Dec. 2010 NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH Issue No 26

2011 **STAFF**

PRESIDENT

Cranston "Chan" R. Rogers 17 Deerfield Rd Medway MA 02053 508 533 0422 chanrogers@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT John T. Poole

11805 Meadow Glen Lane A1325 Houston, TX 77082 281 809 5723 46jpa8@sbcglobal.net

ASST VICE PRESIDENT Robert E. French (Assoc. Mbr) 83 Durfee St New Bedford, MA 02740 508 207 7681 rfrench@northstarlc.org

SECRETARY&TREASURER

Gloria McLeod 7618 Twin Hills Drive Houston, TX 77071 713 772 1492 gmacld@swbell.net

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Baxter Fite III
3013 N. Golf Drive,
Peoria, IL. 61604.
309 685 5861
mlufite@netzero.net

HISTORIAN

Lucas C. Martin 37800 Salty Way East Selbyville, DE 19975 302 436 4928 lucasmartin@comcast.net

CHAPLAIN

Walter Modrzejewski 5604 N. Ozark Ave. Chicago, IL 60631 773 631 0571

NFTCP EDITOR Chan Rogers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Term through) Robert L. Leslie – 409 (2012) 724 654 2206

Robert D. Quinn - 410 (2012) 440 777 2633

Michael F. Toohig - 411 (2013) 703 442 3865

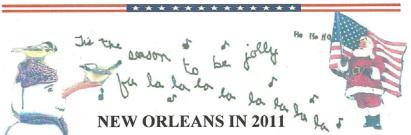
Richard T. Ball - Support (2013) 703 671 9017

Larry Wayne - Assoc. (2013) 423 545 9021 James E. White - Past Pres 409 722 3211

2011 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT & NEWS

103d INF DIV WW II





We had an outstanding reunion in San Antonio! Our attendance was the best since the Monument dedication in 2006, and the interest in Zack Sigler's displays was very intense. We had 40 veterans in attendance and, as usual lately, the largest group in attendance were descendants reviewing what their fathers did in WW II, which produced a total of 151 at the banquet. It is obvious that the highlight of the reunion was the intense interest displayed in the review of the material Zack has on display and the examination of the Morning Report material (the M/R's) to obtain critical dates of individual activity. Also, it is only fair to acknowledge that the attendance of two families for a total of 23 adults (+3 under 5 not counted) contributed to 1/6 of the entire attendance. The two families were the Lucas Martins & the Rogers in that each had a family reunion as some of the respective families lived in Texas. San Antonio is a very interesting city to visit and our two day trips, to the Pacific War Museum and the Alamo, were very interesting. (See Pages 6 & 7)

At The 103d ID WW II Association's 2010 business meeting, the body re-elected the same slate of officers for another term so you now have me for one more year, which I might just say that I do enjoy what I am doing, and would continue as long as my efforts are considered more than satisfactory. It should be noted that one of our descendants (Associate Members) has moved into the Assistant Vice-president's position. This as a consequence of Jim Enzor's "retirement" and the B/D quickly moved to put Bob French into that position in view of all the work Bob has done to project the legacy of the 103d ID by his support (with his time and money) of Lucas Martin's Album of Remembrance's program and his trips to Taintrux. Bob has done a lot for the 103d Association and now he will be in a position to assume the reins when our veterans believe it is time to "let go"! Note: I'm not there yet; but, it will depend on the situation each year at our reunions.

The 103d ID WW II Association has established a website, with Larry Wayne as the webmaster: Visit us @ www.103didww2assn.org. At present, we are barely up and running, and eagerly establishing more as Zack Sigler's research reveals more information. If anyone has a request for placing information on the site, just email Larry at: lwayne@eaglestrategy.com. In addition to being the webmaster for our website, Larry has been added to your Board of Directors as the Associate Member representative. Larry is the nephew of veteran Sgt Vaal G Dudenbostel of D/409,103d ID WW II, who continued active and reserve service until he passed away at an early age (39) while on NG active duty as a F/Sgt in 1962. Larry is a retired Army LTC, having served in the Vietnam and Gulf War eras and is devoting much time to assist our Association in a number of support activities. We just put him to work transcribing the M/R's, just received from the archives.

Great News!!! Your 103d Association voted to go to New Orleans in 2011.

Refer to Page 11 for more on our 2011 New Orleans Reunion!

President's Information and Up-date on On-going Issues.....

