

# The 95th Division

# JOURNAL

IRON MEN OF METZ



After attending an Infantry Soldier Graduation at Fort Benning, Ga., Nov. 20, 2015, Steve Jamison, Red Whittington, Ceo Bauer, Paul Madden and Joe Januszkiewicz check out the new 95th Infantry Division Monument on the "Walk of Honor." The group attended the dedication of the Monument the following day. Guest speakers included Brig. Gen. Daniel Christian, CG-95th Division; Ceo Bauer and retired Maj. Gen. Douglas Dollar.

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The inscription on the left side of the 95th Infantry Division Monument, located on the National Infantry Museum's "Walk of Honor," states the following:

World War II  
The 95th Division was reorganized at Camp Swift, Texas, in July 1942, and after two years of arduous training arrived in England on August 17, 1944. It began combat operations in France on October 19, 1944, and endured 151 days of combat. Soldiers of the Division were nicknamed "The Bravest of the Brave" by war correspondents following the capture of Metz, France, on November 22, 1944. The Division is credited with the campaigns of Northern France, 1944; Rhineland, 1944-45; Ardennes-Alsace, 1944-45; and Central Europe, 1945. Casualties included 1,452 killed in action or died of wounds and 4,918 wounded. Decorations included 1 Medal of Honor, 35 Distinguished Service Crosses, 14 Legion of Merit Medals, 752 Silver Star Medals, and 4,281 Bronze Star Medals.

## from the president



James E. Archer

Last November, your Association hosted the 66th Reunion at Fort Benning and Columbus, Ga. Partnering with the Foundation, and assisting in its vision for a suitable Monument to be installed on the National Infantry Museum's "Walk of Honor," we gathered, following incredible design and fund-raising efforts, to dedicate a beautiful and enduring symbol of the Victory Division. In so doing, we

honored its Soldiers of all generations and our dear friends in France. Some fifteen original Iron Men of Metz, their family members, other former Soldiers, and many friends experienced an incredible fellowship and took great pride in the Division's Legacy and in its contributions to our Nation's defense.

There are so many to thank for both the Monument and for the incredible Reunion. We had an opportunity to thank those from the Greatest Generation at The Home of the Infantry, as we also cheered on new, graduating Infantrymen on the Senator Daniel Inouye parade field. On behalf of the Foundation and the Association, for many others who donated funds to the Monument, thank you!

All of our Iron Men are dear to us, but I will share that Col. John Komp literally left a hospital bed in Minnesota to join us for the Dedication and to record the final chapters of his career with our own David Meyers. John passed away New Year's Eve. His spirit, so intertwined with those of all of his comrades—all of you, is the inspiration for our Association and why it must continue. Ed Kolodziej's inspiring words at our Metz Hour, Ceo Bauer's incredible speech at the Monument Dedication and Kevin Riley's insightful appraisal of our remarkable Division at our Banquet cemented how special this gathering was to us.

Some may be thinking that the Monument to the 95th Division is a suitable, culminating event to mark the completion of the mission of the Association, as laid out by its charter committee and the Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle. I have given a lot of thought to this and strongly feel that the most enduring legacy of the Division should not be a "rock," no matter how artfully and symbolically crafted. We will always visit the Monument, respectfully, prayerfully, and with pride, but a living legacy is of greater value, in the form of the Association and the Foundation. As I age, I realize that what my father told

me is true, there is nothing more important than Family. And the bonds that tie our families together were borne of fire and blood. For sacrifice to be truly honored, it must be remembered. We have the ability to do so, beyond history books and the fading memory of battles. The threads of our Association are much stronger, built on our common experiences. These threads ask little of us, but to continue the Legacy.

With that thought, I encourage each of you to attend our 67th Reunion. Believe me, the comments I made, above, are not meant to be a shameless pitch for the Reunion, but a sincere request that we meet, again, in numbers reminiscent of the recent past, so that we may honor the men and women of the Victory Division.

We will gather close to my home, in Roanoke, Va., the Star City of the South. The primary reason for this site selection is the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., an evolving tribute to the men who breached the Atlantic Wall and opened the way for the Liberation of France and all of Europe. The Reunion will be from Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (early arrivers are welcome!). Fall colors will be bursting forth at that time, surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. I look forward, with your officers and key volunteers, to hosting you, then.

