@verizon.net Father: Albert Coffey Jr. (87-F)

Immediate Past President Val Rios (see Sierra Nevada Chapter)

Senior Vice President Steve Wilmot 149 High Place Ft. Collins, CO 80521 970.493.5844 Steve10thmnt@gmail.com Father: Leon W. Perkins (87-HQ)

Vice President for Education vacations

Secretary (‘10) Adrian Coffey 6622 E. Wakefield Dr., #81 Alexandria, VA 22307 Grandfather: Albert Coffey (87-F)

Quartermaster Melanie Loveland 7770 W. 38th Ave, Apt 408 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 Meloveland68@gmail.com Grandfather: Richard D. Johnson (87-A)

VP, Chapter Coordinator (‘10) Phoebe Davol 5675 West FM 487 Florence, TX 76527 254.793.3419 Phbe.davol@gmail.com Father: Donald B. Davol (86-L0, HQ-3)

Resource, Denver Library (‘11) Denise Taylor (‘08) 4075 Depew Street Wheat Ridge, CO 80212 303.423.2514 Mountaingirl555@msn.com Father: Marvin E. Taylor (126-D ENG)

Treasurer Don Perkins — See Metropolitan New York Chapter above

On Delay Chairperson Pamela Plaka — See Washington, D.C. Chapter

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_Authorities:

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Officers, Board of Directors

(_ denotes Executive Committee)

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Ft. Drum Chapter

Father: Joseph Croke (85-G)

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Father: Ruso H. Perkins (87-I)

Delaware River Valley Chapter (’11)

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Jessa Adra

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Grandfather: Ernest H. Knapper (85-HQ-2)

Sierra Nevada Chapter (’07)

Val Rios

6616 S. Maple

Schools and Chapters.

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As part of our efforts to substantially beef-up the fund, we have included an insert in the membership packet providing background on this scholarship, and have included a donation line on the membership application. Those interested in making a donation to this fund can do so by including their chosen amount in their renewal check to Don Perkins, our Treasurer, noting that the added amount is for the Finn-Thornton 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: Melanie Loveland of the Rocky Mountain Chapter is off to a great start as our new QM. She has put together a brochure of available items that is also included in the membership mailing. The brochure is available on our TMDD website as well. In addition, 10th Mountain items remain available through the “Off the Beatin’ Path” gift shop at Ft Drum, and can be viewed via a link provided on the National Association website (http://10thmtdivassoc.org).

Finance: TMDD 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. The most substantial example of this was our contribution of $2,500 to the Honor the Mountain Memorial recently dedicated in Watertown, NY (http://www.honorthemountain.com/). 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. is listed on the Donor Plaque as a result. If you have ideas that you would like to see your Association support, please contact your chapter Director, Don Perkins, or myself any time.

Italy 2017: We are planning a return to Italy for 9-18 June, 2017. The trip will focus entirely on the Hill Towns, the exception being our traditional visit to the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, and will keep optional side trips to a minimum. It is our hope to visit battle sites related to the February-April 1945 operations in more detail than in the past, as well as get off the big buses to see some of the more out-of-the-way but nevertheless important sites in the area.

Of course we will still enjoy the traditional hospitality of our hosts and friends in the villages along the way and will offer non-combat activities such as the highly popular cooking class to the extent possible. Those who wish to add some traditional sightseeing to their itinerary can certainly do so on either
**SIBLINGS PRESERVE THEIR DAD’S HISTORY WITH THE TENTH**

**Perkins family treasures from 10th are shared in local museum.**

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**ARMADILLO**

**Phebe Davol**  
(Desc 86-L, RH)

During our reunion weekend in Little Rock, AR, during the weekend of June 10-12, 2016, there was a story about Arnie the Armadillo. Jeannie Geuras (Desc 710-Ord.Div HQ) recreated the story for this Blizzard edition.

The planning for the Armadillo Chapter started during the 1985 Italy trip. Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2), Bob Hunter (10-HQ DEC), and one or two others decided to put together the Armadillo Chapter. Details were worked out at the Houston reunion later on.

At the next reunion in San Antonio in 1986 or 1987, Rosalyn Stewart (wife of Charles Stewart (86-C) and Karen Neidner (William E 86-A) decided we needed a mascot and that it had to be an Armadillo. One was found on special order and then the fun began. The ladies took on the “outfit” and the men handled the ski, curved fronts and the poles. Somehow a white rifle was slung over his shoulder. Do armadillos have shoulders?

Rosalyn Stewart (wife of Charles Stewart (86-C) and Karen Neidner (William E 86-A) sewed the white uniform and they found a doll-size cowboy hat on which they affixed a 10th Mtn Div pin. The men made the round platform with a metal rod to keep Arnie erect as benefiting a 10th Mountain soldier. He was a big hit at many reunions from then on and continues to join Descendants and Veterans at our joint Armadillo reunions.

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**President**

**CONTINUED FROM DESCENDANTS PAGE 2**

the front or back end of the group trip.

Trip brochures and registration materials should have reached all National Association and TMDD members by this time. If you did not receive a mailing, please contact Inter trav Corp. directly at 1-800-624-8338. We will also post details and any updates on both web pages.

**Social Media:** Our TMDD Instagram page has continued to be quite successful with over 600 followers so far. For all you Instagram users, it can be followed at “10thmtndivisiondescendants”. This provides yet another avenue for sharing pictures among the members, and also wave the 10th Mountain flag. It continues to attract a large number of modern 10th Mountain serving soldiers and veterans as well as ski industry organizations and personalities. 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”. Members also continue to visit and post on the 10th Mountain Descendants and Friends Face Book page. This continues to provide a venue for sharing pictures, stories, asking questions, etc. I’m amazed at how much 10th Mountain history is surfaced and discussed on this page, so please visit and contribute often.

**How You Can Help:** Attend Chapter and National Meetings: At the most basic level, we can all simply attend the chapter or national meetings and other gatherings (Ski-Ins, Memorial Day at Camp Hale, National Reunion, Italy trips, etc.) 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 Descendant web page (http://10thmountaindivisiondescendants.org) often for information on activities and initiatives, and don’t hesitate to call on any of us with your ideas and suggestions.

