

# NewsFrom The Cactus Patch

## PRESIDENT

Earl H. Clemmons  
2001 E. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601  
870 535 5366 Ph & Fax

## VICE PRESIDENT

Douglas H. Stellner  
4239 Georgia St.  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
707 642 2102  
dougs@fmcompserve.com

## ASST VICE PRESIDENT

Raymond W. Salo  
1402 Sahlman  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
218 879 7130  
raysalo30@msn.com

## SEC & TREASURER

Dean Sharp  
9815 Delmar Ln.  
Overland Park, KS 66207  
816 471 6707  
dsharp@hntb.com

## ASST SEC & TREASURER

Richard T. Ball  
6012 Jan Mer Dr.  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703 671 9017  
dball01@aol.com

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, (Interim)

Dave Blustin  
217 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Duluth, MN 55802  
O 218 722 5492  
H 218 724 1988  
dave@garonbrothersjewelers.com

## EDITOR, CACTUS PATCH

Harold M. Branton  
1288 Newsom Rd., P.O. Box 77  
Shongaloo, LA 71072  
318 846 2687  
hmbranton@centurytel.net

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term exp)

Baxter Fite III 2003  
2130 North St.  
Peoria, IL 61604  
309 685 5861

Richard E. Pearson 2003  
103 Sharon Dr.  
Piqua, OH 45356  
937 773 7467

John V. Rauseo 2003  
56 Mountain Ash Dr.  
Kingston, MA 02364  
781 422 9994

J. D. Shuttleworth 2004  
18310 Buckhannon  
Roseville, MI 48066  
810 777 4549

James E. White 2003  
19 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Nederland, TX 77627  
409 722 3211  
jewpbw50@msn.com

## 103d INF DIV WW II



QUARTERLY

MARCH 2003

ISSUE NO 4

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



### Earl H. Clemmons

February 24, 2003

FIRST THINGS FIRST, I want to thank you for electing me your Vice-President for the past year, and now your President for the current year.

Before and since I started my term on 1 January 2003, I studied well the challenges of the office of President. I became aware of the tremendous progress that was made during the past year: noticeable increases in the membership of both the Regulars and Associates; the Reunion Event of 2002 in Dallas which was a huge success; the computation of data relating to our battle deaths, a great effort that has been researched and published; a system of communication which has been well established, the centerpiece being the Newsletter, NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH; and the advancement of plans for the World War II Historical Monument to be erected in honor of the 103d Infantry Division.

For those achievements, and even more, I must declare for myself and the membership as a whole a heartfelt appreciation to Comrade Mel WRIGHT, our Past President, and his dedicated staff.

As I turned then to the new year, I listed my priorities and made note of selected objectives. FIRST, I wish to build upon past accomplishments. They are already significant.

Second, and onward, I would like to share with you a number of projects that I feel should be seriously addressed at the earliest date:

1. Plan and execute/conduct a memorable Reunion Event in Las Vegas, Nevada.
2. Publish an approved CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS document for our Association.
3. Obtain a Non-Profit status for our organization from the Internal Revenue Service (in order to officially receive/accept tax deductible donations: gifts, money, artifacts and other materials of value, plus a sizeable discount on postage expenses).
4. Secure a suitable location and facility to serve as an archive/ museum wherein Cactus histories, biographical and memorabilia may be accessed, displayed and maintained.

In order that these projects may be accomplished, I, and my staff must have help. A lot of it. We will need volunteers and a sharing of ideas. Together, Comrades, these objectives can be realized. ACAN-DO Spirit will be required (now and then) and I am counting on you to assist.

God Bless all of You. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

# OUTGOING 2002 PRESIDENTS REPORT

**My sincere thanks are extended to the Regular and Associate membership for their support during this first year of our reorganized Association. Best wishes are also extended to our 2003 Officers and Board members.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF OUR NEW REORGANIZED ASSOCIATION**

**TRANSFER OF funds from old Assn and Establishing Bank Account.**(Done)

**INCORPORATION:** We are incorporated in the State of Texas.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS:** The old constitution is now on computer and work is in process covering the new Assn but it is not yet finalized. This will be a challenge for the 2003 Officers.

**MEMBERSHIP:** In the previous Assn. the dues paying membership was to a large degree limited to those that attended the annual reunions and the mailing list had dwindled down to about 1500 names. We have, with a lot of work and help from others, added more than 1000 names to the living members mailing list and about 500 names of Descendants. The paid membership has increased from around 300 in 2001 to nearly 500 in 2002. We expect this to grow to at least 750 in 2003. Other similar organizations have memberships in the area of 3000 or more.

**REUNION:** It was held at the Dallas Addison Marriott Hotel located on the North side of Dallas 25-29 Sept 2002. Bus trips were made to Gainesville visiting the old Camp Howze training site and the Morton Museum with a BarBQ provided by the VFW Post 1922. A bus trip was also made to downtown Dallas and the dozen golfers played a great match at the prestigious Prestonwood Country Club. A grand time was had by all.

**NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH:** This newly established Quarterly Publication provides information of our current activities and past history to all Regular and Associate Members as well as to those Descendants that have been reported to the TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND on the distributed form. In the past only those that were physically and financially able to attend the annual Reunions enjoyed the association with fellow members and their wives. This publication has been well received and we urge all qualified Regular, Associate Members and their Descendants to maintain membership and pay their annual dues so that they we may continue to publish this worthy Document. Your writings, photos and notices of individual reunions are welcome items for this publication.