Kind Regards,

Jim

James E. Archer

President

95th Infantry Division Association



Jim Talley, Volunteer Services Assistant at the National Infantry Museum presents each of the 95th veterans at Fort Benning for the Dedication with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the Nation from the NIM. Paul Madden receives his Certificate and thanks from Talley.

# Thank you for your Service

by Paul Klemmer



Paul Klemmer

“Thank You for Your Service” was the common greeting when I attended the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2008. It is remarkable that so many people are interested in and paying attention to what happened so many years ago and are still honoring the veterans in so many great ways.

I, like many others, did not talk about the war we had been in for many years. I did not discuss it with my college roommate, an ex-Marine, nor other longtime friends. I did not even say much about the war to my wife and three daughters until recent years.

It was 1991, when the 95th Division Association met in nearby Green Bay, Wis., where I met up with three veterans (Crocker, Wolfe and Strand) from my Mine Platoon. I hadn't seen them since we left the service some 46 years earlier. I had served with all three for nearly two years. Did we ever have a lot to talk about, especially about the many places we had been and the many harrowing experiences we shared and could not forget.

The Mine Platoon's main job was to clear mines using a mine detector. We worked in pairs with one guy sweeping with the mine detector; the other guy carried two rifles and used a bayonet for probing. We normally would go out at night before a planned attack. One day the line companies with tanks were ready for the attack starting behind a hill; my squad went out first to check for mines. We ran into a whole group of Germans who opened up on us with small arms and rockets. We were in a flat field with no place to hide, so we ran back. To make better time, I dropped one rifle, but Crocker did bring that clumsy mine detector back. He was mad as hell at me that I left a rifle. The mine detector he was carrying was hit and was then useless. I went and got a rifle from a wounded guy. The attack moved right ahead, but I could not find the rifle I dropped. Despite things like that, Crocker and I worked as a pair much of the time and were always close friends.

There were many other unforgettable experiences, such as when the booby-trapped road block that we were remov-

ing blew up providing three from my squad with Purple Hearts, although Wolfe said he had been cut more in the past just shaving. My platoon did have casualties but not in proportion to the line companies that were with us. I guess we were just lucky much of the time.

We did keep in touch after that, but sadly, they all have passed away as have the rest of the Mine Platoon. It was the Association's meeting that brought us together, and I have attended most annual meetings since then and had wonderful times with many great 95th veterans.

June 29, 1945, we returned to Boston on the *Mariposa*. A boat with a band and WACs came out to greet us, and other ships blew their whistles. What a tribute! I think the people went all out as we were the first full infantry division to return. We were scheduled for the invasion of Japan. Luckily, the atomic bomb ended the war, saving many of our lives.

The 95th veterans have been honored for their service many times at the annual meetings, but nothing can compare to our meetings in France. I attended Moselle River and Metz meetings in 2004 and 2010. The people in France went all out—providing lodging, great food, entertainment, parades and a lot of very friendly contacts. This was a “Thank You for Your Service” beyond my greatest expectations which I will never forget. Due to age-related problems, it has become difficult to again go to France. Hopefully, some of our French friends will come here so we can see them again.

I look forward to our next annual meeting, and I want to thank all those that keep the Association going alive and well.



Paul Klemmer (third from left middle row), Crocker (fifth from left middle row) and Wolfe (fifth from left front row) with the Anti-Tank Mine Platoon, 378th Reg., 95th Infantry Division in France during the spring of 1945. Strand is missing in the photo because he was in the hospital.

Photo courtesy of Paul Klemmer

# Soldier sings her way to victory

by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hamilton

Reprinted here with permission from the 108th Training Command

One by one, boot by bloodied boot, warrior after warrior came across the finish line: body heat escaping their sweat drenched clothing in the form of steam against the cold of an early spring morning.

Some slumping over from the sheer weight of their rucks. Most grimacing from the pain of the 10-mile forced march



Spc. Kayla Bundy, 1st Bn., 414th Inf. Reg., 95th Training Division (IET), turns a corner at the half-way point of a 10-mile forced march during the 2016 108th Training Command (IET) Best Warrior competition held at Fort Jackson, S.C., Mar. 21.

held at Fort Jackson, S.C., Mar. 20-25.

Standing a whopping 5 ft., she tangled with Soldiers and drill sergeants twice her size and three times her experience level. But her small size didn't seem to slow her much as she bellowed out another verse of "Ol' Red" over and over and over again!