1. Up-date on Request for Donations for Morning Report Reels

In August, we sent out an appeal for donations so that Zack Sigler could obtain the micro-film reels that hold all the 103d ID company Morning Reports. You responded in a *handsome fashion*: over 50 made donations direct to the fund and 75+ sent in their dues; contributing over \$10,200. since August 15 when you received the mailer. Zack has received all the reels and he has begun transcribing the information. Since this step is the most laborious, we have recruited two volunteers to assist: Dave Gilbert & Larry Wayne. We anticipate that a large volume of this info will be printed as of our 2011 Reunion. Our top contributor of \$1,000 was Herman Holsopple (H/411-Medic), of Oak Ridge, TN and my fellow basic trainee at Ft McClellan, AL & ASTP'er at Texas A&M. The second highest contributor at \$500 was Howard E. Jaeger (G/409) of Greendale, WI; third at \$300 was Jo Ann Gervais, daughter of James B Gervais C/409 of Springdale, AR; and fourth at \$250 was Francis B. Dukes (A/410) of Purcellville, VA. After that, we had 2 @ \$200, 4 under \$200, 27 @ \$100, and 11 @ \$80. It was an **outstanding success**, and hope that you will be able to review the results at New Orleans next July. I also, wish to credit Al Eucare, (K/409) our former secretary/treasurer, with having obtained all the wartime General Orders of the 103d ID from the National Archives.

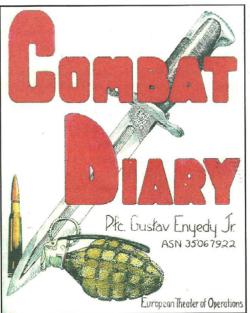
We Thank You For Your Support!

2. Up-date on Placing the 103d History (TOTC) with WW II Libraries

The 103d ID WW II Association has now placed copies of our "Trail of the Cactus" with all libraries listed in our previous newsletter on page 9 (No's 2 thru 11). Our plan is to also send additional documents to these institutions as we or individual members produce same, such as the "Albums of Remembrance" (compilation of individual stories) by Luke Martin, our historian. We urge our veteran members, who have produced printed documents with their individual war stories, to place copies with as many of the museums as possible. This Association is prepared to assist our members in this effort where possible and financially feasible.

3. Two Individual Combat Story Books The 103d Association Intends to Sponsor

The first book by CPT Roger H. Craddock, company commander of G/409, is actually two books combined as one and the only book the Association is aware that was written by a company commander relative to his experiences in that capacity by a 103d ID veteran of WW II. The first of his books covers his WW II experiences during the 24 months he was in that position from June of 1943 through June of 1945. He was considered by Col Claudius L. Lloyd as one of his regiment's finest company commanders and his men, as well, considered him one of the best, and for that reason, he was well liked



and respected. The second book covers the balance of his career in the Army as an officer retiring in 1970 as colonel. The first printing of the two books was very limited and intended only for family, his officers and a very few former enlisted men attending 103d reunions at the time. Bob Leslie and I served in G Company and believe CPT Craddock's story should be preserved and distributed as an integral part of the 103d ID WW II legacy - it is a very compelling part of our legacy and Bob French also agrees with this position.

The second book by Pfc Gustav Enyedy, Jr, a member of the third squad second platoon of Co I 409th Inf Regt, is unique and exceptional as it contains 200± photographs taken by Enyedy from the landing in France through the end of combat in Austria. It is almost unbelievable, that he could have taken so many photos and preserved the exposed film for development and printing while essentially living under the exposed outdoor conditions throughout a severe winter. However, this is the essence of the importance of the book as the pictures (as the saying goes) are worth thousands of words in telling the story as a diary of combat. Both of these books have a uniqueness which reaches out to compel re-printing so as to preserve the legacy of the 103d ID and it certainly captures the ASTP mentality as to preserving our legacy. It is my

recommendation that both books be re-printed so as to be available to all members desiring copies.

I hope you can make New Orleans in July, 2011!

THE 103d's MOST ANOMALOUS WAR STORY

"COMBAT DIARY" was written and published by Gustave Enyedy,Jr and involves the wartime story of the 2nd platoon of Company I 409th Inf Regt of the 103d ID. While the story of the platoon was well written by Gus Enyedy, the most unique feature of the book were the 200+ photographs included of the GI's and their environment during combat which Gus had taken to support his written story. The pictures truly support the adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words"! Furthermore, it is remarkable that Gus was able to sustain the picture taking throughout the combat phase during the worst European winter in fifty years, living primarily outdoors, and totally dependent on carrying his camera and film along with his weapon and other military equipment, which of necessity, took president over picture taking.