**ROSTERS:** For the past several years, because of my personal interest in the preservation of our vital history for future generations, I have devoted many hours of research to establish and maintain computer Rosters of as many as possible of our 103d Comrades. For practical purposes these Rosters are listed and maintained on an ongoing daily basis under the following designations: 1. LIVING (WITH CURRENT ADDRESS), 2. LOST (LACKING CURRENT ADDRESS), 3. DECEASED, 4. KIA (LISTED IN MY BATTLE DEATH PUBLICATION). I also maintain a separate roster of ASSOCIATE MEMBERS and DESCENDANTS and am in the process of establishing one for our POW'S. When descendants become Associate Members their names are transferred over to the ASSOCIATE MEMBER roster. The living roster has especially been a valuable tool and used many times to download a list of individual unit members to furnish unit members and at times their relatives seeking names to contact for information about their loved ones. This is probably the one most valuable part of our attempt to preserve our historical records. Each unit is encouraged to keep their rosters updated and give me all the updated information to be included in our master data.

**A TELEPHONE BOOK** of our regular membership was printed and offered to those attending the reunion for \$10.00 ea. We plan to have this also available at the next reunion or for mail out at \$12.00 each. This was arranged by the TEXAS WW II HISTORICAL MONUMENT FUND and proceeds from that sale destined for that fund.

**AGAIN MY SINCERE THANKS** is extended to the membership for allowing me to serve as your President for the first year 2002 of our newly reorganized Association. Our best wishes and prayers are extended to the new staff. We are especially pleased that our Descendants are joining and participating with us. Their endeavors to preserve our vital history will be a big factor in our future battles for freedom.

B. Melton 'Mel' Wright

NFTCP IV 02 28 03

# Association Officers



OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: LtoR, Baxter FITE III, Board Mbr; Dick BALL, Asst Sec Treasurer; Ray SALO, Asst V. Pres; Earl-CLEMMONS, President; MelWRIGHT, Past Pres & Consultant; James WHITE, Board Mbr; Dick PEARSON, Board Mbr; Harold BRANTON, Editor, WFTCP; and John RAUSEO, Board Mbr. Insert: Doug Stellner, Vice Pres, left, and J. D. SHUTTLEWORTH, Board Mbr.

## Y-2003 VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug Stellner

I am both humbled and honored for having been selected to serve as your Vice President for the Y2003 calendar year. Having been privileged to serve on the original Search Committee with our Past President Mel Wright, I have some knowledge of the initial recommendations and goals which were proposed for our Association and approved at the time that our organization was reconstituted.

As of this writing, it appears that our most pressing 2003 objective is to finalize the arrangements for our 2003 Reunion in Las Vegas, NV. While Past President Mel Wright continues to assist in negotiating the very best in the way of dates, rates and accommodations, it now appears that some on-site visits are in order before a contract can be signed.

Our Association's remaining goals are : the construction and approval of a Constitution and By-Laws; the procurement of a tax free 501(c)(19) organizational status from the Internal Revenue Service; and the securing of a suitable location and facility for archiving our Cactus Division histories and memorabilia.

It is my fervent hope that each of our members will enthusiastically join in the supporting of our new President and his staff as we collectively move forward with our Association's business and activities. I look to a great year in 2003 as we continue to fellowship together.

# HONOR ROLL

103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II  
(Deceased reported after NFTCP issue No 3)



|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Howell, Eugene      | 409 Hq Co 3rd Bn |
| Polnaszek, Adam     | 411 Co F         |
| Carter, Don E.      | 409 Co B         |
| Monahan, Samuel F.  | 410 Co B         |
| Kyle, Elton         | 409 Co E         |
| Hancock, Charles E. | 411 Co A         |
| Jacobs, Milton      | 328 Eng          |
| Harts, William F.   | 103 QM           |
| Torrison, Donald L. | 384 FA Hq Bty    |
| Moody, Loris W.     | 411 Co C         |
| Epston, Melvin F    | 103 Sig Co       |
| Haas, Gilbert O.    | 410 Co F         |
| Salathe, Leonard J. | 410 Hq Co        |

## The Origin of Taps

It all began in 1862 during the War Between the States, when a Union Army Captain, Robert Ellicombe, was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern. Suddenly he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier, it was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, the heart-broken father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say the band could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his son's uniform. This wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as TAPS, which is played at all military funerals.



Courtesy of:  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
R.E. Lee Camp 587



"Just give me the aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart."

**We extend A Special Tribute to a Great WW II Artist**

(Creator of Willie and Joe)



**Bill Mauldin 1921-2003, 45th Inf Div & Stars and Stripes  
Deceased 22 January 2003**

NFCP IV 01 27 03

## A MESSAGE TO DESCENDANTS OF OLD WARRIORS

I am a doctor specializing in Emergency Medicine in the Emergency Departments of the only two military Level One-trauma centers. They are both in San Antonio, TX and they care for civilian Emergencies as well as military personnel. San Antonio has the largest military retiree population in the world living here, because of the location of these two large military medical centers. As a military doctor in training in my specialty, I work long hours and the pay is less than glamorous.

One tends to become jaded by the long hours, lack of sleep, food, family contact and the endless parade of human suffering passing before you. The arrival of another ambulance does not mean more pay, only more work. Most often, it is a victim from a motor vehicle crash. Often it is a person of dubious character who has been shot or stabbed. With our large military retiree population, it is often a nursing home patient.

Even with my enlisted service and minimal combat experience in Panama, prior to medical school, I have caught myself groaning when the ambulance brought in yet another sick, elderly person from one of the local retirement centers that cater to military retirees. I had not stopped to think of what citizens of this age group represented.

I saw "Saving Private Ryan." I was touched deeply. Not so much by the carnage in the first 30 minutes, but by the sacrifices of so many. I was touched most by the scene of the elderly survivor at the graveside, asking his wife if he'd been a good man. I realized that I had seen these same men and women coming through my Emergency Dept. and had not realized what magnificent sacrifices they had made. The things they did for me and everyone else that has lived on this planet since the end of that conflict are priceless. Situation permitting, I now try to ask my patients about their experiences. They would never bring up the subject without the inquiry.

