

# The 95th Division Journal

**IRON MEN OF METZ**

*A Publication of The 95th Division Legacy Association*



The 95th Training Division (IET) provides the Color Guard for the 95th Division Legacy Association at a rededication ceremony for the 95th Monument at Fort Indiantown Gap Sept. 22, 2018. *Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania National Guard*

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## NATIONAL OFFICERS

### President

JAMES E. ARCHER HHC, 95th Division (IT) (Ret)  
1918 Old Mill Drive, Salem, VA 24153  
[jim.archer@blueridgebeverage.com](mailto:jim.archer@blueridgebeverage.com) (540) 312-6558

### First Vice President

CLIF TWADDLE  
827 Orchard Peak Court, Houston, TX 77062  
[ctwaddle@comcast.net](mailto:ctwaddle@comcast.net) (281) 286-9104

### Second Vice President

MICHAEL J. FLORA  
13919 Squaw Creek Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814  
[mike.flora.1717@gmail.com](mailto:mike.flora.1717@gmail.com) (260) 271-9134

### Secretary

LORA NEAL HHC  
200 N. Colby Avenue, Valley Center, KS 67147  
[fancyfarmer44@gmail.com](mailto:fancyfarmer44@gmail.com) (405) 641-1676

### Treasurer

JENNIFER K. MACK HHC  
14512 Waterfront Road, Edmond, OK 73013  
[jennifer.cottenmack@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.cottenmack@gmail.com) (405) 602-9394

### Public Relations Officer

MARSHA S. FLORA  
13919 Squaw Creek Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814  
[marsha.flora@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.flora@gmail.com) (260) 271-9133

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CEO E. BAUER I/377  
123 North Ithaca Street, Ithaca, MI 48847-1228  
(989) 875-0293

WALTER BLENKO E/378  
4073 Middle Road, Allison Park, PA 15101  
[wblenko@verizon.net](mailto:wblenko@verizon.net) (412) 486-2017

THERESA BUNN HHC, 95th Division (IT) (Ret)  
15837 Big Cypress Drive, OKC, OK 73013  
[Theresa.Bunn@okc.gov](mailto:Theresa.Bunn@okc.gov) (405) 306-0540

DOUG MADDEN CHAPLAIN  
42424 Jefferson Drive, Hammond, LA 70403  
[adougmadden@yahoo.com](mailto:adougmadden@yahoo.com)

KRISTIN WHITTINGTON  
5522 West 900 South, Edinburg, IN 46124  
[landmarkfarms@lightbound.com](mailto:landmarkfarms@lightbound.com) (317) 407-6021

Use the Officer and Council contact information shown above for questions, death notices or other information to share.

## from the president



James E. Archer

Dear Friends,

As we experience the Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations and prepare for the dawning of another new year, I want to extend to each of you best wishes from Nancy and me for good health, long life and prosperity. Knowing many of you, as I do, I know that you do not take notions of family, freedom and sacrifice lightly.

Your Service and your continuing love for those, now departed, says much about you and the lives you live. Life can be harsh, with periods of grief and profound loss. And, yet, an abiding faith and a reliance on our friends brings us peace and the prospect of happiness. We are truly blessed, and I want to thank each of you for your many kindnesses and sustaining support as we honor the Veterans of the 95th Infantry Division and subsequent organizations that have marched under its flag.

We had a remarkable Reunion experience in Harrisburg and Fort Indiantown Gap in September. There were 12 Iron Men of Metz present and a total of 110 attendees at our banquet. Thanks to the continued support of the 95th Division Foundation, the monument erected by our WWII Veterans in 1990 has been refurbished and rededicated to the memory of these brave men of the Greatest Generation. It looks tremendous and has been improved to resist cracks, going forward. Images of the monument and videos of our ceremony, there, can be found on our Facebook page. The Foundation, with your continuing generosity, built the Monument at Fort Benning, maintains the Memorial (museum) at Fort Sill, has repaired the monument at Fort Indiantown Gap, and has provided a scholarship to be awarded, annually, to a descendent of a 95th Division Soldier. In addition, it has been behind highway and bridge dedications in the name of the Division. I hope that you can remember the Foundation in your annual giving and in any memorial giving in the future. Recently, Iron Man Steve Bodnar, I Company, 377th Regiment, passed away. One of the family's wishes was that we consider gifts to the Foundation as a way of remembering this incredible man.