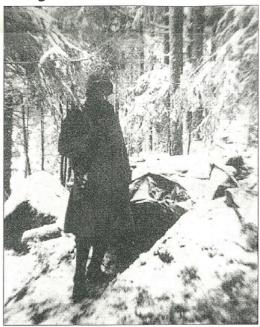
The second platoon of I/409 was very likely the only line infantry platoon of the 81 such platoons of the 103d ID not to have any men killed-in-action (KIA) and to go with that anomaly, they had only 5 men wounded during the six months of combat. Thus a total of only 5 casualties and none killed in combat for a line platoon that spent 180 days on line is certainly another unique aspect of their experience in WW II. In a situation where literally anything could happen in combat; it certainly follows that nothing is also likely a possibility, and therefore, the company (in this case, I/409) with the second fewest casualties, the least KIAs (8) in the 103d, and none killed in the second platoon of that company, is indeed a realistic circumstance.

I believe "COMBAT DIARY" should be made available to those WW

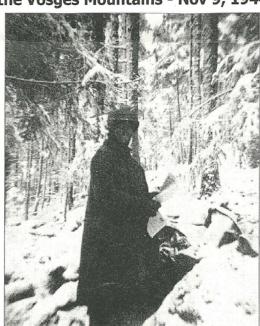
II libraries that we have supported as well as available to those of you who may be interested. Gus Enyedy has agreed to make the book available to the Association for distribution as we may determine and any profit would remain with the Association. Therefore, we will print the book as it is, and bind it in a suitable, but less expensive cover, and make it available to the public at a small profit for the Association. The book is 8 1/2 x 11, 200 pages with color maps of the 103d combat period and very interesting narrative to support the 200+ pictures, with many full page. I believe with a different cover, we could keep the price under \$35.

Herewith are a selection of pictures from "Combat Diary" by Gustave Enyedy, Jr. Co I 409th Inf. ■

The Night the 409th Went On-Line in the Vosges Mountains - Nov 9, 1944







November 10 – 15, 1944 Vosges Mountain top above Chevry, Alsace, France Gustav Envedy reading John Adams High School paper CC1206

These pictures, of over 200, from Pfc Gustav Enyedy's "Combat Diary" show the conditions encountered by the 409th Inf Regt (and I am sure the entire 103d) the evening of Nov 9,1944 when they went on-line for combat the first time in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France about 5 miles southwest of St Die in the vicinity of Chevry. I remember it well, as it began to snow in late afternoon as we were marching "up" (7 miles all uphill) into position, and it did not stop until 30 inches fell by day-break the next morning - our first night on-line. I had grown up in Florida and had never seen snow; but slept in it that night and these pictures are illustrative of what we experienced the morning of Nov 10, 1944, 66 years ago.









wember 5, 1944 Rest stop between Aix and Avignon. France, on the way to the Front CC1108
Edward Morse Gustav Enyedy James Jacobs Leo Perry Adrian Barker Thomas Chappell



her 29, 1944 Nve Eglise, Abace, France
Ed Morse John Hollingsworth Wendell Howard Harrison Griffin
Leo Petry Gordon Adelson Bill Hums Ous Enyedy

Mike Harper



November 25, 1944

Wilbur Bean Edward Morse



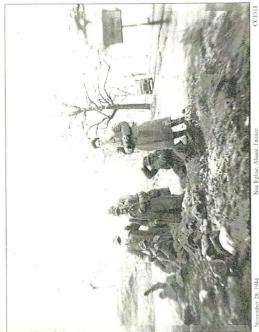


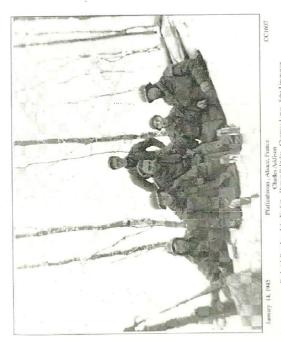
Urbeis, Alsace, France

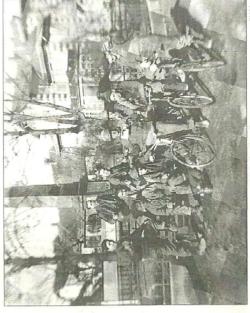












Prafrenhoffen, Absace, France C1644
Robert Johnson Arban Barker Leo Perry
Giaster Energy Edward Hechne, John Nochitt Floyd Cinpy Charles Addition Frank Wesolowski