As always … 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 our 10th Mountain veterans and all they’ve done.

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**Ruso “Don” Perkins**  
(Desc 87-I)

After our father Ruso H. Perkins died, my sister, Andrea Miller of Marshfield, MA, suggested that we create an installation of the history of our Father and Mother in their home town of New Berlin, NY.

The installation recently received the final piece to complete the story — the wedding dress of our mother, Jean L. Perkins. There are exhibits and many items of interest presenting the story of one 10th Mountain Division soldier who left his small town in Upstate New York during WWII to join the US Army with specific reasons in mind.

His dream was to fight for our country and be in the great outdoors, skiing, mountain climbing, and joining others of similar interests. The exhibit represents one amazing life and the birth of the 10th Mtn Div. It also presents a pictorial history, including 10th Mountain DVD’s to borrow and books depicting the history of the 10th and our “Greatest Generation.”

The display can be visited at: The New Berlin Library and Museum, 15 South Main Street/Route 8, New Berlin, NY 13411; 607-847-8564; http://libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/.

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ITALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP FLOURISHES IN TORBOLE

Ben Appleby (Friend)

On Friday, July 14, 2016, a small delegation of American military personnel arrived in Torbole, Italy.

Their visit was organized by retired American soldier Rick Tscherne — most commonly known as ‘Ranger Rick’ — and Ben Appleby from the Association Benach. Accompanied to Torbole by ‘Ranger Rick’ were MAJ Brian Steritz and CAPT Christopher Epstein of the 506th Signal Battalion from the American base at Vicenza.

They wanted to visit the area for a number of reasons: firstly to see the new monument to the 25 men who died when their

DUKW (amphibious vehicle) sank on April 30, 1945; their second goal was the monument and plaque to COL William Darby, who died in Torbole on April 30th and who remains to this day an important figure in American military history as the founder of the American Rangers. As well as this, Torbole is significant for the American 10th Mountain Division, as it was here combat finished for them when the war in Italy ended.

Epstein said he was very moved to be in Torbole, and at the end of the visit presented Giovanni Mazzocchi, head of the Alpini, his 10th Mountain badge which he had worn during his service in Afghanistan.

Danny Dusati, a counselor from Torbole-Nago, who last April 30th joined Tscherne and Appleby and more the 100 soldiers on the annual Col. Darby 40 Mile Ranger Challenge, was also present to welcome them on behalf of the council of Torbole.

Steritz said that he was delighted to be in Torbole and couldn’t believe the warmth of the reception. Followed by a lunch together, the Alpini of Torbole kindly opened their doors where Appleby and Mazzocchi had prepared a special exhibition for the visit, after which Epstein and Steritz were presented with the Alpini of Torbole pennant and books by local history groups.

This was done to show the strong Italian-American friendship that has developed between the American forces and the town of Torbole and Benach, who have been very supportive of our events.

Steritz expressed his intention to bring about 50 serving troops and their families to visit Lake Garda and stay a night in Torbole in mid-September. He hoped for a mix of leisure sports and climbing and an opportunity for the American visitors to learn more about the history of World War II.

Memorial

Continued from Descendants Page 1

It was realized a number of years ago that not only are the first generation Descendant volunteers getting older but the Billings would need to find a time in their lives and career to retire. We are now at that transition point so the Memorial always beacons with priority and the attention it so rightly deserves. By the very existence of the Memorial itself, we are able to honor and remember in perpetuity the 1001 fallen WWII 10th Mountain soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of all of us for our freedom from tyranny.

Several years ago an improvement plan was put into motion, which would begin to make the Memorial more maintenance free and lessen any burden both for TMDHA and the volunteer groups that will need to continue this tradition into the future. Part of that goal was to simplify and blend the look of the memorial into its very natural and beautiful environmental setting. Somewhat of a “less is more” so that the initial focus from a first time visitor’s point of view is on the Memorial itself within the surrounding mountain environment.

The process began a number of years ago, with the replacement of the original concrete benches, which were beginning to deteriorate terribly. These benches were replaced with granite benches designed to be lasting and maintenance free while at the same time complementing the Memorial. They were crafted and supplied by the Wilhelm Monument Company in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The original interpretive signage lining the approaching walkway to the Monument was also seriously deteriorating to the point where much of it could no longer be read due to weather and southern exposure to the sun. By removing this signage from the walkway, the focus turns to the Memorial itself when viewed and approached from the parking area.

Significant improvement in outdoor sign materials allowed for a very different tactic in presenting exceptional historical information to the general public in the parking area with greater year-round accessibility including handicap access. Thus, the kiosk, which

is also maintenance free, was developed through planned partnership with the United States Forest Service; design work was provided by the Rocky Mountain Chapter and the design work took place at the Denver Public Library with the help of Resource Center staff. Action Signs of Fort Collins, Colorado provided the final product and signage materials. Action Signs stands ready to reproduce or redesign any signage requirements for the future.

For many years Carol Billings cared for the center island garden area with new plantings every year. Few probably consider how difficult it is to find anything that will grow in a very short growing season at 10,000 feet plus keeping it watered in a place that has scarce water. It’s next to impossible and yet Carol always fashioned beauty in her efforts; but when the first snows came it ended there and the process would have to begin all over again at the first available moment in the spring.

This year, we took steps to change this situation by creating a maintenance free rock garden, north side, next to the 99th Memorial. Signage materials was developed by Webster’s Sand and Gravel, Leadville, CO; additional equipment and labor were contracted through Jim Graves of Snow Cats Nursery in Leadville. This is a garden with native plantings in soil and rocks to encourage natural water collection. Mary Jenson, a landscape designer from Boulder and owner of Bitterroot Gardening and Design with long time experience and a passion for rock gardens, volunteered to plan and help plant the garden.

Many thanks go out to Deborah Clem of the Rocky Mountain Chapter for organizing an annual tele-skier. TMDHA Supervisor on behalf of all of us for our freedom from tyranny.

Many things were accomplished this year. It is clear as soon as possible next year. Planning the exhibition for the visit, after which Epstein and Steritz were presented with the Alpini of Torbole pennant and books by local history groups.