"If I'm trying to burn some time and clear my head, I definitely want to sing and listen to some country music," Bundy said. "There was a lot of time to burn on that march!"

Bundy who failed to meet the required time of three hours for that event could have given up, but she didn't.

"There was a pick up spot, and I was asked if I wanted to get in the van, but crap, I was just a mile and a half out so I might as well just finish."

through a combination of asphalt, grass, gravel and sand. All of them displaying a deafening silence in personal tribute that the ordeal was at long last over. All of them save one; and that one, well, she sang!

"And the warden sang, come on somebody, why don't you run..."

Meet Spc. Kayla Bundy.

Bundy, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with 1st Bn. 414th Inf. Reg., 95th Training Div. (IET), was the unlikely of warriors at this year's 108th Training Command (IET) Best Warrior competition

It should be said that out of the 35 total competitors, only three finished in the allotted three hours.

Bundy, who today feels as though she made a life changing decision by joining the Army Reserve in 2012, was appearing in her first competition, a competition she was not even really supposed to be in.

"I just found out ten days ago that I was supposed to be here, so I didn't really have much time to train up," she said. "We had some other Soldiers who were supposed to be here, but some didn't get orders and some just didn't show up. Soooo... here I am!"

So just what of her chances of winning; why not ask Bundy, herself?

"I want to win. I'm planning on winning," she said.

And win she did.

Bundy placed first in the lower enlisted competition and now moves on to the Army Reserve level competition held at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 2-6.

If you happen to be out there on the trails, give a listen. You may just be able to hear her singing her way to victory yet again.

"Get my lantern...get my gun...Red'll have you treed before the mornin' comes."



Spc. Kayla Bundy receives a bit of help removing her boots after completing a 10-mile forced march. This year's Best Warrior competition determined the top NCO and junior enlisted Soldier who will represent the 108th Training Command (IET) at the Army Reserve Drill Sgt. of the Year competition later this year at Fort Bragg, N.C. Bundy was selected to represent the 108th in the junior enlisted competition.

U.S. Army photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hamilton

# Reunion Activities in Roanoke, Virginia

## Wednesday, September 28, 2016 (early arrivals)

Wednesday will see the arrival of a number of officers and members of the Executive Council. A group dinner is being planned, probably offsite. Any other guest who arrives on Wednesday is welcome to join the group.

## Thursday, September 29, 2016

- Thursday is a free day when most of our guests will arrive. There are no planned activities. There is time to explore, renew acquaintances, or relax. The Hospitality Room is anticipated to open sometime Thursday afternoon.
- A Dinner Buffet (at Holiday Inn) has been planned (time subject to change) from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM as a convenience to the Membership. This buffet can only be set up for approximately 90 minutes, for health/quality reasons. Alternatively, the full service restaurant, Elephant Walk is open, or you may choose to dine out.

## Friday, September 30, 2016

9:00 AM – 3:15 PM Scenic Bus Tour of the Blue Ridge area with Fall Foliage highlights enroute to Chateau Morrisette Winery, Meadows of Dan, VA

- Guests will travel by tour bus southwest of Roanoke to Chateau Morrisette Winery, one of Virginia's largest wineries. You do not have to be a wine drinker to participate in this event to enjoy the sights, tour, luncheon, tasting and camaraderie. Everyone is encouraged to join us. For anyone not attending, information will be made available about various museums (4) in downtown Roanoke. Hotel shuttle service can be arranged. Tickets and downtown lunch will be up to individuals.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Business Meeting

*We have decided to hold these important meetings on Friday due to our full schedule, Saturday. Your attendance and participation is greatly appreciated.*

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Foundation Meeting

6:30 PM Dinner Buffet

- A Dinner Buffet is, again, being offered as a convenience at the end of our long day. Of course, Elephant Walk and numerous downtown restaurants are available. And, afterwards, the Hospitality Room will be open.

## Saturday, October 1, 2016

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM Scenic bus ride to the National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, VA

- The 29th Infantry Division assaulted Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. This Virginia National Guard Division sustained heavy casualties with the tiny town of Bedford losing 19 of her sons that day, the inspiration behind the establishment of the Memorial at this site. It is a work-in-progress that continues to evolve and grow and is a fitting tribute to those who cracked open the Atlantic Wall and those who followed, including the Iron Men of Metz. The tour is expected to last about 2 hours. 2 Golf Carts are available to assist those with limited mobility. Upon returning to the hotel, the Victory Belles will have their annual luncheon and program. All other members will be offered a lunch buffet at the hotel.