103d INFANTRY DIVISION WW II ASSOCIATION - 2010 REUNION - SAN ANTONIO















103d INFANTRY DIVISION WW II ASSOCIATION - 2010 REUNION - SAN ANTONIO



















HONOR ROLL



103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II (Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 25)

Abarabanel, Sam X.	410 Inf				
Abel, Frederick John	382 FA Bty A				
Brown, Charles	328 Med Co A				
Call, George H.	409 Co B				
Clark Jr., Charles W.	411 Co G				
Condreva, Edward R.	411 Co G				
Crist, Roy J.	411 Co L				
Devenney, Sr, Albert Frank	410 Co. D				
Ewing, Amos D.	411 Co I				
Fiala, James	410 Co C				
Fischer , Fred D.	410 Co A				
Fortenberry, Davis T.	803 Ord				
Gage, Robert L	410 Co I				
Gant, Roger	410 Co I				
Gare, Louis	411 Co G				
Greenway, Clyde E.	409 Hq Co 3Bn				
Hrizora, Leo Joseph	411 L Co, Svc Co				
Hubble, Clarence K.	411 Co M				
Hunt, Roger A.	410 Co C				
Ingle, Gerald E.	409 Co D				
Irwin, Max	409 Co D				
Jones , Weldon	411 Co L				
Kent , Dr. Alfred H.	411 Co G				
Kunze. Jr., Walter E.	411 Co A				
Kyle Jr., Earl R.	411 Co A				
Lomison, Lawrence O.	328 Med Co D				
Mether, Lawrence E.	411 Co F				
Myers, Stanley L.	411 Co A				
Notter, Richard W.	411 Co I				
Nouhan, George W.	411 Co A				
Nunemaker, Herbert C.	328 Eng Co C				
Palacios, Fred M.	409 Co G				
Perelman, Leo	409				
Reyna, Arnulfo G	410 Co I				
Rolf, Edward O	411 Co C				
Romano, Frank L.	410 Co C				
Sanaghan, Leo A.	410 Co G				
Strauss, Kurt H.	411 Co C				
Taylor, Richard	103 FA Hq Bty				
Vosnos, Thomas W.	383 FA Hq Bty				
Winzenried, Albert	328 Med				

CASUALTY STATS

10 HEAVIEST CASUALTY DAYS

(As reported in the All Units Casualty Publication Page 380)

<u>A</u>	Line Companies						
B	Hq Companies Support Units						
<u>B</u> <u>C</u>							
TOTAL	A+B+C Battle Deaths (Included in Casualties)						
BD							
<u>Date</u>	<u>A</u>	B	<u>C</u>	TOTAL	BD		
15/Mar/45	250	13	20	283	66		
16/Nov/ 44	254	7	2	263	42		
21 Mar/45	195	13	8	216	22		
1/Dec/44	199	7	7	213	27		
16/Mar/45	158	10	6	174	28		
25/Jan/45	120	9	8	137	33		
15/Dec/44	107	17	6	130	25		
19/Jan/45	116	10	5	131	9		
19Dec/44	121	7	1	129	31		
20/Mar/45	110	14	3	127	14		



OUR FLAG IS AT HALF STAFF

IN THEIR HONOR

(Flag photo courtesy of our deceased comrade Pierce Evans) His website PAPAS WEB remains as a legacy

Report known deaths to your Secretary Treasurer
Gloria McLeod
7618 Twin Hills Dr
Houston, TX 77071
gmacld@swbell.net
for recording into our Historical Records

103d ID Rifle Company Casualty Statistics

		Total	KIA ¹	POW	WIA
	Α	149	24	2	123
4	В	257	24	109	124
0	С	208	28	48	132
9	Е	149	23	25	101
	F	95	15	1	79
	G	185	42	8	135
	1	76	8	1	67
	K	135	11	2	122
	L	54	12	0	42
	Total	1308	187	196	925
	Avg	145	21	22	103
	Α	137	26	11	100
4	В	128	38	11	79
1	С	108	24	12	72
0	E	87	16	27	44
	F	107	18	0	89
	G	116	29	17	70
	1	58	12	2	44
	K	45	11	1	33
	L	89	.18	2	69
	Total	875	192	83	600
	Avg	97	21	9	67
	Α	138	33	1	104
4	В	147	26	6	115
1	С	163	33	2	128
1	Е	163	21 -	10	132
	F	166	28	12	126
	G	275	36	10	229
	- 1	170	36	14	120
	K	183	36	2	145
	L	169	22	38	109
	Total	1574	271	95	1208
	Avg	175	30	11	134
All Line	Total	3757	650	374	2733
Co	Avg	139	24	14	101