So what is planned for next year? The existing pavement has held up incredibly well for existing at such extreme altitude and temperature for as long as it has. It will make a very good flexible base layer because unfortunately, it is beginning to show its age, so we will be addressing this with an overlay as soon as the frost leaves the ground and the ground has had a chance to relax. Unfortunately, this will mean a two week closure after Memorial Day. The good news is that there will be focus on the landscape behind the Memorial, which is planned prior to Memorial Day in addition to other regular maintenance such as painting, mowing the grounds and trash burning of grass.

We utilize any number of local vendors and contractors in any given year and they often go unmentioned. Some have been mentioned in this piece and some not, but many of them donate time and materials or both, so a sincere thank you to all. Thank you to all the volunteers too numerous to mention, who have helped and who do every year with Monument Day. The good news is that there will be focus on the landscape behind the Memorial, which is planned prior to Memorial Day in addition to other regular maintenance such as painting, mowing the grounds and trash burning of grass.

As with any significant charitable project, it wouldn’t be possible without them! Thank you to the Colorado Department of Transportation and to the dedicated folks at Ski Cooper who help us every year in our efforts to keep the Monument as accessible and snow free as possible. Thank you to Ben Dodge, Executive Director, 10th Mtn Div Hut Assn for continued support all year long including the knowledge and skill of Ted and Carol Billings who we are very fortunate to still have involved, if not on a part-time basis. Also, the talent of David Lee, executive director of the Colorado Avalanche Foundation on the Leadville side, 10th Mtn Div (LI) Veteran (Bosnia/Kuwait), and all around “really good guy” mountain man and guide.

On behalf of the KIA names on the Memorial, our still living 10th Mtn Div veterans, those 10th veterans who survived the war and even those post-war Descendants and the general public, it is a true honor to do what we do and we know we speak for many. The fact is; we can’t wait to get started again as soon as possible next year. Planning the details for next year will occur throughout the winter but in the meantime, another ski season is also right around the corner.
North Country Honors the Mountain Monument this past summer to attend the dedication of the monument. We note the names and deeds of the National Association's "Brass." Those of us fortunate enough to attend the dedication of the North Country Honors the Mountain Monument last summer were pleased to meet many of the people who do the day-to-day work of making the Association run. It was also nice to meet members of the Descendants organization as well as Trux Dole, grandson of our founder, Minnie Dole.

At the top of Little Whiteface Mountain is a plaque dedicating the ski area to the Tenth, placed there in 1958. Shortly after the re-activation of the 10th Mtn Div (LI) at Fort Drum, with the help of Art Thompson (86-F), the Army started a ceremony at Whiteface to honor the creation of the Tenth Light Alpine in July of 1943 and to remember fallen brothers. The Army provides the color guard, band, speaker, and even lunch.

This ceremony continues to this day, and the Upstate Chapter is usually asked to participate since we are local. This year we were pleased to have 18 Assn and Descendant members in attendance as well as many family and friends. Attendees included Harold and Lorraine Mcafee (85-L), Phil and Emmy Santasiero (86-F), Charlie Smith (85-I), Francis LaDuc (86-E), Al Soria (87-L), Bill Millette and Bev Felderman (605-FA-A), and Bill Morrison. Spouses were Eudora Schuler, Marge Newton, masina Ghallager and Descendants Jill Hamlin and Dave Morrison.

Spouse Nancy Looby organized a brief luncheon to welcome Jennie and Tony Sileo (85-I). Tony and Nancy’s husband Jim were instrumental in establishing the 85-I KIA Endowed Scholarship at Sienna College, long promoted at former National Association reunions. Attendees included Bill Millette, Bev Felderman, and Bill Morrison.

Each fall, we tend to revisit the Log Jam restaurant in Lake George for our autumn get-together and business meeting. Thanks to our treasurer and Descendant chapter president Jill Hamlin, this year was no exception. Business items covered included approving expenditures to the Fort Drum Wounded Warrior Project, an engraved paver block at the recently dedicated North Country Honors the Mountain Monument in Thompson Park, Watertown, NY.

Those in attendance were: Veterans and spouses Emmy and Phil Santasiero, Lorraine and Harold McAfee (85-L), Bev Felderman and Bill Millette, Al Soria and Bill Santasiero (85-I KIA Endowed Scholarship at Sienna College, the Fort Drum Wounded Warrior Project, and an engraved paver block at the recently dedicated North Country Honors the Mountain Monument in Thompson Park, Watertown, NY.

Before adjourning, we set a date for our annual Belvedere Day luncheon, to be held on Feb. 16, 2017, at the Century House in Latham.

Sierra Nevada Chapter luncheon included, from left, Jacob and Lauren Rios (Desc 87-K), Anne Easley (Desc 85-C), Paul Meyerhof (Desc 86-MED-1), Georgia and Val Rios (Desc 87-K), Morgan Desmond (Desc 86-C), Art Schimke (87-K), Myrna Hampton (Desc 86-HQ-1), Susan Alexander (Desc 86-MED-HQ-1), Marianne Little (85-E W), George Alexander (Desc 86-MED-HQ-1), Teresa Little (Desc. 85-E), Ellen Davidson (Desc 85-C).

Val Rios (DESC 87-K)

The Sierra Nevada Chapter held its annual luncheon meeting on Oct. 29, 2016, at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Redwood City.

Art Schimke (87-K), who was the only WWII veteran able to attend, gave the opening prayer. Chapter President/Director Val Rios gave a toast in honor of the 10th Sierra Nevada Chapter members who recently passed away, including Ted Little (85-E), Bruno Ghiringhelli (87-F), Wolfgang Seibt (Friend of the 10th) and Cruz Rios (87-K).

He then shared updates regarding the Association, Foundation and Descendants organizations, including the upcoming 2017 Return to Italy trip. He tried showing the Foundation’s recent video explaining the relationship among the 10th family organizations, but he didn’t have the correct AV cord!

Chapter members voted to retain Val Rios as chapter president, Ellen Davidson (Desc 85-C) treasurer, and Myrna Hampton (Desc 86-HQ-1) secretary. A new position was added and Georgia Rios (Desc 87-K) was elected as chapter descendant secretary.