May 16-19, 2019, we will hold the 70th Reunion of the Association. It will be in Lawton, Okla. and Fort Sill. There are a couple of reasons we selected this site. First of all, it is the home of the 95th Training Division (IET). It is an opportunity for us to invite members of the current Division to our events, especially the banquet, where the current generation of Soldiers can get to know us better and to consider joining us in our efforts to strengthen the Association and

to preserve the legacy of the Iron Men of Metz. With the adoption of a new Constitution and By-laws last year, we are poised to continue the finest traditions of the original organization with new provisions that allow full membership of succeeding generations, the establishment of charter groups to expand the reach of the Association and a closer relationship with the Foundation, to assist it in its mission. Of course, the beautiful Memorial is located at the Headquarters and was rededicated, there, several years ago. We are working with the Division to repair and improve the Memorial, where a number of picture reproductions have been damaged by UV light. This project involves reprinting the pictures, having them remounted and hung and having the lighting in the museum room converted to LED lighting. It is our hope to have all of this work completed prior to the Reunion. We also hope to honor 3-5 Iron Men with the awarding of the French Legion of Honor.

In November 2019, we expect to have a contingent of our Association, to include some of the Iron Men of Metz, in Lorraine to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation. This is a milestone in remembering those brave men and families who risked all to answer the Nation's call and to help the French and others, in Europe, to be saved from the scourge of Nazism. We are hopeful that some of the liberators will be able to travel, to be personally recognized and honored for their incredible courage and sacrifice. We are currently in touch with representatives of the various locales—Metz, Créhange, Thionville, etc., to date—and the Lorraine Etats Unis organization and will keep you posted by website, Facebook page, and the Journal as we get more information. Please, consider, now, joining us for this incredible celebration of freedom. If you have never been, the visit to the Lorraine American Cemetery, alone, is worth the trip. And, the enthusiastic engagement with our French hosts and friends will stay with you the rest of your lives. The 75th Anniversary will be special as it could be the last such organized remembrance, there, directly involving our heroes.

I want to recognize the current Commanding General of the 95th Division and his Command Sergeant Major, both of whom will soon be departing the Command. BG R. Andrew Bassford has been incredibly supportive of all of our endeavors and has recognized the value of introducing his Soldiers to the rich history of the Victory Division. He has always come to our events and kept us informed of the Division's contributions to the Nation's defense. He has also recognized, through a variety of events, the Division's 100th

Anniversary. We wish him all the best in his future career and thank him for all he has done. CSM John R. Stumpf has been a rock in supporting the Association, working to ensure the presence of the Colors and providing exceptional young men and women to serve as Color Guard at our events. He was also instrumental, with the guidance of the CG, in relaunching the Andrew Miller Club, instilling the Iron Man spirit in the best of our NCO's—improving them as Soldiers and carriers of the Victory Division legacy. Godspeed to them both. The new leadership team will be Brigadier General Charles S. Sentell and CSM Robert B. Potts. I worked with BG Sentell when he was, I believe, a Major, and, if not mistaken, also know CSM Potts from my time at the Division. Since the current command team must depart, I am encouraged by the arrival of a couple of outstanding Soldiers to take the helm. I will represent the Association at the Change of Command Ceremony.

As you will note, we have a lot on our plate. We could not continue to provide the support and services we currently do without three things:

1. The incredible assistance of the Volunteers, Officers and Executive Council who work tirelessly to keep the spirit of the Association alive. The founding generation has led the way for many years and has imparted on us the passion and the knowledge to march on. I can't thank each of you enough for all you do.

2. The financial support of those who are affiliated with the Association and the Foundation. It is essential that each of you take the time to forward your dues payment to us for 2019 and beyond (look for information on Association dues in this issue of the Journal and act!), and donations to the Foundation to support all of its great work to preserve the legacy of the 95th Division.

3. Your continued attendance at our planned events, your mail, participation online (website and Facebook page) and, most of all, your friendship.

2019 is shaping up to be an outstanding year for the Association and the Foundation. Please take care of yourselves and make plans to join us in Lawton and in Metz. Happy New Year!