12:45 PM Victory Belles Luncheon

12:45 PM Lunch Buffet

6:00 PM Banquet

- The annual banquet, with military honors, will kick off with a Reception and Cash Bar at the Holiday Inn – Tanglewood. The new Commanding General of the 95th Division, Ronald A. Bassford, will speak. We have also arranged for some exceptional entertainment that you will not want to miss. The Hospitality Room will be open following the Banquet.

## Sunday, October 2, 2016

9:00 AM Catholic & Protestant Services

10:30 AM Metz Hour

12:00 Noon Adjournment and Departures

- All functions, Sunday, are at the Holiday Inn. Join us as we honor the memory of our comrades-in-arms and loved ones who have given so much to the Nation.

# 67th Annual Reunion Registration

## Roanoke, Virginia Sept 29 – Oct 2, 2016

*Note: Registration is required for all members, spouses and guests.*

**Member's Full Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company/Regiment** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional guests, attach a list.*

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	NUMBER	X	COST	TOTAL
Registration before or on Aug 15	_____	X	\$10.00*	\$ _____
Registration Aug 16-29, 2016	_____	X	\$20.00*	\$ _____
<b>Thursday, Sept 29:</b>				
Dinner Buffet-Holiday Inn**	_____	X	\$30.00	\$ _____
<b>Friday, Sept 30:</b>				
Scenic Drive to Winery Tour				
Bus to Chateau Morrisette	_____	X	\$20.00	\$ _____
Lunch at Chateau Morrisette	_____	X	\$27.25	\$ _____
Wine Tasting	_____	X	No Charge	
Dinner Buffet-Holiday Inn	_____	X	\$30.00	\$ _____
<b>Saturday, Oct 1:</b>				
Bus to D-Day Memorial	_____	X	\$20.00	\$ _____
Tickets to D-Day Memorial				
Student	_____	X	\$6.00	\$ _____
WWII Veteran	_____	X	No Charge	\$ _____
Other Veterans	_____	X	\$8.00	\$ _____
General Admission	_____	X	\$10.00	\$ _____
Victory Belles Luncheon	_____	X	\$20.00	\$ _____
Lunch Buffet-Holiday Inn***	_____	X	\$20.00	\$ _____
Banquet	_____	X	\$34.00	\$ _____

\*Funds Hospitality Room and other, incidental expenses

\*\*For those arriving September 29; meal will only be served from 6.00 to 7:30 PM

\*\*\*For those not attending Victory Belles Luncheon

**Grand Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ **Check** (Payable to the 95th Infantry Division Association.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Credit Card** Circle one: Visa, Master Card, American Express

**Name on Card** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Security Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address** (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and check to 95th Infantry Division Association, P.O. Box 1113, Oklahoma City, OK 73101

# 95th IET ‘Welcomes Home’ its newest Commander

by Capt. Adrienne Bryant

Reprinted here with permission from the 95th Training Division (IET)

Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Andrew Bassford became the twentieth commander of the 95th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), headquartered at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Sill, Okla. on Apr. 16. Bassford assumed the leadership role from Brig. Gen. Daniel Christian, who served as the 95th’s commander since December 2013. Maj. Gen. Mark T. McQueen, Commander of the 108th Training Command (IET), presided over the change of command ceremony held at the 95th Adjutant General Battalion.

“Thank you to [Brig. Gen.] Christian for leaving me an organization that is strong, healthy and ready to go,” Bassford stated as he took the stage to address his new command. “I am very grateful to be able to follow him.”

Bassford, a Salem, Va. native, is joining the 95th following his position as the Deputy Commanding General for the 88th Regional Support Command based in Fort McCoy, Wis. Bassford was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the active component from the Georgetown University Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Following his commission, Bassford served as an Infantry Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Company Commander and a Regimental Logistics Officer before transitioning to the Army Reserve.

“He is well-seasoned at the heel craft of current mission set of the 95th Division, having commanded at the battalion and brigade levels within the 108th Training Command,” McQueen said of Bassford in his remarks at Saturday’s ceremony.

The incoming commander has held a variety of roles during his 30-year military career to include a role as a Brigade Commander of 2nd Brigade, 98th Division (IET) a unit within the 108th TC (IET) footprint. Bassford also served as the Assistant Commander for Support and the Chief of Staff for the 108th from 2011-2013.