I have been privileged to an amazing array of experiences, recounted in the brief minutes allowed in an Emergency Dept. encounter. These experiences have revealed the incredible individuals I have had the honor of serving in a medical capacity, many on their last admission to the hospital. There was a frail, elderly woman who reassured my young enlisted medic, trying to start an IV line in her arm. She remained calm and poised, despite her illness and the multiple needle-sticks into her fragile veins. She was what we call a "hard stick." As the medic made another attempt, I noticed a number tattooed across her forearm. I touched it with one finger and looked into her eyes. She simply said "Auschwitz." Many of later generations would have loudly and openly berated the young medic in his many attempts. How different was the response from this person who'd seen unspeakable suffering.

Also, there was this long retired Colonel, who as a young officer had parachuted from his burning plane over a Pacific Island held by the Japanese. Now an octogenarian, his head cut in a fall at home where he lived alone. His CT scan and suturing had been delayed until after midnight by the usual parade of high priority ambulance patients. Still spry for his age, he asked to use the phone to call a taxi, to take him home, then he realized his ambulance had brought him without his wallet. He asked if he could use the phone to make a long distance call to his daughter who lived 7 miles away. With great pride we told him that he could not, as he'd done enough for his country and the least we could do was get him a taxi home, even if we had to pay for it ourselves. My only regret was that my shift wouldn't end for several hours, and I couldn't drive him myself.

I was there the night MSgt. Roy Benavidez came through the Emergency Dept. for the last time. He was very sick. I was not the doctor taking care of him, but I walked to his bedside and took his hand. I said nothing. He was so sick, he didn't know I was there. I'd read his Congressional Medal of Honor citation and wanted to shake his hand. He died a few days later.

The gentleman who served with Merrill's Marauders, the survivor of the Bataan Death March, the survivor of Omaha Beach, the 101 year old World War I veteran, the former POW held in frozen North Korea, the former Special Forces medic - now with non-operable liver cancer, the former Viet Nam Corps Commander. I remember these citizens.

I may still groan when yet another ambulance comes in, but now I am much more aware of what an honor it is to serve these particular men and women.

I have seen a Congress who would turn their back on these individuals who've sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. I see later generations that seem to be totally engrossed in abusing these same liberties, won with such sacrifice. It has become my personal endeavor, to make the nurses and young enlisted medics aware of these amazing individuals when I encounter them in our Emergency Dept. Their response to these particular citizens has made me think that perhaps all is not lost in the next generation.

My experiences have solidified my belief that we are losing an incredible generation, and this nation knows not what it is losing. Our uncaring government and ungrateful civilian populace should all take note. We should all remember that we must "Earn this."

Written By  
CPT. Stephen R. Ellison, M.D.

NFTCP IV 02 04 03

# WANTED

We need correct address data on the following members. The last mail sent to the following addresses has been returned. If you have or can locate accurate data on any them please notify Mel Wright at 9737 Warwana Rd. Houston TX 77080, 713 465 0814, [mel@hal-pc.org](mailto:mel@hal-pc.org) Include phone and e-mail data if available