Kind Regards,

Jim  
President  
95th Division Legacy Association

# Pay Annual Dues by January 31, 2019

# Downed Bf 109 found 50 years later

by Anthony Vittiglio

On Jan. 1, 1945, in the town of Felsburg, Germany, we were attacked by two German Messerschmitt Bf 109s, strafing our position and strafing a convoy going toward Fraulatern. The planes were flying very low, and I manned my 50 caliber machine gun. I hit the first plane and saw smoke coming out of the plane; however the plane didn't come down and didn't come back. I assumed he went down; I really don't know. I then fired my 50 caliber at the second plane, which was coming right at me. With nowhere to go, it was him or me. I must have let out 50 or 60 rounds when all of a sudden, I witnessed a little cloud, a mist, somewhat like a fog.

At this point his machine guns stopped firing, and he started nosing down. The plane landed quite a distance from my position. When I got to the point where the plane had landed, the pilot was dead. I found him stripped, wearing only his underwear. I was told that a soldier from Service Battery had shot him. I didn't like what I saw. From this I received a PC of metal on my right leg. I pulled out the PC of metal and stopped the bleeding. We moved on until the war was over. Over the years, I had forgotten about the planes I took down. I went back to the States and was very happy to be a civilian again.

Some 40 years later, I was attending an Army Reunion in Oklahoma City when one of the boys from the 379th, Richard Hogsted, told me that he had witnessed my shooting, and he had pictures of the plane that I had shot down. Needless to say, I was very excited. Later, I received a letter from Hogsted with contact information for a Mr. William Banks. Banks was married to a woman whose brother was killed in or around Saarlouis; he was with the 377th.

Banks had taken a vacation to France where his wife's brother had been laid to rest in Saint Avold Cemetery. They then had decided to go see where he had been killed.

They had a problem. They couldn't find the street. Banks then went to a pub to ask where the street was. Banks had a copy of *The 95th Infantry Division History 1918-1946*, and the book contained a map from that area. He was told the street no longer existed. Mr. Egon Willhelm, the owner of the pub, told Banks that he knew where the plane was. He said that a fellow by the name of Raimond Wegnar brought the plane to surface and was restoring it.

I then contacted Willhelm, and we set a date when to go to see this plane. He said archeologists and an interpreter would be there to ask me questions.

On June 30, 2001, my wife Tina and I took a trip to Germany. On the way, we passed through a few cities that I



Anthony Vittiglio points to the hole he shot in a German Messerschmitt Bf 109 Jan. 1, 1945 when he visits with Interpreter Chris and Egon Willhelm in Germany during the summer of 2001.

remembered when I was in the lines. It really brought back memories. We then arrived at the hotel, which was owned by Willhelm. In the evening, Willhelm and an interpreter named Chris placed us in a WWII Jeep to see some forts along the Saar River where pillboxes and forts still remain.

The next morning, Tina and I met with Willhelm, Wegner, Christin Seiwere and Dr. Harry Meir. Before taking me to the plane, Dr. Meir had some questions for me.

**Question 1:** *When you hit the plane and you saw it coming down on fire, what did you think?* My answer was that the plane did not catch fire. When I hit the plane, it was like a cloud or mist; I did not see smoke. Dr. Meir said, "Yes! Yes!" to his friends.

**Question 2:** *How many rounds did you fire?* My answer was firing at two planes, 50-60 rounds.

**Question 3:** *We have a report that the pilot was in his uniform in a Jeep between two American soldiers.* My answer was that this was not true. He was not in his uniform. When I got to the plane, the pilot was just in his underwear. Dr. Meir replied, "Yes!"; and he slapped my shoulder.

**Question 4:** *What did you think of the pilot you shot down?* My answer was, I thought the pilot was very brave and courageous to fly so low. I called him a hero! He was defending his country as I was defending my comrades and my country. He liked my comment very much.

After the questioning, they took me where the plane was located. We took many pictures, and then Dr. Meir showed me where I hit the plane. Believe it or not, I hit the main tube of the cooling system. Dr. Meir told me to put my finger where the hole was (see photo above). The hole was restored the way it was. The plane had two machine guns and a cannon. I was then taken to the site where the plane

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came down and where it was buried. We proceeded back to the hotel, took some more photographs before saying goodbye. The Chief of the Delegation gave me bottles of cheer and told me to drink it with my comrades. We shook hands and said, "Till we meet again."