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>May</td>
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<td>Spring Luncheon, Machine Shed, Lake Elmo, MN</td>
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<td>June 9-18</td>
<td>Descendants</td>
<td>Italy Hill Towns Discovery Trip—all are welcome!</td>
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<td>Sept. 8-10</td>
<td>Big Sky</td>
<td>Annual meeting, Ruby’s Inn, Missoula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 13-17</td>
<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>Congress, International Federation of Mountain Skiers, Clayton &amp; Ft Drum, NY</td>
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Note: Calendar events are listed for the benefit of members, so please send information along to the Blizzard when dates are set so we can let more people know of the many 10th activities!
NEW ENGLAND

Harris McWade
(Desc 87-HQ-3)

Brewster Bartlett (Desc 87-I) hosted the 7th Annual Chet Morley Memorial Spring Luncheon at the Makris Restaurant in Louden, NH, on June 11, 2016. Nineteen chapter members attended the luncheon, including three WWII veterans and their wives or significant others.

Brewster Bartlett also hosted this year’s 18th Annual 10th Mountain Division Memorial on July 7. Unlike past years when the memorial was hosted at the Bartlett family farm in Lancaster, NH, this year’s event took place at the summit of Cannon Mountain in Franconia, NH. Twenty-five New England chapter members attended, including WWII veterans Dick Calvert (86-HQ-2) and Phil Twombly (86-HQ).

After the formal ceremony and picnic, members enjoyed touring the New England Ski Museum’s newest annual exhibit of 87th Infantry Regiment memorabilia, vintage uniforms and mountain combat equipment, wartime letters, maps and historical artifacts.

COL (ret.) Matt Fitzgerald (VTARNG) and Bob Linscott (Desc 86-G) hosted this year’s 34th annual Mt. Washington Climb and Memorial Aug. 10-11. Twenty-five chapter members, along with support personnel from the Army Mountain Warfare School (AMWS) in Jericho, VT, made a safe, dry ascent during the day Aug. 10 to their overnight stay at the Lake of the Clouds hut.

The 60-plus people who attended the memorial included our 25 climbers, WWII veterans Dick Calvert, John Barton (87-HQ-1), Don Linscott (86-G), Bert Hirtle (85-HQ) and John Muenzinger (87-G), their wives and loved ones, along with several soldiers from the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, VT, the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and CSM Joseph “Toby” Quick (CSM – VT NG). This year we honored 10 WWII chapter veterans who passed away since our memorial last year and rededicated Medal of Honor recipients PFC John D. Magrath (85-G) and SFC Jared C. Monti (3d SQ, 71st CAV, 10th Mtn Div [LI]) and Pat Thornton (Desc 85-L), who we lost to cancer in August 2014.

FORT DRUM

Joseph A. Agresti
(Civ US Army IMCOM Atlantic; 10th Mtn Div [LI] ret.)

Once again the Fort Drum Chapter has presented scholarships of $5,000 each to veterans or family members of soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division.

School Year 2016-17 scholarship results are the following:

Daniel Travis — Veteran of the Division and winner of a scholarship in 2015; he will continue his studies at Arizona State University.

Kirstin Stiller — Daughter of a former 10th Mtn Div soldier and winner of the scholarship in 2014; she will continue her studies at the University of Virginia.

Marissa Frank — Daughter of a 10th Mountain veteran; she will continue her studies at SUNY Binghamton.

Abigail Labadini — Daughter of a 10th Mountain veteran; she will begin her studies in biology.

Richard Ruder — A Division veteran and previous winner in 2014; he will continue his studies at Colorado State University.

To date, the Chapter has awarded 61 scholarships to qualified recipients. As of this round of selections, the program will be headed in the future by Chapter member Gil Pearsall (10th Mountain Division [LI] ret.).
The Rocky Mountain Chapter has a unique span of history happening here and now.

On Oct. 1, 2016, Hugh Evans was inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame at a gala banquet in Vail. In attendance were prior Hall of Fame recipient Crosby Perry-Smith (86-HQ), a combat engineer and ammo bearer, and WWII veterans Dick Dirkes (86-E) and Sanford M. Treat Jr. (86-H).

On Oct. 30, the 1st Battalion, 157th Mountain Infantry, Colorado Army National Guard, mustered at Camp Hale to take on the 10th Mountain Division shoulder patch. The patch has not been worn by a Colorado-based unit since WWII. The 1/157 will become aligned through the 86th Mountain Infantry Brigade, VT, Army Guardsmen are looking forward to visits and training exchanges with the active duty 10th (LI).

Regrettably, the elder members of the Rocky Mountain chapter are bringing to an end their monthly luncheons. However, using the October ceremony as a reason for Cold War, Desert Storm, and OEF/OIF veterans to muster as well, we hope to move forward by reinstating social gatherings as quickly as possible. It will also be necessary for chapter officers to visit National Guard readiness centers (formerly “armories”) in the towns of Grand Junction, Alamosa, Windsor and Fort Lupton and North Colorado Springs. Meanwhile we are joining the 10th Foundation in supporting the Colorado Veterans Memorial in Aurora, CO, with a Division flag and pole for the next three years.

On a separate note, we noticed that Crosby Perry-Smith wore a Soldier’s Medal above the Bronze Star on his lapel. Grudgingly he told of saving eight men from a mined section of railroad track in northern Italy before the division moved up to combat. He credits his “sapper” training with being able to recognize the German mines and work around them. Most of the men he pulled to safety were medics who had gone in to aid a wounded sentry.

Robert did not rejoin his unit until May 24. On June 1 he was awarded the Po Valley Battle Star and five additional points to his Advanced Service Rating Score (ASRS). The 85th Infantry Regiment sailed from Naples on July 31, 1945, on the SS Marine Fox, arriving at New York harbor Aug. 11. Our last document for Robert is the passenger list from his return trip to the United States.

After receiving Keli’s extensive response, Christine writes further:

I am also hoping that I can get a 10th Mountain patch that we can place on Oliver’s service vest... do you know where I can get one?