|    | Last name   | First Nm & MI | Address                     | City          | ST | Zip   | Unit          | Phone        |
|----|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----|-------|---------------|--------------|
| 1  | Anderson    | Eari C.       | Pine Hill Rd.               | Brownsboro    | TX | 75756 | Unknown       | 903 852 6800 |
| 2  | Anderson    | Stanley       | 3024 S. 40th St.            | Milwaukee     | WI | 53215 | 410 Co I      | NL           |
| 3  | Baker       | Leroy H.      | R # 3                       | Perry         | MO | 63462 | XXX Co G      | 573 965 2711 |
| 4  | Barnes      | Cordell W.    | Rr 1                        | Caney         | KS | 67333 | Unknown       | 316 289 4241 |
| 5  | Brcanek     | John E.       | 15421 Des Moines Dr.        | Burien        | WA | 98148 | 410 Co I      |              |
| 6  | Brenner     | Sy            | 6429 Gem Lake Ave.          | San Diego     | CA | 92119 | 410 Med       | 619 464 1244 |
| 7  | Bringle     | Riley S.      | 131 Miller Rd.              | Covington     | TN | 38019 | 411 Co A      | 901 476 1703 |
| 8  | Brower      | Harold C.     | 2207 Porter St. S.W.        | Grand Rapids  | MI | 49509 | Unknown       | 616 538 7148 |
| 9  | Calleja     | R. F.         | 4943 Orchard                | Dearborn      | MI | 48126 | 411 AT        |              |
| 10 | Carson      | Richard T.    | 2470 Sundy Ave.             | Delray Beach  | FL | 33444 | 411 Co F      |              |
| 11 | Courtney    | Inwin         | Meredith Ct.                | Severna Park  | MD | 21146 | 410 Co A      | 410 974 0860 |
| 12 | Democko     | Paul          | 145 Calle Largo             | Hollywood     | FL | 33021 | 411 Hq Co     | 954-961-1639 |
| 13 | Dickerson   | Robert L.     | 1048 Westborough Dr. No.    | Columbus      | OH | 43230 | 409 Co K      | 614-451-7999 |
| 14 | Dumay       | Herbert S.    | Rt. 5 Box 5083              | Towanda       | PA | 18848 | 410 Co C      | 570-265-2819 |
| 15 | Durrance    | Jack          | 1717 N.W. 23rd Blvd.        | Gainesville   | FL | 32605 | 409 Co D      | 352-376-4430 |
| 16 | Eisele      | Robert F.     | 710 7th St.                 | Jackson       | MI | 49203 | 103 Sig Co    | 517 787 5624 |
| 17 | Engstrand   | Ben E.        | 5548 Colfax Ave. S.         | Minneapolis   | MN | 55419 | 410 Co C      |              |
| 18 | Fleming     | Harold        | 302 Lakeview Dr.            | Enid          | OK | 73701 | 409 Co K      |              |
| 19 | Forlano     | D. F.         | 3200 NE 7th Ct. Apt 102-B   | Popano Beach  | FL | 33062 | 411 Co L      | 954 942 4540 |
| 20 | Gibbs       | Spitzman B.   | 313/B Chester Ave.          | Riverside     | NJ | 08075 | 410 Co F      |              |
| 21 | Halte       | Winfield      | 15318 Wescon Rd.            | Brookville    | FL | 34601 | 409 Co A      |              |
| 22 | Hallford    | Willis        | Rte. 1 Box 46               | Toccoa        | GA | 30577 | 410 Co C      |              |
| 23 | Hancock     | William L.    | 30 Curtis St.               | Reading       | MA | 01867 | TX A&I ASTP   | 781-944-0240 |
| 24 | Hickey      | Robert W.     | 111 Siskey St               | Oxford        | MS | 38855 | Unknown       | 662-234-5309 |
| 25 | Hollen      | Harry         | 571 Poland Ave.             | Struthers     | OH | 44471 | 409 Co B      | 330-755-4677 |
| 26 | Holmes      | Ivan H.       | Box 82, 107 County Rd. N-52 | Sharpsburg    | IA | 50862 | 103 Rec       | 515 349 8525 |
| 27 | Hopkins     | Vernon        | 420 N. Ohio                 | Wichita       | KS | 67017 | Unknown       | 316-778-1053 |
| 28 | Hough       | Robert M.     | 511 E. Jefferson            | Grand Ledge   | MI | 48837 | 411 Co H      |              |
| 29 | Huskey      | Mose L.       | 15750 Rose Dr.              | Allen Park    | MI | 48101 | Unknown       | 313-382-5619 |
| 30 | Jiordano    | Joseph        | 182 Papereil Ave.           | Houghton Lake | MI | 48629 | 411 Co L      |              |
| 31 | Kanter      | Robert H.     | 372 Rockwood Dr.            | Painesville   | OH | 44077 | 383 FA Bty A  | 216 354 4978 |
| 32 | Kisor       | Arnold D.     | 904 Boone St.               | Tupelo        | MS | 38801 | 411 Sv Co     | 601 842 7793 |
| 33 | Klabacka    | Theodore      | 107, 6th Ave. S.            | Hometown      | IL | 60456 | 410 Co M      |              |
| 34 | Kyle Jr.    | Earl R.       | 467 Akna Ave.               | Elmhurst      | IL | 60126 | 411 Co A      |              |
| 35 | Livingston  | Ralph E.      | 434 Benwick Ave.            | Waukegon      | IL | 60085 | 103 QM        | 847-336-4859 |
| 36 | McNally     | Thomas E.     | 651 7th St.                 | LaSalle       | IL | 61301 | 382 FA Hq Co  |              |
| 37 | Meinze      | Albert K.     | 218 El Conquistador Place   | Louisville    | KY | 40220 | 409 Co B      | 502 456 6787 |
| 38 | Meiby       | Orville       | 8028 Ewing Ave S            | Edina         | MN | 55343 | 103 Sig Co    | 952 925 5389 |
| 39 | Meyers      | Jack D.       | 132 Dogwood Dr.             | Nashville     | IN | 47448 | Unknown       | 812-968-0404 |
| 40 | Mockford    | James M.      | 805 Burwick Terr.           | Greenwood     | IN | 46143 | 409 Co I      |              |
| 41 | Moore       | Robert W.     | 328 E. Main                 | Hudson        | MI | 49247 | 103 MP        |              |
| 42 | Mudd        | Victor        | 403 Cherry St.              | Silex         | MO | 63377 | Unknown       | 573-384-5827 |
| 43 | North       | William       | 263, 1st St. N.W.           | Largo         | FL | 33540 | 411 Co G      | NL           |
| 44 | Patton      | James L.      | Box 186                     | Wingate       | TX | 79566 | 410 Hq 1st Bn |              |
| 45 | Rippey      | Clayton       | P. O. Box 581               | Anacortes     | WA | 98221 | 409 Co B      | 360-293-8830 |
| 46 | Ritch       | James         | 920 N. Iowa                 | Lakeland      | FL | 33802 |               | 813 688 1316 |
| 47 | Schatzberg  | Mel           | 276, 18th Ave.              | Vero Beach    | FL | 32960 | 409 Co B      | 305 562 5221 |
| 48 | Schenk      | William       | 865 Johnstown Ln. # B       | Whelton       | IL | 60187 | 103 Div Hq Co |              |
| 49 | Schwartz    | David         | 10905 Little Cr. Dr.        | Whitehouse    | OH | 43571 | 409 Co A      |              |
| 50 | Shadtix     | Henry C.      | Highway 79                  | Opelika       | AL | 36801 | 409 Co B      | 334 749 3323 |
| 51 | Slepittca   | John          | 7401 Normale                | Dearborn      | MI | 48126 | 410 Co C      |              |
| 52 | Steinmetzer | R. W.         | Star Route Box 33           | Otga          | WA | 96279 | 411 Co K      | 360 376 4551 |
| 53 | Stingley    | Jule          | 5313 Palm Aire              | Sarasota      | FL | 34243 | Unknown       | 941-359-2531 |
| 54 | Tallant     | Duane         | 1208 Southwood Rd.          | Austin        | TX | 78704 | 410 Co C      | 512 442 4890 |
| 55 | Tardy       | Pamell L.     | 3802 Mackinaw               | Saginaw       | MI | 48602 | 410 Co L      | 517 792 8552 |
| 56 | Twarozynski | Bernard       | 4654 Shattuck Rd.           | Saginaw       | MI | 48603 | Unknown       | 989 790 0619 |
| 57 | White       | James M.      | 846 Hill Hughes Rd.         | Fairview      | TN | 37062 | 411 Serv. Co  | 615-799-9448 |
| 58 | Williams    | George        | 610 S. Liberty              | Bleisville    | PA | 15717 | 410 Co C      | 412 459 8171 |
| 59 | Woods       | Edward L.     | N2228 County Rd             | Melrose       | WI | 54642 | 410 Co A      | 608-488-7202 |
| 60 | Wooten      | Raymond       | RFD 2 Wastonburgh           | Snow Hill     | NC | 28580 | 411 Can Co    | 252 747 7833 |
| 61 | Worlein     | Deane         | 5833 Soledad Rd             | La Jolla      | CA | 92037 | 411 Sv Co     | 858 459 7835 |
| 62 | Zajezkowski | Waller        | 4821 W. 90th St.            | Garfield Hts. | OH | 44125 | 411 Can Co    | NL           |
| 63 | Zander      | Rueben E.     | 1889 Manitowoc St.          | Pelican Lake  | WI | 54463 | 382 FA Bty C  | 715-487-5855 |
| 64 | Alpern      | William J.    | 35 Maple Lane               | Westport      | CT | 06880 | 410 Co I      | 203 255 0672 |