*Tony wished to express his sincerest thanks to Richard Hogstad and William Banks for bringing the details of this story to light. For without their help, this story would have forever remained unrecognized and forgotten.*

Reprinted from *The Journal*, Winter 2001

# 95th Association debuts bugle boy

by Marsha Flora

Joseph J. Lawson III, great grandson of Iron Man John Komp, Company G, 377th Regiment, has become the new bugler for the 95th Division Legacy Association. He first performed "Taps" for veterans, family and friends at the I Company Reunion June 23. He again played "Taps" at the 69th Annual Reunion during the rededication of the 95th Monument at Fort Indiantown Gap Sept. 22 and at Metz Hour Sept. 23.

Joseph is a sophomore at Lee M. Thurston High School in South Redford, Mich. and plays trumpet with the Marching Eagles Band. He has been playing the trumpet for six years. Joseph and his mother, Jennifer Lawson, are strong supporters of the Iron Men of Metz and joined their grandfather John Komp in France in 2014 for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Metz.



Joseph J. Lawson III plays "Taps" at the conclusion of the rededication ceremony of the 95th Monument at Fort Indiantown Gap Sept. 22, 2018. Photo by Marsha Flora

# Soldier fields panzerfaust

A good outfielder knows at the crack of the bat if the ball's coming his way. Pfc. Leslie C. Crick of Co. G, 377th Infantry had no warning sound, but the way he handled the object arcing directly at him—a panzerfaust—would have done credit to Tris Speaker.

That the Kentucky centerfielder took care of the projectile, rather than vice versa, is one of the man-bites-dogginest miracles of the war.

It was Easter Sunday morning when 0900 became very nearly zero hour for lucky Leslie. The 3rd Squad of George's Company's 2nd Platoon was festooning a medium tank of the 66th Armored Regiment as part of the 377th's assist to the 2nd Armored Division in driving beyond the Rhine.

The dough were "protecting" the lead tank from the deadly panzerfausts, the Jerries' jumbo, one-shot bazooka, scanning the flanks for the gray-clad operations.

But, while his squadmates decided that protection began at home and scattered off the tank when they spotted the big blob of dynamite, cool rifleman Crick didn't see the death-dealer till it was a mere 50 yards off.

He froze in the seated position. Life seemed about to wing away in a couple of seconds. The hulking lad from the Bluegrass State had no time to think, however. A sprawling mate from a few yards away saw Private Crick thrust huge meat-hooks in front of his chest. Was he trying to catch the 'faust?

Incredibly, the human target braced to receive the explosive. Zooming into its mark, the panzerfaust was seen in the same motion to be flicked deftly up and over the tank's gun barrel to fall into yielding dirt, not exploding, an amazing sequel of fortune.

Using his reflexes if not his noggin, brother Crick had done a combination vaudeville-ballplayer's act. He'd flipped the 'faust with all the careless kill but little of the nonchalance of a catcher mitting the ball to the fungo-hitter in infield practice.

The giant G-man is six feet two inches and 205 pounds of modesty and has made little of his famous flip. But the squad won't soon forget its Li'l Abner-like miracle-maker. Not to mention the four guys in the tank.

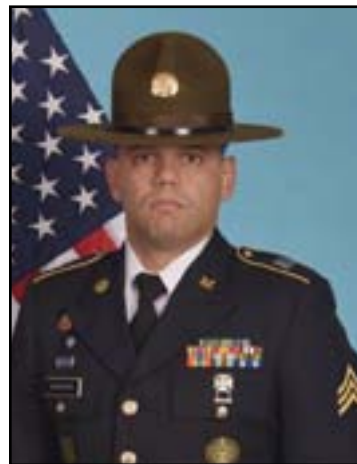
Private Crick can't figure how he did it. There is a clue, however. Those tremendous scoops he calls hands look capable of catching a panzerfaust and throwing it back.

As to why he offered the hot potato in the first place, there's still another clue. He's a southpaw!

Reprinted from *The Journal*, May 21, 1945

# Army Reserve soldier wins drill sergeant of the year

by Mitch Meador, Fort Sill Tribune



U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Devin Crawford is the 2018 Drill Sergeant of the Year winner after a grueling competition at Fort Sill, Okla. U. S. Army Photo

FORT SILL, Okla. -- The 2018 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year is Army Reserve Sgt. Devin Crawford, who represented 95th Training Division in the competition. The division is headquartered at Fort Sill, and this was the first time the Army-wide competition took place here.