Herewith are the casualty statistics for the 27 Rifle Companies of the division. They are provided to indicate just how widely this critical impact of combat effects the maneuver elements, the spear points of the division. Only the rifle companies are included here because all other units of the division are support units for the rifle companies so as to enhance their ability to successfully accomplish the division's mission. Furthermore, it should be understood that the doctrine for the deployment of the line elements of platoons, companies, battalions, and regiments of the triangular divisions of the WW II era dictates the concept of two units forward (on-line), and one in reserve for each echelon in the deployed division at company level and above. In theory, and typically rigorously followed, the rotation of the units attempts to insure equal time on line for all units at each echelon level and unit commanders at each level make every effort to insure an even share of intense combat commitments. However, since combat intensity is totally random and unpredictable as to degree of intensity, it is obvious that scheduling the deployment of units so as to equalize the negative effects is not possible and the relative casualty impacts are truly as random as the matrix indicates. This was the intent of this presentation.

An illustration of unpredictability was my experience with G/157th Inf Regt on the March 15th 7th Army attack at 0100 hours without any artillery preparation. E & F Cos, the on-line attacking elements of the 2nd Bn, walked through the sleeping German defense without firing a shot. G Co moving through in single-file nearby the sleeping German defenders one-half hour later as the reserve company encountered a kraut in the process of relieving himself without his weapon, who suddenly cried out to alert his comrads. In the ensuing melee, the first two platoons of G Co continued to march (single file in darkness) to the objective, leaving the 3rd & 4th platoons to counter the Germans, and drive them off with unknown casualties. The two platoons of G Co incurred 5 KIAs and 6 WIAs, but were successful in this encounter as the reserve company, whereas the online attacking companies reached the objective with out casualties.

TOE Rifle Company Strength = 187 em 6 off

KIA includes DOW (Died of Wounds), FOD (Finding of Death—used where someone was missing and presumed killed in action), DNB (Died Non-Battle). All MIAs accounted for.

George J Davis Franklin D. Roosevelt High School - Class of 1943

In 1943, after graduating from Roosevelt High School, George Davis entered the US Army. Davis was part of the 103d Infantry Division that landed in October of 1944 at Marseille. From there, the 103d was sent to the front, where it replaced the fabled 3rd Division. George and a friend were captured by the Nazis two months later and became POW's in Czechoslovakia until the war ended. George continues the story in his own words:

With the help of friendly Czechs, my buddy, Lee Rubin, and I arrived in Prague several days after "V-E Day, May 8, 1945. The capitol was crowded with exuberant Russian soldiers. We wondered how we'd be able to get to the nearest US forces, which were about 70 miles away in Pilsen. Wandering the downtown, we turned a corner and saw a beautiful sight ---

three US Army jeeps and a Packard sedan with general's stars on the front bumper. As we contemplated our good luck, a commotion across the street caught our attention. Several Russian officers were exchanging handshakes and salutes with an American general and his aid, a captain. Lee and I saluted both as they crossed the street, and my buddy quickly asked for a ride to Pilsen. No answer was forthcoming, but the general did return the salute. As we began to walk away, the general's aid came after us asking if we could prove that we were Americans. At the time of our capture in France on December 5, 1944, we had tossed our dog tags away because we wanted to avoid Rubin being identified as a Jew. Lee showed a fraternity card he had from the University of Pennsylvania. From deep in my pants pocket, I dug out my 1943 class ring

from Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School. The aid said, "The general would like you two to ride back to the American forces with him". That gave us the unique distinction of being two PFC's (Private First Class) liberated by a Third Army Corps Commander (General Clarence Huebner). A rare feat indeed!

A rare story indeed, George! Attendees at the 2010 Re-Dedication can look for George Davis in the audience today. He will probably be more than willing to share his many Roosevelt High School experiences with you. If you have children with you, ask him to shake their hands, so that 70 years from now, the young person can say, "I once shook the hand of an American soldier, who shook the hand of President Roosevelt."