NFTCP IV 02 04 03

## 2003 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

To support your organization and continue to receive News From the Cactus Patch we urge you to pay your 2003 Dues.

Unfortunately, due to other employment, Richard Moore will, effective 28 February, no longer act as our Executive Secretary.

Effective 01 March 2003 we are happy to announce that Dave Blustin, the son of our deceased member Ralph Blustin 411 Co F, has agreed to take over this duty. We request that your communications and PAYMENT OF DUES be directed to him

Dues: \$15.00 per year for Regular or Associate Membership  
(Dues are not required for widows of members)

Make Check to payable to 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II  
Mail to your new Iterim Executive Secretary with a copy of this page.

Dave Blustin  
217 W. 1st St.  
Duluth, MN 55802

First Name & MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Members only: Give name & relation to your family member or name of your sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

*Our Members are getting older but our Membership is growing with the addition of Associate Members taking an active part in our Association.*

*The publication of NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH allows all members to be in on the news and not just those that are able to attend the Reunions.*

*Members are urged to encourage their descendants to join and participate in our activities and actions to preserve our vital history for future generations.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES EARLY  
Send a copy of this page with your payment

# Vetrans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown 2002

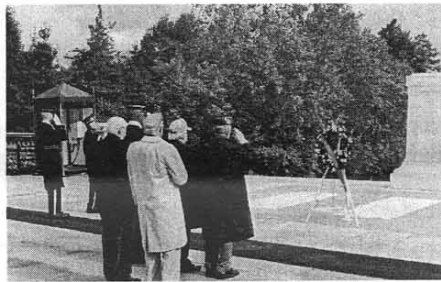


L to R: Dick Pearson, Dick Ball, Red Barrett, Bruce Hughes, Mike Touhig, and Bill Schneck



L to R: Dick Ball, Mike Touhig, Dick Pearson, Bill Schneck, Bruce Hughes, Red Barrett, and escort, Specialist Beasley.

The laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the UNKNOWN in Arlington Cemetery is a colorful ceremony performed each year, on or near VETERANS' DAY, by scores of patriotic organizations. Scheduling of individual participating units and organizations extends over several days. The 103d Infantry Division delegation, reduced in numbers in 2002, met on Wednesday, 6 November, for a dinner together in the downstairs room of the Fort Meyers Officers' Mess. Present were: Dick Pearson, along with his daughter, Patti Heater; Leonard SATTLER, Mike TOUHIG, Ray BARRETT, Bill SCHNECK, along with his friend, Miriam Alexander; and Dick Ball.



L to R: Bill Schneck, Specialist Beasley, Mike Touhig, Bruce Hughes, and Dick Pearson.

On Thursday morning, 7 November, the group assembled at the site of the TOMB. It was the 20th occasion, Dick Pearson said, indicating that he had been present for a number of times.

The moment for the 103d Infantry Division Association to lay its wreath was announced as 11:35 a.m. In a simple movement by escort, the selected delegation moved forward 'toward the tomb and gently placed the 103d wreath near the base, and stepped back at attention and appropriate salute. The bugler of the Honor Guard then played "TAPS".

Dick BALL reports: "After the ceremony we met in the main dining room of the Fort Mayers Officers' Club for a great buffet luncheon. We all sat at one big round table enjoying the food and each others company."

"It was an event enjoyed by all," Dick continued. "It was gratifying to know that we hadn't forgotten our lost comrades and a pleasure seeing old friends again." Dick concluded, "I would like to encourage others of our Association, especially those who live in the Washington, Virginia and Maryland area, to be a part of this very uplifting event."



# Memorial Events in France, 2002



President Bush greets  
Superintendent R. PRIEUR

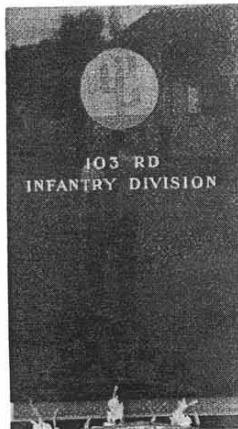
At Memorial Day, Monday 27 May 2002, President George W. BUSH visited the Normandy Cemetery on the west coast of France, site of the Normandy D-Day invasion in World War II. Speaking at that beautiful cemetery, located on an overlook of the Omaha Beach, President Bush paid particular tribute to those who participated in that invasion, and especially to those who gave their lives in that battle. As the rain dampened the graves roundabout, Bush declared, "...the day will never come when America forgets them," and summoned the heirs of the Normandy struggle to fight this generation's scourge: terrorism. The President took time to personally greet the staff members of the American Battle Monument Commission present for the ceremonies, including our good friend, Roland B. PRIEUR, Superintendent of the Epinah Cemetery. As you know, many of our Cactus comrades rest in that memorial site.