The winner was announced at an Aug. 30, ceremony. As Crawford sat in Vessey Hall beside

the other 10 contenders, he was so startled to hear Center of Initial Military Training Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Mitchell omit the word "Staff" from his announcement of this year's winner, that he was stunned into silence. He knew instantly that meant himself, because all other competitors were staff sergeants, except for one sergeant first class.

"This is pretty unexpected," he managed to say after a long pause. He quickly thanked those who traveled here to support and push him through the five-day competition.

Mitchell said only a couple points separated the top three contenders, and a foot march was the deciding factor.

The winning contender has served in the Army Reserve all seven years he's been in the military. He's currently assigned to 3-334th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 95th Training Division, 108th Training Command. Based out of Neenah, Wis., his unit preps Army Reserve Soldiers to go to the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Crawford now gets to go home to Mount Pleasant, Wis. for approximately 60 days before he reports to his

next duty station at CIMT and Training and Doctrine Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va. The win will change his life considerably for the next year.

He had two important items of business to take care of first. He married his fiancée, Heather Treffert, Oct. 6. And he had to inform his employer of his new job. Crawford has been a police officer with the Kenosha Police Department for one year.

Crawford's military occupational specialty is 12 Whiskey, a carpentry and masonry specialist. Before he became a police officer, Crawford served in the 327th Military Police Battalion, Arlington Heights, Ill. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2013-2014. To reach the Army-wide level of competition, he had to win a pair of competitions at Fort McCoy, Wis., and Fort Knox, Ky.

Just before the Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, Crawford and one other Army Reserve Soldier, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Roy of 98th Training Division, were put on active duty for 20 days and sent to high country in Montana.

The Department of the Army's Best Warrior Competition is coming up, and they were fortunate enough to participate in the train-up for junior enlisted and non-commissioned officer of the year. The elevation forced them to strain harder as they trained on any task that might be thrown at them.

"It was a great competition ... We wanted to do well. Definitely in every event we would look at each other like, 'You got this.' Since we were representing the Reserves, and this is the first year ever that the Reserves are on the same level. There's only one winner, we were pushing each other to the limit to make sure we represented well for the Army Reserve," Crawford said.

He said the last four days tested his mental and physical toughness. The days have been pretty long, and the competition covered everything he's had to train with or know in the military.

"We got up about 2 o'clock in the morning (Aug. 30) and stepped off at 3:30 and took about two hours and 46 minutes to complete it. Pretty tough after three long

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Sgt. Devin Crawford of 3-334th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 95th Training Division, 108th Training Command, holds the trophy he earned for winning the 2018 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, Aug. 30, 2018, at Fort Sill, Okla. Photo by Mitch Meador, Fort Sill Tribune



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days of training," he said. "I was beat by three other individuals I was trying to chase down the entire time."

For 44 years, there was an active component and a Reserve component Drill Sergeant of the Year. In 2017, the competitions merged, and the winner of the annual competition receives what goes by the name of the Stephen Ailes-Ralph Haines Jr. Award, named for a former Secretary of the Army and a former commander of the Continental Army Command, respectively.

This year, 11 drill sergeants representing Basic Combat Training, One-Station Unit Training, and Advanced Individual Training all competed for the award. Despite blistering heat, lack of sleep, and covering more than 40 miles of dismounted movement, all 11 completed the competition. They were tested on their physical abilities, their knowledge of leadership, drill sergeant duties and responsibilities, Soldier issues, warrior tasks and battle drills, ability to instruct and the BCT program of instruction.

# CLVMA plans encampment

by Marsha Flora

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Créhange, France by the 95th Infantry Division on November 18, 1944, the City of Créhange, in partnership with the Club Lorrain Véhicules Militaria Alliés (CLVMA) plans to reconstitute an American camp November 15-17, 2019.

This commemoration will celebrate the American liberators, their living conditions and their sacrifices for the values shared by the United States and France. The events will be open to schoolchildren and the general public.