“In both his military and civilian careers, [Brig. Gen.] Bassford is one who stands up for what’s right,” says McQueen while welcoming him into the command.

Bassford is a graduate of the Army War College, the Jumpmaster Course, the Command and General Staff College, the Inspector General’s Course and the University of Virginia, School of Law. In his civilian career, the general serves as a federal prosecutor in southwestern Virginia.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been 28 months,” recalls Christian



Brig. Gen. Daniel Christian seen smiling after relinquishing command of the 95th Training Division (Initial Entry Training) at Fort Sill, Okla., Apr. 16 at the 95th Adjutant General Battalion. Command Sgt. Maj. John Stumph looks on while Maj. Gen. Mark T. McQueen, Commanding General of the 108th Training Command (IET) headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., hands the division colors to Brig. Gen. Andrew Bassford symbolizing the passing of the responsibility of the mission and care of the Soldiers of the 95th TD.

Photo by Capt. Adrienne Bryant

during his farewell speech to the distinguished guests, family, friends and Soldiers in attendance. “These 28 months have been simply without question the best experiences I have had in my military career.”

He has served in a variety of assignments since commissioning in the Engineer Corps from the Niagara University ROTC program in 1983. The incoming and outgoing commanders’ careers share some similarities. Christian’s military career also spans over 30 years. Christian’s previous assignments include positions as a battalion commander, brigade commander, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Executive officer within the 98th TD (IET).

“As I stand here today, I am reminded of my days as a second lieutenant so many years ago,” said Christian as he addressed his oldest son 1st Lt. Andrew Christian, an army reservist of the 382nd Military Police Battalion headquartered in the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Westover Airbase Air Reserve base, who sat uniformed in the audience at ceremony.

*Commander continued on page 10*

# departed comrades

**Richard C. Bandow**, 91, Rhinelander, Wis.

A native of Wisconsin, Richard C. Bandow passed away at home Apr. 25, 2015. After WWII, Richard worked for NCR Corporation for 38 years in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Illinois. Following his retirement from NCR, he managed the Rhinelander Medical Center's Information Systems. In 2002, he and his wife moved to Green Valley, Ariz. He was active in musical groups in both Rhinelander and Green Valley and enjoyed the many friends he met through music, work and Army organizations. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting. His wife Camille (Warner) preceded him in death. He is survived by four sons, William (Renee) of Rhinelander, Michael (Jennifer) of Hayward, Wis., Thomas (Anne) of Red Rock, Ariz. and Brian (Mary) of Stevens Point, Wis.

**Baxter O. "Blackie" Blackburn**, 90, Columbia, Tenn.

**Company B, 379th Regiment**

"Blackie" Blackburn passed away Sept. 15, 2014 at his residence. Following his service with the 95th Infantry Division, Blackie started the Blackburn Plumbing Company in November 1946. His sons and grandsons still own the company. In addition to his plumbing business, Blackie enjoyed farming, his "expensive hobby." Blackie wrote several books including his favorite, "The Simple Soldier," a true story of his experiences. Blackie was a proud life member of five military organizations including the 95th Infantry Division Association. He is survived by five children: Connie Baker, Randy (Brenda) Blackburn, Cathy (Mark) Perryman, Barry Blackburn (DeeDee Hay) and Rhonda (Bill) Krambs; and Elizabeth Blackburn Bishop, the mother of his children and lifelong friend, all of Columbia, Tenn.

**Arthur M. Boudreau**, 88, Hamburg, Pa.

**Company B, 379th Regiment**

Arthur M. Boudreau died Dec. 29, 2014 at Milton S. Hersey Medical Center. Born in O'ahu, Hawaii, Arthur worked in a variety of jobs after WWII in New York City and Long Island, including Sunshine Biscuit, Schlitz Brewing, Kohlsman Instrument and Fairchild Graphics Division. In 1968 he was hired as technical training manager for the former American Newspapers Publishers Association (ANPA), working first in Easton, Pa., then in Reston, Va. Despite loving his job, he retired in 1990. Arthur was a long-time SCCA corner safety worker, with over 25 years of service. He worked numerous amateur and professional events including Can-Am and Trans-Am races, along with the former U.S. Grand Prix at Watkins Glen. Arthur is survived by his wife of 67 years, Annamae E. (Sacco) and son Stephen J. Boudreau.