New Orleans

July 11th - 18th, 2011



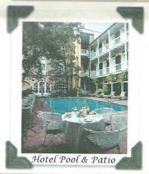
REVEL IN THE FRENCH QUARTER, AMERICAS OLDEST AND MOST UNIQUE NEIGHBORHOOD! WITH BOURBON STREET, JACKSON SQUARE AND THE FRENCH MARKET!, OR ESCAPE INTO THE PAST AND EXPLORE THE GRIM AND GHASTLY DEEDS WITH CHILLING ADVENTURES OF DOCUMENTED HAUNTINGS, THERE'S EVEN A HAUNTED PIRATE'S BAR ALONG THE WAY OF GENTLEMAN JEAN LAFITTE, OR WHY NOT JOURNEY CAJUN STYLE THROUGH THE HEART OF SOUTHERN LOUISIANA'S SWAMPLANDS, VIEWING MOSS DRAPED CYPRESS TREES AND THE CREATURES WHO MAKE THEIR HOMES THERE - DON'T FORGET THE CAMERA!











MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW AT THE FAMOUS CHATEAU LeMOYNE WITH GRAND ACCOMMODATIONS, FREE PARKING, EXCEPT ITS ALWAYS NICE TO VALET TIP, JUST ONE BLOCK OVER FROM BOURBON STREET AND AT A LOWER RATE THAN WE PAID LAST YEAR.



150 year old townhomes restored into beautiful boutique hotel. Guestrooms boast original brick walls and cypress beam ceiling dated back to the 1800's, complimentary wireless high speed internet access, down pillow and comforter with duvet, and much more!

WE'LL PLAN ON A BIG EASY TOUR SEEING THE ELEGANT, LAVISH AND HISTORIC GARDEN DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE "AMERICAN" SECTION BUILT IN THE 1800'S TO RIVAL THE ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR AND BEAUTY OF THE FRENCH QUARTER, AND DRIVE BY THE HOMES OF AUTHOR ANNE RICE AND ROCK STAR TRENT REZNOR OF NINE INCH NAILS. WE'LL SEE THE HOUSE WHERE JEFFERSON DAVIS DIED, THEN ON TO JACKSON SQUARE FOR IT IS HERE THAT MUCH OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC EVENTS TOOK PLACE - PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, THE SIGNING OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE AT THE CABILDO. THE SQUARE IS PRESIDED OVER BY THE SIMPLE AND ELECANT ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL (THE OLDEST CATHEDRAL IN THE UNITED STATES) FROM WHERE THE BELL STILL CHIMES OUT EVERY QUARTER HOUR, AS IT HAS FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS. THEN ON TO ADMIRE THE MAGNIFICENT "DUELING OAKS" ON THE ABOVE GROUND CEMETERY WHERE YOUR GUIDE WILL EXPLAIN HOW THE PEOPLE OF NEW ORLEANS RE-USE TOMBS. THIS TRADITION WAS BY NECESSITY, NOT BY CHOICE. AS PART OF OUR TOUR, WE WILL GO TO THE LOWER 9TH WARD, VIEW WHERE THE HURRICANE KATRINA BROKE THE LEVEE AND SWEPT THE RESIDENTS AND THEIR HOMES AWAY. THIS WAS THE GREATEST DEVASTATION IN NEW ORLEANS. YOU WILL SEE HOW THE LOWER 9TH WARD RESIDENCES ARE PUTTING THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS AND BRAD PITT'S PROJECT, "MAKE IT RIGHT"

AN ENTIRE DAY WILL BE SPENT AT THE NATIONAL WW11 MUSEUM WITH PROVISIONS FOR DIFFERENT SCHEDULE TIMES. BUT TRY TO PLAN ON LUNCH AND IN THE EVENING ONE OF OUR TRIP HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE A STAGE DOOR CANTEEN DINNER WITH SPECIAL JAZZ SINGING AND DANCING BOOGIE WOOGIE COMBOS TO PUT US ALL IN THE MOOD MUSIC WITH A BEAT THAT JUST WON'T STOP AND AMBIANCE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET......YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!

FOR HOTEL RESERVATION, CALL: 1-800-747-3279

103d Infantry Divsion WW II Association 46th Annual Reunion - San Antonio, TX - July 17, 2010



Members Assembled on the Sun Deck of the Holiday Inn Riverwalk

PRSRT FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
HOLLISTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 72

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

103D INF DIV ASSOC WW II 7618 Twin Hills Drive Houston, TX 77071