The CLVMA has participated in many reenactments and parades. Their members have restored World War II-era vehicles, have collected artifacts and can often be seen wearing authentic American, French or German uniforms. Several of their vehicles have 95th markings and carry the names of their American heroes. Members dedicate much time researching and purchasing their uniforms, and maintaining their vehicles and equipment. Annually, they participate in reenactments in Normandy during D-Day celebrations and in Bastogne commemorating the Battle of the Bulge.



Frédéric Muller rides with Marc Dory in Dory's 1944 GMC 2½ ton CCKW truck during a parade in Créhange November 19, 2009, celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation. Both men have long been members of the CLVMA, and Muller is the current president. Photo by Marsha Flora

## 69th Annual Reunion Harrisburg — Sept. 20-23, 2018

Licensed Battlefield Guide David Eisenhart explains the Battle of Pickett's Charge to Cliff Twaddle, Nancy Broadway, Robert Geiger, Anthony Duno, Dan Foust, François Leclercq and others during a tour of Gettysburg Sept. 21.

After Maj. Adrienne Bryant, PAO of the 95th Division, surprised members of the Association at the Saturday evening banquet with a birthday cake for the Division's 100th birthday, Frank Bever cuts the cake with an entrenching tool. The 95th Infantry Division was activated Sept. 4, 1918 at Camp Sherman, Ohio.



Following a keynote address by Major General (Ret.) Wesley E. Craig at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. on Sept. 22, Iron Men in attendance lined up for their reunion photo. The following veterans are pictured: Walter Blenko, E Co., 378th; George Roudebush, F Co., 378th; Paul Madden, A Co., 379th; George Kobler, F Co., 378th; Charles "Red" Whittington, I Co., 377th; Stephen Jamison, F Co., 378th; Anthony Duno, G Co., 379th; Paul Klemmer, Antitank, 378th; Jim Anderson, HQ, 95th Division; Ceo Bauer, I Co., 377th; Joe Januszkiewicz, Cannon Co., 379th; Frank Bever, F Co., 379th. Photos by Marsha Flora

## departed comrades

**Stephen J. Bodnar**, 93, Fredericksburg, Texas

**Company I, 377th Regiment**

Dr. Stephen J. Bodnar passed away Nov. 10, 2018, at his home and with his family. Stephen succumbed to a brief, but harsh battle with leukemia. He was born July 6, 1925. Stephen was an accomplished coronet, trumpet and violin player. He was an avid tennis player prior to WWII. While in the 95th Infantry deployed to France, he was wounded in the Battle of Metz, where he lost his right leg. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and later, a Civilian Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Honor from France. He attended Lafayette College receiving a Bachelor of Arts and then obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois. He worked in the petro-chemical industry and had several patents for the processing of synthetic rubber for tires. He was instrumental in the design of the Tiger Paw and Laredo Rain tires for Uniroyal. Stephen and his wife, Louise, retired to Fredericksburg in 1990 and became active in his Army reunions. He was instrumental in getting the 95th Division Memorial built at Division Headquarters, honoring the Division's war dead, while telling their Division's story and having a portion of Hwy 71 near Bastrop, Texas, named the 95th Infantry Division Memorial Highway. Preceding him in death on Dec. 12, 1999, was his wife of 53 years, Louise, at the age of 69. Surviving are his three daughters: Alison Auckland, Patrice Bodnar and Kristin Bodnar; 2 grandsons and 5 great grandchildren. According to his wishes, there was no service, and his cremains were placed next to Louise's in St. Mary's cemetery in Fredricksburg.

**Edwin A. Kolodziej**, 93, Sayreville, N.J.

**Regimental Scouts, 379th Regiment**

Edwin A. Kolodziej passed away Aug. 17, 2018, at home with his beloved wife Irene. God blessed him with a long life, and he blessed us with a long life of service. A lifelong resident in Sayreville, he was born in 1924 to the late Anton and Mamie Kolodziej. A graduate of Sayreville War Memorial High School, he was inducted to its Hall of Fame in 2005. He received his bachelor's degree and law doctorate from Rutgers University; in 2006, he was bestowed the honor of Loyal Son of Rutgers. Ed is well-known for his heroic service during World War II where he was a Staff Sergeant in the 95th Infantry Division. He is the holder of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the N.J. Distinguished Service Medal. He was decorated on the front lines by General George S. Patton, which was the featured story on the History Channel's *Patton 360: Siege*