After Uncle Bob returned home from WWII he went on to get his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa and his master’s in education from the University of Missouri. He worked at Rochester Community College as the dean of students in Rochester, Minnesota. Uncle LOVED to travel, especially by train. He traveled around the world seeking out train excursions. He took the Orient Express from Budapest to Istanbul and also took the train across Siberia.

Meantime, I think I hit the jackpot. I found a U.S. Army Snapshots book from Camp Hale and photos, lots of them. One photo of a group of Army soldiers labeled on the back, “taken at the catacombe S. Callisto Rome, Italy. 29 March 1945.” I also located Uncle Bob’s Army issue sleeping bag. I never knew this, but Uncle Bob’s father was MAJ R.O. Wise, Transportation Officer at Camp Hale.

(Ed. Note: If you are interested in contacting Christine with a 10th patch or any further information about her uncle, it’s Christine Brandt, 3124 S. 93rd Ave., Omaha, NE 68124.)
ROADRUNNER

Rebecca Joyce
(Desc 604 FAB)

Roadrunner Chapter is holding its numbers. We are now missing two more of our veterans, Jimmy Johns (85-A-D) and Sid Foil (87-L); another, Richard Wright (87-E), is not able to travel.

Our descendants chapter had a chapter luncheon this Sept. 10, 2016, and 10 descendants and Bobbie Foil (W Sid Foil, 87-L) attended. We also had a guest from the Armadillo Chapter. We ate at an Italian restaurant to honor our fathers. Two descendants’ fathers served in the Aleutians. We will honor them with a luncheon next year.

Several will attend the Ski-In, 2017. They have attended in the past and will continue that tradition.

We are a small, widely distributed chapter. We hold a separate luncheon in the southern region of New Mexico. The entire family of Paul Brusuelas (85-A) attended in February.

Our Chapter consistently lays a wreath at Tennessee Pass for Memorial Day. We will continue that, also.

There was new business discussed. The Italy Mini-trip, 2017, “Hill Towns Discovery,” was reported on. One descendant may attend, and others are interested in the 2020, 75th Anniversary trip. Pictures from the 2015, 70th anniversary trip were passed around. All of us have gone on a trip in the past. We talked about past trips and look forward to a chance to go again.

NEW SIGN AT TENNESSEE PASS TELLS STORY OF NORWEGIAN BATTALION

Erik Brun
President, 99th Inf Bn Foundation

The 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) — named so because it did not belong to a regiment — was activated on July 10, 1942, at Camp Ripley, MN.

Comprised of Norwegian and Norwegian-American ski troopers, “The Viking Battalion” is the only unit of the United States Army with a pure Norwegian history.

From August, 1942, to August, 1943, the battalion underwent intense high-altitude and ski training at Camp Hale alongside the 10th Mtn Div. In August of 1943, the unit was set up for a possible invasion and liberation of Norway, but saw combat action in France, Belgium and Germany before becoming the 99th Battalion of the 474th Infantry Regiment (Separate) and being sent to Norway in June 1945 to disarm the German occupational force.

Because the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) and the 10th Mountain Division went through such rigorous training together, members of the 99th are considered honorary members of the 10th. In 1985, the 99th Infantry Battalion Veterans Association erected a memorial to The Viking Battalion at Tennessee Pass, near the 10th Mountain Division memorial.

The memorial reads:

The 99th Infantry Battalion (SEP) was:
Activated 10 July 1942
at Camp Ripley Minnesota
Deactivated 11 November 1945 at Camp Miles Standish,
Boston Massachusetts
Camp Hale Colorado was the main ski trooper training
area located 5 miles north of this site on Route 24. Cam-
paigned in European Theater of Operations.
Battle Awards – Presidential Unit Citation – Belgian
Croix De Guerre Normandy – Northern France – Ar-
dennes – Rhineland – Central Europe
The Liberation of Norway
8 May 1945

The Rype Group parachuted into Norway on 24 March 1945 for sabotage missions and later joined the Under-
ground for the liberation of Norway.

As quoted by an unknown but remembered 2nd Armored Division Major at the end of the attack thru Northern France: “This Viking Battalion is the only infantry outfit tanks have trouble keeping up with.”

To accompany the memorial, Erik Brun, of the 99th Inf Bn Foundation, has recently worked closely with the 10th Mountain Division Association to post signage explaining more about who the 99th was, and its significance in WWII. The two groups made sure the new signage matches the look and feel of the existing 10th Mountain Division kiosk, creating a beautiful addition to the monument site.

AR...
The gathering of Big Sky included, front row from left, Joanne Manchester (87-K), Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Louisa St. John Durkin (85-HQ-3/86-HQ-1); back row, Leo Erhart (86-B), Eleanor Coop (87-B), Ginny and Tom Helmer (87-C), Hilton LaBow (85-L, 90-L), Vickie and Ray Johnson (85-G).

Suz Rittenhouse
(Desc 87-HQ-2)

September for the Big Sky Chapter of the 10th Mountain Division Association means a gathering of its members in Missoula, MT. Ruby’s Inn again welcomed our dwindling number and made us feel at home. The weather was three days of warm and sunny Montana fall days from Sept. 9–11.

President Nancy Lausch called to the business meeting to order on Saturday morning lots. Attending were Larry Wilson (Desc 87-HQ-1), Jim Funk (Desc Serv CO), Louisa St. John Durkin (85-HQ-3, 86-HQ-1), Joanne Manchester (87-K), Dale Manchester, (Desc 87-K), Jerry Reed (Desc 87-HQ-1), Suz (Desc 87-HQ-2) and Dave Rittenhouse, Lexi Rausch (Desc 87-HQ-2), Hilton LaBow (85-L, 90-L), Linda Seibel (Desc 85-L, 90-L), Tom Freid (Desc 85-L, 90-L), Eleanor Coop (87-B), Nancy Lausch (Desc 87-B), Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Katherine, Bob, Haiden, Elly and Grady Reed (Desc 85-HQ-3), Anne Wright and Paul Jackman (Desc 85-HQ-3), Ray and Vickie Johnson (85-G), Jeff Johnson (Desc 85-G) and Debbie Johnson, Tom (87-C) and Ginny Helmer, Jim Walsh (Desc 10-Med-B), Sharon Zirschky and Leo Erhart (86-B).