On Sunday, 17 November 2002, the town folks of Saulcy-sur-Meurthe, Department of Alsace, France, held memorial services celebrating the liberation of their community from the Germans by Company A, 411th Infantry (103d Infantry Division) on November 22, 1944. The gathering of local citizens, American and French, veterans and dignitaries, was very impressive. The event was widely covered by the local media.

Mr. Roland PRIEUR, Superintendent at Epinah, was present and served as representative of the US forces and arranged the wreath laying ceremony with his usual dignity. The raising of the flags of both nations, the United States and France, and the playoff the national anthems, was singularly motivating: Most of the ceremonies took place at the Company A monument.

Then, on 24 November, the following week, Roland traveled from Epinah to do the similar honors at the 103d I of Div Monument in St. Die, France. All of that, plus his normal annual memorial services at Epinah, made for a very busy week for our friend, Roland PRIEUR. Our Association surely owes Roland a great debt of gratitude.

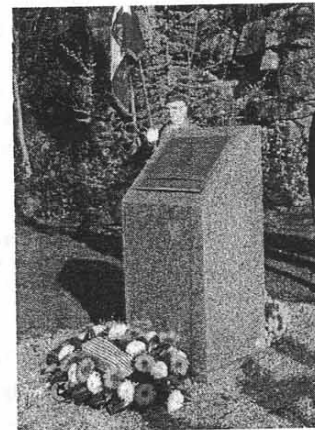
## 103D INFANTRY DIVISION MONUMENTS IN FRANCE



103d US Inf Div and Loyal  
French Citizens Monument  
St. Die, France



103d US Inf Div and and French  
Army Vetrans Monument  
Pfaffenhoffen, France



Co. A, 411th Infantry Regt., 103d US  
Inf Div Monument  
Saulcy-sur-Muerthe, France

The annual memorial ceremonies at our monuments abroad are always well attended. The French communities hit hard by German oppression know how to remember their liberators. We, in turn, appreciate them and seek ways to enhance our relationships. NOW, for example, we hear that the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation is to be the BIG EVENT in 2004 all over France. So, be thinking about still another memorable visit to the WW II scenes in Europe. Personally, I would like to see how those trees that we planted in the 103d Inf Div Park in Pfaffenhoffen are getting along. In sum, and being hopeful of continuing national harmonies, experiencing the proposed 2004 60th Anniversary of our struggles securing the French liberation could very well be the lasting event in Comradeship for our vets and the French.

Editor's Note: Roland PRIEUR's address is: PSC 116 (ABMC); APO AE 09777. He, his wife Marie, and their little son, Michael, would just be delighted to receive your personal greetings.

## Cactus Patch Mail IV

Snail mail or e-mail em to your Editor at [hnbranton@centurytel.net](mailto:hnbranton@centurytel.net) or to Mel at [mel@hal-pc.org](mailto:mel@hal-pc.org)  
(Regular mail addresses are on front page)

From Charles L. Fulton, Co K, 411th Inf: 419 Marion Drive; Newtown, PA 18940. "I am pleased to see your list of books and enclose \$12.00 (\$2 extra for P&H) for a copy of Col Yuell's book, FROM BRUYERES TO BRENNER."

"I have a very fond memory of Col. Yuell while in combat. As a Pfc rifleman, 3rd Platoon, Co K, 411th Inf, I was out in front as first scout one day, moving towards the German lines. I paused, searching the edge of a field, when suddenly I heard a voice behind me say, "TIME TO MOVE OUT." I looked around and it was Col. Yuell. He walked past me holding a map in his hand."

"That was the first and last and only time I ever saw an officer of his rank up on the front lines as we were advancing. I was greatly surprised, but it boosted my morale at the time."

From Andrea Madson, granddaughter of Cactusman Grant G. HAZLETT, Anti-Tank Company, 410th Infantry, saying that sometime back it was her joy to present to her grandfather his High School Diploma, a framed Christmas present. She says: "My children and I are living free, thanks to all of you brave souls who faithfully served during those terrible times. I cannot begin to understand your heartaches and pain, but wish to thank you with all my heart. My grandfather thanked me (for the diploma) but it is I who thank him and the countless others who have earned long overdue recognition for horrors no one should have to face. God Bless YOU All!" YeEd: Thank you, Andrea, for your message, and congratulate your granddad for us. Then, come with "grandpa" to Las Vegas in September, and talk to us.

From Paul Colvin, son of Cactusman Edsel Colvin, Co L, 410th Inf, saying: "Dad and I recently worked on a book of his letters home from 1941-45 and have published it under the title "GOT TO GO NOW". The book includes his time with ASTP in Oklahoma, basic training at Camp Howze and his experiences as (a scout) in the Vosges Mountains during the winter of 1944-1945. Dad lives in Gold Beach, Oregon. The book is available for \$20.00. Write Edsel Colvin, Box 477, Gold Beach, OR 97444." YeEd: Thank you, Paul and dad Edsel. I am adding your book to the 103d Inf Div book listing as shown in NFTCP, Issue No. 3, November 2002.