**Walter A. Geery**, 93, Laconia, N.H.

**Company A, 379th Regiment**

Walter A. Geery passed away Dec. 30, 2015. During his career as an electrical engineer, Walt worked in the areas of submarine, space and air sciences. He was an avid skier and photographer. Walt is survived by his wife of three years, Marjorie (Paquette); five sons, Daniel, John, Kevin, Thomas and Brian Geery; and two daughters Carol Ann Wagonlander and Eileen Celis. He was preceded in death by Ruth, his first wife of 56 years.

**Kenneth R. Hess, Sr.**, 93, South Charleston, W.V.

**Company D, 377th Regiment**

Kenneth R. Hess, Sr. passed away Apr. 1, 2015 at his home. Kenneth earned three Bronze Stars during WWII. He was a retired millwright from Union Carbide Tech Center with 30 years service. Kenneth was a woodcrafting artist who enjoyed building swings, children's rockers, birdhouses and other items for family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Hazel; a son Reed (Vicki) of Alum Creek, W.Va. and a daughter Susan (Jack) Conner of Elk Hills, W.Va.

**John S. Komp**, 93, Eden Prairie, Minn.

**Company G, 377th Regiment**

Retired Col. John S. Komp passed away Dec. 31, 2015. He was buried with military honors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minn. A veteran of three wars (WWII, Korea and Vietnam), John served his country proudly for 34 years. A Brooklyn, N.Y. native, he enjoyed traveling the world, volunteering, wood-carving and a good Bloody Mary. He moved to Minnesota in 2012 to be near his family. John was preceded in death by wives Elizabeth (Dowds) in 1967 and Nancy (Bare) in 2012 and daughter Elizabeth Scramstad in 1983. He is survived by daughters Nancy (Steve) Bubb of Excelsior, Minn., Peggy Davidson of California and step-daughter Sandy Bonham of Oregon. Despite ill health for most of the year, John traveled with his daughter Nancy and son-in-law Steve Bubb in November to Fort Benning to participate in the Dedication of the Monument to the 95th Infantry Division and reunite with his comrades.

**Converse C. Marks**, 94, Oshkosh, Wis.

**Company H, 379th Regiment**

Converse Clayton Marks passed away May 31, 2012. Except for the 43 months he served in the Army, Connie lived in Oshkosh his entire life. He worked for the city of Oshkosh for more than 45 years, starting as a Water Department clerk before WWII and serving his last 16 years as City

*Commander continued from page 8*

The outgoing commander also thanked his youngest son Brian and his wife Donna for their support and urged those in attendance to thank their loved ones at home as well.

“Thank you for your leadership and sacrifice to the 95th Division and the 108th Training Command,” McQueen said as he bid Christian farewell.

Following command of the 95th, Christian, of Dothan, Ala., will be assigned to the 412th Theater Engineer Command of Vicksburg, Miss., as the Deputy Commanding General.

“Through it all and every step of the way his wife Donna was supporting him and encouraging him and the families of the division, and I acknowledge that it is a team effort to make this happen,” said McQueen concluding his remarks at the ceremony, “so, to Dan and Donna you’ve both done well.”

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## Victory Belles

Hello again, Past, Present and Future Victory Belles.

Here we are getting ready for our 67th Reunion which will occur on Sept. 28–Oct. 2 at Roanoke, Va. This is a lovely location that has been chosen which I am sure will be enjoyed by all of us.

Last year’s luncheon was very enjoyable with delicious food and a very inspiring talk by retired Col. Mary Gomez-Curil. We also had lovely crafts for the raffle to keep us entertained.

I am hoping this brief article will give you an overview of the Victory Belles’ Luncheon and activities at the Reunion and encourage you to participate this year. The speaker, menu and time have been completely decided. The plans are to have the Luncheon, as usual, on Saturday morning. It will consist of a chicken dish and all its accompaniments. Our speaker will be Gen. Archer’s mother who will talk about her experiences during WWII while living in Belgium. The raffle will take place along with the visiting that makes the luncheon so enjoyable.

Hopefully, most of you will find the activities and the food so appealing that you will want to join the camaraderie we always enjoy as we get together at the luncheon. The raffle of craft items is always a plus for enjoyment. If you have a craft you would like to donate, we would be most happy to have it. Just send it to one of us whose address is listed below or bring it with you and give it to us that day. If it comes to us at home, we will see that it arrives safely. You might let us know if you are sending it to one of us, however.