*Warfare*; the History Channel also highlighted Ed's WWII heroism in *Shootout: The Battle of France*. His record of law practice and statesmanship includes heading a law office in Sayreville, acting as an assistant prosecutor for Middlesex County, being part of the New Jersey State Lottery Commission and serving as Assemblyman-at-Large in the New Jersey State Legislature. Edwin was a member of numerous state, county, veteran and community societies, associations and organizations. He is predeceased by his first wife, Joan Barbara Washburn Kolodziej, with whom he had four children. He is also predeceased by his beloved son David A. Kolodziej. Surviving are his devoted wife Irene "Renee" Halmi Kolodziej and his children and their spouses: Christine and Paul Willumstad of Colorado; Kathryn Pinto and R.D. Smith of Sayreville; Lawrence Kolodziej and Jane Griffith of Ohio; and daughter-in-law Linda Kolodziej of Delaware; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ed Kolodziej was not just a sergeant, a town lawyer, and a politician; he was a brave patriot, a wise counselor and a statesman. His service to his community was not just a career; it was his calling. He fought his battles on every front—military, legal, personal, health—with compassion, perspicacity and courage. He now follows the command from above: "At ease, soldier."

**Anthony J. Vittiglio**, 97, Apex, N.C.

**HQ Battery, 360th FA**

Anthony "Tony" Vittiglio died peacefully at his home Aug. 12, 2018. Born Jan. 1, 1921, in Cassino, Italy, to Filomena D'Alessandro and Luigi Vittiglio, he was the eldest sibling of Mary Cardillo and Jenny Rizzi. In December 1949, he married Mary Varlese, who later died of cancer. Prior to her death, Anthony spent many happy years with her in their former family home on Reeder Place in Rockland County, N. Y. Anthony worked as a licensed operating engineer for a New York construction company, and was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers. He later established a construction company of his own, Melvit Construction Corp., in which he served as president. Anthony was also a proud veteran of the 95th. He received the French Legion of Honor Award. Anthony looked forward to reconnecting with surviving veterans and their families at their Annual 95th Division Reunions held in various major cities throughout the states. Anthony is survived by his wife, Tina Fazio, and his four daughters and their families: Diana and Magdy Elshenawy, Laura and Patrick Benvenuto, Joyce and Claudio Rodrigo and Janet and Raul Tersy; his ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Anthony was buried Aug. 18 at Onderdonk Veterans Cemetery in Suffern, N.Y.

# Victory Belles drop dues

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all ladies of the 95th Victory Belles,

This brief article will give you a quick look at a few important changes in the Victory Belles for the next Reunion in Lawton, Okla., and I hope that it will encourage you to join us at the May luncheon. Final details regarding our part in the Reunion will be forthcoming in a longer article in the next Journal, anticipated in February or March.

At this luncheon, we will discuss some important news about how the Victory Belles will function, going forward. It is important that you make plans to attend. As you know, the Victory Belles was originally started as a Ladies Auxiliary to the 95th Infantry Division Association. During those early years, the ladies were not allowed to be members of the Association. Today, the Association is open to us as full voting members, simply by paying Association dues. This creates a dilemma for our members, though, with both organizations requiring dues payments for membership.

Once the new Constitution and By-laws were written for the successor organization to the 95th Infantry Division Association (now the 95th Division Legacy Association), it allowed for the establishment of "Charter Groups." A charter group is an organization that is formed for its own reasons, but which desires affiliation with the Association.

Clearly, the Victory Belles affords the ladies in atten-

dance at the 95th Reunions a time for camaraderie with one another, while enjoying a meal, entertainment and a raffle or some other activity to raise money. Through the success of our raffle, we have determined that it is no longer necessary for us to collect dues to sustain the organization. This resolves the dilemma of paying dues to two organizations, while preserving the Victory Belles' original intent, now as a Charter Group of the Association.

Hopefully, these remarks will encourage you to attend the Reunion and to sign up for the Victory Belles Luncheon! I will share more information with you in the next Journal. I hope to see you at Lawton/Fort Sill.