Louisa St. John Durkin, secretary/treasurer, reported the chapter has a healthy budget. The white elephant auction seems to bring in enough to cover expenses. The annual report has been sent to the national treasurer.

The date for the 2017 annual meeting was set for Sept. 9-10 at Ruby’s Inn in Missoula. Please mark your calendars.

Larry also made note of Leo Erhart’s comfortable appearance at the meeting as he was wearing his slippers. Larry got a good chuckle from the crowd. Larry and Jerry Reed drove to Belle Fourche, SD, to bring Leo all the way to this year’s meeting in Missoula!

Ray Johnson told members that Tom Brooks had passed away. Tom Brooks wrote many articles for The Blizzard. Ray said he had really enjoyed them. This lead Ray to telling us a story about how he’d “borrowed” a jeep to get ice for the NCO club. This story gave the audience another hearty laugh. Leo said he had brought a copy of the daily reports he would share with the attendees. He also thanked Larry and Jerry for coming to get him for the meeting.

There was a discussion of what to do with chapter monies when the chapter is no longer meeting. Several ideas were suggested, but it was decided to check on the possibility of donating benches to some cemeteries in memory of the 10th Mountain Division. The ones in Helena, Laurel and Custer National Cemetery were suggested. Nancy will check with the Laurel Cemetery, Jim Funk the Helena Cemetery and Suz Rittenhouse the Custer National Cemetery.

Members asked about getting 10th Mountain memorabilia. Larry said it is very difficult now since there is no longer a quartermaster store. He said there is a gift shop at Fort Drum, NY, carrying some things but they don’t ship.

Jim Funk said he does a Labor Day shot for veterans in his home town of Greybull, WY. He invited all to attend.

The afternoon white elephant auction raised a whopping $965. The money is used to pay for the Big Sky Chapter newsletter and troopers’ and spouses’ fees for the annual meeting.

The evening banquet was well attended and provided more time to visit.

Members gathered along Grant Creek, which meanders past Ruby’s Inn, for a brief memorial on Sunday morning. Larry Wilson said past years’ memorials were to honor those 10th Mountain troopers who had died during WWII. Now he feels it includes all the troopers who have passed away, past and present. At the conclusion, Larry wished everyone safe travels and everyone’s favorite wish: “See you next year!”

Kim Hudyma
(Desc 86-SVC)

The Washington, D.C. Chapter held our Annual Veteran’s Day Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, at Clyde’s of Tyson’s Corner in Vienna, VA. Participants enjoyed a great chance to catch up with friends at a very nice restaurant.

Our chapter is growing with interest from new Descendants and 10th (LI) Veterans who have moved into the area from around the country. Future plans for our group include a visit in early Spring to a “Tank Farm” at the Americans in Warfare Museum in Nokesville, VA, or the National Museum of the Marine Corp in Triangle, VA. Suggestions for events and speakers are always welcome.

Our Chapter Treasurer, Norm Burkey (Desc 85-C), spoke at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., at a joint celebration of V-E Day and Mothers’ Day on May 8, 2016 (see “Blizzard Edition #2, 2016”). Norm, as President of American WWII Orphans Network, honored his mother Anna, who raised three young children after his father was killed in action while serving with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. What an honor for Norm and his family, and the Tenth!

Sunny day for Washington, D.C. Chapter members, back row, left, Antigone Doucette (Desc 10-QM-HQ & 87-HQ-3), Ralph Tuccillo (10th [LI]), John Pryor, Christopher Doucette (Desc 10-QM-HQ & 87-HQ-3); middle row: Patrick Kiser (Desc 87-F), Pam Pikla (Desc 10-AT-A), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Kinley Doucette, Norm Burkey (Desc 85-C); front row, Abbie Kealy (Desc 86-L), Kim Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC), Sandy Tuccillo, Kristen Pryor (Desc 85-E), Mary Burkey (Desc 85-C), Richard Templeton (Desc 85-HQ-3).

BLIZZARD SCHEDULE 2017

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SEND MATERIALS TO:
Felicity Hallanan, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145
blizzarded@gmail.com
Benoit, Andre Eugene (85-B, 86-B), 95, October 3, 2016, Yarmouth, Cape Elizabeth, ME. Survived by wife Nancy, 3 sons, a daughter, 8 grandchildren, nieces & nephews. Buyer & vice president, A.H. Benoit & Co, family-owned clothing business. Active volunteer, Cape Elizabeth Recreation Committee, Boy Scouts, United Fund/Way, Maine Handicapped Ski program; active in several churches. Advocated for designating Route 302 as 10th Mtn Div Highway and naming 10th Mountain and at Camp Hale; rode fellow members of the 10th on Cooto Colorado recently, to be honored with granddaughters and two great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife, Violet, a daughter, a son and four grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 11 step-great-grandchildren; predeceased by first wife, Eunice. Elmer and Eunice farmed for over 30 years in the Cushing, IA, area. Later drove truck for Cushing Farm Supply Co. Active member, Legion Post 624 for over 72 years; enjoyed Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2009. Enjoyed fishing, playing cards, wintering in Arizona, visiting and lived as a patriot until his death.

Blunt, Robert E. “Bob” (86-H), 92, September 24, 2016, Colorado Springs, CO. Survived by a son, a daughter, three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Julia. Lived most of his life in Rochester, NY. Returned to Colorado recently, to be honored with fellow members of the 10th on Cooper Mountain and at Camp Hale: rode through Rocky Mountain National Park, picnicked, supervised firewood-cutting operations and visited Breckenridge and 10th Mountain memorial statue.

Brown, Samuel L., 89, March 18, 2016, Westerly, RI. Survived by two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Mary (Champion). Employed at George C. Moore Co in Westerly & Greenville, TN. Member, Christ Episcopal Church.

Buckley, Norman L. (10-AT-A), 92, March 10, 2016, Janesville, WI. Survived by wife Violet, a daughter, a son and four grandchildren; predeceased by one son. Prior to retirement, employed by Libby McNeile & Libby as industrial engineer. Member, Cargill United Methodist Church, past member, Jaycees and local Boy Scout Council.