From Del Chapman, Cannon Company, 410th Inf, 6229 232nd St, Fairbault, MN 55021, (507)685-2590, referencing the Battle at Schillersdorf (Alsace, France) on the Moder River, and saying: "I would like to get in touch with anyone who was in the battle 23-24 January 1945. Recall that a crack S.S. Battalion over ran Company C. Dennis Belmore and three other guys set up a roadblock but their machine gun jammed. Dennis was hit bad but yelled back for the others to move out! Dennis held the S.S. troops for a few minutes before he died, just long enough for Cannon Company, the aid station and the 1st Battalion CP folks to withdraw. This action likely saved my life because S.S. troops seldom took prisoners."

## Cactus Patch Mail IV

Snail mail or e-mail em to your Editor at [hnbranton@centurytel.net](mailto:hnbranton@centurytel.net) or to Mel at [mel@hal-pc.org](mailto:mel@hal-pc.org)  
(Regular mail addresses are on front page)

**From Dennis Ryan (Son of John J. Ryan 409 Co E) [dryan38122@aol.com](mailto:dryan38122@aol.com) Madison, WI**

To spend an hour with veterans and brother-soldiers from my father's division was one of the highlights of my own life. Others should allow themselves the opportunity to have that small connection while they can... it is priceless.

**From newly located Angelo J. Portelli (409 Co K) [portelli@infi.net](mailto:portelli@infi.net) West Pittston, PA**

I did serve with the 103rd Inf Div, 409th Rgt, Co. K in Europe and would appreciate getting any correspondence put out by the Division association.

**From Barbara Hall (Daughter of Elroy A. Schulein 409 Co M) [mbhall@egyptian.net](mailto:mbhall@egyptian.net) Chester, IL**

Thank you so much for the information. I have been thinking so much about my dad lately. When I got to looking over his discharge papers, I noted it was this time of the year when he was drafted. Wouldn't it be wonderful if descendants could get together with the veterans to learn more about their experiences?? It seems that the world is so busy when we are younger and all of a sudden we realize many things that we didn't take time to learn.

**Response:** Barbara: Strange that you mention descendants attending reunions and seeking information about war campaigns. We are welcoming descendants into our organization for the first time and had a good showing at our Dallas Reunion 25-29 Sept 2002. At our age we can see where in the future our descendants will be holding reunions and inviting us to attend. We have also included them as officers and on the Board of Directors. Have attached a Descendants form and also a recently worked up list of Books that are available. Suggest you contact our Editor Harold Branton if you wish to order any of the books. Membership in the 103d INF DIV ASSN of WW II is currently \$15.00 per year and I will also attach a form for that if you wish to join. Our next reunion is planned to be in Las Vegas sometime in Sep 2003.

**From Carl Greene (409 Co K) [cjmgreene@aol.com](mailto:cjmgreene@aol.com) Houston, TX**

For your information our unit has held 23 reunions since 1955 with the next one scheduled for Green Bay, WI. in Sept. 2003. The first one was instigated by our William F. Gleason.

**From Kathleen Powell Woodward (Daughter of Charles Powell 410 Co ?) [woodward7@aol.com](mailto:woodward7@aol.com) Boulder, CO**

I am the daughter of a cactus patcher, and read your newsletter to my father, Charles Powell, who can no longer see because of Macular Degeneration. I noticed that someone on your missing list, Douglas Regenbrecht, was from Boulder, Co, our hometown. Just this morning his obituary appeared in the local paper.

**From John Diefenbaker (411 Co C) [jdief@voyager.net](mailto:jdief@voyager.net) Troy MI**

Thank you for the comments on Taps. I love to do it, and it makes me proud. I think Mess Call for the dinner in Vegas is a good idea. I'll be ready... Regarding your question on Cliff Perkins. As far as I know he was the only POW from 411 Co C. I believe it was at the raid on Rothback. We knew he was injured and the medics patched him up. We intended to pick him up on the way back, but he was gone. The first we knew he was a POW was at the reunion in Dallas about ten years ago. He showed up minus an arm, which the Germans had amputated.

**From Sandra A. West (Daughter of Norman A. Clark 410 AT) [sawest@vcn.com](mailto:sawest@vcn.com) Gillette, WY**

I am the daughter of a POW from WWII who served with the 103d Inf Div. I just recently received "The Cactus Patch" for the first time, and although I'm not sure how my name and address were obtained, I thank you very much. My father is 80 yrs. old and currently lives in Lansing, Mi.. As I read through the POW Roster, I found that his name was not listed and I decided to notify you as requested. My fathers name is Norman A. Clark and was in the 410th AT. I'm not really sure about the details that lead up to the capture, my father really hasn't wanted to talk about it. What I do know is that, after they were captured and on the way to a prison camp, the train that they were riding on had de-railed. He was taken to a hospital along with the others and the war had ended before he was released. I'm sure my father would share with you any of the other details you might want.

**Response:** Sandra: Many thanks for your message. Have attached copy of updated POW list with your dads name added. We have received some 23 additional names for the POW historical data. This year we have opened the membership of our organization to descendants of 103d men. Your dad sent in a descendants form and thats how we have your name. Attached also is a membership form and we hope that you will see fit to join and continue to receive quarterly issues of NEWS FROM THE CACTUS PATCH. Our next reunion will be in Las Vegas sometime in Sept. We had a good show of descendants last Sept in Dallas TX. It's amazing what the youngsters find out when the old warriors talk to each other. Thanks again for your important message.