Mary Beth McCarthy, Executive Secretary, Victory Belles  
 2608 SW 30th St.  
 Topeka, KS 66611  
 Phone: 785-267-0887  
 Email: dmccarthy3@cox.net

Susan Feely, Assistant Secretary  
 3635 Cleveland Ave.  
 Brookfield, IL 60513  
 Email: drmom80@aol.com  
 Phone: 708-485-2894



## Metz Eagle Statue Replicas

Need a gift idea, a memorial to a special veteran or something to add to your personal museum? Replicas of the Eagle Statue in Metz are available from Midwest Trophy in Oklahoma City. The front of the base is inscribed with the same words as on the original in Metz. The back may be customized. The cost is \$131.84 + tax and shipping. For more information or to order, contact Brandy Boggs at:

**Midwest Trophy**  
 (405) 609-6961  
 bboggs@mtmrecognition.com  
 Item number: 0001874074  
 Description: 95th Div. Eagle Sculpture

# Pay Annual Dues by January 31, 2019

# 95th Division Legacy Association Annual Dues - 2019



First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

95<sup>th</sup> Unit \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a veteran, how are you connected to the 95th? \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Active Duty/Active Reserve \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application, along with your check, made payable to: 95th Division Legacy Association, P.O. Box 1113, Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Dear Friends of the Association,

Many of you know that your Association has gone through a challenging time over the last decade, first regarding a transfer of the administration of the Association to a new group of officers and volunteers who followed the longtime "Chicago" team and, secondly, because of a gradual decline in membership. This was made worse because we lost control of our dues collection process, threatening the financial stability of the Association. This issue is my responsibility, and our team is working hard to resolve it.

Since then, we have written a new Constitution and By-laws that reflects the evolving nature of our Association and the prospects of future membership. And, I think you will agree that we have delivered on the promise to continue outstanding reunions, forged a closer relationship with the Foundation and sustained relationships with our many friends in France. The Iron Men of Metz have been assured, with confidence, that their legacy is being continued for succeeding generations.

We have gotten to the point where it is critical that each and every friend of the Association recognize his/her obligation to pay annual membership dues, as prescribed in the By-laws. Frankly, we can't provide the events and services envisioned without YOUR individual and collective support. The current dues structure is as follows:

1. Annual Dues are currently for the 2019 Calendar Year and are \$30 for membership in the Association. This dues structure recognizes you as a full member and keeps you on our active list, entitled to copies of the Journal by mail and authorizes you to vote in matters impacting the Association.
2. Those of you on Active Duty or in the Active Reserve of the Military will pay 50% of the rate paid by regular members for the privilege of membership, as long as you are in that status. For 2019, this will be \$15.
3. Dues should be paid by January 31 (but we won't return checks that are late!). At the time you pay your dues, please update all of your contact information, so that we can have an accurate roster to stay in touch with you.

We are making strides in establishing a more accurate membership list and means of contacting you. At the same time, our Website and Facebook page provide alternative ways for us to communicate and add value to your membership. Please help us today!

Thank you!  
 Jim Archer, President

# PLEASE READ

**95th Infantry Division Association  
P.O. Box 1113  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101**

**Pay 2019 Membership Dues by January 31**



# **70th Annual Reunion Lawton-Fort Sill, OK**



**May 16 – 19, 2019**

The host hotel for the Reunion is:

**Hilton Garden Inn Lawton-Fort Sill  
135 NW 2nd Street  
Lawton, OK 73501  
Phone: 580-280-2100**

**Reservations: Call hotel directly,  
select option 0, ask for group G19595  
or 95th Infantry Division**

The dates of the 70th Annual Reunion are Thursday, May 16 through Sunday, May 19, 2019. Thursday is a free day with no planned activities. Time to look around and see who has made it to Lawton for another great 95th Reunion. The Hospitality Room opens at 2:00 p.m. Registration forms for all events will be available online when completed and in the next Journal.

Rooms are available on Wednesday, May 15. The group rate (95th Division Legacy Association) is \$113.35 with taxes and complimentary breakfast for all registered guests. NOTE: There are limited suites available for \$145.42 with taxes and complimentary breakfast (Suites may only be booked over the phone). *The cutoff date for this rate is Monday, April 21, 2019.*

Rooms can be reserved for stays starting as early as May 13 or stays as late as May 21 for those who want to arrive well before or stay after the Reunion. All stays in this window receive the same group rate.