Carlson, Robert Ernest (86-L), 91, April 27, 2016, Crockett, TX. Survived by former wife Jane (Waters), a daughter, four sons and five grandchildren. An architect with several Denver and Boulder firms including Hobart D. Wagner Associates. Notable designs included Snoas warming house and area manager’s residence at Winter Park ski resort. Instructor, Eskimo Ski Club; founded Front Range Walkers; member, National Assn. 10th Mtn Div, Governor’s Council for Health Promotion & Physical Fitness, Boulder Lions Club, Denver East HS Angels Alumni Assn., Colorado Master’s Running Assn., Rocky Mtn Orienteering Club, Rocky Mtn Road Runners & Construction Specifications Institute. Ran numerous marathons after age 50, including Pikes Peak Marathon.

Cramer, John Ernest (87-HQ-2), 90, January 12, 2016, Flathead Lake, MT. Survived by wife Shirley (Metzner), three daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Worked for Forest Service & Anaconda Co in Bonner for 35 years. Couple raised five children in Missoula, later retired at Flathead Lake. Active member, 10th Mtn Div Assn; could identify and give taxonomic name for every tree in the forest; elk hunter early, enjoyed watching wildlife in later years. Shared love of skiing with family, clearing ski runs at Marshall Ski Area in fall, skiing all winter for many years.


Farrow, William A. Jr. (85-E), 91, August 4, 2016, Montrose, CO. Survived by wife Joanie, a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren. Practiced veterinary medicine in Montana, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Littleton, CO. Built and operated Arapahoe Veterinary Service; specialized in horses and appointed state veterinarian for Colorado State Racing Commission. Enjoyed skiing, golf and volunteering with adapted ski programs and Special Olympics. Active in Elks, Masons and Kiwanis, as well as National Assn. of 10th Mtn Div.

Groat, Symphonie Jane (85-HQ-2), 93, September 22, 2016, Steele, AL. Survived by wife Jill (Goodorn), two sons, five grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild. Retired from Republic Steel after 37 years. Member, Steele Baptist Church; enjoyed woodworking, bird watching, arts and crafts.

Lovell, Frederick Warren (87-G), 94, July 15, 2016, Ventura, CA. Survived by wife June Wineinger (Seery), three daughters, a son, seven grandchildren and two stepsons; also survived by first wife Mary Jones Hudson; predeceased by wife June Ann (Hendrickson). Began service with 10th Mtn Div, then pilot with U.S. Army Air Corps; later Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air Force, retiring as COL. Hospital pathologist, Seattle; partner in cattle ranch, part of Lovell Auto Co., flew with USAF Reserve. Loved music, languages, travel; member Rotary, Salvation Army, Grace Lutheran Church.

Miller, Robert B. (85-A), 92, August 26, 2016, Columbus, OH. Survived by wife Erika, one son, two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Retired from federal government as printing press operator. Attended Faith Lutheran Church. Former member, Dudes & Dolls Square Dance Club; member, Southeast Conservation Club. An avid hunter and fisherman.

Mouch, Robert “Bob” L. (605 FA-A), 92, July 13, 2016, Dublin, OH. Survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren and nieces and nephews; predeceased by wife Frances (Bader). Owned Mouch Insurance Agency in downtown Columbus his entire working career. Dedicated member, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; loved to travel, play tennis, bridge, swim and ride his horses.

Reese, George William Sr. (85-SVC), 98, March 10, 2016, Richmond, VA. Survived by dear friend Opal Roberts, six grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Elmaria Emily and one son. Worked for Woolworth and Ben Franklin for many years. Fourth-degree Knight, Knights of Columbus-St Charles Borromeo No. 16137; devoted Cleveland Indians fan and member, St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church, Richmond, VA.

Syversen, Leif Arne (85-F), 92, August 1, 2016, Salt Lake City, UT. Survived by wife Ruth, a son, two daughters, a stepson, two stepdaughters, 20 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Donna (Peck). Delivered mail for U.S. Postal Service for 28 years, serving in several union positions and attending national conventions for NALC local. Later worked for Alpine Title and Utah Title. Learned carpentry and masonry and built a cabin in Samak on Beaver Creek.

Susie, Elmer W. (87-F), 91, August 19, 2016, Cushing, IA. Survived by second wife, Geraldine, one son, one daughter, one stepson, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren and 11 step-great-grandchildren; predeceased by first wife, Eunice. Elmer and Eunice farmed for over 30 years in the Cushing, IA, area. Later drove truck for Cushing Farm Supply Co. Active member, Legion Post 624 for over 72 years; enjoyed Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2009. Enjoyed fishing, playing cards, wintering in Arizona, visiting and lived as a patriot until his death.

Tomky, Orville Thomas (126-B), 92, August 2, 2016, Olney Springs, CO. Survived by two sons, two daughters, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; predeceased by wife Loretta (Daehn). Head of family of four generations of farmers in Southeast Colorado. Member, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board; director, Twin Lakes & Reservoir Canal Co. of Colorado and Lake Meredith Canal Co; board member, Arkansas Valley Research Center. Founding member, Olney Springs Lions Club, 4-H leader, Boy Scout leader; received Crowley Co. Chamber of Commerce and West-Otero Soil Conservation awards. Passions included snow and water skiing, dancing, arrowhead hunting and hunting game; donated farm produce to many local and state events. Active in Rocky Mountain Chapter; Tomky family hosted 10th Mountain weekend at their farm near La Junta in September 2015 (Blizzard #3, 2015).

Whitaker, Clarence A. (110 SIG), 91, June 7, 2016, Louisburg, KS. Survived by wife Alberta, two sons, two stepdaughters, numerous granddaughters, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; predeceased by first wife Helen. Worked for U.S. Postal Service before retiring in 1984. Loved to play golf; an avid gardener; looked forward to annual pheasant hunting trip with buddies. Lifetime member, Louisburg American Legion Post #250, VFW, NARF and ALB.
The generosity of a diversity of donors is making it possible for the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division to provide support to a number of soldiers and their families.

Thank you all!