## A NIGHT IN KINDWILLER

### A Raid,

Reportedly the best coordinated raid of the several conducted by units of the 1034 Inf. Div was that of Co G, 409th Inf. on the night of 9 February 1945. The raid was against Kindwiller in the Moder River Valley, Alsace, France. Jumping off from La Walk, directly across the Moder from Pfaffenhoffen (in the 1st Bn sector, 410th Inf.) Captain Roger H. Craddock (now resident of San Antonio, TX), company commander, set G Co's course to Kindwiller. The S-2 Sec, 409th Inf. needed prisoners to obtain current information on enemy deployments, activities and intentions. George company's mission was to capture prisoners. The raid was to start at midnight

The night was black and the going was tough through an expanse of vineyards, but the raid had been well planned and the route to the objective reconnoitered from the air by Captain Craddock. Advancing to the west along the north bank of the Moder for approximately 1000 yards, the CO turned north straight for the town and asked his artillery observer, Lt Raymond "Red" Barrett (of McLean, VA) to drop one round of artillery on the west end. The 382nd FA Bn fired one, right on the money. Twenty one minutes later, Craddock asked for one round to mark the east end of the town. Barrett called, the marker right on the point.

At 0310, when the company was within 50 yards of the south edge of the objective, enemy machine guns opened up. One from the right and one from the left. The two assault platoons, armed-almost exclusively with M-3 submachine guns and BARS, returned the fire immediately, at the same time, Craddock called for artillery concentration No. 1 and 2, as planned, to seal off the objective area. Again, FO Barrett called for fire and instantly it was on the way. Capt. Craddock then called for the pre-planned artificial moon light (search lights by 353rd AAA Searchlight Bn) to illuminate the town. Barrett called it on.

Suddenly, the enemy machine gunner on the left decided to fire again, Pfc. Del Sheftal (now resident of Kerrville, TX) who was just rising to rush the town, wisely dropped back to the ground. Pfc. Earl C. Sprague (of Machias NE) thinking that his buddy had been hit, arose in a rage and single-handedly charged to machine-gun nest, killed all the enemy in sight, then hurried back to his platoon. Shortly afterwards, Eugene McClurg (of Riverdale, CA), noticing that an enemy machine gun was holding up his platoon in the town, moved forward alone, creeping and crawling toward the building from which the fire was coming. Detecting fire from a window above, he threw a grenade inside, knocking out the enemy position.

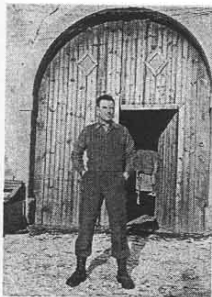
Three platoons had now entered the town proper; one assault platoon probed the streets to the east; the second platoon cleared the buildings on the north side, the third platoon followed and secured the buildings on the south side, the exit area. A fourth platoon remained in support about 75 yards south of the entry point of the attack to gather prisoners.

At 0321, nine prisoners had been captured and were being placed into custody of the support platoon. Having his prisoners, Captain Craddock requested that the lights be extinguished and a minute later he ordered a parachute flare released (a signal for withdrawal). At 0330, the artillery and cannon fire was ordered to be held for five minutes as contact with the enemy was broken; thereafter, all concentrations were fired to cover the withdrawal.

G Company exited Kindwiller and closed on the MLR at Pfaffenhoffen at 0530. During the period casualties were carried or reported to the aid station near the Moder River bridge at Pfaffenhoffen

Frank Rogers (now residing in Silver City, NM), in a recent letter to the editor, declared, "I remember the raid very well, since I was the Communication Sergeant with the company. I was entrusted with providing communication for the company from the rear and with the artillery during the course of the raid." He went on to say, "Our communication was through a plain field telephone connected to a wire spool which I carried. When we ran out of wire on one spool, I stopped in that muddy field and spliced the next spool with the help of my runners Montrose and Rodriquez. I was told later that the S-2 was having fits while the connection was temporarily broken."

Frank concluded "Another memory byte coming to mind was when tracer bullets were landing a foot in front of my face, and me trying to wipe off mud while going through the calls for artillery, then finally turning off the lights when the raid ended."



Roger Craddock  
CO, Co G, 409th



Eugene McClurg  
Sqd Ldr  
Co G, 409th



Frank Rogers  
Commo Sgt  
CO G, 409th



Ray "Red" Barrett  
Forward Observer  
Etry B, 382nd FA Bn

## Las Vegas - 2003

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Folks, I have been authorized by the Executive Committee to announce that our REUNION 2003 event is scheduled for the period Sunday, 28 September to Friday, 3 October 2003 in the celebrated city of LAS VEGAS, Nevada.

The hotel of unanimous FIRST CHOICE, from among many excellent options, is the NEW YORK-NEW YORK HOTEL on the so-called "STRIP". Here is a large and popular megaresort hotel, built in 1997, a stand-out and impressive landmark at the junction of Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana Avenue. Other notable hotels situated on that famous street corner include the MGM GRAND, the EXCALIBUR and the MONTE CARLO.

Hotel NEW YORK-NEW YORK and Casino, located just minutes away from the McCarran International Airport (with shuttle services), has all the basic facilities for a Reunion activity such as ours. Among the Specialty amenities you will find plenty "One Arm Bandits", swimming pools, various exercise equipment and wide lounge areas. Room rate: \$69, plus some tax, Single/Double. Weekend rates are vastly higher.

As you plan and travel, you should feel comfortable in expecting the REUNION 2003 to be an outstanding memorable event.

PLEASE BE WATCHFUL for the June issue of the NFCP for more information relating to: reservations, registrations, hospitality rooms (big and small), Mini-Reunion space, check-in/check-out times, free parking ...

The prospects of a GREAT REUNION has our Executive Committee and Board members in an up-beat anticipation. And so am I. Please join us in these expectations.

**Come to Vegas!**

*Harold*

103d INF DIV ASSN OF WWII  
9737 Warwana Road  
Houston, TX 77080

RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED

|  |
|--|
| PRSR STD<br>U. S. POSTAGE<br>PAID<br>SPRINGHILL, LA<br>PERMIT No. 14 |
|--|