We are still hoping to collect recipes for a recipe book

*Departed Comrades continued from page 9*

Clerk. An active volunteer throughout the community, Connie also wrote several plays, directed and acted in community theater, sang in the Apollo Male Chorus and enjoyed painting and sketching. He is survived by several cousins and many friends.

**Henry M. Noll**, 96, Beaver Dam, Wis.

Henry M. Noll died Feb. 5, 2014 at Hillside Manor in Beaver Dam, Wis. Henry was a master carpenter for nearly five decades working for The Starkweather Company, his own company of R & N Builders and Raymond Construction, all in Beaver Dam. Henry is survived by his wife of 71 years, Bernadette, and children Bonita (Dr. Daniel) Feuling of Beaver Dam, Marlene (James) Andrews of Holland, Ohio and Roger Noll of Beaver Dam.

from the Victory Belles.

We are getting this information out early this year so it will give you time to find one to bring with you along with a possible story to go with it. I do have some collected already so please add to them, and we will work on getting them into book form after the Reunion.

Hope to see you at lunch in Roanoke in the fall.

Mary Beth McCarthy, Executive Secretary, Victory Belles  
2608 SW 30th St.

Topeka, KS 66611

Email: dmccarthy3@cox.net

Phones: 785-267-0887 (H) 785 221 6042 (C)

Susan Feely, Assistant to Secretary

3635 Cleveland Ave.

Brookfield, IL 60513

Email: drmom80@aol.com

Phone: 708-485-2894



Susan Feely, Mary Beth McCarthy and Megan Graf organized, set-up and hosted the Victory Belle Luncheon in Arlington, Texas.

# 95th Infantry Division Association



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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Annual Membership \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Victory Belle Membership \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Current 95th TD/IET Soldier - free one-year trial membership \_\_\_\_\_ not a current Association member

Current 95th TD/IET Soldier - \$10 annual renewal \_\_\_\_\_ current Association member

Please mail this application, along with your check, made payable to:

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

## FOUNDATION NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of veterans, their descendents and friends, the 95th Division Foundation raised approximately \$63,000 for completion of the Monument at Fort Benning. Ceo Bauer led the fund-raising efforts.

These funds paid for the construction and transportation of the Monument as well as the base for the Monument on the National Infantry Museum's "Walk of Honor." The main portion of the Monument was built in Shreveport, La. and the remainder in Georgia.

Funds raised will also provide for the perpetual maintenance of the 95th Monuments at Fort Benning, Indiantown Gap and Camp Swift and 95th highway signs in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.

After 13 years of dedicated service as treasurer of the 95th Division Foundation, Stephen J. Bodnar, I/377, has officially transferred his duties to Michael J. Flora. Mike is the son-in-law of Edward DeWayne Snell, F/378, and has been actively involved in the Association and Foundation since attending his first 95th Reunion with the Snells in Harrisburg in 1992.

Future donations and correspondence should be sent to:

95th Division Foundation  
Michael J. Flora  
13919 Squaw Creek Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46814  
260-625-3097

# Remember to Pay Your Membership Dues

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



# **67th Annual Reunion Roanoke, VA**



**September 29 – October 2**

The host hotel for the Reunion is:

**Holiday Inn – Tanglewood  
4468 Starkey Road SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018  
TOLL FREE 866-774-4401  
PH: 540-774-4400  
FAX: 540-772-3090  
[hotel@holidayinntanglewood.com](mailto:hotel@holidayinntanglewood.com)  
[www.holidayinn.com/roa-tanglewood](http://www.holidayinn.com/roa-tanglewood)**

Guests should make reservations as soon as possible by calling the hotel directly. Deadline to reserve your room(s) is Monday, August 29, 2016. Single (1 King) or Double (2 Queen) room rates are \$99.00. This is subject to a 12.3% lodging tax for a total of approximately \$111.20 per night. Guests can add a Hot Breakfast Buffet on site for \$7.00 per person, daily (\$3.00 off normal rate). To get the Group Rate, ask for the 95th Infantry Division Association Group Block.

Alternatively, there is a URL Booking Link on the Association website. Once you get to this site, you will see to the left of the screen, "Book this Hotel." Complete the information requested, and click the green button that displays "Check Availability." It is here that you will select the type of room desired. Be sure to make a copy of your confirmation code.