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Douglas & Jennifer Thrall

SUCCESSION PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT
To increase the Foundation’s relevance and impact, we will also formalize our approach with participation. Over the coming year we will also implement a first step down this path by opening up new blood and thinking. We’ve taken the first step, which is to explore ways to be more efficient when it comes to programmatic support, both in raising funds and making grants.

As an example, did you know that today there are scholarship programs within the Foundation, the Descendants and the 10th (LJ) organizations? Would it make sense to consolidate the administration of those programs, as well as leverage the Foundation’s investment resources? Are there ways to collaborate with the various chapters to hold fundraising or volunteer events for a common Foundation pillar program such as career transition support for today’s 10th soldiers interested in the ski and outdoor industry? Have thoughts? Let us know!

Ok, so there you have it. That’s what we hope to do as we move to increase the Foundation’s relevance and impact. Will there be challenges along the way? You bet. Will we adjust and potentially course correct? Quite likely. I welcome your input and suggestions. You can send them to admin@tenthmountainfoundation.org or lynn@thesnowpros.org. We have an objective. Now let’s go after it.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
By addressing the areas outlined above, we will better position us to do the next step, which is to explore ways to be more efficient when it comes to programmatic support, both in raising funds and making grants.

As an example, did you know that today there are scholarship programs within the Foundation, the Descendants and the 10th (LJ) organizations? Would it make sense to consolidate the administration of those programs, as well as leverage the Foundation’s investment resources? Are there ways to collaborate with the various chapters to hold fundraising or volunteer events for a common Foundation pillar program such as career transition support for today’s 10th soldiers interested in the ski and outdoor industry? Have thoughts? Let us know!

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Sempre Avanti!
FOUNDATION NEWS

IN MEMORY OF

Memorial donations received, with thanks, from June 14, 2016 through October 14, 2016.

Edmund D. Bennett: Madi Kraus
Robert E. Carlson: William Morrison
Donald E. Darroch: Sunshine Fund

William A. Farrow: Frank Dommen, Joan Farrow, Roy Kirkman, Carolyn Mayer, Sharon Pederson
Clarence R. Hawkins: Jeffrey Hawkins
James J. Nassar Jr.: Richard S. Dirkes, Abbie Kealy
Orville Tomky: Marjorie Cypress, Donald H Palmer
John Tripp: Andrew Tripp

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Email: admin@10thmdf.org

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NEW FOUNDERATION PRESIDENT SHARES VISIONS

Trux Dole
President, Tenth Mountain Division Foundation

Sitting here writing this first letter as the newly-elected president of your Foundation, I can’t help thinking that my grandfather, Minnie Dole, must be grinning.

I am excited to share with you what we have been doing and where we are headed.

If you take away only one thing from this letter, it’s that over the next three years, my goal is to increase the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation’s relevance and impact on the greater 10th community.

I will explain my vision in more detail, but before going any further, I would first like to thank Tommy Thompson for his leadership as president these past three years, and for his many years of service to the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation.

While he has chosen to step back from the Foundation board, Tommy has graciously agreed to continue to support the finance committee in its work. Tommy, thank you.

Second, I would like to highlight the other folks elected to lead the Foundation. Nancy Kramer, who has so ably led our governance committee, is stepping up as Vice President. Dave Little, best known for all his work with the Living History Group, will be taking on the role of Secretary, and Bjorn Dahl has graciously agreed to extend his term as Treasurer for another year as we seek to find a worthy replacement.

Last, but not least, Tom Hames will continue as our Foundation Chairman.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, I need to announce a changing of the guard. We must reluctantly say goodbye to Frankie Barr, the Foundation’s long-time Executive Administrator. Having first been recruited by Earl Clark, Frankie helped us navigate from a board run by the WWII veterans to one being run by descendants. She quietly but surely helped the 10th license plate program get off the ground and helped keep all of us on track before and after annual meetings. We will sorely miss Frankie’s gracious dedication and quiet attention to detail, but we wish her well and hope that she will actually take some down time.

That said, we are very excited to welcome our new Executive Administrator, Lynn Hutchinson. Having served in the Military Intelligence Corps for seven years, ending her career as a Captain, Lynn understands the needs and interests of today’s soldiers. She also has a family connection to the 10th. Her husband was deployed with the 10th Mtn Div (LI) in Iraq. Professionally, Lynn has both entrepreneurial and corporate experience, and most recently was fast-tracked to assistant store leader at JC Penney in under a year.

Given Lynn’s experience and personality, our hope is that she will add value, not just in managing the administrative aspects of the foundation, but also helping us in the areas of communications, marketing and volunteer coordination.

Ok, so how will we will achieve this goal by increasing relevance and impact?

SHIFT TO PROGRAM PILLAR FOCUS

Our first step started two years ago when we began analyzing how we might build best structure and change our focus. With the help of the Governance Committee, and a strategic planning session last year, we have shifted to a greater focus on supporting defined programs rather than ad hoc requests. This new focus is centered on three main pillars:

A. Promoting the legacy of the 10th and its soldiers — both WWII and today’s 10th
B. Furthering the spirit of the 10th and its connection to the outdoor industry
C. Continuing to support the education of 10th veterans and their children

The mission has not changed. Nor has the commitment to ‘Your Foundation is Forever.’ Indeed, that commitment is why we have refocused our efforts. However, we are not done. We are just getting started, and this year will be a year of transition.

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND COMMITTEE WORK

At this year’s annual meeting on July 18th, the Foundation board ratified our new pillar-based organizational structure, and in the coming months we will be finalizing the corresponding committees with defined charters and responsibilities.

This is an important first step because the board also agreed that we need to extend participation on these committees to non-board members. You should know exactly what’s expected if you are going to volunteer your time. We also voted to revise our budgeting along pillar lines, so committees can know in advance the amount of funding with which they can work.

Over the coming year, I’ve asked the committees within each pillar to research and assess one to three programs that they believe merit long-term support; either as strategic partnerships with other organizations such as the Living History Group, National Outdoor Leadership School (NO-LS), or the Wounded Warrior program, or as Foundation-initiated programs such as memorial support at Tennessee Pass or the Florence cemetery in Italy.

This project is another way you can get involved. Send us your suggestions! Help us with research! Join a committee!

SEE VISIONS ON PAGE 15